

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**BOZRAH TOWN HALL**  
May 23, 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 May 23, 2022 at 7:00p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Steve Seder

**Others Present:**First Selectman Glenn Pianka, Selectman Bill Ballinger, Treasurer Diana Santo, Tax Collector Nancy Rensahw, Board of Education Chair Jonathan Gilman, Superintendent Portia Bonner and 7 members of the public.

**Item 2:** Public Comment

No public comment.

**Item 3:** Approve the minutes from Board of Finance December 13, 2021 Quarterly Meeting (Tables the Approval of Minutes Due to Motion Needed for Item 11 - Reference March 21, 2022 Item 3) Approve the minutes from March 21, 2022 Quarterly Meeting and the minutes from the April 25, 2022 Budget Workshop

**MOTION 1:** R. Barber made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 13, 2021 Quarterly Meeting. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

M. Leask noted a correction to the March 21, 2022 minutes to read, “ Bozrah was the school with the largest decline in per student spending.”

**MOTION 2:** M. Leask made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2022 meeting as amended. E. Gilman seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

The Board tabled the approval of the April 25, 2022 minutes to the next meeting.

**Item 4:** Revised Budget Presentation from Board of Education and Board of Selectmen

### Board of Selectmen

G. Pianka presented the Board with the proposed Town of Bozrah General Government and Capital Budget. The Capital budget equaling \$775,496 and the General Government budget equaling \$2,012,222. Pianka noted no changes were made from the proposed budget at the last Board of Finance meeting. G. Pianka noted there are large items within the budget that are required such as revaluation fees, 3% salary increase, town hall repairs, SCCOG planning services and fuel costs.

G. Pianka also presented the Board with the estimated turnbacks for the current fiscal year 2021/2022. G. Pianka noted an estimated turnback of \$73,850.

R. Barber commented the Board needs to consider the taxpayer and not accept any more than a 2% increase in budgets from last fiscal year.

P. Lavallee questioned the large estimated turnbacks for this fiscal year. P. Lavallee questioned if those items could be decreased in the proposed budget so there is less turn back next year.

E. Gilman noted the financial challenges on the townspeople also affect the town. E. Gilman noted the Board needs to consider added operating costs. E. Gilman commented the presented budget was responsible and well thought out.

M. Leask commented the presented budget was responsible and noted town operating cost increases are over 2%.

### Board of Education

Superintendent Portia Bonner and Board of Education Chair Jonathan Gilman presented the Board with the Board of Education proposed budget equaling \$6,813,051. J. Gilman noted increases within the budget for the Superintendent salary. J. Gilman noted the current salary is too low and the increase it to draw in good candidates for the job. J. Gilman also noted a raise to the paraprofessional salaries to meet minimum wage. P. Bonner noted non-certified staff salary increases depend on the “step” they are within.

M. Leask questioned the large increase within the secretary line.

R. Barber questioned the breakdown of administration costs within the budget. P. Bonner noted there is one full time administrator and two part time.

M. O’Connor commented his appreciation for the detail put into the presentation and the work put in to find reductions within the budget. M. O’Connor noted the reductions did not affect school activities such as special classes and after school activities.

### **Item 5: Review and Act on Budget Requests**

M. O'Connor presented the Board with spreadsheets showing the effect of the proposed budgets within different mil rates for years to come.

R. Barber commented his appreciation to the budget reductions made by the Board of Education. R. Barber noted again the increase to cost of living for the townspeople and they should reduce by 1 mil.

M. Leask noted the steady tax rate in town in past years.

E. Gilman noted his willingness to accept both budgets as they are considerate to the taxpayers, students and the town itself. E. Gilman noted his support of a mil rate of 26.5.

P. Lavalley also commented on his support of a mil rate of 26.5.

**MOTION 3:** M. Leask made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Capital budget of \$775,496, General Government budget of \$2,012,222 and the Board of Education budget of \$6,813,051 and bring them to a town meeting for recommendation. E. Gilman seconded the motion. R. Barber opposed. Vote 4 yes - 1 opposed - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 6:** Final Public Comment

Ev Brown, Fitchville Road, commented her appreciation to the boards for the time put into preparing the budgets.

**Item 7:** Adjourn

**MOTION 4:** P. Lavalley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. E. Gilman seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Heather Provost  
Recording Secretary