

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
5:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026
TOWN HALL/ZOOM**

Finance Committee Members Present Via Town Hall/ Zoom: Chair Ross Lally, Member Tyler Egner (5:49 p.m.), Member David Cowles (5:34 p.m.-left at 6:25 p.m.), 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, Andrew Broneill, Board Clerk Mary Johnston

Others Present Via Zoom/In Person: Jim Loersch, Melissa Battles, Kelly Carini, Deanna Lloyd

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Participation

Andrew Broneill discussed lost school district positions and how this could hurt the school district.

3. Ongoing Business

3a. Presentation of Referendum Results: Official report of the moderator regarding the budget vote on 6/02/2026.

R. Lally reported the referendum failed with a vote of 580 No and 510 Yes. R. Lally said 1,300 ballots will be available at the June 16, 2026, referendum.

3b. Discuss and possibly act on budget revisions for a third referendum

The Committee discussed the percentage of cuts to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education FY 2027 budgets. R. Fournier MOVED to deduct \$132,000 from the FY2027 budget with a 4.98% mil rate increase. The motion failed due to a lack of a second. D. Cowled MOVED to cut \$180,000 which is \$430,000 below the reference point. The motion failed due to a lack of a second. After more discussion on cuts from expenditures, R. Fournier MOVED to cut \$100,000 from expenditures (60% from Board of Education and 40% from Board of Selectmen) which is a 5.17% mil rate increase. B. Davies SECONDED the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

T. Egner MOVED to use \$26,696,962 for the 3rd budget referendum with the following breakdown: Total Capital Improvements-\$692,448; Total Debt Service-\$1,421,514; Total Contingency Fund-\$50,000; Total Town Proper-\$7,383,598; and Total Board of Education-\$17,149,402. M. Wielandt SECONDED the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

3c. 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 \$26,696,962 be adopted?”. T. Egner SECONDED the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

4. New Business

4a. Discuss and possibly act on communications

The Committee held a discussion on the future of Coffee and Conversation meetings. After discussion, the Committee decided to postpone future meetings and discuss at a later meeting. The Committee discussed the availability of absentee ballots before the June 16 referendum. The Town’s website and Facebook page will be updated with absentee ballot information, and the One-Page information sheet will be updated and made available at Town Hall, Library and Senior Center. The Committee will hold a Special Meeting on June 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. and the Regular Meeting on June 18, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. R. Lilly will invite the Tax Collector to the June 17 Special Meeting.

5. Adjournment: T. Egner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. M. Wielandt SECONDED the motion.

Yeas: Fournier, Egner, Wielandt, 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.