



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Selectmen Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2015
Colchester Town Hall @ 7PM**

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2015 JUL 28 AM 8:14

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Finance A. Shilosky, Operations Director J. Jones, Town Clerk G. Furman, Registrar D. Mrowka, M. Lehtinen, T. Dean Clerk, and other citizens.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman S. Soby called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

S Soby asked that the following replace current agenda item #9; Discussion and Possible Action on Resident Trooper Contract. R Coyle asked that the following be added to the agenda #13 Discussion on Senior Center Project, renumber accordingly.

R Coyle moved to approve the additions the agenda as presented, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

3. Approve Minutes of the June 30, 2015 Board of Selectmen Emergency Meeting

R Coyle moved to approve the Emergency Meeting of Selectmen meeting minutes of June 30, 2015, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

4. Approve Minutes of the July 2, 2015 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

J Reever asked for the following corrections to be made; Strike 1st sentence before comma referring to septic and Chatham. Add to second part of 1st sentence to read 92 & 93 seems to be in conflict with state statute. Add Ordinance 64 needs to be updated for flood hazard.

R Coyle moved to approve the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting minutes, as amended, of July 2, 2015, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved with one abstention by R Coyle. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Citizen's Comments

Merja Lehtinen thanked the Town Clerk and Assessor for their help with a recent issue.
D Mrowka, registrar, relayed training requirements from the state along with cost

6. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations - None

7. Budget Transfers - None

8. Tax Refunds & Rebates

K Frantzen moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$376.00 to Barolo Gallitto, and \$56.25 to Ronald Delisle, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Resident Trooper Contract

R Coyle asked if there was any highlighted changes different from the previous contract. S Soby replied that there was no language change outside of the percentage change from 70% to 85%.

R Coyle move to approve the Resident Trooper Contract, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Blight Ordinance Task Force Charge

The Board discussed what the direction should be for the Task Force, common agreement was the purpose to be broad, and to focus on illegal and health and safety issues. Discussion on enforcement and appeal process, as well as pointing

out that our rural community needs to be taken into consideration as well. S Soby stated that key points need to be addressed, needs to be simple and easy to understand, enforceable with current staffing, focus on health and safety, and a clear process on how to respond to complaints. R Coyle questioned if there was a state statute that defines blight? S Soby responded that no, last year there was talk about it but it never came to fruition. Next step is to re-form the committee due to several current members not being able to volunteer at this time, a press release and the web site has been updated with the town's seeking volunteers. Tabled to next meeting.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Consultant Agreement for Norton Mill Project

S Soby explained that the monies for the consultant will be paid through a STEEP grant. The consultant will assist in coordinating activities around the Mill project in terms of scope of work for testing, due diligence, property transfer, removal of structure, re-contour of property, and re-establishment of historical markers with the nature conservatory and potential repair of the Papermill Bridge. The consultant will be Adam Turner, Town Planner, who will be leaving his position on July 31st. A Turner was the choice as consultant due to needing someone who can assist that has all the necessary knowledge of the current project and who also has current clearance to perform tasks with each commission involved. Discussion from the Board regarding payment procedure and language in the drafted agreement. Consensus among members was the agreement needed more definitions and limitations, to clearly identify payment terms, termination, and authorization. Agreement will be re-drafted for next meeting. NO ACTION.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Town Planner Selection Process

S Soby updated that an internal review of applicants has been done by CFO M Cosgrove, Engineer S Tassone, and PW Director J Paggioli, which has narrowed the field to six candidates. Next step will be an external review of the six candidates by neighboring Town Planners, to narrow the selection to 2-3 candidates. Then the final step will be by the Board of Selectmen with an interview of 2-3 candidates for final selection.

13. Discussion on a Senior Center Building Project

R Coyle submitted a document (attached) with a list of questions and ideas for discussion in order to move a Senior Center Project forward. R Coyle pointed out that a formal stand on what position the Board has on the project has not been done, and would like to enact that as well as working on the cooperation and support from the Board of Finance. Agreement from the Board that they would go through the document, add own thoughts and questions, then come back and discuss at the next meeting. Tabled to next meeting.

14. Citizens Comments

Art Shilosky stated his support in getting the Senior Center Building Project moving forward, stated that it is at capacity in the location now and needs to be done.

Merja Lehtinen spoke against the Blight Ordinance Task Force due to most residents that will suffer from this ordinance are the disabled and elderly. Stated that the ornaments that adorn lawns are indicative of Colchester. Merja Lehtinen also spoke to the potential Senior Center building project and would like to see more Town Meetings to discuss the project vs discussing during Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meetings.

15. First Selectman's Report

Recognized the Colchester Land Trust for achieving accreditation; Working with the P&R Director on the Program Fund; Concerts on the Green continue with good attendance; Food Festival is next week; Working with neighbors around the use of roads and commercial operations of roads, seems to be fruitful at this point; Concerns about speed in town the last couple of weeks brings in more complaints vs prior years. Discussed with Resident Trooper Sgt. Martinez to set more speed enforcements around town; Open house at Camp Hemlocks on Friday 1pm-5pm; Met with Chatham and discussed septic system design. Good feedback on changes with the health district regarding permits for farmers markets, etc.

16. Liaison Reports

R Coyle reported on the Fire Department Officers Meeting on 7/6 – Budget issues for FY 2015 due to vehicle repair line item being over budget. Ambulance Incentive program budget is tight due to increased calls and they continue to rise. Suggestion to group to present issues to BOS and BOF to explain how the program will work going forward. Don Rowland to retire as Health & Safety Officer, Royce Miles will be shadowing. Firefighter McNamara leaving on Tuesday.

17. Adjourn

R Coyle moved to adjourn at 8:49 p.m., seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachment: R Coyle Document re Senior Center Project Questions

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Dean, Clerk

To: First Selectman, Stan Soby
The Colchester Board of Selectman

From: Rosemary Coyle, Selectman

Date: August 16, 2015

Re: Senior Center Project Questions

Since the passage of the WJJMS project, we have begun to discuss the Senior Center project. It appears that we are all in favor of this but maybe our positions need to be formalized. In reflecting on the success of that project's passage, it happened because it was a bipartisan effort and no one board worked in isolation. We worked as a team. I believe the success was based on all of us working together, getting all our perspectives aired, and coming to consensus on how we move forward. The cooperation and support from all the boards made the difference the second time around and the project is moving forward.

I have included a list of questions I would have raised on July 2nd. Some of which I had emailed to the First Selectman and the reason for asking to postpone discussion until I was present to participate. I have been involved in this issue for so many years and have learned much about this issue from the COA, Senior Center Study group, and the previous Building Committee.

I wanted to share my list of questions which is by no means complete but maybe a topic for conversation. This list is in no specific order but a list of questions and/or ideas that I believe we may choose to discuss in order to move a Senior Center project forward.

1. What are the first steps?
2. Does each Board take a formal position to move a Senior Center project forward?
3. What is the timeline/timing? How do we move this along?
4. How will the Senior Center Accreditation process assist in the scope of the building – its needed size, requirements etc.
5. Do we have a financial plan and/or financial evaluation?
6. Do we need a joint meeting with Board of Finance?
7. How do we determine the issue of a site?
8. What happens to the current Senior Center building and land? Is this in the mix?
9. Should we form a subcommittee of BOS, BOF and 2 representatives from public to review sites and/or options?

10. How do we design a transparent process with open communication so the townspeople know where we are going with this project, how we will pay for this, impact on taxes, and when it will happen?
11. When do we appoint a Building Committee that will hire an architect to design the building?
12. What else needs to be done?