

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2015

Minutes & Motions

Attendance: Barry Stearns, Robert DePietro, Judy Wilson, Chairman Robert Munroe, James Bruner, Morris Silverstein, and Ronald Rousseau were present. Also present were Interim Finance Director Linda Savitsky, Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, First Selectman Robert Morra, Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Karen Bergin, Kusal Huynh, Matt Giuffre, and Ray Boyd.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
- 2. Public Participation:**

Robert Morra explained the BOS does not just spend surplus funds because a significant portion of their budget goes to electricity, heating, and other operative costs planned for six months in advance. The BOS then saves where possible, and if they can give a comfortable number back, they hope it can be considered a reduction.

The Chairman said BOF's consensus at the last meeting was that they prefer to try to get through the budget this year without soliciting returns from boards. Any surplus will be dealt with naturally and considered when they are doing the next budget.

Matthew Giuffre asked about differing return times for the boards and if that would result in credit for the BOS, but not the BOE. Chairman Munroe clarified that neither will occur. The BOF is not doing turn back for credit this year, but rather focusing on returns only, though it will make cuts tougher. The Superintendent asked if last years' returns would be considered. The Chairman said it would be considered as history, not as credit to now be returned to the BOE.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:** J. Bruner moved to approve both the minutes of March 19, 2015, and March 31, 2015. B. Stearns seconded. The motion passed 6:0:1, R. Rousseau abstaining.
- 4. Correspondence:** No correspondence received.
- 5. Elected Official / Town Staff Reports:**
 - a. Tax Collection Summary:** L. Savitsky reported that the tax collection is doing well at the 9th month mark. It is beginning to slow down and backtaxes were overbudgeted but the total collection is expected to balance out.
 - b. Town Update:** J. Stille gave the end of March report, showing they are expensed at about 62%. The police bill will come due in June. The audit has been fully paid. The next day's BOS meeting would be reviewing budget transfers for snowplowing and the Fire Department tank leak. She said they expect to have a small return to make, but are not sure what amount yet.

Board of Education Budget Update: K. Huynh reported the BOE may have around \$107,000 to return, but emphasized it is still only a possibility and depends on special education expenses.

6. Old Business:

- a. **Shared Services:** R. Morra reported on shared services. The BOS may pick up some BOE plowing that is already on their way. Due to recent focus on the budget, progress has been slow. The Chair said ongoing consolidation will help the town. R. DePietro asked what obstacles there were to quicker consolidation. Besides changing tradition and concerns over retaining control, there is a labor union issue for the BOE. M. Giuffre said they have to be careful and there is some bargaining work to do.
- b. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding FY 16 Budget:** This item was moved to #10.

7. New Business:

- a. **Discussion and Approval of Annual Transfer to Suspense List:** L. Savitsky reviewed the suspensions. B. Stearns moved to approve them a minor correction on page 2. J. Bruner seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0.

8. Ongoing Business:

- a. J. Stille reported on last week's contamination testing at BHS. There is no official report yet but she received an email saying it was not detectable. Now it is a matter of getting the info through to the state. LEED certification is the last thing needed.
- b. The next BOF meetings were discussed. M. Silverstein moved to hold a meeting on April 27th at 7:15 p.m. at Notch Road Municipal Center. B. Stearns seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0.

9. Recess: A five minute recess was taken at 8:15. The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding FY 2016 Proposed Budget (Revenue & Expenditures):

L. Savitsky reviewed updated budget materials on revenues, expenditures, the mill rate, tax collection history. Discussion followed on whether to further lower the contingency amount. B. Stearns moved to keep the contingency amount at \$25,000. R. DePietro seconded. The motion passed 6:1:0.

M. Giuffre asked about federal funding to help with storm-related expenses. J. Stille said they don't know if they will receive any yet, but it will most likely not be this fiscal year. B. Stearns asked about any developments on the state trooper funding. R. Morra said it is still on Bolton to fund so far.

Discussion followed on the budget figures, the audit, and the cash surplus.

Discussion returned to upcoming meetings and the budget public hearing date. B. Stearns moved to hold a BOF Special Meeting on April 20th at 7:15 p.m. at Notch Road Municipal Center, the Public Hearing on April 27th at 7:00 p.m. at BHS pending availability, and a BOF Special Meeting on April 28th at 7:15 p.m. at Notch Road Municipal Center; and to cancel the previously scheduled BOF meeting on April 27th. R. DePietro seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0.

11. Adjournment: B. Stearns moved to adjourn. J. Bruner seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.