



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Board of Finance Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM

**Hybrid:** Town Hall - Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom

**Members Present:** A. Migliaccio (Chair), J. Thomas, M. Egan, A. Shilosky, M. Hayes, and T. Vaillancourt

**Also Present:** M. Williamson (Finance Director), M. Gignac (BOE Member), M. Millington (BOE Member) D. Sullivan (Superintendent of Schools), C. Hewes (Assistant Superintendent), R. Linkkila (Business Director – BOE), D. Antonacci (BOE Member)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6 PM
2. Town Budget Recap
  - The Board of Finance reviewed the Town Budget
3. School Budget Recap
  - The Board of Finance reviewed the BOE Budget
4. Mill Rate Review
  - The Board of Finance reviewed potential mill rates.
5. Citizens Comments
  - R. Silberman spoke about statewide bills on assessments. M. Dubreuil spoke against the BOE budget. M. Roberts (teacher) asked for clarification from the auditor regarding the use of contingency. J. McKenzie spoke against the budget process. J. Shuman spoke against the budget process. T. Moroch asked for clarification on the proposed budget reductions. L. Stone spoke against the proposed reductions. E. Kaiser spoke in favor of increasing the education budget back to the original ask. T. Dimitri spoke about the proposed budget reductions. E. Shuman spoke about the budget process. Kailyn Sandberg spoke about the budget process. B. Tiszi spoke against the proposed budget reductions. J. Rose asked for clarification on various reductions. J. Sevigny spoke against the proposed budget reductions. C. Kaur asked for clarification on the numbers. B. Dennler spoke about understanding budget impacts. J. Farrell spoke about the budget process. S. Van Zilen spoke about the confusion in the budget process. R. Coyle spoke about budget process concerns and pushed for compromise. A. Lasaracina (teacher) spoke in favor of sending out the BOE budget as it stands. M. Roberts discussed all-day kindergarten. J. LaChapelle spoke about compromise and affordability. K. McKenzie (student) spoke about increasing the budget. D. Weymouth shared concerns regarding budget reductions. J. McKenzie spoke against the budget process. S. Breitmaier spoke about kindergarten and childcare. T. Gardner spoke about the budget process. D. Bouchard spoke about the budget process and affordability. J. Lash asked questions related to solutions. V. Rose discussed the budget reductions. S. Milner spoke about kindergarten. M. McNichols (teacher) spoke on the budget reductions. S. Munson asked questions related to the referendum. M. Dubreuil spoke about the decorum of the BOE. N. McKenzie spoke about the budget process. J. Shuman spoke about decorum and the budget process. K.

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Goodwin (student) spoke about the budget process. D. Bouchard spoke about exploring creative revenue measures. T. Moroch spoke about the budget process. C. O'Donal expressed disappointment in the BOE and provided support of the BOF Chair. A. Lapar asked about the mill rate. C. Praisner asked about the ECS funding.

- The Board of Finance answered questions and concerns.

6. Motion to send \$15,633,140 for the Town Budget to the BOS

- J. Thomas made a motion to send the \$15,633,140 for the Town Budget to the BOS. 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Vaillancourt.

***Motion carried unanimously 6-0***

7. Motion to send \$43,679,351 for the Education Budget to the BOS

- T. Vaillancourt made a motion to \$43,679,351 for the Education Budget to the BOS. 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Thomas. ***Motion carried 3-2-1, with M. Egan and M. Hayes dissenting and A. Shilosky abstaining.***

8. Adjournment – A. Migliaccio made a motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Vaillancourt. Meeting adjourned 9:55 PM

Minutes submitted by A. Migliaccio