

From: Les Bassett <lbassett@plimptonhills.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: Bacon Academy

Of the 15 Colchester officials that I have emailed you were the only to respond. I thank you for that. Unfortunately, I am not optimistic on accountability coming to Colchester. Any responsibility on the federal level ended in January and Connecticut is firmly in the grasp of one-party rule. The last hope was the one on the local level. In Colchester we have the relatively unique opportunity to vote on our budget every year - except when the governor takes that away. Apathy rules there and most parents think spending equals caring. We shall see if reason prevails.

Les Bassett

Purchasing

Plimpton & Hills Corporation
300 Research Parkway ♦ Meriden CT 06450
P: 860-221-7416 ♦ F: 860-221-7453
www.plimptonhills.com
www.waterwareshowrooms.com

From: "bofchair" <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
To: lbassett@plimptonhills.com
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:02:52 PM
Subject: Fw: Bacon Academy

Hi Les,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on the schools.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: Les Bassett <lbassett@plimptonhills.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <amigliaccio@colchesterct.gov>; Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Bacon Academy

Dear Colchester BOF,

The administration of Bacon Academy can no longer be taken seriously by anyone possessing a minimum of critical thinking skills. The BOE seems content to sit by and watch. Both are far too comfortable taking millions of dollars and not delivering services promised. The students and taxpayers are being

exploited. This can be fixed over night by cutting off funding. Whatever can be done in this regard to salvage the remainder of this year needs to be done immediately. Any budget for 2021 - 2022 that does not include a pro-rated reduction in funding based in-person days missed or shortened is irresponsible. We should not have had this situation THIS school year and we certainly can't be fooled again.

Thanks

From: Vanessa Santiago <vanessasantiago5700@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:45 AM
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Budget

I disagree with a tax increase. I am a mother of 3 who has been laid off since December. I live unemployment check to unemployment check, and Colchester would like to give pay raises to employees who are working while some of us are starving. This is sad! Surrounding towns are lowering taxes, but Colchester want to raise them! How dare you Colchester!!

Vanessa Santiago

From: Will Hochholzer <william8347@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Jay Gigliotti <jgigliotti@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Support for Increasing Open Space Funding

To the Chairman of the Board of Finance,

My apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting in person however, I would like to take this opportunity to provide comments in support of increasing the annual budget for future open space funding and stewardship. The town of Colchester recognized the need to set aside funds to protect open space and began contributing \$5,000 during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Since that time, the town has grown and we have seen a number of large parcels converted to new subdivisions and retail outlets.

Fortunately, the town has used the open space fund to acquire key parcels such as the Ruby Cohen property, two additional adjoining properties to Ruby Cohen (allowing the town to increase the acreage on the original parcel) and then most recently funding will be used for the 65 acre parcel that was part of this years DEEP Open Space grant.

By increasing the allocations to the open space fund, it will enable to town to proactively work to protect additional key parcels that will help preserve the rural character of the town as we continue to expand and grow as a community.

Thank you,
Will Hochholzer
Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee
23 Goldberg Road, Colchester, CT

From: ARTHUR F von PLACHECKI <afvp@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Jay Gigliotti <jgigliotti@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Open space preservation funding

Good Afternoon Chairman Tarlov & members of the Board of Finance,
As Chairman of the Colchester Conservation Commission, I am writing in support of the proposed increase in annual funding to the Town's open space preservation account. The current \$5,000 per year contribution is inadequate to advance the Town's open space goals and objectives. Colchester's rural character and abundant natural resources must be protected to ensure both current and future residents are able to enjoy these wonderful resources. Funding in open space preservation is an investment in our community and helps Colchester become more environmentally sustainable.

Thank you,
A. Falk von Plachecki
Chairman
Colchester Conservation Commission

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:41 AM
To: smshoop@comcast.net <smshoop@comcast.net>
Subject: Fw: thoughts

Hi Sue,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on the budget. At this point the plan is to have a live referendum.

Rob Tarlov

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Shoop <smshoop@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: thoughts

We've lived in Colchester for over 50 years....yes, we are senior citizens now. We've struggled through this long lasting pandemic, become hermits almost. Like others, the stress and strain has hit us in the bank accounts too. We find it very difficult to make ends meet and keep up with the town's constant demand for more and more money. At this time, we cannot see how the current proposed budget is logical or fair. We recognize that some things are needed....but many items are not. How can so many people get wage increases when so many others are happy to even have employment....not many got raises too. The reassessment will undoubtedly bring in more revenue, the town is getting a substantial stimulus from the Federal government, and also has a large "rainy day" fund. Perhaps it's raining hard enough now to use some of that. So many people are leaving Colchester, finding it too hard to maintain a decent life with such a heavy tax burden, and so little return on their

money.

Our children left the Colchester school system over 30 years ago, yet we still have to remit the same tax money as those whose children are using the system now. Is there no way that senior citizens can be given a break? How much more are we expected to pay? It's sad to think that having lived here for 50 years, we might be forced to sell and move also, the more people who get forced out, the more those who remain will have to take up the slack.

We sincerely hope that there will be a live referendum this year....if we can hold a federal election, then surely we can have safe say in our future in this town. Last year the budge got passed with little or no say from the public, that's not acceptable when the increase this year is so very large!

Respectfully yours,

Sue and Linn Shoop

PS The zoom workshops are not really a good way to communicate our feelings, watching 6 or 8 people on camera eating, drinking and staring off into space is most frustrating, and it seems those who are called on to speak are those who would benefit most for the budget being passed. One participant in the BOF meeting the other night sat rolling his eyes....seemed like he would rather have been anywhere but at the meeting.

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:45 AM

To: fmorley@snet.net <fmorley@snet.net>

Cc: Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <amigliaccio@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Re: Town budget

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on the budget.

I have forwarded your email to rest of the Board members.

Rob Tarlov

fmorley@snet.net>

Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:15 PM

To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Town budget

Why in the world would you need more money? Connecticut has no jobs and they kill us with taxes. Why not buckle down and do with what you have instead of foolish things. The schools have been closed so why more money! I feel like you think we are all stupid and believe your foolish reasons for spending more and more. This town needs to live within the budget and if you need to layoff folks then do it. I see nothing good that you have done in this town except spend on foolish things

From: Hart, Cara <chart@crec.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Budget Meeting

Good afternoon –

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, but wanted to let you know I am fully in support of the proposed budget.

I also wanted to remind you that CREC has cooperative purchasing contracts for many things the town needs, which will allow you to prudently spend taxpayer money as well as save the time and expense of having to bid yourselves. I've attached some information for you on one portion of our program. You can find information on all of our 70+ contracts at www.crec.org/marketplace. Registration is simple and free.

I'd be happy to speak to you further about the opportunities for Colchester to save money while getting some much needed improvements. Thank you. And good luck tonight!

Cara Hart, Colchester resident
Manager, Cooperative Purchasing
CREC (Capitol Region Education Council)
147 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
Office: 860-524-4021 | Cell: 860-803-3882
chart@crec.org | www.crec.org/coop

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:53 AM
To: krersr@comcast.net <krersr@comcast.net>
Cc: Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <amigliaccio@colchesterct.gov>; Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: Supporting Budget

Hi Karen,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on the budget.

Rob Tarlov

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Romero <krersr@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Supporting Budget

We support the proposed budget for the Town! We don't want to cut services or neglect the maintenance of our town. We are proud to support Mary Bylone and her team as she plans for the future of our town!

Thanks,
Edward and Karen Romero
215 Woodbine Road
Colchester, CT
860-917-2876

-----Original Message-----

From: Buyniski, Alex <ABUYNISK@travelers.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:42 PM
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Budget Comments

Hello-

I wanted to express my complete support for the town budget being proposed 2021-2022.

While I am in favor of each of the items listed I wanted to make special recognition of the improvements to the recreation fields and basketball courts. I am a parent of 4 children and have been coaching for 10 years in town and the safety of our kids - as well as those kids and young adults from other towns visiting our fields and courts is incredibly important. Improper maintenance through lack of funding can and does lead to accidents which I have seen occur first hand on the baseball fields. Accidents lead to lawsuits against the town and an increase to all costs overall such as rise in insurance premiums which all tax payers contribute to. The basketball courts are in a perilous state. I cannot believe the cracks on the courts and how more incidents have not occurred. If a traffic light is out in town or a stop sign down we would of course repair and replace so why wouldn't we do the same to our fields and courts when lack of upkeep leads to accidents? Recreational activities for all ages of residents is critically important to health and well-being especially after the past 12 months and going forward. The state of a towns fields and courts and overall recreation facilities says a lot about that town and its attractiveness for new potential residents and businesses; let's show visitors how much we care about our town and its upkeep with this budget and make the necessary improvements to the town and to the safety of its residents.

Thank you
Alex Buyniski

From: Laurie Buyniski <lauriebuyniski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Alex Buyniski <abuynisk@travelers.com>
Subject: Support of the proposed budgets

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

We are writing today to express our support for the proposed Town and School budgets. As a family with four young children, we were attracted to this town and choose to stay here for the high quality education, family programs, and activities offered to families with children.

Parks, playgrounds, sports fields and the youth center are important to us. These are priorities and we support budget efforts that are in alignment with keeping them safe for all to use.

Sincerely,

Alex & Laurie Buyniski
44 Brookstone Dr.

From: Les Bassett <lbassett@plimptonhills.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3:51 PM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <amigliaccio@colchesterct.gov>; Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Bacon Academy

Dear Colchester BOF,

The administration of Bacon Academy can no longer be taken seriously by anyone possessing a minimum of critical thinking skills. The BOE seems content to sit by and watch. Both are far too comfortable taking millions of dollars and not delivering services promised. The students and taxpayers are being exploited. This can be fixed over night by cutting off funding. Whatever can be done in this regard to salvage the remainder of this year needs to be done immediately. Any budget for 2021 - 2022 that does not include a pro-rated reduction in funding based in-person days missed or shortened is irresponsible. We should not have had this situation THIS school year and we certainly can't be fooled again.

Thanks,

From: Corey Stanchina <clstanchina@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:05 PM

To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Comment regarding the town budget

Hi Mary;

I read through your email regarding the increase of 8+% in the town budget. While this is high, I do understand it, but I believe there are ways to save money. You mentioned road salt costs, and I'd like to expand on that just a bit to include snow plowing. Every year it floors me to see how much salt is dumped on our roads, when neighboring towns do not do the same. Repeatedly this past year, and every year, I have watched excess amounts of salt scattered on our roads when the temperature is not forecasted to fall

below freezing or when no precipitation falls. Even when precipitation falls, the amount of salt used on the roads is extreme. Unless the salt is plowed off of the roads, it remains for weeks, often as piles at intersections. This is extremely wasteful and extremely harmful to our environment and it needs to be addressed immediately. And not only is the spreading of salt excessive, but the amount of plowing is as well for small amounts of snow. On many instances every season, I witness plows driving down the town streets with their plow down and nothing on the road, to the point where sparks are flying from the plow. In addition, for even the smallest snow falls, the trucks plow my cul-de-sac 3, 4, or even 5 times in one evening. This drivers either really like driving or they are collecting a ton of money in overtime. Can we please think efficiency? This is wasting man power, fuel, and damaging our roads and needs to be re-thought with conservation in mind- conservation of time, money, resources, and our environment.

We need to start spending money like it's coming from our own pockets, which aren't very deep. Please have our town think about ways to increase our efficiency, which will lower our costs. I'm not asking to compromise safety, but I am asking for our road crew to be smart about and not wasteful. Thank you very much.

Corey Stanchina
79 Cirillo Drive.

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:36 PM

To: James McNair <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Subject: Re: Collective Bargaining info exists?

Hi James,

Hope I understand the question.

If at the time the proposed budget is prepared, there are still contracts expiring on 6/30 that have not been ratified, an amount of money is set aside in the HR department budget (page 111, pdf page 113, of the 2020/2021 budget) last line, "Contract Settlements". Once the contracts are settled, the money representing the settled contract is moved to that department's salary line items.

Public Works was in negotiations at budget time last spring.

There are three expiring on 6/30. Don't know current status of those three. They will be in the budget book presented next week.

If the contracts were settled before the proposed budget is presented the increases would already be in the salary lines for those departments.

As there is only a short period from the first public hearing to the Town Meeting date, the contracts are generally not settled between those two dates.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: James McNair <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 4:44 AM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Collective Bargaining info exists?

Rob,

Good day. Just curious as a taxpayer.

Collective Bargaining agreements represent a pretty good chunk of the budget. They are large in scope across many different taxpayer services. They also are major driver of increases with their step clauses. Some step increases can be significant annual increase ranging 6% and higher.

Is there any recent public record of what % of Town and BOE appropriations are from collective bargaining agreements?

My recollection is the Town provides this information in its approved budget submission after the referendum. Can this be provided before the vote in the proposed budget?

The BoE I believe still does not. Any chance the BoE can be asked by the BoF to provide information?

Some years there are negotiations where the compensation must be estimated by the CFO prior to final agreement. The BoF is asked to approve that estimate. Is the BoF appraised by the CFO of the estimated impact in the budget proposals?

Be well and thanks to you and the rest of the BoF for your service

James McNair
Colchester