

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance Public Hearing #1

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 @6:30 pm

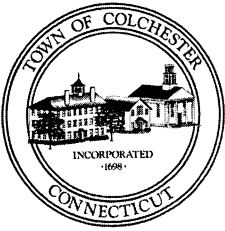
Hybrid: Town Hall- Meeting Room 1 and Via Zoom

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COLCHESTER, CT
2024 APR -4 PM 1:06
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

BOF Members Present: S. Chapman, K. Belding, T. Vaillancourt, M. Egan, M. Hayes, J. Thomas

Also Present: Superintendent- Daniel P. Sullivan III, Assistant Superintendent- Jessica L. Kuckel, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education- Eve Hurley, BOE Business Director- Rachel Linkkila, First Selectman- Bernie Dennler, Public Works Director- Joe Leone, Fire Chief- Steve Hoffman and other residents

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chair, Scott Chapman called meeting to order at 6:31pm
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. BUDGET PRESENTATION- Superintendent- Daniel P. Sullivan III, Assistant Superintendent- Jessica L. Kuckel and Director of Pupil Services and Special Education- Eve Hurley presented proposed budget for Board of Education.
4. BUDGET PRESENTATION- First Selectman- Bernie Dennler presented the proposed town budget. Public Works Director- Joe Leone and Fire Chief- Scott Hoffman gave clarification on their budget requests.
5. Discussion was had from the board regarding the presentations and next steps.
5. CITIZENS COMMENTS
 - B. Mahon- Thanked the board for their work, spoke about return on investment for the town.
 - J. Ford- Thanked the board for their work, spoke about expenditures and fulfilling department vacancies, process for passing a referendum.
 - S. Sparks- Thanked the board for their work, spoke about bonding process and how improvements to town will increase property values.
 - D. Bouchard- Spoke about hearing from department heads during budget workshop, citizens comments time limit, keeping low-income residents in mind during budget process, prior year budget process, to high/to low question on referendum ballot.
 - T. Moore- Spoke about hearing from department heads during budget workshop, appreciates the budget presentations and the comparison to surrounding towns, questioned the budget process on funding projects.
 - M. Dubreuil- Spoke about BOE presentation and out of district students, in favor of public works budget requests.
 - V. Rose- Thanked all board members, budget process, class sizes in the schools.
 - J. Farrell- Spoke about prior year zero budget increase, confident in the current budget requests.
 - K. Paul- Spoke about budget numbers and priorities, proposes senior center should be a community center for all to use.



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- Unknown- Spoke about hearing from department heads to know more about what they do, wants to see a commitment to the field repairs.
 - J. McKenzie- Spoke about years of under investments, in favor of both budgets being passed, budget requests seem low and do not seem to cover important items.

ADJOURNMENT-Motion to adjourn by M. Hayes 2nd by M. Egan. **Motion carried 6-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Submitted By:
Kayla Fortier, Clerk