

TOWN OF BOZRAH
SPECIAL MEETING WORKSHOP
BOARD OF FINANCE
BOZRAH TOWN HALL
April 25, 2022

Item 1: Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order at the Bozrah Town Hall on April 25, 2022 at 7:00p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Mike O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Michel Leask, Phil Lavallee, Evan Gilman, Steve Seder

Others Present:First Selectman Glenn Pianka, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Treasurer Diana Santo, Superintendent Portia Bonner and 5 members of the public.

Item 2: Public Comment

No public comment.

Item 3: FY 2022-2023 Budget Workshop

M.O'Connor presented the Board with the Bozrah Budget options incorporating the budgets as presented at the Public Hearing held April 20, 2022 and with the budgets reduced and increased.. M. O'Connor noted the importance of considering the impact the current year's budget will have in future years. M. O'Connor noted with the budgets as presented at the Public Hearing there would not be an increase to the mil rate of 27. M. O'Connor also noted the budget's impact in the past years from reducing items due to COVID and then reinstating them.

M. Leask noted her support in the Class Connections Program from the Board of Education. M. Leask also noted the comments made at the Public Hearing regarding the Board of Education budget increase not being sustainable.

E. Gilman questioned the cost savings of training some Paraprofessionals to be Registered Behavior Technicians and the Class Connections Program for the special education students. P. Bonner noted this is a cost savings because the special education would have to be outplaced and transported.

R. Barber noted the budgets should be sent back to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education for reductions and then to be turned back into the Board of Finance with no more than a 2% increase. R. Barber noted the increase in cost of living and the board's obligation to taxpayers.

P. Lavallee questioned the Renovation Bonds principle. G. Pianka noted it was budgeted correctly. P. Lavallee commented on the statements within the Board of Education's budget packet, noting they should be written clearer so as to not mislead the public.

S. Seder noted the Board should request adjusted budgets from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education.

MOTION 1: P. Lavallee made a motion to send back the budgets to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education for review and adjustments then to be submitted to the Board of Finance. S. Seder seconded the motion.

MOTION FAILED

MOTION 2: P. Lavallee made a motion to send back the budgets to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education for review and reductions then to be submitted to the Board of Finance. S. Seder seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 4: Public Comment

No public comment.

Item 5: Adjourn

MOTION 3: R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Heather Provost
Recording Secretary