



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING August 18, 2021 – Zoom Meeting – 6:30 PM Minutes

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

BOF Members Present: Chairman R. Tarlov, B. Dennler, M. Egan, M. Hayes, A. Bisbikos, A. Migliaccio

Also Present: First Selectman M. Bylone

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Chairman Tarlov requested moving Town Planner Matt Bordeaux to agenda item #3 and renumber the items. Motion by M. Hayes, 2nd by B. Dennler. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.**
3. Town Planner Matt Bordeaux discussed the plans to use the additional 10 hours for his department. While his original request was for 20 hours, he feels a full-time position is necessary. The hours will be used to provide support to several aspects of the department.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting 08/04 – Members discussed a request from a citizen to add some details about the salaries for elected officials to the minutes. B. Dennler moved to amend the minutes from the regular meeting of 8/4 to include in the budget discussion section where First Selectman Bylone stated that raises were paid out to all other elected officials and non-union staff per the advice of the town attorney based on the non-union compensation policy and also to include the document that First Selectman Bylone shared during the 8/4 meeting regarding her not taking a raise. 2nd by M. Hayes. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.**
5. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – Scott Chapman commented on raises for elected officials being a partisan issue. Deanna Bouchard commented on raises for elected officials and a past software purchase for the P&Z department. Virginia Rose commented on the "lean" operations at town hall and also commented in favor of the budget passing and the additional help in P&Z.
6. CORRESPONDENCE – attached
7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS – None
 - a. Tax Collector
 - b. Finance
8. FIRST SELECTMAN
 - a. Transfers – none
 - b. First Selectman's Report – FS Bylone reported that she met with town and health department leaders across southeast CT and participated in the drafting of a letter to Governor Lamont requesting he issue a mandate for mask-wearing indoors due to the increased COVID numbers in the area.
9. 2021/2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION – Discussion and Possible Action – Board members discussed the memo prepared by FS Bylone about suggested reductions to the budget totaling approximately \$75,000 to cover the amount needed to get

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to a zero tax increase for the town budget. The .21 mil increase attributed to the school budget passing would still remain. B. Dennler made a motion to reduce the First Selectman's department budget total by \$2,315. 2nd by M. Egan. B. Dennler then requested his motion be retracted. The First Selectman's office department assistant position was discussed. As an alternative to reach the amount needed for 0%, A Bisbikos proposed a small reduction for all departments. Chairman Tarlov stated that A Bisbikos had asked him to calculate an amount that would be needed to accomplish this and he shared his spreadsheet showing a 0.2% cut would be needed to most town departments. This would get the town budget to a 0% tax increase. A. Bisbikos made a motion to move forward to the Board of Selectmen a town budget in the amount of \$15,704,962. 2nd by B. Dennler. **Vote was unanimous, motion carried 6-0.** There will be a Special Meeting next Wednesday 8/25 to discuss the .2% reductions

10. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – Art Shilosky corrected an earlier comment regarding his salary increase to state that he never turned down his raise. Deanna Bouchard stated that raises are always political. Aaron spoke in favor of the changes discussed and of the budget passing. Denise Mizla confirmed that the BOS will set the date for the town meeting as well as the amount of the budget being presented for referendum.
11. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by B. Dennler, 2nd by A. Bisbikos. **Vote was unanimous.** Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Submitted By:
Stacey Kilgus, Clerk