

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(to be approved at next BOS Meeting)
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 – 7:00 pm.

Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237

Selectmen Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance. Selectmen Richard Szegda, Rebecca Stearns, Robert Hellstrom. William O'Brien arrived at 7:05 pm.

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and others.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: 4/13/11 Special Meeting:** R. Stearns MOVED to approve the minutes of the 4/13/11 Special Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

C. Vance asked R. Szegda about his deliverance of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) proclamation regarding the Columbia Minors Girls Softball Team on Opening Day, April 30, 2011. R. Szegda stated that it was a very nice event and that it went well. He pointed out that it was mentioned by several individuals that quite often when the girl's softball team attempted practice at Rec Park, all the fields were occupied with other activities. R. Szegda spoke about the need for more recreational fields in town.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.1 **Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant:** J. Luiz explained that in the future, municipalities may no longer be able to receive STEAP grants. J. Luiz said that he spoke with the Public Works Director to determine what the most pressing capital project is at this time, and that they agreed that the bridge repair on Rose's Bridge Road is the most important. He explained that he believes the approximate cost that the town would be responsible for would be \$160,000 and suggests the town applies for a STEAP grant in that amount. R. Szegda asked if it is definite that this bridge will be repaired. J. Luiz explained that it is not definite yet, but after speaking with Coventry's Town Manager, John Elsesser, he is confident that the bridge will be repaired in the near future. C. Vance MOVED that the BOS give J. Luiz permission to apply for STEAP grant in the amount of \$160,000 for bridge work on Rose's Bridge Road. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.2 **Proposal from Members Services of Connecticut concerning a college tuition benefit Plan:** Phyllis Dunn and Rob Walsh spoke about the College Tuition Benefit (CTB) program. R. Szegda asked how this program information would be communicated to town employees if the BOS were to approve it. R. Walsh explained that numerous notices would be sent to employees and that group information meetings are held. R. Walsh stated that CTB is offered to both full time and part time employees and that it is 100% voluntary. C. Vance asked whether an employee that signs up for the program will be inundated with mail, notices, etc. from colleges. R. Walsh explained that normally surveys are completed by those interested in the program expressing what they plan to major in. Colleges will send information to participants in an effort to line up students with interests in particular major with certain colleges. R. Szegda asked whether or not a family is still eligible for financial aid if they sign up for the CTB program. R. Walsh answered yes. W. O'Brien asked if CTB would be the primary insurance for an employee if they were to sign up for the program. R. Walsh explained that CTB would not be involved with the employee's core benefits and that they would remain as they are. W. O'Brien asked questions pertaining to the proposed contract. Discussion followed. R. Hellstrom asked how and if this is linked to an employee's 401K. Discussion followed. R. Stearns asked if this is a taxable benefit and R. Walsh said no. Discussion followed. The BOS will continue to review this program. Quite a bit of time was spent discussing

how P. Dunn's company benefits from the program and what the obligations to the town are. The company benefits by becoming the sole provider of voluntary benefits to employees. (Does not include health, dental, etc.) If the town agrees to go ahead with the college rewards program and no employee takes any voluntary benefit then the town pays per head. Jonathan will clarify the details of this.

- 5.3 Resolution regarding the Endorsement of the Route 6 Hop River Corridor:** R. Stearns MOVED to authorize the First Selectman to sign and adopt the following resolution regarding the Endorsement of the Route 6 Hop River Corridor:

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNS OF
ANDOVER, BOLTON, COLUMBIA, AND COVENTRY, CT
REGARDING THE ENDORSEMENT OF
THE ROUTE 6 HOP RIVER CORRIDOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND MASTER PLAN STUDY**

WHEREAS,

The Route 6 Hop River Corridor Economic Development Strategy and Master Plan Study

accomplishes the specific goals of the Route 6 Economic Development Council by:

- Creating a unified vision for the Route 6 Corridor;
- Making recommendations for appropriate economic development within the Route 6 Corridor;
- Making recommendations for coordinated zoning within the Route 6 Corridor;
- Preserving the historic, scenic, and environmental resources of the corridor in a manner that identifies those resources as potential positive elements; and
- Balancing the investment potential and costs among the four towns;

As agreed in the four town Memorandum of Understanding adopted in 2005; and

WHEREAS,

The Route 6 Economic Development Council is advisory to the Member Towns and adopted *The Route 6 Hop River Corridor Economic Development Strategy and Master Plan Study* on October 25, 2010;

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED,

That the Board of Selectmen/Town Council endorses *The Route 6 Hop River Corridor Economic Development Strategy and Master Plan Study* and the work of the Route 6 Economic Development Council to promote economic development in the Route 6 Corridor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Towns of Andover, Bolton, Columbia, and Coventry, CT execute this resolution as of the dates set forth below.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 5.4 2011 Boat Mooring Lottery:** The BOS drew names in the following order:
1. Rick Nassiff
 2. Jennifer Bright
 3. Rebecca Hart
 4. John Sullivan
 5. Paul Ramsey
 6. Michael Leist
 7. Mike Scalise

- 8. Walter Crosby
- 9. Robert Wilt
- 10. Glenn Brochu
- 11. Robert Rohan
- 12. Alex Salustri
- 13. Sandy Mohammed
- 14. Ralph Dumas
- 15. David and Karen Vanderbilt
- 16. Mark Hand
- 17. Jeff Lynds
- 18. Sharon Smith

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH

6.1 Application for Constructing Structures on or over Columbia Lake by John B. King: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the application for John King to do repair work to a cement dock with conditions. The conditions are identical to the recommendations made by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

7.1 Hire of Lifeguards: C. Vance MOVED to hire the following lifeguards for the 2011 season: Kristine Parnell (Head Lifeguard), Kevin Wikholm (Head Lifeguard), Anna Calano, Samantha Blake, Sean Donlon, Stratton Andrews, Amanda Gendron, Alexandra Daigle, Audrey Marinelli, Jonathan Sadlon, Kelly Leist, Nicole Ozark and Patrick Krecidlo. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7.2 Hire of Floaters: R. Szegda MOVED to hire Terri Homiski and Joyce Thompson as Floaters at rate of \$12.01 per hour. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7.3 Hire of Assistant to the Recreation Director: W. O'Brien MOVED to hire Laurie Rogers as Assistant to the Recreation Director. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7.4 Appointment of Dan O'Neill (U) to LMAC: W. O'Brien MOVED to appoint Dan O'Neill (U) to the Lake Management Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: J. Luiz reported that the Town Hall is very busy selling Transfer Station passes and Beach passes. J. Luiz informed the BOS that he has prepared his presentation for the Annual Town Budget Meeting set for May 10, 2011. He explained that the Town has submitted a claim to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses associated with a large snowstorm that occurred in January, and that the town is hoping to receive approximately \$10,000 from this claim. J. Luiz told the BOS that a health insurance "open enrollment session" for employees was held last week in the Town Hall. J. Luiz stated that there was vandalism discovered on the exterior of the Town Hall building and that Trooper Aitken has been made aware of the suspect. J. Luiz explained that effective July 1, 2011 the Direct Energy electricity supply rate for residents is expected to decrease. J. Luiz stated he attended an ADA Coordinators conference in Cromwell last week and that he found it both very interesting and informative. J. Luiz told the BOS that he had a preliminary meeting with both the Town Planner and the new Town Engineer last week. Lastly, J. Luiz spoke about the Library's "Off the Page Gala" fundraiser that he attended on April 30, 2011.

W. O'Brien asked how the potential zoning regulation changes will impact outstanding livestock and manure issues. J. Luiz said that based on his discussions with the Town Planner, the potential changes may alleviate the outstanding concerns. Discussion followed. J. Luiz will speak with R. Hellstrom and the Town Planner about this issue.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Hartford Courant article published 4/7/11

10. BUDGET

10.1 Refunds: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the following refunds:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
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John Bailey	Town of Columbia	\$73.99
Duane Cronkite Jr.	Town of Columbia	\$143.42

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10.2 Transfers: C. Vance MOVED to approve the following transfers

AMOUNT	FROM A/C #	DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #	DESCRIPTION
\$600	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4116-230	Electricity
\$357	10-4410-710	Prof. Development	10-4410-011	Salaries – OT
\$1800	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4112-230	Electricity
\$1830.56	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4410-515	Prof/Tech
\$500	10-4112-040	Group Insurance	10-4112-120	Telephone
\$5,000	10-4112-040	Group Insurance	10-4112-010	Salaries
\$2,500	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4112-230	Electricity
\$500	10-4112-040	Group Insurance	10-4112-240	Fuel
\$500	10-4112-040	Group Insurance	10-4112-515	Contracted Svcs
\$700	10-4113-500	Prof/Tech	10-4113-600	Rep/Maint
\$500	10-4117-515	Contracted Svcs	10-4117-240	Electricity
\$500	10-4260-010	Salaries	10-4260-120	Telephone
\$2,000	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4260-240	Electricity
\$7,000	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4570-010	Salaries
\$500	10-4640-300	General Supplies	10-4640-240	Fuel
\$450	10-4660-515	Contracted Svcs	10-4660-230	Electricity
\$500	10-4135-500	Prof/Tech	10-4135-130	Legal Notices

and to establish a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 6:45 pm in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room for the purpose of approving the following transfers:

\$20,000	10-4800-900	Contingency	10-4120-500	Prof/Tech
\$10,000	10-4420-500	Prof/Tech	10-4410-600	Rep/Maint
\$5,000	10-4420-500	Prof/Tech	10-4410-515	Contracted Svcs

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the emergency bills in the amount of \$700.40. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. R. Szegda MOVED to approve the regular payment of bills in the amount of \$32,719.48. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** R. Hellstrom asked for an update on the town's legal issues. J. Luiz provided an update.
13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- 13.1 **Real Estate pursuant to CT State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation pursuant to CT State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel pursuant to CT State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A)** C. Vance MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel pursuant to CT State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A) with J. Luiz present. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.at 8:34 pm. Executive Session ended at 8:39 pm.
14. **ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm. The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kimberly A. Bona

