

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

(To commence immediately following the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7 pm)

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

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

Library Board Members: President Hank Stockmal; Denise Egan; Tricia Hul; Beth Cheney; Jennifer Bright; Shirley King and others.

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Public Works Director George Murphy; Finance Director Bev Ciurylo; Library Director Su Epstein; Adult Librarian Caitlyn Orloski, Children's Librarian Megan Quigley; Architect Robert Powell; Fire Marshal Mike Lester; Paul and Carol Kubala; Ann Dunnack; Ingrid Wood; Judy Ortiz; Tom Currier; Laurie Rogers; Amy Raffa; Gary Littlefield; Andrea Stannard and others.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2016:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve 9/6/16 BOS minutes. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Carol Kubala of Lake Road expressed her support for the library and stated that she feels the Library Director and Library Board know best what is needed in the newly renovated library.

Amy Raffa of Oakwood Lane also expressed her support for the library. She explained that she is concerned that the grant money will be affected if too much shelving is removed. She would like the BOS to allow an "Audience of Citizens" after the library discussion is done.

Tony Elsie of Oakwood Lane expressed disappointment in the recent articles in the Chronicle pertaining to the library. She feels as though the articles portrayed a very "negative view" of the new library. T. Elsie stated she trusts the library staff will do everything they can to make the new library the best it can be for the people of Columbia. If the town's people voted for a larger expansion, then maybe these problems wouldn't be occurring.

Laurie Rogers of Hennequin Road expressed her support for the library and her disappointed with the recent article in the paper. She stated that as an interior designer, she has concerns from a professional standpoint. She would like an opportunity to discuss this after the library discussion, requesting another "Audience of Citizens" after the discussion between the BOS and the Library Board. C. Vance and the BOS agreed to holding another Audience of Citizens if need be.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 4.1 **Discussion between BOS and Library Board on inside configuration of shelving:** C. Vance stated that BOS walked thru library after receiving a revised layout from S. Epstein and the Library Board. She explained that the BOS would like to see that the new library appear to be pleasant and welcoming, a place where people can go to sit and relax. She discussed the proposal to remove shelving in front of the picture window to open this area up and allow visitors to sit and look out the window.

Hank Stockmal feels that the relationship between the Town and Library is a partnership and they should be on the same page. The Library Board has unanimously supported Su throughout the project. He explained that they may not always agree on things, but they work through it.

S. Epstein stated that the Library Board tried to accommodate BOS by adding more chairs and tables for seating, but did not want to lose shelving feet. She explained that seating in front of the picture window would be nice, but in order to do so they would lose 154 of shelf feet. If they were to eliminate this, a total of 600 feet from the original plan will be removed. She stated that before the move, the books were packed too tightly on the shelves and were boxed up and stored around the old library, on the second floor, piled on top of other books, etc. S. Epstein feels that if the Library was to hold a smaller book collection then what they had prior to the expansion, residents would see this as an issue. She also explained that if the shelving is altered more than 10% then the state can rescind the grant money.

S. Everett asked how many books are in the collection. S. Epstein stated that as of July 1, 2016 there was 55,000 items (books, electronic resources, DVD's, etc) in the collection. If she were to give a rough estimate of how many actual books are in the collection, she would guess approximately 40,000-45,000 books.

S. Everett stated that he supports the library, but feels that visual appeal is important. When he walked in the library he didn't get a cozy feeling. He would like to see the big picture window opened up to allow for a seating area so patrons could look out the window.

S. Epstein stated the height of the shelves is the same as it was in the old library. She explained that the new HVAC required ceiling to be lowered, which makes the shelving appear higher. R. Powell stated that the ceiling was only lowered 2 inches.

S. Epstein explained that one of the original problems with the layout was how the shelving line up affected the site line from the circulation desk. She explained that site line is extremely important. Whoever is at the circulation desk must be able to see to ensure proper supervision for children, and adults as well.

S. Epstein spoke of her experience and knowledge on libraries and asked what brought on the issue with the shelving. C. Vance stated that previous discussions included that the new library would be a community place to relax and go read a book. She doesn't feel that the BOS is debating how much shelving there is, but more so the fact that they would like it to appear as an open, welcoming place for patrons. She explained that when entering the library now she feels it is like entering a research library, and the books aren't even on the shelves yet. Discussion followed. C. Vance asked how many volumes the new library should hold. S. Epstein stated that capacity is approximately 58,000 volumes. Discussion followed. Denise Egan stated that there are approximately 10,000 children books.

W. O'Brien stated that per his interpretation of the lease, the tenants can do what they want inside. W. O'Brien stated that he is sorry for the negative publicity but appreciates the concerns of the BOS. He would like this put to bed and allow the people with the expertise, the board members, proceed as they feel fit.

R. Bogue stated that he envisioned a soft, welcoming library and did not get this feeling when he entered it. B. Bogue feels it is up to the Library Director and Board to get the job done, and make it welcoming and warm. R. Hellstrom would like to see the area in front of the picture window opened up to a seating area. He asked the Library Board to please do whatever they can do to make this area presentable. S. Epstein stated this could cause an issue for the site line. C. Vance said that a camera could be an option to alleviate this issue. S. Epstein agreed.

D. Egan requested that area 2 remain as is so they are able to hang artwork.

H. Stockmal stated that they want to move forward so would like an answer from BOS. He explained that if once everything is set up, changes can be made if it still does not appeal to BOS approval. S. Epstein and the Library Board agreed to work on a revised plan and submit it to M. Walter by noon tomorrow to allow enough time for the Fire Marshal and Building Official to review it prior to book delivery.

Audience of Citizens: C. Kubala stated she is glad things have been resolved. She said that when she visits the library the wonderful staff make her feel welcome. L. Rogers stated that she has worked closely with S. Epstein for a few years and feels that S.

Epstein has expertise in interior design for libraries. L. Rogers stated that she doesn't understand why the BOS has waited until the "11th hour" to bring these issues up. L. Rogers asked why the BOS was not in on the planning from the start. She feels that now, at the "11th hour" issues are being brought up. She would like a retraction put in the chronicle because she feels that S. Epstein was unfairly "thrown under the bus." A. Raffa was disappointed in the articles, too and thanked the library board for all the hard work they put into this.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Approval of Union Contract: M. Walter explained that union employees voted to ratified contract on 9/6/16. He stated that the contract will serve for one year and that a 2% GWI was given to union employees, as well as the option of enrolling in a Health Savings Account (HSA). C. Vance MOVED to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Columbia and the Municipal Employees Union Independent (MEUI) as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

5.2 Establishment of Town Meeting for funds transfer: M. Walter explained that there have been several unanticipated costs associated with the library that were not budgeted in the original project cost. B. Ciurylo stated these costs include approximately \$35,000 for storage and moving books, \$9,000 in certified payroll costs, relocation of the condenser and unexpected change orders totaling approximately \$15,000, etc. that were not budgeted in the original project. C. Vance MOVED to schedule a Special Town Meeting for September 29, 2016 at 7 pm in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room for the following purpose:
CLAUSE 1: To approve the 2015-2016 transfer from Contingency to the Capital Project line #20-6703-004 in the amount of \$60,000 to cover the additional unanticipated costs of the Library Expansion Project. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:

6.1 Application of Carol and William O'Neill to construct a new seawall and replace two (2) existing docks at 104 Jonathan Trumbull Hgwy: S. Everett MOVED to approve the application of C. and W. O'Neill to construct a new seawall and to replace two existing docks at 104 Jonathan Trumbull Hgwy contingent upon the recommendations set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

7.1 Resignation of Laurie Rogers and Katelin Rogers from Youth Services Committee: W. O'Brien thanked L. Rogers and K. Rogers for serving on the Committee, and stated there are now four vacancies. W. O'Brien MOVED to accept the resignations of L. Rogers and K. Rogers from the Youth Services Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: M. Walter provided an update on the recent Beach meetings, stating that the town received very good input regarding wheelchair accessibility, water runoff, and the tree situation at the beach. He stated that the public input meeting for the Master Plan at Rec Park will be held on Thursday, 9/22/16 at 7 pm in Yeomans Hall. M. Walter stated that there has been a lot of discussion regarding the West Street and Route 66 intersection and that DOT will meeting with George Murphy on Thursday, 9/22/16 to perform an audit on challenging roads and highways in town.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 CT State Police Monthly Services for August 2016

9.2 Letter from Colchester First Selectman to C. Vance dated 9/12/16 re: mutual aid

10. BUDGET:

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

TRANSFER # / AMOUNT	FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #, DESCRIPTION
2016-066 / \$1,020	10-4112-022, Admin/unemployment	10-4112-130, Admin Legal Notices
2016-067 / \$2,400	10-4410-011, DPW Salaries, OT	10-4410-010, DPW Salaries
2016-067 / \$6	10-4410-240, DPW Fuel	10-4410-300, DPW Supplies
2016-067 / \$633 (total \$3,039)	10-4410-240, DPW Fuel	10-4410-610, DPW Bldgs/Grounds, Rep/Maint
2016-068 / \$646	10-4112-040, Admin Group Insurance	10-4620-120, Library Telephone

2016-068 / \$1,875	10-4112-040, Admin Group Insurance	10-4620-230, Library Electricity
2016-068 / \$3,166 (total \$5,687)	10-4112-040, Admin Group Insurance	10-4620-240, Library Fuel

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to approve the following refunds:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$20.49	Town of Columbia	Antignani, Nicholas
\$109.93	Town of Columbia	Zabbo, Katherine Megan
\$148.19	Town of Columbia	Dobush, Ruth
\$91.84	Town of Columbia	Toyota Lease Trust
\$35.12	Town of Columbia	Hughes, Tonya
\$28.81	Town of Columbia	Hughes, Tonya

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 11. PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the payment of bills including emergency bills, regular bills, paychex and credit cards in the amount of \$169,019.23.
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);** None.

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:28 PM and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona