



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET WORKSHOP

April 12, 2021 – Zoom Meeting – 6:30 PM

Minutes

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

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2021 APR 14 AM 8:34
Mary Bylone
First Selectman

BOF Members Present: Chairman R. Tarlov, B. Dennler, A. Migliaccio, M. Egan, M. Hayes, A. Bisbikos

Board of Education: Superintendent J. Burt, BOE Chair M. Tomasi, BOE Budget Chair J. Morozowich, BOE Vice Chairman C. McGlynn, J. Ross, A. Domeika

Also Present: CFO M. Cosgrove

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:31 PM

- a. R Tarlov commented on a letter sent to BOE and simultaneously posted by two BOF members. While he felt the complaints were valid, he felt that the claims that the broken link and missing adopted budget link were more than a coincidence, were inappropriate and that the claim that the public and Board of Finance had no access to the information to evaluate the budget was inaccurate. He also felt that posting the letter without giving the opportunity for a response was wrong. He also stated that a hard copy of the budget should be available to Board members if requested, and if one was denied, a call to him could have quickly resolved the issue.
- b. A Migliaccio explained that an eye disorder makes it difficult for her to use a digital copy of the budget, but she had resolved to use it if no additional paper copies were being produced. Out of frustration she had told A Bisbikos about being denied a paper copy.
- c. A Bisbikos explained that he wanted the information from the two links so that he could go line by line to verify that the numbers for the 2019/2020 spending and the 2020/2021 adopted budget were correctly represented in the proposed budget.

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS

3. SCHOOLS BUDGET REVIEW – J Burt provide additional information on impact on this year's budget resulting from items removed from last year's budget. These items represented about a 1% increase in the budget. Also reviewed the grant and relief money received and to be received and outline where the money was already spent, and based on current information available where future money may be used. He reviewed enrollment projections at the 4 schools.

Board of Finance members asked questions and commented on the budget increase. Also stressed the need to educate the voters on the grant restrictions. A Bisbikos felt the increase would not be approved by the voters. M Egan, B Dennler and M Hayes felt the increase was reasonable and needed. A Migliaccio said she needed to see the revenue numbers.

4. CITIZEN DISCUSSION – Citizens made comments regarding more info needed to be provided to the public on the grants, some felt the increase was too high, some felt it was reasonable. Question as to whether the BOE has been doing enough to address declining enrollment.
5. SCHOOLS BUDGET REVIEW – J Burt explained that the number of staff has been reduced, however other reductions were offset by needing to shift to other services, particular to the increase number of student identified as needing special or additional services. The Board elected to defer any decisions on the BOE budget until they had seen the revenue numbers.
6. CITIZENS DISCUSSION – several citizens made comments both in supporting and not supporting the increase.
7. SCHOOLS BUDGET - Next Steps -
 - i. Wednesday, April 14 – BOF workshop – Town Budget
 - ii. Monday, April 19 – BOF workshop – Revenue. John Chaponis will be asked to participate to answer questions about the Grand List, Bloom Energy and the BAA and supplement adjustment line increase.
 - iii. Tuesday – Continued review of the BOE and Town budgets
8. CITIZENS COMMENTS – One citizen expressed support of the proposed budget.
9. Adjournment – M Egan motion, A Migliaccio second, adjourn and 9:35.

Submitted By,

Robert Tarlov