



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2023, at 5:30 PM

Hybrid: Town Hall - Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom

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Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: A. Migliaccio (Chair), J. Thomas, M. Egan, A. Shilosky, M. Hayes, and T. Vallancourt
Also Present: M. Williamson (Finance Director), C. Rivers (BOE Member), D. Sullivan (Superintendent of Schools), C. Hewes (Assistant Superintendent), R. Linkkila (Business Director – BOE), M. Gignac (BOE Member), M. Millington (BOE Member)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:31 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Town Budget
 - The Board of Finance discussed department level expenditures,
4. School Budget
 - The Board of Finance discussed expenditures, potential reductions, potential revenue streams, reclassification, mill rate impact, and various proposals.
5. Citizens Comments
 - T. Rudko spoke about affordability. G. Transue spoke about grants. J. McKenzie spoke about the cost of the tax increase to the average taxpayer. J. Sevigny spoke in favor of a BOE compromise. J. Shuman spoke about the band program. J. O'Meara (Principal) provided educational data. J. Rose asked for a BOE budget vote delay. M. Roberts (Teacher) spoke about academic growth in kindergarten. M. Dubreuil spoke about the budget process. K. Sandberg spoke about letting the voters decide. V. Rose praised the education system. J. Vinci spoke about the education system. K. McKenzie (Student) spoke about stability in teacher jobs. K. Belding spoke about compromise. A. Lapar about the education system. K. Labar spoke about potential reductions. B. Tiezzi spoke about potential reductions. T. Moroch spoke about impacts. A. Wilbanks spoke about impacts. J. Lash asked questions related to the BOE budget. J. Malsbenden spoke about the budget process. A. Shod (School Counselor) discussed the BOE budget. A. Ewings spoke about taxes. K. Pavlinski spoke about budget impacts. J. LaChapelle spoke about how money is spent. J. Cox spoke about the budget process. M. Parsons spoke about fiscal cliffs. M. Millington spoke about kindergarten. N. McKenzie spoke about the BOE budget numbers. D. Lambert spoke about compromise and affordability. C. O'Donal spoke about affordability. S. Van Zielen spoke about BOE services at risk. S. Croucher spoke about the budget process and childcare.
 - The Board of Finance answered questions and concerns.
6. Next Steps
 - J. Thomas made a motion to move the Town Budget forward at 15,633,140. 2nd by A. Shilosky. **Motion carried unanimously 6-0**

- M. Egan made a motion for an education budget of \$44,229,351. 2nd by M. Hayes. ***Motion failed 2-4, with A. Migliaccio, J. Thomas, A. Shilosky, and T. Vaillancourt dissenting.***
- T. Vaillancourt made a motion for an education budget of \$43,679,051 contingent of the approved use of assigned fund balance by the auditor 2nd by J. Thomas. ***Motion carried 4-2, with M. Egan and M. Hayes dissenting.***

7. Adjournment – J. Thomas made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by T. Vaillancourt. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

Submitted by A. Migliaccio