



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Finance
Budget Workshop Minutes
April 18, 2018
Town Hall @ 6:00 pm**

Members Present: R. Tarlov, R. Lepore, T. Kane, A. Migliaccio & A. Bisbikos (arrived 6:08pm)

Others Present: First Selectman A. Shilosky, CFO M. Cosgrove, BOE B. Bernier, M. Bylone, PW Director J. Paggioli, Town Planner R. Benson, CHVFD Chief Cox and clerk J. Campbell

1. CALL TO ORDER

R. Tarlov opened the workshop at 6:04 pm.

2. 2018/2019 BUDGET DISCUSSION

R. Tarlov presented 3 alternative options for the budget schedule. After talking with B. Bernier & A. Shilosky, the thought was if we have a first referendum without the revenue numbers and it goes down, we won't have a 2nd one until the revenue numbers are in. Working with the Town Clerk, the alternative options for the budget schedule were created. (See attached) R. Lepore stated that she understands why the Town would like to postpone, however it was postponed last year and we still did not have the numbers. Either way does have its challenges. R. Tarlov suggested warning the Special Board of Finance meeting under the 3rd option, without the State revenue numbers and then if they don't come in, decide then if it should be postponed to Option 4. T. Kane stated that option 4 doesn't seem like a choice. Short time frame, with too many variables. A. Shilosky brought a list, requested by the Board to bring the Town Budget in with no increase. (See attached) A. Migliaccio ask what the Taser reduction was. A. Shilosky explained that the spending freeze that was in place, would now allow for the purchase of them this year 17-18 and will be removed from the budget for 18-19. The reduction for this year is covered. R. Lepore asked about the road improvements, and where the money was coming from. M. Cosgrove stated that state grant will be used in conjunction with capital improvement. R. Tarlov reported that the tennis court reduction for the current budget has been released and will now only require \$5500 for 18-19 thus causing a reduction. M. Cosgrove has been speaking with our banker to make sure we are getting earning credits to get back to the soft dollar fees, rather than hard dollar fees. Changes will be made to how quickly the money is moved from the general account to the money market account. R. Lepore asked if there has been any investigation into if the fees being charged currently, are the same as any other bank. M. Cosgrove feels that for the service level we are receiving the charges are very relative. R. Tarlov asked if everyone was comfortable with the budgets going forward to public hearing at this point. If the budgets move forward with a 1% reduction, cutting foreign languages and many sports, and further cuts in the Town resulting in reductions in service and it still goes down, both Town and BOE would be in a hard spot to reduce further. R. Lepore stated that she feels she never got and answer if an additional officer would be more cost effective than the OT pay for the police depart, and was it ever looked into. A. Migliaccio feels that the police department needs to step up when it comes to OT. She stated that the Police Commission has offered their assistance in a study. A. Shilosky stated that the commission has had the go ahead to report on the OT. M. Cosgrove has suggested the Police Department show a full schedule so that the understanding is there as to where the OT is needed.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
20 APR 20 AM 6:55
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CLERK J. CAMPBELL

T. Kane stated that in the 6 years he's been here the reason being heard for the OT is that it's a "bad year." He feels it's always the excuse and there is no incentive for them to fix the problem. R. Tarlov stated he believes the problem with the rigid 5 on 3 off schedule required in the contract as the revolving numbers just don't work and that a review needs to be done. M. Cosgrove stated that it needs to be an independent study. A. Bisbikos asked Art Shilosky to prepare a list showing an additional 1% reduction to show the voters just what would be reduced with that reduction.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Tarlov closed the workshop at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments: DRAFT: Budget reductions –Town, Budget Calendar, Mill Rate Options