

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 @7:00 pm
Hybrid: Town Hall- Meeting Room 1 and Via Zoom

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2024 MAY -9 PM 2:37
CAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

BOF Members Present: S. Chapman, K. Belding, T. Vaillancourt, M. Egan, M. Hayes, J. Thomas

Also Present: Bernie Dennler- First Selectman, Steve Hoffman-Fire Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Scott Chapman called meeting to order at 7:01pm
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from 3/27 Regular Meeting, 4/3 Public Hearing #1, 4/15 Budget Workshop #1, 4/24 Budget Workshop #2 made by M. Egan 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 6-0.

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a. D. Bouchard: Gave clarification on school-based childcare, spoke about BOE liaison, tuition fees and PPE.
- b. V. Rose: Thanked the board for their work and spoke in favor of passing budget to referendum.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion to change line 9a from "Review and Motion to approve Revenue- Town" to "Review and Motion to approve revenue" and strike out line 13a made by M. Egan 2nd by K. Belding. Motion carried 6-0.

6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. REVIEW AND APPROVE- SUSPENSE LIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion to approve Suspense List Recommendations as presented. Made by M. Egan 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 6-0.

8. TRANSFERS

- a. FY22/23 Transfer from FS, HR, and Planning to Legal & Insurances

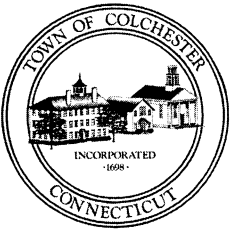
Motion to approve the consolidation of FY 22/23 legal budget line item in the FS office \$30K, HR \$15k and P&Z/Code Enforcement \$10k to legal & insurances for total of \$55k. Made by K. Belding 2nd by M. Egan. Motion carried 6-0.

- b. FY23/24 Transfer from FS, HR, and Planning to Legal & Insurances

Motion for BOF to approve the consolidation of FY 23/24 legal budget line items in FS office \$38.5k, HR \$20k and P&Z/Code Enforcement \$10k to legal & insurances for total of \$68.5k. Made by K. Belding 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 6-0.

- c. FY22/23 Transfer Unexpended Bond Principal to Deby Service Fund

Motion for BOF to transfer FY 22/23 unexpended bond principal budget of \$225k to the debt service fund for future debt service payments. Made by K. Belding 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 6-0.



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- d. FY23/24 Transfer Unexpended Bond Principal and Interest to Debt Service Fund

Motion for BOF to transfer FY 23/24 unexpended bond principle of \$225k and unexpended bond interest of \$11k to debt service fund for total of \$236k. Made by K. Belding 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 6-0.

9. TOWN BUDGET

- a. Review and Motion to Approve Revenue for Town/Schools

Motion for FY 24/25 proposed budget to raise the ambulance revenue line item by \$20k from the amount of \$580k to new total of \$600k. Made by K. Belding. 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to accept the collection rate as stated in the budget and as indicated by our Tax Collector of 98.8% for FY 24/25 budget. Made by M. Egan 2nd by K. Belding Motion carried 6-0.

Motion that the board approves FY 24/25 proposed budget revenue values as stated in the budget book with the one revision of the line item for ambulance revenue as prior motioned. Will bring total new revenue to \$ 17,135,173. Made by K. Belding 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion rescinded by K. Belding.

Motion to approve the proposed budget book revenue numbers with the addition of the prior motioned ambulance revenue update of \$20k. Motion rescinded by K. Belding

- b. Review/Adjust- Town/Board of Selectman Budget: Discussion was had by BOF members regarding potential reductions/adjustments to the budget.

10. CITIZENS COMMENTS

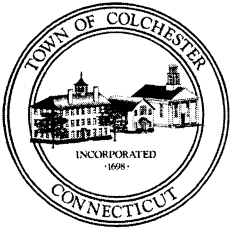
- a. M. Dubreuil- Spoke about town presenting budget transparently, does not support moving town budget forward at this point.
- b. R. Silberman: Spoke about library position, budget ratio of 40/60 between town/school, Public Works Director payroll.
- c. D. Bouchard: Spoke about underfunding of Town budget in prior years, low-income impact, budget process, caucus transparency.
- d. J. Farrell: Appreciates the work from the board and spoke about reserve account.

11. BOARD DISCUSSION- None

12. MOTION TO APPRVE AND SEND THE TOWN/BOARD OF SLECTMAN BUDGET TO PUBLIC HEARING #2

Motion to move final adjusted number of \$14,373,492 to the Public Hearing #2. Made by M. Egan. Motion amended.

Motion to move Town/Board of Selectman Budget in the amount of \$17,102,056 to Public Hearing #2. Made by M. Egan 2nd by K. Belding. Motion carried 4-2.



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13. EDUCATION BUDGET

- a. Review/Adjust- Schools/Board of Education Budget- Discussion was had from BOF members regarding potential reductions/adjustments to the budget.

14. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a. M. Dubreuil: Spoke about BOF workshop from 5/7/2024, BOE responses, certified salaries step data, transparency, asks board to take no action on BOE budget.
- b. D. Bouchard: Echoes M. Dubreuil's comment, spoke about Medicaid reimbursements, what would cuts look like for BOE, superintendent salary.
- c. R. Silberman: Spoke about budget ratio of 40/60 split.

15. BOARD DISCUSSION

Motion to table BOE vote tonight and ask for more information from the BOE. Made by T. Vaillancourt. 2nd by J. Thomas. Motion NOT carried. 4-2

16. MOTION TO APPROVE AND SEND THE SCHOOLS/BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET TO PUBLIC HEARING #2

Motion to send forward to #2 Public Hearing for Board of Education the amount of \$45,576,075. Made by S. Chapman 2nd by M. Hayes. Motion carried 4-2

17. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a. D. Bouchard: Spoke about what BOE reductions would look like. Thanked John and Tim.

18. BOARD DISCUSSION- NEXT STEPS: Discussion was had between board members regarding next steps.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn by M. Hayes 2nd by M. Egan. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:52pm

Submitted By:

Kayla Fortier, Clerk