

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Agenda Thursday, February 2, 2012 Colchester Town Hall

Meeting Room 1 – 7:00pm

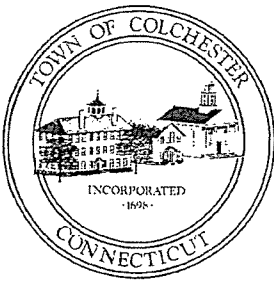
1. Call to Order
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of the January 19, 2012 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting
4. Citizen's Comments
5. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations
 - a. Ethics Commission. Member re-appointment for a three-year term to expire 01/31/2015. Andrea Riley to be interviewed.
 - b. Building Committee. Discussion and Possible Appointment of Members.
 - i. John Avery, Sharon Boski, Justin Bunton, Nancy Cordova, John Carroll, Robert Dennehy, Norman J. Dupuis, Chuck Guarino, Steven Kardys, Irene Malsbenden, Patricia Moody, Robert Sosnoski, William Sullivan
6. Budget Transfers
7. Tax Refunds & Rebates
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Records Management Survey
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Fire Department Task Force
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Personnel Policy
11. Citizen's Comments
12. First Selectman's Report
13. Liaison Report
14. Adjourn

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

2012 JAN 31 PM 1:35

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2012
Colchester Town Hall**

**Meeting Room 1 – Immediately following
Commission Chair meeting at 7:00pm**

Received for record at Colchester, Conn.
on January 20, 2012 at 10:17 Am.
Attest, Nancy A. Bray, Town Clerk

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Selectman James Ford, Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman Greg Cordova, and Selectman Rosemary Coyle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Derrik Kennedy, Valerie Geato, Dot Mrowka, James Paggioli, Leann Hill, Maggie Cosgrove, Ryan Blessing, and other citizens.

1. **Call to Order**

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

2. **Additions to the Agenda**

S. Soby moved to rename agenda item 6a, "Building Committee. Irene Malsbenden to be interviewed" and remove item 6c, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **Presentation by Diane Hettrick & Valerie Geato on Bullying**

Diane Hettrick and Valerie Geato presented the results of their community survey on bullying. There was a discussion on the impact of bullying.

4. **Approve Minutes of the January 5, 2012 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting**

R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2012 Regular Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **Citizen's Comments**

M. Lehetinen commented on staff responses and behavior to resident's concerns at board and commission meetings.

6. **Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations**

G. Cordova recused himself from interview and discussion on Building Committee.

a. **Building Committee. Irene Malsbenden to be interviewed.**

Irene Malsbended was interviewed.

b. **Ethics Commission. Member re-appointment for a three-year term to expire 01/31/2015. Andrea Riley to be interviewed.**

Andrea Riley was absent.

7. **Budget Transfers**

None.

G. Schuster recused himself from discussion and action on tax refunds due to conflict and turned the chair over to S. Soby.

8. Tax Refunds & Rebates

G. Cordova moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$29.99 to Jose Acevedo, \$1,400.36 to Deborah & Wayne Campbell, \$28.56 to Christopher & Laura Coupe, \$272.01 to Ean Holdings LLC, \$4.51 to Bryan Einhorn, \$1.81 to Bryan Einhorn, \$17.06 to Bryan Einhorn, \$85.05 to Timothy Forget, \$4.40 to Timothy Forget, \$36.16 to Francis Hambrecht, \$56.87 to Harry Hom, \$91.25 to Nissan Infiniti LT, \$55.32 to Dawn Senesac, \$241.70 to Charles Shabunia, \$725.61 to Toyota Motor Credit Corp., and \$192.54 to Toyota Motor Credit Corp.; seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Soby turned the chair over to G. Schuster

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Supplemental ARRA Grant

S. Soby moved to approve the supplemental ARRA grant application and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Uniform Services

S. Soby moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract extension with Swiss Cleaners-Uniform Services for the supplying, serving, and cleaning of uniforms for staff in accordance with the terms of the addendum to service agreement dated January 12, 2012, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution on Bond Refunding

J. Ford moved to adopt the bond resolution below, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER'S \$5,985,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2002 AND \$10,800,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2005, AND COSTS RELATED THERETO; AND RESCINDING THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF REFUNDING BONDS AS ADOPTED AT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HELD JUNE 2, 2011

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Colchester issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed TEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$10,000,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to be applied by the Town to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$5,985,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2002 (consisting at original issue of \$985,000 General Purpose Bonds and \$5,000,000 School Bonds) and \$10,800,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005 (consisting at original issue of \$376,000 General Purpose Bonds and \$10,424,000 School Bonds), including the payment of interest accrued on said outstanding bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall

be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the bonds and notes. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate a bank or trust company to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate the persons to sign such bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures in the name or on behalf of the Town; to designate a law firm to approve the legality of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

(b) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(c) That the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(d) That the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the \$5,985,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2002, and \$10,800,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(e) That the First Selectman, the Chief Financial Officer, the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools and other proper officers and officials of the Town are each authorized to execute and file all necessary applications, agreements and documents in order to obtain grants and to accept such grants, to the extent available, to defray all or any portion of principal and interest on or to pay issuance costs with respect to the refunding bonds authorized hereby.

(f) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2012.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authorization to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the Town's \$5,985,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2002, as approved by resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen at meeting held June 2, 2011, is hereby rescinded.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Potential Bond Issuance

Chief Cox and Deputy Chief Lee presented to the Board fire apparatus and department needs. Public Works Director J. Paggioli presented to the Board road improvement and maintenance needs. Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove discussed the bonding proposal and process. No action taken.

13. Citizen's Comments

None.

14. First Selectman's Report

First Selectman G. Schuster read the State of the Town (attached).

15. Liaison Report

R. Coyle reported that the Open Space Advisory Committee is reviewing the Town ordinances with regards to a PR Director serving on the Committee.

S. Soby reported that there will be a volunteer Community Lunch Program by St. Andrews/Federated Church as well as a mobile health unit to meet health needs of the community. Selectman Soby further reported that "Freezin' for a Reason" (formerly 3 Men in a Tent) will be held on the Town Green February 3-5 to raise money for the Colchester Fuel Bank.

16. Executive Session to Discussion Union Negotiations with Local 1303-25, CT Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Town Hall Union)

J. Ford moved to enter into executive session to discuss union negotiations with Local 1303-25, CT Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Town Hall Union), seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

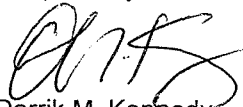
Entered into executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Exited from executive session at 9:55 p.m.

17. Adjourn

G. Cordova moved to adjourn at 9:56 p.m., seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

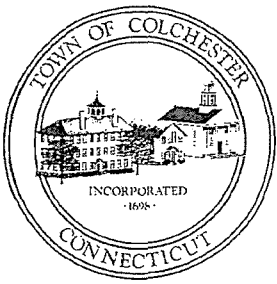
Respectfully submitted,



Derrik M. Kennedy
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Attachments:

- State of the Town



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

STATE OF THE TOWN

January 19, 2012

Tonight, I am happy to report that the state of the Town of Colchester is good. We have made a lot of progress in 2011, addressed many challenges, and enter into a new year as a better community.

Financially, the town continues to be in good shape. There are strong indications that we will finish the fiscal year at or under budget as we did last year. The use of a Human Resources consultant has led to less reliance on attorneys for personnel matters and fewer legal expenses. Despite redirecting money away from the legal budget for two straight years, we are still under budget for legal expenses and receiving more human resources support than ever before.

Undesignated fund balance has also seen an improvement. The budget called for the use of \$300,000 of fund balance in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Through cost controls and a good tax collection rate we actually added to fund balance instead of depleting it leading to an audited balance of 7.4%. The Board of Finance has now ended the practice of draining fund balance and has a policy for its use, should it be necessary. I sincerely applaud their efforts and am confident they will continue to be good financial stewards for the Town.

Our expenditures are currently tracking well. Of course, snow removal has historically been a very volatile and unpredictable expense as we are at the mercy of Mother Nature. Many people have expressed some exuberance over the lack of snow this season and the potential for saving money. Although I would welcome that scenario, I have to remind everyone that this is New England and we can see snow well into Spring. I think we all agree though that we're certainly owed a bit of a respite from bad weather.

Much of our current and future infrastructure needs are now being properly funded. The vehicle replacement plan is reducing our maintenance costs and ensuring our employees are operating safe equipment. The planned replacement of obsolete and maintenance-intensive vehicles will continue to help avoid hefty repair costs and other operational issues.

While our budget reflects our current conditions, economic development represents our future opportunities. I'm happy to report that we have made great strides in this area. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment is the approval of the state-funded sewer and water system expansion down Rt. 85 that will service a new DOT facility and the recently approved Tractor Supply store.

The expansion of the sewer and water line is a critical component to our development of other areas of town for business. Without this service, many developers simply will not consider building in that area. I am looking forward to completing that leg of the expansion which will position us to develop and service these new areas.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has been hard at work reviewing and revising the current zoning regulations. I am hopeful the new regulations will make the approval process for businesses quicker and easier. Hopefully, they will conclude their review over the next few months and complete these much needed changes.

Although the poor economy has impacted Colchester along with the rest of the country, we are still seeing businesses choosing to open in town. Gilbertie's Restaurant, Nutrition on the Green, and DCS Energy have all chosen Colchester as their home along with other business. I'm also happy to welcome Ichiban Asian Bistro which just opened their doors.

Through changes to our zoning regulations, expansion of sewer and water, and outreach from the town, Colchester has enjoyed many economic successes and is poised for more development as the economy improves.

Operationally, the Town continues to run very smoothly. We are currently in the middle of the investment grade energy audit and I am anxious to see the results. There's no doubt that we will see proposals that will guarantee reductions in energy usage. I look forward to working with the three major elected boards to review those proposals and move forward on a project that we believe meets the needs of the town.

The twin storms that devastated much of Connecticut tested our operations to the limit, but I believe both employees and residents of the town did a very good job in our emergency response. There are definitely areas that have been identified for improvement and I have been reviewing all of our emergency operations. This will lead to improved operations and communication when situations like this arise again.

Our operations were stretched thin during these events, and the town staff did a fantastic job of handling the situation. I also can not speak highly enough of the Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Department. Our volunteers are an amazing group that consistently give of themselves. Without their support and efforts, we would not be able to respond to emergencies, large or small. 2011 saw the highest call volume ever recorded for the fire department and we should all recognize the efforts of that organization.

Our police have also done an amazing job over the last year. There's no denying that we have had rocky times over the years with everyone involved in police operations. However, a new era has begun and I believe we have turned the corner.

A new four-year contract between the town and police union has recently been approved. The new contract eliminates the costly pension plan for new hires, changes the health plan structure to a more affordable model, and allows the town to order in officers to fill vacancies. This contract now gives the town the financial and operational ability to support and grow the department.

The Police Commission has been working diligently on revising the police rules and regulations and is nearing completion. The antiquated rules are a liability to the town, inconsistent with current operations, and do not take into account the constantly changing procedures that must be followed as new case law is decided.

As the police operations continue to improve, we have seen that people now want to work with the department. Previously, Resident Trooper Supervisor sergeants did not volunteer for this assignment. During the last switch, two sergeants applied for this position. Additionally, the Police Commission just went through the process of hiring a new officer. The officer selected and hired is an experienced, certified officer that is choosing to leave his city department to work in Colchester. Seeing experienced troopers and officers wanting to work in Colchester is a sign that we are on the right path and I am confident we will continue attracting talented people.

Although we had a lot of success, we are not without our challenges. As I mentioned earlier, the fire department has seen its highest number of calls while our level of volunteerism is either stagnant or in decline. We must recognize that more efforts are needed to attract and retain volunteers for the department. The alternative, a 24/7 paid staff, is an option that is extremely costly and not in the best interest of Colchester. I have been working diligently with the Fire Chief, volunteers, and other resources to address this issue and I am hopeful to present some options shortly.

We also have challenges regarding our police operations. This community has studied and debated the implementation of 24/7 local police coverage for many years now. In 2005, the Police Task Force recommended in their report to the Board of Selectmen that Colchester strive to achieve 24/7 local police coverage. Knowing that there is a lot of activity during the overnight shift, I believe in that recommendation and that 24/7 local coverage is in the best interest of the town. The time has now come to decide as a town if we are prepared to move forward with this initiative and, more importantly, fund it.

Another challenge we face is the renovation of the William J. Johnston Middle School. This will be a large project that not only includes the educational spaces, but also community center areas with dedicated space for seniors. I'm looking forward to the selection of an architect by the Building Committee and the resulting design plans. Once the proposal is solidified, we will have a discussion throughout the community to ensure that the project meets everyone's needs and, just as important, can be afforded by the taxpayers.

The last challenge I have to mention is one that has been recently highlighted in several venues. Although many do not necessarily associate Colchester with illegal drugs, we have to acknowledge that small towns like Colchester are not immune to this problem. We know that drugs are present in our community and have been found in our schools.

I want to commend the Board of Education and school administration for tackling this issue head on and not avoiding it. By allowing surveys to be taken and forums to be held, a proactive approach is being undertaken that will ultimately lead to increased awareness of the issue at hand.

While we always are concerned with drugs in the schools, we must treat this as a community problem. Policing, support from Youth Services, and public education are all avenues for combating this problem and we will continue to do everything we can as a community. However, there is no substitute for effective parenting. I urge all parents to realize that every child is at risk and to ensure they have the education needed to deal with their inevitable confrontation with drugs. Parents should also understand that the first introduction many children have to illegal drugs is through unused medicine found in the home.

As we have in the past, Colchester will continue to meet these challenges and thrive as we move into the future. One of the greatest assets we have is our people. Our Town employees are some of the most knowledgeable and professional people around and I am grateful that I get to work with such a talented group. They continue to work every day towards the

betterment of Colchester and we should all acknowledge their contributions.

The volunteers that serve on the many boards and commissions are also assets and faithfully contribute their precious time to improve their community. I want to thank all of them for their continued efforts. We are a citizen government and can only function when citizens participate.

As we move into 2012, I look forward to working with the entire town to meet our challenges and ensure that Colchester will always remain the great town that it is today.

Memo

To: Board of Selectmen

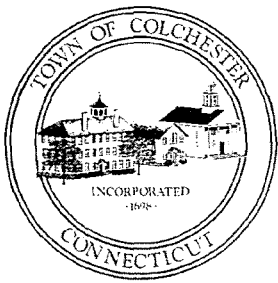
From: Nancy A. Bray, Town Clerk

Date: 1/31/2012

Re: Presentation of Records Management Survey

The Town Clerk's Office and the I.T. Dept. would like to discuss, with the Board of Selectmen, the survey of our town hall records that was recently completed by K Sickler/Murphy Records Management Consultants. We hired the Consultants through a State Grant to help organize, store and maintain department records in a way that will enhance our ability to identify and retrieve the documents.

Thank You!



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen

Cc: Walter Cox, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, CHVFC President

From : Gregg Schuster, First Selectman *GS*

Date: 1/31/12

Re: CHVFD Implementation Task Force

Eight months ago, the UConn study group presented their findings to the town. Their study addressed issues with recruitment, retention, and participation of volunteers in the CHVFD. Our volunteers are a tremendous asset to the community, but like other towns, are struggling to keep up with ever-increasing call volume. Additionally, many volunteers have limited time due to work and family constraints.

I believe the town should do everything possible to support and grow our volunteer base. The alternative, a full-time paid staff, is extremely expensive and not in the best interest of Colchester. It appears that not only is call volume rising, but the rate of volunteerism is declining. This is obviously a bad combination.

There was a lot of good information and recommendations that came out of the UConn study and recognizing that there could be controversy around some of the changes, I believe the best course of action is to form an independent task force whose mission is to implement these changes. The recommended composition of the task force is seven members. Additionally, there would be no more than three members on the task force that are involved with the CHVFD in a volunteer or related capacity.

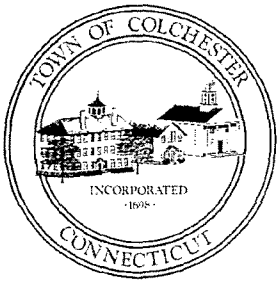
The charge of the task force is as follows:

1. To read and review the UConn report on Recruitment, Retention, and Participation
2. To recommend a new incentive structure for volunteers. The incentives may include tax abatement, stipends, shift pay, call pay, and retirement contributions. The

recommendation should have a financial analysis, be within the ability of the town to afford, and included any necessary changes to the point structure and associated ordinances.

3. Complete the consolidation of the town and CHVFD website into a single website with a plan for updating it with new information on a regular basis.
4. Review and recommend any changes to the number, title, and duties of the chief officers including revised job descriptions, qualifications, and selection process.
5. Review and recommend any changes to the number, title, and duties of other officers including revised job descriptions, qualifications, and selection process.
6. Recommend cradle to grave human resource process beginning with the selection of a new member through the separation of that member.
7. Review and recommend changes to or creation of “in house” training programs.
8. Review any current recognition programs and recommend changes or any new programs.
9. The disposition of the revenue associated with ambulance services shall not be within the scope of the task force.
10. Any other recommendation that is consistent with the concepts addressed within the UConn report.
11. The work of the task force shall be completed by the end of 2012 unless extended for good reason by the Board of Selectmen.

Recommended Motion – “Move to form the CHVFD Implementation Task Force consisting of seven citizens, no more than three of which shall be associated with the Colchester-Hayward Fire Department, with the charge as recommended by the First Selectman.”



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen

Cc:

From : Gregg Schuster, First Selectman *GS*

Date: 02/01/2012

Re: Personnel Policy Update

Over the past year and a half, staff has been heavily involved in revising and updating the Town of Colchester Personnel Policies, which were last revised in 2000.

I am presenting to the Board of Selectmen the revised Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies in a red-line version (so as to show the revised areas). This meeting is simply to distribute the revised version and have a discussion on the process going forward. No action is necessary for this meeting. Once all sections have been reviewed and verbally accepted by the board, we will vote to approve the newly-revised Personnel Policy as a whole document.

Bold and underlined sections are those that are new and red, strike-through sections are those that were deleted.

TOWN OF COLCHESTER



EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK & PERSONNEL POLICIES

DRAFT
January 2012

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER OF CONTRACT

Nothing in this document is intended to create or constitute an expressed or implied contract of employment between the Town of Colchester and any of its present or future employees. The provisions of this document may be revoked or modified at any time by the Town of Colchester, in its absolute discretion.

The Town of Colchester will not recognize or be bound by any contract of employment with any employee or group of employees unless such contract is in writing and is authorized by the Board of Selectmen and signed by both the First Selectman and the employee or the certified collective bargaining representative for a group of employees.

Employment with the Town of Colchester is subject to termination, at will, by either the Town of Colchester or the employee, at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the First Selectman and the employee or the certified bargaining representative for a group of employees or as otherwise provided by state or local law. Both you and the Town of Colchester have the right to terminate employment at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, and with or without notice. Should any provision of these policies conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Colchester and the certified bargaining representative for a group of employees, the provision of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail for the members of that bargaining unit.

I. INTRODUCTION

History

The Town of Colchester, Connecticut was founded in 1698 at a point just north of the present Town Green at Jeremiah's Farm on land purchased by Nathaniel Foote from the Sachem of the Mohegan Indians. Colchester was the vision of a group of early English settlers who sought to lay out a new plantation in a large tract of virgin wilderness. In the early 1900's Colchester became the "Catskills of Connecticut". At least seven major hotels thrived. The tourist industry boomed throughout the 1930s. In the last fifty years the beach traffic brought many through Colchester. The Route 2 by-pass of the town was completed in the 1960s. But for those who did not just pass through, Colchester's dedication to the public school system, its acceptance of all peoples and its quality of life increased its population to 7,761 by 1980. In 2005 it was ranked 57th on the "100 Best Places to Live" in all of the United States, conducted by CNN. In 2010 Colchester became the first town in Connecticut, and the 36th in the country, to be certified with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as a Community Wildlife Habitat. Colchester is one of the fastest growing towns in Connecticut. Today, over 300 years after the settling of Colchester, the population has grown to more than 16,000.

From an employment standpoint, the Town of Colchester strives to maintain a creative, open, spirited, and confident atmosphere in which employees can strive for self-fulfillment and career advancement.

Purpose of Your Employee Handbook

This **employee handbook** is intended to serve as a practical guide to the Town of Colchester's personnel policies and practices. However, since it is only a summary, compiled for the convenience of our employees and supervisors, it is not intended to cover all topics or circumstances. **The Town of Colchester reserves the right to modify, revise, delete, or add to any and all programs, practices or procedures described in this handbook at any time, with or without advance notice, and in the Town's sole discretion. You may receive updated information concerning changes to this handbook. Should you have any questions about any section of this handbook, ask your supervisor or the Human Resources office.** We reserve the right to respond to specific situations in whatever manner we believe best suits the needs of the Town of Colchester and the employee involved. Where there are differences between the provisions of **these policies and other written and approved employment related policies**, or in collective bargaining agreements to which the Town of Colchester is a party, policies and collective bargaining agreements shall control. **Until noted otherwise, for the purposes of this policy, the "Human Resources Office" shall mean the First Selectman's Office. The First Selectman's Office will forward any documents to the appropriate people when necessary.**

Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity

The Town of Colchester is firmly committed and has as its long-standing policy to provide equal opportunity in employment to all qualified persons on the basis of job-related skills, ability and merit.

Except in cases of bona fide occupational qualification or need, the Town of Colchester will continue to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and employees are treated without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, veteran status, or mental disorder (present or history thereof), physical disability, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, or other protected status. This policy applies to all employment actions taken by the Town, including, but not limited to: recruitment, job posting and advertising, hiring, promotion, upgrading, demotion or transfer, layoff and termination, rates of pay and other forms of compensation and benefits, and selection for training.

Sexual (and other) Harassment

Harassment of an employee, by a supervisor or co-worker on the basis of sex, race, color, religion/creed, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, citizenship, marital status or sexual orientation creates a harmful working environment. It is the policy of the Town of Colchester to maintain a working environment free from harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex, race, color, religion/creed, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, citizenship, marital status or sexual orientation. Physical, verbal or non-verbal, (including electronic), conduct, by a supervisor or co-worker relating to any of these characteristics or factors which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or adversely affecting the employee's employment opportunities, will not be tolerated.

While it is difficult to define sexual harassment precisely, it does include any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's employment;
2. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following are examples of the type of conduct prohibited by the policy against sexual harassment:

1. unwelcome sexual relations with a co-worker or supervisor;
2. unwelcome attention of a sexual nature such as degrading comments, propositions, jokes, tricks or noises; or
3. the threat, or suggestion, that continued employment, advancement, assignment, earnings or other terms and conditions of employment depend on whether or not the employee will submit to, or tolerate, harassment.

The use of disability-related or racially derogatory jokes or comments, racial or religious epithets, or ethnic slurs that have the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, and insults or intimidation demonstrating age bias, are also examples of the type of conduct prohibited by this policy.

Any infraction of this policy by supervisors or co-workers should be reported immediately to the Department Head or Human Resources Office. Confidentiality at the time of reporting the infraction is assured; however, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in light of the Town's need to investigate such infraction and resolve the matter. The Town reserves the right to take any appropriate action under all the

circumstances to correct any violation of this policy. Retaliation against any employee for complaining about harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, citizenship, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law is prohibited.

Violations of this policy, including retaliation for filing any complaint or cooperating in any investigation under this policy will not be permitted and may result in discipline, up to and including dismissal.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

The Town is committed to employing all individuals on the basis of ability rather than disability. This commitment includes making reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual. A reasonable accommodation may include any action which enables an individual with a disability to perform the essential functions of his or her position but which does not result in an undue hardship to the business. A “reasonable accommodation” is a change in the work environment or work procedures that gives a qualified individual with a disability the same employment opportunities as non-disabled individuals.

If an individual requests an accommodation, we will determine whether the individual has a “disability” as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or any other state or federal disability law and whether an accommodation is appropriate and reasonable. This may require assistance from your physician or medical care provider. To request an accommodation or other assistance, contact your supervisor or Human Resources.

Anti-Discrimination

We are committed to providing a work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful discrimination. Discrimination in any form is illegal and all discriminatory practices are prohibited and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. It is our policy to provide a work environment free from all forms of discrimination which may be considered harassing, offensive, coercive, hostile, intimidating, threatening or disruptive. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, harassment, joking and demeaning remarks, stories, use of nicknames or other abusive conduct directed at an employee because of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, citizenship, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Reporting Legal / Ethical Violations

It is the philosophy of the Town of Colchester that every employee has the responsibility to take action to prevent problems and improve our operation. If

employees observe possible unethical or illegal conduct, they are encouraged to report their concerns.

Employees and others may communicate suspected violations of law, policy, or other wrongdoing, as well as any concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters (including deficiencies in internal controls) by contacting their supervisor, Human Resources, or the First Selectman.

We will treat all communications under this policy in a confidential manner, except to the extent necessary to conduct a complete and fair investigation, or for review of operations. All inquiries will be subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines and regulations.

The Town prohibits any form of retaliation against any employee for filing a good faith complaint under this policy or for assisting in a complaint investigation.

Workplace Threats and Violence

~~Nothing is more important to~~ The Town of Colchester ~~than~~ **regards** the safety and security of its employees **as critical. There is a zero tolerance policy towards any** threats, threatening behavior, or acts of violence against employees, visitors, guests, or other individuals by employees on Town of Colchester property or in relation to employment with the Town ~~will not be tolerated~~. Violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal, arrest, and prosecution.

Any employee who ~~makes substantial threats, exhibits threatening behavior~~ **threatens another employee (such as harassment, intimidation, displaying a weapon, etc.),** or engages in violent acts on Town property shall be removed from the premises as quickly as safety permits, and shall remain off Town premises pending the outcome of an investigation. The Town will initiate an appropriate response. This response may include, but not be limited to, suspension and/or termination, reassignment of job duties, suspension or termination of employment, and/or criminal prosecution of the employee or employees involved.

All Town of Colchester personnel are responsible for notifying the management representative designated below of any threats, which they have witnessed, received, or have been told that another employee has witnessed or received. Even without an actual threat, personnel should also report any behavior they have witnessed which they regard as threatening or violent, when that behavior is job related or might be carried out on a Town-controlled site, or is connected to employment with the Town. Employees are responsible for making this report regardless of the relationship between the employee or persons who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the employee or persons who were threatened or were the focus of the threatening behavior. If the designated management representative is not available, personnel

should report the threat to their supervisor (or that individual's supervisor if the threat is made by the supervisor).

All individuals who apply for or obtain a protective or restraining order which lists Town locations as being protected areas, must provide to the designated management representative a copy of the petition and declarations used to seek the order, a copy of any temporary protective or restraining order which is granted, and a copy of any protective or restraining order which is made permanent.

The Town of Colchester understands the sensitivity of the information requested and has developed confidentiality procedures, which recognize and respect the privacy of the reporting employee(s).

The designated management representative is:

~~Name: Jenny Contois~~
~~Title: First Selectman~~
~~Telephone: 537-7220~~
~~Location: Selectman's Office, Town Hall~~

~~ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE~~

~~The Town of Colchester maintains a zero tolerance policy on violence in the workplace. Any violent act is strictly prohibited. Participating in, provoking or otherwise contributing to any violent act in the workplace including but not limited to abuse, assault, battery, threats and/or harassment will result in severe disciplinary action up to and including discharge.~~

Release of Employee Information

Employee personnel files and records are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be requested for viewing from outside individuals, organizations, and agencies. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines take precedent over FOIA regulations with regards to employee information being available and therefore personal medical records are not subject to FOIA requests.

Conflict of Interest

Employees have an obligation to conduct business within Town policies that prohibit actual or potential conflicts of interest. This section establishes only the framework within which the Town of Colchester wishes to operate. The purpose of these policies is to provide general direction so that employees can seek further clarification on issues related to the subject of acceptable standards of operation. All employees are bound by the Town of Colchester's Code of Ethics.

An actual or potential conflict of interest occurs when an employee is in a position to influence a work-related decision that may result in a personal gain for that employee or for a relative. Personal gain may result not only in cases where an employee or relative has a significant ownership in a firm with which The Town does business, but also when an employee or relative receives any kickback, bribe, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving the Town.

No “presumption of guilt” is created by the mere existence of a relationship with outside firms. However, if an employee has any influence on transactions involving purchases, contracts, leases, etc., he or she must disclose the existence of any actual or potential conflict of interest as soon as possible to a manager so that safeguards can be established to protect all parties.

Employees must not engage in any other employment or self-employment, or providing services to others, with or without compensation, during normal working hours.

II. YOUR JOB

Employment Classification

An employee's classification is determined based upon the employee's regular hourly workweek with the Town of Colchester. While it does not alter the at-will nature of employment with the Town, an employee's classification is significant, as it determines what Town-provided benefits, if any, an employee is eligible to receive.

The employment classifications for employees working for the Town of Colchester are as follows:

A. Regular. A regular employee is hired for “continuous” work and not hired to fulfill duties on a temporary or short-term basis.

d.B. Temporary. A temporary employee is one who provides services to the Town of Colchester on an "as-needed," intermittent or seasonal basis. Temporary employees are not eligible for any benefits offered by the Town of Colchester. **Temporary employees may participate in the Town's Deferred Compensation Plan as set forth in these personnel policies.**

a.C. Full-time. A full-time employee is one who ~~has successfully completed a three (3) month probationary period of employment and who~~ consistently works throughout the year for a minimum of thirty-five (35) hours per week. Full-time employees who meet all other qualifications required by the Town and/or its benefits provider(s), are eligible for all of the employee benefits offered by the Town, such as group insurance, ~~holidays, vacation, sick leave,~~ **paid time-off**, leaves of absence, and other benefits as set forth in this handbook.

b.D. Part-time. A part-time employee is one who ~~has successfully completed a three (3) month probationary period of employment and who consistently works throughout the year~~ **is normally scheduled** to work less than thirty-five (35) hours per week **on a regular basis**. Part-time employees are paid on an hourly or daily salary basis. There are two (2) different part-time classifications:

1. Part-time employees who consistently work a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week and who meet all other qualifications required by the Town are eligible to earn ~~vacation, holiday, sick leave, paid time-off~~, longevity, and ~~life~~ insurance benefits and to participate in our ~~IRA~~ 401(a) plan on a prorated basis as set forth in these personnel policies. Employees who consistently work a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week also receive the long-term disability benefit and may participate in the Town's Deferred Compensation 457 Plan as set forth in these personnel policies.
2. Part-time employees who consistently work less than thirty (30) hours per week are not entitled to any fringe benefits offered by the Town, unless otherwise explicitly provided in this handbook and personnel policies.

e.E. Probationary. During the first three months of any full-time or part-time employee's employment with the Town of Colchester, the employee will be considered a probationary employee. Probationary employees are not eligible for any benefits offered by the Town of Colchester. Sick leave, personal leave and vacation will accrue, but cannot be used, during ~~probation~~ **this period. The probationary period for newly-hired full-time or part-time employees may be waived with the permission of the First Selectman through a signed letter confirming such waiver.**

F. Elected Official. **An elected official is one who has been duly elected by the residents of the Town of Colchester or appointed to fill a vacancy and is otherwise considered a "full-time" employee as defined in this section. The elected officials that this policy pertains to are solely the First Selectman, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. Elected officials are not subject to the three (3) month probationary period upon election or appointment. Elected officials are eligible for all of the employee benefits offered by the Town, such as group insurance, paid time-off, leaves of absence, and other benefits as set forth in these personnel policies effective the first day of the month immediately following their election or appointment. Benefits provided to paid, full-time elected officials are to be determined by the Town of Colchester's Board of Selectmen and may be expanded or decreased as is deemed in the best interest of the Town.**

G. Exempt And Non-Exempt Status. **Consistent with applicable federal and state wage and hour laws, employee classifications fall into one of two categories: "exempt" or "non-exempt." These terms are defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act, which is a federal law requiring that certain employees be paid at least the minimum wage and overtime for hours worked over 40 hours a week. However,**

the law provides that some employees are “exempt” from this requirement, and therefore do not have to be paid a specific hourly wage or overtime. You will be advised whether your position is an exempt or non-exempt position.

Exempt: Exempt employees do not have any limits on the hours that may be worked in a given work or pay period. They are expected to work the hours needed to accomplish their job responsibilities without receiving extra pay for overtime worked.

Non-Exempt: Non-exempt employees are paid an hourly rate and are eligible for overtime pay at the rate of 1 ½ times their regular hourly rate of pay for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per work week.

Employee Hiring and Dismissal (ADDED FROM CURRENT POLICY)

Purpose

The Town of Colchester Charter, Article IV The Board of Selectmen, § C-402, C. “The appointment and dismissal of all Town employees shall be administered by the Board of Selectmen, but the Board of Selectmen may delegate such authority as is deemed necessary for the sound administration of Town government.”

The Town of Colchester Charter, Article XIII Town Employees and Appointed Officials, § C-1301 “The appointment and dismissal of all Town employees, except those who are elected or are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Police Commissioners, shall be made by the Board of Selectmen, but the Board of Selectmen may delegate such authority as is deemed necessary for the sound administration of Town government. All appointments shall be made on the basis of merit and after examination of qualifications. The Board of Selectmen shall neither appoint nor dismiss Town employees associated with fire protection services except as recommended by the Fire Chief. Before the appointment or dismissal of any Town employee, the Board of Selectmen shall consult with the board, department or individual to whom the services of such employee are to be or have been rendered.”

The purpose of this policy is to specify the Board of Selectmen’s delegation of authority for the hiring and dismissal of Town employees and joint Town/Board of Education (BOE) employees as it pertains to the language of the Town of Colchester charter.

Town Employee Hiring and Dismissal

The First Selectman shall hire and dismiss employees of the town, with the exception of employees whose employment is otherwise provided by law, and department heads. For the purposes of this policy, department heads are: Assessor, Building Official, CHVFD Chief, Cragin Memorial Library Director, Public Works Director, Recreation Manager, Senior Center Director, Town Engineer, Town Planner/Planning Director, and Youth & Social Services Director.

The Board of Selectmen shall be given notice of all full-time and part-time employees who are hired or dismissed by the First Selectman prior to the next Board of Selectmen meeting immediately following the hire or dismissal. This notification requirement to the Board of Selectmen shall not apply to per-diem or temporary/seasonal employee hiring or dismissal actions.

At either of its next two meetings following such hiring or dismissal notification to an employee, the Board of Selectmen, by a majority vote, may request a review of the decision to hire or dismiss and make a recommendation to the First Selectman. The authority to hire and dismiss department heads and employees whose employment is otherwise provided by law rests solely with the Board of Selectmen.

Joint Town/Board of Education Employee Hiring and Dismissal

Joint Town/Board of Education employees, including department heads serving as joint employees, may be hired or dismissed following the approval of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education by majority vote or its designee. The Chief Financial Officer's hiring and dismissal shall be processed per the Town of Colchester Charter.

Termination of Employment

Termination of employment is an inevitable part of personnel activity within any organization, and many of the reasons for termination are routine. Below are examples of some of the most common circumstances under which employment is terminated:

Resignation: voluntary employment termination initiated by an employee.

Discharge: involuntary employment termination initiated by the employer.

Layoff: involuntary employment termination initiated by the employer that is generally not for disciplinary reasons.

Some benefits may be continued at the employee's expense if the employee so chooses. The employee will be notified in writing of the benefits that may be continued and of the terms, conditions, and limitations of such continuance.

Notice

We hope that you will remain with the Town; however, should you decide to resign, we request that you provide two weeks advance notice to your supervisor (in writing).

Return of Equipment/Supplies

Prior to the end of the last day of work the employee must return all Town equipment and property to his/her supervisor. This includes, but is not limited to, the return of all uniforms, credit cards, badges, and keys. Terminating employees are required to settle any outstanding debts prior to the last day of employment.

Benefits Continuation (COBRA)

Federal law may allow employees and their dependents who are covered by our health insurance program to temporarily continue that coverage following certain qualifying events (such as termination of employment), when health coverage would otherwise end.

Employee Relations

We have an open door policy. There may be times when you will have a constructive suggestion or a complaint to make. There also may be times when a difference of opinion will arise between you and another employee or your supervisor. We encourage you to bring any questions, suggestions, and complaints to our attention. We will give careful consideration to each of these in our continuing effort to improve our operations.

We are committed to open and honest discussion of employee problems and concerns raised in good faith without fear of retaliation. The best way to clarify a misunderstanding, solve a problem, or resolve a difference of opinion is to discuss the matter directly with the other person(s). If the matter goes unresolved, we believe that the following procedure will ensure that complaints receive full consideration. Should an unsatisfactory situation arise concerning the terms and conditions of your employment, it is important that you bring it to the attention of the appropriate person according to the following procedure:

Step 1 - Talk to your supervisor within 15 working days of event. It is your supervisor's responsibility to ensure that any complaint received is given prompt attention.

Step 2 - In the event you feel the problem remains unresolved after discussing it with your supervisor, (or if your issue directly involves your supervisor), you are encouraged to meet with the Department Head within 15 working days of event or non-resolution. Department head has 15 working days to respond to employee.

Step 3 - If you still feel that your problem/complaint remains unresolved, you may request a meeting with the First Selectman within 15 working days of non-resolution and First Selectman has 15 working days to respond to the employee.

Performance Appraisal

Ongoing communication between employees and supervisors to establish goals, clarify job accountabilities, and determine performance standards is the key to effectively managing performance, ensuring that employees have the tools to be successful in their jobs and ultimately ensuring the success of the Town. The performance management and appraisal process provides an ongoing means of communication between supervisors and employees resulting in an annual written performance appraisal. Appraisals are prepared based on the performance activities of the past year.

Performance appraisals will include a summary of the employee's performance that is measured against job accountabilities, performance standards and specific goals, and objectives during the performance period. The appraisal will also be used to create goals and development objectives for the new performance period.

Your job performance and your ability to comply with policies and practices directly affect your career advancement, your pay, and your continued employment.

Development Opportunities

The Town of Colchester is committed to providing employees opportunities for individual growth and development in their jobs. You should accept the challenge to grow and develop in your job. The Town will provide you with the opportunity for training, future growth, and career development. By the same token, it is expected that employees will take an active approach in self-improvement by seeking out educational and training opportunities.

Attendance

~~The Town of Colchester relies on all of its employees to report to work regularly and on time. If an employee is going to be late or absent, he or she must contact his or her supervisor immediately. If an employee has to leave work early, he or she must obtain advance approval from his or her supervisor.~~

~~The Town will take disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, where an employee's attendance is unacceptable or where an employee fails to comply with the above notice requirements.~~

You are important to our success, and each job is important to the smooth operation of our Town. Reporting to work on time, continuing to work until the end of the workday, and being at work on a regular and consistent basis is expected of each employee. Your attendance and punctuality record directly affects your performance evaluations, your opportunities for advancement and your continued employment.

The Town does not tolerate unexcused absences. An excused absence means that you have requested and received your supervisor's permission to be absent for a certain day. An "unexcused absence" is defined as all other absences when your supervisor has not approved the time off or where you have failed to make appropriate attempts to contact your supervisor. More than three unexcused absences in a year will result in discipline up to and including discharge. Consecutive absences may be treated as one incident.

If you are absent from work for three (3) consecutive work days and fail to properly call in to your supervisor, you will be considered to have voluntarily resigned.

If it should become necessary for you to be late or absent, you are required to inform your supervisor as soon as possible. Speak directly with your supervisor. It is also expected that you will notify your supervisor in advance to request time off unless it is a case of illness or unexpected emergency situation. Calling in to say that you are taking vacation time or time off for some other reason that could have been scheduled in advance is not acceptable.

Even if reported and excused, absenteeism and tardiness that becomes excessive places a heavy burden on other employees. What is "excessive absenteeism"? Employees are provided with vacation, personal, and sick time. Absences in excess of this time are considered excessive – such situations will be addressed by disciplinary action and possibly termination of employment. However, excessive absenteeism does not include approved and documented leaves of absence, jury duty, military duty, approved and scheduled vacation time, or bereavement leave taken within Town guidelines. Excessive absenteeism will result in discipline up to and including discharge.

Tardiness is not acceptable. Excessive tardiness is subject to discipline.

Lunch and Breaks

Lunch times and length of lunch periods are to be determined by department management, in accordance with applicable labor laws. You may not forego your lunch period in order to shorten your workday. Employees are expected to work up to the start of the lunch period and be at their workstations ready to work at the end of the lunch period.

Personnel Records

Each employee is responsible for updating personnel information with the ~~First Selectman~~ **Human Resources Office**, in writing, when there is a change in the employee's address, telephone number, marital status, emergency contact, or number and names of dependents.

Tax information must be kept current. W-4 forms are available in the ~~Payroll Department~~ **Human Resources Office** throughout the year.

A personnel file will be maintained by the ~~First Selectman~~ **Human Resources Office** on each employee of the Town of Colchester and may contain any or all of the following items:

1. Employment application, resume, letters of reference;
2. Correspondence and agreements regarding employment with the Town of Colchester;
3. Copies of any evaluations;
4. Requests for vacation, leave, personal days and all other authorized absences;
5. Copies of all correspondence or other records relating to employment, promotion, discipline, dismissal or resignation;
6. Authorizations for withholding monies from pay for any lawful purpose;
7. Authorizations for pay changes signed by the First Selectman.

All records maintained by the ~~First Selectman~~ **Human Resources Office** are the property of the Town of Colchester and subject to the State's Record Retention Requirements, and the requirements of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. Employees may view their personnel files at mutually agreeable times. **When reviewed, personnel files may not be taken from the Human Resources Office and must be reviewed with the supervision of an employee of the Human Resources Office.**

III. YOUR PAY AND BENEFITS

Your Paycheck

All employees are paid on a bi-weekly basis. All required deductions for federal, state or local taxes, and all authorized voluntary deductions such as health or dental plans, 401(a), 457, etc. are withheld from your paycheck. All paychecks will be directly deposited into your personal checking or savings account(s).

Non-exempt Employee Pay

If you are classified as a non-exempt employee, you must maintain a record of the total hours you work each day. These hours must be accurately recorded on a time card that will be provided to you by your supervisor. Your time card must accurately reflect all regular and overtime hours worked, any absences, late arrivals, early departures, and meal breaks. Any absences will be verified by the employee and their supervisor and coded properly on the time card for payroll and record keeping purposes.

Unless you are authorized by your supervisor, you should not work any hours that are not authorized. Do not start work early, finish work late, work during a meal break or perform any other extra or overtime work unless you are authorized to do so and that time is recorded on your time card. Employees are prohibited from performing any "off-the-clock" work. "Off-the-clock" work means work you may perform but fail to report on your time card. Any employee who fails to report or inaccurately reports any hours worked will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

It is a violation of the Town's policy for any employee to falsify a time card, or to alter another employee's time card. It is also a serious violation of Town policy for any employee or supervisor to instruct another employee to incorrectly or falsely report hours worked or alter another employee's time card to under- or over-report hours worked. If any supervisor or employee instructs you to (1) incorrectly or falsely under- or over-report your hours worked, or (2) alter another employee's time records to inaccurately or falsely report that employee's hours worked, you should report it immediately to the Human Resources Office.

Exempt Employee Pay

If you are classified as an exempt salaried employee, you will receive a salary that is intended to compensate you for all hours you may work for the Town. This salary will be established at the time of hire or when you become classified as an exempt employee. While it may be subject to review and modification from time to time, such as during salary review times, the salary will be a predetermined

amount that will not be subject to deductions for variations in the quantity or quality of the work you perform.

Exempt employees must complete a bi-weekly time card and is responsible for maintaining a record of time off taken due to vacation, illness, bereavement, etc.

Your wages may be reduced for certain types of deductions such as your portion of the insurance premiums; state, federal or local taxes; social security; or, voluntary contributions to a 401(a) and/or 457 plan.

Reporting Paycheck Concerns

If you believe you have been subject to any improper deductions or your pay does not accurately reflect your hours worked, you should immediately report the matter to Payroll. If Payroll is unavailable, you should immediately contact the Human Resources Office.

In the event that your paycheck is lost or stolen, please notify your supervisor immediately or the Payroll Department.

Overtime

Non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of time and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek. For the purpose of calculating overtime, hours not worked but credited to an eligible, non-exempt employee include: holidays, paid sick leave, and vacation days. All overtime work must be authorized in advance by the employee's supervisor.

Benefits

The Town of Colchester provides the following benefits to full-time employees, as defined in these personnel policies. The Town of Colchester also provides pro-rated benefits as well as others as outlined in this policy to employees who work no less than 30 hours per week, excluding health insurance. The Town of Colchester reserves the right to modify or eliminate any benefits from time to time in its sole discretion, and without prior notice to employees. The Town will provide such notice of benefit changes as is practical at the time of the change. Should any statement contained herein conflict with the terms of any actual benefit plan or contract, including any individual employment contract, the terms of such plan or contract shall prevail.

~~Paid, full-time, elected Officials (First Selectman, Town Clerk, Tax Collector) are provided medical and dental benefits, long-term disability (LTD), as outlined in these~~

~~policies, and may also participate in the Town's Deferred Compensation Plan. Benefits provided to paid, full-time elected officials are to be determined by the Town of Colchester's Board of Selectmen and may be expanded or decreased as is deemed in the best interest of the Town.~~

Holidays

Eligible full-time employees and part-time employees regularly scheduled to work at least thirty (30) hours per week shall observe the following holidays off with pay annually:

1. ½ Day New Year's Eve
2. New Year's Day
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
4. Presidents' Birthday
5. Good Friday
6. Memorial Day
7. Independence Day
8. Labor Day
9. Columbus Day
10. Thanksgiving Day
11. Day After Thanksgiving
12. Veterans' Day
13. ½ Day Christmas Eve
14. Christmas Day
15. One (1) Floating Holiday

Employees eligible for holidays off with pay shall be paid for the hours they were regularly scheduled to work on ~~the holiday a work day.~~ ~~if they~~ **Eligible employees must** work their full schedule on the first regularly scheduled work day immediately prior to the holiday and on the first regularly scheduled workday immediately following the holiday, or ~~if they were~~ **be** on an approved paid leave of absence ~~with pay for such days.~~

Regular, part-time employees who are consistently scheduled to work at least twenty (20) hours per week shall be eligible for holidays off with pay and according to the preceding guidelines.

For the purpose of calculating overtime, hours credited to an eligible full-time employee for holiday pay will be considered as hours worked. If a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday it will be observed on the preceding Friday or the following Monday, at the sole discretion of the Town.

Vacations

All **regular** employees **who work at least 20 hours per week** will receive their vacation time on January 1st of each year, based on the prior year's accrual. Employees **presently will** accrue vacation days based on completed years of service as follows:

<u>Years of Completed, Continuous Full-Time Employment</u>	<u>Annual Vacation</u>
After 1 year	One week (5 working days)
After 2 years	Two weeks (10 working days)
After 7 years	Three weeks (15 working days)
After 14 years	Four weeks (20 working days)

<u>0 – less than six months</u>	<u>0 days</u>
<u>6 mos – 1 yr</u>	<u>3 days</u>
<u>1 year</u>	<u>10 days</u>
<u>2 years</u>	<u>11 days</u>
<u>3 years</u>	<u>12 days</u>
<u>4 years</u>	<u>13 days</u>
<u>5 years</u>	<u>15 days</u>
<u>6 years</u>	<u>16 days</u>
<u>7 years</u>	<u>17 days</u>
<u>8 years</u>	<u>18 days</u>
<u>9 years</u>	<u>19 days</u>
<u>10 years</u>	<u>20 days</u>
<u>More than 10 years</u>	<u>20 days</u>

Part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work at least thirty (30) hours per week shall earn vacation on a pro-rated basis, but such employees shall, in no case, be entitled to more than two (2) weeks of vacation per year. **Part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work at least twenty (20) hours per week shall earn vacation on a pro-rated basis, but such employees shall, in no case, be entitled to more than one (1) week of vacation per year.**

Full-time employees do not accrue or earn vacation benefits during unpaid leaves of absence **when the leave lasts longer than 30 days. In such a situation, the** An unpaid leave of absence will be deducted from the employee's total continuous years of service for the purpose of determining vacation entitlement.

In the event a paid Town holiday falls within an employee's scheduled vacation period, that holiday will not count as an employee vacation day.

Employees who request vacation time must complete a Time-Off Request Form (available in the Human Resources Office). Vacation time must be pre-approved by the employee's immediate supervisor. Normally, individual vacation days will be requested three or more days in advance. In case of emergency or unusual circumstances, less notice may be given for vacation request.

Any employee may take vacation days in conjunction with personal leave days, holidays or sick leave.

Assignment of vacation time off will be based on the operational needs of the Town.

Employees ~~who work 30 hours or more and qualify for vacation benefits will be allowed to **may** carry over accrued unused vacation days to a maximum accumulation of 30 days~~ **no more than 10 vacation days per year. Carryover of more than 10 vacation days per year must be approved by the employee's supervisor and the First Selectman.**

Upon termination or retirement, each employee will be paid for accrued vacation at his/her current base rate of pay.

The First Selectman can grant newly-hired employees more vacation, than the above table allots, at his/her discretion.

Joint Town/Board of Education employees' vacation time is accounted for on a fiscal year basis.

Medical and Dental Insurance

~~Each full-time employee may currently elect single, two-person or family coverage under one of the following medical plans:~~

- ~~1. Century Preferred Managed Care Plan~~
- ~~2. Blue Care Managed Care Plan~~

~~All references in this Policy to types of benefits are solely for the purposes of description and identification, and in all cases the terms and provisions of insurance policies themselves shall govern any claim. The Town currently provides a copy of the insurance plans to all employees covered by this Policy.~~

~~Employees shall be given the opportunity to change their election of a plan on an annual basis only.~~ **All full-time employees may elect to receive group insurance**

coverage provided by the Town for their employee group. Whenever the Town changes the group insurance plans or contributions, employees of the affected group shall be given written notification of such change. Detailed descriptions of the group insurance plans are available at the Human Resources Office.

The benefit choices you make during the annual open enrollment period take effect July 1 and remain in effect until June 30 each year. After July 1, you may only make changes to your benefits if you notify Human Resources within 30 days of a qualifying event. A qualifying event is a change in an employee's or dependent's status that results in a gain or loss of coverage or coverage options. The election change must be consistent with the change in status.

The Town may change insurance carriers or modify the insurance policies described in this section at any time in its sole discretion and without prior notice to employees. The Town will provide such notice of benefit changes as is practical at the time of the change.

~~Each eligible employee shall contribute, through weekly payroll deduction, seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of the monthly premium cost for individual, two-person or family medical benefit coverage for the Century Preferred Plan and seven and one-half percent (7.5%) for the monthly premium cost for individual, two-person or family medical benefit coverage for dental benefits. The Town contributes one hundred percent (100%) of the monthly premium cost for individual, two-person or family coverage for the Blue Care Managed Care Plan. The preceding contribution rates are subject to change without prior notice to employees. The Town will provide such notice of change as is practical at the time of the change.~~

The Town currently maintains a plan under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code for the purpose of permitting employees to make their premium contributions on a pre-tax basis, to the extent provided by law.

~~The Town, in its sole discretion, may elect to implement a program of cost containment procedures, including, but not limited to pre-admission review, admission planning services, admission and continued stay review, second surgical opinions and hospital bill audits. Prior to implementing any such program, the town will provide information sessions for employees. For non-Medicare eligible employees who have been employed by the Town of Colchester for a minimum of 10 years, who retire on or after July 1, 2000, medical coverage for the most cost-effective plan offered to Town employees shall be provided for the retiree and the retiree's spouse at the group rate for such benefits for a period not to exceed five (5) years or upon the retiree's eligibility for Medicare with the cost of the monthly premium paid by the retiree. Once an employee opts out of such plan coverage, he or she will not be eligible for readmission.~~

~~At such time as a retiree who retires on or after July 1, 2000 becomes eligible for Medicare, the Town shall provide for Medicare risk plan coverage as an alternative to~~

~~Medicare with the cost of the monthly premium paid by the retiree as long as such plans are available to the Town.~~

Long-Term Disability (LTD)

~~A **regular** employee who works a minimum of 30 hours per week who is disabled **for a period of 90 days** due to an accident or sickness that is not compensable under the Worker's Compensation Act and who has exhausted all of **his/her their** paid leave benefits shall be eligible for weekly accident/sickness disability insurance payments up to sixty percent (60%) of his/her base rate at the time of disability, to a maximum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per month **until age 65**. ~~These benefits will be offset by weekly worker's compensation benefits (not to include specific indemnity benefits covering specific loss or disfigurement), and other state or federally-mandated benefits the employee receives. In no instance shall such benefits being until after 90 days of disability.~~~~

Joint Town/Board of Education employees shall be eligible for weekly accident/sickness disability insurance payments up to sixty percent (60%) of his/her base rate at the time of disability, to a maximum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per month until age 65.

Individual Retirement Account 401(a) Plan

~~Full-time employees, are eligible to receive an I.R.A. plan contributed to, by the town, in an institution of the town's choice.~~

~~After one year of continuous employment, the town contributes into the I.A.A. plan for full time employees based on the base wages (excluding overtime, longevity and any other pay on top of base pay) is three percent (3%). This contribution percentage increases to four (4%) at the beginning of the fiscal year following completion of the first four continuous years of service by the employee. As of July 1, 2000 this contribution percentage increases to five (5%) at the beginning of the fiscal year following completion of the six continuous years of service by the employee.~~

~~It is the responsibility of the employee to abide by all I.R.S. guidelines concerning their I.A.A. Participation in this plan is subject to any and all requirements set forth in applicable laws, as the same may be amended from time to time.~~

~~As of July 1, 2000 part-time employees working at least thirty hours per week on a continuous basis are eligible to receive an I.A.A. plan, contributed to, by the town, in an institution of the town's choice.~~

~~After one year of continuous employment, the town contributes into the I.R.A. plan for thirty hour a week employees based on the base wages (excluding overtime, longevity and any other pay on top of base pay) is two percent (2%). This contribution percentage increases to three (3%) at the beginning of the fiscal year following completion of the~~

~~first four continuous years of service by the employee. This contribution percentage increases to four (4%) at the beginning of the fiscal year following completion of the six continuous years of service by the employee.~~

~~It is the responsibility of the employee to abide by all I.R.S. guidelines concerning their I.R.A. Participation in this plan is subject to any and all requirements set forth in applicable laws, as, the same, may be amended from time to time.~~

~~An employee may, in writing, request, if they are eligible, to have the town's I.R.A. contribution put into their existing 457 Deferred Compensation Plan instead of the I.R.A.~~

~~The I.R.A. accounts cannot be closed by the employees without prior approval.~~

Employees who are regularly scheduled to work at least thirty-five (35) hours per week, have the option to participate in a Section 401(a) Plan after the end of his/her probationary period. For those who choose to participate, the Town and the employee will each contribute 6% of base pay (not including overtime, longevity, etc.) beginning on the employee's first day after the probationary period concludes. Employee contributions will be made on a pre-tax basis. The combined contribution by the Town and the Employee will not exceed the maximum allowed by law per year. Employees can voluntarily contribute more than the maximum percentages quoted above on an after tax-basis subject to annual limits allowed by law including pre-tax employer and employee contributions.

For those employees who chose not to participate in the Section 401(a) Plan, the employee will not receive any matching contribution from the Town.

Part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work at least thirty (30) hours per week are eligible to participate in a Section 401(a) Plan after the end of his/her probationary period. The Town and the employee will each contribute 3% of base pay (not including overtime, longevity, etc.) beginning on the employee's first day after the probationary period concludes. Rules regulating full-time employees with regards to this plan shall govern part-time employees as well. Employees that are eligible to participate in the Town's 401(a) Plan are subject to a five (5)-year vesting period, whereby the employee attains twenty percent (20%) rights to the Town's contributions each year to a total of one hundred percent (100%) at the completion of five (5) years of employment with the Town.

All employees hired prior to the adoption of this policy are considered 100% vested.

457 Deferred Compensation Plan

~~Each~~ **All full- and part-time employees has** have the option of ~~participating in contributing to~~ the Town's ~~Deferred Compensation Plan under~~ Section 457 **Plan** of the ~~Internal Revenue Code of 1986.~~ **after their probationary period concludes. The Town will not make matching contributions to the 457 Plan. An employee, who wishes to participate in this plan, will be given both company representative names to contact with their questions.**

Life Insurance

All regular, full-time, **non-exempt** employees **who work at least thirty-five (35) hours per week** are provided group life insurance in the amount ~~ranging from \$20,000 to~~ of \$50,000, ~~as of July 1, 2000, depending on an employee's classification and bargaining unit status.~~

Full-time, exempt employees are provided group life insurance in the amount of \$60,000.

Part-time employees working at least thirty hours per week, ~~as of July 1, 2000,~~ are provided group life insurance in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Joint Town/Board of Education employees are provided group life insurance in the amount of their annual base salary.

Longevity Bonus

Employees hired on the date of or after the adoption of this handbook and personnel policy manual are not eligible for longevity bonuses.

Full-time employees of the Town of Colchester, who have completed five (5) years of continuous, full-time employment with the Town, are eligible for the following yearly longevity bonus, determined by the employee's length of continuous full-time service with the Town as of July 1 of each year:

<u>Years of Completed, Continuous, Full-Time Employment</u>	<u>Yearly Amount</u>
6 - 9th year	\$450
10 - 14th year	\$500
15 - 19th year	\$600
20th year and over	\$750

Employees who work no less than 30 hours per week, who have completed five (5) years of continuous full-time employment with the Town are eligible for a longevity bonus on a pro-rated basis.

<u>Years of Completed, Continuous, Full-Time Employment</u>	<u>Yearly Amount</u>
6-9th Year	\$386
10-14th year	\$430
15-19th year	\$515
20th year and over	\$600

Longevity bonuses will be paid in July of each fiscal year to eligible employees.

Any unpaid leave of absence will be deducted from the employee's total continuous years of service for the purpose of determining the employee's eligibility for a longevity bonus.

Performance Incentive

Employees hired on or after the adoption of this handbook and personnel policy manual are eligible for an annual performance bonus.

Employees hired prior to the adoption of this handbook and personnel policy manual must opt out of the longevity bonus program permanently to be eligible for the annual performance bonus.

Eligibility and receipt of performance bonuses is at the discretion of the First Selectman.

Leaves of Absence

Personal Days

~~Regular, Full-time~~ employees who have completed ~~three (3) months of continuous full-time employment~~ **their probationary period** with the Town of Colchester will receive four (4) personal days each year on January 1st of the following year. Employees who work no less than thirty (30) hour per week receive personal days on a prorated basis - 2 personal days each year on January 1st of the **following** year.

New ~~employees-hires~~ **hires** will have personal days prorated as follows:

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES:

<u>Start Date</u>	
January 1 - March 31:	3 Days
April 1 - June 30:	2 Days
July 1 - September 30:	1 Day
October 1 - December 31:	0 Day

PART TIME **(30 hour)** EMPLOYEES:

<u>Start Date</u>	
January 1 - June 30:	1 Day
July 1 - December 31:	0 Day

Employees must use their personal days in the year earned. Under no circumstances will employees be permitted to accumulate personal days from one year to the next. The Town of Colchester does not reimburse, or in any other manner compensate, employees for unused personal leave days upon termination of employment. Employees forfeit all unused personal days at the expiration of each calendar year.

It is the responsibility of the employee to submit a written request to his or her supervisor to take a personal leave day ~~The First Selectman, on recommendation of the employee's supervisor, shall decide whether to grant an employee's request to take a personal leave day. Personal leave is to be used solely for the purpose of conducting personal business, which cannot be transacted outside of work hours (i.e. house closings, court appearances). Such request(s) shall not be unreasonably denied.~~ **and permission to take such a personal leave day is contingent upon the supervisor's approval.**

Sick Leave

Regular full-time employees accrue paid sick leave at the rate of one (1) working day for each month of continuous, full-time employment ~~with the Town of Colchester~~. No sick leave credit shall be earned for partial months of service. Full-time employees may accumulate up to sixty (60) days of paid sick leave, which may be carried over from year to year.

Part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week accrue paid sick leave ~~on a prorated basis~~ **at a rate of 3.50 days a month** for each month of such continuous part-time employment ~~with the Town of Colchester~~ to a cap of **forty (40) hours per year**. No sick leave credit shall be earned for partial months of service. **Part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week may**

carry over unused sick time but cannot use more than forty (40) hours in a year.

Part-time employees who regularly work less than thirty (30) hours per week and more than 10 hours per week are entitled to earn one (1) hours of paid sick leave for every forty (40) hours worked. Part-time employees may carry over sick leave but cannot use more than forty (40) hours in a year.

Any employee who is ~~sick~~ **absent** for three (3) or more consecutive working days ~~must~~ **may be required to** submit a physician's statement to ~~his/her~~ **their** supervisor documenting the reason for the absence, as well as expected date on which the employee will return to work. The Town of Colchester reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to require a physician's statement in other circumstances, including but not limited to cases of suspected abuse of sick leave benefits. In the event that any employee is unable to report to work, ~~he or she~~ **they** must notify ~~his or her~~ **their** supervisor of that fact prior to the start of the employee's scheduled work day, or as soon as possible thereafter. Eligibility of an employee to receive paid sick leave is ~~contingent upon the employee's compliance with~~ **granted only if the employee meets** the advance notice requirement and the employer's request for production of a physician's statement.

~~For the purpose of bridging the ninety (90) day waiting period for Long Term Disability (LTD) insurance, employees may accumulate up to 30 additional days of sick leave which can also be drawn from in special circumstances involving serious health conditions at the discretion of the First Selectman unless otherwise specified in collective bargaining agreements.~~

Employment Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence

Employees who are victims of domestic violence shall not be terminated, penalized, threatened, or coerced with respect to their employment because the employee: (1) is a victim of family violence; or (2) attends or participates in civil court proceedings related to a case in which they are a family violence victim. Employees who are victims of family violence shall be allowed to take paid or unpaid leave to: (a) seek medical care or counseling for physical or psychological injury or disability; (b) obtain services from a victim services organization; (c) relocate due to the family violence; or (d) participate in any civil or criminal proceeding related to or resulting from such family violence. The Town can limit the unpaid leave to twelve (12) days in a calendar year if they deem it is necessary.

Bereavement leave

All regular employees are eligible for bereavement leave. In the event of a death in an ~~full-time~~ employee's immediate family, ~~leave with pay not to exceed~~

~~three (3) consecutive days,~~ **the employee will receive up to three days bereavement pay,** beginning with the date of death **(or miscarriage)** and ending with ~~and/or the including~~ the day after the funeral or final services. "Immediate family" includes the employee's spouse, **civil union partner**, parent, **step parent**, sibling, child, **step-child**, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law or any other relative who is living in the employee's household. **For miscarriages, bereavement leave is available only for the affected woman or spouse.**

~~Additional bereavement leave without pay may be given to a full-time employee at the discretion of the First Selectman, upon recommendation of the employee's supervisor.~~

All full-time employees shall be granted bereavement leave with pay for a maximum of one (1) day to attend the funeral or final services of a brother-in-law, sister-in-law, niece, nephew, uncle, or aunt.

If a death in an employee's family occurs, the employee must notify ~~his or her~~ **their** supervisor as to the anticipated length of the employee's absence as soon as possible. The Town may require the employee to submit reasonable proof of death and/or funeral date.

Military Leave

Military leave will be provided in accordance with ~~the~~ **applicable federal and state** law. Employees must present any available documentation regarding call-up for service at their earliest opportunity in order to provide appropriate notice to the Town.

Jury Duty

The Town of Colchester considers jury duty to be your civic responsibility. You must submit a copy of your official summons to your supervisor as soon as it is received. In addition, proof of service must be submitted to your supervisor when you have completed serving.

In accord with current Connecticut law, the Town will pay you your regular wages or salary for the first five days of jury duty leave. Thereafter the state currently reimburses at the rate of \$50 per day of service. The Town will pay you the difference between your regular base pay and the pay you receive from the court for jury duty. To accomplish this, the Town will continue your regular pay while you are serving, and you will provide copies of your jury duty paychecks to the Town upon receipt.

You will also be paid for court appearances related to Town business; however such appearances must be compulsory for you to be paid, (or you may apply personal time).

Childbirth Leave

~~An employee who becomes pregnant shall notify her supervisor at least four (4) months prior to the employee's expected date of delivery. Such employee shall receive a leave of absence without pay for the reasonable period of physical disability due to childbirth. Except in the case of unusual medical difficulties, as verified by a physician's statement, such leave is expected not to exceed six (6) weeks after delivery. The Town of Colchester will comply with the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act when applicable to an eligible employee. The Town's Family and Medical Leave Policy is set forth in this policy manual.~~

Full-time employees may be eligible for pro-rated paid leave of absence for the reasonable period of physical disability due to childbirth. Eligible, full-time employees are expected to use banked paid leave (i.e. vacation, sick, and personal leave) time during their FMLA leave period. If an employee does not have four or more weeks of banked paid leave, the Town will pay the difference of banked leave, up to four weeks of paid maternity leave, commencing from the first day of maternity leave.

Upon return to work, the employee shall be assigned to her former position, if such position is available, or to a position of equivalent pay and benefits. ~~Maternity~~ **Childbirth** leave shall be treated the same as any other short-term disability and, therefore, will be paid to the extent of earned accumulated sick leave. The employee must contact her supervisor at least ~~thirty (30)~~ two (2) weeks prior to the end of such leave stating the employee's intention to return or not return to work.

Newborn Leave

Employees whose spouse or partner has given birth are eligible for up to three days paid leave. This leave shall commence the day of childbirth and continue for two business days thereafter.

Family and Medical Leave

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for leaves taken by employees of the Town of Colchester under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) ~~of 1993~~ **including any subsequent updates to the law.**

Eligibility:

Employees who have worked for the Town of Colchester for at least twelve (12) months and who have worked at least 1,250 actual hours during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the start of a leave, are eligible for unpaid leave under the FMLA.

Reasons for Leave:

Leaves under the FMLA may be taken for the following reasons:

1. ~~(a)~~ Birth and/or care of the employee's newborn child;
2. ~~(b)~~ The placement of a child with the employee by adoption or for foster care;
3. ~~(c)~~ To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition as defined by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act; or
4. ~~(d)~~ To care for the employee's own serious health condition defined by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act that renders the employee unable to perform the function of his or her position.

Length of Leave

If a leave is requested for one of the above-listed reasons, each eligible employee may take up to a total of twelve (12) weeks unpaid family or medical leave in any 12-month entitlement period, **or 24 weeks within a two year period. Some exceptions do apply to the rule listed in the previous sentence, please consult Human Resources for details.** In appropriate circumstances, the Town may designate an absence as FMLA leave without a request from the employee.

The 12-month entitlement period for a family or medical leave is measured from the initial date of an employee's first leave under this policy.

Military Family Leave Entitlements

Eligible employees with a spouse, son, daughter, or parent on active duty or call to-active-duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation may use their 12-week leave to address certain qualifying events. Qualifying events may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to twenty-six (26) weeks of leave to care for a covered service member during a single twelve (12)-month period. A covered service member is a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of

the National Guard or Reserves, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty while on active duty that may render the service member medically unfit to perform their duties, for which the service member is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list.

Types of FMLA Leave and Conditions:

Full-time unpaid leave may be taken for any of the reasons permitted by the FMLA. Full-time leave excuses the employee from work for a period of time.

Intermittent leave means leave taken in separate periods of time, rather than for one continuous period of time. Examples of intermittent leave include leave taken one day per week over a period of a few months, or leave taken on an occasional / as-needed basis for medical appointments.

Reduced schedule leave is leave that reduces the employee's usual number of work hours per day for some period of time. For example, an employee may request half-time work for a number of weeks so the employee can assist in the care of a seriously ill parent.

An employee may take full-time, intermittent or reduced schedule leave whenever it is medically necessary for a serious health condition of the eligible employee, his or her spouse, child or parent. Intermittent leave or reduced schedule leave for other reasons will be permitted only with the approval of the First Selectman.

If intermittent or reduced schedule leave is medically necessary, the First Selectman may, in his/her sole discretion, temporarily transfer the employee to another job with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the type of leave requested.

Both Spouses Working for the Same Employer:

If both spouses are employees of the Town of Colchester and request leave for the birth, placement of a child by adoption or for foster care, or to care for a seriously ill parent, they will be entitled to a maximum combined total leave equal to twelve (12) weeks in any 12-month entitlement period. ~~If either spouse (or both) uses a portion of the total 12-week entitlement for one of the purposes in the preceding sentence, each is entitled to the difference between the amount he or she has taken individually and the 12 weeks for FMLA leave for their own or their spouse's serious health condition in the 12-month entitlement periods.~~

Requests for Leave

Requests for FMLA leaves must be submitted to the ~~Payroll Department~~ **Human Resources Office** at least thirty (30) days before the leave is to commence, if possible. If thirty-(30) days' notice is not possible, please submit your request as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

For leaves taken because of the employee's or a family member's serious health condition, the employee must submit a completed "Physician or Practitioner Certification" form before the leave begins if possible. This form may be obtained from the ~~Payroll Department~~ **Human Resources Office**. If such advance certification is not possible, the employee must provide the medical certification within fifteen (15) calendar days of the employer's request for the medical certification.

If an employee takes leave to care for their own serious health condition, immediately upon return to work, the employee must provide medical certification that the employee is able to perform the functions of the job. This certification must be submitted to the ~~Payroll Department~~ **Human Resources Office**.

Use of Unpaid Leave:

The Town will require employees to use their paid time-off concurrently with FMLA leave and before they are listed as unpaid FMLA. An employee may request to keep one week of vacation leave and one week of sick leave unused if they desire. The amount of unpaid family or medical leave entitlement is reduced by the amount of paid leave that is substituted.

Medical Insurance and Other Benefits during leaves

During approved ~~family and medical~~ leaves of absence, the Town of Colchester will continue to pay its portion of health and dental insurance premiums, and the employee must continue to pay ~~his/her~~ **their** share of the premium. Failure of the employee to pay ~~his/her~~ **their** share of the health insurance premium may result in loss of coverage. ~~If the employee does not return to work after the expiration of the leave, the employee will be required to reimburse the Town of Colchester for payment of health insurance premiums during the family and medical leave, unless the employee does not return because of "a serious health condition that prevents the employee from performing his/her job or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.~~

During **unpaid** leave, the employee shall not accrue longevity, seniority, ~~pension~~ **retirement** benefits, sick leave, vacation leave or personal days. However,

unused employment benefits accrued by the employee up to the day on which the leave begins will not be lost upon return to work. Leave taken under this policy does not constitute an absence under the Town of Colchester's attendance policy.

Reinstatement:

Except for circumstances unrelated to the taking of family or medical leave, an employee who returns to work following the expiration of a family or medical leave is entitled to return to the job held prior to the leave or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay and benefits.

Questions regarding this policy or applicable state or federal laws should be directed to the Human Resources Office.

Leave of Absence Without Pay:

A leave of absence without pay or other Town-provided benefits, not to exceed six (6) months in duration, may be granted for good cause to any employee at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. A written request for an unpaid leave of absence must be submitted by the employee to his or her supervisor who will direct such request to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration. Such requests must be submitted at least sixty (60) days in advance, except in emergencies. The Board of Selectmen shall have sole and complete discretion over the decision to grant or deny an employee's written request for an unpaid leave of absence.

Worker's Compensation

Should you become ill or injured as a result of your job, you may be eligible for Worker's Compensation benefits. Any work related illness, injury, or accident (no matter how minor) must be reported immediately to your supervisor. Failing to immediately report an injury, accident, or illness may result in a delay or a rejection of worker's compensation benefits. Both you and your supervisor will be asked to complete an Accident Report Form. You will be directed to a local occupational healthcare provider to provide initial medical treatment and assessment for work related illness and injury. Questions regarding Worker's Compensation benefits should be directed to Human Resources. Employees will only receive the state-approved amount of Workers' Compensation pay after three (3) days out of work, if the claim is approved.

Return To Work Policy (ADDED FROM CURRENT POLICY)

RESPONSIBILITY

~~The term "loss exposure", as applied to the workplace, is defined as the potential for accidents which result in illness or injury. Every employee of the Town of Colchester has a responsibility to minimize loss exposure as a factor in the work place by participating in quality improvement programs and strictly observing safety and standard operating policies and procedures.~~

POLICY

Employees of the Town of Colchester who are, or could be, on leave of absence from their duties as a result of a work related illness or injury or non-work related injury may be eligible for the Return-to-Work Program. ~~The medical care provider must certify that the employee may return to work with restrictions on physical requirements of the job in question, and those restrictions are not expected to last for more than 60 days.~~ **Upon written certification, an employee may return to work with physical restrictions, and those restrictions are not expected to last for more than 60 days.**

~~A restriction identifies a physical condition, which prevents an employee from performing the full scope of their job duties as outlined in their job description or as performed historically. There are two types of restrictions: temporary and permanent. Temporary restrictions are defined as those limitations placed on an injured employee by a physician which are of a relatively short duration (i.e., the employee is expected to fully recover and return to normal working conditions).~~

~~Permanent restrictions are defined as those limitations placed on an employee by a physician which are expected to be long term or from which recovery is not expected and which prevent the employee from performing the essential functions of the employee's position. Those employees who fall in this category are not eligible for participation in the Return-to-Work Program. They may elect to seek alternative employment, or file for a "reasonable accommodation" under the Americans with Disabilities Act.~~

~~When an employee is approved for participation in the Return-to-Work Program, primary consideration will be given to job placement within the employee's department and normal job duties. A secondary consideration will be alternative placement into another department or another assignment, which is within the same bargaining unit. A critical consideration is to place the injured employee in a position to perform productive work that is both useful to the Town of Colchester and achievable within the limits of the restrictions placed on the employee.~~

~~An employee participating in the Return-to-Work Program is subject to all rules, regulations, standards, policies and procedures of the Town of Colchester. The terms and conditions contained in this policy do not supersede the terms and conditions in any~~

~~collective bargaining agreement entered into by the Town. If any provision of this policy is in conflict with any federal and/or state law, such legal provisions shall prevail. The Town shall honor the confidentiality rights of the employee, as set forth in applicable law.~~

~~Each situation will stand on its own merits. An Employee Return-to-Work Form, completed by a physician, noting an employee's restrictions, will be evaluated by department supervisor to determine whether or not an employee is able to return to their assigned position. The department supervisor will then forward their recommendation with appropriate documentation to the injured employee's department head for final determination.~~

If an employee is approved for the Return-to-Work Program, they shall be provided tasks which fall within the physical restrictions identified by the treating physician. In no case will an employee authorized to participate in the Return-to-Work Program be placed in an area that will pose a health or safety risk to the Town of Colchester, other staff, or themselves.

IV. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Employee Responsibilities

The Town of Colchester has always maintained the highest standards of public service. Therefore, in all dealings with the public, and with each other, all Town employees are expected to act in a professional manner at all times. This also applies whenever they are conducting Town business or otherwise representing the Town. With the foregoing in mind, the Town has developed policies and rules for the benefit of the Town and its employees.

Some of the policies have already been outlined earlier in ~~the policy statement~~ **this employee handbook**. Others are contained in the following list. ~~All employees are encouraged to read this list of actions and to understand it fully.~~ This list is not exhaustive, is subject to change, and is designed only to provide examples of misconduct, which can lead to disciplinary action. If any one of these actions, ~~or any one of the~~ previously mentioned actions, or any other similar action, is taken by any employee, it can result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. In each case, the level of discipline will depend upon the severity of the conduct in question in light of all relevant circumstances with the ultimate decision to be made in the Town's sole discretion.

1. Improper or unprofessional treatment of a fellow employee or member of the public.
2. Failing to follow instructions of, or to perform work requested by, a supervisor ~~o manager~~ (or other insubordinate action).
3. Failing to meet a Town measure or standard of efficiency and/or productivity.
4. Failure to work assigned overtime.

5. Unauthorized or excessive absences (including late arrival and early departure) from work.
6. Sleeping while on Town property or during the time in which the employee is supposed to be working, **unless authorized by the department supervisor.**
7. Abusing, wasting or stealing Town property, or the property of any Town employee or non-employee.
8. Removing Town property or records without written authorization.
9. Falsifying an employee's employment application or other personnel records.
10. Falsifying Town reports or records (including time sheets and mileage reimbursements).
11. **Failure to obey safety rules.**
12. **Harassing other employees.**
13. **Use of abusive, threatening, or derogatory language.**
14. Violating the law.
15. Fighting or starting a disturbance on Town premises, or while performing job duties, including, but not limited to, assaulting or intimidating a Town employee or member of the public.
16. Unauthorized possession of firearms, weapons, dangerous instruments, or dangerous substances.
17. Reporting to work in a condition unfit to perform the employee's duties, including reporting to work under the influence of illegal drugs or controlled substances or alcohol or consuming, possessing, dispensing or selling such materials on Town premises and/or while on duty.
18. Smoking, eating or drinking in prohibited areas.
19. Violating a Town safety rule or practice, or creating or contributing to unhealthy or unsanitary conditions.
20. Engaging in conduct which creates, or appears to create, a conflict with the interest of the Town, including, but not limited to, soliciting and/or taking money or gifts or favors in connection with the employee's performance of regular job duties.
21. Disclosing confidential Town information without authorization.
- ~~22. Using profanity towards others~~
23. Neglect of duty.
24. Using Town facilities after normal working hours without authorization.
25. Interfering with, obstructing, or otherwise hindering the production or work performance of another employee.
26. Originating or spreading false statements concerning employees or the Town.
27. Engaging in immoral or indecent conduct on Town property.
28. Using any piece of equipment or property of the Town without being authorized to do so.
29. Violating any Town policy on fair treatment, equal opportunity, or nondiscrimination.
30. Unsatisfactory work performance.
31. Any conduct which is determined by the First Selectman to be detrimental or contrary to the goals or best interest of the Town.

Dress Code

Town employees should exercise their best judgment when selecting outfits that are appropriate for work. Proper attire for town hall employees is regularly considered, "business casual," but may require more formal attire when dealing with scheduled meetings, conferences, interviews, etc.

Business dress is required when testifying or meeting public officials at the General Assembly or as required by the First Selectman at his/her discretion.

Department heads can approve jeans or other attire for employees when they are working in the field. Employees are encouraged to use their best judgment regarding dress upon returning to work from the field. If jeans are worn upon return to work, such jeans shall not be visibly dirty or ripped, as to present unprofessional attire.

Employment of Relatives

It is the goal of the Town of Colchester to avoid creating or perpetuating circumstances in which the possibility of favoritism, conflicts of interest, or impairment of efficient operations may occur. Members of an employee's immediate family will be considered for employment by the Town of Colchester, provided that the applicants possess all the qualifications required for the available position for which employment is sought. Immediate family members of an employee may not be hired, however, if a direct or indirect supervisory/subordinate relationship with the current employee would be created by the employment of such an applicant.

For purposes of this policy, "immediate family" shall include a current employee's spouse, brother, sister, parents, children, stepchildren, **son/daughter-in-law**, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew and any other relative who is a member of the current employee's household.

Confidentiality

Employees of the Town may learn confidential information of one type or another during the course of their employment. During and after employment with the Town, confidential information may not be shared with any non-employee of the Town and may only be shared with the Town's employees on a strict need-to-know basis. If an employee violates this policy, disciplinary action will be taken against such employee, up to and including immediate discharge.

Expense Reimbursement

Employees who are required to use their personal vehicles for official Town business are reimbursed for such travel at the ~~rate of thirty-two cents (\$0.32) per mile.~~ **current IRS mileage reimbursement rate.** All reimbursable travel must have prior authorization of your supervisor. To be eligible for reimbursement, the employee must submit a written record of travel expenditures to his or her supervisor ~~within ten (10) working days of the date of the employee's reimbursable travel~~ **for approval on a monthly basis.**

No Smoking

~~The Town of Colchester is committed to the well-being of our employees. Smoke related diseases are among the leading causes of death and illness in this country. By providing a smoke-free environment we hope to reduce the risk of smoke-related illnesses.~~

~~Therefore,~~ In accordance with Connecticut State law, Sec. 31-40q, ~~the Town of Colchester has decided to declare its entire workplace as "Smoke Free."~~ **Colchester town buildings and facilities are "smoke free."** The burning of tobacco products **within town facilities** is expressly prohibited, including cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco or any other matter or substance containing tobacco.

Those employees who continue to smoke tobacco products may do so outside of the workplace outside of the buildings. ~~At Town Hall it would be outside of the building at the side entrances.~~ Employees choosing to smoke may do so only in their allotted break time. Excessive time away from work duties for the purpose of smoking will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.

Care of Personal Belongings

Your personal belongings are your responsibility at all times. The Town's insurance does not cover loss of personal belongings or monies. Employees should use considerable care to safely store personal belongings and valuables while at work.

Inclement Weather

Town Hall will remain open during inclement weather unless the severity of conditions prohibits remaining open. Employees should make every reasonable effort to get to work, or continue working if already present, unless otherwise notified. In the event that Town Hall closes, we will make every effort to have the details concerning the closing announced in a pre-determined manner.

Employees are urged to contact their immediate supervisor if they are uncertain about operation. If operations are canceled after a shift has started, hourly employees will be paid for the time worked. If there is an early dismissal, non-exempt employees will be paid through the official release time.

Acceptable Computer Network and Office Equipment Use (ADDED FROM CURRENT POLICY)

The use of electronic communications and Internet access is intended for official town business and may not be used for personal business unless approved by the First Selectman. All information and communication on the Town of Colchester's computer network(s) are the property of the Town of Colchester.

Electronic communications includes but is not limited to computers, electronic mail (E-mail), electronic bulletin boards, listservs, internet use, facsimile, telephones, cell phones, pagers, voice mail, radios, walkie talkies, personal digital assistants, television, and communications infrastructure.

The First Selectman and management have the right to review, audit, intercept, access and/or disclose all messages and /or images created, received or sent over the electronic mail system. The contents of electronic mail may be disclosed without the permission of the employee. There is no expectation of privacy. The First Selectman may limit or deny individual's access to the system.

Employees are responsible for observing copyright and licensing agreements that may apply when downloading files, documents and software.

Employees are expected to appropriately use and become proficient in the use of computer hardware and software, electronic communications and Internet access.

Employees must work in cooperation with network administration to ensure all security measures are met. The following is strictly prohibited:

1. Releasing passwords to individuals not authorized by the town
2. Allowing passwords to be visible to others
3. Use of another individual's password
4. Creating unauthorized accounts/passwords
5. The use of video games
6. Viewing of non-work related videos
7. Using equipment for personal profit or partisan political purposes
8. Leaving a workstation without logging out or locking
9. Installing/uninstalling software or hardware without approval of the IT department

10. Allowing non-town personnel use of hardware/software without authorization from the administration
11. Transmitting or receiving messages or images that violate Town of Colchester policies or are offensive or discriminatory as defined by the Town of Colchester Personnel Policies and Nondiscrimination Resolution
12. Communications containing offensive, sexually explicit images, messages or cartoons, ethnic/racial slurs, or anything that can be construed as harassment
13. Vandalizing any system components
14. Sending network-wide non-business related E-mails, e.g. jokes, chain letters
15. Browsing the internet for purposes not work related during work hours
16. Unauthorized attempts or entry into any computer or any part of the system/network

Phones:

Town phones and voice mail are property of the Town of Colchester. Excessive use of the phone for personal calls may be considered a performance issue and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. The use of personal cell phones during business hours is only permitted in the case of emergency or brief personal contact with family via voice mail, text, or call (excessive use may be considered a performance issue and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge). In such cases, cell phones should be put on "silent" mode. Texting is not permitted while driving or operating equipment.

Printers, Scanners:

It is expected that all employees will use this equipment for business purposes only and treat such office equipment with care.

V. HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

It is the policy of the Town of Colchester to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all employees. To accomplish this goal, a joint effort on the part of management and employees is required to share in the responsibility to protect worker safety.

It is the responsibility of the department head to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards. In order to achieve this, he/she must oversee the administration of safety practices in their departments, be aware of accident statistics, follow disciplinary procedures (verbal and written warnings, suspension and possible dismissal), take appropriate corrective action to ensure continued improvement in eliminating or minimizing hazards, to prevent or

reduce injuries on the job. Investigations of all occupational illness or injuries must be conducted, and written reports including corrective actions taken must be provided immediately to the First Selectman's office. Safety audits should be conducted periodically to identify and correct potential hazards. Management must make the commitment to follow-through with required repairs and preventive maintenance of equipment and workplace.

Employee cooperation is also necessary to achieve a harmonious effort in providing a safe and healthy workplace. It is the responsibility of the employee to report perceived hazardous conditions to management. Employees should refrain from participating in activities that may jeopardize the safety of fellow workers. Inoperative equipment or equipment with defects should be reported immediately. Job-related illnesses or injuries, no matter how slight, should be immediately reported to management and treatment promptly sought.

While management attention to accident prevention is an important component of a safety program, it is each employee who carries the greatest responsibility for protecting his/her own health. Though we realize that accidents do happen, we hope and expect that all employees work together to minimize the risk of work-related illness and injuries.

Safety-Related Discrimination and Harassment

It is the policy of the Town of Colchester that no employee be discriminated against or harassed in any form because of their involvement in Safety and Health related matters.

Discrimination or harassment may take any form in which an employee is intentionally treated differently than other employees of the same rank, qualification, and department solely because of their involvement with, or comments relative to, safety and health matters.

Complaints may be made in confidence to the Department Head or First Selectman.

Alcohol and Drug-Free Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a workplace, which is free of the negative effects of alcohol, and free from drug abuse. By accomplishing this purpose, the Town also seeks to ensure a safer, healthier working

environment for all employees and to reduce absenteeism, tardiness and other job performance problems which may be caused by alcohol and drug abuse. This policy is adopted in accordance with the Drug Free Workplace Act.

Statement of Policy

Employees shall not be involved with the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of an illegal drug, controlled substance or alcohol while on Town premises or while conducting Town business off Town premises. Any employee who discovers illegal drugs on Town premises shall notify the First Selectman who shall investigate the matter and notify appropriate Town officials.

An employee must report any conviction or plea of nolo contendere under a criminal drug statute for violations occurring on or off Town premises while on Town business, to the First Selectman within five (5) days after the conviction. The Town will notify any agency awarding a grant to the Town of such conviction, within ten (10) days thereafter, if such notice is required by the granting agency. Upon request, the First Selectman or his/her designee shall meet with the employee and a Union representative, where employee is part of a collective bargaining unit, before taking any further action.

Employees shall only use prescription drugs on town premises which have been prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner, and such drugs shall be used only as prescribed.

An employee shall not consume alcohol on town premises or off Town premises, while conducting Town business. An employee who is on duty shall not be under the influence of alcohol.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Employee Assistance

In appropriate circumstances, the Town shall provide an employee with an opportunity for rehabilitation in overcoming addiction to, dependence upon or other problems with alcohol or drugs. Normally, the opportunity for rehabilitation as an alternative to disciplinary action shall be available only once.

An employee who feels he or she has developed an addiction to, dependence upon or other problem with alcohol or drugs is encouraged to

seek assistance. Certain benefits for alcoholism or drug addiction are provided under the Town's group medical insurance plan. An employee will be given one opportunity to participate in a rehabilitation program, which requires absence from work for bona fide treatment. Such absence may be charged to the employee's accrued and unused sick leave, subject to the provisions of the employee's collective bargaining agreement or the Town's Personnel Rules and Regulations as applicable.

Any request for assistance with a drug or alcohol problem will be treated as confidential.

Drug Testing

Pre-employment drug testing is conducted on all employees whose job entail driving or work in "safety-sensitive positions". At management discretion, random drug testing may occur for those employees whose jobs involve driving or if employees work in "safety sensitive" positions.

If there is suspicion to believe that an employee is working under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs, the Town may require that a drug test be performed on that employee. If the employee is found to be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs, disciplinary action will occur, up to, and possibly including dismissal.

Security

Town facilities are equipped with alarm systems. Employees who regularly have a need to enter the building during "off hours" will be issued an alarm code and an outside door key. Employees who enter and leave the building during normal work hours do not need to have outside door keys or alarm codes.

The First Selectman will determine to whom keys and alarm codes should be issued. All employees are issued badges, which they are expected to wear, or have in their possession at all times.

Lockdown procedures are followed in emergency situations and are addressed in a separate procedure.

VI. CONCLUSION

Severability

Should any provision or part of this policy be declared or rendered illegal or unenforceable by legislative or judicial authority, the balance of the policy shall remain in full force and effect.

Handbook & Policy Review

The Town of Colchester Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies shall be reviewed, and revised, if necessary, no less than once every two years, starting from the adoption of this revised and Board of Selectmen approved personnel policies.

To All Employees

Should any employee need further clarification or additional information relating to employment, please speak to your supervisor or the Human Resources Office.

Since it is not possible to foresee all conditions and circumstances surrounding the employment relationship, the Town reserves the right to alter, modify, amend or terminate the provisions of this handbook at any time. Notices of such changes will be posted on all appropriate bulletin boards and distributed to you for you to include in your handbook.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

I, _____, have received a copy of the Town of Colchester's employee handbook, including the notice and disclaimer of any contract of employment, and I fully acknowledge the at-will nature of my employment with the Town, which I understand is subject to the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. I further acknowledge that these policies are subject to change, with or without prior notice by the Town, again subject to the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreement and the duty to bargain over secondary effects of substantive changes under prevailing labor laws. I understand that should the content of these policies be changed in any way, the Town of Colchester may require a further signature from me to indicate that I am aware of and understand any new policies. I further understand that I am responsible for reading and knowing the content of this employee handbook. I hereby agree to comply in full with the Town of Colchester's Personnel Policies but understand that where the policies are in direct conflict with a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Colchester and a duly recognized union, the provision(s) in conflict will be superseded by the collective bargaining agreement. The content of this handbook supersedes all prior handbooks issued.

Employee

____/____/____
Date