

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
*Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7 pm*

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

**Members Present:** Carmen Vance (First Selectman); Richard Szegda; William O'Brien; and Rob Hellstrom.

**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:** 1/17/12 Regular Meeting: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the Regular BOS Minutes of 1/17/12. MOTION CARRIED 2:0:2 with W. O'Brien and R. Hellstrom abstaining. 1/24/12 Special Meeting: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the Special BOS Minutes of 1/24/12. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1 with C. Vance abstaining.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.

*C. Vance MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:*

*- Item 6.2, entitled "Application for Constructing Structures on or over Columbia Lake by T. Cafro."*

*-Item 7.2, entitled "Appointment of Maureen Allen (R) and Rebecca Stearns (R) to the Youth Services Committee:*

*- Item 7.3, entitled "Appointment of Tracy Verrastro as Interim Recreation Director."*

*MOTION CARRIED 4:0.*

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
- 4.1 **Columbia/Bolton Self-Insurance Venture:** Members of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) discussed the presentation that Ovation Benefits made on February 6, 2012 at the Board of Education Meeting. A consensus was reached that the BOS would not make a decision on the venture until it learns the details of the State Comptroller's insurance plan for municipalities.
- 4.2 **Signs for Columbia Roadsides:** C. Vance said that Columbia needs a few attractive signs on our roadways. She asked BOS members to consider the draft design. R. Szegda expressed support for a sign that is both attractive and durable. C. Vance said that she will keep the BOS informed as a final design is developed by the sign manufacturer.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
- 5.1 **Memorandum of Agreement between Columbia and WinCOG for Planning Services thru FY 13-14:** J. Luiz explained that the current Planning Services agreement expires on June 30, 2012. He said that extending the agreement would ensure that Columbia continues to get very good services at a very fair price. R. Szegda said that his dealings with the Town Planner regarding personal property matters have given him a very favorable impression of her professional abilities. R. Szegda MOVED to authorize C. Vance to sign the draft agreement as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

- 5.2 Request from the Columbia Conservation/Agricultural Commission to consider implementing the optional tax exemption for farm buildings per CGS Sec. 12-191:** C. Vance explained that information in the BOS meeting packet explains this issue. She asked BOS members to familiarize themselves with the issue in preparation for a future BOS meeting where members of the Cong/Ag Commission would be present to discuss the Commission's request.
- 6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**
- 6.1 Application for Constructing Structures on or over Columbia Lake by K. Peck:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of K. Peck with the conditions recommended by Lake Management Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 6.2 Application for Constructing Structures on or over Columbia Lake by T. Cafro:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of T. Cafro with the conditions recommended by Lake Management Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**
- 7.1 Appointment of Paul Ramsey (D) to the Open Space Committee:** This item is tabled, as one other person has also expressed interest.
- 7.2 Appointment of Maureen Allen (R) and Rebecca Stearns (R) to the Youth Services Committee:** R. Szegda MOVED to appoint M. Allen and R. Stearns to the Youth Services Committee. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A);** C. Vance MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 pm to discuss Pending Litigation with J. Luiz and Attorney Ken Slater present. MOTION CARRIED 4:0. At 8:00 pm, Ken Slater exited and Ron Szegda entered for the purpose of discussing Real Estate. At 8:10 pm, Ron Szegda exited and Carol Price entered for purpose of discussing Pending Litigation. At 8:20 pm, Executive Session ended.
- 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** J. Luiz informed the BOS of a break-in at the Sr. Center. He said that a television, a Wii, Wii games, and a DVD player were stolen. J. Luiz said that he has been directing the majority of his efforts towards preparing the Fiscal Year 12-13 Budget.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 9.1** C. Vance commentary published in *The Chronicle* on January 6, 2012
- 9.2** Letter from CL&P to J. Allen
- 9.3** Article from *Republican-American* on January 23, 2012
- 9.4** Letter from Nicole Vacila to the BOS
- 9.5** Email from B. Russell to co-chairs of the State Legislature's Finance Committee
- 9.6** Letter from B. Mahoney to C. Vance

**10. BUDGET**

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

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
Stearns, L.	Town of Columbia	\$1.58
Bombira, G. & K.	Town of Columbia	\$21.90
Horvath, M. & J.	Town of Columbia	\$2.00
Jacques, P. & L. Trustees	Town of Columbia	\$4,178.95
Riquier, T.	Town of Columbia	\$29.75
Stearns, L.	Town of Columbia	\$4.71

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

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

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
\$665.31	10-4420-230, Transfer Station, Electricity	10-4420-300, Transfer Station, General Supplies
\$50	10-4140-110, Board of Assessment Appeals, Postage	10-4140-130 Board of Assessment Appeals, Legal Notices

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**10.3 FY 12-13 Budget:** J. Luiz presented the FY 11-12 Budget. He provided a brief review of Operating Budget expenditures, Capital budget expenditures, Revenues, Undesignated Fund Balance and Mill Rate. R. Szegda expressed concern about the expenditure allocation for Youth Services. R. Szegda said that he wanted the allocation to be higher based on previous BOS discussions about Youth Services. C. Vance said that she wanted the allocation to remain because the town has no plan in place as to how an increase would be used and because tonight was the first time the BOS has seen the budget it would be more appropriate to vote to make changes at a later time. R. Szegda said that the Youth Services Committee is working on a plan for Youth Services and that he wants the increased allocation available for the next Fiscal Year. R. Szegda MOVED that the BOS increase the propose allocation for Youth Services from \$17,082 to \$36,944. MOTION CARRIED 3:1 with C. Vance opposed.

**11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$76,079.37. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued)**

**13.1 Personnel pursuant to CT State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A);** C. Vance MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss with J. Luiz present at 9:43 pm to discuss Personnel. MOTION CARRIED 4:0. Executive Session ended at 9:46 pm.

**7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS (continued)**

**7.3 Appointment of Tracy Verrastro as Interim Recreation Director:** R. Szegda MOVED to hire T. Verrastro as Interim Recreation Director. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to adjourn at 9:48 pm. MOTION CARRIED 4:0. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jonathan Luiz.