



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance

Budget Public Hearing Minutes

April 3, 2018 – Town Hall – 7:00

Board Members Present: BOF: R. Tarlov, R. Lepore, A. Bisbikos, A. Migliaccio, T Kane & M. Egan

BOE: B. Bernier, R. Besaw, M. Bylone, A. Domeika & M. Tomasi

BOS: A. Shilosky, J. Ford, D. Mizla & S. Soby

Staff Present: Superintendent Conway, future Superintendent Burt, PW Director J. Pagiolli, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, Town Clerk G. Furman, Executive Assistant T. Dean & CFO M. Cosgrove

Citizens: those speaking below plus K. Kehogreen, C. Vaillancourt, I. Rudko, M. Rudko & L. Dimock

BOF Chairman Tarlov opened the Public Hearing at 7:00, introduced the Board of Finance Members and reviewed upcoming budget calendar.

A. Shilosky presented the town budget.

Citizen comments: see below

B. Bernier introduced the BOE members and Dr. Conway, then he presented the BOE Budget

Citizen comments and questions:

T. Rudko stated that although the BOE budget was down this year, he pointed out that Dr. Conway said, "Last year was a monumental tax increase" and he said that increase would compound forever."

M. Kehogreen commented that Mr. Rudko misquoted the Superintendent stating that, Dr. Conway had described the year as monumental in that the budget had passed on the first referendum, not that it was a monumental tax increase". Mr. Bernier and Dr. Conway thanked her for the correction.

V. Rose stated that Mr. Rudko was cherry picking one year where there was a larger budget increase than others over the last 5 years that had decreases or very small increases. He was concerned that we are falling behind in educating our kids by not spending enough in the school budget.

S. Dubb from the Police Commission asked if the budgets would be online. Also asked, if in view of the increases in the State Trooper cost, if we had considered appointing our own chief, without using a state trooper.

Mr. Shilosky stated that we would need more than a chief. There were several officer positions that would need to be created and we would need to build a lock-up facility.

S. Dubb then asked if we had looked into regionalization. A. Shilosky said we had, waiting for East Hampton to complete their new facility as they cannot calculate costs to determine what they would need to charge other towns.

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S. Dubb then asked if we had looked into regionalization. A. Shilosky said we had, waiting for East Hampton to complete their new facility as they cannot calculate costs to determine what they would need to charge other towns.

E. Evans had some questions about the Fire Marshall regarding having back-up and using volunteers. . A. Shilosky replied that we had 3 volunteers helping out previously, but they had left and it because of the amount of training and certification difficult to find replacement volunteers.

J. Kelly said that despite the BOF repeatedly asking for a long term plan to address declining enrollment, he had yet to see a 5 year plan and stated that we would soon hit the 1000 drop mark and that we would need to close the 3rd floor of the new school. Mr. Bernier replied that the school had been downsized based on the projections, was much smaller than the current school.

J. Kelly said that he had never seen the level of disrespect shown the BOF by the other two boards when they were left out of the budget discussion that addressed the state revenue reduction and he hoped that board members would not forget this when reviewing the proposed budgets.

A. Shilosky introduced the Board of Selectmen.

R. Tarlov closed the meeting by thanking those who attended, reviewing the budget calendar and asking attendees to remind others of the upcoming meetings and May 22 budget referendum.

Meeting ended at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted

Rob Tarlov, Chair