

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
Immediately Following the Town Meeting at 6:45 PM
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Topic: Board of Selectmen Meeting

Time: Feb 6, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84352334813>

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This is a hybrid public meeting. The public can attend in-person or electronically. The information provided in this agenda contains the link to access the meeting electronically.

The public may view the video recording of the meeting on YouTube at "[Town of Columbia, CT](#)" Please allow approximately 48 business hours after the meeting for the video to be published.

For public input before the meeting, please email your comments to PublicInput@columbiact.org prior to 24 hours before the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** *This meeting will be held both in-person and virtual. This session is being both video and audio recorded. Board members and staff who are joining virtually will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. If a member of the public joining virtually creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the First Selectman. If attending virtually, public comments during the meeting can be submitted through the "Chat" feature in or wave your hand and request your mic to be un-muted. PLEASE INCLUDE IN BOTH METHODS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.*
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2024.

5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 7.1 TextMyGov Presentation and Approval to use ARPA Funds.
 - 7.2 Approval to use ARPA Funds for HVAC in Yeomans Hall and Land Use Department.
 - 7.3 Approval to create fund for the Columbia Art Council.
 - 7.4 Approval of the price quote for Transfer Station services.
8. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
 - 8.1 Application to conduct repairs on stone seawall for Mrs. Frances Lynch, 46 Erdoni Road, Columbia, CT.
 - 8.2 Application to place a veneer and cap on their existing concrete lake wall for Mrs. and Mrs. Eric and Tracy Sodergren, 166 Route 87, Columbia, CT.
 - 8.3 Application to repair dock and rock removal for Chris Ramm Lower Woodland Terrace, Columbia, CT.
9. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
 - 9.1 Brian Smith, promotion to full-time Highway Maintainer.
 - 9.2 Appointment of Andrew Walter as Assistant Animal Control Officer.
10. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
 - 10.1 2024/2025 Budget Highlights.
 - 10.2 2023 Grand List Overview.
 - 10.3 Revised Hunt Road Bridge Schedule.
 - 10.4 Sustainability CT Kick Off Meeting February 29th at 6:00 PM.
11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 11.1 The Willimantic Chronicle
 - Quality of life key for Columbia.
 - 11.2 CT State Trooper Monthly Report for January 2024.
 - 11.3 Letter from Board of Education Official Announcement of Barbara Wilson as the Superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools.
12. **BUDGET:**
 - 12.1 Transfers:
 - 12.2 Refunds:
13. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**
14. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**
15. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
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).**
17. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**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

TextMyGov

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Make it easy for citizens to:

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Citizens can easily find information and get their questions answered by texting in keywords.

Smart texting answers questions instantly with an automatic response 24/7.

Q/A Keyword Texting Examples:

Office Hours, Contact, Park Reservations, Pay Utilities

Report Issues

Citizens can text in keywords to report issues on the go.

Smart texting guides the user through the process, gaining intel on type of issue, address, detail, and even allows citizens to upload a picture of it. Once the issue is reported, it is sent to the correct department for review.

Reporting Keyword Texting Examples:

Safety Issue, Pothole, Animal Control

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Citizens can opt-in to receive alerts, news, and events directly to their phone.

Mass Texting Examples:

Road Closures, Community Celebrations, Council Updates



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Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text STOP at any time to opt-out. Text HELP for contact info

1305 2/6/24

Dear Members of the Board of Selectman,

I am writing to request that the Town of Columbia provide yearly funding for the Columbia Arts Council for this year. An amount of \$500 or more for 2024 to finance our various projects and promote the arts in our town would be extremely helpful.

The Columbia Arts Council was formed initially as part of Sustainable CT. Of the many committees that were formed, thanks to a few dedicated members, it has persisted, without a budget for the last few years, relying on volunteers and limited by lack of funds.

Bill and Melissa Rood arranged an Open Mic event in Columbia at the Beckish Senior Center during COVID. Through their generosity, they donated their musical talents. Bringing in musicians without paying them is not feasible.

We recently formed a Columbia Plein Air Artists group of a dozen members. This group initially supported the efforts of the Columbia Historical Society Garden Walk Fund Raiser. This group is growing and is an asset to the community. Through participation and exhibits, we can bring attention to our community. We are limited without funding.

I hope you will consider our request for this coming year.

Sincerely,

Kim Kordonowy, Member of the Columbia Arts Council

Town of Columbia
American Relief Funds

Eligible costs must be incurred between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024
Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 AND expended by December 31, 2026

Report Period: June 2021 thru January 11, 2024

Account Number	Account Description	Original Budget	Additional Allocation	Adjustment to close project	Current Year Budgeted	Current Year Expenditure	Encumbrances	Balance Remaining
24-7300-001	ARPA Rec Park Facility Bldg	225,000.00		(850.47)	224,149.53	224,149.53		-
24-7300-002	ARPA DPW Portable Radios	37,000.00	1,800.00	(92.76)	38,707.24	38,707.24		-
24-7300-003	ARPA CVFD Exhaust System Upgrade	12,000.00			12,000.00	12,000.00		-
24-7300-004	ARPA CVFD Audio/Visual System	27,627.00			27,627.00	27,627.00		-
24-7300-005	ARPA CVFD Mobilie Radios	80,000.00	162.00	(0.10)	80,161.90	80,161.90		(0.00)
24-7300-006	ARPA CVFD HVAC	18,832.00			18,832.00	18,832.00		-
24-7300-007	CVFD VOIP System	11,055.00			11,055.00	11,055.00		-
24-7300-008	Moor's Indian Sch-Paint&Repair	16,900.00		(2,050.00)	14,850.00	14,850.00		-
24-7300-009	Town Hall HVAC System	46,000.00		(1,505.00)	44,495.00	44,495.00		-
24-7300-010	Senior Center Generator	25,000.00	13,000.00		38,000.00	22,220.00	13,653.00	2,127.00 Generator Ordered; pending status
24-7300-011	Murphy House Bathrm Upgrades	20,000.00			20,000.00	3,144.32	3,300.00	13,555.68 Started- Security Cameras
24-7300-012	DPW 1999 Dump Trk Replacement	245,000.00			245,000.00		228,178.80	16,821.20 Revised PO
24-7300-013	DPW Site Survey & Site Plan	20,000.00		(14,640.10)	5,359.90	5,359.90		-
24-7300-014	History Place Masonry/Repair	7,200.00	(400.00)		6,800.00	6,800.00		- Completed
24-7300-015	CVFD Roof Replacement/Repair	60,000.00		(5,975.66)	54,024.34	54,024.34		- Completed
24-7300-016	Senior Center Sidewalks	6,500.00			6,500.00		7,489.00	(989.00) Spring 2024; pending add'l appropriation
24-7300-017	Rec Park Courts New/Upgrades	146,000.00			146,000.00	143,640.34		2,359.66 Completed
24-7300-018	DPW Office Building	298,824.00			298,824.00	293,080.03	17,280.80	(11,536.83) Completed and waiting Final CO; Bestway needs to be paid for Fire
24-7300-019	DPW Mini-Excavator	90,000.00		(4,040.00)	85,960.00	85,960.00		-
24-7300-020	CVFD Command Vehicle	100,000.00	(20,000.00)		80,000.00	75,412.38	-	4,587.62 Completed
24-7300-021	CVFD Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	87,740.00		(19.04)	87,720.96	87,720.96		-
American Relief Funds (24) Totals		1,580,678.00	(5,438.00)	(29,173.13)	1,546,066.87	1,249,239.94	269,901.60	26,925.33

American Relief Funds

1st Tranche - received June 2021		795,959.09
2nd Tranche - Received September 2022	273,555.25	
2nd Tranche - Received October 2022	522,403.84	795,959.09
		1,591,918.18

Less:

Total Expenditures Paid	1,249,239.94
Total Open Encumbrances/Purchase Orders	269,901.60
Total Project Balances on Open Projects	26,925.33
Net Allocated to Projects	1,546,066.87

Total ARPA Funds available excluding interest earned & any funds left over from projects 45,851.31

Total ARPA Tranches	1,591,918.18	
Total Projected Costs	1,546,066.87	
Available ARPA Funds	45,851.31	
Interest Earned up to June 2023	32,919.44	September to December interest needs to be posted
Net available ARPA Funds + Interest	78,770.75	



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway
Columbia, Connecticut 06237

Mary F. Hawley, CCMA II
(860) 228-9555
(860) 228-2335 Fax
Email: mhawley@columbiact.org

Mon., Tues., Wed. .8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday .8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday .8:00 am to Noon

To: Mark Walter
Town Administrator
From: Mary Hawley,
Assessor
Date: January 24, 2024

Subject: 2023 GL Overview

This is a summary regarding the 2023 Grand List.

- Real Estate- Columbia only added two new homes and a cottage this year for new construction. The Building Department had a list of eight homes completed this year, however I had already added five of them last year. We did have four new homes however, they were only at foundation phase as of 10/1/2023. The rest of the 2,510,620 increase (.41% after exemptions) increase was due to a large number of smaller permits for additions, kitchen remodels, decks, and pools. We lost 227,330 in farm building assessments.
- Motor Vehicles- Columbia had a 5.17 % decrease. I emailed my association, and it seems many towns have similar losses. Plainfield had a 6% reduction. Please see more below.
- Personal Property- Most of Columbias increase (3.08%) took place in the manufacturing accounts so they came right back out as exemptions. We lost 139 accounts leaving us with a negative .01% Most of those lost were just unregistered motor vehicles and small home-based businesses. More people filed on time, lowering our penalty number by 43,362.

I spoke with the assessor in Lebanon, and she told me her motor vehicles went down 5.8 %. She is in a revaluation year so I cannot compare real estate. She said her personal property is up but only because Eversource did something in their town. She also assesses for Pomfret where the real estate is up only by .4% and motor vehicles down by about 4.2%. She said her Grand List overall is flat.

Killingly assessor said her motor vehicles are down 6.07 % and personal property down by 7.20%

Hebron has a new assessor who is not done with her list but said motor vehicles are down 6%.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

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323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway
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Thursday .8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday .8:00 am to Noon

January 24,2024

Steven Everett, First Selectman
Mark Walter, Town Administrator
Beverly Ciurylo, Fiscal Manager
Town of Columbia

Enclosed are the Grand List figures for October 1, 2023, a comparison of the 2022 and 2023 Grand Lists, and a list of the top ten taxpayers for Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles.

I have also included a pie chart illustrating the percentage breakdown of Residential and Commercial Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Hawley, CCMA II
Assessor



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway
Columbia, Connecticut 06237

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GRAND LIST OF 2023

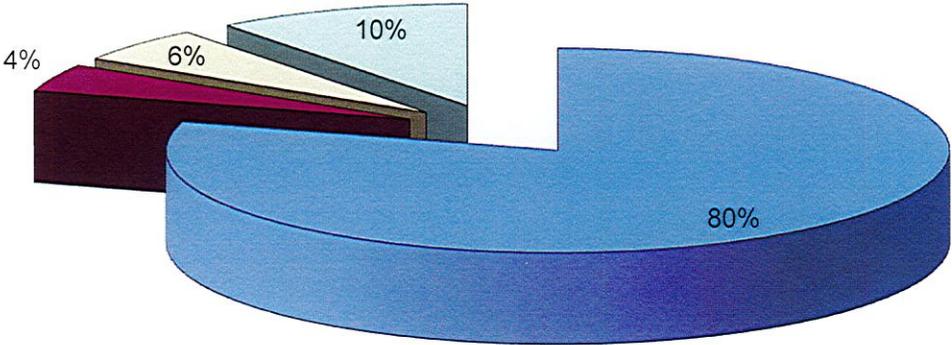
<u>REALTY</u>	\$ 498,537,100
<u>PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>	\$ 33,151,978
<u>MOTOR VEHICLES</u>	\$ 62,379,235
	<hr/>
	\$ 594,068,313
<u>WOODLAND (10 MILLS)</u>	\$ 10,640
	<hr/>
2023 NET GRAND LIST	\$ 594,078,953
2022 NET GRAND LIST	\$ 595,264,188
DECREASE IN ASSESSED VALUE	-\$1,185,235
PERCENTAGE DECREASE	-.20 %

Mary F. Hawley, CCMA II, #1443
Assessor
1/24/2024

		Motor Vehicles			
	Number	Gross		Net	
Grand List	Accounts	Asmt	Exemptions	Asmt	
2023	6360	\$63,055,735	\$676,500	\$62,379,235	
2022	6311	\$66,448,073	\$845,868	\$65,602,205	
Difference	49	-\$3,392,338	-\$169,368	-\$3,222,970	
Percent Change	0.77%	-5.38%	-25.04%	-5.17%	
		Personal Property			
	Number	Gross		Net	
Grand List	Accounts	Asmt	Exemptions	Asmt	
2023	332	\$41,125,048	\$7,973,070	\$33,151,978	
2022	341	\$39,897,333	\$6,742,100	\$33,155,233	
Difference	-9	\$1,227,715	\$1,230,970	-\$3,255	
Percent Change	-2.64%	3.08%	18.26%	-0.01%	
		Real Estate			
	Number	Gross		Net	
Grand List	Accounts	Asmt	Exemptions	Asmt	
2023	2637	\$530,928,290	\$32,380,550	\$498,547,740	
2022	2638	\$528,417,670	\$31,910,920	\$496,506,750	
Difference	-1	\$2,510,620	\$469,630	\$2,040,990	
Percent Change	-0.04%	0.48%	1.47%	0.41%	
Net GL 2023	\$594,078,953				
Net GL 2022	\$595,264,188				
Total Asmt Decrease	-\$1,185,235				
Motor Vehicle	-\$3,222,970				
Personal Property	-\$3,255				
Real Estate	\$2,040,990				
Total	-\$1,185,235				
Total Net Decrease	-\$1,185,235				
Percent Decrease	-0.20%				

NAME	ASSESSMENT	# ACCOUNTS
REAL ESTATE		
SROA 2 COMMERCE CT LLC <i>STORAGE</i>	2,415,280	1
DNB LLC	2,061,570	2
TOURGATE REALTY INC	1,465,520	2
ENGLERT ALICE M TRUSTEE	1,218,280	4
OSWA LLC	1,217,860	3
CROWN CABLE TOWERS 09 LLC	1,210,650	1
CARTER MARTHA J & ROICKLE MARY A	1,117,480	4
CORNERSTONE OF COLUMBIA LLC	1,046,080	2
THE BIG WHITE HOUSE LLC	1,030,190	2
KASICA GENE	932,820	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,715,730	27
PERSONAL PROPERTY		
CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER CO	26,163,410	1
EA PATTEN COMPANY	4,470,470	1
COLUMBIA MANUFACTURING INC	4,279,380	1
ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION CO	629,210	1
HAWK INTEGRATED PLASTICS LLC	527,140	1
OLENDERS OF COLUMBIA	362,020	1
COLUMBIA FORD INC	355,740	1
U-HAUL CO OF CONNECTICUT INC	294,870	1
WH AUTOMOTIVE INC	239,750	1
MIDSTATE EXCAVATION	150,238	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37,472,228	10
MOTOR VEHICLE		
HYUNDAI LEASE TITLING TRUST	659,780	32
TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	500,590	19
ERICS LANDSCAPING AND TREE SERVICE LLC	482,240	1
SCHATZ TRANSPORT INC	445,770	14
COLUMBIA FORD INC	432,260	14
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA	425,280	19
NISSAN INFINITI LT LLC	377,710	19
CHOWANEC WELL DRILLING LLC	343,320	5
HONDA LEASE TRUST	248,990	11
ACAR LEASING LTD	214,730	9
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GRAND LIST 10/1/23



- RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
- COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
- PERSONAL PROPERTY
- MOTOR VEHICLES

BOVE BROTHERS LLC – HUNT ROAD BRIDGE SCHEDULE

TASK	DATE RANGE
Mobilization	12/15/23 – 12/22/23
Close Road	12/18/23 – 4/17/24
Erosion Control Clearing and Grubbing	12/19/24 – 12/21/24
Installation of TRES and cofferdam	2/5/24 – 2/9/24
Installation of bypass pump/dewatering system	2/12/24 – 2/13/24
Removal of Existing Culvert	2/14/24 – 2/19/24
Excavation	2/14/24 – 2/19/24
Installation of New Box Culvert/Waterproofing	2/20/24 – 3/11/24
Backfill	2/20/24 – 3/11/24
Asphalt Paving & Markings	3/1/24 – 3/5/24
Landscape and Site Restoration	3/12/24 – 3/28/24
Traffic Control/Surveying/Record Drawings	3/27/24 – 4/17/24
Open Road	3/27/24 – 4/17/24



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
& PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE**



Lieutenant Adam Litwin #064
Commanding Officer

M/Sgt Shawn Mansfield #078
Executive Officer

Troop K – Colchester

February 1, 2024

Steven Everett
First Selectman
323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway
Columbia, CT 06237

Dear Steven Everett,

This correspondence is an effort to keep you apprised of the monthly police services occurring within the Town of Columbia.

During the month of **January 2024**, the Columbia Resident Trooper as well as Troop K Troopers responded to **195** Calls for Service in the Town of Columbia. Of these Calls for Service, the most notable are:

Total Calls for Service	Total Calls This Year	
195	195	
	January 2024	YTD
Accidents	11	11
Criminal Investigations	10	10
Burglaries	0	0
Larcenies	0	0
Non Reportable Matters	148	148
Total Arrests	2	2

Motor Vehicle Enforcement*:	JAN	YTD
Total Traffic Stops	29	29
Onsite DUI's	0	0
Arrests	0	0
Misdemeanor Summons	4	4
Infractions	14	14
Written Warnings	7	7
Verbal Warnings	4	4

Respectfully,

LT Adam Litwin #064

Lieutenant Adam Litwin #064
Commanding Officer
Connecticut State Police – Troop K

15a Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT 06415
Phone: (860) 465-5400
Fax: (860) 465-5450



BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT

Michael Maziarz, Chairperson
Stephania Dawiczki
Lauren Habeman
Leah Osborn
Rachel Riendeau
Christine Sposito, V. Chari, Secy
Paul Zator
Barbara Wilson, Interim Superintendent
Scott Leslie, Interim Asst. Superintendent

The Columbia School District is a community of leaders providing rigorous programs to ensure that each student can excel as an individual

January 31, 2024

Dear Columbia Families, Staff, and Community,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well.

I am excited to officially announce Barbara Wilson as the Superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools. At the Board of Education meeting on January 9, 2024, the Board unanimously voted to remove the title of "interim" and officially appoint Barbara Wilson as the Superintendent effective February 1, 2024.

Throughout her time in Columbia, first as the Director of Pupil Services and most recently as the Interim Superintendent, we have seen first-hand Barbara's knowledge and skill as an educator and a leader. She has prioritized academics and consistently supports the outstanding staff and students we have at Horace W. Porter. She has worked closely with the Board of Education, FiPac, and the Board of Selectmen to develop budgets over the past two years that provide our staff and students with what they need to be successful while being fiscally responsible to our town and its citizens. This work has included writing grants, sitting on committees, working with the state, and neighboring towns to provide ongoing improvements to the building to provide a safe learning environment for all. She has engaged with families and stakeholders to address the needs of our district through collaboration and communication. She has done so in times of peace, and in times of crisis, all the while maintaining a positive, calm, professional demeanor and having the utmost compassion for others. For all of her successes to be possible, she has relied on her most important attribute of all, that she loves our students, our staff, and our community, and is invested in the future of Columbia through the foundation of building positive relationships.

All members of the Board of Education were in full agreement that there was no need for the town to spend money on acquiring a search firm, nor was it necessary to waste months of time on a search when we already had the right person. That person was already doing the job, and doing an exceptional job at that. Barbara Wilson has the respect of our staff, our students, our families, and our community, and she has the full support of the Board of Education. We often say that "every decision is made in the best interest of the kids". Along with our staff, and families, Barbara Wilson exemplifies that sentiment.

We look forward to having Barbara lead our district for many years to come and congratulate her on this well-deserved appointment.

Sincerely,

Columbia Board of Education