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COLCHESTER, CT

Town of Colchester
Board of Finance Meeting Minutes 2015 MAY -8 PM 3:43
Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Town Hall Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Selectmen: Stan Soby, Denise Mizla, Rosemary Coyle, Kurt Frantzen (by phone); Board of Education Members: Ron Goldstein, Don Kennedy; Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu, CFO Maggie Cosgrove; Registrars of Voters Dot Mrowka and Diana Giles; Tax Collector Michelle Wyatt, Town Clerk Gayle Furman, Director of Public Works Jim Paggioli, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Tricia Dean, Chairman of Economic Development Commission, Jim Ford. Citizens: Vince Rose, Stefani Lowe, Sean Shoemaker, Merja Lehtinen, Jim Kelly, Teresa Pineau, Nancy Groeger, Jen Mateos and additional citizens

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** A. Shilosky motioned to add to agenda item 3 approval of the April 15, 2015 Tri-Board Meeting, removal of item 6, and move item 10b to the item 6 spot. The motion was seconded by J. Ringo. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 15, 2015 Regular Meeting
- April 15, 2015 Tri-Board Meeting**
R. Esteve motioned to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 regular meeting and the minutes of the April 15, 2015 Tri-Board meeting, seconded by T. Kane . Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** R. Tarlov received a letter from Deanna Bouchard questioning why a mill rate chart for the WJMS building project was not produced. (See attached letter). Explanation took place on mil rate impact and why a mil rate chart was not needed.
6. **2013/2014 AUDIT - Review and Discussion:** Item cancelled.
** 10b was to be discussed at this time but due to Mr. Goldstein not yet having arrived and Mr. Soby having to temporarily step out of the meeting the item was moved back to the original place on the agenda.
7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - a) **Finance Department:** None
 - b) **Tax Collector – Reports and Discussion:** None

8. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

a) Transfer Requests: None

b) First Selectman's Update: KX still moving forward. A. Turner has put together a timeframe to do both Norton Mill projects at once. A RFP will be going out for an environmental study. Quality of life issues have been addressed with help from the Health District. A noises issue is being worked on with the property owner. Along with A. Turner, First Selectman Soby will be having a meeting regarding a property that they would really like to see something happen to. Information from other towns is being gathered for the blight ordinance.

The formation of the field subcommittee was discussed. Park and Rec has set up a sustainability committee and thought the field subcommittee could become part of this committee. Board members were not in favor of this form. S. Soby will address the matter.

After the school referendum vote we need to have a discussion about the Senior Center.

9. LIAISON REPORTS: No members had liaison reports. R. Tarlov was unable to attend the Youth and Social Services meeting and asked D. Mizla if she could give a report. Summer Kick will be held the last day of school. Plans are still in the works and will be a fundraiser for Youth and Social Services. They will be holding a community conversation "21 for a Reason" on June 3rd at WJMS media center. Their meeting will take place prior to the conversation at 5:00 p.m. They have filed a grant for the Drug Free Community Mentoring and are waiting to hear back on that. They have started passing out brochures for the prescription drug awareness campaign.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a) School Building Project - Discussion and Possible Action on Bonding Resolution:

Chairman Tarlov referred back to the letter mentioned in agenda item 5. Based on the chart from Financial Advisor Barry Berube, provided the Grand List doesn't change, the mill rate will stay the same for the first 6 years of the project bonding. No new chart was produced due to the fact that based on this information and the dollars staying the same no new chart is needed. First Selectman Soby commented that while after the 6 years the debt services will have dropped enough to reduce the mill rate typically the town has managed projects in a way that that drop off would instead be held steady by adding another project. The Senior Center is a likely candidate at that time.

Chairman Tarlov read the resolution (see attached). J. Ringo motioned to approve the resolution as read, seconded by A. Shilosky. Discussion followed.

Chairman Tarlov also noted that there has been reference to the East Hampton project which has had several issues including building a school over the state allowed maximum space. Our percentage of reimbursement was estimated after

consulting with the state. T. Kane asked if we are budgeting based on no reimbursement for the gym, if we do get reimbursement, what will be done with that savings. The building committee would then have to decide what to do with that money, but in the past when there were unexpended funds, the money was used to offset future debt. A vote was called for. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b) 2015-2016 Budget - Discussion and Possible Action: Members discussed what they felt the budget should be reduced by as well as what should and shouldn't be cut in the Town Budget. First Selectman Soby said he will look at items that are new to the budget, extensions of items already in budget, areas where things have been reinstated but will try to stay away from reducing capital investments that will save money in the future. After much discussion the Board asked BOE to come back with a list of reductions totaling \$200,000 and Town to a list of reductions totaling \$150,000. There was consensus among members to keep the strategic plan for the Fire Department in the budget and would like to stay away reducing capital investments and road maintenance. There was additional discussion with mixed feelings on areas of field maintenance, C3, data system for the Senior Center, library hour reductions. Charter Revision Legal must be kept in. Special meetings will be held on May 11th and/or May 12th to review the list of reductions to both budgets. Tentative date for Town Meeting is May 19th and tentative date for referendum is May 28th.

c) Discussion and Possible Action on Benefits Administration: M. Cosgrove reiterated what was discussed at the previous meeting regarding the benefits of and need for hiring PPI to act as a benefit administrator to meet the requirements from the ACA. First Selectman Soby said we need the level of expertise an outside source can provide as the health benefit process becomes more complicated. The cost of the administrator would be paid for out of the health insurance fund for the first year. R. Tarlov asked if whether there will be offsetting savings in cost of efficiency can be any cost savings. M. Cosgrove said no direct savings but gave examples of efficiency and additional work that can now be accomplished. R. Tarlov said we should look ahead a plan for future retirements and reorganization to perhaps create the HR position that has been under discussion for a number of years. J. Ringo motioned to support moving forward with hiring an outside web based benefits administrator, seconded by T. Kane. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) 2015/2016 Planning Objectives:** No discussion
- b) Review of Revised Capital Plan - Equipment and Road Improvements:** No discussion
- c) Capital Improvement Plan - Facilities-creating a funding schedule:** No discussion

d) **Review of Program Fund:** No discussion.

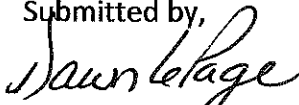
12. **CITIZENS COMMENTS:** M. Lehtinen feels there should be a zero percent increase and feels the board should be able to find the money to give a tax decrease.

Teresa Pineau expressed confusion on how some of the BOF discussion had been interpreted by some citizen comments.

Nancy Groeger felt we should not interpret the fact that there were more against the BOE budget than the Town as meaning they favored one less than the other. She believes that many special needs families voted no for the BOE budget to send a message. They are upset and voted no against the budget not because of the increase of the budget but because of their dissatisfaction in how the situation with the Director of Pupil Services is being handled and that the two vote differentials would have been similar if not for the timing of BOE's personnel issue.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. McNair motioned to adjourn, seconded by J. Ringo. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Tarlov adjourned the meeting at 8:47pm.

Submitted by,



Dawn LePage, Clerk

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Item ____.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Colchester appropriate \$48,860,000 and authorize borrowing in the same amount for costs related to the William J. Johnston Middle School Project at the site of the existing William J. Johnston Middle School at 360 Norwich Avenue, including renovations and additions to the middle school, renovations to the Office of Pupil Services, and renovations to the existing gymnasiums, substantially as described in the "WJJ Middle School Study" dated February 5, 2015. The building committee established for the project shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project and to reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so modified or reduced. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, testing and permitting costs, relocation costs, demolition and installation costs, equipment, furnishings and fixtures, materials, land and easement acquisition, site improvements, utilities, engineering fees, management costs and fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

From: Deanna [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 12:59 PM
To: deeebouchard; Rob Tarlov
Subject: Re: School Bldg Project

** should read **
"Comprised"

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 21, 2015, at 10:50 AM, deeebouchard <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Chairman Tarlov,

I have read the printed brochure information on the WJJMS proposed School Building Project. The brochure states, "The Town anticipates NO INCREASE in tax mill rate for this project due to reducing debt payments on previous projects!"

Is this statement true for the entire financed life of this project or just for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Budget Year?

Town officials have claimed that existing debt has been reduced, how much existing debt on previous projects has been reduced:
what debt was reduced and where did the monies come (account transfers) to pay off existing debt?

Under the **Connecticut Freedom of Information Act § 1-200 et seq.**, I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that:

contain data, graphs or information pertaining to the projected finance and bonding costs for entire project. Including graphs or materials compromised by any town department, board, financial institution or outside vendor.

The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act requires a response within four business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Deanna Bouchard
16 Meadow Drive
Colchester, CT 06415