

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Town Budget Workshop followed by Regular Meeting of Board of Finance Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Colchester Town Hall @ 7pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rob Tarlov, Thomas Kane, Andreas Bisbikos, Andrea Migliaccio, Ben Lepore and Stefani Lowe

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman A Shilosky, BOS D Mizla and R Coyle, CFO M Cosgrove, BOE Goldstein, B Bernier, R Besaw, M Voiland, and D Kennedy, Superintendent J Mathieu, PW Director J Paggioli, Registrar D Mrowka, Dir. of Operations BOE K Jackson, BA Principal M Peel, WJJMS Principal C Bennett, JJIS Principal E Butson, CES Principal J O' Meara, Dir. of Teaching and Learning C Hewes, Dir. of Pupil Services K McNamara, A Norton, K Gambolati, M Keogreen, S Wilinski, A Lepare, A Jados, S Tortorigi, T Peters, C Praisner, J Kelley, S Schuster, L Tierney, K & D Geziak, M Hayes, 5 other citizens, 4 students and Clerk T. Dean

Budget Workshop

Public Comments – Ashley Lepare regarding support of C3, Sharon Wilinski regarding support of C3

Budget Process Options

Boards Discussion – Discussion of future referendum regarding planning of one referendum or two. R Goldstein suggested waiting on a decision until 4/24 when more information is coming from the state. Discussion on using fund balance to balance the budget. R Tarlov and T Kane were not in favor of doing this. R Tarlov & T Kane suggested drafting budgets on present expenditures as normal but mill rate calculation with reduced revenue.

Public Discussion – Rosemary Coyle regarding the bill out of Education Committee regarding keeping ECS funding flat. Also stated the BOF owes the BOE staff to discuss and go through the budget as normal. Tearice Peters suggested pushing through the town budget as is without the BOE budget. M Toresis regarding option of students to do work on fields and get community service hours. Asked the PE requirements and other options. M Keogreen suggested a wait and see approach and not create a negative vibe. C Praisner suggested the Board make it clear that the additional cost is coming from the state.

Town Budget

Boards Discussion – Discussed Fire Marshal reduction of increased hours request, using Fund Balance reserve for capital projects, Planning & Zoning clerical position request, Police over-time reduction, Public Works overtime reduction, speed laser request eliminated. Discussion on amount of requested reduction overall from the town budget. T Kane, A Migliaccio, R Lepore and R Tarlov suggested \$55,000. A Bisbikos stated he did not feel \$55,000 was a deep enough cut and the sacrifice should be a shared one. A Bisbikos and S Lowe suggested \$150,000. A Shilosky was asked to bring to the BOF what \$55,000, \$100,000 and \$150,000 cut would look like.

Public Discussion – D Gesiak regarding the P&Z pt clerk request

Schools Budget

Boards Discussion – Discussion on approaching unions to give concessions, language lab, suggested using entire Norwich tuition money to offset budget, advance placement testing cost coverage elimination, charging rent to Head Start, and charging tuition to pre-k students. Discussion on amount of requested reduction from the BOE budget. T Kane, R Tarlov, R Lepore wanted to see what the impact of what \$400,000 would look like. A Bisbikos said let's start at \$400,000 and we could go a little higher if we need to, and S Lowe suggested \$400,000 to \$550,000. BOE was asked to bring to the BOF what a \$400,000 reduction would look like.

Public Discussion – Lorraine Tierney regarding level 1 cuts and that residents have voiced they want less cuts, not more. Lynn Dimock regarding BOE meetings and if BOF members attend. M Hayes suggested putting referendum off as long they can. Brad Bernier stated the BOE took the needs of the community to heart and reduced what the Superintendent originally proposed.

Other Budget Topics - none

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2017 APR -7 AM 9:10
Rosemary Coyle
TOWN CLERK

Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order-** R Tarlov called the meeting to order at 9:35p.m.
2. **Additions to the Agenda** - none
3. **Approval of Minutes: March 15**
S Lowe moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2017 Regular Meeting, seconded by A Migliaccio. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED
4. **Citizens Comments** - none
5. **New Business** - none
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Bacon Academy Taxes – motion to correct error in previous amount approved.** T Kane moved to retract the previously approved transfer amount of \$2234 and approve the new transfer amount of \$2325 from Contingency to Property Tax, seconded by A Migliaccio. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED
7. **Correspondence**
Deanna Bouchard regarding legislative hearing (attached)
Rob Tarlov regarding Letter to Editor (attached)
James McNair regarding revenue (attached)
Rob Tarlov regarding proposed bills (3 attached)
Ashely LaParre regarding C3 (attached)
Jondahl Koonankiel regarding C3 (attached)
8. **First Selectman**
 - a. **Transfer requests** – none
 - b. **First Selectman's report** – Bonding sale that took place on 4/5 received a favorable rate. K-9 Josie made a large drug bust in February.
9. **Liaisons' Reports**
S Lowe reported on Board of Selectmen – library applying for grant for fiber optics. Agriculture – discussed farm signs to direct people to farms. Garden conference happening in Hartford is planning on sending a group for a Colchester visit. Discussing concept of town wide garden.
A Migliaccio reported on Police Commission – stats on arrests, calls, and RX drop off box
T Kane on School Building Committee - received DEEP permit. Electrical contract bid was in dispute. Stamped concrete approved.
A Bisbikos reported on Economic Development Commission – 10,000 ft. space for rent near Tractor Supply. Previous Hung Won restaurant changing over to Mexican. Wow Fitness coming near the Fireplace Store.
10. **Citizens Comments** - none
11. **Adjournment**
R Lepore moved to adjourn at 9:49pm seconded by T Kane. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,


Tricia Dean, Clerk

Attachments:
Fire Marshal Information
Bacon Academy Taxes Transfer
Correspondence (8)

Local Fire Marshal Duties

The local fire marshal is required to perform a variety of important duties. The following information is provided to better understand the widespread responsibilities fulfilled by the local fire marshal's office.

In 2000, the number of fires decreased across the United States. However, the number of civilian deaths increased more than 13% over the same period. The major strategies for reducing these risks are implemented through the duties of the local fire marshal. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the fire marshal's role in protecting the community from the devastation of fire.

Each community must recognize their local responsibilities and afford the fire marshal the

necessary resources to fulfill the statutory mandates.

Fire marshals are responsible for the enforcement of many of the sections found in Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as well as numerous codes that are promulgated under the provision of these statutes.


The local fire marshal is required to annually inspect all buildings and facilities of public service and occupancies regulated by the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code.

The State Fire Safety Code covers all occupancies except one and two family dwellings and premises used for manufacturing.



Examples of the occupancies covered are listed below.

ACADEMIES	EXHIBITION HALLS	AND MARINE PUBLIC
APARTMENTS HOUSES	FACTORIES OF ALL KINDS	TRANSPORTATION
ARMORIES	FREIGHT TERMINALS	PENAL INSTITUTIONS – JAILS,
ASSEMBLY HALLS	GAS PLANTS	REFORMATORIES
AUCTION ROOMS	GENERAL OFFICES	POOL ROOMS
AUDITORIUMS	GRAIN ELEVATORS	POWER PLANTS
BARNs - COMMERCIAL	GYMNASIUMS	PUMPING STATIONS
BOARD-CARE FACILITIES	HANGARS	RECREATIONAL PIERS
BOWLING LANES	HOMES FOR THE AGED	REFINERIES
BULK OIL STORAGE	HOSPITALS	RESIDENTIAL-CUSTODIAL CARE
CHURCHES	HOTELS	NURSERIES
CITY HALLS	KINDERGARTENS	RESIDENTIAL-RESTRAINED
CLUB ROOMS	LABORATORIES	CARE
COLD STORAGE	LAUNDRIES	RESTAURANTS
COLLEGES	LIBRARIES	SAWMILLS
CONFERENCE ROOMS	LODGING OR ROOMING HOUSES	SCHOOLS
CORRECTIONAL CENTERS	MENTALLY RETARDED CARE	SHOPPING CENTERS
COURTHOUSES	MORTUARY CHAPELS	SKATING RINKS
COURTROOMS	MOTION PICTURE THEATERS	SPECIAL AMUSEMENT
CREAMERIES	MUSEUMS	BUILDINGS
DANCE HALLS	NURSERY SCHOOLS	STABLES
DAY CARE CENTERS	NURSING HOMES	SUPERMARKETS
DENTISTS' OFFICES	ORPHANAGES/AGE 5 & OLDER	THEATERS
DEPARTMENT STORES	OUTPATIENT CLINICS	TRUCK & MARINE TERMINALS
DOCTORS' OFFICES	PARKING GARAGES	UNIVERSITIES
DORMITORIES	PASSENGER STATIONS &	WAREHOUSES
DRUG STORES	TERMINALS OF AIR,	
DRY CLEANING PLANTS	SURFACE, UNDERGROUND	

 Additional duties imposed by the Connecticut General Statutes on the local fire marshals are as follows.

- ◆ Shall investigate the cause, origin and circumstance of all fires within their jurisdiction, and shall, within ten (10) days report the same to the State Fire Marshal in the designated format.
- ◆ Issue permits for the use, transportation and storage of explosives in compliance with State Explosives Regulations.
 - ↳ *Investigate complaints concerning explosives.*
 - ↳ *Inspect explosive storage magazines.*
 - ↳ *Spot-check all job sites where explosives are being used.*
- ◆ Notify the Labor Commissioner of fire hazards found in manufacturing establishments.
- ◆ Enforce statute regulating the installation and use of space heaters.
- ◆ Inspect all flammable and combustible liquids storage tank installations for compliance with Connecticut Flammable and Combustible Liquids regulations.
 - ↳ *Inspect all cargo tank vehicles that transport flammable and combustible liquids, in accordance with regulations.*
 - ↳ *Issue certificate of approval to each vehicle once it's in compliance.*
 - ↳ *Inspect all gasoline service stations.*
- ◆ Inspect, at least once each year, all dry cleaning and dry dyeing establishments for compliance with the appropriate code.
- ◆ Inspect and enforce the Connecticut Regulations concerning storage, use and transportation of liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas.
 - ↳ *Inspect, at least once each year, all cargo tank vehicles transporting liquefied petroleum gas or liquefied natural gas.*
 - ↳ *Issue certificate of approval to each vehicle.*
- ◆ Administer manufacturing employer hazardous materials notification law.
- ◆ Annually inspect all storage plants and equipment and cargo tank vehicles at bulk storage plants for the storage and transportation of hazardous chemicals.
 - ↳ *Issue certificate of approval to each transportation vehicle.*
- ◆ Conduct site inspection of all fireworks and special effects displays for compliance with applicable State legislation. Also make the determination of the amount of fire protection and extinguishing equipment to be on site.
- ◆ Inspect all tents and portable structures for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Regulations.
- ◆ Conduct review of plans and specifications for various occupancies and facilities being proposed within the town for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Regulations.
- ◆ Attend schools and seminars to keep abreast of the codes, regulations and new technology.
- ◆ Required to be certified by the State Fire Marshal.
- ◆ Required to maintain ninety (90) hours of continuing education credit over three (3) year periods.

- ◆ Provide safety tips and give advice to the general public.
- ◆ Upon receiving a complaint, inspect one and two family dwellings to assure the statutory requirements regarding smoke detection and warning equipment are satisfied.
- ◆ Sign open burning permits §22a-174
 - ↳ *To municipalities for burning of brush at the refuse facility.*



I have attempted to point out the areas of greater responsibility placed upon the local fire marshal. The fire marshal has the prime obligation of enforcing regulations affecting life, property and public protection from the hazards of unfriendly fire.

If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with my office.

John Blaschik Jr.
Deputy State Fire Marshal

JB/lcs11/03

1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457-9294
(860) 685-8380 FAX: (860) 685-8359
Website: www.ct.gov/dps
An Equal Opportunity Employer

FY 14/17

Town of Colchester
General Fund
Budget Transfer/Additional Appropriation

Department:

Reason for Request:

Reason for Available Funds:

From:	Account Number	Account Name	Amount
	<input type="text" value="11110-509000"/>	<input type="text" value="Contingency"/>	<input type="text" value="2,325"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

To:	Account Number	Account Name	Amount
	<input type="text" value="11201-45250"/>	<input type="text" value="Property Tax"/>	<input type="text" value="2,325"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Date Requested Department Director or Supervisor - Signature

Print Name

Date Reviewed Chief Financial Officer

Date Approved First Selectman

Date Approved Board of Selectmen Clerk

Date Approved Board of Finance Clerk

Breakdown of Bacon Academy taxable & exempt assessment on the 2015 Grand List

		Assessment	Taxes
Bacon Academy Building	(Exempt Portion)	\$194,390	n/a
Bacon Academy Land	(Exempt Portion)	\$49,060	n/a
Bacon Academy Building	(Taxable – Leased to BOE)	\$75,200	\$2,324.44
Day Hall Building	(Taxable – Leased to daycare)	\$84,000	\$2,596.44
Day Hall Land	(Taxable – Leased to daycare)	\$49,050	\$1,516.14
	TOTAL	\$451,700	\$6,437.02

From: Thomas Kane
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 7:55 AM
To: Dee; Robert Tarlov
Subject: Re: Appropriations Committee Public Hearing: Monday, April 3rd

Unfortunately, I have clients all day and a meeting after work. I do try to submit written testimony on issues, and probably will for this.

I think it would be valuable for citizens to testify about how this will affect them.

From: Robert Tarlov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:11 AM
To: Dee
Cc: Thomas Kane; Art Shilosky
Subject: Re: Appropriations Committee Public Hearing: Monday, April 3rd

Thanks, I'm aware of the hearing.

Unfortunately, I have to work that day. As this is an all day commitment, and likely into the evening as well, there is no way for me to move appointments to work around testifying, however I will be submitting written testimony.

I have also forwarded Melissa's e-mail to other BoF members, other Board members and others in town, including the RTC and DTC chairs, hoping others will also write and perhaps someone will be able to attend the hearing.

Are you planning on attending?

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: Dee <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:21 PM
To: Robert Tarlov; Thomas Kane
Subject: Fwd: Appropriations Committee Public Hearing: Monday, April 3rd

Rob & Tom,

Below is information about an upcoming legislative hearing in the Appropriations Committee. This hearing provides a great opportunity for members of the BOF to testify in support of legislation aligning the State Budget with municipal budget process. I believe the testimony of leadership from local BOF, will prove valuable towards getting this much needed legislation passed.

Thank you,

Dee Bouchard

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rep. Melissa Ziobron" <Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov>

Date: March 28, 2017 at 6:31:25 PM EDT

To: <deeedeee1963@yahoo.com>

Subject: Appropriations Committee Public Hearing: Monday, April 3rd

Reply-To: Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Melissa Ziobron
34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton



Dear Neighbors,

In an effort to keep you informed about your state government, I wanted to notify you of an upcoming public hearing in the Appropriations Committee. Two subjects that will be discussed are the concepts of implementing a spending cap for the state budget, as well as aligning the state budget with the municipal budget process. I feel that a strong spending cap needs to be implemented in order to better manage the state budget. In addition, municipalities are forced time and time again to readjust their budgets after the state budget is passed and implemented. We, as legislators, should do whatever we can to streamline the state budget process and provide predictable and accurate municipal aid calculations to our municipalities in time for them to pass their local budgets. A number of the proposed bills on this agenda attempt to get at both of these issues.

Subjects to be discussed in the hearing will include: **Spending Cap; Budget Process; Unfunded Mandates; Municipal Aid Funding; Use of the Drug Assets Forfeiture Revolving Account; the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee; Establishment of a Child Welfare Oversight Committee.**

The Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 3, 2017 at 12:00 P.M.** in Room 2E of the LOB. Speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Please submit 60 copies of written testimony to the Committee staff at the time of sign-up in the First Floor Atrium or Room 2700 of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to APPttestimony@cga.ct.gov. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing

is reserved for State Agency Heads. The time period from 3:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. is reserved for an invited panel of chief elected municipal officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

A full list of the bills to be discussed can be found on the [agenda](#).

Legislation I have proposed or co-sponsored that is on the agenda:

H.B. No. 5004 AN ACT DEFINING TERMS PERTAINING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL SPENDING CAP.

H.B. No. 5019 AN ACT REDUCING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT THE GOVERNOR MAY TRANSFER BETWEEN SPECIFIC APPROPRIATIONS TO A BUDGETED AGENCY.

H.B. No. 5778 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN MUNICIPAL AID FUNDING.

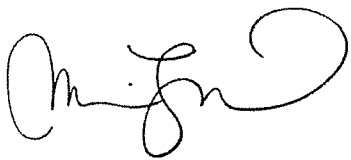
S.B. No. 154 AN ACT CONCERNING PORTIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET APPROPRIATING AID TO MUNICIPALITIES.

H.B. No. 6510 AN ACT USING FUNDS FROM THE DRUG ASSETS FORFEITURE REVOLVING ACCOUNT FOR DRUG TREATMENT BEDS.

H.B. No. 6511 AN ACT CONCERNING TERMS PERTAINING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL SPENDING CAP.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov or call (860) 240-8700 if you have any questions related to state government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Ziobron', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa Ziobron
State Representative
34th Assembly District

From: Robert Tarlov

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:56 AM

To: bulletin@glcitizen.com

Cc: Art Shilosky; Ronald Goldstein; Thomas Kane; Tricia Dean; mathieuj@colchesterct.org

Subject: Letter to the Editor - Rivereast

Having appreciated the articles by Rivereast reporters over the last 5 years, I was surprised to see the highly inaccurate article (Transparency, March 10) written by Julianna Roche. Past reporters were very thorough in seeking all sides of the story. It is evident that in this article, she was not. Most of the article was written based on information provided by one person, ignoring all others involved.

The article stated that a Town employee and I failed to provide information to Mr. Bisbikos. Did she call me to get my statement? Did she call Mr. Shilosky for his statement regarding the Town employee?

The article quotes Mr. Bisbikos regarding what transpired in a February meeting between Mr. Bisbikos, Mr. Shilosky and myself. Did she call either Mr. Shilosky or myself to get our accounts of that meeting?

The article quotes me as saying, "I should have stopped (Bisbikos and Shilosky) much earlier." I assume by the parenthesis, she was interpreting the statement, if so, she did so incorrectly.

Did she contact First Selectman Shilosky for his statement regarding this matter?

Did she contact Superintendent Mathieu for his statement?

Other than Mr. Bisbikos, it would appear Ms. Roche only attempted contact with two other people, reaching just one, to get their comments on the transparency software that had been reviewed for 5 months, ending with a recommendation by the Board of Finance in January. These two BoF members were not involved in what transpired regarding the Bisbikos' requests. Additionally, the article incorrectly stated that the Board of Selectmen was involved in this review.

It is disappointing that Ms. Roche has not carried on the prior practice of investigating and interviewing all involved parties to get the viewpoints from all sides for what could have been a more complete and accurate story.

Robert Tarlov, Chairman
Colchester Board of Finance

860-608-4293

To: jmcnair3

Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

That's the original.

I should ask Tricia to take down.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 3:03 PM

To: Robert Tarlov

Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

I guess disconnect. I'm going off town site.

----- Original message -----

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Date: 3/18/17 2:50 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

I think we have a disconnect!

We would probably be around June 1 if we decide to go with 2 referendums before June 30.

If we decide to go with just one referendum, then probably around June 26th.

That would put us 2 weeks later than East Hampton, 4 weeks later than we normally do, if we decide on time for 2 referendums. In a 1 referendum scenario, about 6 weeks later than East Hampton and 8 weeks later than we normally do if we do.

Sounds like EH is going with 2, but a first one 2 weeks earlier than I was thinking.

My dates would only work for the 2 referendum scenario, if we decide ahead of time what the voting option would be for the second referendum. It also assumes a much more compressed schedule leading up to both referendums to gain the latest possible dates under either scenario.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Robert Tarlov
Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

They pushed back referendum until mid May not early May.

----- Original message -----

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Date: 3/18/17 12:19 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

Reset the calendar? What does that mean?

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Robert Tarlov
Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?
So who can reset calendar BOF or BOS?

----- Original message -----

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Date: 3/18/17 6:08 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

Spending only. When I say that I think that we would decide this by April 19, we don't need to. We could wait until middle of May in a 2 referendum scenario and beginning of June in a one referendum scenario.

The only decision made on Wednesday was to move forward on the budget (expenditures) planning, and then tax a look again in mid May at where the State is at to determine the revenue assumptions. As voters we vote on the expenditure side of the budget, but we need to use the revenue assumptions to determine what the

mil rate would need to be so we all understand the impact of our vote on our checkbooks. The mil rate is set after the budget passes.

For revenue assumptions, if we are going with the latest possible date(s) for a referendum(s):

- If we were to decide to go with a calendar that provides time for 2 referendums, we would need to decide on revenue assumptions by May 16th for the first referendum.
- For the one referendum scenario, or for a second referendum if needed in the 2 referendum scenario, we would need to decide on revenue assumptions by June 6th.

One question to be discussed is, if the budget passes and the revenue assumptions are higher, or lower, than the State results, what do we then do?

Although we usually set the mil rate as soon as the budget passes, this year if the budgets were to pass on a 1st referendum (if we decide on 2 referendum scenario), we would wait until the last possible moment to set the mil rate.

Although I understand that there are a lot of posts saying decisions were made on Wednesday, only opinions were expressed, no votes, and and only a consensus to move forward on the expenditure side of both budgets and to review the status of the state revenue/pension invoice in May.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:40 AM
To: Robert Tarlov
Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

I am really confused. By budget do you mean spending only or spending and revenue?

----- Original message -----

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Date: 3/17/17 6:50 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: James D McNair III <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: date to set revenue estimates?

No meeting on April 3. This will be rescheduled at a later date.

We will address the revenue estimates again in May, although we will continue discussing date options in April for Public Hearing, Town Meeting and Referendum.

April 5 will be primarily about the Board of Education Budget, although Town budget discussion will continue.

I believe that we will decide on the budget that we will go to referendum with no later than the April 19 meeting. What we will decide for the State Assumptions will come at a later date.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: James D McNair III <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:46 AM

To: Robert Tarlov

Subject: date to set revenue estimates?

Rob,

Sorry missed last night. Too much snow removal without taking breaks. Was a date set to set revenues estimates to set a mill rate for the budget recommendation? Will it be part of the informational meeting April 3rd?

Thanks,

James

BILLS RELATED TO UNFUNDED MANDATES

I see a number of proposed bills regarding limitations on unfunded mandates and I am in support of a change. I see some require a 2/3 vote, others require all mandates passed by the legislature to be funded by the legislature. Although anything would be an improvement, I believe the state should pay for the state mandates at the state level.

I have always wondered how many of the current mandates would have passed had those voting for the legislature also had to figure out to pay for them. No matter how good a mandate's intent may be, its value must be balanced with the cost. When one entity passes the legislation and another entity is paying for it, objectivity is difficult.

The State believes that increases in fees, a shift of taxation to local property taxes through cuts in state aid and invoicing towns for programs created and controlled by the State, are responsible budget actions that reflect spending cuts and are done without increases in taxes.

Programs and mandates created by the Governor and the State Legislature should be paid for by the State and not pushed down to the municipalities to get veiled in our town budgets so that some taxpayers feel their local officials are irresponsible spenders. Although the taxpayers are the same, accountability in State spending decisions coupled with the how the State will pay for them at the State level, will create a more responsible fiscal policy.

Robert Tarlov,
Chairman, Colchester Board of Finance

8D Westchester Hills
Colchester, CT 06415

BILLS RELATING TO THE BUDGET PROCESS – MUNICIPAL AID

I am in support of proposed House and Senate bills that are seeking to change the budget process as it pertains to ECS and municipal aid.

As a local Board of Finance member I have always been amazed that the towns, whose budgeting depends heavily on having reliable state revenue data, has to complete our budget process before the State has barely begun their process.

Over the last couple of years this has become more of an exercise in futility as the initial numbers proposed have begun to lose relevance to the final vote, now bringing us to this year where the initial proposals are so different than last year's, that it is almost fruitless to have any meaningful town discussion. Adding to the local budgeting problems is the new practice of changing the numbers after both the state and locals are well into their fiscal year.

The proposal previously suggested to provide statutory relief the towns to delay their budget process is absurd. Going past July 1 creates many short term and long term fiscal issues despite the legislative relief, especially in a year like this where my town, Colchester is facing a \$4 million negative change in state revenue/invoicing on a 50 million dollar budget.

Rather than the 160+ towns delaying their budget processes, the State should provide reliable financial data to the towns by March of each year. If towns like Colchester, that utilize unpaid volunteers to complete their budget processes on time, then the Governor and legislature, who are elected and paid for the work they do, should be able to get municipal aid and ECS numbers to the towns in time for them to do their work. Plus the practice of later changing those numbers has got to stop, it totally destroys the credibility of the process.

Robert Tarlov,
Chairman, Colchester Board of Finance

8D Westchester Hills
Colchester, CT 06415

BILLS RELATING TO STATUTORY SPENDING CAP

I am in support of proposed House and Senate bills that amend the Statutory Spending Cap (Section 2-33a, CT General Statutes). For too many years, the spirit of this statute has been debased and its implementation has failed to create spending planning that reflects true increases in the cost of living or changes in taxpayer wages.

I continue to hear the Governor and others say, "We don't have a spending problem, we have a revenue problem, and we have a revenue problem because of the lagging CT economy".

To me, specious and dangerous.

We have a revenue problem because we have had a spending problem for many years, and now, rather than make the difficult decisions to make the changes at the State level in spending and revenue needed to create fiscal responsibility, proposals are being pushed that will increase local property taxes.

The State revenues and CT economy are lagging because taxpaying businesses and residents are leaving the State and fewer businesses and taxpaying residents are coming. Our taxpayers are leaving and soon there will not be enough people left to support the governments and the people who are getting the most and paying the least.

The spending increases for the State should not exceed the taxpayer's ability to pay for those increases through increases in their pay. The new bills can create real meaning in a spending cap by using more relevant indexes and in how they calculate the impact of federal aid and mandates.

Passing spending initiatives, no matter how good they might sound, that increase debt or increase local property taxes and outstrip the taxpayers ability or desire to pay for them is irresponsible and will continue the downward spiral of a state that used lead the other states.

Robert Tarlov,

Chairman, Colchester Board of Finance

8D Westchester Hills

Colchester, CT 06415

From: Ashley LaParre <ashley.laparre@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 8:53 PM
To: Art Shilosky; Robert Tarlov; r.goldsteinesq@snet.net
Subject: C3 Funding

Dear First Selectman Art Shilosky, Mr. Rob Tarlov, and Mr. Ron Goldstein,

My name is Ashley LaParre and I am writing in support of C3, Collaborative for Colchester's Children. **I am writing to strongly urge you to include the full amount of money requested by C3 in the Town budget.**

This early childhood council has been implementing community programs that benefit Colchester in so many different ways. I have two young children who have benefited greatly through Play and Learn groups. I have personally benefited from parenting and community building classes offered by C3. I also am part of the first graduating class of People Empowering People, PEP. These classes have helped my family and I personally as well as tie us more firmly to the community of Colchester. As a member of the PTO, I also am aware how the school community has benefited from C3.

What C3 provides is something Colchester can offer that many surrounding towns do not. I moved from New Jersey and took a year to decide where I wanted to settle and raise a family. C3 makes Colchester attractive to young families such as my own and makes my family and I want to continue living in this town. I have been very happy that I chose a town that knows early childhood education and intervention is key to a strong community. This reality affects all of us and I would really like to see Colchester continue down a positive, progressive path.

C3 is just getting started, it is absolutely astonishing what C3 offers (programs, staff, logistics, supplies) with such a limited budget. **Please consider how important the money and support is to your community.**

I would greatly appreciate it if you could please pass my email along to the rest of the board members.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley LaParre

74 McDonald Road
Colchester, CT