REGULAR MEETING AGENDA COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:00 PM Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Topic: BOS Meeting Time: Feb 20, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87439013555</u> Meeting ID: 874 3901 3555

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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 "<u>Town of Columbia, CT</u>" 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 <u>PublicInput@columbiact.org</u> 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 February 6 2024.

5. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- 6.1 2024/2025 Budget Review Workshop
 - a) Beckish Senior Center
 - **b**) Department of Public Works
- 6.2 Other Budget Discussions.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- 7.1 Discussion Regarding Speeding on Columbia Roads.
- 7.2 American Relief Funds-Closeouts and Additional Funding on Projects.

8. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:

9. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 9.1 Mary Kay Hyman, Board Clerk, Completion of 6-month Probation.
- 9.2 Appointment of Anyka Fegan as Interim Recreation Director.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- **10.1** Friends of Mono Pond Applied for a Grant \$37,500 for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species.
- **10.2** Proposed Bill No. 63 Authorize State of CT to Purchase Camp Laurel.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- **11.1** The Willimantic Chronicle
 - Library Director wants to connect.
 - Eco Tourism boost for Columbia

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).
- 16.1 Personnel:
- **17. ADJOURNMENT:**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 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

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

Members Present Remotely: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman.

Also Present: Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director; Marc Morgan, Strategic Account Manager- Municipal Services for Casella Waste Systems, Scott Haddad, Columbia Fire Chief, Guy Wagner & David Geissert, Members of Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee; Ann Dunnack.

Also Present Remotely: Beth Lunt, DPW Director; Brad Evanson, TextMyGov Representative; Jerry James, Emergency Management Director; Barbara Wilson, Horace Porter School Superintendent.

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 a hybrid virtual meeting.
- 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited previously in the Town Meeting..
- **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the AGENDA as Presented. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **4.1 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2024.** J. Ortiz MOVED TO APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2024. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
- 6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 **TextMyGov Presentation and Approval to use ARPA Funds.** M. Walter explained that TextMyGov is smart texting technology that allows citizens to ask questions and get immediate responses, find links to information on the town's website, address problems, report any issues and upload photos. The technology allows the town to push notifications to citizens that are signed up regarding events, road closures, transfer station hours, etc.

Ann Dunnack asked if a resident texted a question would it go out to the entire group that signed up for TextMyGov. M. Walter said no that would not happen.

J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the purchase of TextMyGov, Smart Text Technology using ARPA money for \$6,750. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 7.2 Approval to use ARPA Funds for HVAC in Yeomans Hall and Land Use Department. M. Walter said that there will be three units installed. Two units would be for Yeomans Hall and the other unit would be replacing the old unit it the Building Department. J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the use of ARPA funding for the installation of HVAC systems in Yeomans Hall and Land Use Department for \$16,500. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- **7.3 Approval to create fund for the Columbia Art Council.** M. Walter said last year the Board of Selectmen authorized the creation of an Art Council. A special fund will be set up specifically for the Art Council. A resident donated \$500.00 to kick off the account. J. Ortiz MOVED to Create a Fund for the Columbia Art Council. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7.4 Approval of the price quote for Transfer Station services. Marc Morgan, Strategic Account Manager- Municipal Services for Casella Waste Systems explained the proposed contract pricing. He said the cost of recycling is attached to a market index (pulp and paper index). There is value per ton of recycling material and Casella deducts the value of that ton from the process. That value is updated monthly, and that number adjusts constantly. M. Morgan said the proposed contract with Columbia would be a fixed rate of 3% for three years.

J. Ortiz asked if the Town of Columbia is doing a good job with recycling. M. Morgan said that Casella will be working with the community on improving the information on recycling. M. Morgan said he has worked with 82 communities, and Columbia does a great job and is managing it very well. C. Lent asked about the reduction in recycling with aluminum cans due to doubling of the cost? M. Morgan said Casella does not support bottle bill legislation. The closest redemption center is in Woodstock.

M. Walter explained the proposal terms: Pricing provided is for year 1 beginning July 1, 2024. All subsequent years of the contract will be subject to annual increases as outlined below:

All tipping fees will be increased on July 1 of each year of the Term by a percentage equal to the greater of (a) 5.0% or (b) Consumer Price Index for garbage and trash collection.

J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the multi-year proposal for the Transfer Station Services. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

8. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:

8.1 Application to conduct repairs on stone seawall for Mrs. Frances Lynch, 46 Erdoni Road, Columbia, CT. J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Application to conduct repairs on the stone seawall for Frances Lynch at 46 Erdoni Rd upon the recommendation set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.1 with S. Everett Abstaining.

- 8.2 Application to place a veneer and cap on their existing concrete lake wall for Mrs. and Mr. Eric and Tracy Sodergren, 166 Route 87, Columbia, CT. J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Application to place a veneer and cap on the existing concrete lake wall for Eric & Tracy Sodergren at 166 Route 87 upon the recommendation set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.1 with S. Everett Abstaining.
- **8.3** Application to repair dock and rock removal for Chris Ramm Lower Woodland Terrace, Columbia, CT. J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Application to repair a dock and rock removal for Chris Ramm, Lower Woodland Terrace upon the recommendation set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.1 with S. Everett Abstaining.

9. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- **9.1** Brian Smith, promotion to full-time Highway Maintainer. J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE Promoting Brian Smith to a full-time Highway Maintainer. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- **9.2** Appointment of Andrew Walter as Assistant Animal Control Officer. J. Ortiz MOVED to Appoint Andrew Walter as Assistant Animal Control Officer. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

10.1 2024/2025 Budget Highlights. M. Walter said the Board of Selectmen operating costs increase \$97,283 or 1.93%. This does not take into consideration any salary modifications. We have not received any information from the state on revenue.

M. Walter reviewed some highlights in operating costs, grants & subsidies:

- **Information Technology:** There are some projects that will be completed this year, so this will bring the budget down a little bit. The will be an IT representative that will be available at the town once a week. Previously it was every other week.
- **Registrar of Voters:** Increase of \$4,400 because of costs associated with the presidential election and early voting.
- Assessor's Office: Increase of \$7,700. GIS was done for many years by CRCOG at no costs. We now have to pay for GIS. Additional new set of manuals have to be purchased.
- **Beckish Senior Center:** Decrease of \$5,400. The Senior Center car lease was paid off. Fuel and electrical usage is down.
- **Fire Department:** Increase of \$4,850 or 1.58%.
- **Fire Marshal:** Increase of \$5,400 consisting of \$5,000 due to equipment.
- **Department of Public Works:** Total increase of \$23,000. An increase of \$12,000 for repairs and maintenance and an increase of \$8,600 for Contracted Services.
- **Waste Disposal Services:** Increase of \$48,000 mainly due to the increase in Contracted Services.
- **Library Services:** Increase of \$11,000. That will be coming down a little bit once the health care cost is decreased from 8% to 5%.
- Lake Management Advisory Commission: Increase of \$12,600 due to an increase in testing.

• **Grants and Subsidies:** Most grants remained the same. Salmon River was up by \$100.00 for more watershed testing. WRTD held with no increase. TVCAA had a small increase of \$43, AHM is up by \$2,182 or 4.19%. Increase of \$3,850 or 1.47% due to an increase in physicals. S. Everett asked for a cost analysis, usage stats, and how many clients WRTD is serving in Columbia.

M. Walter reviewed Capital.

• Culvert Replacement/Repair: Future projects for culverts and road repair will need to be prioritized because of the recent damage due to flooding. Doubleday Rd. is one example of road damage that will need to be prioritized because the old drainage pipes have rusted out and the road has started to collapse. The FY 23/24 Capital increase budget appropriation was \$1,050,000. For FY 24/25 the proposed budget appropriation is \$1,157,000. M. Walter explained that the real issue the town is looking at is when you start looking it all these culverts we have to repair those numbers add up to a staggering amount. M. Walter said that we are working off a list of six culverts, of which two have just been authorized for engineering design. The Department of Public Works has replaced the culvert on Erdoni Rd.

B. Lunt explained that metal piping has a lifespan of 50 years, and the corrugated piping is rusting. Due to development on Pine St. and Thompson Hill Rd. the water table has changed the watersheds, and the capacity of those pipes are no longer sufficient, so the road has overtopped multiple times. Both those culverts have been rebuilt twice and they've taken out a good quarter of the road and embankment.

C. Lent asked assuming we get the grant for the HVAC project at the school, is there the potential to package the road/culvert projects with the HVAC project for bonding. M. Walter said yes, by getting the worst roads/culverts engineered we can get bids on the repairs and get authorization for bonding.

B. Lunt said that Doubleday Road is a priority and in this budget we already have \$100,000 for engineering.

Scott Haddad, Columbia Volunteer Fire Chief said the Fire Department has a 1% increase in Operating costs. The Capital will be going down because of the grant for the forestry truck and reduction of equipment..

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) would like to have the Department of Public Works and the Beckish Senior Center to present their budgets at the next BOS meeting on February 20, 2024.

- **10.2 2023 Grand List Overview.** Motor vehicle lost 6% value mostly due to values went down after the pandemic. Grand List is down .2%. Personal property value went up xxx.
- **10.3 Revised Hunt Road Bridge Schedule.** The construction schedule for the Hunt Road Bridge project has been pushed out until 4/17/24 due to weather.
- **10.4 Sustainability CT Kick Off Meeting February 29th at 6:00 PM.** The kick-off meeting for Sustainable CT will be on February 29th at 6:00 PM in the conference room at Town Hall. We are looking to restart our Sustainable CT Initiative and are looking for volunteers. Ace Riker, Sustainable CT Equity Coach will be available

to speak to us regarding the Optimize for Equity portion of the Sustainable CT initiative.

- 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: None.
 - 12.2 Refunds: None.
- **13. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the PAYMENT of BILLS Totaling \$101,743.64, consisting of 2023/2024 Emergency, 2023-2024 Regular, Credit Card & Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 14. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: None.
- **15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** J. Ortiz asked about the boathouse. M. Walter we are still waiting for final approval from the insurance company. We have a builder ready to go.
- 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). None.
- **17. ADJOURNMENT:** J. Ortiz MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:25 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

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 February 16, 2024

		Orignal	Additional	Adjustment	Current Year	Current Year		Balance	1
Account Number	Account Description	Budget	Allocation	to close project	Budgeted	Expenditure	Encumbrances	Remaining	
									-
4-7300-001	ARPA Rec Park Facility Bldg	225,000.00		(850.47)	224,149.53	224,149.53		-	
4-7300-002	ARPA DPW Portable Radios	37,000.00	1,800.00	(92.76)	38,707.24	38,707.24		-	
4-7300-003	ARPA CVFD Exhaust System Upgrade	12,000.00			12,000.00	12,000.00		-	
1-7300-004	ARPA CVFD Audio/Visual System	27,627.00			27,627.00	27,627.00		-	
1-7300-005	ARPA CVFD Mobilie Radios	80,000.00	162.00	(0.10)	80,161.90	80,161.90		(0.00)	
4-7300-006	ARPA CVFD HVAC	18,832.00	•	1 · · ·	18,832.00	18,832.00		-	·
-7300-007	CVFD VOIP System	11,055.00			11,055.00	11,055.00		-	
1-7300-008	Moor's Indian Sch-Paint&Repair	16,900.00		(2,050.00)	14,850.00	14,850.00		-	
-7300-009	Town Hall HVAC System	46,000.00		(1,505.00)	44,495.00	44,495.00		· _	
-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
4-7300-011	Murphy House Bathrm Upgrades	20,000.00	· · · · · · · · ·		20,000.00	3,144.32	3,300.00		Started- Security Cameras
1-7300-012	DPW 1999 Dump Trk Replacement	245,000,00			245,000.00	0,144.02	228,178.80		Revised PO; pending April delivery
4-7300-013	DPW Site Survey & Site Plan	20,000.00		(14,640,10)	5,359.90	5,359.90	220,170,00	10,021.20	Revised PO, pending April delivery
-7300-014	History Place Masonry/Repair	7,200.00	(400.00)	(14,040,10)	6,800.00	6,800.00		-	
1-7300-015	CVFD Roof Replacement/Repair	60,000.00	(-100.00)	(5,975.66)	54,024.34	54,024.34		-	
4-7300-016	Senior Center Sidewalks	6,500.00		(0,010,00)	6,500.00	04,024.0 4	7 400 00	-	Parise 0004 and the set ill
4-7300-017	Rec Park Courts New/Upgrades	146,000.00			146,000.00	442.040.04	7,489.00		Spring 2024; pending add'l appropriation
4-7300-018	DPW Office Building	298,824.00				143,640.34		2,359.66	Completed
4-7300-019	DPW Mini-Excavator	90,000.00		(4,040.00)	298,824.00 85,960.00	310,360.83		(11,536.83)	Completed
4-7300-020	CVFD Command Vehicle	100,000,00	(20,000.00)	(4,040.00)		85,960.00	•	-	A
4-7300-021	CVFD Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	87,740.00	(20,000.00)	. (10.04)	80,000.00	75,412.38	-	4,587.62	Completed
1-7300-022	TextMyGov Subscription Year 1	6,750.00		(19.04)	87,720.96	87,720.96			
4-7300-023	Yeomans Hall HVAC System	16,500.00			6,750.00 16,500.00	8,250.00	6,750.00 8,250.00	-	
-	American Relief Funds (24) Totals	1,603,928.00	(5,438.00)	(29,173.13)	1,569,316.87	1,274,770.74	267,620.80	00 005 00	
							207,020.80	26,925.33	•
		American Belief					207,020.00	20,925.33	•
		American Relief	Funds				207,020.80	26,925.33	• •
		1st Tranche - rece	Funds bived June 2021			795,959.09	287,520.80	26,925.33	•
		1st Tranche - rec 2nd Tranche - Re	Funds bived June 2021 ceived Septembe		273,555.25	795,959.09	267,620.00	20,925.33	-
		1st Tranche - rece	Funds bived June 2021 ceived Septembe				267,620.80	20,925.33	·
		1st Tranche - rec 2nd Tranche - Re	Funds bived June 2021 ceived Septembe		273,555.25	795,959.09 795,959.09	267,620.60	20,923.33	•
		1st Tranche - rece 2nd Tranche - Re 2nd Tranche - Re	Funds bived June 2021 ceived Septembe		273,555.25	795,959.09	267,820.60	<u>20,925.33</u>	
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Town of Columbia American Relief Funds Project Projects completed as of 02/16/24

Account #	Project Description		Approved Budget	٦	Fotal Expenditures		Balance Remaining
CLOSE OUT:			·				
24-7300-017	Rec Park Courts New/Upgrades	.\$	146,000.00	\$	143,640.34	\$	2,359.66 Completed
24-7300-020	CVFD Command Vehicle	\$	80,000.00	\$	75,412.38	\$	4,587.62 Completed
• • •						\$	-
Account #	Project Description		Approved Budget		Updated Budget		Revised Budget
REDUCTIONS						Ş	•
	NONE					\$	· _
	· · ·		4			\$	· _
ADDITIONS:						\$	-
24-7300-016	Senior Center Sidewalks	\$	6,500.00	\$	7,489.00	\$	(989.00) Pending completion in spring 2024
24-73600-018	DPW Office Building	\$	298,824.00	\$	310,360.83	\$	(11,536.83) Completed; need additional ARPA
						\$	- funds to close out
	Balance remaining to return to ARP Fund Balance	\$	531,324.00	\$	536,902.55	\$	(5,578.55)
						\$	(5,578.55)

Motion:

To approve the proposed closeout, reductions and additons of the above listed American Relief Funds projects as of 02/16/24. All funds from the proposed closed out projects will have the balance remaining returned to the American Relief Fund Balance and will be applied to future projects or projects that need additional funding to complete and/or close out the project.

Eco-tourism boost for Columbia?

JOHNNY URICCHIO @THECHRONICLECT

COLUMBIA — The towns of Columbia and Lebanon, along with the Connecticut Park and Trust For Public Land (TPL), worked together to acquire 600 acres of land to triple the size of Mono Pond State Park to 1,200.

This will end the possibility of future development on that land. Ann Dunnack, of the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Agriculture Committee, said acquiring this land allows the towns to connect the state park to the town of Hebron and be able to walk from one state park to another.

The Mono Pond State Park connects with the Airline State Park, where two trails go through Columbia on the borders. The Airline trail, owned by the State of Connecticut, is a linear state park that runs through 12 towns and is on the border between Columbia and Lebanon. The trail connects walkers, hikers, equestrians and bikers.

With those 600 acres acquired, the focus is now on driving more eco-tourism business opportunities. "A state park of this size

See MONO ON PAGE 4



People enjoy a summer day at Columbia Lake recently.

Mono Pond State Park increases in size by 600 acres

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and quality will draw people to Columbia," Dunnack said. "If people come to Columbia to join the state park, they need restaurants and a place to stay, so that would be an economic driver due to tourism."

The park could be an attractive destination for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bow hunting and wildlife viewing.

Dunnack said the TPL and the International Mountain Biking Association have recently completed a contract to develop a master plan for Mono Pond State Park.

"The master plan will include multi-purpose trades," Dunnack said. "It will involve a multi-use trail for mountain biking, equestrian use and hiking.

The plan is tied to the Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation plan.

As the plan develops, Dunnack said, residents will get more involved in what they want to see in the park.

Library director wants to connect

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Columbia's new Library Director Julie Styles.

COLUMBIA — Julie Styles, the new director of the Saxton B. Little Free Library in Columbia, is looking forward to interacting with the community.

"I've been learning more about the com-

munity," said Styles, who officially began her new job in October. "What I plan to do for the next few months is really meet more of the residents and learn about how they use the library and what they need from the library. We will develop programming and offer services and resources to help those needs."

Styles said Columbia being a smaller community allows her to get to know people on a faceto-face basis

Styles previously worked at Avon Free Public Library in Suffield, was a professional development coordinator at the Connecticut State Public Library and was an assistant director of services at the Hartford

Other than books, Styles wants to help the community acquire new skills, including applying for jobs and researching businesses. She wants to allow the community to take advantage of their access to research databases. Styles said this will connect people with the information they need.

What has caught Styles' attention is how many people use the library in Columbia.

"Sixty percent of Columbia residents have a library card, which is a much higher average than most of the other towns in Connecticut," Styles said. "It's really impressive to see how many people use the library and how it's grown."

Other than providing books for residents, another priority for Styles is to do more to support people's lifestyles. She wants the library's connections and services to welcome everyone in the community and to make everyone feel seen and represented.

Styles has made a change since taking over the library: going fine free. According to Styles, fine free prevents residents from getting charged for overdue books. "The reason for that is we want to encourage people to use the library to remove any of the barners," Styles said. "We don't want it to be a financial burden on anyone. We also want to make sure we welcome all people of Columbia and the surrounding areas to use the library, and we're making sure we have something here that can represent all

Columbia."

Styles said most books can be borrowed for three weeks, and then after three weeks, the person can ask to renew for another three weeks. If they don't return it, Styles said most libraries in the past would charge a fine. Residents will be charged a replacement fee for any item borrowed and not returned, but if it's returned, there will be no fee.

"I've heard people who say they don't use the library because they can't afford the overdue fines," Styles said. "If someone does incur fines, they typically don't return to the library, they don't return the items, and we never see them again. We want them to use the library as much as possible, so we removed that barrier." the people at What has really impressed Styles is how much programming the library has She said they regularly have several story times for children and programs for crafting.

Styles said she is a compassionate and empathetic librarian. She will listen to what the community is saying before making a decision.

"I try to make sure any decisions we make that we consider the perspective of the patron that comes in to make sure that their experience here is a positive one," Styles said. "We're not just making changes for the sake of making changes. We want to tailor our services and everything here to the community itself. The decision starts with what the community is dealing with and what people in the community want to see."

