

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, September 6, 2011 7:00 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room

Selectmen Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Richard Szegda; Rebecca Stearns; Rob Hellstrom. William O'Brien arrived at 7:17 pm.

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz

Call to Order: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes of 8/16/11:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the minutes of 8/16/11. MOTION CARRIED 2: 0: 2 with R. Hellstrom and R. Stearns abstaining.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Hurricane Updates:** C. Vance thanked town staff for the hard work that was put forth during the storm recovery. She thanked Bud Meyers for his hard work and involvement in picking up the FEMA supplies and distributing the supplies to those residents who needed them. C. Vance thanked Fire Chief Pete Starkel and the members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, and expressed many thanks to Public Works Director George Murphy and his crew. C. Vance thanked Senior Center Director Bernadette Derring and all the volunteers that participated in cooking and providing a place for residents to go during this difficult time. C. Vance thanked Emergency Management Director Jerry James for his help coordinating things and explained that J. James was in contact with FEMA and ordered all the supplies which included bottled water, ice and MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat). J. James stated that he feels that the planning aspect does involve everyone and when these types of emergencies arise, it is always a good idea to get together and discuss preparation before the actual emergency occurs. He stated that communication is one of the most important factors in these types of instances. R. Szegda expressed the importance of sign placement on the Town Green, etc. in order to communicate to those residents who are unable to receive notifications via the Everbridge System since electronic notifications are unable to be received in a power outage. C. Vance stated that signs were displayed on the Town Green and at the Senior Center as well as on the doors of the school, Town Hall, etc. Discussion followed. C. Vance explained that showers were available for residents all week up until Sunday evening at approximately 7 pm. She stated that at this time, all power was restored with the exception of about 50 residents or so. Discussion followed. C. Vance thanked Lake Management Advisory Committee Chair, Mark Coleman, for his hard work and time monitoring the water level of the Lake and operating the dam as necessary. M. Coleman explained that due to the amount of rain that was forecasted for the storm, he felt it was necessary to open the dam and begin lowering the Lake days prior to the storm's arrival. He stated that the Public Works Department worked quickly to sandbag the base of the dam. M. Coleman explained that this was a prudent measure to take. He explained that the real threat to the dam proved to be "wave action" - water pushed up against the face of the dam. The threat did

punch holes in the dam. M. Coleman stated that he understood that numerous complaints were made regarding the lowering of the Lake prior to the Labor Day holiday weekend, but explained that there was good reason for it and that the lowering was very important. He thanked the Public Works Department for its timely response once he saw the front of the dam beginning to erode. M. Coleman suggested that lights be installed near the dam so that the dam will be more visible at night during the height of a storm. Discussion followed. P. Starkel stated that the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) was fully staffed Sunday morning and that approximately 60 calls were received for service. He spoke to the BOS about the calls that were received and explained that although the CVFD was very busy, things went well. P. Starkel stated that throughout the week the CVFD continued to receive calls which were mainly water emergencies and downed trees. He informed the BOS that there were no injuries caused by the storm. P. Starkel said that overall, things operated very smoothly. G. Murphy stated that he felt everyone did a great job and that communication was very good between himself, J. James, P. Starkel, C. Vance, etc. He did state that a significant number of trees that were down involved wires and that DPW cannot touch them when wires are involved.. Discussion followed. The BOS thanked G. Murphy and the DPW crew for a job well done. G. Murphy explained to the BOS that he did have an issue with the utility company. He stated that he felt the company was confused as to who it should have been contacting last week. G. Murphy explained that he felt that the company should have contacted J. James directly with updates, etc. and not himself. Discussion followed. B. Derring explained that the Senior Center was open from 9 am – 7 pm last week and that it closed on Sunday at approximately 2 pm. She said that coffee, lunch and dinner was provided to residents. She stated that donations were received from individuals to help offset the cost of food, etc. B. Derring explained that drinking water was available daily and nightly outside to residents via the hose set up outside of the Center. C. Vance explained that drinking water was also made available behind the Town Hall. A meeting with town officials will be set up in order to review how Hurricane Irene was handled by the Town so that any necessary planning improvements could be made in consideration of future storms.

- 5.2 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR):** C. Vance stated that Bev Ciurylo, J. Luiz, Francine Coss and Ernie Sharpe will meet in the near future to discuss this item further. R. Szegda asked if there is a possibility that the town will need to provide the BOE with additional funding this Fiscal Year. J. Luiz said yes. R. Szegda stated that a useful way to expend funds would be for the BOE to pay membership dues to Andover Hebron Marlborough Youth Services (AHM). R. Szegda suggested bringing this idea to F. Coss. Discussion followed. J. Luiz will share this suggestion at the next Fiscal Policy meeting.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE /DAM / BEACH

- 6.1 Application for Constructing Structures on or over Columbia Lake by the McGuigans:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of the McGuigans for constructing structures on or over Columbia Lake contingent upon the recommendations made by Lake Management Advisory Committee (LMAC). MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 7.1 Letter to Town Clerk from Cindy Harrison re: resignation from FiPAC:** The BOS acknowledged the resignation of C. Harrison from FiPAC.

C. Vance MOVED to add item 7.2 to the agenda entitled, "Resignation of Nancy Austin from CONA." MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

- 7.2 **Resignation of Nancy Austin from CONA:** The BOS acknowledged the resignation of N. Austin from CONA.
- 8. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** J. Luiz explained that he was away last week but was in constant contact with C. Vance and answered emails and phone calls daily.
- 9. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 9.1 **Letter to BOS from Registrar of Voters**
 - 9.2 **Memo from John Elsesser to Coventry Town Council regarding Pucker Street Bridge:** J. Luiz stated that the towns cost has not changed much and explained that Coventry recently held a town meeting regarding this issue and that the meeting went well, with the majority of attendees speaking in favor of Coventry bonding for the bridge project. Discussion followed. R. Szegda does not feel that the town should spend money on this bridge project.
 - 9.3 **Letter from the Marshall family to Town of Columbia**
 - 9.4 **Letter to Columbia BOS from Camp Care**
 - 9.5 **Letter from State of CT to C. Vance dated 8/16/11 re: Change to Overtime Charges**
- 10. **BUDGET**
 - 10.1 **Refunds:** C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE the following refunds:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
Discovery Zone Daycare	Town of Columbia	\$10.00
Heidi Dyer	Town of Columbia	\$ 10.00
Kelly Mabry	Town of Columbia	\$ 48.32
William Preuss II	Town of Columbia	\$ 68.29
Brittany and Mary Waller	Town of Columbia	\$ 7.18
Robert or Elizabeth Zahansky	Town of Columbia	\$ 13.44
CoreLogic Real Estate on behalf of Christopher Baker	Town of Columbia	\$ 3,059.15
CoreLogic Real Estate on behalf of James Bucklin	Town of Columbia	\$ 1,694.43
CoreLogic Real Estate on behalf of David, Martha and Laura Grindel	Town of Columbia	\$ 1,803.93

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

- 10.2 **Transfers:** None.
- 11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** C. Vance MOVED to APPROVE the payment of emergency bills totaling \$150.00 MOTION CARRIED 3:0:0. R. Szegda MOVED to APPROVE the payment of bills totaling \$62,378.17. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
- 12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** R. Stearns expressed concern regarding the location of the Building Official during the storm recovery. Discussion followed.

- 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** C. Vance MOVED to enter Executive Session at 8:06 pm to discuss the following items in the presence of J. Luiz: Personnel pursuant to Connecticut General 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). MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. Executive Session ended at 8:14 p.m.
- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:14 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona