



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2018 @ 7pm
Town Hall Room 1**

Members Present: R. Tarlov, R. Lepore, N. Negron, M. Egan, A. Migliaccio, A. Bisbikos

Members Absent: None

Others Present: First Selectman A. Shilosky, CFO M. Cosgrove, Wetlands Enforcement Officer J. Gigliotti, Tax Collector M. Wyatt, BOS J. Ford, ROV D. Mrowka, BA Civics student. 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** - None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 3, Regular Meeting** – A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to approve the minutes of the October 3rd Regular Meeting, SECONDED by N. Negron. MOTION CARRIED 5-0 with N Negron abstaining.
4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS** - None
5. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None
6. **CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program Endorsement – discussion and possible action** – Wetlands officer J. Gigliotti presented information to the board regarding a grant the Town would like to obtain from the State of Connecticut to connect the airline trail from the south side of Route 16 at the Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area to the west side of Route 149 at the Church Street intersection. This is phase 2 of a grant used in 2015 to research this project. On October 4th, he hosted a public forum where concerns were expressed regarding pedestrian safety and property values. All requirements are met if not exceed by the state's standard for safety. Studies also show that property values increase when trails are in close proximity. R. Lepore asked if the road would be paved prior to the installation of the trail area. J. Gigliotti will speak with PW and address that issue as well as a maintenance plan. Questions were asked regarding any ongoing maintenance cost. J Gigliotti said the crosswalks are state roads and the trail is a public road, so cost would be the pavement markers (3) which should last as long as the pavement and signs (6). A spare sign is being ordered. M. Egan MOTIONED to endorse the Planning & Zoning department's submission of a trail grant application to the CT DEEP Recreations Trails Program, SECONDED by N. Negron. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 6/0
7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - a. **Tax Collector** – Tax Collector M. Wyatt reported the collection rate is trending slightly higher. She contributes this to monthly invoices, lexis nexus software, and the making phone calls the office is making to collect. Currently the office is down to 119 bills in back taxes totaling approx. \$100,000. The collection agency being used will not send out any further notices, so the office has taken more accounts back to begin the collection process. M. Wyatt is looking into going to Tax Sales rather than foreclosure. The turnaround time is considerably less. M. Wyatt will also be speaking at the

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next Tax Collector Seminar on what the office does for collections. M. Wyatt presented an estimate for a tax bill insert. The board agrees the cost is too high to include the information with the tax bill, however suggests adding the information to the website and having copies available for the public within Town Hall.

- b. **Finance** – CFO M. Cosgrove reported that the collection rate is way ahead of last year, due to the lack in MV tax bills being sent out, but still ahead of 2 years ago. R. Tarlov stated that he was glad to see that the police OT is at about 20%, with 25% of the year gone, as in past years it has been well over budget at this point in the year.

8. FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. **Transfer requests** - None
- b. **First Selectman's report** – A. Shilosky reported a new ambulance will cost the Town \$255,000. In the general fund currently is \$92,000 for the lease payments. The question is to pay the remain \$163,000 as an appropriation, and save roughly \$33,000 in interest, or to still go for a lease and pay a low interest rate, knowing interest rates are increasing. Lowest interest rate in the 3 bids received was 3.5%. The board agreed they would go for the appropriation of funds, rather than take the lease. A. Shilosky also stated that the website could be up by the end of this year.

9. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. **Opengov.com – implementation status update** – The policy is going in front of the BOS tomorrow night. M. Cosgrove believes the board members should be able to access by the end of October.
- b. **Paramedic Program – discussion and possible action**– The board discussed Chief Cox's special appropriation request for \$30,000 to pay a person to get us through the approval process with the State. Questions were raised as to whether this would a hired or a contracted position and the steps that would be needed for either. R. Tarlov is concerned how they (fire department) come to the projection of making enough revenue to break even within 5 years. M. Egan stated that the tax payers need to be asked if they will continue to pay for this service for the years to come. A. Shilosky suggested a public forum. BOS has not discussed the program and it is on the tomorrow night's agenda, so BOF should not take action on the request until BOS has determined if the Town should move forward with the program.
- c. **Police Overtime – status of review**– A. Shilosky stated that he's been meeting with J. Keeney and will continue to review the OT budget on a monthly basis.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2019-2020 Budget**– The board discussed adding a paramedic program questions on the survey. R. Lepore suggested asking if people were aware of the discussion on the program and if not, how is the best way to get information to them? J. Ford stated that approx. 75-80% of people are unaware of what a paramedic does. The board feels the Fire Department needs to be responsible for a public awareness campaign. R. Tarlov will come to 11/7 meeting with sample questions. R. Tarlov and A. Shilosky agreed in delaying the start of the budget season by 1 month, with BOE/BOS presentations beginning the first week in April.

11. **LIAISONS' REPORTS** – M. Egan reported on COA. 40th Anniversary Gala was well attended. Holiday fair will not be happening this year, plans are to resume next year. PW will be replacing windows at the center and will take approx. 4 weeks doing one room at a time. The commission is asking to assign authority beyond just the chair person for budget concerns. This will need to go to the BOS. A. Migliaccio reported the BOE has schedule recommendations out for budget presentations. R. Tarlov asked when the superintendent will be presenting the technology plan.
12. **CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – R. Tarlov stated that there are 2 meetings scheduled for November. The board is in agreement to not have the 2nd meeting with it being so close to the holiday. A. Migliaccio MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm, SECONDED by A. Bisbikos. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 6/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk

Attachments: Recreational Trails Program Endorsement, Tax Collector's Report, QDS Quote, Finance Department Reports, and Chief Cox Paramedic Program Memo