

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
May 27, 2020

**Item 1:** Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order via Zoom on May 27, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Mike O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Michel Leask, Phil Lavallee, Ann Chambers and Evan Gilman.

Others Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Selectman Glenn Pianka, Town Treasurer Diana Santo, BOE Jeanne Goulart, Financial Manager Sue Lyon, BOE Ruth Levy, Specialized Director Eileen Hargreaves and 17 members of the public.

**Item 2:** Public Comment

No public comment.

**Item 3:** Review and approve the minutes of the following Board of Finance Meetings:

a) February 27, 2020 Special Meeting

**MOTION 1:** M. Leask made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOF Special meeting held February 27, 2020 with a correction of “quarterly meeting” to read “special meeting”. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

b) April 13, 2020 Special Quarterly Meeting

**MOTION 2:** M. Leask made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOF Special Quarterly meeting held April 13, 2020 with a correction of “quarterly meeting” to read “special quarterly meeting”. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

c) April 27, 2020 Special Meeting

**MOTION 3:** R. Barber made a motion to approve the minutes BOF Special meeting held April 27, 2020 with a correction of “quarterly meeting” to “special meeting” and a correction reading “M.Leask noted a mil rate of 25 mils is too low”. M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

d) May 11, 2020 Special Meeting

**MOTION 4:** A. Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOF Special meeting held May 11, 2020 with a spelling correction to “P. Lavallee”. R. Barber seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 4:** Hear and act on budget requests for FY 20/21

Board of Education:

J. Goulart presented the BOF with a revised BOE budget for FY 20/21. J. Goulart noted the BOE is requesting \$6,194,083. J. Goulart noted the board chose to remove the full time math position from the budget for FY 20/21, but hopes to bring it back in the future. J. Goulart noted money was cut for extra music supplies. J. Goulart noted they are able to fund Project Oceanology through grants, so there is a decrease shown in that line as well. J. Goulart noted graduation funds were put back to \$800 as it has been in previous years.

R. Barber commented that the BOE should not approve the BOE budget with a 4.18% increase from last year. He noted it would be a disservice to the Bozrah citizens who are on unemployment and disability.

Board of Selectmen:

C. Zorn presented the BOF with a revised BOS budget for FY 20/21. C. Zorn noted the BOS are requesting \$829,346 for total capital and \$1,752,607 for total general government, totaling to \$2,581,953.

A. Chambers noted the efforts made on both boards. She questioned if any items taken off the BOS for this fiscal year will affect public safety, such as the pole barn and transfer site issues. C. Zorn noted they will continue to plan these projects. C. Zorn noted depending on how this FY looks, the BOS may go to BOF to continue with the replacement of the underground storage tank at the school.

R. Barber questioned the BOS if they have looked into refinancing long term debt. C. Zorn noted they have not yet, but plan to. M. O’Connor noted the BOS should make an effort to continue and try to refinance even though it could not be completed in time for this FY budget.

**MOTION 5:** R. Barber made a motion to send the BOE budget back for revisions. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote 3 yes, 3 opposed - **NOT CARRIED**

M. Leask noted the uncontrollable increases to special education tuition and high school tuition. M. Leask noted the tuition increase is larger than the total increase to the BOE budget, showing the work done by the board to keep costs low.

E. Gilman noted he agreed with M. Leask, the BOE did a good job cutting where they could. He noted he is in support of both presented budgets.

R. Barber commented the BOE can look deeper in the budget to eliminate “fluff” considering the current situation of the town with many on unemployment.

**MOTION 6:** M. Leask made a motion to accept the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen budgets as presented. Board of Selectmen \$1,752,607, Board of Education \$6,194,083, general capital \$829,346 totaling to \$8,776,036. E. Gilman seconded the motion.

Vote 4 yes, 2 opposed - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 5:** Establish a mil rate if budgets are approved by the Board of Finance

**MOTION 7:** R. Barber made a motion to establish a mil rate of 26.5. A. Chambers seconded the motion.

Vote 2 yes, 4 opposed - **NOT CARRIED**

**MOTION 8:** P. Lavalley made a motion to establish a mil rate of 27. E. Gilman seconded the motion.

Vote 5 yes, 1 opposed - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 6:** Public Comment

Glenn Pianka, Fitchville Road, commented on his concern for next FY and trying to restore salaries and certain programs.

Ev Brown, Fitchville Road, commented on her support of both budgets.

Robin Barry, commented that they should speak to their representative regarding the impact special education has on the town.

**Item 7:** Adjourn

**MOTION 9:** M. Leask made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. P. Lavalley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the board,

Heather Barber - Recording Secretary

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**BOZRAH TOWN HALL**  
February 27, 2020

**Item 1:** Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order at the Town Hall on February 27, 2020 at 6:30p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Mike O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Michel Leask, Phil Lavallee, Ann Chambers and Evan Gilman.

Others Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Selectman Glenn Pianka, Town Treasurer Diana Santo, BOE Jeanne Goulart and 6 members of the public.

**Item 2:** Review minutes of the December 16, 2019 Quarterly BOF meeting

M. Leask noted corrections to titles of those present and spelling corrections. R. Barber noted item 9c should read, "C. Zorn noted the fire department is requesting reimbursement for the excess cost above \$20,000 for the maintenance of the ladder truck."

**MOTION 1:** R. Barber made a motion to approve the minutes as updated. P. Lavallee seconded the motion. A. Chambers abstained.

Vote 5 yes - 1 abstained - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 3:** Hear and act on a request from the Board of Education to support underground fuel oil tank replacement work

J. Goulart presented the Board of Finance with a request from the Board of Education for \$5,500 to accept the proposal from Lenard Engineering to proceed with the preliminary design work for the underground fuel tank.

Attachment 1

M. O'Connor noted the Board of Education will be responsible for the contract and the Board of Selectmen will not be signing the contract for the preliminary work. J. Goulart noted there will be about a 50-60% reimbursement from the state for the tank. C. Zorn noted there will be a building committee that will speak with the engineer and make the technical decisions. Once the design is started they can consider the options. J. Goulart noted the tank replacement is necessary due to insurance. E. Gilman noted he wouldn't want to replace the tank only due to an insurance issue. R. Barber questioned if the tank has passed the necessary tests each year. J. Goulart noted the tank has passed all necessary tests. B. Ballinger

explained it is necessary to replace the tank now as to not risk insurance coverage. G. Pianka noted the school is the emergency shelter for the town and perhaps there is a possibility to get funding from homeland security.

M. O'Connor presented the board with the effect the \$5,500 would have on the budget.

**MOTION 2:** P. Lavallee made a motion to transfer \$5,500 to the Board of Education from the general fund to support the design work for the underground fuel tank at Fields Memorial School. M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

The study should be completed by the end of June.

**Item 4:** Adjourn

**MOTION 3:** R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. A. Chambers seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

Heather Barber  
Recording Secretary

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**ZOOM - VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**April 13, 2020**

**Item 1:** Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order on the Video Conference Application Zoom on April 13, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Mike O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Michel Leask, Phil Lavallee, Ann Chambers and Evan Gilman.

Others Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Selectman Glenn Pianka, Town Treasurer Diana Santo, Tax Collector Nancy Renshaw, BOE Jeanne Goulart, Financial Manager Sue Lyon, BOE Ruth Levy, Specialized Director Eileen Hargreaves and 6 members of the public.

**Item 2:** Public Comment

No public comment.

**Item 3:** Report from the Treasurer

Town Treasurer, Diana Santo, presented the Board with the Treasurer's report.

Attachment 1

**Item 4:** Report from the Tax Collector.

Tax Collector, Nancy Renshaw, presented the Board with the Tax Collector's report. N. Renshaw noted 98% of all taxes have been collected.

**Item 5:** Board of Selectmen update on current budget status (FY 2019/2020)

Attachment 2

First Selectman, Carl Zorn, updated the Board of Finance on the current budget status. C. Zorn noted several line items on the budget were over or under what was budgeted, but 60 - 70% of the overall budget has been expended.

R. Barber questioned why it was expected to have \$10,000 excess in the Fire Department line items. C. Zorn noted he had not spoken to the Fire Department, but he believes the un-spent money comes from the Per-Diem FireFighter/EMT line. C. Zorn will check in with the Fire Department.

C. Zorn noted the Planning/Zoning line item went about \$8,500 over budget and the Inland/Wetland line item about \$3,000 over budget because they hired a Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO). The ZEO is split between the Planning/Zoning and Inland/Wetlands. C. Zorn noted he will need to transfer more money into the two accounts. M. O'Connor noted the BOS should not wait until the end of FY 2019/2020 to do the transfer.

C. Zorn noted the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the sewer project on Route 82 can not be completed until Spring when the trees have bloomed. The BOS expects to spend about \$20,000 FY 2019/2020 on the Sewer Project line item and about \$40,000 FY 2020/2021.

C. Zorn noted the BOS had budgeted money to put up a pole barn for the DPW. They are now required to have a wash station for the DPW equipment. C. Zorn suggested they used the unspent money in the budget to build the wash station. R Barber suggested that they look into a shared washed station with other towns. G. Pianka noted the wash station would cost around \$500,000 and they should consider regionalization.

#### **Item 6: Board of Education update on current budget status (FY 2019/2020)**

##### Attachment 3

Jeanne Goulart of the BOE updated the Board on the current BOE budget status. J Goulart noted the BOE expects to overspend the budget by \$15,957. They are freezing about \$30,000 of their budget to cover the cost.

J. Goulart noted since the school has closed due to COVID-19 they have saved \$132,000. The BOE is paying 82% of transportation due to government orders even though the buses are not running. Ruth Levy of the BOE noted that the Governor's orders say they have to pay the bus company in full or find a compromise. Ruth Levy also noted due to the Governor's orders the BOE will continue to pay tuition for students while they practice distance learning from home.

Eileen Hargreaves noted they considered offering Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy services virtually, but less than half of the families responded. This will save the BOE about \$6,000. She also noted the students in special education that are 18-21 years old are offered virtually support from Sharpe Training.

R. Barber questioned how many hours a day the teachers will spend teaching online. Ruth Levy noted they have spent more hours than usual to individualize their online work for students. R. Barber also questioned if all students had access to the internet and a computer. Ruth Levy noted students that did not have a computer were given one. R. Barber questioned how the special classes such as gym, art, music,

etc. were being taught online. Ruth Levy noted they are taught through videos, lessons and emails. They are sending out surveys to parents on what parts of distance learning is working and what can be changed.

**Item 7:** Receive budgets from the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen for FY 2020/2021

Board of Education:

Jeanne Goulart presented the Board of Education's proposed budget for FY 2020/2021. The total proposed budget is \$6,458,363. J. Goulart noted there has been an increase in high school tuition and an increase in school psychologist hours. The BOE decreased the money budgeted for substitute teacher due to a new Substitute Service. They renewed a 5 year contract with the bus service, First Student, with an increase of 3%.

M. Leask questioned how many Special Education students were provided for by the town. J. Goulart noted there are 31 special education students in Kindergarten through eight grade, 7 special education students in high school, and 5 special education students outplaced.

R. Barber questioned why the health insurance line went up in cost. J. Goulart noted the health insurance line item increased by \$140,000 due to more people requesting coverage and the rate of the insurance going up. The increase starts in October.

Board of Selectmen:

C. Zorn presented the Board of Selectmen's budget for FY 2020/2021. The total budgeted for general government is \$1,799,410, representing a 4% increase from the last budget. The total budgeted for the capital budget is \$1,049,346, representing an 18% increase from the last budget. C. Zorn noted he raised all town hall employees' salaries by 3%. C. Zorn noted increases in the budget for the Election, Health Insurance, Registrar, Town Clerk, Assessor, Legal Fees, Auditor, Planning/Zoning, Inland/Wetlands and DPW Internet. C. Zorn noted decreases in the budget for Fire Marshal, DPW Equipment and the Building Official.

M. O'Connor noted there will be a 2 week public comment period through email. This is to replace a Public Hearing, which can not be done at this time due to COVID-19. Email comments to [moconnor@bozrahct.org](mailto:moconnor@bozrahct.org) The budgets are posted on the town website. The BOF will review the comments at the next meeting.

**Item 8 :** Appoint auditor for FY 2020/2021

**MOTION 1:** R. Barber made a motion to appoint Sandra Welwood LLC for auditor for FY 2020/2021.

M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 9:** Establish Meeting dates for FY 2020/2021 budget process

Monday April 27, 2020 at 7:00p.m. via Zoom

**Item 10: Public Comment**

Evelyn Brown, Fitchville Road, commented on the 5 year plan budget document.

Glenn Pianka, Fitchville Road, commented on the BOE budget, noting that they should reconsider some line items.

**Item 11: Adjourn**

**MOTION 2:** R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Heather Barber  
Recording Secretary

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**ZOOM - VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**April 27, 2020**

**Item 1:** Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order on the Video Conference Application Zoom on April 27, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Mike O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Michel Leask, Phil Lavallee, Ann Chambers and Evan Gilman.

Others Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Selectman Glenn Pianka, Town Treasurer Diana Santo, Town Clerk Lynne Skinner, Tax Collector Nancy Renshaw, BOE Jeanne Goulart, Financial Manager Sue Lyon, BOE Ruth Levy, Specialized Director Eileen Hargreaves and 14 members of the public.

**Item 2:** Public Comment

Town Clerk Lynne Skinner, commented on her pay decrease in the proposed budget.

Glenn Pianka, Fitchville Road, commented that a mil rate of 25 is responsible.

**Item 3:** Review of Comments Sent for the Budgets Presented

M. O'Connor noted the board received the public comments on the proposed budgets via email.

P. Lavallee noted the boards should keep costs as low as possible.

A. Chambers noted the boards should find a way to cut some costs so that taxes can be reduced for the town. She noted her worries for small businesses during this time with the closures due to COVID.

R. Barber presented the board with the Bozrah population stats. He noted that 62 of the 1,442 working Bozrah citizens are unemployed at this time. He noted the BOF should return both budgets to the boards for revising. He noted there should be no pay increases for either board and the mil rate should be reduced to 25 or lower. R. Barber also noted according to the newspaper many towns are not paying for the buses while they are not running and the BOE should reconsider paying the bus company 82%. He noted there should be an undesignated surplus of 10% because the state may not honor all commitments to the town or BOE.

E. Gilman noted the boards should revise and resubmit the budgets, cutting and reducing wherever they can. He noted his own business' struggle to provide for their employees during this time with COVID. He suggested they keep 5-6% in the undesignated fund balance.

M. Leask noted the boards need to be sensitive to the situation with COVID and should keep the budgets as frugal as possible. She noted a mil rate of 25 is too low and that salaries should stay the same for both boards.

M. O'Connor noted the boards should only spend what is absolutely necessary, regardless of what the last year's budget looked like. He noted only items that are specific for this fiscal year should be included in the budgets.. He noted 10% should be in reserve. He also noted that the Board of Education should look into the special education costs, as they are a large part of the budget.

Eileen Hargreaves, Specialized Director, presented the board with a "Best Case Projection" and a "Worst Case Projection" for the next 5 years of special education costs.

Attachment 1 and Attachment 2

Jeanne Goulart, BOE Chair, noted the Board of Education had met the Thursday before and did some work to lower the budget. M.O'Connor noted the BOE needs to cut everything that they can and revisit their budget.

**Item 4: Approval of Budgets Presented or Changes Needed**

**MOTION 1:** P. Lavallee made a motion to send the budgets back to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education for review and adjustments based on the comments from the Board of Finance. M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

M. O'Connor noted the boards will meet back in two weeks on May 11, 2020 with the revised budgets.

**Item 5: Public Comments**

Michel Leask, Scott Hill Road, commented on her appreciation for the work done on both boards.

Annie Chambers, Wawecus Hill Road, commented that the school could be regionalized.

**Item 6: Adjourn**

**MOTION 2:** A. Chambers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m. R. Barber seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Heather Barber  
Recording Secretary

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**May 11, 2020**

**Item 1:** Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order via Zoom on May 11, 2020 at 7:01p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Mike O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Michel Leask, Phil Lavallee, Ann Chambers and Evan Gilman.

Others Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Selectman Glenn Pianka, Town Treasurer Diana Santo, Town Clerk Lynne Skinner, Tax Collector Nancy Renshaw, BOE Jeanne Goular, Financial Manager Sue Lyon, BOE Ruth Levy, Specialized Director Eileen Hargreaves and 24 members of the public.

**Item 2:** Public Comment

Jack Santo commented on the Board of Education budget, noting that more cuts could be made.

**Item 3:** Review of comments sent for budgets presented

M. O'Connor noted comments regarding pay-to-play sports at the school. The Board of Education did not put pay-to-play sports in the budget being presented. M. Leask noted comments concerned with the regular education students following the special education increase.

**Item 4:** Approval of budgets presented or changes needed

Board of Education:

J. Goulart presented the Board of Education budget. The BOE is requesting \$6,327,013 showing a reduction of \$149,901 from the previously requested budget. J. Goulart noted increases to the budget. Regular education tuition for NFA and Lyman has increased as well as highschool enrollment. J. Goulart also noted an increase in special education tuition and transportation costs. The BOE cut all raises, keeping all salaries the same as last year's budget. J. Goulart noted many maintenance items have been taken out of the budget such as painting the parking lot and the floors in the multipurpose room, no landscaping, and no purchasing new books for the library. J. Goulart noted the custodial staff and administrative staff hours have been cut by a ½ hour each day. The superintendent secretary hours have been cut to 4 days a week.

Dr. Ruth Levy noted math scores for the school are low. R. Levy proposed to add a new math position to the BOE budget. The math position would be a ½ time position for this year and perhaps a full time position in the year after that. If the BOE chooses to put this on the budget for this fiscal year it will affect the savings by \$28,690.

P. Lavallee questioned the \$40,000 budgeted for supplies and computers. J. Goulart noted they will purchase new books for the new math program. J. Goulart noted the computers need to be updated and maintained, many computers have been sent home with students for distance learning.

R. Barber noted the budget should be looked at again and reduced so the taxes in town can stay low while many citizens are unemployed. R. Barber noted his concern that the town wont receive the money from the state that they are expecting. R. Barber requested a 0% increase from last year's budget.

M. Leask acknowledged the time spent on both boards to try and reduce their budgets. M. Leask noted that because of the increase in tuition and special education costs the BOE budget can not be at a 0% increase from last year. She noted her concern for the regular education students at Fields Memorial School that would be affected by that much of a cut.

M. O'Connor noted many items in the BOE budget have stayed the same or have been reduced. He noted the large changes in the budget:

- \$81,000 increase for regular education

- \$22,000 increase for transportation for special education

- \$200,000 increase for special education tuition

- \$132,000 increase for regular education tuition

M. O'Connor noted some public comments regarded the low math scores for the town and they will have to consider the proposed new math position.

Board of Selectmen:

C. Zorn presented the Board of Selectmen budget. The BOS are requesting \$829,346 for capital, \$1,758,456 for the general government. The total budget request is \$2,587,802 showing a \$2,500 reduction from last year's budget. C. Zorn noted both selectmens have chosen to get rid of their salaries, showing a reduction of \$2,000. C. Zorn noted they put the Town Clerk hours back to 4 days a week after it was challenged, showing an increase of \$7,971 from the last budget presented. C. Zorn noted some changes in the capital budget. Fire Department Capital Equipment was reduced from \$40,000 to \$25,000. C. Zorn noted they took out transfer site repairs, the DPW pole barn and the UST project from the budget for this fiscal year, with hope of bringing them back into the next year's budget.

A. Chambers questioned who challenged the Town Clerk salary. C. Zorn noted it was a personnel matter and he was concerned about the legality of it. He noted that salaries can change when someone is elected in or when it is part of a budget change.

P. Lavallee asked what capital equipment the fire department was going to get this year. C. Zorn noted the fire department requested for money to be budgeted for turnout gear and for SCBA replacement parts. P. Lavallee noted that with the Town Clerk hours being extended perhaps the Town Clerk Assistant line could be reduced. C. Zorn noted the BOS will look at the Town Clerk Assistant line closer. C. Zorn noted, new this year, they added in the Tax Collector Assistant line with the same amount budgeted as the Town Clerk Assistant.

R. Barber noted the Tax Collector Assistant is a new position and should not be added into this year's budget. C. Zorn noted the Tax Collector Assistant is not a new position, but the BOS will look into the amount that they budgeted for that position. R. Barber questioned the \$12,500 budgeted for each enforcement officer under Inland/Wetlands and Planning/Zoning and suggested that members of each commission could fill the spots. C. Zorn noted they hired CHA, an engineering firm, to provide 4 hours a week of professional engineering to provide zoning and inland/wetland enforcement. R. Barber also noted DPW overtime could be reduced for this year's budget. C. Zorn noted he did not change the DPW overtime from last year, usually the overtime is used for snow plowing and if it is not spent then it will be returned. R. Barber also noted some towns are taking their bonds and financing them for a lower interest rate.

E. Gilman questioned how long the capital projects, such as the oil tank and DPW pole barn, can be cut out of the budget before problems arise. C. Zorn noted delaying the pole barn project for a year should not be a problem. The oil tank at the school does need to be replaced by the time it is 30 years old. E. Gilman questioned if any other general projects cut may cause issues for public safety. C. Zorn noted they are continuing to pave the roads to improve the road conditions and they continue to work on the drainage projects and tree trimming.

M. Leask questioned why the legal fees line increased. C. Zorn noted they overspent that line item this fiscal year.

M. O'Connor noted the town should get the money budgeted for oil tank replacement at the school within the next few years and should look into grants. M. O'Connor presented the board with an overview of budget drafting. (Attachment)

A. Chambers noted it costs about \$22,000 per student, which is comparable to Norwich Public Schools but is double the state average. A. Chambers noted her concern for local businesses at this time and the unemployed people in town. She noted the mil rate should be lowered and not kept the same.

P. Lavallee noted he would like to see the mil rate at 27.

M. Leask noted that a mil rate of 25 is too low. M. Leask noted the town is required to educate the students although students do not make up most of the town's population. She noted they may be able to work with a mil rate of 27 mil.

R. Barber noted they should worry about the population of the whole town. R. Barber also noted he believes the state will not give the town as much money as they are expecting. He believes a mil rate of 25 is acceptable and a mil rate of 27 is too high.

E. Gilman noted to get to 25 mils the boards will have to cut around \$600,000. He noted that was not possible, there are special education requirements that have to be abided. E. Gilman noted a mil rate of 27 is acceptable and they should find a reserve that is responsible.

M. O' Connor recognized the work done by both boards to lower the budgets. M O'Connor noted the money from the state may not come in as expected and this is something that should be considered. M. O'Connor noted there will be people who will struggle to pay taxes this year and there can be arrangements made with the tax collector to assist with that.

**MOTION 1:** R. Barber made a motion to send the budgets back to the boards for further adjustments and meet back on May 27, 2020 with the new budgets. P. Lavalley seconded the motion.

Vote Unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 5: Public Comments**

G. Pianka noted the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education are required to consider public safety and noted his concern with pushing back the DPW pole barn, transfer station repairs and the open culverts.

Jack Santo commented on the mandates for special education, noting the special education costs should be managed.

**Item 6: Adjourn**

**MOTION 2:** R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. A. Chambers seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted for the board,

Heather Barber  
Recording Secretary