

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
8:10 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
TOWN HALL/ZOOM**

Finance Committee Members Present Via Town Hall/ Zoom: Chair Ross Lally, Member Tyler Egner, Member David Cowles, Member Rodney Fournier, Member Melissa Wielandt, Member Benjamin Davies, Member Denay Johnston

Staff Present Via Zoom/In Person: Board of Education Superintendent David Caruso, Interim Finance Director Stephanie Smigala, Town Administrator Jim Rupert

Others Present Via Zoom/In Person: Katie Desrosiers, Scott Michaud,

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Ongoing Business

3a. Discussion as a result of the Public Hearing

D. Cowles said the budget discussion is heading in the right direction. D. Johnston asked for clarification on the capital number to which S. Smigala explained what was cut to get to a 7% or below. S. Smigala outlined what was removed from Capital including removal of the Building and Grounds Pick-up truck, Heritage Farm Restoration Project, and Indian Notch Park storage. B. Davies said there is a strong desire for better communication on revenues throughout the fiscal year and ongoing communication with the community. D. Cowles added to hold themselves accountable for making up the surplus funds to avoid a 10% increase in the future. R. Lally said the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education will need to review status of finances during the fiscal year. D. Cowles asked J. Rupert to look at raising rental rates for Town facilities.

3b. Discussion on FY2026-2027 Revenues & Expenditures

R. Lally said the Committee will need to revisit the interest income. The Committee discussed the amount to use for Interest and will revisit this item at next week's meeting. D. Cowles asked about the available funds due to changes in Personnel. J. Rupert will provide the amount of money saved due to personnel changes next week.

3c. Discussion on FY 2025-2026 Revenues & Expenditures

The Committee discussed additional surplus monies that could be made available.

3d. Communication

The Committee discussed changes to the budget process to avoid further issues and stressed the importance of doing projections during the fiscal year. S. Smigala said she will

review the process with the committee and to start the budget process sooner. R. Lally suggested a sub-committee be formed to help with this. B. Davies stressed the importance of holding the Coffee and Conversation sessions and that projections are a helpful tool to communicate to the public. D. Cowles said he would like to have graphics in the Finance Committee meeting packet. R. Lally stressed the importance of creating meaningful and measurable plans. The Committee discussed the possible move of personnel to school facilities to cut costs.

3e. Budget calendar

No discussion. Calendar is up to date. The Committee discussed Charter changes regarding the referendum date.

4. New Business

4a. Transfer

D. Cowles MOVED to transfer \$15,000 from Budget Administration to Budget Town Bldg. Operations from category Legal Services to category Repairs & Maintenance Services to cover Maintenance Contracts and Unexpected repairs the rest of the fiscal year. R. Fournier SECONDED the motion.

Yeas: Fournier, Egner, Wielandt, Cowles, Davies, Johnston

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

5. Adjournment: D. Cowles MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. M. Wielandt SECONDED the motion.

Yeas: Fournier, Egner, Wielandt, Cowles, Davies, Johnston

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

Respectfully submitted by Mary J. Johnston

Mary J. Johnston

Please see the Minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these Minutes and any corrections hereto.