



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

**Board of Selectman Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
Hybrid: Town Hall – Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom**

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2023 SEP 25 PM 4:12  
Andreas Bisbikos

## 1. Call to Order

A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

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

Members absent: J. LaChapelle

Others Present: J. Leone (Public Works Director), P. Reading (Norton Park Committee Member)

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

## 3. Correspondence - None

## 4. Citizens Comments

G. Transeau – Spoke about the Giveback program, and the funds that were donated from the Bendas Funds. Why are we not using the giveback program funds?

R. Avery – Questioning where Bendas funds are, if they are in an interest-bearing account, and if we are fiscally responsible for these funds.

K. Kardys – Speaking for Ron Silberman- Noticed agenda item with Water/ Sewer Dept implications. Water/ Sewer is its own entity. Spoke about dept member being removed from dept and commission. Asking for WPCA to exert power to take control of Water/ Sewer Dept.

M. Millington – Looking for meeting minutes from Sept 6<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting.

D. Bouchard – Taking picture of the Public Bulletin board and was yelled at by Town Clerk that she cannot take pictures of anything in that office. Complained about D. Koji wrongfully reporting that ARPA funds donations to individuals/families would need to be reported as income.

J. Malsbenden – Commenting that the Town has needs and if there are funds to spend, we should use them for projects for long term welfare of the Town like the updates of a few Town intersections for a healthier/ safer line of sight.

## 5. Consent Agenda

R. Coyle moved to remove 8/28 from 5a and rename it 5.1 and change the wording of 5B to accept the resignation of Leslie Curtis with regret from the Agricultural Committee and thank her for all her years of service to Colchester. D. Bates 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

R. Coyle questioned the increase to the ACO payments from last year to this year. Requested to have numbers sent to BOS members.

R. Coyle made a motion to move the consent agenda. D. Turner 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

5.1 The minutes from 8/28 regarding 3.C Job Descriptions were corrected to read: *"R. Coyle made a motion to make 3 amendments; to ask that the Facilities Maintainer either reside in Colchester or within 20 minutes of Colchester Center, to prefer one of the certifications either P2, E2 or S2, and remove the words within 1 year of employment keeping the rest of the wording the same."*

## 6. Norton Park

P. Reading, (Norton Park Committee member). Discussion on the intent of development for the park. Initial development started in 2019, but the remediation of the Hazardous materials at the Mill are still not complete. They are looking into using the area north of Paper Mill Rd to continue the project and revise the plan of development and then look at the Mill area once remediation is complete.

D. Turner makes a motion to approve the development of the parcel north of Paper Mill Rd for usable Park space by the Norton Park committee of the Town of Colchester and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents. D. Bates 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

## 7. MOU

### A. Motion to approve an Agreement between the Town of Colchester and Municipal Employees Union "Independent", Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC in relation to the Transfer Station and have the First Selectman sign the agreement.

J. Leone spoke regarding the difficulty of retention in Public Works employees, job duties of the employees, and what they are looking for in an employee, etc. Would like to take care of this now.

R. Coyle brought up questions such as, are they changing the person's job description, are there additional costs to the change. She thinks they need to change the job description because it is not appropriate. They are hiring people for positions that do not exist, but she is not opposed to it. Suggested to come back with a job description and new MOU. A. Bisbikos suggested to approve of MOU with an expiration date of 10/5/23, and then look at the new job description then. R. Coyle made a motion to approve with an expiration date of 10/5/23. D. Bates 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

### B. Motion to approve an Agreement between the Town of Colchester and Municipal Employees Union "Independent", Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC in relation to the Water Department and have the First Selectman sign the agreement.

J. Leone also spoke regarding this position and with it being along the similar lines of the previous issues but includes the current chief operators and wanting to compensate them for the additional role they have taken on. MOU addresses this and ensures that they will be compensated, and the existing MOU won't be taking away from that. D. Turner questioned if this would be a permanent change. R. Coyle believes these employees should be compensated for the extra workload but feels the Sewer/ Water Commission should be making this recommendation. A. Bisbikos made the motion to approve an agreement between the Town of Colchester and the Municipal Employees Union "Independent", Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC in relation to the Water Department and have the First Selectman sign the agreement. R. Coyle moved to amend the motion to send this MOU to Sewer/ Water Commission for a discussion and recommendation of further explanation at their meeting next week and have this come back to us at the next BOS meeting 10/5/23. D. Turner 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 3-1, with A. Bisbikos dissenting.**

## 8. Senior Center Referendum

R. Coyle amended the motion on the Agenda to say that the Board of Selectmen set a Town meeting date for Tuesday 11/14/23 for 6:30 pm at 127 Norwich Ave Colchester, CT and a referendum date for Tuesday 11/28/2023 6am-8pm to vote on the amendment increasing the appropriation and applying ARPA Funds and Funds donated by the Stephen J. Bendas Estate for the Senior Center Building Project and the Amendment increasing the Appropriation and borrowing authorization for the Senior Center Building Project as unanimously recommended by the Board of Finance and Town Counsel. D. Turner 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

## **9. ARPA**

R. Coyle moves that the Board of Selectmen approve the original ARPA application from the town's Youth and Social Services department be revised to allow for an expansion of the programs outlined to serve a wider net of residents based on a 300% income above the federal poverty level. A. Bisbikos 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

R. Coyle made a statement speaking about what this does to help residents and that she approves of it. A. Bisbikos also spoke about the overall impact and recognized J. LaChapelle for his work in this. D. Turner recognized the impact as well.

## **10. FOI Review**

R. Coyle stated that she likes the new FOI log format. D. Bates questioned how long it takes for FOI's to be fulfilled.

## **11. Citizens Comments**

G. Transeau – Agrees that when citizens have their comments they should not be immediately responded to, but that in a future meeting the answers should be given. Stated that this meeting has been fabulous.

B. Dennler– Agrees that it was a good meeting and was glad to see progress. Recognized the Public Works department when it comes to recruiting employees. Happy ARPA has moved forward.

D.Bouchard – Citizens should have the facts and in regards to deferred maintenance. R. Coyle should be held responsible for this. Spoke about the Bylaws for the Water/ Sewer commission and needs to follow them. Bylaws do not give them authority over the employees. Also spoke about funds and the expansion of the ARPA.

M. Millington- Spoke about the decorum at BOS meetingd

## **12. First Selectman's Report**

A. Bisbikos spoke about the expansion of Colchester Toyota, and the Town and Country Daycare that is now open in town.

## **13. Liaison Reports**

D.Turner spoke about the recent BAA meeting that was held to be able to make decisions on automobile  
R. Coyle – Commission on Aging, held a wonderful event on Wills and Trusts. SCBPC met and approved an invoice for CSG, and discussed the ongoing building. Open-Space held a non-meeting due to not having a room, did discuss revisinf Open space plan

D. Bates – Norton Park, discussed grass too high at Paper Mill Rd. Questioned ClearGov and a possible presentation.

R. Coyle left the meeting at 8:23pm

## **14. Adjourn**

D.Turner motioned to adjourn at 8:25pm. D. Bates 2<sup>nd</sup>

