

**TOWN OF BOZRAH  
TOWN HALL  
1 RIVER ROAD  
BOZRAH, CONNECTICUT 06334**

The **Bozrah Board of Finance** will hold a **SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING WORKSHOP** on **MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 at 7 PM** in the FMS gymnasium. The public is welcome to join the meeting via the zoom link below or choose to attend the meeting in person. This is being done to comply with the Governor's Emergency Executive Orders issued to allow this forum in the current Coronavirus emergency.

**ACCESS**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96442854240?pwd=cVpxM3ZkRXJ0Z0lzbTZ2TXYyK3krQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 4285 4240; Password: 9VN8se

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)      +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)    +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US                    +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 964 4285 4240

Password: 074353

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order / attendance
2. Public Comment(s)
3. Approve minutes from BOF Special meetings: March 30, 2021 and April 20, 2021
4. Discussion of fund balance/FY 2022 income discussion
5. Final Public Comment
6. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. O'Connor, Chairman

**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

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**FMS GYMNASIUM**  
**ZOOM - VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
April 20, 2021

**Item 1:** Chairman Mike O'Connor called the Special Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Finance(BOF) to order on the Video Conference Application Zoom and at the FMS Gymnasium on April 20, 2021 at 7:07p.m.

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

**Item 2:** Public Comment

Jeanne Goulart commented on a savings in the Special Education budget of \$32,739.

**Item 3:** Approve the minutes of the Quarterly March 22, 2021 meeting and April 4, 2021 Public Hearing

P. Lavallee noted to correct Goulart on Item 7 page 2 of the March 22, 2021 quarterly meeting minutes.

**MOTION 1:** R. Barber made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 22, 2021 quarterly meeting as corrected. S. Seder seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION 2:** R. Barber made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2021 public hearing. P. Lavallee seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 4:** Act on Budget Requests for FY 2021-2022

M. O'Connor presented the board with spreadsheets showing the impact of the presented budgets in the next fiscal years. R. Barber questioned the percent increased each year for the grand list total. M. O'Connor noted a 1% increase for the grand list total in his projected budget impact spreadsheet. M. O'Connor noted the possibility of a large project in town and presented the board with the possible impacts from the project with the extra revenue.

S. Seder noted the board should consider the budgets presented to them without the possible town project impacts. M. O'Connor noted the impacts from the possible projects would not show in the next two fiscal years. M. O'Connor explained the importance of considering the impacts long term. S. Seder questioned if the board received all expected revenue. M. O'Connor noted they have not received all expected

revenue yet. M. O'Connor noted they expect to receive revenue from LOCIP, STEEP, cost sharing grant, and Special Education.

M. Leask noted her support in the money budgeted to support the school cafeteria. M. Leask questioned if the cafeteria earns more money than expected, could the board transfer the unused portion back to the general fund. J. Goulart noted if the money budgeted is not used then it goes back to the town at the end of the year.

E. Gilman commented on the \$97,000 support for the summer program. J. Goulart noted the Board of Education approved the use of the school for the summer program but chose not to administer it as it is not educational. E. Gilman questioned first selectman Carl Zorn if the summer program was beneficial to the town. C. Zorn noted the summer program has yielded positive results in the past although the town is not going to administer a program this year. C. Zorn noted this is due to staffing and resources. E. Gilman also commented the Board should not approve an increase of the mil rate to 28 mils. M. Leask agreed.

R. Barber commented on the Town Clerk salary decrease. C. Zorn noted the Town Clerk salary decreased to match other salaries in town. C. Zorn noted the decrease matches the hours the Town Clerk works. Diana Santo, First Selectman's Assistant, noted the Town Clerk currently works 30 hours a week, 4 days a week. Selectman Glenn Pianka noted the Town Clerk is an elected position, so this change would begin following the election. M. O'Connor clarified the money budgeted for Town Clerk salary represents the current salary from the beginning of the fiscal year to the election and the new salary following the election where the Town Clerk would work 23 hours a week, 3 days a week. R. Barber questioned the amount of hours a town employee would work to receive benefits. D. Santo noted 20 hours to receive pension and 30 hours to receive medical benefits. R. Barber also questioned what percentage the town pays employee benefits. D. Santo noted the town pays 10%. R. Barber discussed the amount of unemployed townspeople, noting 246 people in town unemployed. R. Barber noted the board should stay at the current mil rate.

G. Pianka noted to the Board that taxpayers are funding the WPCA audit. G. Pianka also commented on a grant to fund a fire truck. G. Pianka noted the fire truck is a large necessary purchase that should be considered. M. O'Connor noted the fire truck was not considered in this budget. M. O'Connor noted that is something to plan for in years to come.

M. O'Connor noted they could approve the Board of Education budget with the \$32,739 as it is presented knowing the Board does not need it, or wait until presented with the corrected budget. J. Goulart noted the budget total without the \$32,739 is \$6,212,310.

**MOTION 3:** P. Lavalley made a motion to approve the budgets as presented as modified at a total of \$9,189,855 broken down as such, Board of Selectmen's request of \$1,935,201 for the general fund and \$742,344 for capital expenses and the Board of Education's request of \$6,512,310. M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

The Board set a BOF meeting on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. and will set a Town Meeting date following that.

**Item 5: Public Comments**

Bill Ballinger commented on the Town Meeting on the data center agreement.

Ev Brown commented on the zoom meeting format continuing in the future.

Carl Zorn commented on the ladder truck pump replacement.

Amy Banning commented on the town pay rate versus the school.

**Item 6: Adjourn**

**MOTION 4:** R. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. . M. Leask seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

Heather Barber  
Recording Secretary