

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
OF THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2017

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, was held at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut, on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Art Shilosky, First Selectman; Stan Soby, Denise Mizla, John Jones, Donald Kennedy, Mary Tomasi, Ron Goldstein, Richard Waugh, Ken Jackson, Jim Paggioli, Sal Tassone, Dorothy Mrowka, Randy Benson, Michelle Wyatt, Trisha Dean, Gayle Furman, and other citizens.

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman, Art Shilosky at 7:00 p.m.

A motion for Stan Soby as moderator of the meeting was made by Denise Mizla and seconded by Don Kennedy. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion to close nominations for moderator was made by Don Kennedy and seconded by John Jones. MOTION CARRIED

The Town Clerk read the warning of the meeting.

The moderator asked the town staff to present to the audience concerning the purpose of Item 1.

S. Tassone explained the deficiencies with the Papermill Road bridge. He also stated that the town has applied for grants in 2015 and 2016 that would have funded the whole project, without success. He stated that this grant is through the Connecticut's local bridge program and is funded at fifty percent and he also recommended that we go forward with it as our only other option is for the town to fund the project entirely.

A Motion was made by Denise Mizla and seconded by John Jones to move Item 1; to discuss and vote upon the authorization to apply for State and Local Bridge Grant Funding for the replacement of the Paper Mill Bridge deck and surface, in accordance with the Town of Colchester's Charter C-1001(B)(10) with an anticipated local match estimated at \$150,000.

Discussion:

- Resident Mike Hayes asked in reference to the town being "still in the air" for the funding. J. Paggioli stated that indications are that the town will receive the grant and that there has not been a local 50/50 grant turned down yet. S. Tassone stated that because of the low rating that the bridge received through the bi-annual bridge inspections from the State, the town has a great chance of receiving the funding.
- Resident Stefani Lowe asked in reference to how the bridge repairs would impact residents and how long it would take to complete. S. Soby stated that the bridge only leads to the Colchester Fish and Game Club property. S. Tassone explained the process of repairing the bridge and that the timeframe should be approximately six weeks.

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The Moderator called for a voice vote on Item #1, SO VOTED AND CARRIED

The moderator asked Ken Jackson to give an overview of the purpose of Item 2.

K. Jackson gave an overview of the items in Item 2 and why they are needed.

A Motion was made by Don Kennedy and seconded by John Jones to move Item 2; to discuss and vote upon the transfer of \$117,960 for the costs related to the repair of Colchester Elementary School's HVAC system, Air Controllers at Bacon Academy and replacement of a vehicle used to transport students and finance such appropriation by using \$117,960 of the monies available in the General Fund Assigned Balance to Capital Reserve Building Maintenance and Capital Reserve Vehicle Fund of the Town's General Fund.

Discussion:

- Resident Dave Dander asked in reference to it being true that the items that were deficient at the time Colchester Elementary School was opened are still deficient now. S. Soby stated that is correct. Mr. Dander also asked in reference to when the original Building Committee disbanded and they handed over the outstanding issues to the Town and the Board of Education were they on the capital improvement plan for the last ten years. K. Jackson stated that he can only speak for his four year tenure and he was made aware that there were issues ongoing at Colchester Elementary school. Mr. Dander stated that he was concerned that this has been an ongoing issue and that they were not planned for.
- Resident Stefani Lowe asked for a breakdown of the projects listed in Item 2. K. Jackson stated that the estimate for Colchester Intermediate School repairs are \$46,600, the amount for the HVAC controllers is \$42,360 and the estimate for the new van is \$29,000.
- Resident Mike Hayes asked if the funding was going to come out of what was left over in last year's school budget or if it was coming out of the school budget now. D. Kennedy stated that it is coming from the unexpended funds from prior years. Mr. Hayes also asked if this would affect what is budgeted for technology already allocated. D. Kennedy stated that it would not.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on Item #2, SO VOTED AND CARRIED

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:17pm by John Jones and seconded by Denise Mizla.  
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,



Gayle Furman, Town Clerk