



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

## BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

March 7th, 2023 – 6:00 PM

### Minutes

Hybrid: Town Hall - Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82045440909?pwd=VVA2V1JGcVAYU242SEhwYWdzTnhuZz09>

Or Telephone:

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 931 3860

Webinar ID: 820 4544 0909

Passcode: 171648

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

**BOF Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** First Selectman: Andreas Bisbikos, BOE: Alex Oliphant, Mary Tomasi, Chris Rivers, Margo Gignac, Rosemary Gignac, Superintendent Daniel Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Charles Hewes.

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TOWN CLERK

1. Call To Order: BOF Chair A. Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Presentation for Town Budget: A. Bisbikos presented the proposed budget for the town to the board and public.
4. Citizens Comments: B. Dennler commented on tree removal and asked questions about unassigned fund balance and also asked where the money came from. N. McKenzie commented on budget initiatives, senior driver, EMT volunteering and sustainability. Amanda commented on senior medical requests and driver. P. Watts commented on senior center driver and medical requests. D. Bouchard-Sanchez commented on senior center appropriation, proposed budget, EMT positions, overtime and munis reports. Fire Chief Jason commented on the proposed budget and new firefighter positions. J. LaChapelle commented on the proposed budget.
5. Presentation for the School Budget: Superintendent D. Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent C. Hewes presented the proposed budget for the schools to the board and public.
6. Citizens Comments: J. Sivigny commented on the proposed budget. E. Keizer spoke about her experience as a citizen, parents and school employee. She also commented on funding, student support and the effects of COVID on students. M. Millington commented on the proposed budget, thanked the BOE and administration. M. Dubriel commented on the proposed budget, BOE, COVID and hybrid learning. Ashley thanked the BOF and BOE and spoke in support of the budget. Unknown citizen commented on their experiences within the schools and the C3 program. N. McKenzie commented on the gifted and talented program and its impact on the community. D. Lambert commented on the BOE budget presentation and the comparison of other district spending to our towns. D. Bouchard-Sanchez commented on using grants for staff positions, questioned the out of district tuition, asked about reimbursements for special education costs, security and central office staff. J. LaChapelle commented on democracy, BOF and responsible BOE budget. S. Croucher commented on schools and teachers during the pandemic and investing in education. J. Autry commented on the Colchester schools, class sizes and support over the budget. C. Rivers asked the superintendents what programs have been cut in the past due to reductions, sports and programs. D. Bosse asked Andreas about supplemental programs through Youth and Social Services. Unknown Citizen

commented on taxes, BOF, BOE, possibilities of cutting the budget and being a business owner in town. T. Moore commented on the BOE budget, asked for help conceptualizing the cost of benefits for BOE vs Town employees. A. Zog commented on the BOE budget, thanked BOE and BOF, and asked about cutting the proposed budget and effects on staff and unemployment. M. Gignac commented on the BOE fiscal cliff and asked if they were worried about future fiscal cliffs. G. Sargent commented on the BOE proposed budget and cuts. Reanna commented on tax impact to the town, preschool tuition, grants, medicaid or insurance reimbursement, greeters, music teacher cut and security. Cindy commented on the proposed budget and reductions and asked about tax exemptions. J. Lachapelle commented on the tax increase from the proposed budget and impact on citizens. D. Lambert commented on tax increases and Colchester being middle class. Kathryn thanked everyone and spoke in support of the BOE budget. K. Kardys commented on state mandates and asked about increased costs from effects of COVID.

7. Next Steps: A. Miglaccio said the workshop is on Monday at 6:00 pm.

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Submitted by,

Megan Trujillo, BOF Clerk