

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Finance Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, 2013
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

HANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

2013 JUN 11 PM 3:00

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Tarlov, John Ringo, Rob Esteve, Thomas Kane, Cathy Pompei and A Shilosky

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Ron Goldstein, Don Kennedy, Jenny Contois, Gregg LePage, Maggie Cosgrove, Tricia Coblenz, Jim Paggioli, Mary Tomasi, Pam Scheibelein and other citizens

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman R. Tarlov called the Wednesday, June 12, 2013 meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular meeting on May 15

J. Ringo **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013 regular meeting as typed.

SECONDED by T. Kane. R. Esteve and T. Kane abstained. All members present voted in favor, **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

4. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

5. Bacon Academy Board of Trustees

None

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Finance Department

None

b. Treasurer

None

c. Tax Collector

T. Coblenz gave an overview of the month of May collections report and the delinquent report.

i. Appropriation request

T. Coblenz requested a lump sum of hours to bring in someone to assist during the peak times in the tax office. R. Tarlov stated he had concerns due to the fact that a part-time position from the tax office was cut out of the budget and a request is being brought before the board before the new budget season has even started. R. Tarlov suggested looking into pooling reserves from other departments and in the future thinking about hiring a floater. J. Ringo **MOTIONED** for the appropriation. **SECONDED** by T. Kane. A. Shilosky, R. Esteve and R. Tarlov voted against the appropriation, **MOTION NOT CARRIED.**

7. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

a. Transfer Requests

None

b. First Selectman's Update

First Selectman G. Schuster reported that the KX RFP has been issued and most dispatch centers are interested in the consolidation/merger. First Selectman G. Schuster also reported that the state passed their budget but he has not received figures as of yet.

c. Responses from First Selectman re: Questions from last 3 meetings

R. Tarlov stated that several questions have come up at last several meetings that need clarification and possible future discussions. R. Tarlov questioned where the funds for the joists repair at the Senior Center come from. First Selectman Schuster responded the funds were a budgeted line item from Building & Grounds Maintenance & Reserve Capital Account. R. Tarlov asked if there is an agreement with Board of Trustees regarding what repairs are our responsibility and Board of Trustees responsibility. First Selectman Schuster responded the agreement is that routine repairs are our responsibility and non-routine repairs, such as this, are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. R. Tarlov stated he would like dialogue in the future when issues fall outside building and ground maintenance. First Selectman stated getting the room operating and functional as soon as possible was important to the Senior Center. R. Tarlov questioned the proposal to provide 19,000 worth of services and cost sharing for things like snow removal and snow plowing. First Selectman Schuster stated he was approached by the Board of Trustees wanting more rent for the facility. In going through the process it was realized if the Board of Trustees accepted rent they would be liable for property taxes. The assessor suggested passing as a town a local option ordinance that exempts non-profit entities from paying taxes if leasing to a municipality and pay expenses in lieu of rent that would alleviate the Board of Trustees from paying taxes. First Selectman stated he did not consider the proposal anything other than ongoing discussions.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None

9. LIAISON REPORTS

R. Esteve reported that the BOE discussed the 2012/2013 budget at their budget committee meeting and the budget is 98.1% encumbered, the budget freeze that has been in place has been effective and they will be making a contribution to the health insurance fund with some of this year's budget. R. Tarlov attended the Youth Services meeting reporting that they are having a very successful year and he is very impressed by the commitment and partnership of the committee.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Status of Health Insurance Fund

M. Cosgrove gave a brief overview of the health insurance fund to date.

b. Status of Energy Project

First Selectman G. Schuster stated that the energy project is going smoothly and getting positive feedback so far.

c. Building Project – discussion and possible action

Discussion was had regarding potential debt payment schedule for building project, building project options and which option will be brought to the tri-board meeting. First Selectman G. Schuster stated that he had additional options that may be quicker, saves money and more in tune to the needs of the community and also looking at fall back options he wanted to present

at the next Board of Selectman meeting. Chairman Tarlov stated he feels the timing is problematic in terms of 2 years work completed by the Senior Study Group, 2 years of work the Building Committee has completed and 3 ½ months post the report working on options that introducing a fallback position before voting on a recommendation sets the recommendation up for failure. R. Tarlov stated that the two committees have spent a lot of work on this project and the taxpayer was entitled to the opportunity to vote on the project as recommended at the end of this long process. R. Tarlov also stated he felt the research should have been done and brought before the boards earlier in the process. R. Esteve **MOTIONED** to move the recommendation of the building committee forward. **SECONDED** by T. Kane. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d. Budget Process Review

None

11. CITIZENS COMMENTS


R. Coyle stated that as a member of the board of selectman she was not aware of the \$8,000 joist problem, the months of negotiations with the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees has not once been brought forward to the board of selectman asking for their opinions or direction, the purchasing of the Senior Center has never come to the board of selectman for their opinions or discussion and she is concerned regarding the process of re-evaluation of positions.

First Selectman G. Schuster stated the \$8,000 joist repair issue was brought to the Board of Selectman and discussed. First Selectman G. Schuster also stated that discussions regarding the negotiations with the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees were discussed in a Board of Selectman executive session meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

J. Ringo **MOTIONED** to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. **SECONDED** by T. Kane. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Gina Santos, Administrative Assistant