



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

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Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, and Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2013
William J. Johnston Middle School Media Center – 6:00 p.m.

REVISED

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Gregg Schuster, Stan Soby, Rosemary Coyle, Greg Cordova and Jim Ford

Board of Finance Members Present: Rob Tarlov, John Ringo, Rob Esteve, Tom Kane, and Art Shilosky, and Cathy Pompei (arrived at 8:00pm)

Board of Finance Members Absent:

Board of Education Members Present: Ron Goldstein, Brad Bernier, Donald Kennedy, John Reever, Michael Egan

Board of Education Members Absent: Mitchell Koziol and Mary Tomasi

Others Present: Maggie Cosgrove, Jim Paggioli, Jeff Mathieu, Chris Bennett, Jennifer Olsen, Greg LePage, Tecton Representatives, Ryan Blessing and other citizens

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
R. Tarlov called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
R. Goldstein called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Citizens Comments

None

3. Discussion and Possible Action on WJMS Community Center/Senior Center Building Project

The Boards discussed the \$68M cost estimate of the project that was presented, the timeline if the project were to go to a May Referendum to meet June 30th state submission for reimbursement deadlines, and the possibility to extend the deadline for filing until November. After much discussion, the sense of the Boards was it would be difficult to meet the June 30th deadline because of the time needed to put everything in place to go to Referendum. Moving forward, the focus should be the scope, the budget and cash flow, and timing of the project. As part of this process, the architect was asked to identify a menu of items that could be reduced in the scope. The architect's question was that if you have to change the scope, what do you want to change it to? The building committee would be discussing this at their next meeting. There was a discussion about whether the project could be done in phases, with the school being completed first as a project and the Senior Center and Community Center being done after as separate projects and what incremental costs there might be in doing so. M. Cosgrove presented the board

members with a packet that included the cost estimate, the cash flow and a very rough debt planning worksheet received from Webster Bank on the WJJMS project. M. Cosgrove gave an overview of what was included in the packet. Discussion continued on what steps the Committee and the Boards will take to move the project forward to meet the required deadlines.

4. Citizens Comments

D. Wyckoff stated his concern that this project is being looked at from the wrong perspective and it should be looked at for what is needed not what is wanted. L. Sayman-Dickey stated her concern that children will stop attending the schools in their present condition and turning to Magnet schools. She believes the project should be put before the citizens and let them have a say as to what they want and are willing to take on.

J. Kelly had a concern regarding projected enrollment; the frustration from teachers that so much money has gone into the construction of the buildings at the expense of what is being spent in the classroom and decisions are being made without knowing the impact on the future mill rate. M. Gillman, citizen, stated that funding from the state bonding commission for the community and senior center should be sought out; she is an advocate for the pool and would like to see a pool included in the design.

5. Adjourn

R. Esteve moved to adjourn the Board of Finance at 7:56 p.m., seconded by A. Shilosky. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Kennedy moved to adjourn the Board of Education at 7:56 p.m., seconded by J. Reeve. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen at 7:56 p.m., seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrick M. Kennedy
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman