



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance Minutes  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
Colchester Town Hall @ 7PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Rob Tarlov, Thomas Kane, Rob Esteve, and Andreas Bisbikos

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James McNair and Andrea Migliaccio

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Art Shilosky, CFO M Cosgrove, BOS D Mizla, BOE B Bernier, Tax Collector M Wyatt, Recreation Director C Preston, J Mattos, N Groeger, P Holmes, J Kelley, Clerk T. Dean and other citizens

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COLCHESTER, CT  
2016 APR 25 PM 2:54  
TOWN CLERK

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman R Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. Additions to the Agenda**

R Tarlov asked that the following be added to the agenda #6 Discussion Regarding Citizen's Comments, renumber remaining items.

R Esteve moved to approve the addition as presented, seconded by T Kane. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

**3. Approval of Minutes: April 6 – Regular Meeting**

T Kane moved to approve the Regular Board of Finance meeting minutes of April 6, 2016, seconded by A Bisbikos. Unanimously approved with one abstention by R Esteve. MOTION CARRIED

**4. Citizen's Comments - none**

**5. Correspondence**

One correspondence received was discussed (attached)

**6. Discussion Regarding Citizen's Comments**

R Tarlov checked with Roberts Rule, as well as CCM and citizen's comments are not required but a good way for feedback from residents. Both avenues researched leaves the 'rules' up to the town and boards to make their own rules for citizen's comments. There is currently not a town policy in place. The Board had discussion on what they would like to see in a policy. R Esteve stated citizen's comments needs more structure along with a time limit. Stated the BOF currently has bylaws but does not address comments. T Kane stated that it is also an enforcement issue. R Tarlov feels comments should be at the citizen's seat and directed to the Board only. If there is disruptive behavior, he suggested a warning and then being asked to leave. All other members agreed on one warning before requesting citizen to leave. A Shilosky agreed that a town policy should be created to address citizens comments for all Boards to follow. NO ACTION

**7. Program Fund – Quarterly Reports**

M Cosgrove stated the report presented is a 12 month Apr-March rolling report that has information most recent at top and least years at the bottom. Revenue is a little down and expenses are up a little. Started with a negative balance of \$21,570 and ended with a positive balance of \$57,009. C Preston stated camp enrollment has been lower than past summers and that is one that produces the most revenue. R Tarlov stated it shows the increase in hours for the new position will take some time to show positive results.

**8. Department Reports –**

**a. Finance** – M Cosgrove presented the March reports. Revenue side not much change. Tax collection rate is ahead as compared to last year. Things consistently are ahead of the game throughout the whole year. End of April will be a key point for the ECS Grant funding and Public School Transportation Grant. Still in good shape for the snow budget. All roadwork that was included in the budget has been completed.

**b. Tax Collector** – M Wyatt reported 586 demand letters went out; on 4/11 167 notices on intent to lien on real estate; 5/1 liens go out; 5/1 MV supplement sent to collections; State Marshalls turning out to be a useful tool; spoke on the house bill 408 regarding the 18% interest rate to 8%.

**9. First Selectman**

**a. Transfer Requests** – none

**b. First Selectman's Report** – New 15,000 sq. ft. office building planned on Old Hartford Road. Site testing stage now; ZEO hiring process still underway; Senior Center van approximate cost to replace \$25,000 which will be using appropriated funds. R Esteve asked if Dispatch transfers is still on plan, A Shilosky answered yes.

**10. Liaison Reports**

R Tarlov reported on Board of Selectmen – purchased new dog license software which will be processed in house. First year is a higher cost, however thereafter it is cheaper.

Board of Education – Colchester Learning Foundation gave out grants to teachers. Currently working a policy for field trips.

Building Committee – Construction Manager stated cost coming in more than budgeted, but then back tracked once it was notified that they would be using some of the existing furniture. Arcadis selected as Project Manager. ECS moved to the next step. Several Building workshops planned to stay on target.

**11. Health Insurance Funding Policy Discussion – update**

R Tarlov stated there is a scheduled meeting with Lockton on 5/6 to discuss funding options. The second BOF meeting in May the Board will have a discussion on next steps.

**12. Budget Discussion** - Board of Selectmen will set town meeting date on 4/21. BOF Budget Facebook page will need to come down and information on the website as well.

**a. Graph, Charts, Communications** – none

**b. Budgets** – none

**13. New Business**

**a. Discussion and Possible Action on Senior Center**

A Bisbikos stated that after the Budget Referendum next steps will be discussed for a Town meeting and vote. The subcommittee will develop talking points and education on the plan. A Shilosky stated that the purchase negotiated price is \$275,000 (the appraisal was \$295,000), and the closing cost will be approximately \$8,240. If the purchase does not happen until next year, the town will have a rent payment which is already budgeted for. Cost to maintain the building is a separate cost currently that is already built into the budget. T Kane requested copies of all legal bills.

T Kane moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by A Bisbikos. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

R Tarlov mentioned that the purchase of the building is so the town can continue to use the building for seniors until another location is found and determined.

**14. Old Business**

**a. Recreation Field Subcommittee – update** – none

**b. Discussion and Possible Action – Elected and Non Union Compensation Policy**

R Tarlov read the recommended addition to the current policy.

R Esteve moved to amend the policy as presented, seconded by T Kane. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**15. Citizens Comments**

J Mattos remarked on a Board member's reaction to the first citizens comment after it was closed.

**16. Executive Session – Legal**

R Esteve moved to enter into executive session to discuss a Legal Issue and invite A Shilosky, seconded by T Kane. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 7:56 p.m.

Exited from executive session at 8:15 p.m.

**17. Adjournment**

T Kane moved to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by R Esteve. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachments: Correspondence (1)

Respectfully submitted,  
Tricia Dean, Clerk

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:12 AM

**To:** Robert Tarlov

**Subject:** Grounds for a future ban on attending meetings in town hall.

I would like it to be noted in the minutes that during the April 6th meeting while addressing the board a citizen had for the second time had either aggressive behavior and/ or made threats suggesting violence. Steve Schuster has had uncontrolled explosive outbursts and I ask if he has another episode he will be immediately be asked to leave and banned from attending future meetings.

Steve Schuster repeatedly made comments to the effect that someone should shoot me. While I was able to continue addressing the board, several residents were understandably upset when witnessing his hot headed behavior. Several residents immediately spoke up and could not believe what they had just heard him say. I chose not to get into a confrontation with Mr. Schuster but did point out to the board his outburst. I believe that this behavior is reprehensible and it needs to be made clear that threats of violence with not be tolerated.

Interrupting someone while speaking at a public meeting and saying they disagree with them or they are wrong is one thing. Saying someone needs to be shot is another. Getting up from your chair to yell aggressively is another as well. His verbal aggression is grossly out of proportion to what he is responding to and he is lacking self control.

Nancy Groeger