



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

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**Board of Finance  
Budget Forum & Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2018  
Town Hall Room 1 @ 7:00 pm**

**Members Present:** R. Tarlov, M. Egan, A. Migliaccio, T. Kane, A. Bisbikos and R. Lepore

**Others Present:** First Selectman A. Shilosky, CFO M. Cosgrove, PW Director J. Paggioli, ROV D. Mrowka, BOE B. Bernier, M. Bylone, BOS D. Mizla, R. Coyle, J. Ford, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, Recreation Director T. Quinn, M. Hayes and Clerk J. Campbell

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – No one was in attendance for the Budget Forum. R. Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 7 Regular Meeting** – A. Bisbikos MOTIONED to approve the minutes of the Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, SECONDED by T. Kane. All members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None
5. **CORRESPONDENCE** – R. Tarlov stated that this was in response to a post made by J. McNair.
6. **CAPITAL PLAN AND ROADWAY PLAN UPDATES**

J. Paggioli presented on current road conditions and what money is needed to maintain them. Currently the Town has 106 miles of town maintained roads. There are several ways to repair and maintain roads. Public works tries to provide the town the “most bang for your buck” service between these variety of ways or hiring a company. Colchester has an average road rating of 7.4. Thus means the average pavement life is 9.6 years. J. Paggioli presented a 5 year plan of road maintenance.

J. Paggioli also presented on the Capital improvement projects that have been identified. Several projects are going to need to go to referendum. Some projects will need to be looked at for a process, all at once or over a period of time. Projects are being paid for by a combination of funds. Grants, budgeted items and reserve.
7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
  - a. **Tax Collector** – M. Wyatt reported that the Tax Collector’s Office sent out MV supplemental bills that became delinquent after 2/1. Tax statements have been mailed out for anything outstanding from 2016 grand list. Suspense list will be worked on. Collection rate is about 95% current collections. 69% in past collections.

109.9% in interest and fees. Slightly lower than last year. Projected to make up difference by the end of the year. Finding people has become harder for the office. M. Wyatt surveyed surrounding towns to find out what they are using to search for people. LexisNexis Accurint is a search engine that seems to be used mostly. This will provide 100 searches for \$50/month. Additional searches will range from \$.50 to \$1.00. Current collection agency went from \$30,000/month in collections to \$4,000/month. A lot of larger towns are now keeping the collections in house using this search engine.

- b. **Finance** – M. Cosgrove reported that the 50% of the ECS grant has been paid. The decline is noticeable this time because of the adopted state budget. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Mashantucket Pequot money has been received. Collection rate is slightly under last years, but still 2<sup>nd</sup> highest over 8-10 year period.
  - i. **Health Insurance Funding Formula** – 100% of the BOE has been converted to the new formula that was suggested by Lockton. M. Cosgrove was able to do this without a phase in due to the reduction in enrollment numbers. Town side will be phased in with the new formula.

## 8. FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. **Transfer requests** – None
- b. **First Selectman's report** – A. Shilosky reported that Alpha Q has finished building their 1<sup>st</sup> building and should begin on their 2<sup>nd</sup> soon as opposed to next year. The building next to Starbucks is up for approval with the Planning & Zoning Commission tonight. Currently there is no tenant. Dunkin Donuts in Westchester is waiting for approval from the state for a catch basin. InCord buildings have been approved.
- c. **2017-2018 Mitigation Plan Update** – A. Shilosky presented an updated plan and stated that the current shortage would definitely be made up with revenue that would come in higher than projected. The town contribution has come down. Please see attached spreadsheet.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Opengov.com update** – R. Tarlov has spoken with a new representative with Opengov.com. The BOF has opted to get the both the transparency and operational modules of Opengov. Beginning March 31<sup>st</sup> the cost for the program will increase. R Coyle stated that BOS is still looking for Opengov.com to do a presentation at a meeting. D. Mizla suggested the 3/1 meeting. R. Tarlov will talk with A Shilosky and Charles from Opengov.com to arrange this presentation.
- b. **2018-2019 Budget** – None

- 10. **OLD BUSINESS** – BOF members were asked to review a policy. The members all agreed that the policy relating to legal expenses should remain in place and the collaboration that is spoken about in the policy needs to be reinforced.

**11. LIAISONS' REPORTS** – M. Egan reported on the Building Committee. There were a lot of invoices that were approved. They are still on scheduled and on budget. Some issues have come up. Special meeting recently held for piping issues. Still very impressed by the members on the committee. A. Migliaccio BOS has boarded a legislative idea with the CT Land conservation council to add a conveyance fee of up to 1% on homes sold over 150,000. If they didn't opt into the conversation they would not be allowed to join once decided. BOE, the superintendent proposed the school budget for next year. .05% less than last year's budget. They have added on additional budget workshops for 2/27 and 3/3. Location has not been confirmed. A. Bisbikos reported on the EDC. Dollar Tree is showing interest in Colchester. Safety concerns have been presented as the lighting on airline trail. EDC would like the website vendor to come and do a presentation.

**12. CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**13. ADJOURNMENT** – T. Kane MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm, SECONDED by R. Lepore. All members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeanie Campbell*, Clerk

**Attachments:**

PW Roads Summary

Correspondence

Jan. Finance Reports

Jan. Tax Collector Reports