



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Selectmen Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 2, 2015
Colchester Town Hall @ 7PM**

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2015 JUL -7 AM 9:02
TOWN CLERK
DANA BERNIER

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Rosemary Coyle

OTHERS PRESENT: BOF Rob Tarlov, Registrar Diana Giles, Board of Education Ron Goldstein & Don Kennedy & Brad Bernier, Senior Services Director Patty Watts, T. Dean Clerk, and other citizens.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman S. Soby called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

S Soby asked that the following be added to the agenda; #13 Discussion and Possible Action on the Christian Life Chapel Donation, renumber accordingly.

K Frantzen moved to approve the addition the agenda as presented, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

3. Approve Minutes of the June 18, 2015 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

D Mizla moved to approve the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of June 18, 2015, seconded by J Reever. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

4. Citizen's Comments

S Soby read a statement (attached)

D Giles, R Goldstein, R Tarlov, D Kennedy, and B Bernier all thanked Stan for his comment and stand by his statement.

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

a. Commission on Aging – Resignation of Susan Choma

D Mizla moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Susan Choma from the Commission on Aging Commission, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

S Soby commended Susan on her work with the COA as well as with the Giving Garden. Both Susan and her husband will be missed and wishes them both well.

6. Budget Transfers - None

7. Tax Refunds & Rebates

D Mizla moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$30.84 to John Lantz, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

8. Discussion and Possible Action on My Senior Center Contract/Purchase Agreement

P Watts indicated that the new language has been added as well as the date has been adjusted. Clarified that the \$3,300 is a one-time charge and that the \$1,200 is an operational cost for the subscription.

K Frantzen moved to approve the purchase of "My Senior Center" system for the Colchester Senior Center and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Munis Crystal Reports Financial Software Contract Renewal**
D Mizla moved to approve the Annual Support and License Agreement for Munis Crystal Reports application for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on CYSA/DCF Juvenile Review Board Support Grant**
D Mizla moved to approve the application for the CYSA JRB Support grant and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
11. **Discussion and Possible Action on a Senior Center Building Committee**
S Soby made a commitment to residents that he would start discussions on this after the budget and school building passing. Now is the time to start a process for the seniors of Colchester. The Commission on Aging and P Watts are working on the process of getting accreditation, as well as working on a strategic plan that will be a basis for the Senior Center project.
12. **Discussion and Possible Action on Blight Task Force meeting dates and charge**
Meetings will be held the fourth Thursday of every month. The charge would result in a proposed ordinance created and proposed by the task force. S Soby requested the Selectmen to give input on what they would like included in the charge.
13. **Discussion and Possible Action on the Christian Life Chapel Donation**
The church donated \$5,000 to the town to be used as the town sees fit. S Soby suggested that it be used towards something tangible, lasting and that can be used by anyone in town. He would like to propose purchasing books for Cragin Library. The Board agreed that this was a good idea.

D Mizla moved to approve using the \$5,000 received by Christian Life Chapel to Cragin Library for their book line fund, seconded by J Reeve. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
14. **Citizens Comments - none**
15. **First Selectman's Report**
First concert on the green today at 6pm, so far drawing a large size crowd; Currently in court with employer in pre-development stage on a new big expansion in Industrial park; Cone Heads is a new ice-cream shop in town; In answer to questions regarding the Colchester Sports Complex, no formal proposal yet but met with the EDC and it was decided to do a new CTIP application due to the new location; Fire on Tuesday at Balaban Apts, no report on cause yet, no human fatalities but did have a dog fatality. Fire marshal did perform an inspection with a maintenance person before the fire and did replace all detectors and batteries. Firefighters responded quickly along with mutual aid; Newest police officer was sworn in, Michael Brown, started Mon 6/29. New resident trooper also starts on 7/1 Sgt. Martinez; Finalizing contract with engineering firm for stage two of the Mill Project; Received nine applications for the Town Planner position. This will be a multi-step process including an internal and external panel for interviews; Blight had one issue on Lebanon Ave, the Health District was helpful on the public health issue. Contacted a drive by and noticed marked progress; Zoning enforcement issue with neighborhood concerns. Met with the applicant and neighbors to find a common ground to avoid a formal and costly process; Tire removal process starting at Tony's Junkyard.
16. **Liaison Reports**
D Mizla reported that there are no meetings for Youth Advisory or Park and Rec for July and August
J Reeve reported on Charter Review Commission – stated there was some question on septic tank disposal with no reference to Chatham, and also on #92&93 regarding hearing procedure. S Soby took the information and will work with the commission on clarifying.
17. **Executive Session to Discuss a Security Matter**
K Frantzen moved to enter into executive session to discuss a security matter, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 7:39 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 7:50 p.m.
18. **Discussion and Possible Action on a Security Matter**
D Mizla moved to approve the action on a security matter, seconded by K Frantzen. Unanimously Approved. MOTION CARRIED.

19. Adjourn

D Mizla moved to adjourn at 7:51 p.m., seconded by J Reeve. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachment: Statement by S Soby

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tricia Dean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tricia Dean, Clerk

As we approach the 239th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which was actually approved by Congress on July 2nd, we are reminded of how remarkable the founding of this nation was and continues to be.

At our country's beginning, in the crucible of debate, great ideas and ideals were formed, which have been tested over time and still ring true today.

We Americans have always been a fractious and disputatious lot, well chronicled in Woody Holton's book *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution*, but the scurrilous rantings published on broadsides, the Facebook of the day, only became spirited productive debates when the discourse occurred in public.

Everyday folk, understanding that Government is us, unless we let it become 'them', engaged in the process and made a significant impact on the makings of the Constitution.

But the 'broadside' remains. Anonymous letters have been received by public officials, cut and pasted from unsourced articles, marked up by the author(s) for emphasis. But we have had some go further than that. A number of people have received racist misrepresentations regarding public policies and anti-Semitic screeds by a Holocaust-denier.

There is no place in a civil society for uncivil behavior and hate speech. We have seen the tragic results when this behavior goes unchallenged. So, here is the challenge: if this is what you believe, then come debate in the public square, as our Founders and our ancestors did.

Stan Soby

July 2, 2015