



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Bernie Dennler, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

April 18, 2024 - 7:00PM

Minutes

Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room 1 and Hybrid via Zoom

Members Present: First Selectman Bernie Dennler, Selectmen Art Shilosky, Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, and Cliff O'Donal.

Others Present: S. Hoffman, Fire Chief, S. Shoemaker, Assistant Fire Chief/ Fire Marshall/ EMD, B. Bernier, Deputy Fire Chief and J. Leone, Public Works Director.

1. Call to Order

B. Dennler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Dennler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Correspondence

Memo from Sal Tassone, Town Engineer regarding a request from Lake Hayward Properties LLC to Discontinue Shugrue Rd No. 1.

Memo from Kayla Fortier, Assistant Town Clerk regarding a naming petition.

Email from Deanna Bouchard regarding Finance Director.

Email from Deanna Bouchard regarding the purchase of trash cans with the Nip bottle funds.

Email from Michael Dubreuil regarding April 18th Special Meeting.

4. Citizen's Comments

Deanna Bouchard spoke about the use of proposed Nip Bottle Funds, discontinuation of Shugrue Rd, and the Emergency Management department.

Katherine Paquette spoke about the trash cans proposed for the Town Green.

Marli Rudko spoke about the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting earlier in the day and documents for the investigatory report released following the meeting.

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

No additions or changes were made.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the Minutes from Regular Meeting April 4, 2024

R. Coyle MOVED to approve the minutes from April 4, 2024, with a correction to the name in item 13. Citizen Comments should read Ron Silberman. A. Shilosky SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. Discuss Emergency Management Department Consolidation

Presentation by S. Hoffman, Fire Chief, S. Shoemaker, Assistant Fire Chief/ Fire Marshall/ EMD

R. Coyle MOVED that the Emergency Management Department become a department of the Colchester Fire & EMS and relocate the primary EOC to the Colchester Fire House pending the approval of the proposed town budget effective July 1, 2024. C. O'Donal SECONDED. CARRIED 5:0.

8. Discuss and act on Legal Budget Transfers for FY 22-23 and FY 23-24

B. Dennler presented why he is asking the board for these transfers. The Board of Finance already agreed to support the consolidation at a previous meeting.
Board discussion followed.

D. Turner MOVED to consolidate FY 22-23 legal budget lines items in the First Selectman's Office, Human Resources, and Planning and Code Administration to the Legal & Insurances Department. C. O'Donal SECONDED. CARRIED 5:0.

D. Turner MOVED to amend the motion above to recommend it to the Board of Finance. R. Coyle SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

D. Turner MOVED to consolidate FY 23-24 legal budget lines items in the First Selectman's Office, Human Resources, and Planning and & Code Administration to Legal & Insurances and recommend to Board of Finance. C. O'Donal SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

9. Discuss and act on authorizing the First Selectman to award the Water Tower Project and sign all related documents.

Presentation by J. Leone, Public Works Director. J. Leone spoke about the lowest bidder and his efforts to ensure they are a qualified bidder. The lowest bid came from Worldwide Industries Corp. at \$195 510
Discussion by the Board followed.

R. Coyle MOVED to award RFP 2024 – 001 Exterior Coating of the 40 ft Water Tank to Worldwide Industries Corp. at \$195 510 for the funds to come from allocated ARPA Money and for the First Selectman to sign all related documents. A. Shilosky SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10. Use of Nip Bottle Funds

Presentation by J. Leone, Public Works Director

Discussion by the Board followed.

- a. Discuss and act on authorizing the purchase of Garbage bins for the Town Green using Nip Bottle Funds

- b. Discuss and act on authorizing Public Works overtime for Town-wide litter pickup and related purchases to be funded using Nip Bottle Funds

R. Coyle MOVED that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the use of up to \$32,000.00 Nip Bottle Funds for the overtime for the Townwide litter pickup, the total cost of trash receptacles and litter cleanup tools. Every April, beginning April 2025, a report will be provided to the BOS on Nip money spent to date, the remaining Nip money, and an assessment of the project's effectiveness. The BOS shall then decide to continue or modify the program based on information and recommendations from the Public Works Director. D. Turner SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

11. Review Charge for Ad Hoc Recreation Needs and coordination Committee

The Board discussed the committee and potential elements of a charge.

R. Coyle MOVED to approve the following charge for the Recreation Needs & Coordination Ad Hoc Committee:

- 1. Identify all recreation assets, including fields, trails, parks, etc in Town*
- 2. Identify recreation assets that the Town may want to plan for in the future*
 - 1. Examine proposals for Bacon Academy athletic complex and make prioritized recommendations*
 - 2. Consider pros, cons, financial costs, and evaluate public support for artificial turf vs grass fields*
- 3. Identify recreation opportunities that currently exist and possible ideas for the future*
- 4. Develop recommendation on a coordination mechanism for scheduling use of recreation assets maintained by Town and Schools, particularly fields*

A. Shilosky SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

12. Liaison Reports

R. Coyle reported on the Commission on Aging, Senior Centre Building Committee, and the Agriculture Commission.

B. Dennler had to exit the meeting at 8:50pm to attend to other business as First Selectman. A. Shilosky, Vice Chair took over the meeting.

A. Shilosky reported on Norton Park.

13. First Selectman Report

No report was provided as B. Dennler had to exit the meeting early.

14. FOI Log update

A. Shilosky shared that the FOI log is posted online.

15. Citizen's Comments

Brett Mahon thanked the Public Works and Parks and Rec departments for their work and commented on the state of the of the Rec fields and the need for upgrades mainly at Bacon.

Deb Bates suggested to consider using the Nip Bottle funds to install nip bottle storm drains.

Phillipe Theriault spoke about the need for one synthetic field and how to manage the grass ones.
Deanna Bouchard spoke about the Recreation Needs Committee, Sewage issues in the schools mentioned by the Fire Marshal, Board of Education capped the tuition for next year, the cease-and-desist letter by superintendent, and the Board of Selectman Special Meeting regarding the Finance Director.
DeAva Lambert spoke about the Finance Director and the Investigative Report shared by the Board of Selectmen in a Special Meeting.
Ron Silberman spoke about the trash cans proposed for the Town Green, and the school fields.
Matt Parsons spoke about the Recreation Needs and Coordination Committee charge developed and thanked the Board of Selectmen for his appointment to the committee.

16. Adjournment

R. Coyle MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. D. Turner SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Taryn Scott
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman