



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Finance Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Colchester Town Hall @ 7PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rob Tarlov, Thomas Kane, James McNair, Andreas Bisbikos, Andrea Migliaccio and Roberta Lepore

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman A Shilosky, Selectmen R Coyle and D Mizla, Registrar D Mrowka, 5 civic students and Clerk T. Dean

1. Call to Order

Chairman R Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda - none

3. Approval of Minutes: September 21 Regular Meeting and September 20 Tri-Board Meeting

A Migliaccio moved to approve the Regular Board of Finance meeting minutes of September 21, 2016, seconded by T Kane. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

A Bisbikos moved to approve the Tri-Board meeting minutes of September 20, 2016, seconded by R Lepore. Unanimously approved with one abstention by J McNair. MOTION CARRIED

4. Citizen's Comments – none

5. Correspondence - none

6. First Selectman

a. Transfer Requests - none

b. First Selectman's Report

A Shilosky reported that the Secretary of State responded to the town's request regarding the Board of Finance vacancy. They stated it can be filled by any party registered in Colchester, except Republican because J McNair ran on a minority party. Discussion took place on conflict with wording in Town Charter which states the vacancy must be filled by the affiliation registered by the person resigning. The Board felt that the Charter would over-rule the state statute. A Shilosky will follow up with the Board after researching further. Town parking lot will be resurfaced next spring. All town road work to be complete this week. Fire Dept. Mold remediation pre-construction started. Fire Dept. parking lot apron has 3-4 small cracks which will be sealed in November. The catch basin will also be repaired. Fire Dept. oil tank will be removed. Fire Marshall will relocate to the Fire Dept. and he will report to the Chief. Work out World fitness is planning a location on Old Hartford Rd. B Gagnon will be moving his headquarters off of Old Hartford Rd. Animal Control Officer regionalization is in discussions.

7. Department Reports

a. Finance - none

b. Tax Collector - none

8. Liaisons

a. Reports

J McNair reported on Police Commission – discussion on body cameras. Grant funding is available however, additional cost may be incurred after the grant funding is used.

A Migliaccio reported on Board of Education – CES exterior lights being re-lamped to energy efficient bulbs. Using funds left over from the Honeywell project. Discussion on funds from Honeywell. Three students returned to our district. Norwich tuition is at 8 students and will move up to 10 students. Quotes on resurfacing the track at Bacon.

RECEIVED
TOWN OF COLCHESTER, CT
2016 OCT -6 PM 3:00
T. DEAN
CLERK

D Mizla reported for R Tarlov on the Youth Services Advisory Board – resolution run on New Year's day planned. Bake sale planned on Election day. Funding for van almost achieved.

R Tarlov reported on Building Committee – onsite manager of program was introduced. Citizen's comments received on lack of baseball field. Three year period of using only one gym at the middle school during construction.

A Bisbikos reported on Senior Center subcommittee – meeting was entirely in executive session. Park and Rec Commission – talks of replacing 13 arches on the green through sponsorships.

R Lepore reported on Fire Dept. – will be doing additional testing for mold. Tour of FD on 10/11 at 6:30p if anyone wants to join.

9. New Business

a. 2017-2018 Budget Process - Discussion

R Tarlov stated that department heads will be presenting to the Board starting on 10/19. R Tarlov will discuss with A Shilosky and R Goldstein regarding what dates to plan for budget presentations. Possibly will start second to last day in February 2017.

10. Old Business

a. Board of Finance By-laws – Discussion and Possible Action

R Tarlov sent out a draft with additions in red. Added budget workshops information to this draft.

A Migliaccio moved to approve the revised By-laws as presented, seconded by A Bisbikos. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

b. Communication during off budget season – discussion and possible action

T Kane finished draft letter and sent to CFO for review.

c. Recreation Field Subcommittee – update

J McNair handed out summary and recommendation sheet to the Board (attached). J McNair stated the constraint was on availability of the field. Language was developed for the sports park improvement fund usage fees. CFO had reservations of the original wording due to the Charter 18.10. The idea is to charge an extra fee to endorsed leagues per player to give back for field improvements. T Kane suggested that it be mirrored to what we are currently doing for the P&R program fund. Some concerns from endorsed leagues was that the BOF would cut field improvements in the town budget. The Board indicated that they would support keeping the same line item in budget and use the extra fee to supplement for more improvements to fields.

d. 2016-2017 BOF Goals and Objectives – review, amend and prioritize

R Tarlov stated that CFO M Cosgrove will present changes in funding policy at the 11/2 meeting. Opengov.com will present to the Board on 11/2. J Paggioli, PW Director, will present the energy project year two results. Fire Dept added back on the list to keep in the forefront.

J McNair suggested to the Board to create a library catalogue of information for new members to have access to reference. Also suggested to have a forum at the beginning process of the budget for residents to voice opinions. Discussion on the Board regarding the facebook budget page.

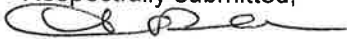
11. Citizens Comments - none

12. Adjournment

T Kane moved to adjourn at 8:28 pm, seconded by T Migliaccio. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachment: Field Sustainability Task Force Recommendations

Respectfully submitted,



Tricia Dean, Clerk

Field Sustainability Task Force

Recommendations

Committee Members: R. Coyle, D. Mizla, J. McNair, A. Bisbikos, E. Kundahl and T. Loskant

Dept. Liaisons: J. Paggioli and C. Preston

(Updated 10/4/16)

Problem Statement: Colchester Parks and Recreation fields are in an unsustainable state. There is far too much traffic on existing fields. As a result, according to a survey and report by Jason Henderson and Julie Campbell, Professors at UCONN's Turf Management program, there is minimal turf grass cover in high traffic areas that become dormant due to moisture stress. The fields had high surface irregularities creating inconsistent playing surfaces. Irrigation is not available for 6 of the 8 fields. These issues are compounded by a lack of public funding approved by taxpayers to improve the fields.

- We have 8 Rec fields at Rec Plex and 1 field on the Town Green, 2 fields at JJIS, 1 field at WJJMS.
- They are used by over 1800 participants over the course of the year.
- They are used 7 days per week, and average 12 hours per day for 10 months of the year.

Mission Statement: To find solutions to maintain and improve field conditions and funding that supplements taxpayer dollars.

Short term Improvements:

- Manage the number of participants on the existing fields
- Increase professional development of staff to maintain the fields with existing resources
- Improve the irrigation system so that all fields have water
 - Setting up a fixed irrigation system
 - Setting up a mobile irrigation system

Long term improvements:

- Acquiring another 8-9 acres of land

Short term funding options:

- Maintain and improve current budget funding levels to maintain existing fields
- Grants
- State monies
- Major League Sports
- Sports Park Improvement Fund usage fees
- Local Business sponsorships

Long term funding: Bonding for land

Next steps for taking action:

- Review and feedback from the Park and Recreation Commission
- Review and feedback from Town Hall staff
- Review and feedback from the Board of Finance and Selectmen