



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2013
Colchester Town Hall

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

2013 FEB 19 PM 3:37

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

Meeting Room 1 – Immediately Following Commission Chair Meeting at 7:00PM

REVISED

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Derrik Kennedy, Robert Suchecki, Dot Mrowka, Adam Turner, John Malsbenden, Diana Giles, Nancy Bray, Merja Lehtinen, Don Kennedy, Walter Cox, Don Lee, Melissa Roberto, Ryan Blessing, and other citizens.

1. **Call to Order**

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

2. **Additions to the Agenda**

S. Soby moved to add to the agenda item #5b, "Parks & Recreation Commission. Member appointment to fill a vacancy for a term ending 11/30/15. Discussion and Possible Action on Alternate Member Tracy Loskant," and renumber accordingly; seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **Approve Minutes of the January 3, 2013 Regular Board of Selectmen meeting**

G. Cordova moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2013 Regular Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Citizen's Comments**

N. Bray read a prepared statement regarding benefits provided to Town elected officials (attached).

L. Hill commented on concerns over revised personnel policies.

M. Lehtinen questioned appointed or elected officials time reporting requirements.

J. Malsbenden commented on compensation changes for elected officials mid-term.

J. Ford moved to add to the agenda an item concerning the statements made this evening and any action the Board might want to make, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED. J. Ford moved to add to the agenda item #5, that the "Board of Selectmen temporarily rescind the action of First Selectmen, as it is inconsistent with Charter and policy until such time as it can be considered by the full board and acted on appropriately," seconded by R. Coyle. Discussion ensued on the comments of the public, investigation of time recording and use of time sheets for elected and non-elected personnel. G. Schuster moved to amend the motion to read, "All full-time elected officials and employees must turn in their time on the pre-existing time sheet to verify hours worked and qualification for fringe benefits

under Town policies,” seconded by G. Cordova. Discussion on excessive use of authority, process of investigation and succeeding actions, and Board of Selectmen process. All opposed the motion to amend. MOTION FAILED. J. Ford and R. Coyle voted in favor of the original motion. All others opposed. MOTION FAILED. Discussion on next actions of the Board. S. Soby moved the action that has been taken needs to be put into abeyance until we’ve had a discussion, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

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

a. **Commission on Aging. Member re-appointment for a three-year term to expire 12/31/15. Rose Levine to be interviewed.**

S. Soby moved to re-appoint Rose Levine as a member to the Commission on Aging for a three-year term to expire 12/31/15, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

b. **Parks & Recreation Commission. Member appointment to fill a vacancy for a term ending 11/30/15. Discussion and Possible Action on Alternate Member Tracy Loskant.**

S. Soby moved to appoint Tracy Loskant as a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy for a term ending 11/30/15, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

c. **Parks & Recreation Commission. Alternate appointment for a three-year term to expire 01/01/16. Kristin Moody was interviewed on 10/18/12 for Ethics Commission.**

R. Coyle moved to appoint Kristin Moody as an alternate to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term to expire 01/01/16, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **Budget Transfers**

None.

7. **Tax Refunds & Rebates**

J. Ford moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$18.73 to Janet Kearney, \$267.80 to Ally Financial, and \$50.78 to Gerald & Nancy Beilman; seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Local Elderly Tax Relief Task Force**

G. Cordova moved to form a Local Option Property Relief Task in accordance with section 129-26 of the Town ordinances, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Zoning Regulation Review Process**

A. Turner presented to the Board on review/revision process. Discussion on needs for further development of Regulations, priority of Regulations versus Plan of Conservation and Development, need for public inclusivity, and process of review of revisions. No action taken.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Personnel Policy**

Discussion on review of policy. No action taken.

11. **Citizen’s Comments**

M. Lehtinen commented on thankfulness of desire to have public comment on Zoning Regulation revisions, commendation of Town for receiving GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award,

insurance company demand for time sheets of employees for liability issues, upcoming budget, and professionalism of First Selectman.

J. Malsbenden commented on meeting procedural matters according to Roberts Rules of Order. M. Caplet questioned having a mark-up version of Zoning Regulations, personnel policy, and meeting decorum.

D. Wasniewski commented on transparency of personnel policy revisions and Zoning Regulations priority compared to the Plan of Conservation and Development.

12. **First Selectman's Report**

First Selectman G. Schuster reported that a year ago the Town inquired about a Sidewalk Fee-in-Lieu Ordinance and are now working with State Representative M. Ziobron, CCM, and COST to push legislation allowing municipalities to enact such an ordinance. Schuster further reported that the Town is very concerned about upcoming state budget with regards to potential cuts to Town and school aid.

13. **Liaison Report**

J. Ford reported that the Friends of Cragin Library is scheduling a Book Sale in March. All funds from events help library with special projects.

R. Coyle reported that the Commission on Aging is eager to hire a new Senior Center Director. Also, Clara Erickson, a long-time member of the Commission, has recently passed away. 42 Christmas baskets were made at the Center this year.

S. Soby commented that the first weekend in February is "Freezin for a Reason" to raise funds for the Colchester Fuel Bank.

14. **Adjourn**

G. Cordova moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m., seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick M. Kennedy
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Attachments:

- Letter from Town Clerk, Nancy Bray