



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, March 18, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Denise Mizla and Taras Rudko

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Mary Bylone called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: D. Mizla motioned to add the purchase policy waiver to the agenda as number 10 on the agenda and renumber accordingly, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
4. SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Fred Brown, Robert Suchecki and Greg Cordova were recognized for volunteering for Freezin' for a Reason, and over 12 years cumulatively raising over \$135,000 for the Colchester Fuel Bank.
5. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Cathy Russi spoke in favor of the Selectmen having their cameras on during Zoom meetings and thanked Fred Brown, Robert Suchecki and Greg Cordova for their efforts.
6. CORRESPONDENCE: Dave Anderson
7. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Approve Minutes of the March 4, Special Meeting
  - B. Approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting
  - C. Tax AbatementsD. Mizla motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
8. Boards and Commission – Interviews and/or Possible Appointment and Resignations
  - A. Interview of Quinn Kozak for the Commission on Aging for a Possible Appointment as an Alternate with a Term to Expire on 12/31/2022 and for the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Possible Appointment as an Alternate with a Term to Expire on 12/31/2023: Quinn Kozak was interviewed for both commissions.
9. Sgt. Tim Edwards to Discuss Special Duty Pay: Sgt. Tim Edwards presented and will be coming to the next Board of Selectmen meeting with a detailed memo regarding rates of pay.

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2021 MAR 22 AM 10:28  
COYLE, FURMAN  
TOWN CLERK

10. Purchase Policy Waiver: R. Coyle motioned to approve a waiver of request for proposal of competitive bid process for the purchase of a replacement ambulance, D. Mizla seconded. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NONE

12. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Congressman Joe Courtney has been invited to attend a meeting on April 1, 7 p.m. to discuss the American Rescue Plan. Instead of the regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting there will be a Tri-Board Information meeting instead.

Looking into the feasibility of holding in person meetings with the remaining restrictions such as continued mask wearing and social distancing.

New Hires: Michael Previti as Director of Operations for Public Works and Charity Benedict as Coalition Coordinator.

Attended a number of ribbon cuttings for new businesses.

Vaccination clinics have been happening locally including at the Federated Church.

13. LIAISON REPORTS: See Attached for Commission on Aging

**R. Coyle:** Commission on Aging – They have requested \$300 for printing their Senior Resource Guide and an additional \$300 for a community health fair in next year's budget.

Senior Center Building Committee – Paid invoices and continuing work with the architect on the 8-24 mandatory referral to Planning and Zoning. Working with State Rep. Brian Smith on a bond request for partial funding for the project.

Senior Center Building Committee Public Information Subcommittee – Working on an outreach plan.

Agriculture Commission – Had a presentation by Town Planner Matt Bordeaux regarding a proposed text amendment to include floating zone for indoor agricultural activities.

**D. Turner:** Board of Assessment Appeals – Unable to attend.

Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion – Working on a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

Conservation Commission – There was a new application for a pond, a pending application for wetland fill. The commission is working with a UCONN student on a wildlife management project at Ruby Cohen Park.

**T. Rudko:** Planning and Zoning – Unable to attend.

**D. Mizla:** Board of Education – About 150 staff got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, some had side effects and were unable to come to work. CES had to close because they couldn't get enough substitute teachers. They have 2 plans for graduation (June 19, 2021 tentatively), one being a drive through, and the other taking place on the football field. They are considering having a prom. BOE is working on the budget and have proposed a budget of \$42,652,270 a 3.23% increase. The School Resource Officer has been removed from the budget. Norton Park – Jim Paggioli provided an update on the Brownfield remediation. There will be another forum about Norton Park offered by the library on March 25. They have an architect who is doing pro bono renderings of the park.

**First Selectman:** Board of Finance approved the purchase of the ambulance and Open Space land acquisition.

Open Space – Meeting held prior to the Board of Finance so much discussion on the presentation to the Board.

14. ADJOURN: D. Turner motioned to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heide", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman




TO: BOARD OF SELECT PEOPLE  
FROM: DAVID K ANDERSON

3/5/2021

I HOPE TOWN HALL STAFF DOES NOT FIND THIS  
LETTER TO BE "BRUTAL OR ABUSIVE" FOR THE RECORD  
THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOME TYPE OF BLIGHT SINCE  
THE PROPERTY/OWNER MOVED THERE MANY YEARS AGO.  
THE LAST FEW YEARS THE BLIGHT INCREASED BECAUSE  
OF THE YOUNGEST SON, GRANDDAUGHTER AND HER  
CHILDREN. I WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
THAT WAS TIRED OF LOOKING AT THE BLIGHT. A  
NEIGHBOR ASKED ME ABOUT THE BOATYARD AND  
OTHER BLIGHT IN THE AREA I TOLD HIM TO CONTACT  
TOWN HALL STAFF BUT DO NOT BE "BRUTAL OR  
ABUSIVE" THE PEOPLE THERE ARE VERY SENSITIVE  
AND FRAGILE. IN THE MANY YEARS I HAVE LIVED  
IN COLCHESTER I HAVE ALWAYS WORKED WELL  
WITH ALL TOWN EMPLOYEES THOSE DAYS ARE OVER  
GONE FOREVER. I HAD THE EDITOR OF THE  
RIVEREAST COME TO MY HOUSE TO SEE THE BLIGHT  
THAT REMAINS AND TELL HIM WHAT WAS REMOVED  
HE DID NOT FIND ME TO BE "BRUTAL OR ABUSIVE"  
HE ALSO WOULD NOT HAVE PRINTED THE ARTICLE THE  
WAY IT WAS PRINTED. MY SON IS LOOKING FOR  
A PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE IN FLORIDA CLOSE TO  
WHERE HE LIVES. I AM DONE WITH CONNECTICUT.

DAVID K. ANDERSON



03-04-21 PM 2:37 RCVD

03-04-21 PM 2:37 RCVD

## COA Meeting-March 8, 2021

Though our building is still not open to the public, we continue to provide the following services:

- Transportation for in-town, medical rides and monthly shopping trips (masked and socially distanced)
- Meals: MOW deliveries (Tuesday-Friday) and Community Café (5 frozen meals delivered every Tuesday)
- Wellness Check outreach calls-these are now happening once per month, unless otherwise requested
- Virtual Programming with at least 1 in-person safely distanced special event per month.
- Weekly communications through email blasts and robo-calls to all members
- Management of the office: volume of phone calls have remained steady, paying bills, grant reports, management of social media, etc.
- Building is closed, but people can call in to make an appointment for any one-on-one assistance which cannot be handled by phone. (masked and socially distanced)

Chatham Health District completed their 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Clinic on-site on February 24<sup>th</sup> and a First Dose Vaccine Clinic on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose scheduled on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. CHD has been asked to turn their attention towards vaccinating educators within the district and for the short term will not be holding public clinics.

Age eligibility has been lowered to 55+, effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. Whenever this happens, we hear about difficulty for folks to schedule their appointments. Our message is to be patient. There is still a limited amount of vaccine available, which is why there is a systematic rollout. The best way for people to schedule appointments is through VAMS, if they have computer access and by the toll-free CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Line at 877-918-2224.

Now that almost 95% of Colchester residents ages 75+ have received at least a first dose of vaccine, the senior center will be switching from scheduling for local vaccine clinics to providing guidance and/or assistance, as needed. The assumption is that as we move toward the lower age categories, most have access to computers and are able to navigate the system needed to schedule their own appointment, and they also (most likely) have access to transportation resources. According to CHD, if additional clinics are established, those appointments will be available through VAMS, unlike the "closed clinics" we were holding where the appointments did not show up in VAMS.

Last week, we had the wonderful experience of wishing our eldest senior center member, Mary W. a happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by delivering a proclamation on behalf of the First Selectman, a birthday card, balloons and a birthday cake. She is an incredibly sharp and capable woman who lives independently in the community and is even still driving. She represents everything about healthy and active aging that we hope to champion. What a joy to celebrate her milestone birthday!

We've been actively growing our social media presence on Facebook, as it will be an important tool to help reach segments of the population about the new senior center.

Colchester was downgraded on Friday to an Orange Alert status for COVID-19 positivity, and numbers are steadily declining. I've begun gathering information from other directors statewide about when they anticipate reopening. It ranges from early May until after Labor Day. As always, we will be looking to CHD to help us determine safety for reopening. Until then, we continue serving people by phone and email and are serving folks in-person by appointment.

AARP's Tax Aide program has begun and will continue into mid-April. The new format for scanning appointments seems to be working well. Appointments are scheduled on Wednesdays and Fridays.

### Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in January: Community Café:195 MOW: 512
- Monthly transports in January: 495
- Monthly attendance in January: 805
- Total Membership: 1369 (Membership grew rapidly last month with the registration of 50 new members.)



## Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

March 18, 2021

Memorandum to the First Selectman

Subj: WAIVER OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS

I am requesting a Waiver of Request for Proposal/Competitive Bid Process for the purchase of a replacement ambulance for the following reasons:

- 1) The current Ambulance 628 is 14 years old and has 244,000 miles. Because of the age and mileage, its reliability for emergency use is questionable at best. It was recommended that we budget \$65,000 for a new motor and \$4,000 for a new transmission.
- 2) To the best of my knowledge, the current model year Ford F550 chassis is sold out and not available for order. MY 2022 chassis cannot start to be ordered until after July 1, 2021 and delivery time is unknown. The cost for a MY 2022 chassis is unknown but expected to be significantly higher than MY 2021.
- 3) The dealer for our latest ambulance has a chassis available and is able to provide a complete ambulance in the August/September 2021 timeframe. Going through the FRP/Competitive Bid Process would delay delivery of a new ambulance to at least May/June 2022, most likely later in the year.
- 4) Considering the current condition of our 2007 ambulance, I feel that obtaining a replacement ambulance as soon as possible is a Critical Factor with regards to public safety.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Best Regards,

Sean C. Shoemaker  
Interim Fire Chief