



# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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## **Board of Finance Meeting Minutes**

**AGENDA – April 8, 2020 – Virtual Meeting – 4:30 PM**

### **SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD OF FINANCE**

(All items on this agenda are subject to possible action.)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Rob Tarlov, Michael Hayes, Mike Egan, Andreas Bisbikos, and Andrea Migliaccio, Bernie Dennler

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Mary Bylone, Tax Collector Michelle Wyatt, Town Clerk Gayle Furman, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, CFO Maggie Cosgrove

\*\*\*All members and citizens were present via Zoom webinar

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 1, 2020:** A. Bisbikos motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 1, 2020 amending agenda item 10a. to reflect that A. Bisbikos cited First Selectman Rudy Marconi as recognizing the BOF as the governing body in his town, seconded by M. Egan. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Joe Veneziano suggested putting out a new budget survey in light of Covid-19.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None
6. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
  - a. **Finance Department:**
    - i. **Program Fund:** First Selectman Bylone said she has discussed with T. Quinn, Recreation Director, ways to use the funds. Refunds have had to be issued for programs that could not take place due to Covid-19. It is anticipated a full summer camp will not happen or recreational team sports held.
    - ii. **Health Insurance Fund:** M. Cosgrove gave an update on the Health Insurance Fund. Despite having had an unusual amount of stop-loss claims this year, she is not expressing concern as of now.
7. **FIRST SELECTMAN**
  - a. **Transfer requests – discussion and possible action:** None
  - b. **First Selectman's report:**
    - i. **General:** None
    - ii. **COVID-19 Update:** State guidelines are being followed and when at all possible Town employees are being asked to continue to work from home. She continues to do Facebook Lives every day to provide citizens with information and the opportunity to ask questions or express concerns. Sean Shoemaker is visiting businesses that remain open to check for compliance issues.
8. **2020 - 2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION**
  - a. **Revised Budget Calendar – discussion and possible action:** M. Egan said it should be indicated to the public that there is a chance the budget might not be able to go to referendum and therefore even more important citizens engage in the process and provide feedback. First Selectman Bylone is in favor of doing more workshops this year to give citizens more opportunities to become familiarized with the budget and more opportunities to ask questions. Chairman Tarlov said he agrees that more workshops should be held. The process will continue as it normally does laying out the options of a referendum, delayed referendum or no referendum. A. Bisbikos asked how long before making a decision on the referendum. R. Tarlov said the longer we can wait to make a decision the more likely we are to have a referendum. First Selectman Bylone would like a referendum on June 16th, or a budget voted on by then to allow the

town to continue to move forward and know what the budget is to work with for the new fiscal year. Members discussed the additional ways to engage the public and gain feedback including the possibility of sending out an additional survey but feel as though it could be time prohibited. A. Bisbikos suggested the use of a robocall to make people aware of the workshops. M. Bylone will look into the cost. An email blast will be sent out with the link to the workshops. M. Bylone and R. Tarlov will continue to discuss the pros and cons of a delayed budget but want to continue to move forward and keep the dialogue open.

The budget schedule will be as follows:

- Wednesday, March 15th - BOF Budget Public Hearing to Present the BOE School Budget
- Thursday, March 16th - BOF Budget Public Hearing to Present the Town Budget
- Tuesday, March 21st - Board of Finance Budget Workshop: Review Town Budget with First Selectman
- Thursday, March 23rd - Board of Finance Budget Workshop: Review Education Budget with Board of Ed

- a. **Governor's Executive Orders relating to Municipalities:** Per Executive Order, a town can choose to participate in a tax deferment program, a low-interest rate program, or both. M. Wyatt said most SECCOG towns have already decided to offer both and the deferred be universal requiring no applications. She will be putting together a proposal for the Board of Selectmen to make a decision on.

## **9. 2019 – 2020 BUDGET**

- a. **Issues related to COVID-19:** Addressed under 8a.

- 10. LIAISONS' REPORTS:** A. Migliaccio has conflicts with the BOE meetings due to a change in her work schedule. M. Egan will attend the BOE meetings going forward. R. Tarlov reported that Chuck Maynard did a presentation to the BOS at their last meeting on how the volunteer fire company incentive program works. A second Zoom account has been purchased to allow for multiple town meetings at the same time.
- 11. CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Rob Esteve urged members of the boards to explore nontraditional options to vote on the budget and exhaust all possibilities before deciding to not hold a referendum. R. Coyle said that seniors receive a call from the Senior Center Director every week. This method could be used for getting information out to the seniors. Travis Hatch commented on providing clickable links for Zoom meetings.
- 12. ADJOURNMENT:** A. Bisbikos motioned to adjourn, seconded by M. Hayes. Vote was unanimous.  
**MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Tarlov motioned to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

**Submitted by,**

**Dawn LePage, Clerk**