



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Finance  
Public Hearing Minutes &  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2019 @ 7PM  
Town Hall, Room 1**

RECEIVED  
TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
FEB 13 11:43 AM

**Members Present:** R. Tarlov, N. Negron, M. Egan, A. Migliaccio, and A. Bisbikos

**Others Present:** First Selectman A. Shilosky, CFO M. Cosgrove, BOS R. Coyle, D. Mizla, BOE M. Bylone, M. Tomasi, Town Clerk G. Furman, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, Registrar D. Mrowka, Recreation Director T. Quinn, Chief Cox, many Colchester Residents and Clerk J. Campbell

## **PUBLIC FORUM – 6:30 pm**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** R. Tarlov called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2. PUBLIC BUDGET DISCUSSION PUBLIC BUDGET DISCUSSION** R. Tarlov informed everyone that the Superintendent will be presenting the BOE budget on 2/26. Both Town and BOE will be presented 4/2. George Breault stated substitute teachers \$12.60/hr and have not had a raise in the last 18 years. S. Stenowski spoke in favor of the paramedic program. S. Schuster suggested the board to look over the budgets and differentiate between the wants and needs. V. Rose commented that the failure to invest is not free. Prices always increase and we cannot keep “kicking the can down the road.” Since the past 2 budgets have passed on the first try, lets aim high. D. Bouchard stated that class size is down. Norwich students are not supposed to affect class size. The paramedic program is vital to Colchester. A. Babineau spoke strongly in favor of the paramedic program. R. Coyle stated that there will be a presentation at a BOS meeting that will cover the Paramedic Program. R. Tarlov stated that they want to know the impact to the taxpayer and how much of an increase to the mill rate. The billing structure is complex and therefore it is hard to predict revenue numbers. A. Wall asked if companies such as American was looked into. Chief Cox explained the issues with doing it that way. A. Shilosky and R. Tarlov met with American back in December. K. Alvarez stated that the fire department is not asking for anything extravagant. Not only the fire department feels this a necessary addition. C. Maynard stated that the budget was approved last year, not knowing what the revenue from the State would be. This is not something new to the Town. J. Malsbenden spoke in favor of the Paramedic program young and old can use the services. Also supports an increase in pay for substitute pay. M. Bylone stated that the cost for ALS is increasing and if we are going to delay for lack of information, please have a plan in place on how to obtain that information. A. Babineau stated that the ALS PSA spot is currently open. At this point anyone can come in and take that spot and the Town will be out of options. J. Schuba spoke in favor of the Paramedic program and felt the board presented a poor attitude to not include it in this year’s budget. He thinks more time needs to be devoted to move this forward and have a more positive approach. K. Alvarez stated that people in general want all the services and don't want to pay for them. We need to invest in long term goals of Colchester. We can't continue to slash budgets if we want to grow as a community. A. Bisbikos is happy to see everyone who turned out. He stated he feels the state is changing and taxes seem to be coming down. R. Tarlov reminded everyone that the State Representatives will be at Town Hall tomorrow at 6:00 pm and encouraged everyone to come. D. Bouchard mentioned that Fire Safety is always #1 or #2 on the survey results. B. Smith said that several

years ago the Town set out goals to reach. Over time the Town has gotten away from that goal. He thinks the Town needs to revisit the goals and set a vision for the town. M. Egan asked those in attendance to help get the word out to the citizens. E. Evans mentioned the BOF said they are waiting for numbers many times. Who are we waiting for the numbers? R. Tarlov stated that the numbers have been given and they don't match the presentation. E. Evan asked what the people in this room can do to help. Chief Cox stated that R. Tarlov is being very diligent and does his homework. He stated that presentation on the 21<sup>st</sup> needs to be attended. He is confident with the number that they have at this time presently. R. Coyle stated that the BOS will need to see the presentation first before we decide to not put it in this year's budget. R. Coyle asked to work out the meeting dates so that everyone could attend. R. Tarlov stated that the effort on behalf of the BOF has been made. This is a complicated process and will be tough to get it into this year's budget. K. Alvarez asked if any grants or small cities grants have been looked into. M Cosgrove stated yes and that grant money us constantly being looked for.

3. **ADJOURN** R. Tarlov adjourned the public hearing at 7:56 PM.

### **BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING – Immediately following the Public Forum**

**Members Present:** R. Tarlov, N. Negron, M. Egan, A. Migliaccio, and A. Bisbikos

**Others Present:** First Selectman A. Shilosky, CFO M. Cosgrove, BOS R. Coyle, D. Mizla, BOE M. Bylone, M. Tomasi, Town Clerk G. Furman, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, Registrar D. Mrowka and Clerk J. Campbell

1. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** R. Tarlov called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 9, Regular Meeting** A Bisbikos MOTIONED to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, SECONDED by N. Negron. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **CITIZENS COMMENTS** None
4. **CORRESPONDENCE** R. Tarlov reported that he received a letter of resignation from R. Lepore effective January 27<sup>th</sup>. Vacancy has been posted. 2 applications have been received and they will be invited to the next BOF meeting.
5. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
  - a. **Tax Collector** Collection rate is trending slightly higher than last year. Deferral program was passed by the BOS. At this point no one has taken the offer.
  - b. **Finance** December reports were presented. The impact of the delay of MV bills last year have evened out with the comparison numbers. Health Insurance Fund presented through December 31<sup>st</sup> quarter. Numbers at this point are not a whole lot off where we were last year. First half of the year doesn't show as much of an impact because of the high deductible plan. Program fund was reviewed, 4 years have been included. Funding policy for the program fund is in review. R. Tarlov reported that the Assessor has released the grand list. Revenue is .8% higher if the mill rate stayed the same.

**6. FIRST SELECTMAN**

- a. **Transfer requests** None
- b. **First Selectman's report** A. Shilosky reported that the change of date on the Paramedic presentation. 02/20/2019 @ 6:30 PM. Budget Calendar May 14<sup>th</sup> is a Tuesday not a Thursday. R. Tarlov also reported graduation is also scheduled on the referendum date. This will be revisited if no snow days occur. A. Shilosky reported we received a bill for Sgt. Martinez's overtime. Last quarter was \$17,000 and this quarter is \$19,000. Town only budgeted for \$15,000. A. Shilosky wants to talk with our representative regarding the terms of the Resident Trooper program.

**7. OLD BUSINESS –**

- a. **Paramedic Program – update** None
- b. **Opengov.com – update** BOF members have access to the Town information. Members will be experimenting on the system. M. Cosgrove stated there is a calculation flaw which Opengov is aware of.
- c. **Budget Discussion** Survey results are at the Town Hall. It is 576 pages. The largest jump in survey participants was last year. Some comments had to be redacted. 492 total surveys were completed this year. A. Bisbikos stated that he received an e-mail from J. McNair regarding the survey results. See attached.

**8. NEW BUSINESS** None

- 9. LIAISONS' REPORTS** M. Egan reported that Ellie Philips resigned from the Commission on Aging. The senior center's food license has been renewed. R. Tarlov reported that the YSS had their Community Conversation. 4/3 will be another Community Conversation about the results from their survey. The survey was sent to middle school students regarding drug use. Officer Suchecki will be leaving and the potential replacement is Officer Bowens. A. Shilosky stated there will be a meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> regarding that replacement.

- 10. CITIZENS COMMENTS** D. Bouchard questioned if the town will be tracking who logs in to Opengov. M. Cosgrove replied that the general public will not be monitored other than quantity. D. Bouchard asked why the correspondence were not with tonight's agenda. R. Tarlov responded that they were after the posting of the agenda and they will be added to the nest agenda. D. Bouchard also asked why there was not a nomination of a vice chair for tonight's meeting. R. Tarlov reported that the resignation was not official until Monday and therefore the nominations will be added to nest meeting.

- 11. ADJOURNMENT** A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM, SECONDED by N. Negron. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

**Attachments:** Updated Budget Calendar  
Assessor Office Memo – Grand List 2018  
Correspondence from J. McNair to A. Bisbikos  
December Finance Reports  
Health Insurance Reserve Fund Report  
Program Fund Report