

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JULY 16, 2013

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town of Columbia, Connecticut was held in the Horace W. Porter Cafetorium, 3 Schoolhouse Road, Columbia on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Present were First Selectman Carmen Vance, Selectman Richard J. Szegda, Selectman Robert W. Hellstrom, Selectman Robert J. Bogue, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and many others.

MODERATOR: Robert Baldwin
TOWN CLERK: Robin M. Kenefick
CITIZENS: 41 Present

The meeting was opened by First Selectman Carmen Vance at 7:00 p.m. and turned over to the Moderator. In consideration of the condition of the Cafetorium, the Moderator stated that the meeting would be moved to the Gymnasium. The meeting recessed for five minutes and reconvened at 7:05 p.m. in the Gymnasium. Carmen Vance once again opened the meeting and turned it over to the Moderator who read the legal notice and explained the procedures and who may vote at this meeting.

CLAUSE 1: Motion was made by Carmen Vance.

I MOVE to authorize and bind the Board of Selectmen to allocate a \$253,235 supplemental budget appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2013–2014 to the Columbia Board of Education, contingent upon the State Board of Education agreeing to fully restore the Education Cost Sharing Grant for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 to the Town of Columbia. The motion was seconded by Richard Szegda and the floor was opened to Carmen Vance to speak first. The First Selectman requested that the Town Administrator speak on the motion.

Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz explained the reason the Town would need to allocate a supplemental budget appropriation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 to the Columbia Board of Education and why it would be contingent on the State Board of Education agreeing to fully restore the full Education Cost Sharing Grant for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The 2011-2012 budget was set in May of 2011. After the budget was set a new state law was adopted that required a minimum budget amount for the Columbia Board of Education budget in Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The Town of Columbia received a notice from the State indicating a budget shortfall for the Board of Education in fiscal Year 2011-2012. The Town looked into the different options available. An appeal was made to the State Board of Education and was denied. Therefore an

Education Cost Sharing grant penalty will be levied against the Town in 2013-2014 unless a supplemental budget appropriation in the amount of \$253,235 is approved tonight.

The Moderator opened the floor up to discussion. The audience of citizens asked questions, many for clarification on how we got to this point. The First Selectman, Town Administrator, Board of Education Chairman Lauren Perrotti-Verboven, and FIPAC Chairman Earnest Sharpe answered the questions raised. E. Sharpe called the question, which was seconded. The Moderator explained that a two thirds majority was needed to stop discussion and vote on the motion.

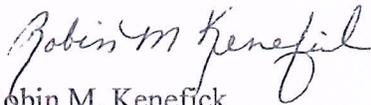
Vote to call the question: Yes - 41 No - 1 Motion passed.

The Moderator reread the motion and put it to vote.

Vote on Clause 1: Yes - 43 No - 2 Motion passed.

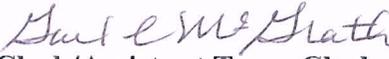
The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Robin M. Kenefick
Columbia Town Clerk

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a record found in the Town Minutes and Record book located in the office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Columbia, Connecticut this 18th day of July 2013

Attest: 
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASSISTANT T.C.