



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2017 – Town Hall – 7:00 pm

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Chairman R. Tarlov, R. Lepore, A. Migliaccio, T. Kane, A. Bisbikos, S. Lowe
Others Present: First Selectmen A. Shilosky, BOE B. Bernier, Parks & Rec C. Preston, J. McNair, S. Schuster, J. Kelly, and Clerk J. Campbell

1. CALL TO ORDER

R. Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

R. Tarlov asked that a general discussion on minutes be added to the agenda under item 3A. A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to approve the addition to the agenda, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 6/0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 2 Regular Meeting

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the 8/2 regular meeting, SECONDED by S. Lowe. R. Tarlov stated there is a typo that needs to be corrected. 8b, 4th line from the bottom, Opengov is being held, should be held up. A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to approve the minutes with changes, SECONDED by R. Lepore. A. Bisbikos and T. Kane ABSTAINED. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.4/0/2

3a. General Discussion of Minutes

R. Tarlov mentioned that it seems other boards and commissions are not posting minutes on the web site until after the approval at the next meeting. R. Tarlov also stated that the minutes are a summary of the discussion and that the meetings are recorded so that people can check there for the detail. It would be cost prohibitive to have every word in the minutes.

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

S. Schuster spoke using the attached letter. S. Schuster is asking for a forensic audit of the BOE to find out where all the revenue and expenditures are.

J. McNair shared his interest in voting patterns. He stated that over 4,000 residents have never voted in a referendum. In making phone calls, he found that some residents believe that the BOF has final control over all budget items.

D. Bouchard stated her agreement with the previous 2 speakers. She stated that the BOF was aware of monies from tuition from other area schools. Looking into the previous e-mails there is a variance on how much money was received. She has contacted the State Department of Education to see if the BOE can spend the tuition money on anything but back into the school. A school will use grant money to send a child to our school. Grant money is supposed to only be used for the intended purpose. D. Bouchard is questioning if the BOE then must follow the grant guidelines.

J. Kelly is asking how confident the BOF is on the reimbursement from the state on the school project. Will the money equal what the tax payers have been told?

5. CORRESPONDENCE

See attached Correspondence

6. RECREATION/PROGRAM FUND PRESENTATION

a. Program Fund Report and update on plan previously presented

C. Preston presented about the use of the Program fund as well the Parks & Recreation 2017-2018 budget. See the attached presentation for more details.

b. Department Head – discussion of 2018-2019 budget needs

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Tax Collector – M. Wyatt was unable to attend but provided the attached reports

b. Finance – M. Cosgrove was unable to attend but provided the attached reports

8. FIRST SELECTMAN

a. Transfer requests - None

b. First Selectman's report – A. Shilosky reported that there are 3 public works employees that are no longer employed due to various reasons with a 4th one leaving on Thursday. M. Wyatt is still in the process of hiring a replacement for the Tax Collector's Office. G. Therian will be retiring August 25th. Interviews have been on going. The bridge on Norwich Avenue by the gravel pit is town owned and has failed inspection. A. Shilosky will be looking to hire someone to replace the bridge, most likely within 30 days. J. Paggioli is looking for a new microphone systems. The potential cost will be \$2-3,000. Our phone system is slowly failing. \$20,000-\$30,000 will be needed to replace the system.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of meeting with Lockton

Last Thursday M. Cosgrove, A. Shilosky, R. Tarlov, and B. Bernier met with Lockton. They together have come up with a plan to decrease the volatility of the insurance. Stonington has a plan in place which the Town would like to emulate. The town would like to decrease the volatility by 10% each year, which would take approx. 7 years, but could be quicker if annual claims experience is good

b. 2017-2018 Budget Process Review

B. Bernier suggested that each board discuss the budget process and what worked or didn't work with the budget process. T. Kane thought that with the exception of the absence of the state budget, the budget season was decent. A. Shilosky stated that people were engaged and communication was better. R. Tarlov felt the BOF and the voters had a better understanding on the BOE budget of the impact on the programs should additional cuts need to be made.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Update – Discussion and Possible Action

R. Tarlov stated there is a lot of confusion on the reason behind why the MV tax bills have been delayed. There is currently with the new budget a proposed mill rate cap of 32. Our mill rate is 32.37. If we were to send them out at 32, the supplemental billing would cost too much in postage and handling and printing for the .37 mill rate. Gov. Malloy has several executive orders that he has said he will put forth if a budget is not reached by a certain date. The town manager in Tolland has sent out a well put together letter and we will add it to the 9-6-2017 agenda packet.

b. Board of Finance Objectives and Initiatives – Review and Update

Insurance will go on the agenda for the next meeting when Maggie is available. Mission statement has been added back onto the chart because of a discussion R. Tarlov had with J. McNair. T. Kane mentioned that November is the election and that the board should wait to talk about the Mission Statement until elections are done.

11. LIAISONS' REPORTS

A. Migliaccio reported the COA is looking for new members. They are willing to move their time to attract new members. They received \$14,665 from senior resources to support their making memories campaign. CT Dept. of Transportation has awarded them with an 80/20 grant for a new bus. The total for the grant is \$67,000. The Town pays 20% and the DOT granted 80%. The farmer's market vouchers has been suspended due to funding. The funding for the senior center bistro day has been eliminated due to state budget issues. Senior center will be hosting a food drive. Senior Center currently has 1,053 members. BOE Budget committee reported that the hiring of a replacement of a mandated PT position. There is a proposed 3 year contract for 11,000 for the first year and mid 20's for the remainder of the contract. The board is looking to create a committee consisting of the CFO, Superintendent, BOE, Community representatives, and special education representatives to see if consolidating services, such as IT, with smaller surrounding towns would be a cost saving idea. They are looking for sustainability within the cafeteria fund. There is a potential to hire an outside source to evaluate current services. R. Tarlov reported the WJMS building committee is ahead of schedule. Curbing and paving is in progress. Furniture that was still in good condition has been stored, therefore a cost savings there can be utilized. A reimbursement program for the 2nd gym, which was initially set to not have any reimbursement for the project, adjusted their requirements, and now we will be receiving some reimbursement.

12. Discussion – BOE action to use 2016-2017 Norwich Tuition Money

A. Migliaccio presented a statement from Principal Peel about finding money to purchase the language lab for Bacon. The board members discussed the lack of communication with BOF regarding the purchase of the Language Lab and monies that were used for the purchase. A. Bisbikos stated his concern for the use of this money when the state hasn't settled a budget. R. Tarlov is still concerned about the process for spending monies from this fund as it relates to out of district tuition other than Norwich and also felt that although he realized that the money to purchase the lab was in last year's numbers, money is money and that he didn't think this was the time for this buying decision. R. Lepore feels that the spending of this money was spent at a poor time and both BOE and BOF spoke that the money would not be spent until the state budget is settled. S. Lowe mentioned that during previous budget discussion the BOE Chairman R. Goldstein stated that he would not be spending tuition money until the budget is known.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

D. Bouchard stated her appreciation for BOF to bring the tuition money to discussion. She was under the impression that the monies were to put on hold pending the state budget. D. Bouchard stated that at the meeting she has attended most parents were in favor of sports and not the language lab. She is questioning if the BOE Budget committee has the authority to finalize a purchase of the language lab. She also restated her concern that the tuition money is grant money and can only be spent on what it has been intended for.

J. Kelly agreed with R. Tarlov about spending money to educate our children within another town, that money we receive from other towns should be used to defer that cost. J. Kelly feels the BOE is being fiscally irresponsible.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 pm, SECONDED by S. Lowe. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 6/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments:

Correspondence A & B
Tax Collector's Reports

Initiatives & Objectives
S. Schuster's Citizens Comment

Finance Reports

Parks & Rec Presentation