

First Selectman

From: Denise Turner
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Andrea Migliaccio
Cc: BOE@colchesterct.org; Mary Williamson; Board of Selectmen; Board of Finance
Subject: Re: Town Meeting

Andrea,
How dare you insinuate that you know my motivation for anything. I needed clarification to understand the process myself. If you ever have any questions on why I do something, ask me! The only political motivation I see here is yours.

Sincerely,
Denise Turner

Denise Turner
Board of Selectmen

From: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Board of Selectmen <BoardofSelectman@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Fw: Town Meeting

Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-705-1118

From: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 11:32 AM
To: Board of Finance <boardoffinancemembers@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: BOE@colchesterct.org <boe@colchesterct.org>; Mary Williamson <mwilliamson@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Fw: Town Meeting

Our town attorney, Mr. Ritter, provided his legal opinion this morning, following up on an email by Denise Turner. Mr. Ritter concludes that the Town Meeting cannot return the proposed budgets to the BOF. The First Selectman read and interpreted the charter correctly at a recent BOS meeting; Rosemary challenged him and called his leadership a "dictatorship" when he read the charter verbatim.

Although the email was from Denise, it's residual consequences for the BOS meeting; It is disappointing that Rosemary Coyle would need clarification in the charter and budget process, considering she has been an elected official for over 15 years. Her statements about the budget and the process are politically motivated to create chaos and division in our community. She has successfully persuaded Denise Turner and Debbie Bates that there may be a possibility of interfering in our government process at the Town Meeting, leading to the community thinking the same, which is repellent to a successful budget season.

I forward this communication to remind all elected and employed leaders that the charter speaks clearly. If you lead any citizen to believe the Town Meeting could result in the budget potentially being able to go back to BOF, this should clarify your misunderstanding,

Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-705-1118

From: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: FW: Town Meeting

Please forward to your board for reference and include it in the next meeting's correspondence. - Andreas

From: Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; Jason LaChapelle <jLaChapelle@colchesterct.gov>; Deborah Bates <dBates@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: RE: Town Meeting

Good morning everyone –

In summary, there is no option in the Town Charter for the Town Voters to reject the budget at the Annual Budget Meeting and send the budget back to the Board of Finance. The Town Charter does allow the Town Voters to reduce (but not increase) the Board of Selectmen and/or Board of Education budget (see C-1105a. C.) but it does not allow the Town Voters to “reject” the budget. (Note: there is a two vote requirement “if the Board of Selectmen’s Budget excluding capital expenditures and debt service, or the Board of Education Budget differs from that first presented by an amount equal to or in excess of one percent (1.0%).”)

C-1105a. E. provides that: “The Annual Budget Meeting shall be **automatically continued to the Annual Budget Referendum**, at which the budgets of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education as recommended by the Annual Budget Meeting, shall be presented to the Town Voters for final approval or disapproval.”

Please let me know if you have any further questions. Thanks, Matt



Matthew D. Ritter
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From: Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:42 PM
To: Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>

Cc: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyale@colchesterct.gov>; Jason LaChapelle <jLaChapelle@colchesterct.gov>; Deborah Bates <dBates@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Town Meeting

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Matt,

The BOS has voted to send our 2 budgets on to a town meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, 5/31. There seems to be some confusion as to what the voters are able to do based on our town charter. I have included the paragraph below that is in question. Is the only option for the voters to send the budgets straight to referendum as some are saying? Or do they have the following options: send them to referendum, reduce them further at the meeting, or reject and send back to the board of finance. And, if they are sent back to the BOF, can the BOF then increase them if they wish?

(C-1105)E. The Annual Budget Meeting shall be automatically continued to the Annual Budget Referendum, at which the budgets of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education as recommended by the Annual Budget Meeting, shall be presented to the Town Voters for final approval or disapproval.

Thank you,
Denise

Denise Turner
Board of Selectmen

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First Selectman

From: Jason LaChapelle
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 3:13 PM
To: Denise Turner; Rosemary Coyle; Deborah Bates; First Selectman; Andrea Migliaccio; Tim Vaillancourt; John Thomas; Mike Egan; Mike Hayes; Art Shilosky
Subject: Treatment of board members

Everyone -

With all due respect, can we stop being upset over what people say to us and to our friends when we so willingly turn a blind eye to the way our political friends treat others? For instance, Rosemary accused Andreas of being a dictator even though he correctly cited the charter. Nobody seemed bothered by that. In fact, when he pushed back the BOS motioned to adjourn.

If we're going to say the way people interpret our actions is "wrong" and "uncalled for" then we must hold that same standard for everyone, even if it's our friend doing it against someone we don't like. It's becoming increasingly difficult to take these complaints about behavior seriously when only certain people are being held to that standard. The biggest part of civility is not allowing your friends to be uncivil.

Just my 2 cents.

Thanks,

Jason LaChapelle
Board of Selectmen