

Town of Colchester
Board of Finance Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Town Hall Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

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Boyle Furman
BOYLE FURMAN

Members Present Chairman Rob Tarlov, Art Shilosky, John Ringo, Tom Kane, Rob Esteve
Members Absent: James McNair

Others Present: Selectmen: Stan Soby, Rosemary Coyle; Board of Education Members: Mike Egan, Brad Bernier; CFO Maggie Cosgrove; Director of Public Works Jim Paggioli; Registrars of Voters Dot Mrowka and Diana Giles; Town Planner Adam Turner; Citizens: Andreas Bibiskos, Asia Roka

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None.
**Chairman Tarlov noted the Board would move to agenda item 5 at whatever point Adam Turner arrived at the meeting as Mr. Turner had a Planning and Zoning meeting going on at the same time that he needed to attend.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**
March 4, 2015 Regular Meeting:
J. Ringo motioned to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015 regular meeting, seconded by T. Kane. Members voted in favor with R. Esteve abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None
5. **PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT:** A. Turner gave an overview to members on the economic development and demographic portions of the PCOD. There is a 90-120 day review of the plan with adoption of the plan anticipated for May or June. The Board will discuss again further with A. Turner at the April 15th meeting.
6. **BUDGET DISCUSSION:**
 - a) **Defining the "Maintaining" Budget:** A list of new services and improvements included in the 2015-2016 First Selectman proposed budget was distributed and discussed.
 - b) **Budget Communications to the Public:**
 - i. **Budget in Brief:** Chairman Tarlov requested, per the suggestion of the sub-committee, to have the full budget as well as a summary on the website. The Budget in Brief will be available as a handout at the Town Meeting.
 - ii. **Charts and Graphs:** M. Cosgrove continues to work on updating the charts and graphs to accompany the budget. Members were given a chart of the Capital Plan showing Town Budget Reserve, Road Improvements, Aid Road, Approved and Proposed Leasing, and Town Budget Capital. The chart provides a visual reflecting changes in capital spending over the last 10 years.

c) Public Hearings:

- i. Budget action to move to Public Hearing:** T. Kane motioned to move forward to public hearing the proposed Town Budget in the amount of \$13,863,442, Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$39,995,370, for a total of \$53,858,812, seconded by A. Shilosky. Vote was 4 to 1 with J. Ringo opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The proposed budget would result in a 0.47 mill increase (31.04 new rate) or a 1.54% increase. Chairman Tarlov recognized that First Selectman Soby did not take a pay raise in the proposed budget.

- ii. Videotaping:** First Selectman Soby will speak with Superintendent Mathieu regarding someone videotaping presentations of both budgets that could be put on the website to view prior to the public hearing.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: None

8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a) Finance Department:** Snow removal will be reflected in next month's report. FEMA reimbursement for the blizzard has still not been received.
- b) Tax Collector – Reports and Discussion:** D. Philips sent a monthly report to members prior to the meeting.

9. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

- a) Transfer Requests: None**
- b) First Selectman's Update:** KX dispatch is organizing a union and has hired a labor attorney. The consolidation is proceeding. CCM is looking at storm water permit process. Senator Looney is pushing for auto mill rate reform. The possibility of setting up a food hub is being evaluated. Police Department has five finalist for the open officer vacancy.

- 10. LIAISON REPORTS:** A. Shilosky reported the Building Committee held an informational session and tour at WJJMS tonight but only one couple attended. Another one will be held on Saturday, March 26th at 10:30. Commission on Aging is seeking new members. Two applications have been received.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Review of Capital Plan-Equipment-overlay over debt service:** Members used this time to ask M. Cosgrove for clarification of some line items in debt services and reserves.
- b) Review of 12/31 Program Fund:** Chairman Tarlov commented that C. Hancin has done a remarkable job at building the up the Program Fund. She has talked about wanting to create a reserve. There needs to be a plan for this. She is currently on leave. The First Selectman will discuss with her upon her return,
- c) Proposed Tri-Board subcommittee for Rec Field Improvement and Maintenance:** J. McNair and J. Ringo will serve on this subcommittee.

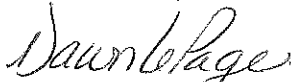
12. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Budget Review and 2014-2015 Planning Objectives:** No new discussion.
- b) **Capital Improvement Plan - Facilities-creating a funding schedule:** No additional discussion.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS: R. Coyle thinks should continue to remind people that it is 1.54% increase because she feels people understand percentage more than the mill rate. D. Giles commented that showing as a percentage and a mill rate is best. D. Mrowka commented that money should be put in to the heating system at Town Hall that has fans that continuously run.

14. ADJOURNMENT: R. Esteve motioned to adjourn, seconded by T. Kane. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Tarlov adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.

Submitted by,


Dawn LePage, Clerk