

Colchester Tri-Board Subcommittee Meeting Notes  
Budget Season Communications

January 12, 2016 – 6pm – Jack Jackter Elementary School

Present: BOE Members Don Kennedy and Brad Bernier; BOS Member John Jones; BOF Members James McNair and Rob Tarlov

Discussion of peer towns for town comparisons. Reviewed towns that best matched Colchester in terms of population, per capita income and grand lists. Departments often use different towns in different comparisons and often use towns that are not similar to ours. It was thought we should try to be consistent across departments except in those instances when a department's specialization may not match those of the peer towns (police, fire, etc), in which instances should move the above criteria further from Colchester until these is a representative match of other towns sharing the specialization.

Discussion of a Budget Facebook page. The page should be used only until time where it would not violate election laws and should follow the Town's Social Media Policy. One representative from BOF and BOE should be designated as the primary poster and responder to questions and wherever possible links to the budget web pages should be used. It would be an open group format for the Town to deliver budget information and for the voter to ask questions and offer opinion, but it is not intended to be a venue for debate between elected officials and the public. It should be stated that the questions will be answered as quickly as possible, but could take up to 2 business days as the site is monitored by volunteers and sometimes research may be necessary to get total answers.

Also suggested that a weekly e-mail from the Board of Finance go out reviewing the budget events of the past week. Thursday was suggested so as not to conflict with the Monday and Friday First Selectman e-mails.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Tarlov

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