



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

**Town of Colchester
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
January 6, 2021 – Virtual Meeting – 6:30 PM**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2021 JAN -8 PM 12:31
M. Bylone

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rob Tarlov, Michael Hayes, Mike Egan, Andrea Migliaccio, Bernie Dennler

Absent: Andreas Bisbikos

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Maggie Cosgrove, First Selectman Mary Bylone, BOE Liaison Amy Domeika, Jim Paggioli, Public Works, Tax Collector Michele Wyatt

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
 2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – B. Dennler moved to add discussion about the budget survey to the agenda. 2nd by M. Hayes, motioned carried 5-0. Added As 9C
 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – M. Hayes motioned to approve minutes from 12/16 meeting. 2nd by B. Dennler. Motion carried 5-0.
 4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – M. Egan commented as a citizen regarding the day's events at the US Capitol and the importance of working in a bipartisan manner.
 5. CORRESPONDENCE – Attached
 6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
 - a. Tax Collector – Michele Wyatt discussed the tax payment process changes due to the closure of the town hall building.
 - b. Finance – None
 7. FIRST SELECTMAN
 - a. Transfers – None
 - b. First Selectman's Report – M. Bylone discussed the 3 month deferment for tax bills. The Covid status in the town continues to be in the Red Zone with 33.2 cases per 100,000 residents. Apple Rehab is experiencing their first outbreak since the start of the pandemic with 2/3 of residents infected. Town Hall remains closed to the public to ensure the town departments can continue to operate properly. Some small businesses in town are struggling due to Covid.
 8. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Property Purchase – discussion and possible action. J. Paggioli discussed the purchase of the property at 129 Westchester Rd for \$1.00. The property will become part of the land for Norton Park. M. Egan moved "The Board of Finance approves the purchase of the property at 129 Westchester Road for the consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) in accordance with the Purchase and Sale Agreement and the Colchester Charter, C1107a (B), and authorizes the expenditure come from the Norton Park donation account". 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 5-0.
 - b. Ad Hoc Committee – open spaces – discussion and possible action. M. Egan moved to approve B. Dennler as BoF
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representative on the committee. 2nd by M. Hayes. Motioned carried 5-0.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum of Understanding – discussion and possible action – Final changes to the MOU were discussed. Motion to approve changes by M. Hayes. 2nd by M. Egan. Motion carried 5-0.

10. 2021 – 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- a. Review First Selectman's Budget Priorities
 - i. Goals – M. Bylone presented her 21-22 budget goals.
 - ii. Tree Maintenance Plan – J. Paggioli discussed the status of the tree work. Out of 692 trees identified for removal, 160 have been taken down. The budget is exhausted at this point.
- b. Public Forum Format – Ways to solicit discussion from the public were discussed. It was suggested that the list of goals presented by Mary Bylone and the list from the BOE should be used as a starting point for the forum. Citizens can bring up other items they wish to discuss.
- c. Survey Discussion – B Dennler announced that the survey was open and would close on 1/18 at 800 am. Discussion around getting paper copies out groups and area, and how to best communicate that the survey is open
- d. Other items.

11. BOARD OF FINANCE 2021-2022 DISCUSSION PRIORITIES

- a. Review and Update – Chairman Tarlov provided the chart of priorities as previously discussed.

12. LIAISON REPORTS – M. Hayes reported data on fire calls from the Fire Department at 1,951 in 2020. Most calls were Covid-related. Calls for service at the nursing homes was a large portion. The CARES Act allowed recovery for most of the PPE cost incurred. There has been a savings in the salary budget due to the Fire Chief duties being covered by Sean Shoemaker as interim chief. A. Migliaccio reported for the Police Commission that some priorities for them are replacement of some vehicles, a new shooting range, the drone program and the policy for officers taking their cruisers home. R Tarlov reported that Youth Services conducted their Resolution Run in a virtual setting. 17 people entered, donations \$285. Community conversations on parenting will begin soon. Large grant received for substance abuse prevention. Will be spread over 5 years and part of money will fund a full time position.

13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – Cathy Russi spoke in favor of the pre-budget work of the Board of Finance and thanked the group for their efforts.

14. ADJOURNMENT – M. Hayes moved to adjourn. 2nd by B. Dennler. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Submitted By,

Stacey Schweighoffer, Clerk