



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

REGULAR MEETING of BOARD OF FINANCE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Colchester Town Hall @ 7pm

Members Present: Chairman Rob Tarlov, Andreas Bisbikos, Roberta Lepore, Stefani Lowe, and Andrea Migliaccio

Members Absent: Thomas Kane

Others Present: First Selectman A. Shilosky, Town Clerk G. Furman, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, BOS-R. Coyle, S. Soby, BOE- B. Bernier, B. Wagner, and Clerk J. Campbell

1. CALL TO ORDER

R. Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 17 Regular Meeting R. Lepore moved to approve the minutes, seconded by A. Migliaccio. R. Lepore stated that she seconded the motion to reduce the BOE Budget by 250,000 not T. Kane as stated. A. Bisbikos moved to accept the minutes with the correction, seconded by R. Lepore. Unanimously approved. 5/0 MOTION CARRIED.

May 23 Special Meeting A. Migliaccio moved to approve the minutes, seconded by A. Bisbikos. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

May 25 Special Meeting A. Bisbikos moved to approve the minutes, seconded by S. Lowe. R. Lepore stated that 5th paragraph change to: A motion to clarify that once Malloy cuts are determined that the BOF protocol shall be to consider options including general fund balance, cuts next and supplemental billing. A. Bisbikos moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by S. Lowe. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

R. Tarlov stated he received the attached correspondence.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS (to be given at 2nd meeting of the month)

- a. Tax Collector
- b. Finance

7. FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. Transfer requests None
- b. First Selectman's report First Selectman A. Shilosky had nothing to report

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TOWN CLERK

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board of Finance Review

- i. **Responsibilities of Members** R. Tarlov spoke on the responsibilities of members as laid out in policies, by-laws, handbook, Charter, and Statutes. He stated that Board of Finance members are held to a higher standard than residents when presenting information. Whether in letters to the editor, Facebook posts or information brought to the Board, members should do complete research and must be correct in their facts, complete in their facts and the facts need to be kept in the context of other available information. He addressed A Bisbikos' letter stating that the facts around the 2009 action were different than the current issue being addressed.
- ii. **Authority of Board of Finance** R. Tarlov discussed the authority of BOF, saying he felt that some of the motions presented at the last couple of meetings were beyond the authority of the Board. He also stated that, unless there is time urgency, he attempts to delay voting on issues the night of the initial discussion. Time is needed to research the facts and reflect the information received. One of the issues cited was the authority that this board has regarding possible scenarios should the assumed numbers be lower than assumed. R Tarlov stated that he has been asking for legal guidance since that meeting as to this Board's authority, and the flexibility under the statutes for all boards to work together for best alternatives for the taxpayers. Some of the board has had questions on the potential outcome of the non-approval of the budget and what happens after if that occurs, feeling they had voted based on statements made by staff and members of other boards. A Shilosky stated that he would not vote to approve any supplemental billing without review and discussion by all three boards. The Board told A Shilosky that the Town needed some guidance from the attorney before the end of the week.
- iii. **Policies, By-Laws, Handbook, Charter** By-Laws are generally reviewed during the fall. A. Bisbikos suggested having a copy handy during meetings.
- iv. **Meetings** R. Tarlov addressed Stefani Lowes letter about meeting protocol and there was a discussion of meeting conduct and basic rules of operation of meetings. Citizen's comments vs. Citizen's Discussion. Involvement of members of other boards. R Tarlov agreed with the letter that other boards' meeting had less discussion with other boards, but he said that other boards had less attendance of members of other boards and also had less discussion and involvement with the citizens, too. He said he was usually the only other board member at BOS meetings and when he attend BOE meetings, only he and Andrea. Other boards engaged him when discussing Board of Finance issues and always recognized him when he asked to be recognized. A Shilosky that the Charter states that he is an Ex-Officio member, nonvoting member of the BOF. Consensus was to continue involvement but that other board members should ask to be recognized
- v. **FOI – Meetings** Before/After a meeting. In discussions before or after a meeting, if a quorum of BOF members present, even if interacting with citizens, this would be considered an illegal meeting. Under FOI members of the same party can meet (Caucus).
- vi. **Review BOF Objectives and Initiatives** Members reviewed the attached document. R. Lepore suggested adding the paramedic program and the recreation program fund. A. Bisbikos stated he was ready to present on grants for next meeting.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Discussion

- i. **Revaluation** R. Tarlov talked about the revaluation and effect it could have with the proposed mill rate increase as last year's mil rate needs to be adjusted for revaluation (30.91 vs 31.25) to reflect effective total tax increase, however, each individual taxpayer will be impacted differently. R Tarlov reviewed the attached grid showing

most residential taxpayers will have no increase or a decrease under the current proposed mill rate.

- ii. **Communications** R. Tarlov would like an e-mail blast or some sort of communication relating to how the proposed new mill rate will affect their taxes. A post onto the website of a pdf with the tax impact. The Board was in agreement.
- iii. **Other** None

10. LIAISONS' REPORTS

R. Tarlov attended Youth Services. They are currently working on tie-dye shirts for the Tag Sale on the Green. Junk in the Trunk is a planned event for September. They recently recognized a student, Brianna for the Most Outstanding Youth Services Contributor. She earned some prizes to assist her through her next few years at college. R. Lepore reported on the Fire Dept. that a 1st responder was recently attacked during a call which has cause the department to look into body armor and self-defense training. Mold remediation is still on going. A boiler and wall will need to be replaced which will cost approx. \$8500.

11. CITIZENS COMMENTS

R. Coyle thanked the board for communicating the tax impact to the residents of Colchester.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Migliaccio moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm, seconded by A. Bisbikos. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments:

Correspondence (41 pages)

BOF Objectives and Initiatives

Residential Tax Impact of New Mil Rate and Revaluation.

Correspondence from A Bisbikos and S Lowe