



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

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

Others Present: Director of Public Works, Jim Paggioli, Director of Parks and Recreation Tiffany Quinn, Chair of BOE, Mary Tomasi, Chair of Commission on Aging Marjorie Mlodzinski, Registrar Sheila Tortorigi, Board of Finance Member Andreas Bisbikos, Fox 61, News Channel 8

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

R. Coyle motioned to add the Proclamation Citing Racism as a Public Health Crisis to 9a on the agenda, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NONE
5. CONSENT AGENDA:

D. Turner asked to have minutes removed from Consent Agenda for Correction.

D. Mizla asked to have the Contract with Civic CMS removed from Consent Agenda for a Question.

R. Coyle motioned to approve Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

6. Approve the minutes of the June 18, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

D. Turner motioned to approve the minutes with the correction to Liaison reports to note that the Conservation Commission was working on enforcement issues on Middletown Road, not Reservoir Road as noted in the minutes. R. Coyle noted a typo in item #7 that it should say

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“departments,” D. Turner motioned to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by R. Coyle.

MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

7. D. Mizla asked if the contract with Civic CMS was the contract for the town website. It was noted the company changed names. D. Mizla motioned to approve the contract with Civic CMS and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contract in the amount of \$3,276, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0**
8. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/Possible Appointments and Resignations
 - a. Agriculture Commission Possible Appointment of Leslie Curtis from Alternate to Member with a term to expire on 11/30/2022: No action was taken. [Item tabled].
 - b. Police Commission – Resignation – Chris Cameron – R. Coyle motioned to accept his resignation with regret, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0.**
 - c. Police Commission – To be Interviewed – Kevin Gustin with a possible term to expire on 1/2/2023. K. Gustin expressed interest in the Police Commission due to his history with the Coast Guard and an interest in supporting our local Police Department. He will attend a meeting before being considered for appointment by the Board of Selectmen.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Consolidation of the Town Hall and BOE Postage Meter Contract:

R. Coyle Motioned to approve the lease of a new postage meter with Quadient for the period of July 20, 2020 through July 1, 2025 and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0**
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Fireworks Contract with Legion Fireworks Co., Inc, for Trick or Trunk, Friday, October 30, 2020:

T. Rudko motioned to approve the contract with Legion Fireworks in the amount of \$7,150 and authorize the First Selectman to sign it, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0.**
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Plan for Diversity and Inclusion in Colchester:

The FS and D. Turner proposed an ad hoc committee to work to develop [on] the structure and charge of a formal commission. The ad hoc committee would consist of nine members representing the Board of

Selectmen, Board of Education, Social Services, Youth Services, Law Enforcement, a parent, a youth, a community member and member of the clergy. The ad hoc committee would then make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to create a formal commission. R. Coyle motioned to form an ad hoc committee that would design and develop the structure and charge of a Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, seconded by D. Mizla. Discussion followed regarding the extent of institutional racism in the Town of Colchester and the need for such a committee.

R. Coyle moved the question to close debate, seconded by D. Mizla. Bylone, Coyle, Turner, Mizla in favor, Rudko against **MOTION CARRIED.**

Then a vote on the main motion to establish the ad hoc committee was taken, [put to vote,] Bylone, Coyle, Turner, Mizla in favor, Rudko against **MOTION CARRIED.**

a. Proclamation citing Racism as a Public Health Crisis:

- i. FS Read a portion of the Proclamation stating that Colchester is one of many towns in Connecticut to issue such a proclamation.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2021 Revaluation Contract:

Town Assessor, John Chaponis gave an explanation of revaluation in Connecticut. D. Turner motioned to Approve awarding RFP 028-2021.1 for revaluation contractor services to VGSI at a cost of \$123,600 plus \$30 per “full inspection” and \$300 per “half day” of informal hearing and authorize the First Selectman to execute the contract, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0.**

D. Mizla motioned to approve awarding RFP 028-2021.2 for revaluation contractor services to Lawrence Revaluation Services at a cost of \$35,000 plus \$300 per “half day” of informal hearings and authorize the First Selectman to execute the contract, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0.**

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Norton Park Project Plan – Phase I and II:

D. Mizla motioned to approve the Norton Park Project Plan Phase I and II as proposed on July 9, 2020, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0.**

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Norton Park Brochure – Fundraising:

- a. D. Mizla motioned to approve the Norton Park Brochure for fundraising, seconded by R. Coyle.

MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

15. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Three residents commended the Board of Selectmen on the formation of the Committee to develop a Commission on Diversity and Inclusion. One resident wanted to ensure proper safety protocols related to COVID-19 would be followed for the fireworks display.

16. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

There have been 59 cases of COVID in Colchester, 11 of those cases were at Harrington Court.

All the Town Hall Departments are open. The Senior Center will likely not be opening after Labor Day as had initially been planned.

The Schools are working on a reopening plan for this fall.

The Town has been dealing with significant issues related to the servers, and Novus Insight is working diligently to resolve these.

The gas line is almost completed. Halls Hill Road work has begun, Paper Mill Road Rehabilitation is ongoing.

The approved budget is now posted online at the Town Website.

17. LIAISON REPORTS

Senior Center Building Committee - R. Coyle reported that the Committee approved two invoices from Silver Petrucelli. They have a consensus on Design #12 and the architect will begin working on that design to create a final plan.

Long Term Recovery Committee- R. Coyle reported the COVID impact survey has gone out to residents and will close on July 20, at which point a survey will go out to business owners. The surveys are trying to assess the impact that COVID has had on the Colchester Community.

Commission on Aging – R. Coyle reported that the Commission elected their officers and still needs [moved] two alternate[s to] members [status]. The COA Annual Report was presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Open Space Committee – The DEEP Grant for \$150,000 to purchase property on Middletown Road was submitted. An application for a subdivision on Stanavage Rd. recommended fee in lieu for the open space requirement. Salmon River Watershed Sampling Project is seeking volunteers.

Board of Education – D. Mizla reported the BOE is forming a Diversity Committee to get a scope of what the committee will be doing. Reopening plan must [has to] be submitted to the state by July 24, including three plans 100% back in school, a hybrid of 50% in school[,] and 50% distance learning, and 100% distance learning. Students to return to school on August 31st.

Norton Park Committee – D. Mizla reported that Patricia Young, with an organization that works with the 8-mile watershed, did a presentation to inform the group about the watershed.

Planning and Zoning – T. Rudko reported that the Commission discussed development within the town center district, and the differences between allowances and special permitting, and adjusting the amount of density of housing units. There is an interested party in the Hilltop Marina property.

Historic District Commission – D. Turner reported there were two meetings on the green to discuss the grant the town has received to make improvements on the green. This includes resurfacing the green, making improvements to the gazebo and other landscape improvements.

Board of Assessment Appeals – D. Turner reported they met briefly to reverse a [an incorrect] decision that had been made about an automobile.

CHVFD Exemption Revision Committee – D. Turner reported that they are currently working on eligibility requirements.[,] Once those are in place, hope to get the ordinance revised and brought [to get it] back to the BOS.

Police Commission – FS reported that the Police Commission approved the permanent selection of Sergeant Tim Edwards. They discussed the requirements for the Corporal Position. They discussed the requirements coming from the state government including body and vehicle cameras.

Sewer and Water Commission – FS reported that the commission discussed the sewer main break and the repairs that are needed.

Conservation Commission – FS Reported that the commission is looking into a situation where someone is filling in a wetlands area.

18. ADJOURN

D. Turner motioned to adjourn at 8:53 p.m., seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman