

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

7:00 PM

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

Members Present: Steven Everett, First Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Deputy First Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman; Christopher Lent, Selectman.

Members Absent: Lisa Napolitano, Selectman.

Also Present Remotely: Barbara Wilson, Interim Superintendent; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director; Sherry Adams, Sr. VP, CIRMA.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** S. Everett read the rules of conduct for a hybrid virtual meeting.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2023.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2023. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.
8. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
 - 8.1 **Application to Repair dock for James Young on behalf of Tony Clemintino, 3 Upper Woodland Terrace, Columbia, CT.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Application to repair a dock at 3 Upper Woodland Terrace upon the recommendation set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
 - 8.2 **Application to Repair a Seawall for Bill Fochi, 62 Lake Rd., Columbia, CT.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Application to repair a seawall at 62 Lake Rd upon the recommendation set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
9. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
 - 9.1 **Resignation of Debbie Fiske, Parks and Recreation Director.** S. Everett said D. Fiske will be resigning for a new opportunity with the Town of Windham. S.

Everett wished Debbie all the best and thanked her for the outstanding job she did as the Parks & Recreation Director.

- 9.2 **Retirement of Carol Price, Tax Collector.** C. Price will be retiring after 29 years as the Tax Collector, and 4 years as the Assistant Tax Collector. S. Everett thanked Carol as always done a remarkable job and said that she will be missed. Carol will be staying on until March 31st to provide a smooth transition.

10. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** M. Walter provided a 2023 summary of town projects completed and a look ahead to 2024. S. Everett said that the town used the ARPA funding wisely for the projects listed in the summary. He said that the town benefited from the decisions that the BOS made and thanked the board for bringing that vision forward for the people of Columbia.
 - 10.1 **EV Charger Update.** All the EV Chargers are installed. We will be finalizing the contract agreement with LOOP, which is the software charging company for the EV chargers.
 - 10.2 **Horace Porter School HVAC Grant Update.** The HVAC grant was submitted at the end of December. M. Walter thanked Beverly Ciurylo, Barbara Wilson, Mike Sylvester and Chris Lent and the HVAC Building Committee.
 - 10.3 **Thank You to DPW for Assisting in Pick-up and Delivery of Donated Office Furniture from RJS Associates.** M. Walter thanked the DPW crew for helping pick up and deliver the furniture donated by RJS Associates.
 - 10.4 **Community Social Services Coordinator Moving to Senior Center.** The Community Social Services Coordinator will be moving to the Senior Center by the end of January to help better serve the community from the location at the Senior Center.
 - 10.5 **Snow Removal Grant Pilot Program:** This program was funded by donations from the Lions Club and was the brain child of CONA. The specifications were provided for the program include income requirements and how to apply. The resident will have to hire a snow removal contractor and then submit the bill to the town. The program is facilitated through the Social Services Department.
 - 10.6 **Municipal Finance 101 for Newly Elected Officials.** M. Walter participated in the newly elected officials training session in Rocky Hill on Saturday, January 6th. The Workshop sessions provided information on the fundamentals of municipal government, FOIA/Meetings/Ethics, and Municipal Budgeting 101.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 11.1 **AHM December Program Report.**

12. **BUDGET:**
 - 12.1 **Transfers:** None.
 - 12.2 **Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Refunds Totaling \$663.81. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

13. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Payment of Bills Totaling \$452,233.35, consisting of 23/24 Emergency, 23/24 Regular, Saxton B. Little Library payment 3 of 4, Credit Card, and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

14. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.

15. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** C. Lent congratulated Debbie Fiske on moving on to her next chapter, and that she set the bar high for the Rec Department. He also thanked Carol Price for doing a great job and wishes her the best in her retirement. All the board echoed C. Lent's sentiments.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A).** S. Everett MOVED to Enter Into Executive Session at 7:16 pm and invited Mark Walter, Town Administrator, Barbara Wilson, Interim Superintendent, and Sherry Adams, Vice President, Liability Claims of CIRMA, and Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director. Executive Session ended at 7:59 PM with No Action Taken.
 - 16.1 **Legal:** No Action Taken.
 - 16.2 **Personnel:** No Action Taken.
 - 16.3 **Real Estate:** No Action Taken.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:00 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie