



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Tri-Board Special Meeting
Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Finance
December 11, 2013, Minutes
Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue
Room 1**

HANCOY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

George A. Bray

2013 DEC 13 AM 8:53

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

Members of the Board of Selectmen Present: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Mike Caplet, and Denise Mizla.

Members of the Board of Selectmen Absent: Selectman Stan Soby.

Board of Finance Members Present: Chairman Rob Tarlov, John Ringo, Art Shilosky, and Rob Esteve. Tom Kane at 7:08 p.m.

Board of Finance: Members Absent: James McNair, III.

Board of Education Members Present: Chairman Ronald Goldstein, Brad Bernier, Mary Tomasi, Michael Voiland, Donald Kennedy at 7:05 p.m.

Board of Education Members Absent: Michael Egan, Mitchell Koziol.

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Jeffery Mathieu, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove, School Operations Ken Jackson, Building Committee Chair Tom Tyler, and other citizens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Selectman Schuster called this Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Tarlov called this Special Meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Goldstein called this Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None received.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WJJMS RENOVATION, SENIOR CENTER AND YOUTH CENTER

Selectman Schuster provided the Board members with a tally of the recent survey of voters at the November

election sites regarding the proposed William J. Johnston Middle School (WJJMS), Senior Center and Youth Center project.

Chairman Goldstein stated that the consistent theme was that the school project needed immediate Attention and he feels the school has support to move ahead.

A. Shilosky noted that the three part project failed and the projects need to move forward at separate locations.

D. Kennedy and T. Kane arrived at the beginning of this discussion.

Discussion followed regarding the separation of the school and senior center/community center projects. Selectman Schuster stated that the proposed suggestions from citizens for the location of the senior center be reviewed and further study done to address the needs of a new center.

First Selectman Schuster asked if anyone was in disagreement to move forward with the WJJMS Project
No disagreement was voiced.

Motion by D. Mizla to call a Town Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss and vote upon amending the motion passed at the June 29, 2011 Town Meeting which established building committee to:

Establishing a seven-member Building Committee for the construction of a middle school as the site of the existing William J. Johnston Middle School, to include renovation of existing spaces, demolition of existing spaces, and new construction, all as determined appropriate by the Building Committee. Said project may also include allocation of space for general town use, as determined appropriate and available by said Building Committee;

Authorizing said building Committee to oversee, coordinate and supervise all aspects of the planning and construction process, including selection of architect and other consultants, choice of contractor, development of project documents and supervision of construction through completion and final acceptance by the Town;

Authorizing the Board of Education to prepare schematic drawings and specifications for the school portion of said project;

Authorizing the Board of Education to file a grant application with the State of Connecticut for the school portion of said project.

Second by: M. Caplet.

Vote: Unanimously **APPROVED**.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Arthur Liverant stated there is a ground swell of support to turn the Jack's Chevrolet property into a Senior/ Community Center. A. Liverant feels this is the most important piece of property available in the center of town and if the Senior Center is put on hold for two years, it may not be available. A. Liverant asked the Board members to think about this as it affords the town a great opportunity.

John Malsbenden agrees that this site is well within the interest of the Town, but is it an appropriate site for a Senior Center? There are environmental cleanup issues to take a seriously hard look at. J. Malsbenden added that to move forward with the Senior Center/Community Center, the school project must be well off the ground.

Tom Tyler agrees that the school and senior center should be separate sites and asked the Boards to be mindful of the condition of the current youth center. T. Tyler feels the survey is not representative as some felt the questions were unclear. He suggested using the same architect from the previous building committee to save time and money.

5. ADJOURNMENT

T. Kane motioned to adjourn this Special Meeting of the Finance Board, seconded by A. Shilosky.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

D. Kennedy motioned to adjourn this Special Meeting of the Board of Education, seconded by M. Tomasi.

Vote: Unanimously to adjourn.

M. Caplet motioned to adjourn this Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, seconded by R. Coyle.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

The Chairmen of the Boards adjourned their respective meetings at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

Note: This meeting was recorded by a digital audio recording system and is available through the First Selectman 's office in accordance with the Freedom Of Information Act.