

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING  
May 14, 2024  
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 Yeoman's Hall on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Present were Board of Selectmen (BOS) members Steven M. Everett, First Selectman, Judith S. Ortiz, Deputy First Selectman, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano and William O'Brien. Members of the Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) in attendance were Jeffrey J. Viens, Chairman, Judith A. Jordan, Vice Chair, James Chakulski, Stephen Cooke, Art Rowbotham and Richard J. Szegda. Members of the Board of Education (BOE) in attendance were Michael M. Maziarz, Chairman, Christine Sposito, Vice Chair, Stephania Dawiczuk, Rachel Riendeau, and Paul Zator. Town Administrator Mark Walter, Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo and School Superintendent Barbara Wilson were also in attendance.

MODERATOR: Mark A Vining  
ASSISTANT CLERK: Karen C Butzgy  
CITIZENS: ±88 Present (including Board members)

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Steven M. Everett at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Steven M. Everett turned the meeting over to the Moderator who read the legal and explained the procedures for this meeting. He 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 for a motion.

Steven M. Everett made the following motion:

“I move to approve the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Annual Budget (Board of Selectmen and Board of Education) that was presented at the FiPAC Budget Public Hearing on April 25, 2024.”

The motion was seconded by Carmen Vance.

The floor was opened up for discussion. Steven M. Everett, First Selectman, thanked the BOS, Town Administrator, BOE and FiPAC for their hard work on this budget. This was a tough budget amidst a tough economy, but he feels this budget meets the needs of the citizens. He was proud of the work from all three boards, and he would like to see this budget approved. Carmen Vance agreed with the comments made by the First Selectman.

The Moderator opened the floor to the public for discussion. Paul Kubala, 37 Lake Road, commented about the increases in the budget and asked specifically about the line item in the BOE budget for athletics. Barbara Wilson, Superintendent, explained what that line would be used for.

With no further discussion, a paper ballot vote was taken on the motion to accept the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as so proposed. The results of the paper ballot vote were announced by the Moderator as follows:

YES: 69      NO: 18      ABSTAIN: 1  
(Vote consisted of qualified voters)

The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen C. Butzgy  
Assistant Town Clerk