



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING July 13th, 2022 – In Person – 7:00 PM - ZOOM

Minutes

Meeting was recorded

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88200354027?pwd=GjV9sYGVxgrY9_HfDvHvF5_XMAInFd.1

Webinar ID: 882 0035 4027

Passcode: 178676

Or Telephone:

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

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

BOF Members Absent: None

Also Present: First Selectman: Andreas Bisbikos, Finance Director: Debbie Kratochvil, Tax Collector: Michelle Wyatt, Town Clerk: Gayle Furman.

1. CALL TO ORDER: BOF Chair A. Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A. Migliaccio made her opening remarks.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 5/31/22 Special Meeting, 6/15/22 Special Meeting, 6/22/22 Regular Meeting: M. Hayes motioned to change 5-0 to 6-0 in item 3 of the May 31st BOF special meeting minutes. J. Thomas seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.** M. Hayes motioned to approve the May 31st, 2022 BOF special meeting minutes with the corrections. M. Egan seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.** M. Hayes motioned to approve the June 15th 2022 BOF special meeting. M. Egan seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.** T. Vaillancourt motioned to add "Tim Vaillancourt was the member who objected to holding the meeting and that he thought it was an illegal meeting" to section 1 of the June 22nd BOF regular meeting minutes. A. Migliaccio seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.** A. Migliaccio motioned to approve the June 22nd, 2022 BOF regular meeting minutes with the corrections. M. Egan seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.**
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: D. Bouchard- Sanchez commented on her citizens comment in the minutes from June 22nd and clarified the comment. She also spoke about the last BOF meeting and that she believes that the meeting was illegal according to Tom Henecks response. T. Rudko commented on economic woes, inflation, using ARPA Funds for budget items and that the board should listen to the community and keep them in mind.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: A. Migliaccio shared the correspondence from Steven Hoffman about the impact on the Fire Department with a 5% cut with the board. She also shared correspondence from Darrell Tetreault and A. Bisbikos about the impacts that a 5% cut would have on the police department. The board then discussed the correspondence. M. Egan spoke about looking at the impacts that the budget has on the citizens of Colchester and the town services. Also, he spoke about working with department heads to allow the citizens to see what the services provide for the town and how a cut would impact those services.
6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
 - a. Tax Collector:
 - i. Tax Collector Report: M. Wyatt reviewed the Tax Collector's Report with the board and said that the

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 JUL 19 AM 9:40
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

collection rate is 99.06%. She also said that individuals can break up their car tax bill and pay some now and some later.

- b. Finance: Revenue Report: D. Kratochvil spoke about having an issue with the reporting system and is unable to provide a report at this time. She also spoke about a meeting she had with M. Wyatt about cash flows and the impacts of not sending out the car tax and personal property tax bills. She said they should be fine until September, but thinks it would be best to have the bills sent out by the end of September.

- i. Revenue Report
- ii. Revenue Comparison Report
- iii. Expenditure Report

c. Appropriations

1. Possible action for the Board of Finance to approve \$25,000 of unassigned fund balance to be utilized for exterior repair and window repair for Cragin Memorial Library. T. Vaillancourt motioned to approve \$25,000 of unassigned fund balance to be utilized for exterior repair and window repair for Cragin Memorial Library. A. Shilosky seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.**
2. Possible action for the Board of Finance to approve \$35,000 of unassigned fund balance to be utilized for window repair for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department building on 52 Old Hartford Road. T. Vaillancourt motioned to approve \$35,000 of unassigned fund balance to be utilized for window repair for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department building on 52 Old Hartford Road. A. Shilosky seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.**
3. Possible action for the Board of Finance to approve \$44,891.92 of unassigned fund balance to be utilized to purchase an off-road utility vehicle with a trailer for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. M. Egan motioned to approve \$44,891.92 of unassigned fund balance to be utilized to purchase an off-road utility vehicle with a trailer for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. A. Migliaccio seconded the motion. **The board voted via roll call. Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.**

7. FIRST SELECTMAN:

- a. Transfers: None
- b. First Selectman Report: A. Bisbikos shared his first selectman's report with the board including updates on ARPA, recent BOS approvals, DOT collaborations, Bacon Academy student google winner and meeting with SLR for review of the public works department.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Referendum Date: G. Furman reviewed possible town meeting and referendum dates with the board. The consensus of the board was to try for a town meeting on September 1st, 2022, a referendum on September 13th, 2022.
- b. Calendar leading up to referendum: A. Migliaccio proposed to have a special meeting on July 26th, 2022 to go through the operating costs, budget book and expenditures.

9. BUDGET DISCUSSION: Identify potential items/departments to focus on for reduction, cut, delay %/\$ reduction goals: A. Migliaccio shared the FY 2022-2023 proposed budget book with the board and went over how to utilize, manage and review the pdf book. She also spoke about the BOF's authority to ask for a reduction at the department level. The board discussed the budget, reductions and the previous referendums. A. Shiloski expressed his opinion about the previous proposed budgets. M. Egan spoke about working with the department heads to find out how the reductions will impact each department. A. Bisbikos spoke about coming up with ideas about potential reductions and asked the board members to bring forward reduction options. The board spoke about the importance of collaboration and that the BOF ultimately has the final say. A. Migliaccio suggested that herself and M. Egan meet with D. Kratochvil before the next meeting.

10. LIAISON REPORTS: BOE: M. Egan updated the board about the BOE meeting including updates on the search committee for a new principal for Bacon Academy and interviews for the new BOE member.

11. CITIZENS COMMENTS: M. Bylone thanked A. Migliaccio for bringing attention to the budget book and stated that it's very important to understand the operations of the departments. She also thanked Sean Shoemaker, Russel Melmid and Matt Bordeaux for their work with the businesses in town during COVID. She also made comments about the First Selectman's remarks towards the previous administration and last year's proposed budget. She also thanked A. Migliaccio for not having all the BOF members reach out to all the department heads individually. M. Rudko thanked D. Bouchard-Sanchez for her work with the businesses on ARPA funding and the application process. D. Bouchard-Sanchez commented on her experiences with some ARPA applicants/businesses. She also commented on last year's budget process and reductions. She also commented on the board reaching out to the department heads and that this

should be done by the first selectman. She expressed her opinion about how the BOF and the First Selectman communicate with each other and that citizens have the right to attend and comment at the meetings freely. J. Lachapelle commented on his disappointment with the interactions on the BOF and the First Selectman. He also spoke about the budget and wanting it to be as low as possible. He also spoke about taxes and inflation. He also spoke about the re-evaluations, housing values and its impacts on the citizens.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by A. Shilosky, 2nd by J. Thomas. ***Vote was unanimous.*** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Submitted By,
Megan Trujillo, BOF Clerk