

From: [Bernard Dennler](#)
To: [Taryn Scott](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nip Bottle Funds
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024 11:23:27 AM

Bernie Dennler
First Selectman

Town of Colchester
127 Norwich Ave
Colchester, CT 06415
Phone: 860-537-7222

“Colchester, Connecticut: Where tradition meets tomorrow.”

From: deee bouchard <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 11:02:32 AM
To: Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov>; Joseph Leone <Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dtturner@colchesterct.gov>; Cliff O'Donal <codonal@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: Nip Bottle Funds

Please include this correspondence
in the 4/18/24 BOS meeting

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 1:44 PM, Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

Dee,
I can appreciate your position on this, but I am not persuaded. I believe this is an appropriate use of the nip bottle funds which have not been utilized at all in two years – that’s a waste of funds. The uline barrels you mention are lids but they’re not heavy. The cans recommended by Public Works are sturdy, durable, and less likely to blow over in wind.

For what it’s worth, uline has a somewhat comparable product. Their ‘courtyard trash can with bonnet lid’. That’s \$830 – however, it’s only 36 gallon capacity. We are looking for 45 gallon capacity.

When Public Works initially presented me the request, I told them to go find something less expensive. But after reviewing comparable quotes, I agreed this was the right solution and the nip funds were an appropriate way to pay for it.

This one we are going to disagree on, but I appreciate the feedback.

Thanks,
Bernie

Bernie Dennler

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From: deee bouchard <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:34 PM
To: Joseph Leone <Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>; Bernard Dennler
<BDennler@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: Nip Bottle Funds

Correction:

It should read: school “fields” not ‘groups’.

NOTE* you can purchase 55 gallon drums from Uline for approximately \$175-\$300!
That include lids!

Steel Dome Lid



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On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 1:13 PM, deee bouchard <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Joe,

You can't convince me that this is a good investment or use of taxpayers dollars. Because ALL monies coming from the State are taxpayers dollars either from taxes, fees or fines!
A trash can equal to the monthly rental cost of a studio apartment in town is not something I will ever support, no matter what workers claim. I am way too frugal and far to practical.
Especially considering we are in a town spending freeze & Bernie wants the citizens to support an over 1 Million in new spending - \$600,000 for your dept alone.

I'll bet you that this kind of spending will doom the budget. I don't get it, government keeps spending and wants citizens to tighten their belts to turn over more of their hard earned tax dollars so governments can by \$1200 trash cans?!!! Are you serious?

Joe, you've requested an \$600,000 increase in the PW budget, including additional staff. I am sure with extra man power you can empty trash cans on daily basis on the town green. This would help alleviate most of the rain issue. Also by using recycled 55 gallon drums you'd save \$14,000+.

I also am NOT in favor of PW using these monies for overtime on top of a \$600,000 budget request.

I think you should consider hiring temporary summer help - like PW did in the past, under JP, and I think MD.

That \$14000 for trash cans together with the other nip bottle funds could hire you 2-3 temporary summer employees whose job would be to empty the trash and pick up litter during the summer months when litter in town is most prevalent and when the town green is being used more frequently.

This would free up your crew to devote more time to the school groups and recreation spaces.

That's my story & I'm sticking to it

Always a pleasure Joe, but I got to disagree with you on this one.

PS - still want to see your eclipse video.

~ dee

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 11:50 AM, Joseph Leone
<Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov> wrote:

Hi Dee,

On the outset, I know it looks like a lot of money for these and that there would be an increased risk of creating more labor for our guys, but based upon the feedback I am getting from the grounds supervisor (Tim) it is important for us to have a built-in lid on these cans. Tim was heavily involved in the process and when given the choice he opted for the side doors because of the built-in top. He said that it is worth it because it prevents rain-water from filling up the bag. He also said a regular portion of what they are emptying every Monday are 30-gallon household bags and large boxes from vendors at town green events. If we can prevent this type of use, there will be less risk of cramming if we continue at our regular service interval. Another reason we selected these

garbage cans is because they were large enough to still use the contractor bags, and there's more room in the can to keep our current labor effort the same.

We did get comparative pricing from the 3 different distributors (ones the town already works with) on this can. We have researched alternatives, and while this seems expensive, all of the comparable cans with this size and features are around this price range. For sure there are cheaper cans out there, but they are smaller in size and do not have the side door requested by the grounds dept. Any savings in up front material cost by getting a smaller can or an open top can, would only be matched with increase in manhour labor cost, a cost that would increase on an annual basis.

There are only a few specific things the state allows us to spend the nip money on, so even if we were to hold on to this money, we couldn't be able to use it to help the town's financial situation anywhere outside of the specific problems associated with the nip litter issue.

On Thursday, I will be presenting on what we will be spending the majority of this money on, people in Colchester are buying roughly 600,000 nips on an annual basis. This is enough money to fund the direct pickup of nips and other litter from the 120 miles of town road shoulders with DPW labor on an annual basis. This initial purchase of cans represents only small portion of the total spending we are planning for cleaning up the roads. If the cans last for 8 years from today, which it appears they will, the cans will only represent less than 4% of our total spending on nip litter cleanup during that same time.

Again, I understand it does seem like a lot, when I first saw the price I had a similar reaction as you. Then as I saw more and more of the same kind of prices, I'm thinking that this just may be what cans cost now a days. I hope this helps explain where we are coming from on this.

Thanks!

Joe

Joseph Leone, EIT, M.Ed

Director of Public Works

127 Norwich Ave, Colchester CT, 06415

Direct: (860) 537-7286



From: deee bouchard <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:07 AM
To: Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov>; Joseph Leone <Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>
Subject: Re: Nip Bottle Funds

Have you or Joe ever had to empty one of the proposed trash cans? I have, and they are a big pain. I suggest before you purchase them you try putting in the trash liner & then emptying the can filled with trash - before just buying something visually aesthetic out of a sales book. The problem with the cans you proposed is they become jammed with trash due to the lid design, which ends up ripping the liner, but doesn't stop people from cramming in more trash.

If you worried about visual aesthetics of the green - what better for a farming community than recycling drums!

I still am going to object to wasteful spending during a budget freeze. Remember the town received the money from the state and it is still taxpayers dollars. I feel that elected officials treat money from the state in disregard, forgetting that ALL money that comes from the state is taxpayer dollars funded through specialized taxes, fees or fines.

I think that the citizens would be outraged to hear you are going to spend \$1300 on one trash can!

Dee

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 9:30 AM, Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

Dee,
The nip bottle funds have no relation to the budget freeze.

We will also be using the nip funds to staff litter/nip bottle pickup on town roads.

The cans we currently have on the town green have lost their lids and need to be replaced. The town has also been using barrels without lids. These replacement cans were chosen because they will prevent litter from blowing out of them and prevent people from being able to simply dumping their household garbage in them. They were also chosen to conform with the visual aesthetic of the other recent improvements to the Town Green.

This is a one-time expense for durable, long-lasting equipment. Other quotes were looked at as well for comparable products.

I had previously delayed implementation of the request from the Grounds Department to purchase these because of the budgetary concerns. However, Joe and I agreed that it would be appropriate to use a portion of the nip funds to help remedy this problem on the Green and at Ruby Cohen Park.

The rest will fund our pilot program for labor to directly perform nip bottle clean up.

Thank you

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First Selectman

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From: deee bouchard <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 9:16:29 AM
To: Joseph Leone <Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>; Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Nip Bottle Funds

Joe & Bernie,

We do not need \$1300 trash cans for the town green!
Especially during a budget freeze!
Use the monies to hire temporary employees- high school

or college students to help during the summer months when trash is a much more prevalent problem throughout town.

I suggest either buying new 55 gallon drums - which can be purchased for \$150-\$300 depending upon mil thickness of steel - OR find used ones!
Also 55 gallon commercial trash bags are reasonably priced as they are a very common size.

Have local civic organizations, youth groups, sports teams etc... paint them!
You can designate a theme etc..

The first time I've seen this was down south in Louisiana and Texas.

Doing a quick google search to provide you a photo, I came across the article below about a trash can project in Mansfield, CT. This kind of project encourages community engagement and a great use of the nip bottle funds.

Thank you,
Deanna Bouchard

[Keep Mansfield Beautiful announces Trash Can Be Beautiful barrel painting program](#)

Keep Mansfield Beautiful announces Trash Can Be Beautiful barrel painting program

Keep Mansfield Beautiful will again host the Trash Can Be Beautiful barrel-painting program in March.

<https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/journal-news-independent/2011/02/21/keep-mansfield-beautiful-announces-trash/39061541007/>

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