

## First Selectman

---

**From:** Rosemary Coyle  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 2:42 PM  
**To:** Jason LaChapelle; First Selectman; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates  
**Cc:** Mike Hayes; Mike Egan; Andrea Migliaccio; Tim Vaillancourt; John Thomas; Art Shilosky; Mary Williamson  
**Subject:** Re: First Selectman's Office Salaries

Thanks for looking into this and clearing up the information.  
Rosemary

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Jason LaChapelle <jLaChapelle@colchesterct.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 2:37:52 PM  
**To:** Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Deborah Bates <dBates@colchesterct.gov>  
**Cc:** Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mary Williamson <mwilliamson@colchesterct.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: First Selectman's Office Salaries

Rosemary,

As Mary stated, the problem is the numbers were not entered into last year's budget correctly. If we look back at the 2021-2022 budget we can see the Executive Assistant to the First Selectman was making **\$56,063** and the Department Clerk was making **\$19,203**. The question we should be asking is why was the Executive Assistant position budgeted for such a lower amount last year versus the year previous? The Board of Selectmen did not approve a pay cut to that position, after all.

What appears to have happened is the Executive Assistant did not receive a 2.5% increase last year, but actually a near 2.5% decrease! This year's budget is a correction to that, using the 2021-2022 budget as a baseline. A 2.5% increase over **\$56,063** is **\$57,464.58**, the exact amount budgeted for this year.

The Department Clerk number is easily explainable about being an hourly position, and thus the yearly amount is going to change based on the number of hours. Without knowing the hourly rate (which I did not FOI) or having the hours worked in 2021-2022 or 2022-2023, it's impossible to say what the increase is/should be.

[https://www.colchesterct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4286/f/uploads/adopted\\_budget\\_2021-2022.pdf](https://www.colchesterct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4286/f/uploads/adopted_budget_2021-2022.pdf)

## **11201 - FIRST SELECTMAN**

## **40101 - REGULAR PAYROLL**

First Selectman

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Department Clerk (20 hrs/week)

Position shared with Human Resources (HR)

Thanks,

Jason LaChapelle  
Board of Selectmen

---

**From:** Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 1:34 PM

**To:** Jason LaChapelle <jLaChapelle@colchesterct.gov>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Deborah Bates <dBates@colchesterct.gov>

**Cc:** Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mary Williamson <mwilliamson@colchesterct.gov>

**Subject:** Re: First Selectman's Office Salaries

Jason, I guess I need to understand how the salaries in the adopted budget for 22-23 p.74 were as I stated \$54,964 and \$19,794.

([https://www.colchesterct.gov/sites/g/files/vyh1if4286/f/uploads/adopted\\_budget\\_book\\_for\\_ref4.pdf](https://www.colchesterct.gov/sites/g/files/vyh1if4286/f/uploads/adopted_budget_book_for_ref4.pdf))

When and why did they increase to \$57,464.58 and \$21,882 respectively? I don't recall the BOS increasing these salaries from the adopted 22-23 budget during this past 22-23 year.

There is nothing nefarious about quoting numbers from our adopted budget posted on the town website and the proposed budget and computing a percentage increase.

I guess I don't understand why the salaries for 22-23 are significantly higher than those listed in the adopted budget.

Rosemary

**From:** Jason LaChapelle <jLaChapelle@colchesterct.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 12:58 PM

**To:** First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Deborah Bates <dBates@colchesterct.gov>

**Cc:** Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mary Williamson <mwilliamson@colchesterct.gov>

**Subject:** First Selectman's Office Salaries

Board,

Last night Rosemary made the claim that both employees in the First Selectman's office were seeing raises far above the contractual obligation of 2.5%. I believe she said one was seeing a 7% increase and the other a 10% increase. When the town's finance director went on record explaining this, Rosemary certainly seemed to imply that the finance director was not being truthful or transparent.

Today I verbally FOI'd finance records in order to get to the bottom of this. Here's what I found.

The Executive Assistant to the First Selectman is budgeted for a **\$58,901** salary in the 2023-2024 budget. That position had a salary of **\$57,464.58** in the 2022-2023 budget. Simple math shows that 2.5% of **\$57,464.58** is **\$1,436.61**. Adding these two together gets an amount of **\$58,901.19**. This is 19 cents higher than the budgeted line up of **\$58,901**. In other words, the 2023-2024 budgeted amount for this position represents ONLY a 2.5% increase in salary -- precisely what it is the town's obligation per policy.

The Department Clerk is budgeted for **\$21,882** in annual pay in the 2023-2024 budget. That position had an annual pay of **\$21,349.80** in the 2022-2023 budget. Simple math shows that 2.5% of **\$21,349.80** is **\$533.75**. Adding these two together gets an amount of **\$21,883.55**. This is actually **\$1.55** higher than the budgeted line up of **\$21,882**. In other words, the 2023-2024 budgeted amount for this position represents LESS than the 2.5% increase in pay, though this \$1.55 in discrepancy is likely explained by this position being hourly and not salary.

We heard a lot last night about honesty and transparency in this year's budgets. I believe the record needs to be publicly corrected regarding this issue as it was raised by Rosemary during multiple meetings, including last night where she pressed the issue. The public needs to be made aware that the issue has been resolved and that Andreas did not give his office employees preferential treatment by giving them 7% and 10% raises that nobody else got, but that they received only the 2.5% increase as stipulated by town policy.

While I disagree with automatic raises for anyone, it's irrelevant here. What matters is that we are being honest and transparent with the citizens and that when we misspeak, we correct ourselves.

Thanks,

Jason LaChapelle  
Board of Selectmen