

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, August 6, 2013

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

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

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and others.

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: 7/16/13 Special Meeting:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the BOS special meeting minutes of 7/16/13. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with W. O'Brien abstaining.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Brian Keldsen of 5 Baker Hill Road explained that the Baptist Fellowship Church would like to hold a "First Responder Appreciation Picnic" at Columbia Lake beach. R. Szegda MOVED to add to the agenda New Business item 5.6 entitled "First Responder Appreciation Picnic" and requested that this item be addressed immediately. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5.1 **First Responder Appreciation Picnic:** B. Keldsen explained that the Baptist Fellowship Church would like to hold a "First Responder Appreciation Picnic" at Columbia Lake Beach and requested use of the town's grill. He also stated that if lifeguards are required for the event, then the Baptist Fellowship would pay for a few guards. B. Keldsen explained that the guests would include all of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department members and their families, the Resident State Trooper and his family and the BOS members. R. Szegda said that he supported the recognition of First Responders and thanked B. Keldsen for proposing such an event. R. Bogue asked about the town's criteria for allowing parties at the beach, such as the number of allotted guests. J. Luiz stated that the Rec Department currently allows the boathouse pavilion and beach to be rented out for parties and that the renters are limited to a certain number of guests, perhaps 10-15. N. Keldsen said that parties are restricted to 20 children and 10 adults. B. Keldsen said that Camp Care has been given free access to the Beach by the town. J. Luiz acknowledged Camp Care's free access for a few days per year and noted that that the access is granted during normal hours of operation. B. Keldsen stated he would expect between 100-150 guests for the picnic. J. Luiz stated normally events as large as the one being proposed is held in Yeomans Hall, the Senior Center or at the Pavilion at Rec Park. Discussion followed C. Vance feels that the town must be careful not to turn the beach into a place where people feel it is okay to party. W. O'Brien asked if there is policy regarding the number of people allowed at the beach. J. Luiz stated that there is a limitation within the birthday party

application/contract. Discussion followed. C. Vance MOVED to approve the "First Responder Appreciation Picnic" event to be held at Rec Park, with a back up of either Yeomans Hall or the Senior Center in case of inclement weather. MOTION CARRIED. 5:0

4. OLD BUSINESS

- 4.1 Root family Cemetery off of Wells Woods Road:** C. Vance explained that the Assessor is unable to determine a current owner of the Root family Cemetery. She stated that the Town Attorney has advised that the town may acquire ownership of the abandoned cemetery by publishing notice of the intent to acquire the property in the local paper for a period of three consecutive weeks. J. Luiz told the BOS that the total cost to publish the notice would be approximately \$1,800 - \$5,400 in depending on the length of the notice. J. Luiz stated that if no one objects to the advertised acquisition then the Town will acquire ownership of the abandoned cemetery. R. Szegda asked that if the town acquires this property will it be required to maintain it. J. Luiz stated yes. W. O'Brien stated that he is concerned about the land next to the cemetery being developed. He feels that this could be a liability if children from the possible development get injured while visiting the cemetery. Joan Hill explained that the purpose for the town to claim this property would be for historical preservation. R. Szegda asked if the Ramm brothers would be willing to cover the cost for advertising. J. Luiz stated that he will speak with Chris Ramm regarding this. C. Vance suggested asking the Historical Society to contribute towards the cost for advertisement also. Discussion followed. R. Hellstrom feels that the town should claim the cemetery and should be obligated to preserve it. He feels that the historic cemetery is an interesting landmark for children to see. J. Luiz will gather more information on this item and it will be discussed at a future BOS meeting.
- 4.2 Future of the Windham Council of Governments (WinCOG):** J. Luiz explained that the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) would like to reduce the total number of Councils of Government (COGs). He said that if the COGs do not voluntarily merge by October/November of 2013, then OPM may propose mergers or break up COGs and send members to different COGs. He stated that since WinCOG is one of the smaller COG's, it is anticipated that OPM will break up WinCOG and send its members to different COGs or that OPM will merge WinCOG with another COG. J. Luiz explained that WinCOG reached out to NECCOG, CRCOG and SCCOG to get a feel for their interest in merging with WinCOG. Discussion followed. J. Luiz stated that at the last WinCOG meeting, it was decided to approach CRCOG about absorbing WinCOG and dedicating a CRCOG employee in Windham for the purpose of serving the former WinCOG members and closing out CRCOG business. J. Luiz said that if WinCOG does not join CRCOG, then he advises that Columbia withdraw from WinCOG and join CRCOG. R. Bogue said that he feels that Columbia has a lot in common with the towns in NECOG. R. Szegda said that Columbia would be a much better fit with CRCOG than NECOG because Columbia is a suburban town and no longer a rural town. The BOS will wait for more information about WinCOG joining CRCOG.

- 4.3 Employee Benefits Broker RFP:** J. Luiz stated that after considering interviews, cost proposals, reference checks, and personal experience, he recommends that the BOS authorize the First Selectman to enter into an Employee Benefits Broker agreement with Lindberg and Ripple. Discussion followed. R. Szegda MOVED to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an Employee Benefits Broker agreement with Lindberg and Ripple for a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 5.1 Bench honoring Carol Kubala:** J. Luiz stated that the Friends of the Library would like to honor the soon-to-be retired C. Kubala by providing a bench next to the Chapel. R. Szegda MOVED to approve placement of a bench next to the Chapel that will be provided by the Friends of the Library in honor of C. Kubala retirement. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.2 Proposed Regional Citizen's Transfer Station:** J. Luiz stated that Windham and Coventry are interested in getting out of the Transfer Station business because they have curbside pick-up and because they could utilize their existing transfer station lands for other purposes. He explained that Williwaste has drafted a regional transfer station proposal calling for a privately owned transfer station that would be open 7 days a week and open to all WinCOG member towns. W. O'Brien expressed concern over the proposal. Discussion followed.
- 5.3 Establishment of Special Town Meeting to accept STEAP Grant:** C. Vance MOVED to establish a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of approving the 2013 STEAP Grant for improvements to Old Willimantic Road, Cherry Valley Road, Brendi Trail and Russmar Trail on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 6:45 pm in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.4 Purchase of grill for recreation:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the purchase of a proposed grill. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. Discussion followed about whether or not groups besides Columbia Recreation would use the grill.
- 5.5 Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects with State DOT:** R. Szegda MOVED that the BOS adopt the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the Honorable, Carmen L. Vance, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects." MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: None.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

C. Vance MOVED to add item 7.1 to the agenda entitled "Appointment of Jeff Viens to fill remaining FiPAC term of Al Smith." MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 7.1 Appointment of Jeffrey Viens to fill remaining FiPAC term of Al Smith:** R. Szegda stated that he would like to hear from J. Viens prior to appointing him to FiPAC. Discussion followed. J. Luiz will contact J. Viens to see if he is available to attend the August 20, 2013 BOS meeting.
- 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** J. Luiz stated that tax collection has been very busy. J. Luiz told the BOS that the town is close to getting a speed monitoring sign on Erdoni Road and that the sign will be placed on

Hennequin Road as well. J. Luiz is currently in the process of department head evaluations. He stated that the Finance Department is busy closing out last Fiscal Year and has been working closely with the interim Superintendent. J. Luiz stated that the dry hydrant at the Murphy House was damaged by a vehicle and has since been fixed. He explained that the town expects to be fully reimbursed by the person(s) responsible for causing the damage. J. Luiz met with Solarize, a company that specializes in promoting solar solar panel purchases to municipal residents.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Email from M. Gallucci re U-12 Boys' Soccer at the Nutmeg Games to C. Vance**
- 9.2 Letter from State Senator E. Prague to BOS re naming of track**
- 9.3 Letter from L. Power to R. Kenefick re state grant award**
- 9.4 Letter from W. Shea to C. Vance re FEMA reimbursement**
- 9.5 Email from G. Calabro to J. Luiz re CCM prescription discount card results**
- 9.6 Letter from CIRMA officials to C. Vance re Equity Distribution**

10. BUDGET

10.1 Transfers: C. Vance MOVED to approve the following transfer:

AMOUNT	FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #, DESCRIPTION
\$10,000	10-4510-500, Prof/Tech	10-4510-010, Salaries

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10.2 Refunds: C. Vance MOVED to approve the following refund:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$436.25	Town of Columbia	Heidi or Craig Warren

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10.3 FY 13-14 Budget: None.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: C. Vance MOVED to approve the emergency payment of bills in the amount of \$106,487.93. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. C. Vance MOVED to approve the regular payment of bills in the amount of \$79,531.78. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

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); Entered at 8:20. C. Vance MOVED to enter into executive session at 8:20 pm with Ann Dunnack and Joan Hill present. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. Executive Session ended at 9:26 pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT: C. Vance MOVED to adjourn at 9:27 pm. and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kimberly A. Bona