

TOWN OF BOZRAH
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF)
BOZRAH TOWN HALL
June 15, 2022

Item 1: Michel Leask (BOF Secretary) called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance to order at the Bozrah Town Hall on June 15, 2022 at 6:03p.m.

Members Present: Raymond Barber, Evan Gilman, Michel Leask, Steve Seder

Others Present: First Selectman Glenn Pianka, Tax Collector Nancy Renshaw and 2 members of the public. Between 6:25 and 6:30 three other members of the public arrived.

Item 2: Public Comment - No public comment.

Item 3: Review financial data and set the mill rate. All members of the board received copies of five spreadsheets with 5-year plans starting with mill rates of 27, 27.25, 26, and two options for 26.5 in addition to the income sheets for 21/22 and 22/23. Evan Gilman, Steve Seder and Michel Leask noted that a mill rate of 27 appeared to be the only option that would cover the budget and be sustainable in the outyears. Ray Barber noted that he wanted to lower the mill rate, preferably to 26 mills due to the large increase in the grand list. He stated that maintaining a surplus of over 5% is overtaxing the people, irresponsible to the tax payers and he doubted it would cause a large mill rate increase in the following years. Both Steve Seder and Evan Gilman noted their concerns on lowering the mill rate because of the impact on future mill rates. It was also stated that all revenue from the increased grand list is already included in the financial plan. The large increase in the grand list allows the mill rate to remain the same. It was noted 6.5% is a reasonable fund to cover any unexpected expenses above the approved budgets. There was additional discussion about inflation rates, mandated education costs, cost of health insurance and other employee benefits and how they impact the current and future budgets.

Motion 1: Evan Gilman made a motion to set the mill rate at 27 for this fiscal year. Steve Seder seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was a question about the number of members needed for a quorum and the number of yes votes required to pass the motion. The consensus was 4 members were needed for a quorum and a legal meeting. All 4 members were physically present during the vote. First Selectman Glenn Pianka asked that it be noted he would contact the town attorney in the morning. Tax Collector Nancy Renshaw commented that she rarely receives a complaint about a mill rate of 27.

Vote on Motion 1 – 3 in favor and 1 member (R. Barber) stated he was not voting. The motion was carried with 3 in favor and 1 opposed.¹

Item 4: Public Comment – No public comment.

Item 5: Steve Seder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Evan Gilman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted for the Board – Michel Leask, BOF Secretary

¹ The Connecticut General Statutes - Sec. 7-342, provided by Chairman Mike O'Connor indicates “**four members shall constitute a quorum and the concurrence of three votes shall be necessary for the transaction of business**”. The response from the town attorney indicated, when a member chooses to neither vote yes or abstain, then the vote is considered a no vote.