



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET WORKSHOP April 21, 2021 – Zoom Meeting – 6:30 PM Minutes

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2021 APR 23 PM 4:17
Mary Bylone
TOWN CLERK

All members and citizens were present via Zoom Webinar – Meeting was recorded

BOF Members Present: Chairman R. Tarlov, B. Dennler, A. Migliaccio, M. Egan, M. Hayes, A. Bisbikos
Also Present: CFO M. Cosgrove, First Selectman M. Bylone, Tax Collector Michele Wyatt

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm
2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – 8a. Debt Service Plan to be added. Motion by M. Egan, 2nd by B. Dennler. Vote was unanimous, *MOTION CARRIED*.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting 04/07: M. Egan motioned to approve, 2nd by B. Dennler. *MOTION CARRIED 6-0*. Budget Workshops 04/12, 04/14, 04/19, 04/20: B. Dennler motioned to approve all workshop minutes as a group, 2nd by M. Hayes. *MOTION CARRIED 6-0*.
4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – Several citizens made comments.
5. CORRESPONDENCE - Attached
6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
 - a. Tax Collector – M. Wyatt reported the current tax collection rate is at 98.28% which is on track with last year. She discussed collection efforts on delinquencies and the foreclosure process.
 - b. Finance – M. Cosgrove stated she had no major changes to report and would defer discussion in the interest of saving time.
7. FIRST SELECTMAN
 - a. Transfers – None
 - b. First Selectman's Report – M. Bylone did not provide a report also in the interest of saving time.
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Debt Service Plan – M. Cosgrove discussed the Debt Service Plan on the Fire Apparatus and Senior Center.
9. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Review Draft of Text of Approved Unassigned Fund Balance Policy – no discussion
10. CITIZENS DISCUSSION – Budget – Several citizens made comments.

7 minute break
11. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION – Schools and Town – T. Quinn discussed the condition of several areas of the Rec Plex. She also went over her photos showing deterioration and the safety concerns. She provided the details about playground equipment that is being donated to the Town and the costs the Town will have to

come up with for the installation of the equipment. The Public Works Director of Operations, Mike Previti explained his view of the problems there having recently been hired on the job. The topic of salaries paid to some Town Hall staff was discussed. M. Bylone explained the salaries are within the range stated in the contract and they are being paid based on their experience and qualifications. Members discussed a list of possible reductions that could be made to the budget increase and other options for changes in order to get to a 1 mil increase. It was determined that approximately \$336,000 of fund balance would be used to keep some of the items in the budget and the mill rate increase would be around 2.96%.

12. CITIZENS DISCUSSION – Budget – Several citizens commented.
13. BUDGET – Discussion and Possible Action on Schools and Town budgets – After some further discussion and a consensus reached, M. Hayes motioned to send this version of the budget to Public Hearing, 2nd by B. Dennler, *MOTION CARRIED 6-0.*
14. LIAISON REPORTS – None
15. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS – Comments from citizens were heard.
16. NEXT MEETING – Auditors’ Report at May 5 meeting. A workshop will be held on Wednesday April 28th at 6:30 pm via Zoom to discuss pros and cons of a possible delay on the referendum vote as well as the BOE reduction.
17. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn made by B. Dennler, 2nd by M. Hayes. *MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 pm.*

Submitted By,

Stacey Schweighoffer, Clerk