

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 11, 2013

MINUTES

The Board of Finance held a Public Hearing on April 11, 2013 at the Bolton High School. Members present were Chairman Bob Munroe, Jim Roscoe, John Toomey, Jim Bruner, Judy Wilson, Barry Stearns and Kelly Regan. Also present were Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Financial Director Brenda Douglas, members of the Board of Selectmen, members of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Kristen Heckt and Bolton residents.

The purpose of the public hearing was to hear public comments on the Proposed Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Budgets for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, copies of which were made available for review.

After a brief introduction by Chairman Munroe, Karen Bergin, Chairman of the Board of Education gave an overview of the Board of Education budget, stressing that state and federal mandates require more financial resources to fulfill, and reducing the budget would greatly impact non-mandated areas such as art, music, world language, athletics and pre-K.

First Selectman Robert Morra presented a brief overview of the Town Budget stressing that making reductions without impacting community services or already frozen wages and salaries would be a challenge.

Chairman Bob Munroe spoke about the budget process and how difficult it can be knowing the town does not have unlimited resources. He stated that both boards needed extra money this year, which the Board of Finance approved, and this has put strains on the existing budgets. Considering contractual increases, ongoing lake issues and health insurance increases, budget cuts had to be made. With the present cuts in place, there would be an increase of 5.61% in taxes.

Chairman Munroe opened the floor to public comments. Several parents spoke in support of the Board of Education budget and urged the Board of Finance to maintain the budget as initially presented.

Several Bolton Lake residents spoke thanking the town for its financial support for ongoing lake issues and requested that money be kept in the budget for continuing remediation of these issues. Peter Van Dine reported that they have been working with local representatives and senators and are trying to get grant money to offset these expenses.

Jim Roscoe stressed that voting is an integral part of the budget process and if people don't get out to vote the process won't work, adding that the turnout has been very low at the polls.

Letters were read from two residents asking the Board of Finance to reconsider cuts to the Board of Education budget and leave them as originally presented. A few residents who spoke indicated that the requested budgets are still too high.

Chairman Munroe concluded the hearing thanking all for attending and for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Sheridan
Board Clerk

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.