

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
July 30, 2023 – Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectman
Via Hybrid

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

2023 AUG -8 PM 3: 35

Nyle Furman
NYLE FURMAN
CLERK

Members Present: Chair Dave Koji, Vice Chair Greg Barden, Stan Soby, Denise Mizla, Jenn Cox

Others Present: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Jason LaChapelle, Rosemary Coyle, Debbie Bates, Denise Turner

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bisbikos called the Board of Selectman meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Dave Koji called the ARPA Ad-Hoc committee meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Taras Rudko commented that he had concerns that there was little advertising regarding tonight's meeting. He commented the town and businesses received ARPA funds, but the citizens have not. He stated that if the Board of Selectman (BoS) does not facilitate a program to help those in need in town it is very disingenuous. He asked the citizens on line and in person to hold those accountable and get the funds to the individuals and people that actually need it.

Mike Dubreuil commented that ARPA and the BoS worked together well for several projects. He thanked Selectman LaChapelle for his work in bringing this program forward. He is in favor of giving direct cash assistance to the citizens who are still struggling from the pandemic. He stated that the Selectman should have given more back to the citizens.

Mike Egan commented that there is disinformation on social media. M. Egan stated that the economics are favorable in the U.S. right now. This 300,000 program will not fix the youth roof or the town HVAC system, or Highland Farm water tower project. Colchester taxes have increased less than almost any other municipality in the state. The average tax payer will increase less than 75 dollars. He stated that most towns have used ARPA for projects, and Colchester is using ARPA for deferred maintenance.

Deanna Bouchard stated that she is in favor of cash assistance to citizens. She stated that there is money in the fund balance to fix the roof or do the HVAC. She is in favor of taking money from ARPA projects to assist 300 families at one thousand dollars per family. C. Collins said that this program can go forward. D. Bouchard is strongly in favor of the cash assistance program.

Gerrie T. has concerns with the application process. She believes that we all want to help people. She thinks that we should help the people of which the Covid pandemic really set them over the edge. She is concerned that too many people would apply. Gerrie is concerned that some may take money from those that are really below

income. She does not understand why we aren't using the 575,000 money to help the low income families. Then we can use the ARPA funds for the projects.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

J. LaChapelle spoke in favor of cash assistance of \$300,000 in direct cash to 300 families. He stated that the same oversight of the businesses is not being applied to individuals (not enough oversight in business and too much for individuals). The Social Services program was voted 4th by the citizens in terms of desire to fund. J. LaChapelle stated that there is enough money in the fund balance to fulfill projects. He provided stories about community members that are struggling, even though they reached out to Social Services. J. LaChapelle stated that all members, except Rosemary, told J. LaChapelle that they were in favor of this project (Social Services grant).

Motion by: J. LaChapelle

To earmark \$300,000 in ARPA funds to help citizens of Colchester that were negatively impacted and disadvantaged by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Second By: A. Bisbikos

Discussion: J. LaChapelle will let the town know who does not go along with this motion. D. Bates stated that the dates on the application had passed. A. Bisbikos said the motion should be broken down. D. Koji clarified that the Social Services program of \$100,000 was voted 4th by the community, and that the new Social Services grant is a new program. J. LaChapelle stated that we have enough money to take money from the roof or HVAC in the amount of \$164,000. D. Koji has concerns that UHY said that it will cost \$30,000 to administer the program. D. Mizla asked J. LaChapelle about the \$100,000 that was the initial amount. J. LaChapelle stated that he wanted to add \$200,000 to the \$100,000. D. Mizla asked if Social Services could help out with the implementation of this program. She also asked how word would get out. J. LaChapelle stated that he will go door to door to let people know about it. A. Bisbikos said that he is not concerned with getting the word out. He is saying there are two components: the amount and how the application works. R. Coyle said that she feels that this is backwards because C. Collins brought up issues with the way the program is developed. You do that first and then decide the money.

No vote

Motion by: R. Coyle to table the motion until we have a discussion with V. Geato, C. Collins, and ARPA.

D. Koji stated that he obtained information from C. Collins at UHY regarding how the program would roll out. C. Collins showed her Powerpoint.

V. Geato from Social Services stated that her original program is different than the give back program. Every month that ticks on makes it difficult to say the program can be fulfilled in the ARPA timeline. V. Geato stated Social Services did not let people not have food. Social Services cannot subsidize a families' rent and no amount of ARPA will allow that. V. Geato created the chart for you last year. Social Services received a grant of \$36,000. Our food bank does not need \$500,000. There is still some money on a United Way grant. To just put an arbitrary number out is just that, one thousand is arbitrary as well. The Social Services program serves approximately 140 households a month through the food bank and 90% are seniors or those with disability. She thinks we need to look at what the real issues are.

D. Koji asked if there were families the town has turned away for assistance and if there were, can Social Services be expanded.

J. LaChapelle stated that the goal of the give back grant is to help people that are struggling. He understands that it is not long term subsidizing.

D. Koji asked if there were any income ceilings on the application. A. Bisbikos mentioned that there may be more people (over 300) that qualify and the amount would be adjusted.

C. Collins spoke that J. LaChapelle's Household Direct Cash Assistance program has certain parameters and so did the business assistance – UHY did behind the scenes work to determine that parameters were met. UHY did do work to determine that a business was eligible. For a Cash Assistance program, ARPA wants you to serve low to moderate incomes. She explained on how individuals received ARPA funds (stimulus checks), and there were parameters (children, income, etc). The intent of ARPA was to provide funding to state and local recovery to assure that government needs were met to address pre Covid issues. The household assistance was to go to those that were negatively impacted and what the funds would be used for (medical bills) and you cannot some things with it (food, tobacco, movies, etc). If you say you are a problem that is a cash assistance, even though there is a signed attestation, then the family would have to pay that money back. It is an educational process. ARPA cannot do it like a stimulus program – it must be reported on your tax returns. If a household is making \$75,000, a thousand dollars could put them in a different tax bracket. That has happened. W-9s would have to be given and the town would have to give tax documents. If the household owed back taxes, they are not eligible. UHY would have to reach out to the family to determine what their taxes were, unemployment, etc. Then, after the household spends the money, they would have to save the receipts. The cash can go directly to their bills, but the family would have to keep receipts. UHY stated that there was one business that did not utilize the funding properly. ARPA funds are not the same as stimulus checks. The final rule (1000 Page document) does not allow it to be used like a stimulus check. Medical, utility, childcare, rent. ARPA does not allow for food and groceries or car payment. ARPA is for what was needed to help her household.

D. Turner asked if it would be beneficial for an individual to provide utility bills as part of the application. She also asked if the application is written correctly. C. Collins stated that most applications had documents to support a need.

R. Coyle asked if there is anything that should be stated to show the applicant is low to moderate income. C. Collins reported that 11%, or more than 1600 people may qualify for assistance. The crucial years are 2020-2021. ARPA final rule does not allow for giving back to every single tax payer.

J. LaChapelle asked for C. Collins to give more information as to why an individual is being treated differently than the business. C. Collins reported that most municipalities are having more stringent applications. Colchester was the only municipality to not require supporting documents. J. LaChapelle wants more clarification as to why businesses received one million and they may not be struggling, but individuals are being required to document. C.

Collins disclosed what the ARPA funds for families could be used for in a family. She wanted to caution that some families may be disappointed (false hope).

V. Geato stated that she is interested in meeting the needs of the people most in need. She feels like \$100,000 is the correct amount that can be used by December 2024. D. Koji asked if Social Services could use the \$300,000. V. Geato has a higher threshold than the giveback program. Social Services do not have funds to give out money for utility bills, etc. R. Coyle asked how people access Social Services. V. Geato replied that word of mouth, 211, or TVCCA also refers.

New provision of services to those that require (funeral, etc) and you can carve out a laundry list of services to offer. A. Bisikos asked for clarification. C. Collins said that the town can decide what to include in the application. D. Koji said that it seems like we want to increase the bucket, and A. Bisikos agreed; but there was disagreement in terms of how best to implement.

R. Coyle asked V. Geato if she could expand the bucket to car assistance, mental health, etc? V. Geato said we need to look at the individual and whether they can afford what they need.

J. LaChapelle responded to D. Koji's question about why he does not want the give back program to go through Social Services. J. LaChapelle stated that an application to the First Selectman's office is easier than asking for help through Social Services. J. LaChapelle wants the individuals to sign a box that they were negatively economically impacted by Covid 19.

C. Collins stated that there were individuals that did not spend the money as intended. She also stated that if someone makes a complaint about one of the town's ARPA program, the town could be liable and have to give the money back.

J. LaChapelle read from the Treasury Department Final Rule page 81, related to cash assistance.

G. Barden says that in C. Collins's program, if a family wants to apply, they would have to show negative impact, but the Social Services give back program would allow more people to receive more services. J. LaChapelle restated that he wants the individuals to sign an attestation and not have to provide documentation (same as the town).

D. Bates asked about behavioral health and V. Geato stated that she has not been able to hire anyone. D. Bates stated that with Social Services there is a person they can speak to, and J. LaChapelle states that he is not talking about getting help from Social Services, but a one-time assistance program to get over a hump.

V. Geato's income qualification depends on how many children you have, but is 60% of the poverty rate.

D. Mizla stated that the downside is that a person has to declare it on their tax return. But if Social Services broadened their program then it would be too much for Social Services, so using UHY would work. Also, using an on-line application would allow more people to apply.

J.Cox stated that she has similar concerns with the amount of money being arbitrary and the UHY cost.

AMENDED MOTION by R.Coyle

For ARPA, C. Collins, and Social Services, to work together and formulate a plan, up to \$300,000

Second By: D. Turner

Discussion

Andreas Bisbikos would like for the Board of Selectman to be a part of the development. R. Coyle would like an initial conversation to start it. C. Collins gave a list of things that would need to be included in that application. A. Bisbikos would like the Board of Selectman to be working on this in a timely manner. A. Bisbikos stated that something will have to be reduced if the amount is up to \$300,000. The ARPA money needs to be encumbered by December 2024 and needs to be spent by December 31, 2026.

J. LaChapelle stated that we are kicking the can down the road.

D. Turner stated that she has been in favor of a give back program, but needs all of the information.

C. Collins said that Colchester should be

MOTION By: J. LaChapelle

To add a deadline for this final draft to be completed of September 15, 2023

Second By: A. Bisbikos

Discussion: R. Coyle said that we should say by the end of September 2023.

As a friendly amendment to my motion, R. Coyle to amend her motion.

MOTION BY: R. Coyle

To develop a program, up to \$300,000, with UHY, ARPA committee, and Social Services, so that we might expand the participation in receiving services that are not covered under the cash giveback program with a deadline of up to September 30, 2023.

Second by:

Vote: Unanimous to approve

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: D. Bates

NO SECOND

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

D. Bouchard stated that the Board of Selectman should do what was promised, and that C. Collins bringing up She stated that citizens should not have to produce documentation and they should not have to go through Social Services. J. LaChapelle made an application, citizens fill out the application, it goes through UHY, and it is done. Should ARPA still be involved, absolutely not. D. Bouchard thanked J. LaChapelle.

K. Kardys stated that the individuals in the community need ongoing assistance and not a one time assist. Social Services should be involved.

M. Egan said that what is being proposed is administration nightmare. We have a program that actually works with someone that does this. Neighbors may call each other out. The Director of Social Services is not qualified to handle this, but the First Selectman's office is going to handle this? We want to help people out but we also have community needs and we are falling behind.

C. O'Donnell thinks Social Services is equipped to handle the funds and should handle the pails. They can do it fairly and they have a certain amount of people. People should not be ashamed and everyone in this room was hurt for Covid. These funds will be taxable; with funds through Social Services, it will be tax free.

B. Dennler stated that they best way to meet the need for the most residents would be through Social Services due to the administrative load.

J. Farrell said that there was too much repeating of the same thing at the meeting. J. Farrell stated that he felt that V. Geato had knowledge and expertise.

T. Morach stated that it is important to follow professional advice and should be followed. There is embarrassment and pride involved with approaching Social Services. She would like to approach someone that understands confidentiality. She wonders if Colchester has enough man power to handle the program. Is 11% of households or 11% of individuals.

M. Dubreuil stated that many people are very proud and do not want to go to Social Services. He shared a personal story. There does seem to be a double standard of how we treated the businesses versus the individuals.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: D. Bates

SECOND BY: R. Coyle

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: D. Mizla

SECOND BY: D. Koji

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

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COLCHESTER, CT

2023 AUG -8 PM 3: 35

Dave Furman
DAVE FURMAN

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
August 7, 2023 – Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectman
Via Hybrid

Members Present: Chair Dave Koji, Vice Chair Greg Barden, Stan Soby, Jenn Cox, Marjorie Mlodzinski,
Jack Faski, Denise Mizla

Others Present: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Jason LaChapelle, Rosemary Coyle, Debbie Bates,
Denise Turner, Stacy Farber (UHY), Claire Collins (UHY)

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bisbikos called the Board of Selectman meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Koji called the ARPA Committee Ad-Hoc committee to order at 6:02 pm.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Gerrie Transue commented that she believes all projects are worthy. She reminded people that \$575,000 was donated to the food bank. She also commented about individuals getting payments – this would have confidentiality issues.

Mike Egan commented that he has some concerns about balancing needs of the town with balancing individual needs.

Katherine Paquet commented about the parameters of the Social Services Grant. She thinks that spending money on town projects would help her and the entire community.

Bernie Dennler asked if Social Services is able to administer the expanded program and have it cast a wider net.

Ron Silberman commented that the elephant in the room is that the money was wasted on other town projects that should have been taken care of years ago. We need more preventative maintenance.

Michelle Millington loves the idea of this, but you has concerns. She is an eligibility officer and has to follow state social services guidelines. Giving people money may impact their ability to get other social services.

Michael Dubreuil stated that he would like to see a vote by ARPA to give direct cash assistance. He cited Cambridge MA as a town that gave direct cash assistance.

Deanna Bouchard stated concerns about the language ARPA has used and she supports Jason's program.

Mary Bylone asked what the status was of the motion put forth by Rosemary Coyle.

5. DISCUSSION OF THE COLCHESTER GRANT PROGRAM

a. Review and discuss other community's programs

C. Collins spoke about the Trumbull Emergency Assistance Program and the town of Groton

Question for Val: Can she administer a program that has different parameters than what she currently uses for Social Services. How can this expanded program be administered? Would more people be assisted if UHY worked in conjunction with Social Services?

D Turner asked if they received cash through Social Services, would that be taxable? C Collins answered Yes.

S Farber chimed in to say that facilitating the business program was time consuming. The magnitude for this individual program could likely be more time consuming and have more administration costs, potentially.

M. Mlodzinski asked about the timing of when citizens could receive assistance.

D Bates asked about the income requirements. C Collins responded that it was up to the town to determine the cap. A household making \$250,000 is not allowed to get assistance. Andreas and Dave asked about the middle class and a number that could be used. 300% of poverty level was discussed, approximately \$90,000.

Jason is in favor of giving people direct cash back to anyone who received a stimulus check.

S Farber mentioned that if we give direct money to people it will be taxed.

R Coyle liked in the Trumbull application that there was a way to put down a certain amount. She reiterated that we need to go through Social Services. She thinks we can broaden the support by using Social Services to be creative. She also said that the projects that Mike cited were for low income people.

A Bisbikos wants to make sure that there is no discrimination between town versus business. Jason asked the same question. C Collins said that no, the town can create any class. The town can say how they will treat the individual.

D Koji suggested that C Collins come back with a written statement about different applications for town versus individual citizens.

G Barden asked if direct payments to vendors would be something Jason would consider.

D Mizla said that perhaps Val could have another pie and the second pie would be ARPA and divided up.

B. Discussion of UHY correspondence

No discussion

C. Discuss and identify the parameters of the program

It was discussed that Val will need to part of the discussion

Stan would like to do more research to give guidance
Areas to expand services
Median Income Threshold

D. Timeline

Program Deadline: Vote by end of September 2023, Implement by October 2023

Meeting Schedule: Every Monday if needed, starting next Monday, to discuss the administration. Val from Social Services and the Finance Director will be invited.

Offsite expectations: A Bisbikos strongly encouraged ARPA and the BoS to give C Collins questions, i.e., the discrimination question.

6. Citizens Comments

Katherine Paquet hopes that the funds go toward helping those that really need it.

M Millington does not want anyone to think this is not being done in a fair manner. She wanted to state that an income cap needs to be relative and be clear. She supports a voucher program.

Mike Egan said that the bridges in town have not been inspected in 30 years.

Krista Kardys stated that she would like to see the town help the most vulnerable.

Gerrie Transue stated that this is not a stimulus program, not a needs based. Does the cost of having UHY cost the town or the project?

Andrea DePaiola thanked Jason and Andreas bringing this initiative forward.

Deanna Bouchard would like direct cash payment and to have a simple application.

John Farrell commented that we should fund those in most need.

Jason LaChapelle commented that he was misinterpreted about his ice cream comment.

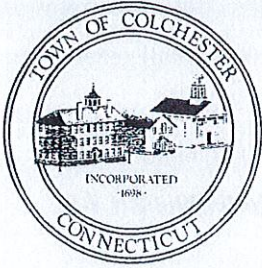
MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: R. Coyle

SECOND BY: D. Bates

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: G. Barden

SECOND BY: M. Mlodzinski

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

2023 AUG 15 AM 11:24

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Boyle Furman
BOYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Agenda - Minutes

Thursday, August 10th, 2023, at 6 PM

Hybrid: Town Hall - Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom

Members Present: A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), D. Bates, D. Turner, and R. Coyle

Member Absent: J. LaChapelle

Also Present: S. Hoffmann (Fire Chief), D. Sorrentino (Planning Director), M. Williamson (Finance Director), D. Rosenblatt (Agricultural Commission Chair), S. Ramsby (HR Director)

1. Call to Order – A. Bisbikos called the meeting to order at 6 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Correspondence
 - D. Turner and A. Bisbikos discussed FOI.
4. Citizens Comments
 - L. Shilosky spoke in support of C. Russi's room dedication. P. Clesowich spoke in support of C. Russi's room dedication. D. Beatty spoke in support of C. Russi's room dedication. M. Tomasi spoke about the Colchester Burial Grounds.
5. Consent Agenda
 - R. Coyle made a motion to remove 5c from the consent agenda, make it 5.1, and re-letter the remaining items A through D. 2nd by D. Turner. *Motion carried unanimously 4-0*
 - R. Coyle made a motion to move the consent agenda. 2nd by D. Bates. *Motion carried unanimously 4-0*
 - 5.1
 - R. Coyle made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve the contract award for "Colchester Town Green Electrical Services Upgrades" to the apparent low bidder, Stula Enterprises LLC and allow the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents associated with said contract as recommended by the Town Engineer. 2nd by D. Turner. *Motion carried unanimously 4-0*
6. Job Descriptions
 - S. Hoffman provide an overview of the job descriptions and an update on the hiring of two additional firefighters.
 - D. Turner made a motion to approve the Career Lieutenant Job Description as recommended by the Fire Chief. 2nd by D. Bates. *Motion carried unanimously 4-0*
 - R. Coyle made a motion to approve the Career Captain Job Description as recommended by the Fire Chief. 2nd by D. Turner. *Motion carried unanimously 4-0*
7. Petition

- R. Coyle made a motion to support a room in the “New” Colchester Senior Center as “The Cathy Russi Room” to honor Cathy Russi’s years of service & commitment by enhancing the lives of all generations through activities for over 30 years. 2nd by D. Bates. ***Motion carried unanimously 4-0***
- Motion to place the dedication designated for Cathy Russi on the November 5th, 2024, ballot per the Naming Facilities policy for a town-wide vote. 2nd by D. Turner. ***Motion carried unanimously 4-0***

8. MOA

- D. Turner made a motion to approve the MOA between the Town of Colchester and the Local 1303-254 of Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO accepting the Accountant and Recreation Specialist into the Town Hall Employees Union. 2nd by D. Bates. ***Motion carried unanimously 4-0***
- D. Turner made a motion to approve the MOA between the Town of Colchester, Samantha Partney, Alexis Turner, and the Colchester Library Employees Union, Local 1303-448, AFSCME Council 4, AFL-CIO in relation to tax reimbursement. 2nd by R. Coyle. ***Motion carried unanimously 4-0***
- D. Turner made a motion to approve the MOA between the Town of Colchester, Joann MacDonald, and the Colchester Library Employees Union, Local 1303-448, AFSCME Council 4, AFL-CIO in relation to sick time. 2nd by R. Coyle. ***Motion carried unanimously 4-0***

9. Green Energy

- D. Sorrentino spoke about installing an EV Charger at the Town Hall.
- The Board of Selectmen agreed to have D. Sorrentino negotiate on behalf of the Town to identify the best possible agreement and bring it to the Board for a vote.
- No action was taken on the proposed motion.

10. Farm Ordinance

- J. Chaponis correspondence recommended seeking legal counsel. The Board of Selectmen and D. Rosenblatt agreed with that assessment.
- No action was taken on the proposed motion.

11. Union Contract

- R. Coyle made a motion to approve the Union Contract between the Town of Colchester and the Local 1303-448 Connecticut Council 4 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO in relation the Library Employees Union. 2nd by D. Turner. ***Motion carried unanimously 4-0***

12. Citizens Comments - None

13. First Selectman’s Report

- A. Bisbikos provided an update on all the First Selectman’s initiatives related to the passed budget and mentioned the Town Gazebo’s revitalization’s completion.
- A. Bisbikos answered questions on the audit, Robert Haft, and staffing,

14. Liaison Reports

- R. Coyle provided an update on the Senior Building Committee’s payments, transfers, and water concerns related to construction. D. Bates provided an update on Norton Park.

15. Adjourn – D. Turner made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by R. Coyle. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Minutes submitted by F. Brown.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
August 14, 2023 – Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectman
Via Hybrid

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2023 AUG 15 AM 8:48

Members Present: Chair Dave Koji, Vice Chair Greg Barden, Stan Soby, Jenn Cox, Marjorie Mlodzinski, Denise Mizla

Others Present: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Rosemary Coyle, Debbie Bates, Denise Turner, Claire Collins (UHY), Stacy Farber (UHY)

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bisbikos called the Board of Selectman meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Koji called the ARPA Committee Ad-Hoc committee to order at 6:02 pm.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Deanna Bouchard asked for clarification regarding disaster relief funds. She believes that the funds from the town would not be considered income, therefore would not affect Medicaid, WIC, tax, etc. She would like the town to move forward with this grant and use 300% of the Federal Poverty Levels (FPL).

Mike Egan expressed the desire to help more by using social services.

5. DISCUSSION OF COLCHESTER GRANT PROGRAM

- a) A Bisbikos asked C Collins to elaborate on the question of discrimination. C Collins stated that there is no discrimination language per se on town versus individual.
- b) Review and discuss the UHY emails on income levels. A Bisbikos had a discussion with UHY regarding income. Colchester took a revenue loss and therefore has a lot of leeway in how the ARPA funds are administered. Median income in Colchester is \$104,000. Those below the median income are automatically qualified for assistance by the Town of Colchester. Approximately 800 households would meet the criteria. Val said that there is nothing that prevents Social Services from implementing the program, but helping people over \$100,000 is not the typical. Currently, Val reported that there are some things that are hard to pay for, but she has grants for several expenditures. Car repair is hard because a purchase order is required. Val said that there is no easy way to get payments through the town. Val is not limited by income, but if a family went to Val and they were a family of 3 and they make a good salary, then Val would be hard pressed to offer assistance under their current program guidelines.

The \$100,000 Social Services Grant has certain guidelines. A direct program would be different.

D Koji commented that he wants ARPA to consider the \$30,000 fee for UHY to administer.

R Coyle stated that the task should be the current motion, which is for ARPA, UHY, and Social Services to develop a program for the Board of Selectman to consider.

D Bates also stated that she would like to see ARPA, UHY, and Val come up with a program.

R Coyle stated that she would like to see Social Services be expanded to include more families.

D Bates would like to expand Social Services for more people.

D Turner would also like to use funds in a better way, for example, the boiler example.

A Bisbikos stated that he would like to help help 40% of the community.

R Coyle said that the individuals would still be applying for something. A Bisbikos agrees.

D Koji stated that we (ARPA, UHY, Val) will work toward a plan

R Coyle asked Val to consider how people will know that services have been expanded at Social Services.

D Mizla asked about the threshold of \$75,000 and would it be increased based on the number of people in the household. C Collins reiterated that 300% of Federal Poverty Level could be used, but there could be extenuating circumstances. She also asked about the ARPA timeframe.

D Koji stated that we should show a grid. R Coyle asked about difference between the 250% and 300% of Federal Poverty Level.

A Bisbikos stated that he definitely wants to include 40% of the residents. He feels like this is a hybrid program.

R Coyle asked why Social Services does not have a credit card. Historically, a credit card wasn't recommended, but perhaps there could be a path to making purchases easier.

6. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mike Hayes would like to know how many households fall under the \$75,000 dollar income level.

Deanna Bouchard thinks we have discounted Jason's program. She also discussed that there is a stigma attached to going to Social Services. She is also concerned that Val's department does not have manpower to implement a program.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: R. Coyle

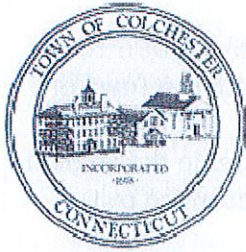
SECOND BY: D. Bates

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: G. Barden

SECOND BY: M. Mlodzinski

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Notes submitted by Jennifer Cox



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

**Board of Selectman & Board of Finance
Special Joint Meeting Minutes - AMENDED
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Hybrid: Town Hall – Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom**

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2023 AUG 30 PM 3:58
M. Williamson

1. Call to Order and Roll Call Board of Selectmen

A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

BOS Members Present: A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), D. Bates, R. Coyle, D. Turner, J. LaChapelle
Members absent: None

2. Call to Order and Roll Call Board of Finance

A. Magliaccio (Chair), called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

BOF Members present: A. Migliaccio, J. Thomas, M. Egan, M. Hayes, T. Valliancourt, A. Shilosky
Members absent: None

Others Present: J. Leone (Public Works Director), M. Williamson (Finance Director), T. Tarnowski (Senior Center Building Committee Chair). G. Rybacki (Bond Council)

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Citizens Comments

G. Transeau- speaking as a citizen. Spoke about the poor conditions of the current Senior Center to state why a new one is needed. In favor of new center

L. Pasternak – Continuing the discussion of the conditions in the current Senior Center.

K. Hastings – Member of SCBC, speaking as independent – Thanked boards for organizing the meeting to move forward with Senior Center construction. Wants everyone to be on the same page to move forward in the right direction.

D. Matteson – Did not vote originally due to not aware of project. In favor of Senior Center, although feels not fair to those that did vote to be voting for an increase in amount of project.

P. Watts – In favor of allowing the citizens decide on funding at another referendum.

M. Mlodzinski – Stated that the voters approved an amount for the Senior Center, Encouraging the project be moved to referendum.

V. Rose – Followed the Senior Center process for a long time. In favor of a new referendum and moving the project forward.

5. Natural Gas

A. Discussion on Natural Gas Connection to the Town Hall and Senior Center with the Public Works Director

B. Action by the Board of Selectmen to Recommend Funding for Natural Gas Connection Fees to the Town of Colchester

R. Coyle moved to recommend funding for the natural gas connection fees to the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$38,705.50 out of the Capital Funds reserve account from Building and Ground Maintenance, seconded by D. Turner. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

M. Hayes moved to recommend transfer of funds in the amount of \$38,705.50 out of the Capital Funds reserve account from Building and Ground Maintenance. Seconded by T. Valliancourt. Unanimously Approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

R. Coyle moved to reconsider motion to move funds. J. LaChappelle seconded. Unanimously Approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

R. Coyle moved to recommend funding for the natural gas connection fees to the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$38,705.50 out of the Capital Funds reserve account from Building and Ground Maintenance, and for the First Selectman to sign authorization to move funds, seconded by D. Turner. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

6. Senior Center Project Update

A. Project update from T. Tarnowski

T. Tarnowski discussed monies, plans, changes, and other topics regarding the Senior Center project. Open discussion for the members of Both Boards to ask questions regarding the project as well as other ways to solve issues such as funds. During open discussion J. LaChappelle's questions and the timeline were all included.

B. Possible action for the Board of Finance to ask Bond Council to draft a proposed resolution for a Future Senior Center referendum.

R. Coyle recommended a referendum of up to 1.5 million dollar appropriation financed by Bonds, Grants, Donations or any way we so choose. D. Bates seconded. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

M. Egan moved to have bond council draft a proposal to move forward with the senior center referendum, seconded by J. Thomas. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

C. Next Steps

The next steps in the Senior Center project are to devise a Plan B and possible C, and to bring it to referendum.

7. Citizens Comments

G. Transeau – Glad progress was made during the meeting. Understanding of the increase in amounts due to pandemic, etc. As a taxpayer, feels she should know what it will cost. Feels that this building will be a good thing for residents/ seniors for decades to come.

R. Silerman – Agrees with G. Transeau. Feels that replacing metal roofing with shingles would cost the Town more money in the long run.

K. Kardys- Takes care of Seniors as a nurse. Says we are not talking about just a building. We are talking about the needs of seniors especially as they get older and things change, sense of touch, eyesight, etc. Wants to be able to have seniors attend the new building that may not be able to attend the current building because of specific needs.

Farmwood Dr gentleman (name inaudible) – Spoke about being a retired project manager. Shocked that there was not plan b, c, etc. going into the project. Wants to be careful of value engineering. In favor of referendum vote.

C. O'Donal – Spoke in favor of referendum. The town owes it to the community for a Senior Center to be proud of.

P. Wyatt – Sprinkle of gratitude for the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to work across party lines with each other. Thank the individuals in the room and via zoom for support. Thank the Senior Center Building Committee members for volunteering their time on this project.

I Watts- In favor of the vote. Told us that the building that we are in (current Senior Center) was the Original GAR Hall which stands for Grand Army Republic, which is veterans group for Civil War soldiers.

J. Duigo – Has been a project manager. Does not like questions falling through the cracks. Worked for many municipalities. Spoke about gas supply vs oil supply/ systems, etc. Consider dual fuel systems for Town Hall.

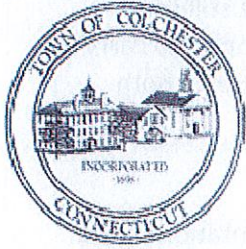
M. Dubreuil – Thanks the Building committee for all their hard work. Ecstatic the seniors will have a new Center.

J. LaChapelle – Addresses the criticism against him repeating himself. Does not feel he is being political in standing up for the Seniors/ citizens. Addressed legal issues, questions.

8. Adjournment

Board of Selectmen, R. Coyle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by D. Bates.

Board Of Finance, A. Shilosky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Valliancourt. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

2023 AUG 30 PM 2:03

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectman – Special Meeting Monday, August 28, 2023 @ 5:30 pm Hybrid: Town Hall – Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom

BOS Members Present: A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), R. Coyle, D. Bates, R. Coyle, J. LaChapelle

Members Absent: none

Others Present: S. Hoffman (Fire Chief), Brad Bernier (Assistant Fire Chief), S. Ramsby HR Director, D. Sorrentino (Planning Director), J. Leone (Public Works Director)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call Board of Finance

A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Job Descriptions

A. R. Coyle made the motion to approve the Youth and Social Services Prevention Coordinator job description, with a 2nd by D. Turner. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

B. J. LaChapelle approved the Medical Driver job description. 2nd by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

C. In regard to the Facilities Maintainer job description, R. Coyle asked that the person who would be hired for this position reside in Colchester or within 20 minutes from the town. R. Coyle motioned to approve, 2nd by D. Turner. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

4. Senior Services

D. Turner made a motion to approve the contract for funding with the CT Department of Aging and Disability Services and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, 2nd by D. Bates. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

5. Green Energy

A. An overview was given regarding the installation, use, cost, etc. of the new EV charging station being installed at The Town Hall. R. Coyle made the motion to approve execution of contract, with the funds for purchase, which should not exceed \$20,000.00, coming from the Equipment reserve account and 2nd by J. LaChapelle. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

B. There is no current contract for the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions, there are still some questions and this has been tabled until the next September meeting. D. Bates made a motion to carry this topic to the next meeting, with a 2nd by R. Coyle. Before a vote was taken D. Bates and R. Coyle both withdrew their motions. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

6. Transparency Software

Members of the BOS requested to table this discussion until the next meeting so that a presentation of the software could be provided before it is voted on. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

7. MOU

S. Hoffmann explained the MOU between the Town of Colchester and the Municipal Employees Union 506 in relation to the Fire Marshall. R. Coyle moved to approve the motion with a 2nd by D. Bates. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

8. Union Contract

This was postponed until the next meeting so that Board members questions could be addressed.

9. Citizens Comments

M. Dubreuil explained what Munis is and spoke in favor of the Transparency software.

10. Adjournment

D. Bates motioned to adjourn the meeting. R. Coyle 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm