



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
January 26th, 2022 – via Zoom – 7:00 PM
Minutes
Meeting was recorded

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 JAN 31 AM 9:37
Mike Egan
CAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

BOF Members Present: Andrea Migliaccio, John Thomas, Art Shilosky, Mike Hayes, Tim Vaillancourt, Mike Egan

Also Present: First Selectman: Andreas Bisbikos, CFO: Maggie Cosgrove, Board of Education Liaison: Marguerite Gignac, Parks & Rec Director: Tiffany Quinn.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair A. Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting 1/12/22: A. Migliaccio - Posted agenda does not have the attachments, we will post an amended one with the attachments. Motion by M. Egan to approve the minutes, 2nd by A. Shilosky. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.**
4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – Deanna Bouchard - Looking for the Recreation Department to be more conservative with the budget. For example, some trips can be consolidated so they are more cost effective.
5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - None
6. Guests: Tiffany Quinn - Parks & Rec Director - T. Quinn - Irrigation is expected to finish when ARPA funds are approved. Looking to charge a flat usage fee to all sport leagues instead of a water usage fee that might change based on weather so that it is more fair for everyone. Sat down with department heads to estimate the water budget/cost. We estimated a \$4,600 cost for the first year. We ask that the BOF gives one time funding into a special revenue fund to pay the water bills and then the flat usage fee from the sport league will pay back that fund once they are collected. M. Egan - Asked about updates on the basketball court. T. Quinn - We are waiting for warmer weather. M. Hayes - Update on playground and pickleball court. T. Quinn - We are waiting for ARPA fund approval for those items, the skatepark and irrigation.
7. Department Reports:
 - a. Tax Collector – None
 - b. Finance - CFO M. Cosgrove - No financial report yet for month of december due to staffing issues. We are working on getting caught up, but might take some time since we are down two staff members.
8. First Selectman's Report:
 - a. Transfers: None
 - b. Use of Capital Funds - A. Migliaccio motioned for authorization to expend funds from the buildings and grounds reserve in the amount of \$15,000 for the disinfection of town hall. 2nd by M.Egan. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.** A. Bisbikos - Updated the Board on the Early College Advanced Manufacturing Pathway, Skipper, appointment of members/alternates and Pokemoto coming to town. Requests for proposals (RFPs) for an independent consultant to review ARPA applications have been accepted and are being reviewed. Air quality tests for the town hall and Youth Center came back and determined that our air quality was acceptable, but recommendations were made to properly disinfect both buildings. The Youth Center will be disinfected first. The Town Hall will need a special appropriation from the Capital Reserve because of the cost. The Board of

Selectmen unanimously agreed with this appropriation. It now goes to the Board of Finance for their approval.

9. CORRESPONDENCE - None

10. LIAISON REPORTS - M. Hayes - Economic Development Commission. Matt indicated ARPA funds on hold. Developing a proactive approach for economic development. There is a 40 lot subdivision going in on Cabin Road. Looking for funding to move the sewer and water line there. New distillery going in on Lebanon Ave. Sector gave a presentation. They help small businesses with lending, expansion, planning, capital, market research, financial analysis and pandemic economic recovery. Helped 88 businesses in Colchester last year.

11. OLD BUSINESS -

- a. Survey Monkey - A. Migliaccio - Created a preliminary survey for review. The board discussed the questions in the survey and decided whether or not they should remain in the survey, be removed or modified. The survey will be updated.

12. NEW BUSINESS -

- a. Budget Priorities - A. Migliaccio - Next two BOF meetings are forums. We should come up with budget priorities and try to get participation for the forum. Need to put out notification that there will be forums and maybe include some examples of budget interests to think about. M. Egan - Maybe get some information about the process of ARPA funding and the difference between budget and capital items. This year is a revaluation year so things are different. Possibly ask the assessor John Chaponis if he can speak at one of the forums. It would be good if we can have one forum be virtual and one be in person. A. Migliaccio - Will send a request to John Chaponis to see if he can speak at one of the forums.

13. BUDGET DISCUSSION – None

14. CITIZEN'S COMMENT - Linda Pasternak - Would like if we could make a mention of Norton Park. It is a central area and has a lot of interest. We can see if people are interested in completing the project. Vince Rose - Maintaining zoom access for folks, every attempt to conserve zoom access is important. Survey technology is easy, but making neutral questions is hard, but necessary to get good data. I appreciate your attention to that. recommends getting outside opinion once the survey is done. Gerrie Transue - Norton park should be on our list for the survey. Norton Park has had problems getting the things it needs. In person meetings don't allow everyone access. Why can't it be both? Virtual meetings benefit people who can't go to in-person meetings. A. Bisbikos - We are getting hybrid capabilities. We are waiting on a consultant. We need to go through the proper channels to make sure we meet FOI requirements. Bernie Dennler - Maintaining zoom access and hybrid setup is very valuable for the town. Even without COVID we should consider keeping zoom to maintain engagement. Kathy Russi - Thank you. I have been trying to stay informed with zoom meetings. I look forward to continuing to use zoom to stay informed. Also, keep Norton Park as a subject of conversation. It will be beneficial for many ages.

15. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by a. Shilosky, 2nd by J. Thomas. **Vote was unanimous.** Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Submitted By,

Megan Trujillo, BOF Clerk