

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2012

A Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town Meeting of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut was held in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 6:45 pm.

Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Selectman Richard Szegda; Selectman Bob Bogue; Selectman Rob Hellstrom; Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz.

Moderator: Mark Vining

Clerk: Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator

Citizens: Approximately 25 others were present excluding Selectmen.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by C. Vance at 6:45 pm.

M. Vining explained who had the ability to speak and vote at the Town Meeting.

CLAUSE 1: C. Vance MOVED that the Town approve a transfer of \$10,000 from the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget line item #10-4800-900 entitled "Contingency" to Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget line item entitled "Marine Boat Replacement." R. Szegda Seconded the motion.

C. Vance explained that the previous boat was vandalized and that a new boat is needed. C. Vance explained that the boat is used by Marine Patrol staff to keep Columbia Lake and its boaters safe. Harriet Derway of 214 Route 66 asked several questions about the boat purchase including how much the boat will cost and whether or not the town considered purchasing a used boat. J. Luiz responded to Ms. Derway's questions. Jan Thibodeau of 1 Beach Road spoke of the diverse uses of the Marine Patrol Boat, such as rescuing, towing and checking in boats near the boat ramp. At the request of an audience member, J. Luiz provided information about the description of the new purchase and explained the current funding situation with respect to the capital budget. J. Luiz also provided information about a payment received from the town's insurance company in consideration of the damaged boat. He said that the insurance payment was approximately \$4,500. J. also explained that the damaged boat was sold for approximately \$1,500. Nancy Tabor of 544 Route 87 inquired about the engine horsepower of the proposed boat and whether or not the boat we are purchasing is a base model. C. Shifrin of 3 Sunnyslopes Road spoke about the boat's engine and the type of boat to be purchased. He said that it is a base vessel with a bimini top. C. Shifrin said that purchasing a new boat will give the town a multi-year warranty. N. Tabor asked what the town would do to prevent vandalism to a new boat. C.

Vance explained that the vandalized boat was stationed outside of the boathouse due to low water levels and that someone pulled the boat in and vandalized it. J. Luiz said that precautions would be taken in the future to try to avoid vandalism. Art Ogden of 6 Cherry Valley Road said that he would like to see a local businessman get an opportunity to sell the boat to the town and asked about Chick Shifrin getting that opportunity. J. Luiz said that Mr. Shifrin has declined the opportunity to sell the boat to the town. C. Shifrin said that he did not want to sell the boat to the town, and that he only wanted to help the town through the purchase process. Vera Englert of 33 Sleepy Hollow Road asked questions about the warranty on the engine and boat. J. Luiz responded with information. V. Englert asked about the town getting reimbursed from anyone that will be arrested for the crime. J. Luiz said that the Board of Selectmen has determined that the town and/or insurance company pursue restitution to the fullest extent allowed under the law. M. Coleman of Route 87 spoke to the ongoing engine problems of the vandalized boat. He said it needed continual maintenance. He also said that this past summer the marine patrol boat needed to be out on the mooring line because that was the only place to get enough water to run the boat. He said that the boathouse itself was only about 7 inches deep. He said that the replacement is warranted. Mike Matthew of 1 Lower Woodland Terrace asked why the town would go with a four cycle engine on the new boat if the old boat had a four cycle engine that needed constant maintenance. C. Shifrin explained that the old engine was carbureted and the new engine would be fuel injected. Art Ogden asked who approved selling the damaged boat. J. Luiz responded that the BOS gave approval.

Seeing that no one else wanted to speak on the motion, the moderator re-read the motion. The moderator called for a voice vote.

The moderator declared that the motion passed by a clear majority. The moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.