



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

Monday, November 21st, 2022, at 6:00 PM

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

Board of Finance Members Present: A. Migliaccio (Chairman), J. Thomas, M. Egan, M. Hayes, T. Vaillancourt, and A. Shilosky

Board of Finance Member Absent: J. Thomas

Also Present: T. Tarnowski (Chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee)

1. Call to Order – Board of Selectmen – Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by A. Bisbikos
2. Call to Order – Board of Finance – Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by A. Migliaccio
3. Citizens Comments
 - T. Rudko spoke against spending additional tax dollars beyond the \$9.5 million. G. Transue provided a history of the project and asked for collaboration. S. Schuster led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. B. Smith spoke about successfully securing the senior center grant from the state and moving forward on the project. C. Russi spoke about the importance of a senior center and creative fundraising. D. Bouchard spoke against spending additional tax dollars beyond the \$9.5 million. M. Dubreuil questioned the size of the proposed senior center. R. Avery has trust in the Senior Center Building Committee in their decision making. D. Lambert spoke about the affordability of the proposed senior center and on debt service. B. Dennler spoke about moving the proposed senior center project without delay. M. Bylone spoke about the senior center project. J. LaChapelle raised issue with the meeting and the advocacy around the meeting.
4. Senior Center Presentation & Discussion
 - T. Tarnowski presented an overview of the Senior Center costs and challenges due to inflation with possible solutions to mitigate the costs. A. Bisbikos presented a possible solution to mitigate the costs. All elected officials weighed in on the presentation, the inflationary costs, and the possible solutions.
5. Citizens Comments
 - G. Transue spoke about the importance of having a legal opinion. S. Schuster suggested getting new legal representation for the town. P. Bureau spoke against spending additional tax dollars beyond the \$9.5 million. J. Malsbenden spoke about the decorum of the meeting and the possible solutions presented by the First Selectman. B. Smith spoke about the undesignated fund balance and potentially

looking for more grant opportunities. T. Rudko spoke about making reductions, so the project does not exceed \$9.5 million. V. Rose spoke about the collaborative approach that allows the project to move forward in a legal manner. S. Chapman stated that the senior center project needs to move forward. K. Kardys spoke about moving the project forward. A. Rettig spoke about the dollars amounts regarding the project. R. Silberman spoke about the positive collaboration between the boards. D. Lambert identified potential concerns with the project. M. Dubreuil spoke about following the process and the justification of the project. C. Russi spoke about possible solutions to lower costs. D. Bouchard spoke about the wording of the referendum and making possible reductions. B. Dennler asked questions regarding the bid process.

6. Senior Center Discussion

A. Possible action by the Board of Selectmen – No action

B. Possible action by the Board of Finance – No actions

- Consensus among both boards included that action could not be taken until all questions/concerns were answered through legal counsel.

7. Adjourn the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – R. Coyle motioned to adjourn, 2nd by J. LaChapelle.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM

8. Adjourn the Board of Finance Special Meeting – M. Egan motioned to adjourn, 2nd by M. Hayes. Meeting

adjourned at 9:03 PM

Minutes submitted by Franchesca Brown