



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

## BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET FORUM & SPECIAL MEETING

January 25th, 2022 – 6:30 & 7:00 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: +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799

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, Finance Director: Debbie Kratochvil, Tax Collector: Michelle Wyatt, BOE: Chris Rivers, Margo Gignac, Mary Tomasi, BOS: Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner

### Budget Forum 6:30

1. Call To Order: BOF Chair A. Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
2. Public Discussion: M. Dubreuil - Commented on having the youth center be at WJJMS. A. Migliaccio shared a document on the budget. M. Egan, A. Shiloski and J. Thomas made comments on the budget, previous budget and department participation in the budget process. A. Migliaccio asked C. Rivers about the BOE budget. C. River discussed their budget process with the board and current status. T. Vaillancourt and J. Thomas expressed that they would like the BOE budget to be conservative and be less. M. Egan spoke about the BOE budget and looking at it closely for efficiencies, but cautioned the board about the teacher shortage. C. Rivers said that they could set up a tour of the schools for the BOF. V. Rose commented on the board having a united front this year and the need for an operating budget that would move the town forward. He also expressed his concerns about the BOE budget, diminishing staff, and making parents aware of how the budget will affect the kids. C. Vaillancourt commented on the police budget, 3rd shift coverage and that the BOE budget has a lot to take into consideration. M. Dubreuil commented on the BOE budget and said that staff costs make up the most of the budget and to look into administrative staff more than teacher staff.
3. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

### Special Meeting - Immediately following Forum

1. Call To Order: BOF Chair A. Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Correspondence: No Discussion
4. Additions to the Agenda: None
5. Approval of the Minutes 1/11 Special Meeting: M. Hayes motioned to approve the BOF minutes for the 1/11/23 meeting. Motion second by J. Thomas. All members voted in favor via roll call. **MOTION PASSED.**

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6. Citizens Comments: M. Dubreuil - Commented on the Senior Center Project and the new contract that is already 90% of the budget.

7. Department Reports:

- a. Finance: The board discussed the revenue and expenditure reports. M. Hayes asked D. Kratochvil about the legal & insurance line item being over budget. D. Kratochvil said that they had discovered that an error was being made with the encumbered items not being relieved and that the report numbers were not correct. She also said they were working on correcting it as well as some formulas on the old forms that are not correct. The board and Debbie discussed various line items like the fire department and salt. A. Bisbikos said they are hiring 2 new positions for the fire department. A. Shiloski commented on overages in the budget. T. Vaillancourt shared his concern. A. Migliaccio said that the finance department was understaffed.
- b. Tax Collector: M. Wyatt reviewed the tax collectors report, and said we have a 67.52% collection rate currently.

8. First Selectman:

- a. Transfers: J. Thomas motioned to approve the amount of \$24,200 to be appropriated out of capital reserve for the wash bay ceiling.
- b. First Selectman's Report: A. Bisbikos shared that each department has a budget deadline of February 1st and then he will be meeting with them all after.

9. Old Business

- a. Budget Calendar: A. Migliaccio said that there is a new budget calendar online with an updated date.

10. New Business: The board spoke about the Purchasing Policy and that it is overdue for a review. Two BOS members and two BOF members will review the policy. M. Egan and T. Vaillancourt volunteered.

11. Liaison Reports: M. Hayes updated the board on the last ARPA meeting. M. Egan updated the board on the last BOE meeting.

12. Citizens Comments: M. Dubreuil commented on the public works winter budget and the Jack Chevrolet presentations posted and the Senior Center building project. D. Koji commented on the youth center and it being funded by ARPA and the town. K. Kardys commented on Mike and Tims concern over spending time reviewing inaccurate data, the finance department and them being understaffed. J. Farrell thanked the BOF for their work and expressed concern over the inaccurate numbers. J. LaChapelle commented on the inaccurate numbers from the finance department, the survey and thanked T. Vaillancourt for joining the purchasing policy committee.

13. Next Steps: A. Migliaccio said she was looking forward to the superintendent's presentation on February 7th.

14. Adjournment: S. Shiloski motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motioned second by T. Vaillancourt. All in favor. **MOTION PASSED.** Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Submitted by,

Megan Trujillo, BOF Clerk