



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

**Town of Colchester
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
November 4, 2020 – Virtual Meeting – 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrea Migliaccio

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Maggie Cosgrove, First Selectman Mary Bylone, Chief Sean Shoemaker, BOE Liaison Amy Domeika

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.
2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting 10/21: M. Hayes motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2020, seconded by B. Dennler. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None
5. CORRESPONDENCE: None
6. FIRE APPARATUS PRESENTATION: Discussion moved to Agenda item #9.
7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None
 - a. Tax Collector
 - b. Finance
8. FIRST SELECTMAN
 - a. Transfers: None
 - b. First Selectman's Report: M. Bylone reported on turnout from Election Day on November 3. Covid positivity rate is at 10.3 per 100,000 residents, Level Orange, as of last Thursday. There are two more scheduled Covid testing clinics at town hall. The construction on the Fuel Cell project is complete but it is not yet functional. Should be operational 12/1.
9. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Memorandum of Understanding - update on process to change Charter: M. Bylone stated it is on the Agenda for the 11/5 BOS meeting.
 - b. Fund Balance Policy: R. Tarlov outlined changes made to the policy. B. Dennler provided changes he worked on. Members will vote during the next meeting on what changes to present to the Board of Selectman and discuss how the policy will outline how the Fund Balance might be replenished, when used.
 - c. Capital Plan: Discussion moved to next meeting.
 - d. Fire Apparatus – update: Need to replace 6 fire apparatus is becoming urgent due to another recent pump test failure,

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as well as the amount of time it will take to be able to move forward with finally placing the order. New apparatus will have warranties for structural issues to cover the type of high maintenance costs the current apparatus is incurring. Financing options were discussed. Due to the shorter life span of an ambulance at about 10 years, it could be paid for differently than the other 5 pieces needing replacement which could be paid for over 20 years. B. Dennler motioned for members to vote on the need to replace 6 items of fire apparatus; ET128, ET328, ET428, ladder truck, tanker and the ambulance from 2007. A. Bisbikos seconded. Motion carried 5-0. S. Shoemaker pointed out there is actually a hose tender being replaced with a tanker rather than a tanker being replaced. B. Dennler moved to rescind the first motion. M. Hayes seconded. Motion carried 5-0 to rescind. B. Dennler moved to replace the 6 items, including the correction. Seconded by A. Bisbikos. Corrected motion carried 5-0. B. Dennler motioned to explore financing via a bond package for 5 of the apparatus, excluding the ambulance. M. Hayes seconded. During discussion R. Tarlov felt that spreading out the cost of the ambulance over 20 years rather than appropriating funds for it separately would address a cash flow concern and provide flexibility with funds. Motion defeated 5-0. B. Dennler motioned to explore funding through a bond package for all 6 pieces. M. Hayes seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Senior Center – update: There was a Project Manager rebid.

f. Debt Service Plan – update: M. Cosgrove said there will be a version of the plan developed with Barry Bernabe for discussion next meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021 Meeting Schedule: M. Hayes motioned to accept the meeting schedule of the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in 2021, with the exception of 9/15/21, which is Yom Kippur. A special meeting will be scheduled if needs arise to replace that date. M. Egan seconded. Motioned carried 5-0.

b. Rec Fields: A. Bisbikos suggested a presentation for residents in a town meeting to give the public a chance to weigh in on the desire to move forward.

11. 2021 – 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

a. Survey: Brief discussion but decision to move to next meeting, when A. Migliaccio is present.

b. Calendar: Brief review, further discussion moved to next meeting.

c. Other

12. BOARD OF FINANCE 2021-2022 DISCUSSION PRIORITIES

a. Review and Update: No changes.

13. LIAISON REPORTS: Youth Services - R. Tarlov reported the hiring of a new Program Coordinator. Work continues on Suicide Prevention plan. Fall Program is being developed. Learning Lounge schedule will change to full day to address student transportation needs. Virtual options are being explored for the Resolution Run. Anti-Vaping campaign is being worked on. Board of Education – A. Domeika reported the special meeting held resulted in a unanimous vote to move Pre-K through Grade 5 back to school five days a week beginning November 12th.

14. CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

15. ADJOURNMENT: B. Dennler motioned to adjourn. Seconded by A. Bisbikos. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Submitted By,

Stacey Schweighoffer, Clerk