



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2018
Town Hall – Room

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2018 MAY -3 AM 8:53
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Members Present: R. Tarlov, M. Egan, T. Kane and A. Bisbikos

Members Absent: R. Lepore and A. Migliaccio

Others Present: First Selectman A. Shilosky, BOS R. Coyle, D. Mizla, BOE M. Bylone, CFO M. Cosgrove and clerk J. Campbell

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by R. Tarlov.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** - A. Bisbikos MOTIONED to add item 11a discussion of the Opengov policy to the agenda, TK SECONDED. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 4/0
T. Kane MOTIONED to add item 11b future FOI training to the agenda, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 4/0
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 18, Regular Meeting, Budget Workshops, and Joint Meeting** – R. Tarlov suggested that the Regular Meeting minutes item 6b be changed to clarify M. Cosgrove’s statement. Suggested changes is “M. Cosgrove wanted to point out the actual revenue for taxes is higher than the amount reflected on the monthly financial report presented due to some unreported income (money was collected and deposited by the tax office and not reported to the finance department prior to the reports being generated).” A. Bisbikos MOTIONED to approve the minutes with the above change, SECONDED by T. Kane. M. Egan ABSTAINED, all other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 3/0/1
4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS** - None
5. **CORRESPONDENCE** – None
6. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - a. **Tax Collector** – 2nd meeting of the month
 - b. **Finance** – M. Cosgrove will report at next meeting on the regular Finance reports. R. Tarlov asked the board members if they had any additional questions regarding the program fund and the health insurance fund reports that were submitted and attached for review. No questions were asked.
7. **FIRST SELECTMAN**
 - a. **Transfer requests** - None
 - b. **First Selectman’s report** – Opengov presented a contract which was then signed and returned. Fiber Optics contract has been signed as well. NOVA, our IT back up company, will be coming out to replace switches to help with the internet issues the Town Hall has been having. Once that is done, we will be looking at the VOIP. Aplha Q has started the 2nd 12,000 sq. ft. building. Once completed they will move onto a 24, 000 sq. ft. building. Incord will be adding 3 buildings to their property soon.
8. **2018/2019 BUDGET – Discussion** – R. Tarlov reported that at the state level bother parties seem to be in agreement on the ECS and Municipal Fund. Public hearing was pushed back to May 16th because of the lack of decision at state level. Depending on feedback from the 5/16 meeting, a vote to move the current Town & BOE budgets forward can be made that night or at a Special Meeting on May 23. According to CCM there

could be a possible reduction in ECS money by about \$54,000. The Board reviewed the Town reductions presented on 4/18, discussing which were true reductions and which were deferred expenditures. Paper Mill Bridge grant money has been delayed by the state. BOF would still like to keep the town contribution in the budget, because the bridge will still need the repairs even if the grant does not come in. The Board also reviewed the use of anticipated revenue item due in June to reduce Highway/Road Maintenance and decided if the legislators budget plan for municipal aid prevailed, we should use this future revenue to meet other needs and restore the reduction (39K) to the budget. Once fiber optics have been put into the town hall, any problems will show and could be fixed at a lower cost than originally budgeted for (67K) and will likely need to be done in the current fiscal year. M. Wyatt, Tax Collector, is ok with a 98.8% collection rate. M. Cosgrove reported that the lowest collection rate she had information for was 98.2% and that the number has increased steadily since then with the last 3 years being over 98.8%. M. Cosgrove attributes the success of the collection to the efforts M. Wyatt has implemented in the office. BOF agreed to use the higher collection rate.

9. **CITIZEN COMMENTS – re: Budget Discussion** – D. Bouchard asked if the budgets would be updated on the website because they were not what was being discussed at the meeting. M. Cosgrove stated that they would be uploaded after tonight's meeting. D. Bouchard thanked the BOF for looking into the future of the town and not just thinking about today's budget and thanked them for their hard work.
10. **BUDGET WORKSHOP – Discussion and Possible Action** – The agreement to present a budget at Public Hearing that restored 75,000 to Capital and 39,009 to Highway was reached under item 8.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Opengov policy discussion** – A. Bisbikos asked what the BOS was planning on discussing at tomorrow's meeting for the policy on Opengov. A. Shilosky replied that there is nothing that has been discussed and this is a first time meeting. R. Tarlov suggested that the policy should be geared more towards who has access to post and edit and not what content is available to the public. T. Kane stated that if it can be requested through FOI then it should be posted to Opengov. More information means less FOI requests. A. Shilosky asked BOF to send an e-mail with their concerns. D. Mizla stated that she wants to discuss who has control on the Town side, unsure of BOE side. R. Tarlov stated that the clock is running on the time to implement this program and would like the policy to be completed before M. Cosgrove is ready to begin implementing.
- b. **Future FOI Training** – R. Tarlov stated that anytime he is mentioned in a complaint it potentially puts his career in jeopardy. Since he was personally named and found in violation of the FOIA it will now go on his profile as having violated a state statute. He felt that this was unfortunate this could have been settled locally and that board members are volunteers learning as we go and that the town is too small to have counsel providing us guidance. He also said the Statutes are vague and the State does a terrible job of producing guidelines, and those they do hand out have disclosures that we should not rely on this information. He also said that he was found having violated an FOI statute when he was not physically present at the meeting to chair it. He said in the future we should try to correct these issues with local dialogue and not through FOI complaints. Based on testimony by the complainant at the FOI commission meeting, the recommendation of the Hearing Officer were amended requiring that the board members need to take FOI Training. R Tarlov mentioned that 3 board members had attended training at the end of 2016 and that he had attended many training sessions over his years of service and the matter of this violation is not in the State Statute cited nor was it ever covered in a past training session. When Googling all he could find on this was an Advisory Opinion (41) provided the Town of Seymour in 1980 and Legislative Research report issued 7 months after our meeting and referencing the original AO. R. Tarlov shared that there will be a session on June 14th at 6:30 here at Town Hall, but members can attend any FOI session being held in other towns. He was not sure if what the deadline was for attending a training session.

12. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Paramedic Presentation – follow-up discussion** – R. Tarlov asked if the board members had further questions after reviewing the presentation. A. Bisbikos stated that he is interested in finding out the data from other towns that have implemented a Paramedic program. R. Coyle stated that the number presented were very conservative. If Middlesex bumps up as they are saying they will, the town could be left with an opportunity to add the paramedic program. A. Shilosky stated that this is only the first of many meetings we will have on this subject.

13. LIAISONS' REPORTS – None reported

- 14. CITIZENS COMMENTS** – D. Bouchard stated that back in Oct/Nov she presented a written settlement offer that the town did not agree to. She wanted to handle matters within the Town, but feels the Town did not.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT** – M. Egan MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments:

Budget Calendar Options Rev. 4/30

Health Insurance Fund Report

Rolling 12 Month Program Fund Report

Mill rates with legislature revenue