

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 17, 2011 – 7:00 pm.

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

Selectmen Present: Carmen Vance (First Selectman); Richard Szegda; Rebecca Stearns; Robert Hellstrom; William O'Brien (arrived at 8:46 pm).

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and others.

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at a Town Meeting that took place prior to the BOS meeting.
2. **MINUTES: 5/3/11 Regular Meeting:** R. Stearns MOVED to approve the minutes of the 5/3/11 Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- 4.1 **Town Attorney Interviews: Branse, Willis & Knapp -** Mark Branse and his staff introduced themselves to the BOS. M. Branse gave a brief overview of the firm, stating that all five attorneys have a background working with municipalities. He explained that the firm is very focused on municipal and land use law. C. Vance inquired about their experience with labor law. M. Branse stated they do not do labor law but work with excellent labor lawyers that are in other firms. C. Vance asked what other services they offer. M. Branse stated they are experienced in land use and general municipal law, tax appeal, charter revision, drafting ordinances, town road issues, sewer avoidance issues and Water Pollution Control. He stated that they are always available for town meetings if they are needed. C. Vance asked why they feel a town like Columbia would benefit from hiring the firm. M. Branse stated that the firm is very dedicated to municipal law, they are good at it, do it for a good price, and that they have a quick turnaround time. Discussion followed. R. Szegda asked why the firm is no longer representing previous towns that it worked for. M. Branse explained that the firm served as interim for one previous town and that the town eventually hired another attorney permanently. He also stated that sometimes newly elected First Selectmen choose to switch town representation. R. Szegda asked for a rough estimate of what it would cost Columbia for one year of representation. Discussion ensued between the Board and the Firm. C. Vance thanked the attorneys for its time.

Suisman & Shapiro – Eileen Duggan and partner Michael Carey introduced themselves to the BOS. E. Duggan stated that the firm consists of approximately 20 attorneys specializing in land use, workers comp, labor and employment, municipal work, tax appeal and foreclosure and complex litigation for municipalities. C. Vance asked if they find that most towns use general counsel or if they split areas of law up between attorneys at different firms.

E. Duggan stated that it depends on the town, but that their firm is fortunate to have a wide variety of attorneys that specialize in multiple areas of the law. Discussion followed. R. Szegda stated that he feels it is important to hire a firm that will perform well for the town, but that the town will also receive a fair deal for the tax payers. E. Duggan stated that she feels that they pride themselves on

their fee schedule and try very hard to keep costs down because they keep in mind the tough economy. She stated that they are also cautious about sitting in on town meetings since they do not feel the need to be at every town meeting but are certainly available if need arises. M. Carey that if they are confident answering a legal question then they will provide the answer without research. R. Szegda asked for a rough idea of what it would cost annually to cover the Town of Columbia. E. Duggan stated that is a very difficult question and that it cannot be said with certainty because there is no way of knowing what issues may arise in the town. E. Duggan asked if there are any particularly big issues taking place within town. Discussion followed. C. Vance thanked the firm for its time.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH

6.1 Letter from W. O'Neill dated May 5, 2011: The BOS acknowledged receipt of the letter and indicated that if Mr. O'Neill wanted something to change with respect to his dock then he may need an alternate plan.

6.2 Letter from M. Coleman dated May 9, 2011

6.3 Application for Constructing Structures on or over Columbia Lake by J. & S. Lyman: Jim Lyman and his brother-in-law spoke about the application. They stated that the dock was widened to assist the use of a wheelchair. Discussion followed. C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of Jim and Susan Lyman ETAL with the conditions presented by Lake Management Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

7.1 Resignation of Charles Morrison (D) from the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC): The BOS recognized the resignation of Charles Morrison from the IWWC. R. Szegda MOVED to appoint Ian Dann (U) to the IWC. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

7.2 Hire of Marie Lynch as Meals-on-Wheels Driver: C. Vance MOVED to hire Marie Lynch as a Meals-On-Wheels Driver. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

7.3 Appointment of Sharon Smith to Marine Patrol: C. Vance MOVED to appoint Sharon Smith to Marine Patrol for the 2011 season. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: J. Luiz stated that he attended a meeting with R. Szegda, Joel Rosenberg, Sheri Rivard-Lenz and Jean Trask to discuss AHM Youth Services in the new fiscal year. R. Szegda stated that the meeting featured discussion about the amount of funds the FY 11-12 budget allocated for AHM. R. Szegda also explained that the school is now requesting more hours from the case worker and suggested that this be discussed at the next Fiscal Policy meeting because he feels the school should contribute to the AHM cost for increased hours. J. Luiz stated that he met with R. Hellstrom and the Town Planner to discuss the draft PZC regulations that are in the adoption process. J. Luiz told the BOS that he is working with staff to analyze the situation of the old vault and adjacent storage area with the goal of scanning documents and then destroying as many documents as permitted. J. Luiz said that he attended a CCM labor relations seminar that he found very informative. J. Luiz spoke about the boat mooring sign up that took place, stating that there were more sign-ups than last year. J. Luiz explained that he has provided staff with the FY '11-'12 allotted budget amounts. J. Luiz informed the BOS that Marie Beck has stepped down from Head of Marine Patrol and that Mark Coleman will be taking over for the 2011 season. J. Luiz said that he has met with M. Coleman to review the duties, etc. Lastly, J. Luiz told the BOS that a mailer will be sent out to residents regarding Lake Preservation.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Letter dated May 9, 2011 from P. Starkel to J. Luiz
- 9.2 Letter dated April 11, 2011 from J. Grundt to J. Luiz
- 9.3 Correspondence from the BOE regarding an Enrollment Projection Update
- 9.4 Correspondence from the BOE regarding the Strategic School Profile

10. BUDGET

10.1 Refunds: None.

10.2 Suspension List: The BOS reviewed the Suspension List. C. Vance MOVED to approve the Suspension List as provided by the Tax Collector. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

10.2 Transfers: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the following transfers:

| AMOUNT | FROM A/C # | DESCRIPTION | TO A/C # |
|---------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| \$5 | 10-4133-770 | Transportation | 10-4133-720 |
| \$500 | 10-4112-230 | Electricity | 10-4112-240 |
| \$6,000 | 10-4113-500 | Prof/Tech | 10-4113-600 |
| \$10 | 30-3630-300 | General Supplies | 30-4360-140 |
| \$6,000 | 10-4113-500 | Prof/Tech | 10-4113-600 |

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: R. Stearns MOVED to approve the emergency bills in the amount of \$74. MOTION CARRIED 4:0. C. Vance MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$21,134. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: R. Hellstrom expressed concern about a hiking trail on private property. The trail is perceived to be Open Space.. J. Luiz will look into the concern. R. Stearns spoke about FiPAC being unhappy with the over spending taking place in the Senior Center electricity line item. J. Luiz is working with the Senior Center Director on that issue.

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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A); C. Vance MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 8:45 pm. to discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel with J. Luiz present. W. O'Brien entered Executive Session at 8:46 pm. Executive Session ended at 8:55 pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT: C. Vance MOVED to adjourn at 8:55 pm. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kimberly A. Bona