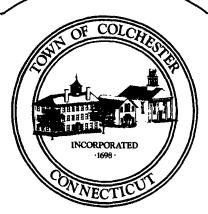
Linda M. Hodge



First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2009
Colchester Town Hall
Meeting Room 1 at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Linda Hodge, Stan Soby, Greg Cordova, Rosemary Coyle

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Malsbenden

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Caplet, Adam Benson, Gregg Schuster, Steve Schuster, James Stavola, Susan Dema, David Dander, Adam Tuner, Tim Edwards, Brian Owens, Shannon Dumigan, Jeff Passacantando, Rob Labonte, Jeff Simkulak, Patti White, Ryan Blessing, Mark Decker, Tim Lamp, Sgt. Shane Hassett, and other citizens

1. Call to Order: First Selectman L. Hodge called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

- 2. Additions to the Agenda: R. Coyle moved to add a new item #18a "Discussion and Possible Action on No Parking Signs on Mill Street", to move item #24 to follow item #8, and to move item #26 to follow item #24, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- Approve Minutes of the March 5, 2009 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting: R.
  Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2009 Board of Selectmen regular
  meeting as presented, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION
  CARRIED.
- 4. Approve Minutes of the March 11, 2009 Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education Joint Meeting: S. Soby moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2009 Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education Joint Meeting as presented with amendments made by the Board of Finance at their regular meeting on March 18, 2009, seconded by G. Cordova. R. Coyle abstained. Remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 5. Citizen's Comments: David Dander spoke regarding his concerns about the Ethics Commission process and ruling on the ongoing police commission issues, and his concerns about misrepresentations in the press. He distributed a handout to illustrate his points (attachment).

Steve Schuster spoke regarding his concerns about the issues surrounding the police commission, his concerns about the vote of no confidence by the police officers against the police commissioner, and his thoughts on the priorities of the capital items being proposed for bonding.

Tim Edwards spoke on behalf of the Colchester Police Union regarding his approval of Mr. Danders' comments, his concerns regarding the issues currently surrounding the police commission, his concerns about reductions in the police budget, his concerns about the lack of funding for a minimum of two officers per shift, and his concerns about the communications with the police officers and the First Selectman.

Rob Labonte spoke regarding his concerns about the lack of two-person shift coverage due to a freeze in the overtime budget.

Susan Dema spoke regarding her support for the work of the Colchester police officers and her support for James Stavola.

Jeff Simkulak spoke regarding his concerns about the lack of two-person shift coverage due to a freeze in the overtime budget and his support for James Stavola.

- 6. Boards and Commissions Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations
  - a. Sewer & Water Commission (filling member vacancy left by Lisandro Suarez; new term to expire on 06/01/12): Gay St. Louis (to be interviewed): Gay St. Louis was not present.
  - b. Commission on Aging (filling member vacancy left by Ann Smyk; new term to expire 12/01/11): Theresa Hendricksen (interviewed on 03/05/09): R. Coyle moved to appoint Theresa Hendricksen as a member of the Commission on Aging filling the member vacancy left by Ann Smyk for a new term to expire on 12/01/11, seconded by S. Soby. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
  - c. Parks & Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling alternate vacancy left by Eric Kundahl; term expires 11/01/09): Frank Ricci (interviewed on 02/19/09), Robert P. Jones, Jr. (interviewed on 02/05/09), Jean S. Hess-Walsh (interviewed on 02/05/09), Melissa Kennedy (interviewed on 02/05/09), Albert Spranzo (interviewed on 02/05/09) Waiting on Recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission: The Board of Selectmen took no action, as they are waiting on recommendations from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
  - d. Police Commission (reconsidering resignation): Arthur Standish: First Selectman L. Hodge reported that Arthur Standish is reconsidering his resignation.
  - e. Police Commission (resignation withdrawal): John Jones: First Selectman L. Hodge reported that Commissioner John Jones submitted a letter withdrawing his resignation from the Police Commission.
- 7. Budget Transfers: None
- 8. Tax Refunds & Rebates: None
- 24. Discussion and Possible Action on Capital Project Funding Resolutions:
  - a. Acquisition of a New Fire Engine Tank
  - b. Road Improvements
  - c. Technology Improvements
  - d. Acquisition of a New Type 1 Medium Duty Ambulance
  - e. Reconstruction of Track at Bacon Academy
  - S. Soby moved to approve the capital project funding resolutions as follows:

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The appropriation may be spent for acquisition and delivery costs, related equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

#### Item 24b.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Colchester appropriate \$560,000 for road improvements including: road reconstruction of portions of Chestnut Hill Road, Linwood Cemetary Road and Clark Lane; pavement enhancement of portions of Christy Lane, Sashel Lane and Jurach Road; surface treatment of Shailor Hill, Shugrue Road, Waterhole Road, West Road, Louis Lane, and the intersection of Wall Street and Gill Street, substantially as described in Memorandum of the Public Works Department dated March 11, 2009. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, land and easement acquisition, site improvements, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Board of Selectmen may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the project be referred to the Zoning and Planning Commission for a report pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes if not yet completed.

#### Item 24d.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Colchester appropriate \$280,000 for acquisition of a new type 1 medium duty ambulance. The appropriation may be spent for acquisition and delivery costs, related equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

#### Item 24e.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Colchester appropriate \$680,000 for reconstruction of the track at Bacon Academy. The appropriation may be spent for costs related to the design, construction, testing and permitting costs, equipment materials, site improvements, utilities, engineering fees, management costs and fees, consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. This appropriation is in addition to the \$46,000 reserved for this project by the Board of Education, for an aggregate appropriation of \$726,000.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the project be referred to the Zoning and Planning Commission for a report pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes if not yet completed.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That such recommendations, be presented to a Town Meeting to be held at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue in the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, immediately following Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m., and acted upon at referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$760,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A NEW FIRE ENGINE TANK AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$560,000 FOR ROAD

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IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$280,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A NEW TYPE 1 MEDIUM DUTY AMBULANCE AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$726,000 FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF TRACK AT BACON ACADEMY AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

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

Motion seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

26. Public Hearing Regarding Possible Removal of Police Commissioner James Stavola: S. Soby moved to convene the hearing in public pursuant to Section 706 of the Town Charter regarding the removal of Police Commissioner James Stavola for the reasons discussed by the Board at its regular meeting of February 19, 2009 and reiterated in the First Selectman's letter to Mr. Stavola, dated February 20, 2009, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

First Selectman L. Hodge stated the purpose of the hearing and read the following items into the record:

- a. February 8, 2009 Statement issued by Mr. Stavola that is described in the cause.
- b. February 19, 2009 Board of Selectmen voted to commence removal proceedings pursuant to Section 706 of the Town Charter.
- c. February 20, 2009 Mr. Stavola notified by letter of removal proceedings.
- d. February 25, 2009 Mr. Stavola indicates his desire to have a hearing regarding his removal held in public.
- e. March 16, 2009 Mr. Stavola is contacted by the First Selectman regarding arrangements for a hearing before the full Board of Selectmen with a session to convene the hearing and set the Ground Rules/Rules of Procedure at the March 19, 2009 Board of Selectmen meeting and to recess the hearing until March 25, 2009 (which due to scheduling issues is the first available date on which the full Board can meet) at which time the hearing will be completed.
- f. March 19, 2009 First Selectmen sent Mr. Stavola an email with a copy attached of the "Proposed Rules of Procedure and Outline of Proceedings"
- g. March 19, 2009 Mr. Stavola acknowledged receipt of the rules.
- h. First Selectman L. Hodge noted that Selectmen Cordova, Coyle, Soby, and she were present for the hearing, in addition to Mr. Stavola being present.

First Selectman L. Hodge reviewed the "Proposed Rules of Procedure and Outline of Proceedings for Commissioner Removal Hearing". The Board of Selectmen discussed the proposed rules of procedure and process for the public hearing and gave their suggestions for amendments to the proposed rules as presented. James Stavola stated that he would be happy to simply explain his side of the story and have the Board of Selectmen make their decision. The Board of Selectmen agreed that the process could

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be made less formal. James Stavola waived any additional timeline stipulations should the meeting need to continue to an additional day.

- G. Cordova moved to recess the public hearing and reconvene the hearing before the full Board of Selectmen on March 25, 2009 to hold an informal hearing with an agenda to consist of (1) statement of cause; (2) citizen's comments, with a limit of three minutes per person and the requirement that all comments be confined to the issue at hand, specifically the cause as stated; (3) presentation of cause; and, (4) Mr. Stavola's comments to the Board of Selectmen. Additionally, the Board of Selectmen will accept any written documents that are pertinent to the issue. Deliberations will be undertaken that evening with a decision to be rendered no later than the evening of March 26<sup>th</sup>, noting also that Mr. Stavola was in agreement with this process, seconded by S. Soby. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 9. Discussion and Possible Action on Solicitation and Utilization of Outside Consultants to Assist in Submission of Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Funding: Adam Tuner presented to the Board of Selectmen on this issue, the background on items 10 through 15, and his ongoing work on the CDBG submission. S. Soby moved to authorize the solicitation and utilization of outside consultants to assist in the submission of a Community Development Block Grant for Small Cities Funding, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION APPROVED.
- **10. Discussion on CDBG Project Eligibility:** Adam Turner presented on the CDBG project eligibility as part of item #10.
- 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of Town of Colchester Affirmative Action Policy Statement: R. Coyle moved to ratify the Town of Colchester Affirmative Action Policy Statement as presented, to ratify the Town of Colchester Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 policy as presented (#12), to ratify the Town of Colchester fair housing policy statement as presented (#13), to ratify the Town of Colchester fair housing resolution as presented (#14), to ratify the Town of Colchester ADA notice as presented (#15), and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of Town of Colchester Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy: This item was addressed during item #11.
- 13. Discussion and Possible Action Ratification of Town of Colchester Fair Housing Policy Statement: This item was addressed during item #11.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of Town of Colchester Fair Housing Resolution: This item was addressed during item #11.
- **15. Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of Town of Colchester ADA Notice:** This item was addressed during item #11.
- **16.** Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Application for Older American Act Grant: S. Soby moved to approve the application for the Older American Act Grant in the amount of \$28,088.<sup>00</sup>, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Application for CT DOT Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation: R. Coyle moved to approve the application for the CT DOT Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation in the amount of \$31,457.<sup>00</sup>

and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on Sewer & Water Budget Appropriation Requests: G. Cordova moved to approve allocations to the existing on-going capital projects from the respective undesignated capital fund balances including (3053210-68110) Meter Replacement Program (Water) \$50,000. (3053210-68115) Connection Materials (Water) \$15,000. (3253209-68110) Meter Replacement Program (Sewer) \$50,000. (3 as recommended by the Sewer & Water Commission during their regular meeting on March 11, 2009, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
  - a. Discussion and Possible Action on "No Parking Signs" on Mill Street: S. Soby moved to approve, as the legal traffic authority, Ms. Rogers' application for "no parking no stopping no dropping off' signage, provided the signage includes all the described restrictions as shown on the attached photograph(attachment), with the final location of the signs to be in the general proximity of those shown on the plans attached to Ms. Rogers' application letter (attachment), and that prior to installation, the locations shall be staked in the field and approved by either the Town Engineer or Public Works Director, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on UST Fund Application for the Treatment Plant Project: G. Cordova moved to accept the Lenard Engineering proposal for the UST fund as recommended by the Sewer & Water Commission during their regular meeting on March 11, 2009, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 19. Discussion and Possible Action on Eco International Electronic Waste Transportation Proposal: R. Coyle moved to approve the Eco International Electronic Waste Transportation agreement and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 20. Discussion and Possible Action on Green Week Designation: R. Coyle moved to designate the week of April 19-25, 2009 as "Colchester Green Week", and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 21. Discussion and Possible Action on Bond Reduction for White Oak Farm Conservation Subdivision, Lebanon Avenue (Route 16) and Goldberg Road, Colchester, CT.: S. Soby moved to authorize the reduction of Subdivision Surety Bond #5023480 from "Bond Safeguard Insurance Company" for White Oak Farm Conservation Subdivision, Lebanon Avenue (Route 16) and Goldberg Road, Colchester, CT. which totals \$3,259,878. 50, by \$658,901. 30, leaving a remaining bond balance of \$2,600,977. 20, as recommended by the Town Engineer, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 22. Discussion and Possible Action on Agreement for Sign Language Interpreting Services: S. Soby moved to approve the State of Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Non-State Agency Agreement for Sign Language Interpreting Services agreement as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 23. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Regionalization Including Possible Use for Fees of Colchester's Dog Pound by East Hampton: First Selectman L. Hodge presented a draft memorandum of agreement between the Town of Colchester and the Town of East Hampton for the detention of and care of impounded dogs. The Board of Selectmen discussed this concept and other possibilities for regionalization.

#### 24. Citizen's Comments: None

- 25. First Selectman's Report: First Selectman L. Hodge reported on the revised budget meeting schedule, her desire for a special budget meeting to discuss recommendations and possibly take action on March 26<sup>th</sup>, the April 7<sup>th</sup> joint Board of Selectmen and Police Commission meeting, the excellent efforts of the Tax Collector, the \$500,000.<sup>00</sup> shortage in revenues for the current fiscal year, the projected response on the old firehouse grant, maintenance issues with the fire police utility vehicle, stimulus grant opportunities, a discussion regarding the trees on the green for this Saturday at the Hayward House, the display boards for town departments, a recent SeCTER meeting, the Commission on Aging, her ongoing efforts towards the budget process, the police officer overtime being over budget and all Town overtime being frozen due to revenue shortfall, the police grievance process, and the cable access program.
- 26. Liaison Reports: None
- **27. Adjourn:** R. Coyle moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Parks & Recreation Program Fund Monthly Cash Flow and Balance Report
- 2. Memorandum dated 02/25/09, from Maggie Wasicki to the Board of Selectmen, regarding Health Insurance Account Analysis thru 01/31/09
- 3. Memorandum dated 03/17/09, from Maggie Wasicki to the Board of Selectmen, regarding Health Insurance Account Analysis thru 02/28/09
- 4. Memorandum dated 03/03/09, from Siobhan Grogan to the Board of Selectmen, regarding "Monthly Report for February 2009"
- Memorandum dated 03/16/09, from Adam Turner to Linda Hodge, regarding "Census"
- 6. Town of Colchester Proposed Rules of Procedure & Outline of Proceedings for Commissioner Removal hearing for March 25, 2009 Hearing
- 7. Handout submitted by David Danders during his citizen's comments
- 8. Letter dated 03/12/09, from Judy Roger to the Board of Selectmen, regarding "Application for install of No Parking Signs" and copy of photograph

Respectfully submitted.

Michael J. Caplet

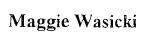
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

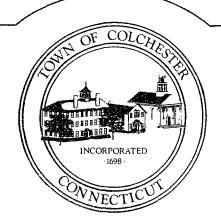
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# Parks Recreation Program Fund Monthly Cash Flow and Balance Fiscal Year 2008-09

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**Finance Director** 

2/25/09

TO:

Board of Finance Board of Selectmen Board of Education C.F.O.

Treasurer

FROM:

Maggie Wasicki, Finance Director

Attached, please find the Health Insurance Account Analysis thru 13100



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**Finance Director** 

3/17/09

Maggie Wasicki

TO:

Board of Finance Board of Selectmen Board of Education C.F.O.

Treasurer

FROM:

Maggie Wasicki, Finance Director

Attached, please find the Health Insurance Account Analysis thru 2/28/09

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## Town of Colchester Cragin Memorial Library The public library of Colchester since 1905

**TO:** Board of Selectmen, Town of Colchester Board of Finance, Town of Colchester

Cragin Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Siobhan Grogan, Library Director **RE:** Monthly Report for February 2009

**DATE:** March 3, 2009

REGISTERED PATRONS: 14,747 (Colchester residents: 10,831)

CIRCULATION for February: 12,465 nonprint circulation: 36% of total

CIRCULATION (Calendar year): 25,073 CIRCULATION (Fiscal year): 111,851

Statewide Interlibrary Loan: Borrowed 148 items, loaned 62 items

Computer Use (Internet, Microsoft Office, iconn.org, InfoAnytime, etc.): 1,561

Computer Assistance to Visitors: 46 times Newsletter for February: Circulation 800

(co-sponsored with Col. Garden Club)

Children's Display Case: Care Bears loaned by Lexi Dean Upstairs Display Case: Newspapers from the Lincoln era

#### **PROGRAMS:**

Internet classes (2)

Yoga classes (3)

Book Repair programs (3)
43 books repaired

Living Sustainably program

42 participants

Solar Energy program

73 participants

Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat

26 participants

Story Times

Wilds Ones (4) 25 children, 24 adults Two and Three years olds (4) 23 children, 25 adults Four and Five Year olds (5) 24 children

6 learners

## PROGRAMS, continued

Wii game days (3) 6 participants

New Play Area with train track and toys 240 users

Movie, "Horton Hears a Who" 3 in audience

Valentine craft (2) 32 children

Book discussion: <u>Double Identity</u> 2 middle schoolers

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Volunteer program 15 volunteers, 69 hours

Meeting Rooms (4) 53 meetings, 559 attendees

## Code Administration **Building Official**

Fire Marshal Wetlands Enforcement

To:

Linda Hodge

From: Adam Turner

Re:

Census

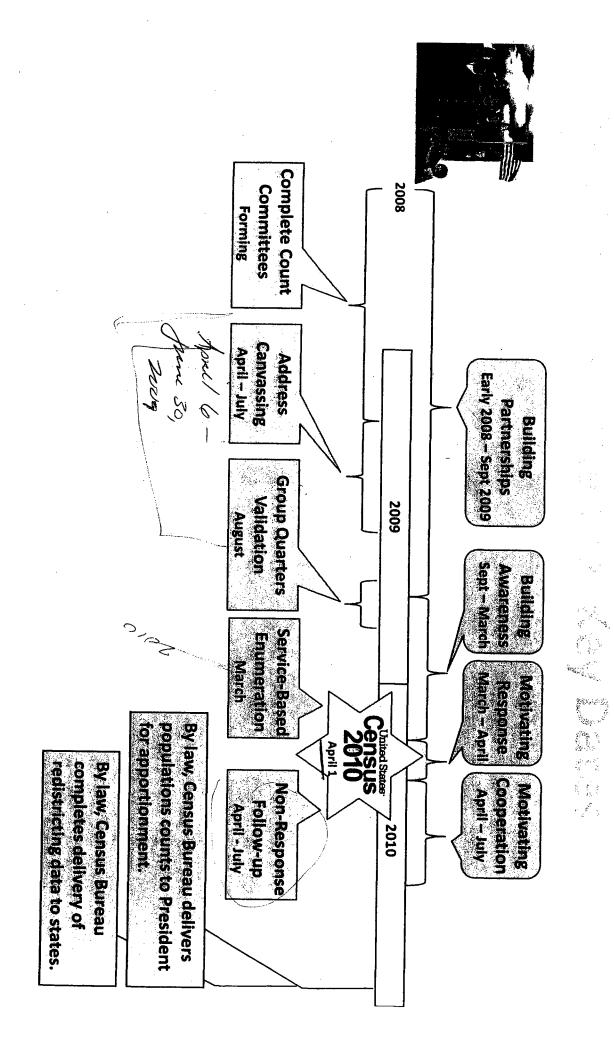
Date: March 16, 2009



Planning and Zoning Planning Director Zoning Enforcement Town Engineer

Beginning in 2007, the Town has participated in the Local Update Census Addresses Program (LUCA). As part of the Census program, all new addresses (April 2000 to April 2010) and Global Point Satellite (GPS) coordinates will be entered into the master Census address system. This will ensure that all new residences/businesses will receive census forms when they are distributed on April 1, 2010.

During April and June of 2009, census workers will be in Colchester, checking their master listings and updating the list to include all new addresses and GPS information. The Planning Office will be preparing Press Release and Poster altering residents to these activities.



## Town of Colchester Proposed Rules of Procedure & Outline of Proceedings for Commissioner Removal Hearing for March 25, 2009 Hearing

### **Exchange of Documentary Evidence.**

- 1. The parties shall exchange any and all documentary evidence in advance of the substantive hearing on the matter which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Specifically, the Board of Selectmen shall provide a copy of any and all documents in support of its February 19, 2009 decision to commence removal proceedings with respect to Mr. Stavola. Likewise, Mr. Stavola shall provide a copy to the Board of Selectman by delivering a copy to the Office of the First Selectman of any and all documents that he wishes to present at the removal hearing. The parties shall exchange such materials so that they are received on or before Monday, March 23, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
- 3. Copies of all documents exchanged shall be made available to all members of the Board of Selectmen in advance of the hearing.

#### **Exchange of Lists of Non-Documentary Evidence and Witnesses.**

- 1. The parties shall exchange a list of any non-documentary evidence proposed to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen at the March 25, 2009 hearing and a list of witnesses proposed to testify at the March 25, 2009 hearing.
- 2. Specifically, the Board of Selectmen shall provide a list of any non-documentary evidence and a list of any witnesses that it reasonably believes that supports its February 19, 2009 decision to commence removal proceedings with respect to Mr. Stavola. Likewise, Mr. Stavola shall provide a list of any non-documentary evidence and a list of witnesses that he wishes to present at the removal hearings; Mr. Stavola shall submit such list(s) to the Board of Selectman by delivering a copy of such list(s) to the Office of the First Selectman. The parties shall exchange such lists so that they are received on or before Monday, March 23, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
- 3. Copies of all lists so exchanged shall be made available to all members of the Board of Selectmen in advance of the hearing.

### Order of Proceedings.

7

- 1. The First Selectman shall open the hearing and reiterate the purpose and authority for the proceedings.
- 2. The Board of Selectmen shall through its First Selectman present the grounds for removal and any evidence or testimony on which such decision to commence removal was based.
- 3. Mr. Stavola shall present any evidence or testimony or ask any questions provided that such evidence, testimony or questions are material and relevant to the grounds for his proposed removal.

- 4. At any time during the proceedings, the Board may inquire about any document or of any witness.
- Mr. Stavola shall have the opportunity to make a closing statement to the Board.
- 6. The Board shall promptly deliberate and issue its decision regarding in writing to Mr. Stavola.
- 7. In accordance with the Town of Colchester Charter, Section 706, the decision of the Board of Selectmen shall be final.

#### Witnesses.

- 1. All witnesses shall be sworn. The Town Clerk shall administer the following oath to all witnesses: "You solemnly swear that the evidence you shall give, concerning the matter now in question, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."
- 2. All witnesses called by the Board may be questioned by Mr. Stavola and all witnesses called by Mr. Stavola may be questioned by the Board.
- 3. The Board of Selectmen may question witnesses at any point in the hearing.

**Evidence.** The parties may offer such evidence as they desire that is material and relevant and shall produce such additional evidence as the Board may deem necessary to an understanding and determination of the matter. The Board shall be the judge of the relevance and materiality of the evidence offered. Conformity to the legal rules of evidence shall not be necessary. In order to guide the Board with respect to relevancy determinations, Black's Law Dictionary defines the terms "material" and "relevant evidence" as follows (citations omitted):

**Material:** "Important, more or less necessary; having influence or effect; going to the merits; having to do with matter, as distinguished from form. Representation relating to matter which is so substantial and important as to influence the party to whim made is 'material.'"

Relevant Evidence: "Evidence tending to prove or disprove an alleged fact. Evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence. Evidence is 'relevant' if it tends to make existence of material fact more or less probable. Basic test for admissibility of evidence is relevancy and testimony is 'relevant' if reasonable inferences can be drawn therefrom regarding or if any light is shed upon a contested matter. Evidence is 'relevant' not only when it tends to prove or disprove precise fact in issue but when it tends to establish fact from which existence or nonexistence of fact in issue can be directly inferred."

**No Public Comment.** During the hearing, there shall be no comment by any member of the public.

**Recording of Proceedings**. An audio recording shall be made of the proceedings using the Town's recording equipment that is ordinarily utilized for purposes of recording Town meetings and hearings.

**Freedom of Information Act.** Information and materials related to the removal proceedings shall be subject to disclosure as provided by the Freedom of Information Act.



## OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS



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Ethics Search:

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- >> LOBBYIST FILING SYSTEM
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- >> PRESSROOM
- SEMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Municipal Ethics

The Office of State Ethics does not have jurisdiction over municipal or local ethics issues. We do, however, offer the following resource for those municipalities interested in strengthening their own ethics commissions or policies.

<u>www.cityethics.org</u> showcases model municipal codes and other resources to assist municipalities across the country in developing more effective ethics programs.

The Office of State Ethics neither promotes nor endorses any information contained in the aforementioned link. We provide it only as an existing resource for those seeking such information.



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## ROBERT WECHSLER

Robert Wechsler is Director of Research for City Ethics. He writes this site's municipal ethics blog and he put together the City Ethics Model Ethics Code Project.

He is also Administrator of the New Haven Democracy Fund, a new public financing program for the mayoral election.

For Common Cause Connecticut, he has prepared a Model Code of Ethics for Connecticut municipalities and has written reports on the state's municipal ethics codes and on the state's forms of municipal government and how to change them.

A former lawyer, he is a graduate of Harvard College and Columbia University Law School.

You can check out Rob's blog <u>HERE</u>.



Definitions Essentials www.Links

full document forum discussion areas: general

conflicts disclosure

introduction

administration

US State ethics programs

Thanks for providing the cityethics website. I found it as a resource link on the State of Connecticut's Office of State Ethics website. I'm hoping you can address a couple of specific questions. Although I think you've addressed my questions indirectly on the website, I'm hoping you might be able to provide an opinion regarding a very specific set of circumstances

My questions are:

- . Does having the First Selectman of a town (a paid, elected CEO of a town) serving on the town's ethics commission in an ex-officio capacity, create the possibility for a perception that the ethics commission and the ethic's commissions rulings might be politically influenced?
- . Doesn't the First Selectman serving on the ethics commission in any capacity create the opportunity for and perception of conflicts of interest?

Here's the rather detailed scenario:

The town has a police commission (members appointed by the Board of Selectmen) to oversee the town's police force. That police commission voted to file an ethics complaint against their chairmen, contending he violated the town's code of ethics.

The following statement was made by a police commission member at a police commission meeting, which was then followed by the police commission's vote to file an ethics complaint against Mr. Otfinoski, their chairman.

[J. Stavola stated that B. Offinoski has made statements on behalf of the police commission in negotiations and arbitration. J. Stavola stated that B. Offinoski does not represent any of his views and has asked B. Offinoski several times about progress in negations only to be told that he wasn't able to discuss the issues. Past practice indicated that the Chairman has requested the police commission to enter into executive session to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. J. Stavola says he finds it difficult to understand how the chairman can discuss issues and make statements that impact negotiations without consulting with the entire police commission.]

Mr. Stavola contended that the Chairman's decision violates:

Section 8, Paragraph F of the "Police Commission Rules of Procedure" and

Section 3. Paragraph B of the "Police Commission Bylaws" which reads "All members of the commission shall participate fully in commission meetings and activities and shall have such duties as may from time to time be assisted by the commission.

The Town has participated in nearly two years of stalled contract negotiations with the police union. Those negotiations have included members of the Board of Selectman and also the Chairman of the Police Commission sitting together on the town side of the negotiating table: There has been great disagreement regarding which side of the negotiating table the Police Commission should represent. The town's legal consul has attempted to offer advice regarding this point of contention.

A discussion which involved the Police Commission, the First Selectman and the town attorney is reflected in this excerpt form the minutes of a recent Police Commission meeting.

Discuss Commission Dutles, Responsibilities and Authority: The discussion Identified the following as duties and responsibilities of the Police Commission (for job description): Hiring, Discipline, Firing, Promotions, Rules and Regulations, Budget, Police Equipment and Policies. In addition the lines of communication were revisited and will be completed along with the job description of a Police Commissioner. The other duty that was more fully defined was that of the Chair of the Police Commission who sits on the side of the Town Management during contract negotiations. This is similar to other towns whose highest-ranking officers negotiate on the town side. Commissioner J. Stavola expressed his opinion that he felt that the Chair should not be on the side of the town. He also expressed that the officers do not think the Chairperson should be on the town side. During the heated discussion it was suggested that the commission take a 5-minute break.]

No subsequent discussion occurred. What has happened since then is:

- The Ethics Commission went into executive session for a "Probable cause determination on a complaint alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics" against the chairman of the Police Commission. The First Selectman participated in an ex-officio capacity in that executive session determination
- . The ethics commission found no probable cause for further investigation into an ethic breach by the Police Commission's Chairman
- The acting Police Commission Chairman, Mr. Stavola (Note: Mr. Ottinoski had temporanly relinquished his chair during the ethics in estigation) issued a press release in response to the Ethic's Commissions clearing of Mr. Otfinoski, the Police Commission's Chairman. That press release was knowingly on behalf of the Police Commission. It expressed the Police Commission's disappointment with the Ethics Commission's finding
- Mr. Stavola was subsequetly removed from the Police Commission by the Board of Selectman for submitting a press release on behalf of the Police Commission. The reason given for his removal was that the press release wasn't first letting by the First Selectman, which the Board of Selectman states is a violation of the town charter

In closing, besides being just a whole bunch of dirty laundry, based on the information as I've presented it, wouldn't you agreeithat when the Ethics Commission went into executive session for a "Probable cause determination on a complaint alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics" against the chairman of the Police Commission, that the First Selectman's participation in an ex-officio capacity is, at the vary Mast, a potential conflict of interest? based on the information as I've

Dave Dander

860) 537-5459

From: Robert Wechsler (catbird@pipeline.com)

To: David Dander

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2009 10:25:20 AM

Subject: Re: Question Re: Polititians on ethics commissions

Dear Mr. Dander:

First, let me say that I am not a lawyer and I am not providing legal advice, but rather ethics advice as a government ethics professional.

There are two issues here, one involving the First Selectman, the other involving the ethics complaint.

I don't like the idea of a First Selectman sitting on boards and commissions ex officio or, even moreso, with voting power. And there seems to be no reason to allow a First Selectman to sit in on executive sessions. But this is normal procedure in Connecticut, where the First Selectman is often more powerful than any mayor. I think this leads to conflicts of interest, but when I say this, no one even bothers responding.

The fact is that such a conflict is not covered by ethics codes and, in fact, most small-town ethics codes allow the Board of Selectmen (which usually means the First Selectman) to select ethics commission members. The only solution to this general problem is charter revision. You can find my report on forms of government in CT and the charter revision process at <a href="http://www.catbirdpress.com/charter/">http://www.catbirdpress.com/charter/</a>.

However, I have never heard of a First Selectman sitting ex officio on an ethics commission, although there are boards of selectman who act, legally or effectively, as a town's ethics commission. A First Selectman on an ethics commission can add nothing, but it can undermine citizens' belief in the ethics commission's independence. It also allows the First Selectman access to confidential information that might directly affect her, her employees and appointees, and her political associates. This too is not the sort of conflict that ethics codes usually deal with (unless the confidential information is actually misused), but I think it is wrong, because it creates opportunities for misuse and is both inappropriate and unnecessary.

As for the ethics complaint, you don't refer to any ethics provision that the police commission chair may have violated, only a police commission rule. All misconduct does not fall under an ethics commission's jurisdiction. A small percentage of ethics codes do include a provision about not presenting one's personal views as the views of the town, but even that sort of provision would not seem to apply in this case. It would actually apply more to the case of the press release.

So the bottom line, I think, is that there is a lot of animosity surrounding these negotiations, even though they've gone to arbitration and therefore are out of the hands of everyone in town. But there do not seem to be any government ethics violations, even where people may not have acted ethically or where the setup creates an appearance of conflict.

In terms of solutions, I would focus on charter revision here, because it appears that an appointed police commission is causing problems, and that the First Selectman's power is causing problems. Your town is

large for this form of government (mine, North Haven, is the largest at 23,000). It's a government intended for tiny towns that do not require professional management. If your town hasn't been talking about other forms of government, now may be a good time to do it, especially if there are questions of efficiency, professionalism, and overspending.

I hope my response is helpful, even if not what you may have been looking for.

Sincerely,

Robert Wechsler City Ethics, Inc. 203-230-2548

CODE OF THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT, v10 Updated 10-15-2007

## CONEONTIE TOWN OF COLONESTER CONNECTIOUT VIO

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CODE OF THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT, v10 Updated 10-15-2007 / THE CODE / Chapter 53, ETHICS, CODE OF / § 53-1. Statement of purpose.

## § 53-1. Statement of purpose.

Public office is a public trust. The trust of the public is essential for government to function effectively. Public policy developed by government officials and employees affects every citizen of the municipality, and it must be based on honest and fair deliberations and decisions. This process must be free from threats, favoritism, undue influence and all forms of impropriety so that the confidence of the public is not eroded. By enacting this code, this municipality seeks to avoid any loss of trust and to maintain and increase the confidence of our citizens in the integrity and fairness of their government.

## § 53-3. Municipal Ethics Commission.

- A. There shall be a Municipal Ethics Commission consisting of five members. The members shall be appointed by vote of the Board of Selectmen for terms of three years, except that, of the initially appointed members, one shall serve for one year, two for two years and two for three years. No individual shall be appointed to more than two consecutive three-year terms, provided that any member may continue in office until a successor has been appointed. No more than three members shall be members of the same political party.
- B. All members shall be electors of the municipality. No member shall:
  - (1) Have held public office or have been a candidate for public office for a two-year period prior to appointment:
  - (2) Hold office in any political party or political committee; or
  - (3) Be a public official in any other capacity other than a notary public or Justice of the Peace.

Colchester Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 3, 2009 Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester First Selectman's Conference Room – 7:00p.m.

Members present: Chair Genea Bell, Robert Esteve, Thomas Cleary, Jacqueline Twedt, Selectman Linda Riley-Hodge

Members absent: Dan Henderson Staff present: Audrie Evans, Clerk

- 1. Called to order at 7:07
- 2. Public Comment: None
- 3. Discussion and Action:
  - A. Probable cause determination on a complaint alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics.

**Motion** to enter into executive session by R. Esteve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Twedt, with the following people present; G. Bell, J. Twedt, R. Esteve, T. Cleary, Selectman L. Hodge in ex officio capacity, Bill Otfinoski, Jean Anderson, for purposes of discussion of probable cause determination on a complaint alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics at 7:10

Meeting reconvened into regular session at 7:38

Motion by J. Twedt the commission finds that complaint #2009-01 lacks sufficient probable cause to support a finding of a violation of the code of ethics pursuant to section 53-6A2a, 2<sup>∞</sup> by T. Cleary.

Vote approved, unanimous.

## Ethics investigation

Norwich Bulletin February 24, 2009

On Feb. 3, the Ethics Commission cleared Relice,
Commission Chairman William Offinoski of allegations by
Stavola and Police Commissioner Glenn Morron that
Offinoski held up negotiations between police and the form and misrepresented the Police Commission in those

talks

Rivereast News Bulletin, February 27, 2009

The police union also alteges that Outhorski "deliberately withheld 64 unresolved police contract issues from the entire police commission for hearly one year."

Otfinoski was cleared of any wrongdoing Feb. 3, when he reclaimed the chairmanship of the Police Commission.

the Dalina

## February 19, 2009 B.O.S. Meeting

18. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Colchester Police Commission: S. Soby moved to remove James Stavola from the Colchester Police Commission pursuant to the language in the Town Charter, seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, R. Coyle voted against. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

## Norwich Bulletin February 24, 2009

Selectman Stan Soby said Stavola violated town policy; when he released a statement on behalf of the commission criticizing an Ethics Commission ruling. Such statements, according to Soby and First Selectman Linda Hodge, must be sent to the first selectman's office before being released. Hodge did not receive a copy of the statement prior to its release.

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CONNECTION

MEMBER OF AN APPOINTED BOARD - An elector of the Town appointed by the Board of Selectmen to membership or as an alternate on an appointed board, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen and without compensation of any kind.

#### § C-706. Removal of members of appointed boards.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter or in the General Statutes, the Board of Selectmen may remove for cause any member of an appointed board, provided that such member be notified in writing of the grounds for removal and given an opportunity for a hearing before the Board of Selectmen. If such member or alternate desires such a hearing, such member shall so notify the Board of Selectmen in writing within seven days after notification of the grounds for removal. Such hearing shall be public only if such member or alternate so requests. Such hearing shall be held no less than seven nor more than 30 days after notification of the grounds for removal. The decision of the Board of Selectmen shall be final. The date of notification of the grounds for removal shall be deemed to be the date of delivery if delivered by hand and two days after the postmark if delivered by mail.

## Rivereast News Bulletin, February 27, 2009

Stavola – who worked as a police officer for more than 30 years – said none of his commission colleagues objected to the statement's wording or having it released to the public at the time.

"This wasn't my idea," Stavola said. "That was on behalf of everybody. That was the premise I was working under, but obviously I was punished for it by being removed."

But according to First Selectman Linda Hodge and Otfinoski, Stavola's statement wasn't vetted by them first – in violation of the town's charter.

Hodge said that policy is in place not as a censoring tool but so Colchester leaders can make sure information released through their ancillary boards to the public is "accurate."

The Alpha-Omega Learning Center 52 Mill Street Colchester, Ct 06415 Judy Rogers 860-514-6282

Town of Colchester Board of Selectman 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, Ct 06415

Re: Application for the installation of No Parking signs

March 12, 2009

Dear Board of Selectman,

My name is Judy Rogers, I am the new owner of the previous Nikirk Ministries property, now the Alpha-Omega Learning Center, on 52 Mill St. We are in the final stages (and I say this with my fingers crossed) of completion. In response to one of the many contingencies placed on the Notice of Decision Letter for the Change of Use approval, it specifically states applying to the local Traffic Authority (Selectman's office) for installation of two(2) No Parking signs.

The Alpha Omega Learning Center is applying for permission to proceed with the installation of two (2) new STC approved "No Parking" signs on the West side of Mill St. along the frontage of the property.

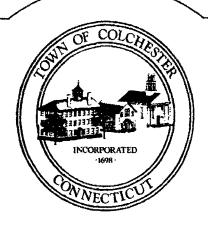
I have enclosed a photocopy of the site plan portion in question and have highlighted the placement of the signs on the plan as well as the description. Also enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Decision, #13 highlighted. Please do not hesitate to call me during the meeting if there are any questions at the number above. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rudy Rogers

Judy Rogers

## Code Administration Building Official Fire Marshal Wetlands Enforcement



Planning and Zoning
Planning Director
Zoning Enforcement
Town Engineer

## PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF DECISION

## REGULAR & CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Judy Rogers 52 Mill St. Colchester, CT 06415

February 5, 2009

SE#08-270, Judy Rogers, Applicant, Alpha-Omega Learning Center LLC owner:
Application for a change of use from a place of worship to a Special Exception Use for a proposed Day Care Center at 52 Mill St. Assessors Map# 22, Lot# 043, General Commercial Zone.

## Dear Applicant:

The Planning & Zoning Commission, at their February 4, 2009 regular meeting, voted to **APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS** the above referenced Special Exception application and site plan specific to the plans titled "Change of Use Proposal, Assessors Map #22, Lot #43, 52 Mill Street, prepared for The Alpha-Omega Learning Center LLC, 52 Mill St., one sheet, scale 1"=10', dated 11/25/08, revised 1/20/09, prepared by Jess McMinn & Associates, LLC." subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Final plans are to be signed and sealed by the preparers.
- 2. Final plans are to provide the sizes and types of water & sewer connections to the site
- 3. Final plans are to show the entire rear setback lines.
- 4. Final plans are to have the curbing on the site labeled as to type.
- 5. Final plans are to show the existing utility pole from which the overhead utilities originate.
- 6. Final plans are to provide an "Area Map" in compliance with the Regulations.
- 7. Final plans are to contain a note that all roof drainage discharges at grade around the building.
- 8. Final plans are to contain a note that drainage rights have been granted to the Town of Colchester. Written documentation of this right is to be submitted for review and approval by the Town Engineer.

