

BOZRAH BOARD OF FINANCE
Special Meeting
Bozrah Town Hall
1 River Road, Bozrah, Ct 06334
April 23, 2018

Item 1: Chairman Michael O'Connor called the special meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance (BOF) to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Michael O'Connor Michel Leask, Raymond Barber, Phil Lavallee, Evan Gilman, Ann Chambers

Members Absent: None

Item 2: Review and approve minutes from March 26, 2018, Regular Quarterly Meeting

MOTION 1: M. Leask made a motion to approve the minutes as written. R. Barber seconded the motion.

Vote 4 yes, 1 abstained – **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 3: Review and approve minutes from April 18, 2018, Public Hearing

M. O'Connor noted errors on page 1, page 2 and page 3.

MOTION 2: A. Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous – **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 4: Budget Workshop (review comments)

R. Barber noted the budgets should be sent back to the boards to be reduced. He said the Board of Education's budget used the whole 1.5% increase laid out in the handout made by M. O'Connor.

P. Lavallee noted classroom painting and repairs should be put in the capital instead of the school budget.

E. Gilman asked J. Welch about the addition of a language teacher. J. Welch noted it was due to a growing global society. The earlier in school the kids are introduced to the language the higher their proficiency. J. Caplet noted knowing a Spanish has employment and educational advantages.

E. Gilman asked J. Welch about the math curriculum consultant. J. Welch noted they are looking to hire a math curriculum consultant due to high stakes testing. There

have been low results and the current teachers need assistance. They are looking to see the response of the students and potentially the position will not be needed as the skills develop. A. Chambers noted she is in favor of adding a math curriculum consultant.

M. O'Connor asked about the funds to cover the tax collector. G. Pianka noted they added \$1,500 to the Tax Collectors assistant because when the tax collector is unable to work she pays out of pocket for a substitute. This will correct the issue.

R. Barber spoke to town people regarding the fire department staffing. He noted the people are concerned that it is a one year program because the department will have to get specialized equipment for each new fire fighter. The attorneys recommend that current volunteer fire fighters should not be hired.

R. Barber questioned why the fire marshal and building official budgets increased. G. Pianka noted the building official said he needed assistance. G. Pianka noted he would prefer to have money in place instead of asking for it when needed.

M. O'Connor noted they are unsure of what the state will take or give. He said if there is an opportunity to lower the mil rate then they should, reductions for each budget will help in lowering the mil rate.

The board agreed to send the budgets back to the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen to consider what they can do to lower the mil rate by 1. Collectively all three boards should be reduced by \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Item 5: Adjourn

MOTION 3: R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. P. Lavalley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous – **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted for the board,

Heather Barber
Recording Secretary