

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MAY 12, 2015
TOWN OF COLUMBIA

The Annual Budget Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town Meeting of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut, was held in Yeomans Hall on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Present were Board of Selectmen members First Selectman Carmen Vance, Selectman Steven Everett, Selectman Robert Bogue and Selectman William O'Brien . Board of Education members present included David Crim, Linette Dooley, Christopher Lent and Lisa Napolitano. Members of the Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) in attendance were Earnest Sharpe (Chairperson), Marcia Morrison, Judith Ortiz, Kelley Peck, Richard Szegda, and Todd Shepard. School Superintendent Laurence Fearon and Town Administrator Natasha Nau were also in attendance.

MODERATOR: Robert Baldwin
CLERK: Robin M. Kenefick
CITIZENS: 60 + Present

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Carmen Vance. C. Vance introduced Natasha Nau, Columbia's new Town Administrator. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The meeting was turned over to the Moderator who read the legal notice and explained who has the right to vote at this meeting per the Town Charter and that the vote would be by secret ballot. The Moderator asked if there was a Motion. Carmen Vance made the following motion:

"I move to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 annual budget, Board of Selectmen and Board of Education, that was presented at the FiPAC budget public hearing on April 22, 2015."

The motion was seconded by Christopher Lent. The Moderator opened the floor to discussion by the First Selectman and the Board of Education.

Carmen Vance, First Selectman, urged approval of this budget. She stated there was a lot of effort on behalf of the staff at Town Hall and the staff/members of the Board of Education to keep this budget as conservative as possible, with no raise in taxes.

Christopher Lent, on behalf of the Board of Education, urged everyone to vote in favor of this budget. This process started in December 2014 and the budget speaks to the BOE's needs to maintain the programs they have.

The Moderator turned the floor over to the audience for their questions and comments. David Bull, 3 Scalise Drive, had a question and comment regarding Szegda Farm. His question pertained to funds available for maintenance/upgrades at Szegda Farm. Beverly Cuirylo, Finance Director, stated a small amount of funding was available in the budget for Szegda Farm.

D. Bull's comment on Szegda Farm pertained to the 2007 agreement with the State that the Town maintain the property. He would like to see the Town honor the agreement and provide the funding.

No more questions were raised and no more comments were made. The Moderator reread the motion. A paper ballot was taken on the motion to accept the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 as so proposed.

The results of the paper ballot vote were announced by the Moderator as follows:

YES: 74 NO: 4
(Vote consisted of qualified voters)

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin M. Kenefick
Town Clerk