ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MAY 15, 2018
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 Yeomans Hall on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Present were Board of Selectmen members Steven M. Everett, First Selectman, Robert Hellstrom, Deputy First Selectman, Lisa Napolitano and William O'Brien. Members of the Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) in attendance were Earnest Sharpe (Chairperson), Judith Ortiz, Kelley Peck, Richard Szegda and Todd Shepard. Board of Education member Christopher Lent (Chairman), Town Administrator Mark Walter, School Superintendent Laurence Fearon and Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo were also in attendance.

MODERATOR:	Millie Ramsey
CLERK:	Robin M. Kenefick
CITIZENS:	85 + Present

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman, Steven M. Everett at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. S. Everett read the legal notice and turned the meeting over to the Moderator who explained procedures for this meeting, who has the right to vote at this meeting per the Town Charter and that the vote would be by secret ballot. The Moderator re-read the legal notice and asked if there was a Motion. Steven M. Everett made the following motion:

> "I move to approve the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019 Annual Budget (Board of Selectmen and Board of Education) that was presented at the FiPAC Budget Public Hearing on April 25, 2018."

The motion was seconded by Richard Szegda. The Moderator re-read the motion and opened the floor to discussion.

First Selectman, Steven M. Everett spoke first. He thanked everyone for coming out to vote and for being informed on the budget. Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) had a tough job this year to balance the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Board of Education(BOE) budgets, and weigh all the facts to come up with a sound budget and then have the courage to bring it to you. He noted that the BOS, the BOE and FiPAC worked very hard on this budget, taking into consideration the condition of the State of Connecticut. S. Everett believes this is a good budget as presented, even with new information coming from the state.

Richard Szegda, FiPAC member, stated the driving force behind the budget this year was the decrease in revenue from the state. This is one of the leanest budgets in years with the BOE actually reducing their budget and the BOS covering just the basics. He spoke on the funding "to improving Rec Park", his years of experience with the Town and the programs offered at the park. The plan that the BOS came up with for the park makes the most sense to help with the improvements needed. First it has to be approved to use the $195,000 in the budget for this year. If next year we can't afford it, then we won't approve it. In this budget, the money will address

safety issues and gender equality for facilities for girls and boys. He thanked the BOS and BOE for a good budget and urged everyone to pass this budget.

Christopher Lent, Chairman, spoke on behalf of the Board of Education. He thanked Laurence "Lol" Fearon, Superintendent for his service to Columbia as he will be retiring in June 2018 and encouraged everyone to pass this budget.

Paul Kubala, 37 Lake Road, made a motion to amend the budget as presented.

> "I, Paul Kubala, move to remove from Acc# 20-9190-001 (Rec Area Improvement Fund) $195,000 from the fiscal years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, for a total for $975.000."

Steven M. Everett called a point of order. The motion to amend can only apply to line items on this year's budget. P. Kubala amended his motion and the Moderator re-read the motion with the correction.

> "I, Paul Kubala, move to remove from Acct# 20-9190-001 (Rec Area Improvement Fund) $195,000 from the fiscal year 2018-2019."

Earnest Sharpe, Chairman of FiPAC, called a point of order regarding the process of how to amend, what are we voting on and does the motion need to be seconded. The Moderator stated that the motion can be amended, but we are only addressing one amendment at a time.

William O'Brien, 164 Pine Street, called a point of order regarding a need for a 2nd to the motion brought forward by P. Kubala. The Moderator stated that there has to be a second to the motion.

Henry Beck, Town Attorney, called a point of order. When there is an amendment on the floor, you can make an amendment to the amendment, but there can only be one amendment to the amendment at a time. If someone would like to amend it further, they can raise and say "if this amendment is voted down, know that I would like to propose the following" (as part of the discussion). We can't have lots of things lined up on a motion.

The Moderator re-read the amended motion of Paul Kubala.

> "I, Paul Kubala, move to remove from Acct# 20-9190-001 (Rec Area Improvement Fund) $195,000 from the fiscal year 2018-2019."

Carole Kubala, 37 Lake Road, seconded the motion. The Moderator opened the floor to discussion on the amended motion.

Paul Kubala, 37 Lake Road, spoke about the misunderstanding of what was stated in the Chronicle by the editor. While he is all for improvements to the Rec Park area, he is not about the method of funding. He thinks this should come to the Town, having the taxpayers vote for this type of project to move forward. P. Kubala likes the way this project is being funded; he is all about saving money by not having to issue a bond and to pay as you go. The meetings that took place and got us to this point had no vote by the towns people if they even wanted to undertake this project. He would ask us to back track and take it to the town as a referendum vote.

Carol Kubala, 37 Lake Road, was offered the floor and declined comment.

Steven M. Everett summarized what he heard from P. Kubala and addressed the comments and concerns of P. Kubala, about the Rec Park project and safety issues.

Carmen Vance, 1 Beach Road, urged defeat of the motion to amend the budget. She noted the process for this project has been ongoing for the past several years and improvements can be made as we go without having to bond.

William O'Brien, 164 Pine Street, called the question. Mark Desrosiers, 132E Route 87, seconded the motion. A 2/3 majority to call the question and send the motion to vote passed unanimously. The Moderator re-read the motion to amend the budget. A "Yes" vote would mean you agree with the amendment to remove the line item of $195,000. A "No" vote would mean you do not want this line item removed from the budget.

YES: 7 NO: 74
(Vote consisted of qualified voters)

The motion to amend the budget failed. The Moderator reopened the floor to discussion on the original motion.

Mark Desrosiers, 132 E Route 87, made a motion to limit debate to five minutes per person. Christopher Lent, 12 Randazzo Road, seconded the motion. The Moderator indicated a 2/3 majority was needed to pass this motion and asked for a hand vote. The motion passed.

Ann Dunnack, 103 Lake Road, commended FiPAC and the BOS for being fiscally responsible and liked the idea of funding over time for the Rec Park project.

A few additional questions were addressed regarding state money and safety issues.

The Moderator closed the discussion and re-read the original motion. A paper ballot vote was taken on the motion to accept the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year ~~2017-2018~~ as so proposed. 2018-2019 (RMK 10/17/18)

The results of the paper ballot vote were announced by the Moderator as follows:

YES: 78 NO: 5
(Vote consisted of qualified voters)

The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin M. Kenefick
Town Clerk