

Bozrah Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes
Bozrah Town Hall, 1 River Road, Bozrah, CT 06334
May 16, 2019

1. **Call to Order / Attendance: Chairman Michael O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance (BOF) to order at 6:30 pm.**
 - a. **Members present:** Michael O'Connor, Michel Leask, Raymond Barber, Evan Gilman, Phil Lavallee
 - b. **Members absent:** Annie Chambers
 - c. **Others present:** Selectmen: Glenn Pianka (1st), Bill Ballinger (2nd), and Carl Zorn (3rd); Board of Education Chair, Jeanne Goulart; Superintendent, Dr. Welch; BOE Member, Robin Barry; Sue Lyon, Ev Brown, Ron Leask
2. **Hear and act on a request from the Selectman concerning bonding for infrastructure.**
 - a. 3rd Selectman, Carl Zorn presented a resolution concerning a contract and bonding for infrastructure. He also provided a copy of a presentation that outlined the sequence of events pertaining to the funding for Route 82 utilities and the changes that occurred since the town approved an agreement with Optimus. Topics covered in the presentation included the original agreement, option to establish natural gas supply, extension of the water line to the corner of Noble Hill, limitations on the sale of the Optimus facility and funding options for the project.
 - b. The Board of Finance discussed the Resolution as presented and suggested modifications to the resolution as follows:
 - i. The opening description of the resolution was changed to limit the scope of the resolution to the financing of the project.
 - ii. The first two paragraphs and the last paragraph were removed as these items have already been approved.
 - iii. The total funding amount was not changed but a separate line item was added for the cost of the natural gas line installation.
 - iv. The revised resolution is provided as an attachment to these minutes.
 - c. **Motion 1: Phil Lavallee made a motion to approve the resolution presented by the Board of Selectman with the amendments as discussed at the meeting. Evan Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed (4 approved, 1 abstained – Ray Barber).**
3. **Receive a revised budget request from the BOE.**
 - a. BOE Chair, Jeanne Goulart, presented a revised budget request due to Special Education Obligations (\$80K-\$180K) and Facilities.
 - b. The revised budget request includes an additional \$43,646 for a new special education obligation. A reduction in staffing of 1 allowed a transfer of \$36,354 from Regular Education to Special Education. Decrease in high school tuition offset some of the increase in Special Education. If special education cost exceeds budgeted \$80K, risk mitigation includes freeze discretionary spending/request \$18K next spring.
 - c. \$23,780 was added to replace failing HVAC control system. This is a short-term fix until the long term costs and direction can be determined.

- d. \$16,560 is requested to repair the boiler due to recent boiler gasket failure (safety/fire risk). This has been repaired several times.
 - e. Total budget request is \$5,941,161 = \$5,892,381 (Operations) + \$48,780 (Facilities Repairs/Maintenance).
 - f. \$57,000 is expected from the Excess Cost Sharing Grant to cover some of these changes.
4. **Receive a revised budget request from the BOS.**
- a. First Selectman, Glenn Pianka, presented the revisions to the Board of Selectman budget.
 - b. Page 4 – Funding for Shipman and Goodwin was removed from 109 Legal fees.
 - c. Page 5 – 114 Town Hall Operations: Line Item 52007 Electric was increased from \$8950 to \$12,200. Line Item 52008 Telephone/Internet was increased from \$3900 in 19/20 proposal to \$5200.
 - d. Page 8 – 134 DPW Garage Line Item 52007PW Electricity was increased from \$2,200 to \$3,100 and Line Item 52008PW Internet/Cable was increased from \$1,100 to \$1,500.
 - e. Page 11 – 154 Senior Citizens Line Item 52008SC was increased from \$2,100 to \$2,500.
 - f. Page 12 – 190 Gen Gov Capital Projects Utilities Payment Principle was changed to \$277,000 and Utilities Payment Interest was changed to \$31,163. The interest budgeted represents the worst-case scenario.
5. **Set Date for Public Hearing.**
- a. Public Hearing was set for 7PM, May 28th at Fields Memorial School.
6. **Set Date for Board of Finance to act on the budget.**
- a. Next Board of Finance Special Meeting is 7PM May 29th at Fields Memorial School.
 - b. At that meeting the Board of Finance will consider state funding and feedback from the public hearing. If adjustments are necessary, another Board of Finance meeting will be scheduled.
 - c. Goal for Town Meeting on the budget is week of June 10.
7. **Public Comment**
- a. 2nd Selectman, Bill Ballinger stated that \$180,000 for one special education student is obscene.
8. **Adjourn: Chairman, Michael O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 7:29PM.**

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

Michel Leask

BOF Secretary

TOWN OF BOZRAH
BOARD OF FINANCE

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE ROUTE 82 WATER, SEWER, AND GAS LINES
APPROPRIATION AND BOND AUTHORIZATION OF \$1,700,000 TO FINANCE THE
COSTS OF THE CONTRACT AND THE INSTALLATION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town appropriate the amended amount of \$1,700,000 for costs related to the Amended Contract of Sale and the installation of the additional water line on Route 82. The appropriation may be expended for the cost of the water, sewer and natural gas line assets pursuant to the Amended Contract of Sale, the acquisition of land and/or rights or interests in land, site improvements, design, construction, reconstruction, repair, excavation, inspection, evaluation and surveying costs for the additional water line on Route 82, financing fees and costs for the bond issuance, and other costs related to the projects, all in the amounts as follows:

Cost of the water and sewer assets pursuant to the Amended Contract of Sale	\$1,375,000
Natural Gas Line installation	\$95,000
Installation of Additional Water Line on Route 82	\$200,000
Financing Fees and Costs for Boand Issue	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$1,700,000

The appropriation shall include any federal, state or other grants-in-aid or other funds received for the projects. The amount authorized to be expended for each purpose shall not exceed the amount set forth opposite each purpose, provided that the Board of Selectmen, upon approval of the Board of Finance, may, by resolution, transfer unexpended funds among purposes, so long as the total appropriation and bond authorization is not increased.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Bozrah issue its bonds, notes or temporary notes in an amount not to exceed **\$1,700,000** to finance the appropriation.