



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Finance
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2017
Town Hall Room 1 @ 7:00 pm**

Members Present: R. Tarlov, T. Kane, R. Lepore, A. Bisbikos, A. Migliaccio, T. Peters

Others Present: A. Shilosky, CFO M. Cosgrove, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, BOS R. Coyle, L. Ackerman, M. Egan, and Clerk J. Campbell

1. CALL TO ORDER

R. Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 4 Regular Meeting

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the October 4th meeting, SECONDED by R. Lepore. T. Peters asked if more detail needed to be added about the discussion w/ B. Bernier from BOE. R. Lepore felt that if more detail was needed someone could listen to the recording. T. Kane ABSTAINED. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

See attached correspondence A. Bisbikos thanks R. Tarlov for the well written letters on the Town's behalf that are included in the attachments.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. **Tax Collector** – M. Wyatt stated that the office is running as it should. Last March, the current law office we use as a debt collector, was asked for their plan on collecting the motor vehicle and personal property debts. With no results from the lawyers, M. Wyatt pulled 500 accounts from 2001-2005 from Rossi Law began working on them within the Tax Office. Efforts began in August and thus far the results are: \$87,646.70 old taxes, \$58,124.25 is set to come in, this does not include those they made payment arrangements with. The payment arrangements total an additional \$49,045.03 in revenue. Thus far \$116,000 has been collected in interest. There are still more accounts that can be taken from Rossi Law. At the next spring conference M. Wyatt will be seeking new debt collectors.
- b. **Finance** – M. Cosgrove reported that MV tax bills have not been sent out yet. Revenue money is off in comparison to last year because of that. However if you add the projected amount in we are at or over last year's numbers. 1 million in ECS money has been distributed to the Town which is approx. 25%. \$4.4 million has been received from the state for the school project which was late. We are expecting an additional payment in November. This would be payment #6 from the state for the building project. We are seeing the results from the budget freeze in expenditures. We are still running with many vacant positions which shows in salaries on the finance reports.

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7. FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. **Transfer requests** – None
- b. **First Selectman's report** – S. Shilosky was following up from last meeting regarding budget presentations. YSS wants to come in to tell the BOF what they do. Library would like to come in because they are looking for a new carpet. Fire Dept. will be coming to BOS tomorrow to talk about paramedic program. A trench drain that the firehouse needs will be handled in house. Building has money on hold for a PT assistant. They are looking at software that would allow residents to go online and get a permit for small projects. A. Shilosky reported that he, R. Benson and J. Chaponis spoke with Incord on Monday. Their C-Tip application has been submitted. As of right now we are in competition with a property they have in Montville. Incord wants to build two 12,000 sq. ft. buildings and one 30,000 sq. ft. building. EDC has a special meeting set for 10/30.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. **2017-2018 Budget Status and Process**

R. Tarlov has done research on other towns and how they are handling their budgets to make sure Colchester was not behind the curve. Different towns are in different situations. Some towns do not have adequate fund balance to carry them through. Those towns are getting to the point where they cannot pay bills. Tolland currently does not have a budget. April budget talk was suspended. August it restarted and was rescinded after being adjourned to a referendum. They projected the cuts too high and started the process over again. Referendum has been set for 10/31. East Hampton town manager has proposed a mitigation plan. However town council feels the suggestions will not offset any cuts. R. Tarlov looked at towns that are getting hit the hardest and they all seem to be doing things along the same line as we are. State potentially will have a budget voted at the end of next week. A. Shilosky agreed a tri-board meeting is still needed once numbers come in. Once BOF sets the mil rate, the BOF has authority to only handle budget transfers, additional appropriations, use of fund balance. BOS has the authority and responsibility to supplemental bill. R. Goldstein and M. Ritter have been working together to create implementer language to reduce the budget without having to go through the entire budget process again. There is a potential to have a tri-board meeting for November 1st.

b. **MOTOR VEHICLE TAX BILLS – Discussion and Possible Action**

M. Wyatt reported that the MV tax bills have a potential revenue of \$3.5-4 million. Voting on the mil rate should be two separate mil rates. Real/Personal Property and Motor Vehicle. Once a mil rate for MV has been passed, bills will put together for a November 1st start date. Tax payers will have 30 days to pay their bill as per normal. T. Peters asked if the town could face potential lawsuits if the mil rate cap ends up being lowered. M. Cosgrove stated that the consensus has been either raising or eliminating the cap. The town would not be alone in sending out MV bills. A refund can be issued if the mil rate cap is not lifted. A. Bisbikos MOTIONED to set the Motor Vehicle mil rate at 32.37, SECONDED by T. Kane. All members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 6/0

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. **2018-2019 Budget – Discussion and Possible Action**

No further discussion, most discussion will take place in next agenda item.

b. **BOF Goals & Objectives – Review**

R. Tarlov asked M. Cosgrove if the EEO1 was ready to be presented for information on the grants, state and federal. R. Coyle stated that town grants are normally recorded by department. R. Tarlov will move grant discussion to December. Survey topic has been moved to the November 14th meeting. R. Tarlov feels most new members will be in attendance even though they wouldn't be sworn in yet. R. Tarlov will contact business leaders through CBA, seniors through P. Watts, PTO, and various commissions to attend the targeted meetings scheduled starting in January. Legislators will be invited to attend March meetings/workshops. J. Pagiolli will come after elections to discuss the facility plan and energy project. Insurance Funding will be looked at with both formulas and will be phasing in the new formula. BOF by-law review will happen at December meeting. Budget presentations have been narrowed down to two. YSS only wants to speak about accomplishments and plans.

10. LIAISONS' REPORTS

A. Migliaccio reported on BOE. They have purchased chrome books for WJJMS from textbook dollars. They have reiterated the budget impact to the students. 10 positions still have not been hired. Various spending has been limited. Teachers are at max capacity in some classes. Dr. Hughes has started an initiative of technology for each school on what is needed. B. Bernier and BOE budget members have created a rubric to address the budget cuts when the time comes. COA will be hosting an AARP meet the candidates on October 26th. The senior center serves several hundred meals each month and active membership is currently 1063. R. Tarlov reported on building committee. Members are very involved in the school project. The project is ahead of schedule and under budget at this point. BOS discussed a policy for dogs on playing fields at the rec plex and awarded snow plow contracts. R. Lepore talked about the Fire Dept. They are going out for RFP's for the 10 year old ambulance that needs to be replaced. A drone has been donated to the Fire Dept. and members are going through drone training.

11. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 6/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments:

Correspondence

Tax Office Reports August & September

Finance Reports August & September

Background Information for Agenda Item 8B

BOE Handout

BOF Objectives & Initiatives