



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

**Town of Colchester
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
December 2, 2020 – Virtual Meeting – 6:30 PM**

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2020 DEC -3 PM 3:42
Gayle Furrman
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Maggie Cosgrove, First Selectman Mary Bylone, BOE Chair Mary Tomasi, Jessica Morozowich, BOE, Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, BOE Liaison Amy Domeika, Jim Paggioli, Public Works

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Chairman Tarlov added a new item #5 to the agenda. Motion to approve by A. Bisbikos, seconded by B. Dennler. Vote was unanimous, **motion carried**.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Regular Meeting 11/18: M. Hayes motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2020, seconded by M. Egan. B. Dennler abstained. **Motion carried**. Joint BOS/BOF Meeting 11/19: B. Dennler motioned to approve minutes of the joint meeting of the BOS and BOF on November 19, 2020, seconded by M. Hayes. Vote was unanimous, **motion carried**.
4. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None
5. **BOE Initial Discussion on Budget Priorities:** M. Tomasi reported that priorities for the 21-22 school year budget were presented during the October 13th BOE meeting. J. Morozowich stated the goal for early transparency during the budget process. Superintendent Burt stated the top priority is to help students catch up after loss of learning due to the pandemic. He discussed the planned dates for the BOE to discuss the 21-22 budget and that workshops will be held in March. He outlined in his Initial Budget Discussion document the plan to Strengthen, Grow and Sustain. There was a .17% budget increase in 20/21. The closure of the schools from March through June resulted in some savings. School enrollment declined over the past 10 years, but is expected to remain consistent for the next 10 years.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** None
8. **FIRST SELECTMAN**
 - a. Transfers - None
 - b. First Selectman's Report – M. Bylone gave an update on COVID. The current rate of infection in the town is 33.6 per 100,000 residents. There were 75 positive cases in the last week. There have been 15 COVID-related deaths. There will be a testing clinic held at the vacant site of the old Citizens Bank in front of Town Hall. There will be a presentation on the Rec Fields on 12/14 at 6 pm via Zoom. A report will be released soon with an overview of First Selectman Bylone's first year in office. The site along the road to the Transfer Station is being cleared to prepare for the 250,000 sq ft facility to house a medical marijuana production plant.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum of Understanding - It is possible there will not be any Charter changes needed as a minor change in the current MOU regarding the date on which it expires could resolve the problem until the next Charter Review that could be decided in a joint BOS/BOF Meeting.
- b. Fund Balance Policy – A chart outlining the policy was presented and discussed. M. Cosgrove discussed her concerns and recommendations with some of the details. Members are mostly in agreement. There will be a final discussion and possible action during the next meeting.
- c. Rec Fields – A presentation will be held on 12/14.

10. NEW BUSINESS: None

11. 2021 – 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- a. Survey – M. Egan and A. Bisbikos discussed questions they developed using last year's survey of town residents and questions on the recent COVID impacts survey done by the Long Term Recovery Committee. Finalized list will be determined in the next meeting. A. Migliaccio brought up a concern with how seniors may be reached for participation in the survey while the Senior Center is closed and they may not be comfortable with using computers. Options will be worked on.
- b. Capital Plan items – M. Cosgrove and J. Paggioli discussed items in the 20-21 budget compared to the 19-20 plan. There are no substantial impacts.
- c. Other – BOE dates were added to the Budget Calendar.

12. BOARD OF FINANCE 2021-2022 DISCUSSION PRIORITIES

- a. Review and Update – It was agreed that priorities are Rec Fields, Capital Plan, Fund Balance Policy and the Debt Service Plan. No changes were made.

13. LIAISON REPORTS: A. Migliaccio reported on the Police Commission Toy Drive to be held on 12/12. There is a plan being developed to replace three police vehicles within the next two years. The policy on officers taking their police vehicle home is being discussed. B. Dennler reported the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the tax abatement for NCT Friction Welding. R. Tarlov reported Elf on the Shelf activities being held by Youth & Social Services. The Resolution Run fundraiser will be held as a virtual race. Runners will run on their own.

14. CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

15. Next Meeting will be held 12/16.

16. ADJOURNMENT: M. Egan motioned to adjourn, seconded by B. Dennler. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Submitted By,

Stacey Schweighoffer, Clerk