



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance
May 16, 2012 – Regular Meeting
Town Hall – Room 1
127 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rob Tarlov, John Ringo, Thomas Kane, Art Shilosky, Rob Estve.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cathy Pompei.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gregg Shuster, Selectmen Jim Ford, Greg Cordova and Stan Soby, Fire Chief Walter Cox, Public Works Director James Paggioli, Planner Adam Turner, Youth Services Director Val Geato, Senior Center Director Patricia White, Fire Lieutenant Don Lee, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove, Board of Education Chairman Ronald Goldstein, BOE Members Donald Kennedy and Brad Bernier, Recreation Director Cheryl Hancin, Treasurer Gregg LePage.

HANCIY A. DRAY
TOWN CLERK

Maggie A. Cosgrove

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2012 MAY 18 PM 2:26

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarlov called this Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – MAY 2, 2012 REGULAR MEETING

Motion by: J. Ringo

to approve the May 2, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes as read.

Second by: T. Kane

Vote: Abstaining: A. Shilosky (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others present. APPROVED.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pam Scheibelein, volunteer for the food bank, asked the Board to reconsider the elimination of the food bank coordinator position.

Joyce Main agreed that the coordinator position should remain. J. Main pointed out several items that seemed to be increases in the budget stating that the people cannot afford increases.

4. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions requested.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Finance Department

M. Cosgrove presented the revenue and expenditure reports for the Town and Board of Education through April 30, 2012.

b. Tax Collector

T. Coblentz gave the Board members the April 2012 tax collection data. It is expected that the collection rate will be 98.3% for this year. Foreclosures are still being filed and are taking longer for the banks to pay.

c. Treasurer

Treasurer Gregg LePage said interest rates have not changed.

Motion by: J. Ringo
to move Item 6 – First Selectman’s Report after Item 8.
Second by: T. Kane.
Vote: Unanimous.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Tarlov received letters that refer to budget items and will be addressed under New Business.

8. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Shilosky said the architect for the Senior Center/School Renovation Building Committee has presented three renditions for review but there is no breakdown of costs at this time.

J. Ringo is meeting with the Economic Development Commission (EDC) on Monday.

R. Tarlov reported that the EDC and the Sewer and Water Commission did not have a quorum for the May meetings.

6. FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

a. Selectman’s Agenda:

1. Transfer Requests – none.

2. First Selectman’s Update

Selectman Schuster has updates for the budget discussion.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Contingency Policy – review of information received from other towns.

M. Cosgrove found the research from other towns had amounts of 1% or 2% of the total budget placed in a contingency fund. Other towns fund a flat fee each year.

b. Update on Health Fund

M. Cosgrove reported on the status of the Health Insurance Account from April through May 15, 2012. The Board of Education health insurance activity was the same as the previous month and the numbers are good so far this month.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Possible Action on 2012-2013 Budget

Chairman Tarlov took a few moments to explain the increases mentioned during Citizen Comments. The letters read were received from citizens in support of the food bank and/or social services coordinator positions.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster noted that the updated proposed reductions totaled \$338,857. Discussion followed on the list of items.

Motion by: J. Ringo

to restore the \$5,921 to the budget for the food bank and social services coordinator positions.

Second by: A. Shilosky.

Vote: Opposed: R. Tarlov.

In favor: All others present. APPROVED to restore.

The Board of Education has reduced their budget by \$350,000 and with the revised list for the Town of \$332,936, the total reductions to the budget are \$682,936.

Motion by: J. Ringo

to approve the previously approved Board of Finance Budget with reductions to the Town Budget of \$332,936, adding back the food bank and social services coordinator positions as discussed, and to move the budget to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Second by: A. Shilosky.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Motion by: J. Ringo
to accept the reductions from the Board of Education in the amount of \$350,000
and move the total budget to the Board of Selectmen.

Second by: A. Shilosky.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Discussion followed on getting the information to the public about the impact of the revaluation on the proposed budget. Facebook, a letter to each household, press releases, newspaper articles all were discussed.

11. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joyce Main stated she felt the mailing is a thinly veiled yes vote and the Board cannot promote a yes vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: A. Shilosky
to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: J. Ringo.

Vote: Unanimous.

Chairman Tarlov adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

Note: This meeting was recorded by a digital audio recording system and is available through the First Selectman's office in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.