



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Joint Meeting Minutes

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting & Board of Finance Special Meeting

Wednesday, October 12th, 2022, at 6:30 PM

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2022

BOS Members Present: A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), R. Coyle, D. Bates, J. LaChapelle, D. Turner

BOF Members Present: A. Migliaccio (Chair), J. Thomas, A. Shilosky, T. Vaillancourt, M. Egan, M. Hayes

Others Present: D. Kratochvil (Finance Director), V. Geato (Youth & Social Services Director), J. Jones (Public Works Director)

1. Call to Order – Board of Selectmen – Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

2. Call to Order – Board of Finance – Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

3. Transfer Discussion

A. Possible action by the Board of Selectmen to approve Transfers for the FY 21-22

- R. Coyle made a motion that the Board of Selectmen recommend to the Board of Finance of the entire block of transfers with \$145,704 from the Highway Department come out of undesignated fund balance instead of capital reserve and \$27,412 from the Police Department come out of undesignated fund balance instead of capital reserve. 2nd by J. LaChapelle. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0**

B. Possible action by the Board of Finance to approve Transfers for the FY 21-22

- M. Hayes made a motion to approve that \$145,704 from the Highway Department come out of undesignated fund balance instead of capital reserve, that \$27,412 from the Police Department come out of undesignated fund balance instead of capital reserve, and to approve the entire block of transfers as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. 2nd by J. Thomas. **Motion carried 5 to 1 with T. Vaillancourt dissenting**

4. Discussion on the Finance Department

- A. Bisbikos provided an update on the Finance Department. Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance discussed the update. No action on job descriptions.

A. Possible action by the Board of Selectmen to approve the job description for a full-time Accountant

B. Possible action by the Board of Selectmen to approve the job description for a full-time AP/Payroll Clerk

5. Citizens Comments

- J. Barnowski discussed the optics of the budget process. R. Silberman discussed the politicization of the budget process. H. Perham discussed the dangers of reductions to the budget. B. Dennler discussed the importance of funding a budget that meets all needs. V. Geato discussed the importance of paying for services and proper maintenance. K. Kardys discussed town hall employment retention. S. Caron discussed about looking into regionalization. A. Rettig spoke about splitting the Town Budget/BOE budget vs. a combined budget. S. Chapman spoke about the transfers and increased transparency. D. Lambert discussed the importance of creating realistic budgets. V. Rose spoke about tight spending and how it relates to services.

6. Budget Discussion

- Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance members discussed the budget and provided recommendations.

7. Citizens Comments

- E. Leitkowski addressed the behaviors of elected officials. J. Fougere requested in-person meetings and adding a feedback question on the budget referendum. J. Cox discussed the importance of messaging. J. Ford talked about looking better at both budgets if one is looking to properly reduce the mill rate. R. Silberman spoke about a budget that reflects the needs of the town. N. Bibee wants the town to identify why they community voted no. S. Caron spoke about the lack of succession planning in government. M. Skidmore spoke about historical decorum at meetings. B. Dennler presented suggestions on how to move the budget forward. A. Rettig discussed concerns regarding optics. D. Bouchard discussed the presentation of the budget. D. Lambert discussed taxes. V. Rose discussed worker expertise and the importance of unity on working with a budget. C. O'Donal expressed the importance of unity on the budget process. J. Malsbenden expressed the importance of unity on the budget process.

8. Possible Next Steps

- Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance members discussed next steps and strategies to engage the public

9. Adjourn the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – R. Coyle made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by D. Bates.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM

10. Adjourn the Board of Finance Special Meeting – A. Shilosky made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by M. Hayes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Franchesca Brown.