

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, June 20, 2017 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Deputy Selectman Steven Everett; Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Robert Hellstrom; Selectman Robert Bogue.

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Bryan Tarbell, Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Chair; Carole Williamson, EAC member; Carol Coley, EAC member; Andrea Drabicki, EAC member; Dan O'Neill, Lake Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) member; Ann Dunnack; Rec Director Marc Volza; Tom Currier; Judy Ortiz.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2017 and BOS Special Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2017 and BOS Special Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2017:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. R. Bogue MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2017. R. Bogue MOVED to approve the BOS Special Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 3.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Bryan Tarbell of West Street spoke on behalf of EAC stating that the Committee has been approached by a resident regarding the issue of fracking waste. He explained that local towns are creating fracking waste bans and the EAC would like to look into pursuing a fracking waste ban for Columbia as well. B. Tarbell stated that the EAC is seeking permission from the BOS to move forward with this, and feels that citizen awareness should be the first step. He suggested holding a public presentation which would allow input and discussion from residents. C. Vance feels this is a good idea and supports this. R. Bogue agrees with C. Vance. B. Tarbell stated that Jen Siskind of the Food and Water Watch met with EAC. She has been canvassing many towns presenting fracking waste bans.

Andrea Drabicki of Route 87 stated that they had an open discussion to get best practices, she feels it is very important to fact gather, educate and present everything to the town before presenting ordinance language to the BOS. Carole Williamson of Gaulin Road stated that this was brought to the BOS a couple of years ago. She explained that fracking has been banned from gas wells, but not oil wells. The EAC would like to see it banned completely. She stressed the importance of protecting our drinking water in town and stated that a ban would help eliminate the risk of having to import water from Willimantic or another outside town. C. Williamson stated that passing a fracking ban will help protect the community and the taxpayers. Tom Currier of Columbia Landing passed out information pertaining to fracking to the BOS and spoke in favor of a ban. Carol Coley of West Street expressed her support for a fracking ban, as well.

S. Everett stated he looks forward to a public presentation. He asked that the EAC be prepared to answer a variety of questions when the time comes for public input and that they be as thorough as possible with the information they gather.

C. Vance MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:

5.2 entitled, "Bid Waiver Request"

5.3 entitled, "LMAC request for Wx Station"

5.4 entitled, "Liability Insurance for Town Facilities"

7.1 entitled, "Appointment of Don Cianci as alternate to Open Space Committee"

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

4.1 Oberlander Purchase and Sales Agreement: C. Vance MOVED to approve the amended agreement as presented at the Town Meeting on June 1, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Fund Raising Car Washes: C. Vance explained that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is recommending municipalities “cease and desist” fund raising car washes. (typically held by the Boy Scouts) due to environmental concerns. C. Vance stated that she does not want to ban the car washes seeing as they are so infrequent and are one of the biggest fundraisers for the Boy Scouts. W. O’Brien spoke on behalf of the Youth Services Committee, also supporting the car washes. He stated that these fundraisers are something positive that youths take part in and he would like to see them continue. Discussion followed. Consensus of the BOS is to allow the car washes to continue, with the discretion of what type of soap will be used. This will be addressed when applicants seek Administrative approval.

5.2 Bid Waiver Request: M. Walter stated that Mike Sylvester, BOE Facilities Manager is requesting bid waivers for a window replacement project and a painting project at Porter School. He explained that M. Sylvester was unable to obtain three bids per project, instead was only able to get one bid per project. R. Bogue would like to see at least one more credible bid. S. Everett would like more time to review this type of request. W. O’Brien is concerned because they have nothing to compare the bid to. C. Vance feels M. Sylvester is knowledgeable when it comes to pricing in cases such as this. R. Hellstrom wonders how many companies will provide bids for these types of projects. The BOS questioned why this is the first they are hearing about this. M. Walter explained that the request was brought to him this afternoon by M. Sylvester. Discussion followed. M. Walter called M. Sylvester to seek further clarification for the BOS.

M. Sylvester explained that he would like approval to hire “All-Time Manufacturing Co.” for a window replacement project at Porter School. This is the same company who did the windows last time. He stated that the current extremely heavy and difficult to open. He has asked other companies to replace the valences and they are not able to. R. Bogue asked how many windows will be replaced and if they are thermopane. M. Sylvester said 16 units will be replaced and they are thermopane. The new units will be smaller and will be sliding windows versus double hung. S. Everett asked M. Sylvester when he began the bidding process. M. Sylvester stated he began sometime in early April. He explained that he would need written specs in order for another company to bid and he does not have them. If he has to get specs he will not be able to complete the project prior to the students returning from summer vacation. R. Hellstrom stated one that it bothers him that the two other companies didn’t have specs to bid on and would like this addressed. M. Sylvester explained that he would like permission for “Hans Hackner and Co.” to paint 12 classrooms, 2 entry ways and the hallway in the F wing are in need of painting. Discussion followed. The BOS would like M. Walter to speak with the Superintendent to see that bids are received in the future and not brought to them last minute. C. Vance MOVED to approve the bid waiver request for All-Time Manufacturing Co. to perform the replacement of 16 window units at Porter School. MOTION CARRIED 4:1:0 with R. Bogue opposed.

S. Everett MOVED to approve the bid waiver request for Hans Hackner and Co. to paint 12 classrooms, 2 entry ways and the F wing hallway at Porter School. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

5.3 LMAC request for Wx Station: M. Walter explained that LMAC would like to purchase a Wx Station for collecting data but need BOS approval since they do not have enough money budgeted for this purchase. Dan O’Neill of LMAC spoke to the BOS regarding the request for the weather station. He explained that the main reason for the station would be to collect accurate rainfall data. C. Vance asked if the Public Works Director feels this is necessary. M. Walter stated the George Murphy doesn’t feel it will provide more information than the current weather application offers. Discussion followed. C. Vance does not feel as though it is necessary since Columbia has operated all these years without it and has not had any issues to speak of. R. Hellstrom concurred. R. Hellstrom stated that if LMAC really wants the Wx Station, they may want to consider holding a fundraiser. C. Vance would like more conversation with G. Murphy prior to approving the purchase for the Wx Station. M. Walter will follow up with G. Murphy and LMAC.

5.4 Liability Insurance for Town Facilities: M. Walter explained the Rec Director has brought it to his attention that the requirement for liability insurance at the Rec Park Pavilion and the Beach has been discouraging people from renting due to the cost. He stated that the town's insurance (CIRMA) told him that although the town is covered they prefer a supplemental policy naming the town as additionally insured. After researching this, other towns all have different rules and requirements. CIRMA stated that ultimately, it is up to the town to decide whether or not liability insurance is required. R. Hellstrom feels that if it is a small party, then the town's coverage should be sufficient. W. O'Brien agreed. Discussion followed. The BOS will leave it up to the Rec Director to decide on how many people will consist of a "small event." W. O'Brien MOVED to allow private residents to hold functions at Rec Park and the Beach without purchasing a separate liability insurance certificate. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: None.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

7.1 Appointment of Don Cianci as alternate to Open Space Committee: R. Hellstrom MOVED to approve D. Cianci as an alternate to the Open Space Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

M. Walter presented a revised Bid and Purchase Policy to the BOS. Discussion followed. C. Vance MOVED to approve the policy as presented with the understanding there may be a change to the section entitled Local Contractor Bid Preference. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 Monthly Prescription Card Savings March and April 2017

9.2 Monthly Police Activity – May 2017

9.2 Thank you letters from C. Vance re: May 10, 2017 Town Meeting

10. BUDGET:

10.1 Transfers: S. Everett MOVED to approve the following transfers:

TRANSFER # / AMOUNT	FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #, DESCRIPTION
2017-057 / \$100	10-4133-500, Tax Collection Prof/Tech	10-4133-130, Tax Collection Legal Notices
2017-058 / \$608	10-4112-020, Admin Payroll Taxes	10-4110-130, Town Meeting Legal Notices
2017-059 / \$60	10-4350-600, Lake Management Services Repairs/Maintenance	10-4350-120, Lake Management Services Telephone
2017-060 / \$200	10-4410-011, DPW Salaries OT	10-4410-630, DPW Rental
2017-061 / \$1,100	10-4520-500, IWWC Prof/Tech	10-4520-010, IWWC Salaries
2017-062 / \$160	10-4570-100, Land Use Postage	10-4570-515, Land Use Contracted Services

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

10.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to approve the following refunds:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$119.37	Town of Columbia	Vault Trust
\$130.39	Town of Columbia	Vault Trust
\$86.85	Town of Columbia	Vault Trust
\$370.75	Town of Columbia	Vault Trust

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: R. Bogue MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$55,213.33 including emergency bills, regular bills, credit cards and paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: W. O'Brien expressed concern with the amount of new business added to this evening's agenda and would like to see more material in the BOS books on business items. C. Vance let the BOS know that there has been ongoing

discussions with Jim Thompson related to disabled individuals use of the beach. It was agreed that as the beach renovations go forward we will review means for actual access to the water.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13.1 Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A); None.

14. ADJOURNMENT: C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:57 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona