



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Selectmen Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16, 2015**

Colchester Town Hall, Immediately following Commission Chair Meeting @ 7pm

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2015 APR 21 AM 10:03

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman Denise Mizla, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, and Selectman Kurt Frantzen

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: K Byroade Library Director, R Tarlov BOF Chair, G Siddell COA Chair, T. Dean Clerk, and other citizens

1. Call to Order

First Selectman S. Soby called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

S. Soby asked that the following items be added to the agenda; Item #6.b.2 Police commission, Jeff Dunshee to be interviewed, Amend Item #10 to move to Item #6, Modification of Item #12 Amend to Executive Session and move to Item #16, remaining items to be renumbered accordingly.

R Coyle moved to approve the additions/amendments to the agenda as presented, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

3. Approve Minutes of the April 2, 2015 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

R Coyle moved to approve the Special Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes of April 2, 2015, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

4. Approve Minutes of the April 9, 2015 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

R Coyle moved to approve the Special Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes of April 9, 2015, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

5. Citizen's Comments – Steve Schuster letter attached

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Cragin Library Adult Services Librarian Job Description

R Coyle moved to recommend the changes to the position of Adult Services Librarian, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

7. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations

a. Police Commission

1. Susan Dubb to be interviewed – was interviewed
2. Jeff Dunshee to be interviewed – was interviewed

b. Commission on Aging

Jennifer Rayburn DeHay to be interviewed – not present

c. Board of Selectmen

Andreas Bisbikos to be interviewed – was interviewed

8. Budget Transfers - none

9. Tax Refunds & Rebates

D. Mizla moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$405.91 to Miltza Allen, and \$288.43 to Honda Lease Trust, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Policies and Procedures Manual for the Colchester Senior Center**
G Siddell, Commission on Aging chair informed the board that a sub-committee from the COA and the Senior Services Director worked on different town models to revise our own policies. Three areas of significance are; 1. Strengthen transportation policies, 2. Membership criteria on annual basis and fees for non-residents, and 3. Grievance process. K Frantzen stated it was exceptionally helpful to have the policies in written form, but need to review the hearings section component. S Soby stated that hearings would be more of a mediation role for the commission vs a hearing role. G Siddell stated they would re-work that section.

TABLED to next meeting

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Purchasing Policy Section B.3 Notification of Request for Proposal/Competitive Bid**
K Frantzen pointed out the areas in the current policies he would like to see more specifications added, predominantly section 5 to increase from 5% to 7.5% consideration for local vendors. D Mizla and R Coyle agreed on the percentage section. They stated that specifications to the other topics K Frantzen mentioned they would need additional information pointed out to make a decision. S Soby stated he would also like the BOE and BOF to weigh in as well. An action item will be put on the agenda for the next Tri-board meeting.

NO ACTION

12. **Citizen's Comments** - none

13. **First Selectman's Report**

KX CEO's continue to be engaged with the Board of Directors and consolidation. Committee issues have arisen and going forward they will ensure the interest of municipalities are addressed; Economic indicators from Eversource was helpful and interesting; Contract negotiations underway with Police and Fire; Conditional offer to certified officer to fill the vacancy has been made, they are now in the final steps; Spring cleanup drew a nice crowd on 4/11; Quality of life issues are being addressed. One we are working on by offering assistance the other has been transferred to the Health District. A third is a noise issue and the town is working with the property owner in order to come to an agreeable solution; Finalized the agreement with the owners of Norton Mill, and a level 2 environmental study for remediation has been done. Submitted an additional Brownfield grant application.

14. **Liaison Reports**

R Coyle reported on the Building Committee – Public presentations will be on 4/23 at 6pm, 4/29 at 6pm and 5/2 at 10am at WJJMS. The committee has been invited to present at the 5/15 CBA meeting.
Commission on Aging – Statistics attached

D Mizla reported on Board of Education – The temporary Director of Pupil Services person has begun to interview affected parents. Reports from parents of good, productive sessions and will continue.

15. **Executive Session to Discuss Tentative Agreement with Municipal Employees Union Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC**

R Coyle moved to enter into executive session to discuss the Tentative Agreement with Municipal Employees Union, inviting R Tarlov BOF chair, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 9:35 p.m.

Exited from executive session at 9:40 p.m.

16. **Adjourn**

R Coyle moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m., seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk

Attachments (1) S Schuster letter
(2) COA stats

COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 7, 2015

Good evening; My name is Steven Schuster and I am a 70 year resident of the Town of Colchester.

Mr. Goldstein, members of the Colchester Board of Education, fellow citizens of the Town of Colchester and especially, parents of children with special needs in the school system of the Town of Colchester.

After reading articles in local newspapers and the letters from many parents of children with special needs in the Colchester School System, I was brought to embarrassment, and then anger when I read through those numerous letters describing what they have been going through to get their children the help that is needed.

I can remember so well the same set of circumstances that happened in Colchester around 25 years ago when the then superintendent of schools and the director of special education turned their backs on a group of special needs students that resulted in many law suits against the town and eventually the BOE was ordered to comply with the law and these students were helped. The problem as I remember it, was a very weak BOE at the time and most were blinded by what they thought they were being told by the professional administrators as being the truth. It was a very bad time for the educational community in Colchester. So bad in fact that the town was in such an uproar that they reduced the membership of the BOE from 11 members in the charter down to 7, and did a wholesale change in the makeup of BOE in the next election. It was then and only then that the newly seated board identified the problems at hand, and within 2 months, Colchester was looking for a new superintendent and director of special education for the school system. I truly believe that today we have a more educated and competent BOE that will get to the bottom of this current disaster and make the hard decisions they will be faced with. I certainly hope so.

You know, sometimes it does take a community to raise a child!
Thank you all.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Schuster

I formally request that this letter be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Programs:

- 4/13 Mindfulness for Seniors, 3 part series
- 4/14 Golf League Meeting
- 4/15 iPad 101 Workshop
- 4/20 Cold/Snow Party
- 4/22 Diabetes Self-Management Program, 6 week series
- 4/22 AARP Smart Driver Course
- 4/24 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, CSC will not be open
- 4/27 Bobbi's Blue Plate Special
- 4/29 At-Home Nutrition Lunch & Learn
- 4/30 WJJMS Senior Prom

Making Memories Program:

- Hopeful to make an offer of employment to our new Making Memories Program Coordinator to begin by end of month

Strategic Planning:

- Met with Stan Soby & Gary Siddell to discuss pursuing a NCOA Self-Assessment process as a means towards a Strategic Plan and a way to increase our visibility within the community, he was very much in favor of pursuing this.
- In the coming months, we will be recruiting a Self-Assessment Team.

Policies & Procedures Manual:

- Submitted for review to BOS

AARP Tax Aide Services-served a total of 159 Clients this tax season!

Grants:

- Submitted to Senior Resources AAA for renewal funding for the Making Memories Program
- Submitted to DOT for the Municipal Grant Program for Out of Town Transportation for Medical Appointments

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Monthly Attendance in March: 1373 in 22 days
- Monthly Transports in February: 849
- Monthly Transports in March: 1031
- Meals served in March: Bistro & Special Meals: 144 Community Café: 164 MOW: 465
- New members March : MTD: 10 YTD: 22