

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
7:15 p.m., June 18, 2015
TOWN HALL

Attendance: Members Chairman Robert Munroe, Barry Stearns, Robert DiPietro, James Bruner, Ronald Rousseau, Morris Silverstein, and Judy Wilson were present. Also present were Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Interim Finance Director Linda Savitsky, and Edward Del Signore.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Participation: Edward Del Signore, 17 Laurwood Dr., spoke to clarify points he had made regarding grants during budget season. He was concerned that people misunderstood his comments to mean that the BOE budget should be subject to more scrutiny than others. He said he believed all income and revenues, regardless of source or purpose, should be reflected in the budget for transparency, accuracy, and better public understanding.

3. Approval of Minutes:

April 27, 2015: B. Stearns moved to approve the April 27, 2015 minutes as written. J. Bruner seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0.

April 28, 2015: B. Stearns moved to approve the April 28, 2015 minutes as written. J. Bruner seconded. M. Silverstein asked that the sentence "M. Silverstein... reference" be amended as follows: "M. Silverstein said it backed up the Capital Reserve Budget to one mill; reduced the Contingency Budget to \$10, 000.00; kept the BOS the same as last year; and was last year's BOE budget less \$27,000.00." With this amendment, the motion passed 7:0:0.

May 21, 2015: J. Bruner moved to approve the May 21, 2015 minutes as written. R. Munroe seconded. The motion passed 4:3:0, with R. Rousseau, J. Wilson, and R. DePietro abstaining.

4. Correspondence: R. Munroe noted some electronic correspondence with Agata Herasimovicz on the budget format, which would be addressed in 7) New Business a) Discussion Re: Budget Format.

5. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a) Tax Collection Summary: L. Savitsky reported on tax collection and gave updated information on jeopardy collection. Overall collection averaged 100.37% with June still to go.

b) Town Update: J. Stille reported that the town budget was 80.02% expensed and updated the board on FY 2014-2015 end-of-year transfers. She provided a line item list of BOS budget reductions made after the FY 2015-2016 budget was passed, which were adopted by the BOS on April 25. FEMA storm-related expense reimbursement has been sent and is still being reviewed.

Board of Education Budget Update: Chairman Munroe reported that the BOE had submitted their list of cuts. The BOF discussed the final reductions, which totaled less than expected, and the use of grants in the budget.

6. Old Business: Shared Services: Nothing to report.

7. New Business:

a) Discussion Re: CHOICE: L. Savitsky reported on discussion with the state regarding CHOICE. She found that there are no restrictions on CHOICE monies that dictate they must go directly to the BOE. Funds may also go to the town to designate for the education purposes it chooses. Funds do not have to be used to reduce expenditures as with special education funds. The BOF will seek legal opinion on use of CHOICE money per state statute. The BOF will send questions to the Chairman in the next 3 weeks.

b) Discussion Re: Budget Format: The board agreed a subcommittee will gather information and develop a proposal for a more transparent and usable document. M. Silverstein moved to assign J. Wilson, R. Rousseau, and J. Bruner to the subcommittee and to report back at specific times. B. Stearns seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0.

c) Possible Action Re: Date Change – September Meeting: B. Stearns moved to change the September meeting date to September 10th, at 7:15, location TBD. J. Bruner seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0.

8. Ongoing Business: Status Report on High School Project: J. Stille said discussion on water sample data for the state is ongoing.

9. Adjournment: B. Stearns moved to adjourn. R. DePietro seconded. The motion passed 7:0:0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez
Recording Secretary

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