

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
7:16 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 7, 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, Andrew Broneill

**Others Present Via Zoom/In Person:** Katie Desrosiers, James Perkins, Jim Loersch, Jen Carvalho, Mary MacFarland

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Public Participation**

K. Desrosiers asked where she can find the most current Budget presentation on the Town's website. R. Lally directed her to the information on the website.

**3. Ongoing Business**

**3a. Discussion on FY2025/2026 Revenues & Expenditures**

The Committee discussed extra funds to cover shortfalls and generating revenue to offset expenditures. R. Lally said the State recently approved monies to Board of Education of approximately \$107,000 and Board of Selectmen of approximately \$30,000 to offset the mil rate. R. Fournier added the Board of Selectmen kicked in another \$30,000 totaling \$60,000 in givebacks. R. Lally pointed out that there will not be a huge amount of money leftover at the end of the year.

**3b. Discussion on FY2026/2027 Revenues & Expenditures**

R. Lally mentioned, after talking with the Auditor and Interim CFO, the Town will be in the same situation this year and next year with using surplus and no projections. R. Lally added that this should be made clear to the public with clear actionable plans. D. Caruso discussed Columbia student enrollment decline and how to increase student enrollment. T. Egner asked if the State payment was a one-time payment. D. Caruso replied they do not know at this time, but payment could occur next year. The Committee discussed what to do with the State payment, expenditure scenarios, budget cuts, and increased revenues. The Committee reviewed three scenarios showing expenditure of the funds or to bank the money for next year and the effect on the mil rate and discussed the impact of each scenario. J. Rupert discussed the Capital plan and for the Committee to develop a plan for

the budget process over the summer. D. Caruso added this conversation should include ways to increase revenues. The Committee then discussed probable cuts from the Town Capital budget. The Committee then discussed the CAPP budget and banking the surplus money for next fiscal year. D. Caruso pointed out the 6.22% only comes with a 2.15% actual increase of the ask. M. Wielandt added to make that number known to the public. R. Fournier MOVED to accept 2B for expenditures. B. Davies SECONDED the motion.

**3c. Discussion and possible action to amend prior motion from 4/9/2026 regarding the \$30,000 budgetary allocation**

D. Johnston MOVED to amend the prior motion from 4/9/2026 regarding how the \$30,000 from the Board of Selectmen was allocated from a reduction to surplus. T. Egner SECONDED the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

**3d. Consider and possible action on Expenditures for FY2027**

R. Fournier MOVED to accept 2B for expenditures. B. Davies SECONDED the motion. After discussion, R. Fournier WITHDREW his motion and B. Davies WITHDREW his second.

R. Fournier MOVED to move forward with 2B proposed expenditures of \$26,896,962.08.

B. Davies SECONDED the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

**3e. Communication**

S. Smigala informed the Committee that Positive Pay detected fraudulent activity and no funds were lost. S. Smigala said a police report was filed. R. Fournier reminded the Committee they must be neutral during the referendum.

**3f. Budget calendar**

R. Lally said the updated budget will be posted with a summary. R. Lally said a one pager will be available at Town buildings for voters. D. Caruso shared that the Town of Hebron places non-binding questions on their ballots. R. Lally said that is something to discuss in the future. R. Lally encouraged the Committee to send him ideas for meeting format, to get more involved in the audit process, bond management, rules and responsibilities and town property uses.

**4. New Business**

**4a. Consider and possible action on the ballot question**

D. Johnston MOVED to approve the following ballot question "Shall the Annual Budget for the Town of Bolton, Connecticut for the fiscal year 2027 as recommended by the Finance Committee in the amount of \$26,896,962.08 be adopted?". M. Wielandt SECONDED the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

**5. Adjournment:** D. Johnston MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 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.