

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 7 pm**

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

Members Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Rob Hellstrom; Selectman Robert Bogue; Selectman Steven Everett.

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Ann Dunnack, Dick Kristoff

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:** 4/15/14 Regular Meeting. R. Bogue MOVED to approve the regular meeting minutes of 4/15/14. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** A. Dunnack said that it is important for the town's Memorial Day ceremony to include scheduled visits to each of the three cemeteries in town. C. Vance stated that she perceived that the majority of individuals attending the ceremony last year were older and did not want to walk to all three cemeteries, but would rather visit the ceremonies of their own choosing. A. Dunnack stated that the folks at the West Street Cemetery were upset that the official ceremony did not include the West Street Cemetery. R. Bogue and R. Hellstrom spoke in favor of the ceremony including all three locations as part of a planned visit. C. Vance said that she will take A. Dunnack's comments into consideration.

Dick Kristoff of Whitney Road commented about Columbia properties along Route 6 looking awful, including the Town Garage. He spoke in favor of the town adopting a blight ordinance and having the pavement improved. C. Vance said that the town has no blight ordinance but that it has been discussed and it is a topic that could be revisited in the future. C. Vance said aesthetic improvements along Route 6 have been a topic among the towns of Andover, Bolton, Columbia and Coventry. C. Vance said that ultimately any road improvements would have to be performed by the State.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 **Proposed fee for delinquent taxes on motor vehicles:** C. Vance stated that after further thought on this matter, the Board may want to reconsider implementation of the \$4 fee. Discussion followed. S. Everett MOVED to re-open this issue with all members present. MOTION CARRIED 3:2:0 with R. Hellstrom and W. O'Brien opposed. R. Bogue MOVED to charge a \$1 fee for delinquent motor vehicle taxes. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with W. O'Brien abstaining.
 - 4.2 **Transfer Station Permit Fees:** J. Luiz discussed a proposed future price increase for transfer station permits. He reviewed what nearby towns currently charge for waste. Discussion followed. W. O'Brien said that he feels that the current fee arrangement for the Transfer Station is appropriate and that fees should not be increased. R. Hellstrom and S. Everett would like time to think about fee changes. A. Dunnack encouraged the BOS to increase recycling in town. This ITEM was TABLED.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5.1 **Establishment of Special Town Meeting to purchase Real Estate:** S. Everett MOVED to establish a Town meeting on May 20, 2014 at 7 p.m. in Yeomans Hall for the following purposes: Clause 1 – To approve the purchase from Frank Mund Jr., Gwendolyn

Mund, Edward Ellis and Renee Ellis ± 47.91 acres for the consideration of \$154,000 per the fully executed agreement entitled “Purchase an Sale Agreement” and dated June 27, 2013, a copy of which is on file with the Columbia Town Clerk for inspection. Clause 2 – To approve the purchase, together with the State of Connecticut, from the Estate of Morris Kassman the development rights to ± 54.35 acres for the consideration of no more than \$100,000 per the fully executed agreement entitled “Agreement to Purchase the Development Rights between the State of Connecticut, Town of Columbia and Estate of Morris Kassman” dated June 3, 2013, a copy of which is on file with the Columbia Town Clerk for inspection. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

- 5.2 CIRMA Letter of Commitment for Budget Stabilization Program:** J. Luiz recommended that the Town continue service with CIRMA. W. O’Brien MOVED that the Board of Selectmen authorize the First Selectman to sign the Letter of Commitment for Budget Stabilization program with CIRMA. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
- 5.3 Resolution for the Historic Documents Preservation Grant:** R. Hellstrom MOVED to adopt the following resolution: “Resolved, that Carmen Vance, First Selectman for the Town of Columbia, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.” MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
- 5.4 Proposals from Health Insurance Carriers for FY 14-15 Coverage:** J. Luiz discussed the proposals offered by Connecticare and Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Connecticut. He stated that the broker for the town and school has gone back to Anthem to see if Anthem will reduce its latest proposal. At this time there has been no reply from Anthem. W. O’Brien inquired as to how the town employees would feel if the town switched from Anthem to Connecticare. J. Luiz said that he did not think a change would be a problem as long as the plan design is the same and people could see their doctors. J. Luiz said that the broker ran a report showing that all but two of the most popular healthcare professionals would be in the Connecticare network and that one of the two is a nurse practitioner. A. Dunnack asked what happens to pre-existing conditions when health insurance carriers are changed. R. Bogue responded that in Connecticut insurance companies can no longer consider pre-existing conditions.
- 5.5 Request from St. Columba Church that Senior Center Rental Fees be Waived:** TABLED
- 6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
- 6.1 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by Yampanis:** J. Luiz stated that Michael Gnazzo from the LMAC verbally recommended BOS approval for this application. C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE the application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by T. Yampanis contingent upon conditions recommended by the LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
- 6.2 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by C. Foster:** J. Luiz stated that Michael Gnazzo recommends BOS approval. S. Everett inquired as to how the proposed raft would be anchored. J. Luiz will research. This ITEM was TABLED.
- 6.3 LMAC minutes of March 3, 2014 on the subject of spraying Mono Pond:** A. Dunnack and J. Luiz spoke about invasive plants in Mono Pond and options for controlling them. A. Dunnack stated that when the State installed the boat ramp, non-native invasive plant species invaded Mono Pond. J. Luiz recommended a discussion with the Conservation and Ag Commission on this matter. This ITEM was TABLED.
- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 7.1 Appointment of Karen Butzgy (D) as Democratic Registrar of Voters:** W. O’Brien MOVED to appoint Karen Butzgy as Democratic Registrar of Voters. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
- 7.2 Appointment of Millie Ramsey (U) to Commission on Aging:** S. Everett MOVED to appoint Millie Ramsey to the Commission on Aging. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

8. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** J. Luiz discussed preparations for the May 20th Special Town Meeting, the development of the kayak rental program, easement acquisitions for the Baker Hill Road Bridge project, and Friday's party for Mary Latour.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 9.1 **United Services Inc 2013 Annual Report**
 9.2 **Solarize Choice final figures**
 9.3 **Email from J. Rosenberg regarding AHM Take Back Event held 4/26/14**
 9.4 **Letter from J. Mullen regarding Water Supply Management Areas**

10. **BUDGET**

- 10.1 **Transfers:** R. Bogue MOVED to APPROVE the following transfers of funds.

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$100	10-4530-010, Building, Salaries	10-4530-770, Building, Transportation
\$400	10-4420-010, Waste Disposal, Salaries	10-4420-230, Waste Disposal, Electricity
\$460	10-4410-011, DPW, Overtime	10-4410-230 DPW, Electricity
\$100	10-4260-230, Sr. Center, Electricity	10-4260-120, Sr. Center, Telephone
\$100	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4640-230, Beach, Electricity
\$200	10-4330-710, Fire Prevention, Prof Improv	10-4330-770, Fire Prevention, Transportation
\$1,285	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4112-240, Exec/Admin, Fuel
\$525	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4117-240, Meeting Place, Fuel

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

- 10.2 **Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the following refund:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
Justin Holbrook	Town of Columbia	\$3.23

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

10.3 **FY 14-15 Budget**

11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve payment of emergency bills totaling \$1,459.60. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE payment of regular bills totaling \$40,710.57. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** W. O'Brien asked about the status of the Town's State Trooper. J. Luiz stated that Trooper Donald Aiken has resigned and there are several State Troopers interested in the position. The State Police are taking care of this. Selectmen reached consensus that the town should be involved in the process.
13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 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 Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. with J. Luiz and A. Dunnack present. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. A. Dunnack exited Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. J. Luiz exited Executive Session at 9:29 p.m. Executive Session ended at 9:40 p.m.
- S. Everett MOVED to increase the Town Administrator's salary by 5 percent. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
14. **ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. The next Meeting of the BOS is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2014. The meeting will commence immediately following the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Kimberly Bona and Jonathan Luiz.