

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 7 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 and William O'Brien.

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the minutes of the BOS 11/1/11 regular meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with R. Stearns abstaining.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Nicole Vacila, of 24 Old Willimantic Road, expressed her desire for the town to convert from above ground power lines to underground power lines. She feels that doing so would significantly reduce the number of power outages the town would experience due to storms. Members of the BOS explained that the power lines are not owned by the Town and encouraged Ms. Vacila to communicate her feelings to Senator Prague and Representative Ackert. Discussion followed. N. Vacila asked if the Town's Public Works crew could do more trimming of the tree branches near the electrical wires. J. Luiz explained that the town's crew does not trim trees near the wires as that it is the responsibility of Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P). N. Vacila said she will contact Senator Prague and Representative Ackert.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Property / Casualty Insurance Quote:** J. Luiz discussed an insurance policy and quote that would protect the town from possible claims. W. O'Brien stated that he feels the amount of coverage seems low in comparison to the amount of money the town would be paying for the coverage. J. Luiz said he would contact the insurance company and discuss the possibility for greater coverage. J. Luiz said that if the BOS ultimately wants to purchase the policy, then it may be necessary to have the proposed policy reviewed by the Town Attorney. Discussion followed. J. Luiz will continue to pursue this issue.
 - 5.2 **Resolution for the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant:** C. Vance MOVED to adopt the resolution for the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
 - 5.3 **Referendum to fund the Library renovation/expansion project/expansion project:** C. Vance explained that she has served as ex-officio on the Library Building Committee. She said that the Committee is in the process of working with the architect to finish up the schematic design, etc. and would like to go forward with holding a referendum in the spring of 2012. J. Luiz handed out a letter from FiPAC Chairman Ernie Sharpe. The BOS reviewed the letter. The letter requested, on behalf of FiPAC, that the BOS consult with FiPAC prior to the BOS proceeding with any referendum decisions. The BOS reached a consensus that it would consulting with FiPAC prior to making decisions about going to referendum to fund any construction projects.
6. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**
 - 6.1 **Dam report from Town Engineer:** Mark Coleman suggested that the engineer prioritize what needs to be done to the dam. J. Luiz said he would ask the engineer to prioritize. This ITEM has been TABLED.
 - 6.2 **Letter from Mark Coleman to C. Vance:** C. Vance asked M. Coleman about how a boat washing station would work. M. Coleman explained that the Lake Management Advisory Committee sub-committee is looking into wash tubs which would hold the

water/chemicals that are used to wash the boats. He stated that the sub-committee should have some ideas in a month or so. R. Szegda asked if the boat washing station would be expensive. M. Coleman said there would be an expense but the question to be answered is whether the cost is worth it to save the lake? M. Coleman explained that neighboring Lakes are infested with invasive species plant life and that the majority of the problem in Columbia is the public boat launch. Discussion followed. W. O'Brien asked if the foreign contaminants could be taken care of by visually inspecting incoming boats as opposed to using wash tubs. M. Coleman said we would have to hire a monitor at the launch as it is unlikely that anyone would volunteer to do that. Discussion followed.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- 7.1 **Appointment of Nancy Hammerstrom (D) to FiPAC:** tabled.
- 7.2 **Resignation of Sylvie Grenier from position of Assistant Town Clerk:** The BOS accepted the resignation of S. Grenier.
- 7.3 **Resignation of E.J. Starkel (R) from PZC seat won on 11/8/11**
- 7.4 **Appointment of Walt Tabor (D) as permanent member of PZC:** tabled.
- 7.5 **Appointment of Ian Dann (U) as alternate member of PZC:** tabled.

J. Luiz mentioned that Tom Spector resigned from the Recreation Commission. The BOS acknowledged the resignation.

- 8. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** J. Luiz said that he has met with Columbia Superintendent Francine Coss and representatives from the Town of Bolton to discuss the self-insurance venture. J. Luiz said significant progress has been made in terms of coming to a written agreement and that the insurance agent from Ovation Benefits is currently getting price quotes from Anthem. He informed the BOS that he and C. Vance met with Chris Ramm and members of Historical Society to discuss the pending Root Cellar property transfer. J. Luiz explained that safety upgrades have been added to the above ground tank at the DPW garage in accordance with the Fire Marshal's requests.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 9.1 **Proposed subdivision regulation changes as proposed by the Columbia PZC**
- 9.2 **Municipal election results**
- 9.3 **Letter from Northeast Utilities to J. Luiz**
- 9.4 **Governor Malloy Executive Order No. 12**
- 9.5 **Governor Malloy Executive Order No. 13**
- 9.6 **Public Service Award nomination letter from N. Keldsen re: A. Dunnack**
- 9.7 **Public Service Award nomination letter from N. Keldsen re: R. Kandolin**

10. BUDGET

- 10.1 **Refunds:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the following refunds:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
EAN Holdings	Town of Columbia	\$931.60 (combined)
Erin O'Neil Baker	Town of Columbia	\$18.96

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 10.2 **Transfers:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the following transfer:

AMOUNT	FROM A/C #	DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #	DESCRIPTION
\$150	10-4130-300	General Supplies	10-4130-770	Transportation

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 10.3 **Farmer's Market:** Bill MOVED that the BOS authorize payment to Linda McDonald for the work she put forth with the 2012 Farmers Market. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 10.4 **FY 11-12 Budget Instructions:** C. Vance discussed the FY 12-13 budget instructions and schedule with the BOS.

- 11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the payment of emergency bills in the amount of \$94.50. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. R. Szegda MOVED

to approve the payment of regular bills in the amount of \$81439.47. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** C. Vance thanked R. Stearns for her time and dedication spent while serving on the Board of Selectmen. C. Vance presented her with a plaque on behalf of the BOS. R. Szegda thanked R. Stearns for all her support for youth services. R. Szegda mentioned to the BOS that the Hebron shelter did not allow pets during the aftermath of Storm Alfred and he was under the impression that pets should have been allowed. C. Vance explained that she believes if it was a shelter offered by the Red Cross then it would be pet friendly, but since it was the Town of Hebron, it was left to their discretion. Discussion followed. J. Luiz will look into this.
- 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 at 8:05pm with J. Luiz, present. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. Executive Session ended at 8:21 pm.
- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to adjourn at 8:21 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kimberly A. Bona