

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
With BUDGET WORKSHOP  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
7:00 PM**

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

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

**Also Present:** Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director.

**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. NEW BUSINESS:**
  - 3.1 2024-2025 Budget Review Workshop.** B. Ciurylo and M. Walter reviewed the Revenues and Expenditures for the FY 24/25 budget.

Revenues: Revenues are down \$21,000 mainly due to Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP). M. Walter explained that we have an options for the LoCIP funds of \$155,000. We could use the funds towards the maintenance garage we built at Rec Park, or we could hold the funds next year for the engineering of the culvert projects. B. Ciurylo said she will confirm that the funds can be used for engineering and design fees.

B. Ciurylo explained that LoCIP is an entitlement, and all towns get it every year. We would not lose the funds if we carried it forward to next year. We have five years to go back on kind prior or projects. It has to be a capital project. Discussion ensued and the decision to move the funds forward to next year will be finalized on the March 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting.

B. Ciurylo said she will need to follow up on the proposed Special Ed Grant (ECS) for \$112,000. She said we may need to reduce the number because it depends on what kids will be eligible next year.

Discussion ensued regarding raising the Transfer Station fees. The consensus was to propose raising the fees by \$10.00, effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The standard permit price (2 stickers) is \$50 per household for non-seniors and \$20 per household for seniors (62 and over).

## **Expenditures:**

Saxton B. Little Library: M. Walter explained that the Library took into consideration the discount on the medical and they will spend on supplies with this year's, cutting the budget by \$12,500. Total revised request is \$464,366, with a .5% decrease.

Increase in the Registrar of Voters due to early voting changes.

Increase in the Assessors Professional Tech line because we no longer will be getting the GPS service for free.

**Capital Budget & Capital Reserve Fund Plan:** Discussion ensued regarding the road resurfacing and culvert repairs and starting a road committee.

Dam Mitigation & Repairs: Budget appropriation for FY 24/25 is \$5,000. The projected spending balance for FY 24/25 is \$49,940. It was determined after the diver looked at the dam gate that it is more of a maintenance repair. The RFP specs will need to be rewritten and put back out to bid.

Marine Patrol Replacement: Budget appropriation for FY 24/25 is \$10,000. The marine patrol boat is over 20 years old and has a slow leak. The funding has been put in place to purchase a new boat in the future.

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department: Budget appropriation for FY 24/25 has been reduced from \$321,070 to \$271,070 at a \$50,000 reduction.

## **Grants and Subsidies:**

AHM increased by \$2,182. The initial total increase was \$16,193, but with the reduction in the Saxton B. Little Library to total increase is \$2,675.

**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).** S. Everett MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 7:59 pm and invited Mark Walter, Town Administrator. Exited Executive Session at 8:39 pm with no action taken.

3.2 **Personnel:** No Action Taken.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:40 pm.