

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

7:00 PM

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

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

Members Absent: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman.

Also Present Remotely: Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director.

CALL TO ORDER: J. Ortiz Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm.

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** J. Ortiz read the rules of conduct for hybrid virtual meetings.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the AGENDA as Presented. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024.** W. O'Brien noted that in Executive Session the minutes should reflect that he left Executive Session at 7:52 PM. J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024 with the correction noted by W. O'Brien. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.1 with L. Napolitano Abstaining.
5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 **Regional Animal Control (Columbia, Hebron & Andover).** M. Walter said funding through the Capital Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) is being provided to help towns create regional animal control and to upgrade their pounds to state standards. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between Columbia, Hebron and Andover was provided to the Board of Selectmen. We are still working with CIRMA on indemnity for shared employees between towns and on the budget. CRCOG is providing \$80,000 to Columbia and Hebron to upgrade their dog pounds to state standards. Hebron will own the equipment and the employees.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 7.1 **Storm and Infrastructure Upgrade Requirements.** M. Walter explained that a letter was sent to Senator Murphy on the damage to the town's roads due to the recent heavy rain events and flooding. M. Walter explained that he is asking the Board of Selectmen for \$250,000 for engineering design for at least two of the projects listed below. M. Walter said that he has an appointment with CRCOG to discuss applying for grant assistance for hazard mitigation funding. The roads/culverts are listed below.

- **Doubleday Road:** The whole road is failing because the corrugated metal drainage pipe is rusted out and it is undersize. The drainage system is the entire full length of the road. When flooding occurs, it undermines the road, and the road is collapsing. The estimated construction and engineering costs is \$5 million.
- **Pine Street:** The two pipes are undersized for the size of the stream and watershed drainage area and would need to be upgraded to a box culvert. The estimated cost for construction is \$1.2 million with estimated engineering costs of \$125,000 for a total of \$1.325 million.
- **Thompson Hill Road:** The 48-inch pipe culvert is too small and will need an upgrade to a box culvert. The estimated construction cost is \$850,000 with estimated engineering costs of \$100,000 for a total of \$950,000.
- **Latham Hill Bridge:** Five pipes make up the bridge which is set too low and floods almost every rain event. The elevation of the road would have to be raised to elevate the issue of consistent flooding. The estimated construction cost is \$2 million with engineering costs of \$200,000 for a total of \$2.2 million.

7.2 **Set Town Meeting to Appropriate \$250,000 towards Engineering and Design for Road Repair and Culvert Upgrades.** W. O'Brien MOVED to Set a Town Meeting for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:45 PM in Adella G. Urban Conference Room to appropriate and transfer \$250,000 from the Town of Columbia General Fund to the Capital Account Box Culvert Replacement/Repair (COA#20-6187-004) for Engineering and Design for Road Repair and Culvert Upgrades. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

8. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:** None.

9. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:** None.

10. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** None.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

12. **BUDGET:**

12.1 **Transfers:** None.

12.2 **Refunds:** None.

13. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Payment of Bills Totaling \$142,443.44, consisting of 2023-2024 Regular, Credit Card, and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

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

15. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).** J. Ortiz MOVED to Enter into Executive Session at

7:15 PM and invited Mark Walter, Town Administrator and Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director to join the Executive Session. Executive Session ended at 7:30 pm with no action taken. Regular meeting resumed at 7:31 pm.

- 16.1 **Real Estate:** J. Ortiz MOVED to Authorize Mark Walter, Town Administrator to enter into a contract with Barton & Loguidice for Professional Engineering Services for the amount of \$9,000 to prepare a conceptual plan for a potential senior housing development. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
- 16.2 **Personnel:** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Appointment of Timothy Stearn for the position of Highway Maintainer. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Ortiz MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:36 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie