



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
October 4, 2017
Town Hall – 7:00 pm

Members Present: Chairman R. Tarlov, R. Lepore, A. Migliaccio, A. Bisbikos and T. Peters (after vote for appointment and being sworn in)

Members Absent: T. Kane

Others Present: First Selectman A. Shilosky, BOS R. Coyle and D. Mizla, BOE B. Bernier, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, D. Bouchard, J. Kelly, L. Marvin and Clerk J. Campbell

1. CALL TO ORDER

R. Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 6 Regular Meeting

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the 9/6 regular meeting, SECONDED by R. Lepore. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 4/0

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

5. BOARD OF FINANCE VACANCY – Appointment of Replacement - Decision and Possible Action

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to appoint T. Peters to replace the vacancy left by the resignation of S. Lowe, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 4/0.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS – 2nd meeting of the Month

- a. Tax Collector
- b. Finance

8. FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. Transfer requests – None

- b. **First Selectman's report** – A. Shilosky reported the building fee revenue is up since last year. The Town has 2 pending F.O.I. cases, to date has cost the Town approx. \$3500 in legal fees. There is still not a change in MV mill rate cap. The MV tax bills have not been sent out. Once sent the revenue should range between \$3.5-4 million. WJJMS Building Commission has not rec'd reimbursement from the State as quickly as they'd like. Incord is looking to expand a 30,000 sq. ft. building, meeting with them on the 11th to discuss. Alpha Q has started their site work on their buildings. Owners of Stop & Shop property will be adding a multi-purpose building next to Pet Valu. A retail company is working on their last marketing analysis to see if they will come to Colchester. Final details cannot be discussed at this point.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2017 OCT -6 AM 9:07
DAVID FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2018-2019 Budget – Discussion and Possible Action** – R. Tarlov revisited last meetings discussion on the survey. T. Peters suggested clarifying the question when asked about maintaining the level of service and making the questions more unbiased. R. Lepore spoke on the survey she found from Shrewsbury, MA. R. Tarlov liked the breakdown of the answers by age bracket and income level. A. Bisbikos stated he would like open ended questions for each department on what each department does well and where they can improve upon. The board members agreed this survey should wait until after election, but should not require a lot of time. January posting should be possible. Potentially would like to have the questions reviewed by a focus group. R. Tarlov touched on doing budget forums, open to the public, but geared toward a specific target group, i.e. business leaders, seniors, PTO (parents), and environmental groups. The board would also like to have a legislator at different meetings rather than all at one.
- b. **2018 Meeting Calendar – Discussion and Possible Action** R. Tarlov stated there are holiday conflicts with the July 4th and September 19th meetings. Removed them from the schedule. R. Lepore MOTIONED to accept the 2018 meeting calendar, SECONDED by T. Peters. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **2017-2018 Budget Update – Discussion and Possible Action** – The Town is potentially facing the 2nd largest budget cut to ECS. This is based on our declining enrollment and our wealth rating. BOF would like to know the BOE has talked about the figures we could be facing and have a plan in place along with how long it would take to implement that plan. R. Goldstein and K. Goodwin should be at the next meeting to help present what the BOE has planned. BOF is asking what date is the last date without a budget that the BOE plans on acting. 10 positions are currently not filled due to the freeze. Potentially this freeze could be saving somewhere in the range of \$1 million.
- b. **Board of Finance Objectives and Initiatives – Review and Update** – No further discussion is needed at this point. The immediate concern is the budget and that was discussed previously in this meeting.
- c. **Police Department Past Expenditure for Interactive Software between laptops and server.** A. Migliaccio explained that the equipment the Police Commission purchased was not implemented for its initial purpose. She spoke with IT and found out that the equipment worked fine, and was purchased under the understanding the State would store our data. The State Police didn't have enough storage and wanted to charge us \$5,000/GB for storage and we needed 12 GB. We opted out of that solution. The computers that were purchased are useable and have been distributed to other departments in need. Sgt. Martinez will be asked if they would want to add an additional server for the police to use to help the ease of downloading the reports from the police computers/cameras.

11. LIAISONS' REPORTS

A. Migliaccio reported on COA. Becky attended a travel fest presentation for the tours they take. Senior Center is now filling busses instead of relying on other towns. TVCCA has placed a cut to the Bistro Meals, however the senior center was able to replace with a café meal. The senior center is doing community speaking. "Everything you didn't know about our senior center." Attendance for the month of August is 1809. A monthly high for the senior center. They will be hosting a 40th Anniversary Gala. BOE – the BOE and Andrea wanted to thank R. Goldstein and R. Tarlov for writing letters to advocate for the town. The cafeteria fund will be using funds to hire CREC. This is state mandated to change any item on the menu at the school. January 1st a new interim superintendent will start. R. Tarlov reported on YSS. Junk in the trunk was a successful first time event. Approx. \$600 was raised. There is a thought to move it to WJJMS next year. A. Bisbikos reported on the EDC, they are currently revising the CTIP application. Incord is expanding. We are in competition with Montville. They unveiled a Welcome to Colchester sign. Parks & Rec field sustainability fund is growing with the first priority being irrigation. Eagle Scout project of the dugouts is

finished. There have been issues with dogs on the playing field and there have been some incidents with bites. The BOS are in the process of creating a policy and signage to help with this issue. R. Lepore reported on the CHFD Monthly Officer's Meeting. They will apparently be going to quarterly meetings. A. Shilosky is not aware of this and will continue to research.

12. CITIZENS COMMENTS -

R. Coyle spoke in favor of having a tri-board meeting to react to any budget cuts. A \$9.4 million cut will have a catastrophic effect. This needs to be a community decision.

D. Bouchard spoke about Tolland, who is due to have an \$8.5 million cut. They are aware of the budget issues within the state and chose not to vote on a budget for the town until the state has been settled. They also have a tri-board already in place. D. Bouchard feels the town is "playing a waiting game" and needs to be more proactive.

L. Marvin asked how the Town/BOE will be able to cut \$9 million. If they can then they are over-funded to begin with. L. Marvin feels the BOF needs to come up with a plan.

J. Kelly spoke on the Junk in Trunk event. Suggested the YSS investigate local towns "Town-Wide Tag Sale." A few years ago he warned that things are changing in Washington and Hartford. He feels the BOE is "stone-walling" the public. A study from UCONN that looked out to "1940" shows Colchester will see a drop in enrollment. J. Kelly believed the BOE doesn't want to face the drop in enrollment. WJJMS will have well over 100 empty seats when finished. He also urges the town to invest in training employees on HIPPA rules.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments:

BOF Goals & Initiatives as of 10-4

Shrewsbury, MA Survey

August Tax Collectors Reports