



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

Members Present: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Selectmen Deborah Bates, Rosemary Coyle,
and Denise Turner

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2021 DEC 17 PM 1:47
ANDREAS BISBIKOS
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. Citizen's Comments: L. Curtis expressed that it's a win-win for the community that the Chapter 92 was passed. D. Lambert doesn't see her name on agenda for interview. Explained that the influx of applicants for all commission openings was so great that some interviews have been pushed until next Board of Selectmen meeting.
6. Consent Agenda: R. Coyle motioned to approve Consent Agenda, seconded by D. Turner. Carried 4-0
Approve minutes of the 12/2/21 Board of Selectmen meeting & the 12/6/21 Special Board of Selectmen meeting.
Reappointment of John Novak to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a three-year term to expire on 12/1/2024.
7. Tax Collectors Refunds: D. Bates motioned to approve and move forward. R. Coyle, seconded. Carried 3-0. A. Bisbikos abstained due to his mother (D. Bisbikos) benefiting from it.
8. Contract/Retainer Agreement for Rudko Legal Engagement: R. Coyle expressed disapproval of chosen town legal representation. D. Turner and D. Bates had additional questions. A. Bisbikos acknowledged and addressed their concerns and shared feedback from current town attorney.
9. State Project 172-495-001 Construction Plan Authorization: R. Coyle moved to authorized acceptance of agreement with DOT in amount of \$500 for easement of light. Seconded by D. Bates. Carried 4-0
10. Negotiated Fire Chief contract: Review of negotiation letter. D. Turner motioned to accept updated letter with changes stated. Seconded by D. Bates. Carried 4-0.
11. Amendment to the Project Management Services Agreement for Phase II: R. Coyle moved to approve amendment dated 12/16/21, construction of Senior Center and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents. Seconded by D. Turner. Carried 4-0.

12. Code Revisions to Chapter 92 – Open Space Preservation Fund: L. Curtis had successfully previously fielded questions by A. Bisbikos and J. LaChapelle. Recommendation that adding further language might be needed, was deemed unnecessary. R. Coyle motioned to approve with additional aspects as presented at the town meeting. Seconded by D. Bates. Carried 4-0.
13. Bond Reduction for White Oak Farms Subdivision: D. Turner made a motion to release subdivision surety bond HICNE-10-275-0019 in the amount of \$135,611 as recommended by the town engineer. Seconded by D. Bates. Carried 4-0.
14. Selection of Vice Chairman: D. Turner nominated D. Bates. Seconded by R. Coyle. Carried 4-0.
15. ARPA Discussion
- A. Small Business Applications
 - B. Municipal Applications
- A. Bisbikos has had conversations with M. Cosgrove. Her recommendation is to have an independent third-party to independently review applications. M. Cosgrove will be working with A. Bisbikos to explore what we can do to facilitate this process. Can be funded through ARPA and won't cost the town any money. D. Koji shared his thoughts on this. He had two points to make: 1. Communication to applicants is very important and making sure expectation of timeliness and timelines when money will be approved. 2. Agree with A. Bisbikos to hold up assessments until approval is solid (ARPA eligible) because we want to do this right and are expeditious in getting the consultant in. R. Coyle would like Board of Selectmen to have discussions on the town's goals for ARPA disbursement. A. Bisbikos has been having Department Head meetings to determine key priorities. R. Coyle stated it would be beneficial for Board of Selectmen members be provided the "toolkit" by CCM to review the law and see the analysis done. D. Koji has it and will send to A. Bisbikos to pass along to the Board of Selectmen. Special January meeting for ARPA to be determined soon. January 13, 2022, date chosen for a Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m. for further interviews to be held. ARPA application reviews are currently on hold until third-party consultant has been engaged.
16. Boards & Commissions Interviews – CORE: The following people participated in the interview process for this commission and answered questions presented by the Board of Selectmen:
- A. Nancy Nelson
 - B. Jah-Marley Wright
 - C. Shawn M. Pelletier
 - D. Amy Domeika
 - E. Jeffrey M. Koonankeil
 - F. Kymberly Cianci
17. Flag Pole Donation Review: An out-of-town resident would like to donate to the town of Colchester a 25' flag pole with an American flag. Discussion was had around the logistics of securing this, storing it until it can be utilized and where it could be eventually displayed. Also,

are there any costs associated with this process. Parks and Recreation will be included in any future discussions. A. Bisbikos also said he will engage with Department Heads to get input.

18. Review of Board of Selectmen Bylaws: moved to next meeting.

19. Citizen's Comments: L. Curtis again expressed her opinion on the total win for Colchester citizenry because of the unanimous support of Chapter 92 - Open Space. Expressed her satisfaction with the pool of applicants for the CORE Committee. J. Rose spoke regarding the ARPA bid process.

20. First Selectman's Report: 1. Steven Hoffman selection and approval for Fire Chief. 2. Public works irrigation pipeline for R1 & R2. 3. FOIA Workshop to be held via zoom on 12/21/21 at 6:30 p.m. Link available on town website page. Recording will be available for those that aren't able to attend. 4. C-TIP tax abatement passed unanimously at town meeting. 5. Replacement of basketball court will begin this Monday, December 20. 6. State Bonding Commission holding special meeting on Tuesday, December 21 at 2 p.m. If all goes as planned, Colchester will be provided \$2.5M to offset the cost of the \$9.5M Senior Center Project. 7. M. Cosgrove discussions with A. Bisbikos to discuss bringing in consultant for ARPA applications. 8. Authorized Silver Petricelli and Associates for various phases in relation to Senior Center Project. 9. Town was approved for Highway Safety DUI Enforcement Grant. Town will be awarded \$14,875.38 to address various circumstances for increased drinking and driving within our municipality. This was a grant that the Police Department applied for and was approved. R. Coyle asked the question regarding Board of Finance presentation on Cleargov software and wanted to know if it would be brought to the Board of Selectmen and how many companies will be reviewed. A presentation for the Board of Selectmen will be held at a future date.

21. Liaison reports: D. Bates: Park & Recreation was cancelled. Attended Ethics Commission and discussion took place on social media ethics. Norton Park – doing zoom meetings January and February. Have a nice holiday flyer for fundraising. Looking for \$140K for ARPA funds. R. Coyle: Open Space Committee – Middletown Rd. parcel that we own, 75 acres. They looking for at a \$46K proposal and will be applying for ARPA funds to do the parking lot. Spoke with Lions Club, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to help with the trails. Senior Center Building Committee: They are some concerns because of escalation of product costs. They are in final design phase. Won't know anything until they go out to bid. Considering hiring an estimator to work along the architect. Commission on Aging: Working on community-wide health fair. This will take place May 15, 2022 at WJMS. They could use two alternates on their committee. Membership, attendance, meals served and monthly transports were reported. D. Turner: wasn't able to attend BOAA meeting, but they are setting their schedule for next year. Historic District Commission had meeting to elect their officers and adopt their schedule. Conservation

Commission also elected officers. Have two pending applications. One new application on Upton Road, which will be table to January. A. Bisbikos attended Board of Finance which reviewed transparency software and they are also working on Monkey Survey for budget process.

22. Adjourn: D. Turner made motion to adjourn, seconded by R. Coyle.

Please see the minutes of future meetings for any corrections hereto.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Marli Rudko

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman