

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, June 17, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Denise Mizla and Taras Rudko

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Mary Bylone called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: R. Coyle motioned to include Field Discussion as the new number 9 and renumber accordingly, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** R. Coyle motioned to include Discussion of Fire Apparatus as number 16 and renumber accordingly, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Cathy Russi spoke in favor of the Selectmen having their video on for the Zoom meeting.

Deanna Bouchard spoke in favor of Selectmen having their video on for the Zoom meeting. She spoke against the increase in the Sewer and Water budget.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: ATTACHED
6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the May 20 Board of Selectmen Meeting
- B. Tax Abatements
- C. Middlesex Paramedic Program Amendment

D. Resignation of Debi Marvin from Police Commission: R. Coyle motioned to approve the consent agenda taking out the minutes of the May 20 meeting for correction, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

T. Rudko moved to approve the minutes of the May 20 Board of Selectmen Meeting with the correction that the motion on number 4 on the agenda was not unanimous but passed 4 - 1 with T. Rudko opposing, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Sewer and Water Commission Budget: D. Turner motioned whereas the Town of Colchester Sewer and Water commission forwarded and recommended the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Sewer and Water Commission Operating budget to the Board of Selectmen; The Board of Selectmen hereby adopt said Operating Budgets as

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Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

recommended and submitted by the Sewer and Water Commission Budget at their meeting on May 26, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED 4 – 1 with T. Rudko opposing.

8. Grant Application for Affordable Housing Plan: R. Coyle motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve the Town of Colchester resolution of Board of Selectmen affordable housing plan technical assistance program as referenced in the Planning and Zoning document from Town Planner Matt Bordeaux as stated in this resolution and allow the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
9. Field Discussion: Director of Public Works Jim Paggioli revisited the field usage policies and their implementation.
10. Open Space Preservation in Colchester: Town Planner Matt Bordeaux presented about the Town's Open Space Preservation Efforts.
11. Police Commission Update: D. Mizla motioned to temporarily suspend the Colchester Police Commission, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED** 4 – 1 with T. Rudko Opposing.
12. Poll Book Software Discussion: First Selectman updated the board on an investigation by the Secretary of State regarding discrepancies within the software.
13. Request for ARPA Funding: R. Coyle motioned to authorize the use of ARPA funding in the amount of \$341,697 referenced in the BOF reductions from 5/19 21 minus the vehicle reserve for the police cruiser and the contingency with the understanding that some items might not be eligible for ARPA funding. Final eligibility will be decided when more information comes from the Treasury Department, seconded by T. Rudko.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
14. American Rescue Plan Act Ad Hoc Committee Update: R. Coyle motioned to appoint the Long-Term Recovery Committee as the Ad Hoc ARPA Committee, adding the First Selectman, Representative from the Board of Finance and the Deputy CFO for a total of 11 members, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED** 4 – 1 with T. Rudko opposing.
15. Fire Chief Search: First Selectman updated Board that the Fire Chief search would be the responsibility of the Human Resource Director with assistance from Brad Bernier and D. Mizla.
16. Fire Apparatus: R. Coyle motioned **RESOLVED**, That the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Colchester appropriate \$4,500,000 and authorize borrowing in the same amount for costs related to the acquisition of Fire apparatus including three Engine Tanks, one Tanker, and one Tower Ladder. The appropriation may be spent for acquisition and equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.
FURTHER RESOLVED, That such recommendation, if approved by the Board of Finance, be presented to a Special Town Meeting to be held at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue in the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, on 14 day, July, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., and acted upon at referendum to be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the aforesaid resolution shall be placed upon the paper ballots or voting machines under the following heading:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION OF FIRE APPARATUS AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAID FROM GRANTS?"

Voters approving said resolution will vote "Yes" and those opposing said resolution shall vote "No". Electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors will vote at the following polling place: Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue in Colchester. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office, seconded by T. Rudko. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

17. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Deanna Bouchard spoke about the field usage and against the Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) being the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee.

Cathy Russi spoke in favor of the LTRC being the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee.

Jason LaChappelle spoke about the field usage and against the suspension of the Police Commission.

18. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: There will be a recount for the Board of Education Budget since there was a 3-vote margin. The Town Budget did not pass.

The July 1 Board of Selectmen Meeting has been cancelled and there will be a meeting on July 6 instead.

There will be a recount of the Board of Education Budget.

Novus is working to set up the conference rooms for hybrid meetings. The goal is to have the July 6 meeting as hybrid.

Contract negotiations are finished and there will be a non-meeting held shortly for ratification of the contracts.

There were no bidders for the roof and soffit repair at the Youth Center.

19. LIAISON REPORTS: D. Turner – Conservation Commission – There was one pending application for property improvements and two new applications and an enforcement issue on Amston Road and

Diversity and Inclusion – Planning on presenting at the July 15 Board of Selectmen meeting

R. Coyle – Open Space, waiting to close on the property on Middletown Road as it's in probate. Probably not going to apply for a DEEP grant this year since there is no money in the Open Space Fund.

Senior Center Building Committee – Doing informational sessions. CBA and the Lions Club is looking forward to having a meeting in the new Senior Center.

T. Rudko – No liaison reports.

D. Mizla – Norton Park demolition contract for house next to the park is complete and will be put out to bid.

The revised budget was prepared for the grant and can be released for the construction for the Brownfield bid, which is a 30-day bid process. The remediation should be complete after Labor Day.

Board of Education – Recognized 11 retirees and celebrated the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Bacon students cleaned up and beautified the courtyard for the Junior or Senior prom with the help of Katherine Kosiba. Bacon graduation will be held on Saturday, June 19.

20. ADJOURN: D. Turner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m., seconded by R. Coyle.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dennis Kuchy	requesting documentation of all roof permits that have had ice and water / taped seams inspections.	6/9/2021	6/10/2021	
Taras Rudko	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paper copies of the voter books from the 2019 municipal election for the town of Colchester 2. Copies of all voter tabulator ribbons/print outs from each of the machines across all districts 3. Tallies of mail in/ absentee ballots 	6/9/2021	6/10/2021	
Aledander Ahrens	On behalf of Ms. Dennis, copies of any and all documents created or maintained by the Colchester Police Department in which Sandra Dennis and Erin Cholewa are named, including but not limited to investigative reports and witness statements.	6/8/2021	6/9/2021	6/10/2021

From: Jason L. <jaylach@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 3:23 PM
To: Taras Rudko <trudko@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Question

Hi Mr. Rudko,

I am reaching out to you because you have a history of being a rather open and transparent local politician. I have heard through the grapevine that both you and Mr. Bisbikos have uncovered some irregularities in the voting records for the 2019 local elections. While I hear a lot of rumors, this one seemed pretty important to follow up on.

Is this rumor true? If so, are there any emails, documents, etc you can share with me on the irregularities you've found? Given Mary's policy of publicly shaming anyone who makes a FOIA request, I'd like to avoid going down that road. However, I will FOIA the town and put myself through that if I have to. As I said, I really hope to avoid that for all our sakes. And, if this is true, how exactly did you two uncover these irregularities? Were you looking for voting irregularities? If not, what were you looking for?

If you have any questions, you can reach me on this email or you can call me directly at 860-812-5375.

Thank you so much!

- Jason LaChapelle

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT**

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Matthew R. Bordeaux, Planning Director

DATE: June 4, 2021

RE: Certified Resolution for Affordable Housing Plan Technical Assistance Grant

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing is inviting eligible municipalities to apply for a technical assistant grant in the amount of \$15,000 to facilitate a proactive planning process and lay out a strategy for meeting the housing needs of existing and future residents. The grant funds may be used for any eligible cost associated with the preparation and/or adoption of an Affordable Housing Plan in order to satisfy the provisions of Connecticut General Statute 8-30j. This can include, but is not limited to: the engagement of consultants including local councils of government; administrative staff costs; data collection, including a market study and/or analysis; community engagement costs; printing/publication costs, and other reasonable planning expenses.

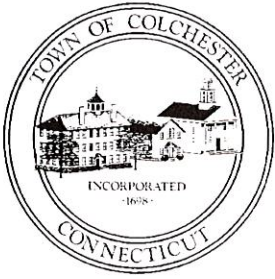
The State Department of Housing will award applications on a first come-first served basis. To complete the application, local approval is required in the form of a certified resolution adopted by the Board, authorizing submission of the grant application and identifying the First Selectman as the individual who can sign the grant application and administer the grant.

Please find attached a copy of the recommended certified resolution.

MRB

R:\Miscellaneous\Housing\Affordable Housing Plan\Board Memo.docx

Attach.



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

I, Gayle Furman, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby certify that the following is a full and true copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Colchester, at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen, held on June 17, 2021:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Housing invites applications for planning grant funds from eligible municipalities seeking to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Colchester make application to the State for \$15,000 in order to undertake a proactive planning process and lay out a strategy for meeting the housing needs of existing and future residents and workers.

RESOLVED, that Mary Bylone, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Colchester, any and all contracts and amendments and to execute and approve on behalf of this municipality, other instruments, a part of or incident to such contracts and amendments effective until otherwise ordered by the Board of Selectmen.

Also, I do further certify that the above resolution has not been in anyway altered, amended or repealed, and is now in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed her signature and the seal of the Town of Colchester this eighteenth day of June 2021.

SEAL

(Signature of Clerk)

(Date)