

TOWN OF BOZRAH
SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING
BOARD OF FINANCE
FMS GYMNASIUM
ZOOM - VIDEO CONFERENCE
March 30, 2021

Item 1: Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Hybrid Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order on the Video Conference Application Zoom and at the FMS Gymnasium on March 30, 2021 at 7:02p.m.

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

Item 2: Public Comments

Raymond Barber read aloud a letter discussing the BOE proposed budget from a FMS parent Michelle Coombs. The letter noted retiring staff in the middle school and the importance of filling all positions.

Item 3: Board of Selectmen request additional funds to be approved for the LOTCIP Sidewalk Project

- Transfer of \$6,500 requested to be transferred from the General Fund to line 190-55102, Village Sidewalk

C. Zorn noted the BOS are requesting \$6,500 to resolve state comments on the LOTCIP Sidewalk Project. C. Zorn noted this project will be completely state funded except for the design which will be done by Lenard Engineering.

R. Barber questioned how much money has been spent on the project to date. C. Zorn noted the Town will contribute about \$32,000 for the project and they do not expect any additional design costs. R. Barber also questioned if this project has been approved at a town meeting. B. Ballinger noted when they are looking to accept the grant, they will go to a town meeting for approval.

M. Leask questioned what the \$6,500 would be used for. C. Zorn noted the \$6,500 they are requesting is to resolve the state comments and apply for the LOTCIP grant with their final design.

E. Gilman questioned if lighting was included in the design and grant request. C. Zorn noted the BOS looked into adding in lighting for the sidewalk and it would have cost more than the sidewalk itself. C. Zorn explained the BOS did include the underground wiring in the grant request and design so they can add in the lighting at a later date.

MOTION 1: P. Lavallee made a motion to approve the transfer of \$6,500 from the General Fund to line 190-55102 Village Sidewalk. E. Gilman seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 4: Update on the Board of Finance minutes from August 24, 2020 to indicate the amount of the UST project and funding source

C. Zorn noted at the August 24, 2020 meeting the BOF approved \$165,000 for the UST project. C. Zorn noted the exact amount needed is \$164,200.

MOTION 2: R. Barber made a motion to rescind motion 4 from the August 24, 2020 Board of Finance minutes and to approve \$164,200 to Capital Projects for the replacement of the above ground fuel oil tank from the General Fund. M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 5: Budget Workshop

M. O'Connor noted the upcoming Public Hearing. M. O'Connor explained the total amount requested with all budgets is \$9,187,000. M. O'Connor explained that is underfunded by 2 mils at the current rate.

S. Seder referred to the letter from Michelle Coombs read aloud at public comments. S. Seder questioned if all the retiring teacher positions are being filled. J. Goulart noted all three positions are being restored. S. Seder also questioned what the current superintendent salary was. J. Goulart noted the current salary is \$60,000 and is being raised to \$70,000. J. Goulart explained they are hiring a new superintendent and wanted the salary to attract a good candidate. She noted \$70,000 matches the lowest superintendent salaries in the area and the \$60,000 salary had not been updated since 2017.

M. Leask requested the health insurance costs with the new staff coming in and the staff retiring at the school.

R. Barber questioned if two people were filling the technology position. Dr. Bonner explained they are hiring one technology teacher. Dr. Bonner noted the current technology teacher, who is retiring, taught a math class as well. Dr. Bonner explained they are changing the current part time math teacher to full time. R. Barber also requested the health insurance cost information for the new staff coming in and the staff retiring. R. Barber questioned the BOS on the changes to the Assessor position. C. Zorn noted the Assessor will have more infield time.

C. Zorn noted a data center is looking to build in Bozrah. He explained the BOS is hiring a legal firm to create a host agreement. C. Zorn noted the new line item in the budget under Engineering to pay for the legal firm.

Item 6: Final Public Comment

Ev Brown commented on the hybrid meeting format, noting it was hard to hear via zoom.

Ronald Leask commented on the upcoming hybrid Public Hearing.

Item 7: Adjourn

MOTION 3: R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

Heather Barber
Recording Secretary