

Bozrah Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Selectman
1 River Road, Bozrah, CT 06334
Special Meeting
July 11, 2018

The Bozrah Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Education held a special joint meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Bozrah Town Hall.

BOF Members present: Michael O'Connor, Raymond Barber, Evan Gilman, Phil Lavalley, Ann Chambers. Members absent: Michel Leask

BOS Members present: Glenn Pianka, William Ballinger, Carl Zorn.

BOE Members present: Jeanne Caplet, Jonathan Gilman, Robin Barry, Mary-Elizabeth Lang. Fields Memorial School Superintendent, Dr. John Welch.

Others present: Approximately 17 town residents.

ITEM 1: Call to Order / Attendance: Chairman Michael O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Selectman, and Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 PM. An overview of a public meeting on education funding hosted by Norwich was provided by Chairman O'Connor. He and First Selectman Pianka attended and will pass on future meeting notices to additional board members.

ITEM 2: Review results of the town vote.

1. G. Pianka reported the results of the town referendum.

	<u>Too High</u>	<u>Too Low</u>	<u>OK</u>	<u>No Comment</u>
BOE:	130	14	120	40
OS	111	8	138	47
Capital	94	6	155	49

2. Jeanne Caplet commented that she does not feel that the Board of Education budget can be cut any further. Chairman O'Connor stated that this would likely be a discussion point for the entire Board of Education and should not be resolved in this meeting.
3. B. Ballinger commented that he had recalculated the ballot data based on yes or no votes and found the voting data did not support cutting of the per diem firefighters or the First Selectman's salary increase. Only 39 of the 304 votes cast wrote additional comments and only 16 voters stated an opposition to paid firefighters. He also mentioned that no alternative plan put forth by the opposition would solve the entire public safety problem (how to get fire trucks and qualified crews to a fire during the work week). He feels the only real solution to having someone available to roll and man the trucks is to pay them to be there.

4. Evan Gilman commented that the main issue at the public hearing and the town meeting was the per diem firefighter issue. Addressing this issue would likely resolve the budget issue.
5. Chairman O'Connor stated that while there were some specific comments on the budget provided by the voters some consideration and adjustments were needed in each budget. Once the boards have had an opportunity to meet and represent the budget the finance committee would hold a public hearing to obtain feedback on the revised proposals. Following the public hearing the finance board would meet again to take action on the new budgets.
6. A question was asked about the need to hold a referendum since the last budget went to a referendum. Since this is a new budget and we are essentially starting over a new referendum would not be held unless this was required by the Board of Selectmen or there was a new petition. This is covered by state statutes.

ITEM 3: Establish timeline for new budget approvals.

1. Budget meeting dates are as follows. G. Pianka will contact Pastor Lee to request the church meeting room. The Moose Lodge was also mentioned as an alternative.
 - Board of Selectman, Bozrah Town Hall: Tuesday, July 17, 2018, Time TBD
 - Board of Education, FMS Library: Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 6:30 PM
 - Board of Finance, Town Hall: Thursday, July 19, 2018, 7 PM
 - Public Hearing, Location TBD: Tuesday, July 24, 2018, 7 PM
 - Board of Finance, Town Hall: Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 7 PM

ITEM 4: First Selectman – Introduce DEEP Diesel Emission Mitigation Program Proposal for the Town of Bozrah. G. Pianka presented the DEEP Diesel Emission Mitigation Program Proposal. Chairman O'Connor stated that the Board of Selectman has time to include the grant proposal in the FY 18/19 if they wish.

ITEM 5: Adjourn.

Motion: R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting at 7:24 PM. P.Lavallee seconded the motion. Vote unanimous – **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion: G. Pianka made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectman meeting at 7:24 PM. W.Ballinger seconded the motion. Vote unanimous – **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion: J. Caplet made a motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 7:25 PM. M.Lang seconded the motion. Vote unanimous – **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Diana M. Santo