



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Agenda – Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6 PM

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

**Others Present:** S. Hoffmann (Fire Chief), C. Collins (UHY), D. Koji (ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee Chair)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Correspondence
4. Citizens Comments
  - E. Sharon spoke about the Old Town Hall roof and the Town Green Project. D. Bouchard raised personal concerns about the First Selectman. J. Burstein spoke about her ARPA application. S. Croucher spoke about white nationalist flyers littered around town.
5. Consent Agenda
  - D. Turner made a motion to make the Consent Agenda 5 and make 5C as 5A. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Bates. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0**
  - A. Approve the 5/31/22 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting and the 6/2/22 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
  - B. Accept the Contract Agreement with Legion Fireworks Co, Inc with the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$7,600 and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary paperwork
  - D. Turner made a motion to approve of the Consent Agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Coyle. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0**
  - C. Accept the Second Amendment to the Kiosk Testing Agreement with Curative
  - D. Turner made a motion to accept the Second Amendment to the Kiosk Testing Agreement with Curative. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Coyle. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0**
6. Boards and Commissions Interviews
  - A. Stephanie Mattera – ARPA Ad Hoc Committee
  - B. Brien Brown – ARPA Ad Hoc Committee
  - C. Amy Domeika – Parks & Recreation
  - Interviews conducted
7. EMT Job Description
  - A. Possible action to approve of the EMT Job Description

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- S. Hoffmann provided an overview of the current difficulties of filling ambulance shifts and an overview of the EMT job description. R. Coyle and A. Bisbikos talked about working with the Chief to establish a long-term solution to some of the short-term band-aids to the staffing shortages.
- R. Coyle made a motion to approve the EMT Per Diem Job Description. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Bates. ***Motion carried unanimously 5-0***

#### 8. ARPA Discussion

A. Possible action to approve of the Youth & Social Services department to hire a Community Counselor by utilizing up to \$63,000 in ARPA funds and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary paperwork

- R. Coyle made a motion to approve of the Youth & Social Services department to hire a Community Counselor by utilizing up to \$63,000 in ARPA funds and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Turner. ***Motion carried unanimously 5-0***

B. Possible action to approve of the Youth & Social Services department to hire a Case Manager by utilizing up to \$42,681 in ARPA funds and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary paperwork

- D. Turner made a motion to approve of the Youth & Social Services department to hire a Community Counselor by utilizing up to \$63,000 in ARPA funds and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Bates. ***Motion carried unanimously 5-0***

C. Possible action to approve of the Town to enter a contract with Scholar Painting, LLC to repair the current Youth Center Roof in an amount to not exceed \$74,020 in ARPA Funds and have the First Selectman sign any necessary paperwork

- D. Bates made a motion to approve of the Town to enter a contract with Scholar Painting, LLC to repair the current Youth Center Roof in an amount to not exceed \$74,020 in ARPA Funds and have the First Selectman sign any necessary documents. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Coyle. ***Motion carried unanimously 5-0***

D. Possible action to approve of up to \$1 Million in Small Business applications

##### 1. Group A

- R. Coyle made a motion to approve Group A ARPA applications recommended to the BOS by the ARPA committee with the understanding that the funding of the eligible business applications will follow the following formula: The requested amounts will meet the previously motioned funding cap by accepting all eligible and approved application amounts \$10,000 and under as-is and reducing all eligible and approved applications by an equitable percentage amount that results in a final total amount that meets the business cap of one million dollars. In reducing the businesses above \$10,000 no business shall receive less than \$10,000. The percentage reduction will be determined by the ARPA Committee in consultation with UHY once all business applications have been finalized.



This percentage will then be recommended to the BOS for final approval and checks to businesses will be issued upon signing the attestation agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Turner.

***Motioned carried unanimously 5-0***

2. Group B

- R. Coyle made a motion to approve Group B ARPA applications recommended to the BOS by the ARPA committee with the understanding that the funding of the eligible business applications will follow the following formula: The requested amounts will meet the previously motioned funding cap by accepting all eligible and approved application amounts \$10,000 and under as-is and reducing all eligible and approved applications by an equitable percentage amount that results in a final total amount that meets the business cap of one million dollars. In reducing the businesses above \$10,000 no business shall receive less than \$10,000. The percentage reduction will be determined by the ARPA Committee in consultation with UHY once all business applications have been finalized. This percentage will then be recommended to the BOS for final approval and checks to businesses will be issued upon signing the attestation agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Bates.

***Motioned carried unanimously 5-0***

3. Group C

- D. Turner made a motion to approve Group C ARPA applications recommended to the BOS by the ARPA committee with the understanding that the funding of the eligible business applications will follow the following formula: The requested amounts will meet the previously motioned funding cap by accepting all eligible and approved application amounts \$10,000 and under as-is and reducing all eligible and approved applications by an equitable percentage amount that results in a final total amount that meets the business cap of one million dollars. In reducing the businesses above \$10,000 no business shall receive less than \$10,000. The percentage reduction will be determined by the ARPA Committee in consultation with UHY once all business applications have been finalized. This percentage will then be recommended to the BOS for final approval and checks to businesses will be issued upon signing the attestation agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Coyle.

***Motioned carried unanimously 5-0***

4. Group D

- D. Turner made a motion to approve Group D ARPA applications recommended to the BOS by the ARPA committee with the understanding that the funding of the eligible business applications will follow the following formula: The requested amounts will meet the previously motioned funding cap by accepting all eligible and approved application amounts \$10,000 and under as-is and reducing all eligible and approved applications by



an equitable percentage amount that results in a final total amount that meets the business cap of one million dollars. In reducing the businesses above \$10,000 no business shall receive less than \$10,000. The percentage reduction will be determined by the ARPA Committee in consultation with UHY once all business applications have been finalized. This percentage will then be recommended to the BOS for final approval and checks to businesses will be issued upon signing the attestation agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Coyle.

***Motioned carried unanimously 5-0***

5. Group E

- R. Coyle made a motion to approve Group E ARPA applications recommended to the BOS by the ARPA committee with the understanding that the funding of the eligible business applications will follow the following formula: The requested amounts will meet the previously motioned funding cap by accepting all eligible and approved application amounts \$10,000 and under as-is and reducing all eligible and approved applications by an equitable percentage amount that results in a final total amount that meets the business cap of one million dollars. In reducing the businesses above \$10,000 no business shall receive less than \$10,000. The percentage reduction will be determined by the ARPA Committee in consultation with UHY once all business applications have been finalized. This percentage will then be recommended to the BOS for final approval and checks to businesses will be issued upon signing the attestation agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Bisbikos.

***Motioned carried unanimously 5-0***

6. Group Not Eligible

- The Board of Selectmen reviewed ineligible applications. All members agreed that Herman's Diner application needed further review regarding qualifications based on a previous motion and business ownership.
- R. Coyle and A. Bisbikos commended the work of the ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee for their hard work throughout the process.

9. Citizen's Comments

- J. Burstein commented on her ARPA application. T. Rudko commented on the termination of a former employer. D. Bouchard discussed the agenda packet and the minutes.

10. First Selectman's Report

- The month of June represents many things such as the start of summer, graduations, Father's Day, Pride month, Juneteenth, etc. Specifically, regarding Pride month and Juneteenth, I'd like to emphasize that Colchester has a long history of accepting people of all backgrounds including (but not limited to): race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality. And that our community lives by the immortal words of Martin Luther King Jr. where we "judge a man not by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character." This quote is extended to all



backgrounds including (but not limited to): race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality. This administration believes that the achievements & histories of people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality should not be limited to a day, week, or month – but should be celebrated year around.

- I am happy to report that the CORE Commission will be hosting our first celebration of Juneteenth at this week's Farmers' Festival. June 19 represents both Father's Day and Juneteenth and I hope you can stop by the Town green from 9 AM -1:00 PM. On June 26th, the CORE Commission will be adding an event to celebrate Pride Month as the Town of Colchester proudly supports all people.
- The Town Budget was defeated last night. Times are tough and the voters made it clear that even an equalized zero mill from last year is unacceptable. I am currently working with Department heads on potential reductions. I am aiming for significant reductions in the budget and will not return with a zero-budget increase. The reductions will be far more. I look forward to collaborating with the Board of Finance and other elected officials throughout the process.
- One of my first moves as First Selectman was to enter the Town of Colchester into the National Opioid Settlement. As of this week, Town of Colchester is expected to receive \$9,731.83.
- The Basketball Courts and the Pickleball Courts are both open. Who wants to take on the First Selectman?
- Colchester Town Green Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project – Colossale Siteworks will begin work on the project on July 11<sup>th</sup> and the town can expect completion by September 9<sup>th</sup>. The project cost will be \$369,240.00 and is being funded by the State of Connecticut Community Connectivity Program. I want to thank Sal Tassone, our Town Engineer, for working with me to move this project forward and achieving a summer start date.
- Due to the backlog of various items, Red Thread reports that the Hybrid Room should be operational sometime in August and fully completed by September.

#### 11. Liaison Reports

- D. Turner: Historic District Commission – Town Green Project discussed; CORE Commission will have a booth at the Farmer's Market on June 19<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Juneteenth
- D. Bates: Park & Recreation Commission – Looking at the field schedules and rehired W. Rubin for the strategic plan; Norton Park – J. Gigliotti provided an overview of the status update of the park
- J. LaChapelle: Board of Education – J. Morozowich dedication was acknowledged, discussed the cost of the oil cleanup, special education survey sent to parents, search for the special education director has begun, Principal Peel update; Planning & Zoning – an upcoming hearing on the Affordable Housing Plan will soon be scheduled, possible regulation for the water tanks for new subdivisions will be reviewed soon

#### 12. Adjourn

- D. Turner made a motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Bates. Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.