

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 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 (7:45 p.m.), Member Denay Johnston (7:45 p.m.)

Staff Present Via Zoom/In Person: Board Clerk Mary Johnston, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Board of Education Superintendent David Caruso (7:45 p.m.), Stephanie Smigala

Others Present Via Zoom: Jim Loersch, Ashley Phelan

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

3a. April 2, 2026, Special Meeting

D. Cowles MOVED to approve April 2, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. T. Egner SECONDED the motion. D. Cowles requested motions include who voted nay and abstained and amended his motion to reflect his request. T. Egner AMENDED his motion.

Yeas: Egner, Cowles, Fournier, Wielandt

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 AS AMENDED

D. Cowles MOVED to recess the meeting until 7:30 p.m. T. Egner SECONDED the motion.

Yeas: Egner, Cowles, Fournier, Wielandt

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1

The Committee resumed the meeting at 7:30 p.m. However, the remaining Committee members had not arrived.

D. Cowles MOVED to recess the meeting indefinitely. T. Egner SECONDED the motion.

Yeas: Egner, Cowles, Fournier, Wielandt

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally
MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

4. Ongoing Business

4a. Discussion of FY 2026 budgets (expenditures & revenues)

The Committee discussed the FY 2026 budgets and the reduced surplus amount. J. Collins reported as of tonight, the mil rate for the referendum would be 35.52 and 32.46 for Motor Vehicle. The Committee agreed to cap the Motor Vehicle Mil rate. The Committee needs to be aware of the concerns from residents on taxes.

4b. Discussion of FY 2027 budgets (expenditures & revenues)

The Committee reviewed FY 2027 budgets and added the following amounts to revenues:

Building Official Services - \$234,769.00

Prior Year Taxes - \$85,000.00

Supplemental M.V. Levy - \$200,000.00

Motor Vehicle – Levy - \$1,687,235.00

Property Tax Current Year Levy - \$20,299,100.00

The Committee held a lengthy discussion on forecasting the surplus earlier in the process and had concerns with not receiving the revenue surplus earlier in the process. R. Lally said he will meet with J. Collins next week to look at future budgeting processes. The Committee added \$30,000 to the Town surplus. M. Wielandt wondered what the rate would be if increased 4%. J. Collins replied the rate would need to be 33.65 mil rate and to cut \$1,040,000 from the budget. The Committee would like to review budget number quarterly in the future. The Committee agreed with the budget numbers presented tonight.

4c. Communication

The Committee discussed how to communicate effectively to the voters and felt these points are important to present: Focus on the lack of surplus; explanation on last year's surplus; impacts on grants; and impacts on lower interest rate in bank account. S. Smigala said she will update the FY 2026/2027 Budget PowerPoint and provide a copy to the Committee.

4d. Budget calendar

The Committee asked that the hours for the budget referendum be added to the calendar.

5. New Business

5a. Approval of proposed FY2027 Budget for presentation at public hearing

D. Johnston MOVED to present \$27,435,147 for the FY2027 budget that is a 9.78% increase and a Mil Rate of 35.46. D. Cowles SECONDED the motion

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

5. Adjournment: M. Wielandt MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. D. Cowles 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.