

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 7 pm**

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

Members Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance, Deputy Selectman Steven Everett, Selectman William O'Brien, Selectman Rob Hellstrom, and Selectman Robert Bogue

Also Present: Interim Town Administrator Mark Paquette, Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo, Tax Assessor Mary Lavallee, Interim Fire Marshal Michael Lester, Director of Public Works George Murphy, Willimantic Chronicle reporter Danielle Faipler, and Recording Secretary Linda McDonald

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. MINUTES: 2/17/15 Regular Meeting; 2/26/15 Special Meeting:

C. Vance MOVED to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/17/15 as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with R. Bogue abstaining.

C. Vance MOVED to approve the special meeting minutes of 2/26/15 as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with S. Everett abstaining.

3. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: No audience of citizens.

4. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business for discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Web Hosting Services for Assessor: M. Lavallee explained that the property assessment data on the CRCOG website is insufficient. Many business people rely on this information. The Planning and Zoning Commission use this resource frequently to conduct business and have expressed their frustration with what is currently available. M. Lavallee recommended that AppGeo be contracted for the period from March 2015 through March 2021. Discussion followed. W. O'Brien MOVED to accept the bid of \$2,000.00 to retain AppGeo hosting services. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

5.2 Erdoni Road – Recommended Improvement Program: G. Murphy reported on the findings, conclusions and recommendations from CHA for improvements to Erdoni Road. G. Murphy explained how the improvements would be implemented. C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE \$38,000 for the implementation of the recommendations from CHA for improvements to Erdoni Road. Discussion followed. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

5.3 Usage of Space – Columbia Historical Society: M. Paquette reported on a space utilization chart he compiled for additional meeting space in town. Discussion followed. R. Bogue suggested tabling further discussion on this item so the individual members can further review the chart.

5.4 C. Vance MOVED to add item 5.4 Fire Marshal Job Description MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. M. Paquette said he revised the current job description and it was also reviewed by the Interim Fire Marshal. W. O'Brien MOVED to approve the Fire Marshal job description as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE/DAM/BEACH: C. Vance reported that the dock replacement project is underway at the beach.

7. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS: None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: M. Paquette gave the floor to L. McDonald who reported, as of today, the Zoning Board of Appeals has no Alternates. All applications before ZBA go to public hearing and the Board needs four affirmative votes for a decision on an application. Since ZBA is a five member board, if more than one member is absent from a meeting, no business can be conducted. When a public hearing is postponed due to lack of a quorum, the town has to assume the responsibility to re-notice the public hearing in the newspaper and notify the abutters by certified mail. She asked for help from the BOS to try to fill at least one of the alternate vacancies.

M. Paquette reported on the 911 funding decrease, the replacement dock at the beach, the installation of a new kayak storage shed at beach, the Pucker Street Bridge rehabilitation project, and the status of the Columbia Lake dam project. He reported that the town is waiting for STEAP grant approval for the Hop River Bridge project. M. Paquette said the State will award the town 50% of the original library expansion grant for a sum of \$596,150. He updated the Board on the installation of Nutmeg fiber optic network for the school and the status of the purchase of town land by Walter Tabor and said the town is waiting for appraisals to come in.

M. Paquette said that Porter School was evacuated today to due venting issue with a gas line due to the large amount of snow pushed against the vent as well as the need to vent the gas unit higher to the roof area to get it away from the snow cover on the ground to prevent a recurrence.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Thank you from Jonathan Luiz

8.2 Housing Rehabilitation Mailer

9. BUDGET

9.1 BOS Budget – Final Approval: B. Ciurylo updated the Board on questions put forward at the last meeting. She reported on the status of the Board of Education budget. Discussion followed on some line items.

C. Vance MOVED to approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Town Budget as presented to be sent forth to Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC). MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

9.2 Transfers: G. Murphy explained that winter weather and road conditions have contributed to the need for several repairs to town trucks and equipment. This transfer is necessary to cover repairs and maintenance to the equipment.

C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE the following transfer of funds:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$19,000	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4410-600, DPW Repairs/Maint

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

R. Bogue MOVED to APPROVE the following transfer of funds:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$ 742.00	10-4132-500, Professional Tech	10-4132-010, Salaries

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

9.3 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the following refund:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
James Grasso	Town of Columbia	\$92.07

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

10. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE payment of regular bills totaling \$60,367.38. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: No comments.

C. Vance moved to enter executive session at 8:28 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13.1 Real Estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A)

C. Vance MOVED to exit Executive Session at 9:28 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

14. ADJOURNMENT: R. Hellstrom MOVED to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:29 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting of the BOS is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.