



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 @ 4:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2020 APR 23 PM 2:08
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Members Present via Zoom: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Taras Rudko, Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Denise Mizla

Others Present via Zoom: Rob Tarlov, Gayle Furman, Sue Hickey, Brian Smith, Michele Wyatt, Mary Tomasi

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman (FS) Mary Bylone called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None
4. Correspondence Attached – Open Letter to the Board of Selectmen: Board members had received letter in advance. The FS read a statement. Board members agreed that a referendum for the budget would be the best outcome.
5. Approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting: D. Turner noted that the adjournment had T. Rudko as both making and seconding the motion to adjourn. Correction is T. Rudko moved to adjourn and D. Mizla seconded. D. Turner moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
6. Discussion and Possible Action on suspension and modification of tax deadlines and collection efforts: Tax Collector Michele Wyatt explained the Governor's Executive Order 7S Section 6 regarding payment of taxes and the options of the Deferment Program and/or Low Interest Rate Program. D. Mizla moved to provide taxpayers a deferment after filling out an application and using the low interest program that is offered for the tax year 2020 2021, seconded by R. Coyle. Four votes in favor, T. Rudko abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.** Document attached.
7. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Brian Smith called in but had a bad connection.
8. ADJOURN: T. Rudko moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m., seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- I want to take a moment to clarify some of the chatter I am hearing in the community by both citizens and elected officials.
- I am seeing posts stating I am trying to usurp the power of the people by not holding a vote on the budget by the people
- I am being accused of being insensitive to the needs of the community by bringing a budget forward that has a tax increase
- I have received threatening communications from people and some of them are quoting elected officials as their source of the information they are sharing
- This is disturbing. I respond to every single email, text, phone call, and private message sent to me, even when I have to share an unfavorable message
- I have always been in favor of a vote by the people.
- I have had multiple conversations with Rob Tarlov and members of the BOS supporting a vote by the people.
- However, there is an executive order in place and I have consulted with the Town Attorney, other Town CEOs, COST and CCM and the Executive order is a mandate.
- I am quoting the language of our Town Attorney :” If the Executive Order is rescinded or amended in a way that permits the Town to have a referendum to adopt the FY21 budget, the Town will have a referendum in June.. “If the Executive Order is not rescinded or amended, the Town must adopt its budget prior to June 15th so that tax bills can be mailed.” “The EO requires the Town to adopt the FY21 budget without holding votes required by charter or without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, including by not limited to annual town meetings requiring votes, referendum.”
- Rob Tarlov and I have scheduled a meeting for May 19th in the Budget calendar. At that time, we will know the status of the EO and we will discuss the plan based on what is going on at that time.
- I hope this brings some clarity to my position on voting for the budget and the invalid accusations that I plan to usurp the voice of the people.

Info from COST

Municipality	Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S requires municipalities to offer residents a property tax deferment or low interest program. Municipalities are required to select one or both of these, and to notify OPM of their selections by April 25. Will your municipality be offering the deferment, low interest program, or both?
Ashford	Deferment
Beacon Falls	Deferment
Bethel	Deferment
Bethlehem	Deferment
Bolton	Deferment
Bridgeport	Low Interest program
Bristol	Deferment
Brookfield	Low Interest program
Brooklyn	Both
Canterbury	Both
Chaplin	Deferment
Chester	Undetermined as of now
Milford	Deferment
Colchester	Undetermined as of now
Coventry	Low Interest program
East Hartford	Deferment
East Windsor	Undetermined as of now
Goshen	Low Interest program
Guilford	Deferment
Hartland	Undetermined as of now
Hebron	Deferment
Litchfield	Undetermined as of now
Mansfield	Deferment
Meriden	Low Interest program
Monroe	Undetermined as of now
New Britain	Deferment
Newington	Both
North Stonington	Deferment
Plymouth	Deferment
Portland	Low Interest program
Seymour	Undetermined as of now
Stonington	Deferment
Bethany	Deferment
Cromwell	Deferment
Farmington	Undetermined as of now
Old Saybrook	Low Interest program
Plainfield	Deferment
Pomfret	Deferment
Stafford	Undetermined as of now
Union	Low Interest program
Washington	Deferment
West Hartford	Both
Windsor	Undetermined as of now
Windsor Locks	Deferment
Woodbridge	Undetermined as of now

Hi Mary,

I ran the accounts from last year this morning. According to our records we have a little over 50% of our collections come from escrow payments. This account is most likely higher as there are some smaller companies who do not report this data to us and automatically send in payments. I put all the data that we have from the 2018 Grand List into a chart. Let me know if you need any additional information.

REAL ESTATE	6,227 ACCOUNTS	\$34,283,527
	3019 ESCROW ACCOUNTS	\$17,180,560
PERSONAL PROPERTY	973 ACCOUNTS	\$1,666,741
MOTOR VEHICLES	16,525 ACCOUNTS	\$ 4,166,813
MOTOR VEHICLE SUPPLEMENTS	2,964 ACCOUNTS	\$678,998

Sincerely,

Michele Wyatt, CCMC
Tax Collector

SCCOG Survey

Montville	Low Interest	
East Lyme	Deferment	
Ledyard	Deferment	85% Escrow
Lisbon	Deferment	
City of Groton	follow the Town of Groton	Deferment
Borough of Stonington	Deferment	
Town of Groton	Deferment	
Stonington	Deferment	
Franklin	Deferment	50% Escrow
North Stonington	Deferment	
Sprague	Deferment	
Norwich	Undecided	30% Escrow



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S SECTION 6 MUNICIPALITY PROGRAM ELECTION

The municipality of Colchester by determination of our local legislative body, or in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, voted and approved on April 21, 2020, that we will participate in the following program(s):

Deferment Program. During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that the Governor declared the public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including July 1, 2020, municipalities participating in the Deferment Program shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by CO VID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall issue guidance as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the Deferment Program, but participating municipalities may, upon approval of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, extend eligibility for the deferment program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.

Low Interest Rate Program. For municipalities participating in the Low Interest Rate Program, notwithstanding Section 12-146 of the General Statutes, (i) the delinquent portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric charges or assessments or part thereof shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from the time when it became due and payable until the same is paid, for any such tax, rate, charge, or assessment due and payable from March 10 through and including July 1, 2020, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established; and (ii) any portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments or part thereof that had been delinquent on or prior to March 10, shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from this Order, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety (90) days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established.

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Printed Name: Michele Wyatt Title: Tax Collector
Email Address: taxcollector@colchesterct.gov Phone: 860-537-7210

CEO CERTIFICATION:

Dated this 21 day of April, 2020.
Printed Name: Mary Bylone Title: First Selectman
Email Address: selectman@colchesterct.gov
Signature: Mary Bylone

DUE TO OPM NO LATER THAN APRIL 25, 2020 ~ RETURN TO: Martin.Heft@ct.gov