

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2014**

**MINUTES & MOTIONS**

The Board of Finance (BOF) held their Regular Meeting on March 20, 2014 at the Bolton Town Hall. Members present were Chairman Bob Munroe, Judy Wilson, James Bruner, Kelly Regan, Barry Sterns, Robert DePietro and Morris Silverstein. Also present was Finance Director Brenda Douglas, Superintendent of Schools Kristen Heckt, Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, First Selectman Robert Morra, Chair of the Board of Education Karen Bergin and others.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Munroe at 7:18 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There was no public participation.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**February 20, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

J. Bruner MOVED to APPROVE the regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2014 as presented. M. Silverstein SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 with B. Stearns abstaining.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

**5. ELECTED OFFICIAL AND TOWN STAFF REPORTS**

**a) Tax Collection Summary:** B. Douglas reported on the current and prior year collections. Discussion followed how tax collections (levy) and the Grand List are affected by new construction.

**b) Town Budget Update:** J. Stille reported on one town transfer for road repairs approved by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Discussion followed on how the winter storms have affected the town budget.

**6. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) UPDATE:** Superintendent of Schools Kristen Heckt confirmed that the year-end projections had turned a surplus but that special education is an ever-changing factor in the education budget.

**7. OLD BUSINESS –SHARED SERVICES:** Discussion on this item was tabled to a future meeting.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a) Board of Selectmen Budget Presentation:** First Selectman Robert Morra reported on the proposed 2014-2015 town budget. Four significant general government budget items are employee fringe benefits, funding for the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update, personnel, and other contracts.

A question and answer session followed on payments of funds toward debt service, contracts for employee insurance, importance of funding the POCD update, road surfacing, budget for the Building and Land Use Department, non-compliance of reporting in the audit regarding the Fire Department, unemployment compensation, funds for Resident Trooper coverage, and funding for Town Clerk line item.

B. Munroe asked if the town was expecting a flat amount in funding from the State. R. Morra responded that the town was expecting a maintained amount from the State and no increase.

B. Munroe suggested that the town and BOE contact Jim Roscoe for help in grant-writing.

**b) Board of Education Budget Presentation:** Chair of the Board of Education Karen Bergin reviewed the BOE budget priorities: 1) Common Core Alignment, 2) Student Achievement and support of Bolton High School, 3) Special Education Support/Cost Avoidance, and 4) District Support for Students and Staff.

K. Heckt described the support for special education students (tuition and transportation) that would result in a savings of \$122,000.00. On the revenue side of the BOE budget, she explained that State grants (Choice monies) are used to pay the tuition for Bolton students attending state magnet and agricultural schools. Discussion followed.

A question and answer session followed on aspects of the proposed BOE budget including excess cost reimbursement, projected number of Choice students, elimination of “pay to play” fees, increase in number of teacher positions, creating new position for Dean of Students, Sheff and Choice monies, reimbursement rate for the Bolton High School building project, request for increase in number of electives, student support services, magnet school funding, employee health benefits, the cost of special education student out-placement, revenues for consideration by the BOF, revenues received, grant funding for computer labs at Bolton Center School, and recommendation for a replacement cycle for technology .

B. Munroe took the opportunity to compliment the athletic achievements of the students this year.

B. Munroe said he might ask, down the road, for an evaluation from the BOE of the effectiveness of the new position of Dean of Students.

K. Heckt addressed the various ways that she has communicated with Columbia students and parents to encourage attendance at Bolton High School. Discussion followed on on-going efforts to increase the number of students from Columbia.

R. DePietro complimented the Superintendent and BOE Chair on their presentation and success with the students.

B. Munroe thanked the public for their attendance.

**9. ONGOING BUSINESS – STATUS REPORT ON HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT:** No report.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** B. Munroe MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:00 p.m. K. Regan SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda H. McDonald, Recording Secretary

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