



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

**Board of Selectman & Board of Finance
Special Joint Meeting Minutes - AMENDED
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Hybrid: Town Hall – Meeting Room 1 & Via Zoom**

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2023 AUG 30 PM 3:58
Andreas Bisbikos
FIRST SELECTMAN

1. Call to Order and Roll Call Board of Selectmen

A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

BOS Members Present: A. Bisbikos (First Selectman), D. Bates, R. Coyle, D. Turner, J. LaChapelle
Members absent: None

2. Call to Order and Roll Call Board of Finance

A. Magliaccio (Chair), called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

BOF Members present: A. Migliaccio, J. Thomas, M. Egan, M. Hayes, T. Valliancourt, A. Shilosky
Members absent: None

Others Present: J. Leone (Public Works Director), M. Williamson (Finance Director), T. Tarnowski (Senior Center Building Committee Chair). G. Rybacki (Bond Council)

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Citizens Comments

G. Transeau- speaking as a citizen. Spoke about the poor conditions of the current Senior Center to state why a new one is needed. In favor of new center

L. Pasternak – Continuing the discussion of the conditions in the current Senior Center.

K. Hastings – Member of SCBC, speaking as independent – Thanked boards for organizing the meeting to move forward with Senior Center construction. Wants everyone to be on the same page to move forward in the right direction.

D. Matteson – Did not vote originally due to not aware of project. In favor of Senior Center, although feels not fair to those that did vote to be voting for an increase in amount of project.

P. Watts – In favor of allowing the citizens decide on funding at another referendum.

M. Mlodzinski – Stated that the voters approved an amount for the Senior Center, Encouraging the project be moved to referendum.

V. Rose – Followed the Senior Center process for a long time. In favor of a new referendum and moving the project forward.

5. Natural Gas

- A. Discussion on Natural Gas Connection to the Town Hall and Senior Center with the Public Works Director
- B. Action by the Board of Selectmen to Recommend Funding for Natural Gas Connection Fees to the Town of Colchester

R. Coyle moved to recommend funding for the natural gas connection fees to the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$38,705.50 out of the Capital Funds reserve account from Building and Ground Maintenance, seconded by D. Turner. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

M. Hayes moved to recommend transfer of funds in the amount of \$38,705.50 out of the Capital Funds reserve account from Building and Ground Maintenance. Seconded by T. Valliancourt. Unanimously Approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

R. Coyle moved to reconsider motion to move funds. J. LaChappelle seconded. Unanimously Approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

R. Coyle moved to recommend funding for the natural gas connection fees to the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$38,705.50 out of the Capital Funds reserve account from Building and Ground Maintenance, and for the First Selectman to sign authorization to move funds, seconded by D. Turner. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

6. Senior Center Project Update

- A. Project update from T. Tarnowski

T. Tarnowski discussed monies, plans, changes, and other topics regarding the Senior Center project. Open discussion for the members of Both Boards to ask questions regarding the project as well as other ways to solve issues such as funds. During open discussion J. LaChappelle's questions and the timeline were all included.

B. Possible action for the Board of Finance to ask Bond Council to draft a proposed resolution for a Future Senior Center referendum.

R. Coyle recommended a referendum of up to 1.5 million dollar appropriation financed by Bonds, Grants, Donations or any way we so choose. D. Bates seconded. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 10-0**

M. Egan moved to have bond council draft a proposal to move forward with the senior center referendum, seconded by J. Thomas. Unanimously approved. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- C. Next Steps

The next steps in the Senior Center project are to devise a Plan B and possible C, and to bring it to referendum.

7. Citizens Comments

G. Transeau – Glad progress was made during the meeting. Understanding of the increase in amounts due to pandemic, etc. As a taxpayer, feels she should know what it will cost. Feels that this building will be a good thing for residents/ seniors for decades to come.

R. Silerman – Agrees with G. Transeau. Feels that replacing metal roofing with shingles would cost the Town more money in the long run.

K. Kardys- Takes care of Seniors as a nurse. Says we are not talking about just a building. We are talking about the needs of seniors especially as they get older and things change, sense of touch, eyesight, etc. Wants to be able to have seniors attend the new building that may not be able to attend the current building because of specific needs.

Farmwood Dr gentleman (name inaudible) – Spoke about being a retired project manager. Shocked that there was not plan b, c, etc. going into the project. Wants to be careful of value engineering. In favor of referendum vote.

C. O'Donal – Spoke in favor of referendum. The town owes it to the community for a Senior Center to be proud of.

P. Wyatt – Sprinkle of gratitude for the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to work across party lines with each other. Thank the individuals in the room and via zoom for support. Thank the Senior Center Building Committee members for volunteering their time on this project.

I Watts- In favor of the vote. Told us that the building that we are in (current Senior Center) was the Original GAR Hall which stands for Grand Army Republic, which is veterans group for Civil War soldiers.

J. Duigo – Has been a project manager. Does not like questions falling through the cracks. Worked for many municipalities. Spoke about gas supply vs oil supply/ systems, etc. Consider dual fuel systems for Town Hall.

M. Dubreuil – Thanks the Building committee for all their hard work. Ecstatic the seniors will have a new Center.

J. LaChapelle – Addresses the criticism against him repeating himself. Does not feel he is being political in standing up for the Seniors/ citizens. Addressed legal issues, questions.

8. Adjournment

Board of Selectmen, R. Coyle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by D. Bates.

Board Of Finance, A. Shilosky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Valliancourt. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.