



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 15, 2016  
Colchester Town Hall @7pm

2016 SEP 19 PM 12:00  
RECEIVED  
TOWN OF COLCHESTER, CT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Art Shilosky, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Mizla, and Selectman John Jones

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Selectman Stan Soby

**OTHERS PRESENT:** CFO M Cosgrove, Director of PW J Paggioli, Tax Collector M Wyatt, Town Planner R Benson, BOE R Goldstein and B Bernier, K Jackson, T Tyler, J Ford and Clerk T. Dean

**1. Call to Order**

First Selectman A Shilosky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Additions to the Agenda**

R Coyle asked that agenda item #11 WJJMS Building Project Workshop Update be moved to #7, renumber remaining items.

R Coyle moved to move the agenda as presented, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

A Shilosky asked that agenda item #10 Discussion and Possible Action on Appropriation from Vehicle Reserve for the Senior Center Minivan be changed to read, Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Expenditures of funds from Vehicle Reserve for the Senior Center Minivan

R Coyle moved to change agenda item #10 as presented, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. Approve Minutes of the September 1, 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

J Jones moved to approve the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of September 1, 2016, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Approve Minutes of the September 12, 2016 Special Selectmen Meeting**

J Jones moved to approve the Special Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of September 12, 2016, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**5. Citizen's Comments – none**

**6. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations**  
**a. Economic Development Commission – James Ford possible reappointment for a five-year term to expire on 10/31/2021**

R Coyle moved to reappoint James Ford to the Economic Development Commission for a five-year term to expire on 10/31/2021, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**b. Youth Services Advisory Board – Virginia Streppa resignation**

D Mila moved to accept the resignation, with regret, of Virginia Streppa from the Youth Services Advisory Board, seconded by J Jones. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**c. Police Commission – Steven Caron resignation effective 11/1/2016**

R Coyle moved to accept the resignation, with regret, of Steve Caron from the Police Commission effective 11/1/2016, seconded by J Jones. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**7. WJJMS Building Project Workshop Update**

T Tyler, Building Project Committee Chair, stated that the Board of Selectmen don't approve specs, but A Shilosky asked that the Board be briefly updated on the project by Tecton regarding the plans and specs. Tecton design team presented.

8. **Budget Transfers - none**
9. **Tax Refunds & Rebates**

D Mizla moved to approve tax refund in the amount of \$9.93 to Rossi Law Offices LTD, \$2807.81 to Mascaro Landscaping LLC, \$27.00 to Steven Purcell, \$336.61 to Cara and Kathryn Pianta, \$81.98 to John Legato, \$27.73 to William and Andrea Phinney, \$104.32 to Beth Tredor, \$38.11 to David Yacono, \$432.74 to Michael Olearnick, \$62.59 to Raymond Hastings, \$83.12 to Steven Lowe, \$8.50 to Vaughn Evans, \$6.19 to James Gerent, \$18.70 to John McGrath, \$195.97 to Jaclyn Nagel, \$3279.55 to Ronald and Sandra Barkyoub, \$5.87 to Mark OMalley, \$5.13 to Patrick Belanger, \$354.27 to United Leasing Inc., and \$14.53 to Rossi Law Offices LTD, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED
10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Expenditures of Funds from Vehicle Reserve for the Senior Center Minivan**

R Coyle moved that the Board of Selectmen, subject to Board of Finance approval, authorize the expenditure of funds \$27,720 from the Vehicle Reserve Fund for a replacement mini-van for the use of Senior Center, seconded by J Jones. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Park Place Subdivision Bond Reduction**

D Mizla received confirmation from Town Planner R Benson that the information was provided by the contractor and reviewed by the Town Engineer, based on work done to date.

D Mizla moved that the Town of Colchester release \$366,900 of the Public Improvements cash bond to Park Place Holdings for the Park Place Subdivision as recommended by the Town Engineer, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
12. **Discussion and Possible Action on Reorganization of the Finance Department**

R Coyle asked the CFO to explain each position as it stands now, including hours currently worked and how each will look after the reorganization. R Coyle also asked the CFO the reasoning and current budget funding to justify the additional staff requests. CFO stated that the addition of two staff members and increase in pay falls about \$800 over what is currently budgeted. All staff in the Finance Dept. will be paid for by both Town and BOE budgets. Discussion took place regarding the addition of the PT Clerk position and the basis for adding such position. The CFO stated that she does not see the PT position as an ongoing position in the future. She also stated that the next budget season will be flat for salaries, aside from contractual increase.

D Mizla moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Town Hall Union as presented, and authorize the First Selectman to sign all documents. Approval of the job descriptions for the Town Hall Union positions – Payroll & A/P Manager, and Payroll & A/P Assistant, and non-union part-time position – Finance Dept. Clerk, as presented, and to move going forward with the Finance Dept. reorganization as presented, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
13. **Discussion and Possible Action on 235 Lebanon Avenue**

The Tax Collector explained the past and current situation at 235 Lebanon Ave that led to the three options in the memo to the Board. Correspondence was handed out to the Board regarding the background of the housing situation (attached). After discussion, the Board agreed option #2 was the best option.

J Jones moved that the town to go forward with option two, sell as is, as presented by the Tax Collector, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
14. **Discussion and Possible Action on Tentative Agreement with Library Employees Union Local 1303-448**

J Jones moved to approve the Successor Contract of Agreement with Library Local 1303-448 Union and authorize the First Selectman to sign successor contract, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
15. **Discussion on IT Backup Plan**

A Shilosky stated that S Soby recommended this company to look into as a backup for when the full-time IT person is unavailable. The Board would like to have the company CAT present at a future BOS meeting.

**16. Citizens Comments-** none

**17. First Selectman's Report**

Remediation underway at the house at Norton Mill. Injured person from the fire on Mill St. is doing well. The name of the person that passed away at this fire has not been released.

**18. Liaison Reports**

J Jones reported on Conservation Commission – Park Place cancelled their plans for a sidewalk.

R Coyle reported on Commission on Aging – report attached  
Charter Review – Comments and Questions from the Commission were discussed (attached)  
Senior Center Subcommittee – Referendum passed for the purchase of 95 Norwich Ave.

D Mizla reported on Park & Recreation Commission – approved proposed picnic pavilion rental policy and fee, goes next to the BOS for approval. 57 Fest on 9/2, need more sponsors and volunteers. Summer camp reached record numbers for campers.  
Board of Education – discussed school openings, all went well. PTO gave a donation towards the 10 year celebration at CES. Board approved a Consent Agenda which will be tested next month. Students from Norwich are fitting in well and state they like Bacon Academy.

**19. Adjourn**

R Coyle moved to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., seconded by J Jones. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachment: Tax Collector Memorandum re 235 Lebanon Ave  
Commission on Aging report  
Comments and Questions from Charter Revision Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk

MEMORANUM

Date: September 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Discussion and decision to move forward with the sale of 235 Lebanon Ave

From: Michele Wyatt  
Colchester Tax Collector

The Town of Colchester thru the Courts judgment of Strict Foreclosure has acquired the house on 235 Lebanon Ave. Per legal advice; a house inspection took place August 22, 2016 at 10:00am. During this inspection it was deemed the building not habitable. The health department was called and concurred.

We need to move forward on the sale of this property and re-coup what we can. Here are three options for consideration:

OPTION 1: Clean out the house and put it on the market and hope that we could get close to what it was appraised back June 2016. I received three quotes to clean the house and throw everything left inside away. All 3 quotes are about \$18,000 which the town would have pay for at this time. Because of the condition of the house we do not know what we are getting into. There is floor damage, walls have unknown stains on them and there are ceilings that are falling down. In speaking some local realtors there is concern over the sale of this house.

Option 2: Sell it as is – with the contents inside. There has been a lot of interest coming forward on to us on this house. If this option was chosen we would only have to ask for sealed bids and it would be awarded to the highest bidder. The advantage of this option is it gets this piece of property off the town records and back onto the tax list. This would be a quick turnaround.

Option 3: Tear down the house and sell the land. I have some questions and concerns regarding this option and have asked the Tax Assessor to meet with me to go over his thoughts.

I have spoken with two realtors and calling a third today for RFP's from them. On the proposal I have asked them to identify what they think we could market it for as is and what it could be marketed for if we spent the additional funds to clean it out. So far the two realtors I spoke to stated that it doesn't really matter if the house is cleared out. Proposals are expected to be in by Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>.

I am available at any time for any additional questions or concerns you have on this issue.

## COA Meeting-September 12, 2016

Referendum vote on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, polls open at Town Hall.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser yielded \$5,046.77. Luke Hajdasz has been responsible for a total of \$14,799.08 donated to the senior center.

Louise Plocharczyk retired on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with a wonderful celebration of her years of service. Thank you, Ellie, for representing the CoA and giving a beautiful monogrammed frame to Louise as a token of appreciation for her years of service. We have extended an offer of employment to fill the vacancy and she has a start date of September 26<sup>th</sup>.

September is National Senior Center Month, and this year's theme is "Find Balance at Your Center."

Our new 14 passenger bus was delivered.

Becky Sullivan was married on Saturday, so her new name is Becky Sullivan-Kowalzyk.

Liz Shilosky is organizing a team for the "Memory Walk" for Alzheimer's. "Forget-Me-Nots" are on sale in the Dining Room, as a fundraiser. Making Memories Program is now full with 12 participants.

Renters' Rebate Program will be ending for the season on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Energy Assistance appointment will begin on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Programs:

- I Can't Remember-When Forgetfulness Becomes Serious) 8/9
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CSC Golf Tourney 8/12 & 13
- Trip Presentation for Steamboatin' on the Mississippi 8/15
- USO Show & Luncheon 8/16
- Insurance Lunch & Learn with Liberty Mutual 8/22
- Keys to Consider: Dementia & Driving 8/24
- Denim & Diamonds Regional Event @ Port 'n Starboard 9/30

### Upcoming Trips:

- Foxwoods Casino bus share with Hebron 9/28-sold out
- Newport Playhouse 10/3
- Plimouth Plantation 11/15-sold out
- Chasing Rainbows at the Goodspeed 11/21
- Overnight -Middlebury Christmas (Middlebury, VT) 12-7-9
- Steamboatin' of the Mississippi 3/19-3/27, 2017-only outside cabins left
- Great Trains & Grand Canyon trip 10/8-10/13, 2017 Trip presentation on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals served in July: Bistro & Special Meals:58 Community Café:111 MOW:718
- Monthly Transports in August: 996
- Monthly Attendance in August: 1418 in 24 days
- Active membership in August: 983

**From: Rosemary Coyle, Joint Liaison to Charter Revision**  
**Date: September 15, 2016**  
**RE: Comments and Questions from the Charter Revision Committee**

The following question came up at the Charter Revision Committee and the committee would like input from the BOS:

Should the BOS have the flexibility to set different times for different **referendums?**

They discussed the referendum on Tuesday and the lack of turnout. If this type of language were inserted into the Charter, the BOS might have decided to set the referendum from 8 to 8 or 10 to 8 etc. This would save the town money was one of the reasons they sighted.

The Chair of Charter Revision will be interviewed by the Rivereast next week. They are working on ways to publicize their work.

The following question came up at the Charter Revision Committee and the committee would like input from the BOS:

They are thinking about eliminating all the language for Sewer and Water and the Police Commission from the Charter since no other Commissions are listed in the Charter but are handled by ordinances.

Their question is could the Town establish ordinances that replicate the charter language now in anticipation of the elimination from the actual Charter. This would allow the Town to then modify the ordinance upon the Charter Revision passage. (Example – Changing the number of members on the Sewer and Water Commission from 9 to 7 is significantly easier if it is an ordinance.)