

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
7:15 P.M., September 10, 2015
TOWN HALL

Attendance: Members Judy Wilson, Morris Silverstein, Ronald Rousseau, James Bruner, and Robert DiPietro were present. Also present were First Selectman Robert Morra, Selectmen Gwen Marrion and Sandy Pierog, Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Interim Finance Director Linda Savitsky, and Fire Chief Bruce Dixon. Members excused were Chairman Robert Munroe and Barry Stearns.

1. Call to Order: J. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Participation: Fire Chief Bruce Dixon, 77 Tinker Pond Road, reported a successful restoration of a 1963 truck previously taken off the road due to safety concerns. It is back in use at a cost of \$7000, so the Fire Department will not be looking for the \$85-100,000 necessary to replace it. He explained the need for a new tanker and related equipment, resulting in an appropriation request of \$515,000.

3. Approval of Minutes: J. Bruner moved to approve the June 18, 2015 regular meeting minutes as written. J. Wilson seconded. M. Silverstein said he recalled Chairman Munroe as the author of the subcommittee appointments motion in 7)b. With this change, the motion passed 5:0:0.

4. Correspondence: Correspondence was received regarding the fire tanker.

5. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a) Tax Collection Summary: L. Savitsky reviewed summaries for July and August. The jeopardy collection came in July (start of the fiscal year), and is a little better than last year.

b) Town Update: J. Stille provided an overview of budget transfers, monthly budget reports for July and August, and a draft FY15 year-end budget report. J. Bruner asked how the return total came to be higher than expected. J. Stille said several small amounts added up. It was still close (within 2-3%) of the estimate. M. Silverstein asked if savings in waste was a trend. R. Morra said no, as they were due to unrelated causes. The FEMA snowstorm expense reimbursement came in at \$22,535 (75% of the total snowstorm expense), very close to the estimated \$21,000.

c) Board of Education Update: The BOE surplus was higher than estimated. Budget transfers absorbed some of the cuts. J. Wilson noted it was very possible they would see the same next year.

6. Old Business:

a) Shared Services Update: J. Wilson said a consolidation draft document was distributed at the BOS/BOF/BOE (2+2+2) meeting. The BOF is in favor. J. Bruner reported that the meeting was mainly discussion. There is no decision yet. R. Rousseau noted some pushback from the BOE chair. R. DiPietro said there is agreement on the need for backup. Discussion will continue at the next meeting in October.

b) BOS/BOF/BOE Committee (2+2+2): The consolidation was addressed in 6)a. The resolution was addressed in 7)a.

c) CHOICE revenues: L. Savitsky provided a 5-year summary of CHOICE revenues and a copy of the state statute governing their use and administration. The BOF asked for a SHEF funds report as well.

7. New Business:

a) Consider and Act upon Appropriation Requests for Capital Projects:

The BOF discussed the resolution process. A recommendation from the BOF is necessary for the resolution to go to Town Meeting. The BOF is able to approve, reject, or lower the amount requested.

Acquisition of a Tanker Fire Truck for Use by the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department:

R. DiPietro MOVED to approve the following:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Bolton appropriate \$515,000, and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$515,000 to finance the appropriation, for costs related to the acquisition of a tanker fire truck and related equipment for use by the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department. The appropriation may be spent for acquisition, equipment consulting and testing fees, legal and administrative costs related to the project, costs related to any application for and acceptance of available grants, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project.”

J. Bruner SECONDED. Discussion followed. R. DiPietro asked if the new truck would be able to access cisterns without additional expenses. B. Dixon answered yes. M. Silverstein asked what the bond time period would be. L. Savitsky said that bond time lengths are governed by state statute. The town would choose and meet with a financial advisor to determine the most cost effective route.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

2015/16 Town and Board of Education Facilities Improvements Program:

The BOF discussed adjustments to the resolution. J. Bruner MOVED to approve the following:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Bolton appropriate \$805,000, and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$805,000 to finance the appropriation, for costs related to the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Town and Board of Education Facilities Improvements Program, consisting of:

(A) \$500,000 for costs of the following projects with respect to Town facilities: (i) at the Town Center municipal facilities (Town Hall, Resident State Troopers, Bentley Memorial Library and Bolton Heritage Farm), construction of a shared septic system for the amount of capacity currently necessary with design for future expansion and a water supply (cistern/pond) for fire suppression, including

related work and improvements (estimated cost \$300,000); and at the Bolton Heritage Farm barn, replacements, repairs and improvements (estimated cost \$200,000); and

(B) \$305,000 for costs of the following projects with respect to the Board of Education Bolton Center School facility: (i) reconstruction of the parking lots and sidewalks, including related work and improvements and (ii) as funds are available, classroom carpeting replacement and floor tile asbestos abatement, including related work and improvements.

The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition, installation and construction costs, related work and improvements, equipment, materials, architectural/engineering services, consulting fees, testing costs, survey costs, legal and administrative costs related to the projects, costs related to any application for and acceptance of available grants, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the projects and may reduce or modify the scope of the projects, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the projects as so reduced or modified; and shall be further authorized to delegate to the Temporary Public Building Commission all or any portion of such authority with respect to any of such projects.”

R. DePietro SECONDED. MOTION FAILED 2:3:0, J. Wilson and R. DiPietro for, R. Rousseau, M. Silverstein, and J. Bruner against.

R. Rousseau MOVED to decrease the appropriation by \$500,000. M. Silverstein SECONDED. J. Bruner asked if R. Rousseau would amend his motion to allow more funds for the barn. He declined. MOTION FAILED 2:3:0, M. Silverstein and R. Rousseau for, J. Bruner, J. Wilson, and R. DiPietro against.

J. Bruner MOVED to reduce the appropriation by 300,000. J. Wilson SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3:2:0, J. Wilson, J. Bruner, and R. DiPietro for, R. Rousseau and M. Silverstein against.

b) Budget Subcommittee Report: J. Wilson reported that research continues. They are looking at what should change in budget presentation or be put into communication to show a narrative.

8. Ongoing Business:

Status Report on High School Project: J. Stille reported that the state cleared the environmental issues, and she is waiting on the letter.

9. Adjournment: R. Rousseau moved to adjourn. M. Silverstein seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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