

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – 6:45 pm.  
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room  
323 Route 87, Columbia CT

**Members Present:** Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Lisa Napolitano; Selectman Jeffrey Viens.

**Also Present:** Paula Stahl, Town Planner; Richard Nassiff, Jr., Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** W. O'Brien called the Public Hearing to order at 6:52 pm and copies of the draft ordinance were passed out to members of the Board of Selectmen and others in attendance.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**2.1 Public Hearing to adopt new schedule of Zoning Fees Ordinance 22-1 and Zoning Board of Appeals Fees for Application 22-2.** P. Stahl, Town Planner briefly summarized the draft ordinance and explained the research that she conducted on the various Zoning fees. She stated that eliminating Ordinance 22.2 for Zoning Board of Appeals fee were incorporated into 22.1, but that the Ordinance 22.2 was never rescinded or revoked.

W. Tabor of 544 Route 87 expressed that with the current economics of the state and the towns losing state dollars Columbia should encourage new business by making the process business friendly. He stated he does not agree with the escalation of costs; however, he expressed justification for revisiting the legal notice fees that are required to post to The Chronicle. Discussion ensued.

Richard Nassiff Jr., Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) stated that the PZC is striving to make the process easier, more friendly, and more conducive to economic development. He asked the BOS to allow the PZC to weigh in and do a final review of the document before the BOS takes any action.

L. Napolitano stated that the Town of Columbia does not make money off the Sr. Center, Rec Department, or Open Space and that the Town does not need to make money off the zoning fees, rather that it is a service that the Town offers. She added that we need to make this process as friendly as possible, encourage people to maintain their properties, and invest in the Town of Columbia.

R. Nassiff stated that the fee implementations have an impact on the general public, and that the Town provides a certain amount of services to the public that would not cover the Town's costs. He added that the legal notice process is outdated and is not

an effective means to notify people through the Chronicle. He stated that he encourages the BOS to let their State representatives know that this process is not working and that it needs to be changed.

W. O'Brien MOVED to adjourn to meet again June 4, 2019 at 6:45 pm at the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. MOTION CARRIED. 3.0.

3. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Viens MOVED to ADJOURN the March 19, 2019 meeting at 7:23 pm. MOTION CARRIED 3.0. This meeting is adjourned to June 4, 2019 at 6:45pm located at Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie