

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN

*Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 7 pm*

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

**Members Present:** First Selectman Carmen Vance; Selectman Steven Everett; Selectman Robert Hellstrom; Selectman Robert Bogue. Selectman William O'Brien arrived at 7:03 pm.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and others.

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **MINUTES:** 8/5/14 Regular Meeting. R. Bogue MOVED to approve the BOS regular meeting minutes of 8/5/14. MOTION CARRIED. 3:0:1 with C. Vance abstaining because she was not in attendance.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - 4.1 **Opportunity to participate in the C-PACE Program:** J. Luiz explained that Columbia has the option of joining the States Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program. He stated that under the program, the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) lends money to businesses for energy efficiency projects. Katherine Conlon of Columbia Manufacturing stated that the company is very interested in the program and is hoping that the town will opt into the program. Mark Robbins, C-PACE consultant, spoke about the program discussing its background and purpose. Discussion followed.
  - 4.2 **Special Town Meeting to approve C-PACE Program and a financial transfer:** R. Bogue MOVED to schedule a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:30 pm. in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room for the following purposes:  
Clause 1 - To adopt a resolution entitled "Town of Columbia Resolution to Approve Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Agreement," a copy of which is on file with the Columbia Town Clerk for inspection.  
Clause 2 – To approve a Fiscal Year 2014-2015 financial transfer of \$1,775 from line item #10-4136-010 entitled "Finance Department, Salaries" to line item #10-4570-010 entitled "Land Use Department, Salaries."  
MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
  - 4.3 **2014 Columbia Road Race:** J. Luiz stated that the race has already been advertised with the new route. The BOS expressed disappointment with the change in the route. Discussion followed. R. Bogue MOVED to approve race with the new route. MOTION FAILED 2:3:0 with C. Vance and R. Bogue in favor and S. Everett, W. O'Brien and R. Hellstrom opposed.
  - 4.4 **Invasive Plants at Mono Pond:** Paul Ramsey introduced Dominic Meringolo, Senior Environmentalist at Aquatic Control Technology to the BOS. S. Everett asked if it will be necessary to continue spraying to keep the invasive plants from returning. D. Meringolo stated yes. He stated that lowering the pond and doing a dredging project would cost a lot more than the spraying method. C. Vance asked what the cost of the spraying method would be. D. Meringolo stated that spraying would cost approximately \$26,000 per year. S. Everett expressed concern with the use of chemical spraying and the possible side effects down the road. C. Vance stated that the state owns Mono Pond, not the town. She does not feel it is right the town put forth funding for this issue. Bill Ross of 183 Route 87 stated that he is an arborist and feels that pesticides should be a last resort. He suggested that the BOS be sure of what the sprays consist of before going forward with the spraying method. R. Hellstrom stated that he would like to hear from a consultant

that is familiar with the chemicals before proceeding. C. Vance suggested contacting Dr. Kortmann. The BOS concurred. R. Bogue MOVED to TABLE this item until consulting with Dr. Kortmann. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. J. Luiz will contact Dr. Kortmann to discuss the matter.

- 4.5 Draft Blight Ordinance:** The BOS discussed the draft Blight Ordinance. W. O'Brien submitted Sec 7-152c of the State Statutes to be incorporated in the draft ordinance so that there is a citation hearing procedure. Discussion followed. J. Luiz stated that a public hearing must be held to discuss the proposed ordinance and then the BOS can vote to accept/deny the proposed ordinance. J. Luiz also stated that the ordinance must be published in the chronicle, either in full or in summary. A summary can be posted if authorized by the Special Town Meeting.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Request for a tax refund by David Kohn:** D. Kohn spoke to the BOS and explained that he received an inaccurate property assessment in 2001 due to a clerical error and requested a tax refund in the amount of \$1,170.60. C. Vance stated that this will be discussed in executive session.
- 5.2 Lions Club President's Project:** Linda Garritt stated that she would like to add four lamp posts along the "Memory Walk" to enhance the Town Green as her Lions Club "Past President" project. She stated that the work would be done by Ackert Electric and the only cost to the town would be for electricity. L. Garritt explained that all other expenses (material, installation, etc) will be paid for by the Columbia Lions Club. Discussion followed. S. Everett MOVED to accept the proposed "Past President" project by L. Garritt to install four lamp posts along the Memory Walk to enhance the Town Green. MOTION CARRIED 4:1:0 with R. Bogue abstaining.
- 5.3 Erdoni Road data collection:** J. Luiz reviewed data that the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) collected for the town on Erdoni Road. W. O'Brien noted that the data indicated that only one crash took place and that the location of the crash was near Lake Road. J. Luiz stated that the main problem on the road is speeding. He said that the new resident trooper is conducting speed enforcement on Erdoni Road. Citizens in the audience expressed their displeasure at people driving too fast on Erdoni road. J. Luiz and G. Murphy will work with the residents that live near Erdoni Road to come up with proposed solutions to the speeding problem. The matter would be referred back to the BOS at a future time.
- 5.4 Agreement with Willimantic Waste Paper Co. Inc.:** W. O'Brien MOVED to waive the competitive bid requirement and allow the Town Administrator to enter into an agreement with Willimantic Waste Paper Co. Inc. for FY 2014-15. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.5 Recreation Director Job Description:** C. Vance MOVED to accept the revised Rec Director job description as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.6 Assistant to the Recreation Director Job Description:** C. Vance MOVED to accept the revised Assistant to the Rec Director job description as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.7 FY 2014-2015 STEAP Grant Application:** J. Luiz discussed the FY 14-15 STEAP Grant application with the BOS. He suggests that the town apply for a STEAP grant for repairs to the Baker Hill Road Bridge (including road work) and/or repairs to the Hop River Road Bridge (including road work). Discussion followed. J. Luiz said that he would like to speak with officials from Coventry and OPM about the Hop River project. W. O'Brien MOVED to TABLE this ITEM. MOTION WITHDRAWN. S. Everett MOVED to authorize J. Luiz to apply for STEAP grants based on his best judgment, following discussions with officials from Coventry and OPM. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 5.8 Town Clerk Job Description:** C. Vance MOVED to accept the revised Town Clerk job description as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

## **6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**

- 6.1 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by E. Nyarady:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the applications by Emma Nyarady, Michael Williams on behalf of Craig Gates, Carl Foster and Richard Neumayer for constructing structures on or over the Lake contingent upon the recommendations set forth by the Lake Management Advisory Committee (LMAC). MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 6.2 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by M. Williams**
- 6.3 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by C. Foster**
- 6.4 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by R. Neumayer**
- 6.5 Dam renovation schedule**
- 6.6 Update on concrete dock costs:** J. Luiz reviewed costs of materials and stated that he is still awaiting costs for installation.
- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**
- 7.1 Appointment of Tom Currier (D) to the Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) Board:** W. O'Brien MOVED to appoint T. Currier (D) to the WRTD Board. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 7.2 Appointment of Trooper Gregory DeCarli (U) to the Youth Services Committee:** W. O'Brien MOVED to appoint Trooper DeCarli (U) to the Youth Services Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 7.3 Resignation of Nicole Keldsen, Recreation Director**
- 7.4 Hire of Linda McDonald as Interim Assistant to the Recreation Director:** C. Vance MOVED to hire L. McDonald as Interim Assistant to the Rec Director. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 7.5 Resignation of Accountant Phyllis Lapierre**
- 7.6 Resignation of Robert Kalinowski (R) from Zoning Board of Appeals**
- 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** J. Luiz stated that the school roof project is very close to completion. He stated that the only issue at this time is the gutters because they were not installed in accordance with the plans and specifications. He is waiting to hear from the architect regarding this issue. J. Luiz stated that a schedule has been set for the dam project and that he, George Murphy and Bud Meyers have met with the engineer and contractor. G. Murphy and B. Meyers will essentially be serving as Clerks of the Works for this project. J. Luiz explained that the summer milling and paving road work is complete, with just a couple of spots that require touch up. He stated that he met with a state employee to discuss Open Space and that the town has received the Housing Grant with Coventry. Lastly, J. Luiz told the BOS that he and the Town Clerk have been working with IT to find a suitable replacement for the Town Clerk's software provider.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 9.1 Letter mailed to residents affected by seasonal road paving**
- 9.2 Press Release re Grants for Housing and Community Revitalization Projects**
- 9.3 Connecticut State and Municipal Bond Ratings List as of July 2014**
- 9.4 Letter to J. Swenson from J. Luiz regarding reassignment**

**10. BUDGET**

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

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TO A/C #, DESCRIPTION</b>
\$32	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4112-720, Admin/Exec, Prof Dues

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

C. Vance MOVED to approve the following transfer:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TO A/C #, DESCRIPTION</b>
\$98	10-4132-500, Assessor, Prof/Tech	10-4132-110, Assessor, Postage

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

**10.2 Refunds:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the following refunds:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
\$57.59	Town of Columbia	CAB East LLC
\$6.08	Town of Columbia	Ellen Clark
\$87.82	Town of Columbia	Sandra and Scott Conterno
\$29.71	Town of Columbia	Scott Conterno
\$40.51	Town of Columbia	Nissan Infiniti LT
\$119.64	Town of Columbia	Cory Bartson
\$39.88	Town of Columbia	William Hart
\$135.87	Town of Columbia	Honda Lease Trust
\$414.00	Town of Columbia	Nissan Infiniti LT
\$39.55	Town of Columbia	Marina or Eugene Ralph
\$163.84	Town of Columbia	Scott Conterno Landscaping
\$8.58	Town of Columbia	Richard Senus

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

**10.3 Review of Fiscal Year 2013-2014:** J. Luiz reviewed with the BOS.

**11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the FY 2013-14 emergency bills in the amount of \$2,376.77. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. C. Vance MOVED to approve the FY 2014-15 emergency bills in the amount of 492,138.34. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. R. Bogue MOVED to approve the FY 2014-15 regular bills in the amount of \$114,999.75. 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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A); C. Vance MOVED to enter into executive session with J. Luiz present at 9:21 pm. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. Executive Session ended at 9:35 pm.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to adjourn at 9:36 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next regular meeting of the BOS is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona