



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

## BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING October 7, 2021 – Zoom Meeting – 6:30 PM Minutes

All members and citizens were present via Zoom Webinar – Meeting was recorded

**BOF Members Present:** Chairman R. Tarlov, B. Dennler, M. Egan, M. Hayes, A. Bisbikos, A. Migliaccio  
**Also Present:** First Selectman M. Bylone, CFO M. Cosgrove, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, Senior Center Building Committee Chair Tony Tarnowski

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Special Meeting 08/25: Motion by M. Egan to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Hayes. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.** Special Meeting 09/23: Motion by M. Hayes to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Egan. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.**
3. SPECIAL MEETING (08/25) MINUTES – Review of the Amendment to the minutes. Chairman Tarlov felt the explanation of the list of \$75,000 in cuts presented during the work on the budget wasn't accurate.
4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – R. Avery spoke in favor of the new Senior Center. C. Russi also spoke in favor.
5. CORRESPONDENCE – None
6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
  - a. Tax Collector – Tax Collector M. Wyatt discussed the plan for the supplemental tax bills to go out reflecting the new mill rate. She is planning for the bills to go out in mid-December, will have a January 1 due date, and will be delinquent as of February 1. As of June the collection rate was 99.01% for fiscal year 20/21.
  - b. Finance
    - i. June – (with payroll updates) CFO M. Cosgrove discussed the unaudited reports for revenue and expenditure for FY 20-21. It shows adjustments for payroll and invoices received for last FY but paid after the year ended. She also discussed transfers from fund balance, department transfers that will be needed, any under-expenditures and moving funds to snow reserve.
    - ii. August – It is too early in the year to show any changes or trends.
7. FIRST SELECTMAN
  - a. Transfers – None
  - b. First Selectman's Report – First Selectman M. Bylone gave an update on COVID, reporting that Colchester is in the orange category right now. 70% of eligible Colchester residents have been vaccinated including nearly 100% of the senior population. CT stands at first in the nation for rates of vaccination and low COVID positivity. The ARPA committee is in force and meeting regularly. A number of projects eligible for ARPA funding are being identified including, the basketball court and playground. Playground equipment plans for the 5-12 year old age group is being worked on by Tiffany Quinn in Parks & Rec with input from parents. The irrigation main will be paid for with the Field Sustainability Fund and should be completed in the next couple weeks. Youth Center roof will be completed by the end of the year. Abatements for demolition of the houses on Mill St and Westchester Rd have begun. Upton Rd paving will be completed, however Carli Blvd will not be able to be completed due to a town ordinance. Applications for the open positions of Fire Chief and Public Works Director are being accepted. The new Resident Trooper Sergeant Tetreault has started.

8. SENIOR CENTER BUILDING PROJECT – Discussion and Possible Action – Senior Center Building Committee Chair Tony Tarnowski updated members on the decision by the Committee to seek the BOF's recommendation to appropriate the funding and move the project to the Board of Selectmen, without waiting for determination from the State bond commission on the grant application. M. Egan moved That the Board of Finance recommend that the Town of Colchester appropriate \$9,500,000 for costs related to the Senior Center Building Project, including the design and construction of a new Senior Center on Lebanon Avenue between Louis Lane and Mill Street, substantially as described in the Conceptual Design prepared by Silver Petrucelli Architects and presented January 21, 2021. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, testing and permitting costs, equipment, furnishings and fixtures, materials, land and easement acquisition, site improvements, utilities, engineering fees, project management costs and fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Hayes. Some members felt they had not been able to do enough research on the financial impacts of the project on the taxpayer. As a result, the motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> were withdrawn, and a Special BOF Meeting will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. R. Tarlov and M. Egan will meet with T. Tarnowski in advance of that meeting to obtain current financial information.
9. LIAISON REPORTS – M. Egan reported on recent Board of Education meetings that transportation to school continues to be a concern. There are currently 200 kindergarteners enrolled. B. Dennler reported the ARPA Committee is nearly ready to begin accepting applications.
10. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – D. Bouchard spoke in favor of the Senior Center project, but expressed concern that the agenda item for the BC meeting did not indicate action would be taken.
11. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by A. Bisbikos, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Hayes. ***Vote was unanimous.*** Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Submitted By,

Stacey Kilgus, Clerk