



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Selectmen Minutes
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 3, 2019
Colchester Town Hall @ 7pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Art Shilosky, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman Denise Mizla, and Selectman Jim Ford

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: BOE M Bylone, Town Clerk G Furman, Registrar D Mrowka, Public Works Director J Paggioli, Town Engineer S Tassone, Recreation Director T Quinn, A Liverant, J Savitsky, R Goldstein, J Stone, M Rogers, one student and clerk T Dean

1. Call to Order

A Shilosky called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Additions to the Agenda – none

3. Citizen's Comments – none

4. Consent Agenda

a. Tax Abatements

S Soby moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

5. Board and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments

a. Conservation Commission – Possible appointment of Michael Rogers for a term to expire 10/1/2021

R Coyle moved to appoint Michael Rogers as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire 10/1/2021, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Approve Minutes of the December 6, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

R Coyle moved to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting, seconded by S Soby. Unanimously approved, with one abstention by J Ford. MOTION CARRIED

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Police Department Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing

A Shilosky stated that this contract is for replacement tasers. J Ford asked if this vendor has gone through the evaluation process by DAS as a qualified vendor. Also if the bidding process according to the town's purchasing policy has been followed. Also wondered why we are using a business out of Texas vs locally. Also stated that this contract reads as a general purchasing contract, and doesn't state what exactly is being purchased. The Board agreed with J Ford's statements and questions. A Shilosky stated he will follow up with Sgt. Martinez.

R Coyle moved to postpone decision on the contract, seconded by S Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Park Place Subdivision Bond Release

S Soby moved that the Town of Colchester release the remaining bond balance of \$144,166.50 plus accrued interest to Park Place Holdings for the Park Place Subdivision as recommended by the Town Engineer, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Town Web Page Community Calendar Policy

T Quinn stated the new web page is anticipated to go live by February 1st. The committee would like to add a community calendar to be utilized to promote local events. Used Coventry's policy as a guide. The Board posed a few questions; where would the fee go and what would it be used for, what is the definition of a community event – the current definition is broad, need to define what is family safe –which may preclude some from promoting something that is legal but not viewed as "family safe." Need to think about reasonable fees as well as what is the process if a business/organization is denied.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Colchester Farmers' Market

J Savitsky stated that he met with former First Selectman Gregg Schuster and former Recreation Director Cheryl Hancin and had negotiated the rate of half the regular Town Green fee that the general public paid due to the repeated use of the town facility. Also had an agreement that if there was a conflict of date with another group (i.e. Lion's Club, car show, CBA) that they would not be charged if they had to share the green with them. Stated that they have paid half the fee over the last five years. The checks have always been cashed for the discounted fee until now. The Board asked if there was any written agreement, as the town did not have any documentation of this agreement. J Savitsky stated that no, there is nothing written, that it was agreed to over a handshake. J Savitsky also stated that there is no fee on the application. A Shilosky indicated that the fees charged are on the application that he signed, application and signed agreement is included in the BOS packet today. Also stated that there is no record of any BOS meeting agreeing to the discounted cost, the BOS is the only one that can approve fee changes. Discussion on the public minutes from the Park & Recreation Commission dated 12/3/2012 that motions, "allow the Farmers Market to move to the town green for 20 weeks this summer and impose a limitation of 10 vendors with a \$25 a day fee, with an increase in fees if more vendors are added." J Savitsky and J Stone stated they had no idea about this motion and they were unable to find anything when they checked in the Town Clerk's office. S Soby stated it is a public document. The Board noted that J Stone stated there are approximately 30 vendors or so and has grown significantly. A Shilosky stated that every other organization pays the regular fee and how can the Board justify them paying a discounted price. J Stone stated that they provide a service to the community and are the town's biggest customer. Stated they didn't plan for the full cost of the town green fees at the beginning of the season. A Shilosky stated that other groups such as the Lions and CBA pay the full fee and give back significantly to the town and its residents through donations and scholarships. R Coyle asked if an invoice was sent and do they have copies of previous invoices. J Savitsky stated that yes, an invoice was sent to them but late. Indicated that he didn't have copies of past years invoices. Discussion on the letter sent to the BOS by the Farmers' Market indicating if they had to share the green with another group they were not paying the fee. Stated that it impacted their sales sharing with another group. S Soby inquired, as the letter sent to them by A Shilosky, what data they had that sharing the green impacted sales and also asked if any of the vendors cancelled. J Stone indicated that they were not prepared to provide this information on impact of sales and that no, no vendor cancelled. S Soby suggested to move toward some sort of resolution. There were many instances that they should have been charged more based on the fee schedule and documentation but they weren't. There may need to be some accommodation for this year, even it out and move toward some sort of agreement with a much more structured contract that delineates all these issues going forward. J Savitsky was fine with that. Need to be accountable to the agreement that they signed. Figure out a way to resolves this and move on. Suggested meeting with Recreation Director and First Selectman to resolve current issue. J Savitsky was fine with that.

S Soby moved that the First Selectman and Recreation Director meet with the Farmers' Market to resolve the current issue, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Citizen's Comments – none

12. First Selectman's Report

A Shilosky reported he received an email from the New London Homeless Center looking for monetary support from Colchester and surrounding areas. S Soby would like to know what the general funding source is from. The Firewalls for the Town Hall will be installed on 1/12. FEMA relief for the storm on 9/25 and 9/26 was \$76,000. Signed a deduct for the WJ school project for \$525,363 for money not spent. Gave an update on personnel resignations and new hires.

13. Liaison Reports

R Coyle reported on Paramedic Program – met with BOF R Lepore and they will get more information on numbers and would like to schedule a joint meeting with the BOS and BOF in January.

S Soby reported on Agriculture Commission – ten locations identified for signage and the process is going through with the state. Down to a minimum of members, need to recruit.

Planning & Zoning – 824 Public Hearing on the Halls Hill Rd project. No comments in opposition. This is a grant from LOCIP for \$709,000 to upgrade Halls Hill to include excavation, milling repair, sidewalk, crosswalk, painted bike lane and accessibility with ADA features. Will start in summer of 2019. P&Z approved the 824. S Soby stated the group is working on how to make residents aware of the 3ft of separation for someone walking on the side of the road that motor vehicles have to grant.

Health District – change in the fee structure was approved. The fee for permit to discharge has been eliminated.

Suicide Prevention Grant. Will use grant to hold the next Community Conversation on Stop the Stigma on 2/6. Will conduct school events to tie in with the theme. The December Community Conversation event on Social Media was not well attended. On 2/8 at 2pm until 2/10 at noon the Annual Freezin’ for a Reason will take place on the Town Green.

14. Executive Session to Discuss Library Employees Contract Negotiations

D Mizla moved to enter into executive session to discuss Library Employees Contract, seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 8:12 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 8:16 p.m.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Library Employees Contract for July 1, 2019 – June 20, 2020

S Soby moved to approve extending the Library Employees Contract for one year and to authorize the First Selectman to sign, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate Transaction

R Coyle moved to enter into executive session to discuss a real estate transaction and to invite in Arthur Liverant and Ron Goldstein, seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 8:17 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 9:12 p.m.

17. Adjourn

S Soby moved to adjourn at 9:12 p.m., seconded by D Mizla. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Tricia Dean, Clerk