



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Bernie Dennler, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Meeting Regular Meeting

February 1, 2024 - 7:00PM

Minutes

Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room 1 and Hybrid via Zoom

Members Present: First Selectman Bernie Dennler, Selectmen Art Shilosky, Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, and Cliff O'Donal

Others Present: Damien Sorrentino, Town Planning Director; Joe Leone, Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

First Selectman Bernie Dennler called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Dennler led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Correspondence

Letter from John J. McGrath Jr. Probate Judge advising of retirement and special election.

4. Citizen's Comments

Vince Rose, Shadbush Dr, spoke about filling the boards and commissions and thanked the volunteers.

Luke McCoy, Oak Farm Dr, spoke about the Ad hoc committees.

Mike Dubreuil, Woodbine Rd. spoke about the Sewer and Water Commission applicants.

Jason LaChapelle, Highwood Circle, spoke about Sewer and Water Commission applicants, town policies on fuel assistance and employees and services at town hall.

Deanna Bouchard, Meadow Dr. spoke about AARPA funds available through social services.

5. Changes to the Agenda

R. Coyle MOVED to make changes to the agenda to add 11. Discuss and act on Gas Distribution Easement with Eversource 12. Discuss and act on job description for Human Resources Manager 13. Discuss and act to authorize First Selectman to hire the Human Resource Manager. C. O'Donal SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

6. Consent Agenda

a. *Approve Minutes from January 18, 2024*

b. *Tax Refunds*

D. Turner MOVED to approve the consent agenda as presented. R. Coyle SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. Discussion and action on award of Norton Park Engineering Bids

Presentation by D. Sorrentino, Town Planning Director joined via zoom to explain the Norton Park bids.

D. Turner MOVED to approve the award for RFP 2023 – 006 services for Norton Park Phase One Engineering Bid to Reynolds Engineering LLC of 63 Norwich Ave, Suite 202 Colchester CT 06415 in the amount of \$9880.00 and allow the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents. C. O’Donal SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

8. Discussion and action on DOT CDL Drug Testing Policy

Presentation by J. Leone, Director of Public Works via zoom to explain the need for a change in the drug testing policy to allow the town to place employees who fail a test to be placed on unpaid leave.

R. Coyle MOVES to pass the Town of Colchester Alcohol and Controlled Substance Policy for CDL Drivers as revised on 2-1-24. A. Shilosky SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

9. Discussion and action on forming Ad-Hoc Committees

a. Recreation Needs and Coordination

R. Coyle MOVED to form a Recreation Needs and Coordination Ad Hoc Committee with the proposed charge of evaluating Colchester’s current recreation assets operated by the Town and Board of Education and making recommendations on how to coordinate use and access to these resources – with an addendum to further direct the Committee to consist of 5 members, 2 alternates with liaisons from Board of Education, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and staff liaisons. D. Turner SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

b. Facilities Planning

R. Coyle MOVED to form a Facilities Planning Ad Hoc Committee charged with evaluating current and near-term Town facility space needs to make recommendations regarding the following topics:

Future of the current Senior Center building/parcel

Future of the Veteran’s Room at the existing Senior Center

Future use of the current Youth Center building

Police Department renovation plans

Potential displacement of Recreation and Public Works Departments

Future location of the Food Bank

Use of the unfinished third floor of Town Hall

to consist of 7 members and 2 alternates and liaisons from Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and a staff liaison – Public Works Director. C. O’Donal SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10. Authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract with ClearGov for financial transparency software

C. O’Donal MOVED to authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract with ClearGov R. Coyle SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

11. Discussion and Action on authorizing the First Selectman to sign the Gas Distribution Easement with Eversource

A. Shilosky MOVED to authorize First Selectman to sign the Gas Distribution Easement contract with Eversource. C. O'Donal SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

12. Discussion and Action to adopt a Human Resources Manager job description

D. Turner MOVED to adopt the Human Resources Manager job description with the discussed amendments. C. O'Donal SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

13. Discussion and Action to Hire the Human Resource Manager

R. Coyle MOVED to hire Lori Mercker-Chapman at the salary of \$72 000 annually paid bi-weekly for the Human Resources Manager position. D. Turner SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

14. Liaison Assignments

A. Shilosky assigned to Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Norton Park Committee

C. O'Donal assigned to Economic Development Commission, offered to share Board of Education

B. Dennler assigned to Planning and Zoning

15. Liaison Reports

R. Coyle reported on Chatham Health Board and the Senior Center Building Committee.

D. Turner reported on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

B. Dennler reported on the Board of Finance.

16. First Selectman's Report

Update on the purchase of a tanker authorized by the Board during the Jan 31, 2024, special meeting. The contract was signed and delivered before the contract went out to bid. The Senior Center Building is moving forward. The Finance Department got the W2 and 1099 forms out the office will now focus on the budget issues, the audit, and the organization of the purchase orders to provide more clarity on MUNIS reports. Working with Department Heads on budget process.

17. Citizen's Comments

Mike Dubreuil, Woodbine Rd., spoke about the ambulance contract in previous meetings.

Jason LaChapelle, Highwood Circle, spoke about AARPA funds appropriated to social services and Freedom of Information Requests response times.

Deanna Bouchard, Meadow Dr. AARPA fund updates, adding action items on an agenda, Senior Center Inspection Reports.

18. Adjournment

A. Shilosky MOVED to adjourn at 9:36pm. R. Coyle SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,
Taryn Scott
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman