

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER
HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

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COLCHESTER, CT
2023 NOV 15 PM 3:13

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: First Selectman, Andreas Bisbikos; Board of Selectmen, Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Deborah Bates; Board of Finance, Art Shilosky, Michael Hayes, Michael Egan; Board of Education, Michelle Millington; Tax Collector, Michele Wyatt; Senior Center Director, Patricia Watts; Town Clerk, Gayle Furman; Andrew Norton and many other residents.

A Special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, was held at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, in Colchester, Connecticut on November 14, 2023 at 7:00pm

John Malsbenden motioned for Andrew Norton to be moderator of the meeting, seconded by Rosemary Coyle. A voice vote was taken. MOTION CARRIED Unanimously.

Gayle Furman acted as clerk and read the warning of the meeting which was published in the Rivereast on October 27, 2023 and which is recorded in these records immediately preceding these minutes.

John Malsbenden presented the resolution to be considered under item 1 of the notice, the full text of which resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes, which resolution was seconded by Rosemary Coyle.

Discussion was had on whether a vote was needed. Andreas Bisikos said that according to Bond Council it was not. More discussion followed and it was decided to vote.

A voice vote was taken. MOTION CARRIED Unanimously.

John Malsbenden presented the resolution to be considered under item 2 of the notice, the full text of which resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes, which resolution was seconded by Jeremy McKenzie.

Discussion:

- Irene asked if there was a grant from the state toward this and why it was not mentioned in the resolution.
- Rosemary Coyle responded that she asked Bond council why the k\$2.5 million State Grant was not mentioned in the resolution. Their response was that it was not asked of them to include it; they wrote it as they were asked to do. She also mentioned the town is already being reimbursed by the state each month.
- Tiffany Moroch wanted it confirmed that the bonding was going to be lower than the original bonding of \$9.5 million.

- Rosemary Coyle explained that with the original referendum allowed the town to bond up to \$9.5 million and then we received a State grant for \$2.5 million so at most we will spend approximately \$7.9 million.

A voice vote was taken MOTION CARRIED Unanimously

John Malsbenden presented item 3 of the notice, Pursuant to the Town Charter and to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn said town meeting at its conclusion and to submit the aforesaid resolutions to a vote upon voting machines on November 28, 2023 between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm. Jeremy McKenzie seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken MOTION CARRIED Unanimously

The moderator declared that the town meeting was adjourned to a referendum vote on November 28, 2023, between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm. And that the resolutions would be placed upon the ballots under the following headings:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND AN ADDITIONAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$32,691 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND \$575,000 OF FUNDS FROM A DONATION RECEIVED FROM THE ESTATE OF STEPHEN J. BENDAS (INCREASING THE APPROPRIATION BY \$607,691 TO AN AGGREGATE \$10,107,691) FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING OF A NEW SENIOR CENTER?”

“SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND AN ADDITIONAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$892,309 (INCREASING THE APPROPRIATION TO AN AGGREGATE \$11,000,000) FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING OF A NEW SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE AMOUNT of \$892,309 (INCREASING THE BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO AN AGGREGATE 10,392,309) TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAYED FROM GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDS?”

Voters approving said resolutions will vote "Yes" and those opposing said resolutions will 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, Connecticut. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

The moderator resigned at 7:18pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC