

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, January 16, 2018 – 7 pm  
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room  
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 3.1 Tri-Board Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2017
  - 3.2 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2018
- 4. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**
- 8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
  - 8.1 Defining ending term date for the 5 appointed Recreation Commission
  - 8.2 Appointment for Citation Hearing Officer, Paul Ramsey
  - 8.3 Appointment for Charter Communications Advisory Council, Edgar Eugene Sellers
  - 8.4 Appointment for Animal Control Officer, Nancy Yale
- 9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
  - 9.1 Reviewing the purchase sale agreement between the Town of Columbia and Ronald Szegda regarding the payment plan for Columbia's share of the purchase of Szegda Farm Development Rights in 2013.
  - 9.2 Roll-out of Sexual Harassment Online Training
  - 9.3 Reviewing shoe policy
- 10. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 11. BUDGET:**
  - 11.1 Transfers:
  - 11.2 Refunds:
- 12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**
- 13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
- 14. 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 Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A)**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TRI-BOARD MEETING OF THE COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS), COLUMBIA**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) and COLUMBIA FINANCIAL PLANNING AND**  
**ALLOCATION COMMISSION (FiPAC)**

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017 - 7 pm*  
**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room**  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. 06237**

**BOS Members present:** First Selectmen Steven M. Everett, Selectman Robert Bogue, Selectman Robert Hellstrom and Selectman Lisa Napolitano

**BOE Members present:** Chairperson Christopher Lent

**FiPAC Members present:** Chairperson Earnest Sharpe, Vice Chairperson Jeff Viens, Judy Ortiz, Kelly Peck, Todd Shepard, Richard Szegda and Dean Toepfer

**Other present:** Town Administrator Mark Walter, Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo and Superintendent Laurence Fearon

**CALL TO ORDER:** S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** K. Peck MOVED to approve Agenda. MOTION CARRIED Unanimously
3. **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:** S. Everett outlined the purpose of the meeting and turned the meeting over to Beverly Curylo.
4. **REVIEW OF FY 16-17 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:**
  - a. **Municipal:** B. Ciurylo directed the BOS, BOE and FiPAC to the 16/17 and 17/18 financial reports being presented. The first report provided the Town revenue collected in the 16/17 fiscal year: including property tax revenues received for current and delinquent taxes. Per the Tax Collector, the 16/17 collection rate was 98.36%. The budgeted tax collection rate was 97.5%. The 16/17 revenue report also included intergovernmental revenue/ municipal aid. B. Ciurylo noted that the Town received unbudgeted intergovernmental revenue which helped in the revenue lines that came up short. The Town recognized and received an approximately \$41,000 in STEAP funds and approximated \$126,000 in state library grant funds due to the completion of the library project in 16/17. This helped compensate for the town not submitting for LOCIP funds in 16/17 (which were being held back for the 18/19 potential submission for a new salt shed) and for decrease in municipal aid: such as, Municipal Revenue Sharing, Special Education and School Transportation. B. Ciurylo reported that there is a revenue surplus of approximately \$359,000 that was added to the General Fund at year end.

B. Ciurylo then reviewed 16/17 Town expenditures and stated that the departments came under budget which contributed to the Town's year end surplus. There is a surplus of \$260,000 that was returned to the General Fund. B. Ciurylo noted some of the expenditures lines that came under

budget: Group Insurance by \$21,000, Legal fees by \$9,600.00, Resident Trooper by \$15,000, Transfer Station Professional Tech Fees by \$12,000 and Contingency by \$56,000.

B. Ciurylo also reported on 16/17 Capital Projects and noted that approximately \$712,000 was carried forward to the 18/19 fiscal year.

B. Ciurylo has received the draft audit report. She stated that it was a clean audit report, but that she still needs to review the report. Per the draft audit report, the fund balance is \$3.8 million as of June 30, 2017. \$3.3 million is available for the Town and \$472,000 was assigned to keep the mill rate down in 18/19. There were no discrepancies noted and no corrective action plans need to be completed by the Town.

**b. Education:** B. Ciurylo reviewed the Columbia School Expenditure Report for fiscal year 2016/2017 as of 9/29/17. She mentioned that Lol Fearon and the Board of Education did well monitoring the 16/17 budget and that \$51,270 was returned to the Town's General fund. The Board of Education opted to not request any year end excess funds be added to the Non Lapsing account set up at the end of the 15/16 year. Lol Fearon then presented his report that included the BOE Budget Assumptions, Projected Enrollments, Anticipated Special Education Costs, Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive, and Capital Plan – Preliminary Draft.

L. Fearon provided the following summary reports:

- 2018/2019 Projection Estimates for the 2018/2019 Number of Students for H.W. Porter, Magnet Schools (tuition students), Magnet Schools (non-tuition students), Bolton, EO Smith, EO VoAg, Windham HS, Lyman VoAg, Windham Tech and Cheney Tech.
- The outplacement and transportation costs were provided as well for the 2018/2019 school year.
- A summary description for the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan (VERIP) was provided which will impact the 17/18 school year for the salary payout as well as impact the 18/19 budget for staff replacements.

## 5. STATUS OF FY 17-18 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:

### a. Municipal:

1) **Status of 17-18 Revenues & Expenditures:** B. Ciurylo stated that property tax collections (inclusive of current and delinquent taxes as well as interest & fees) is at approximately 60% of budget. This also includes proceeds from a planned tax sale this spring. As of the date of the meeting, the Tax Collector has brought in approximately \$230,000 in delinquent taxes, interest and fees that apply to the properties slated for the tax sale. Due to this, the Town has received approximately \$98,000 above the 17/18 budget for delinquent taxes, interest and fees with the potential for another \$133,000 to be collected from the tax sale properties. 97.5% is the budgeted 17/18 collection rate with an anticipated 98 % minimum tax collection by end of this year. The numbers for Municipal Aid are not firm for municipalities yet but there are no sharp decreases seen at this point.

B. Ciurylo reported that the Town's YTD expenditures are within budget so far. There has not been any budget transfers for the operating budget at this point except for one that

is being presented to FIPAC for \$9,900 for tree trimming removal. B. Ciurylo also reviewed the Capital Projects for 17/18:

- Town Land Acquisition account has approximately \$3,400 carried forward to this year. The Open Space Land Acquisition account has approximately \$263,500. There are two payments left for the Szegda Property Development Rights.
- Bridge projects – The Town is waiting for final invoicing on Pucker Street Bridge and the Flanders Bridge Projects. The Town is over budget on the Flanders Bridge Project. The Town budgeted \$25,000 and it came in at approximately \$30,000 at this point. Both bridge projects are a joint effort with the Town of Coventry. Village Hill bridge is pending and is budgeted at \$30,000. Per M. Walter, the Town was denied a STEAP grant for Hop River bridge, another joint effort with the Town of Coventry. There is no current plan for the Hop River bridge but it is in the capital plan for a future year.
- The Senior Center Van has arrived and the invoice has been paid. The State Grant totaled \$48,000. This resulted in this purchase being under budget by \$6,000 which could be transferred to another project if there are no further purchases needed for the van.
- Hop River state park is pending further information from the State. There is a \$2.2 million pass through in the Capital budget. Per M. Walter there are two walking bridges planned to be replaced on the Hop River Trail in Columbia. The \$2.2 million is just an estimate from the State and the town needed to put in the budget as a pass through since the Town is “sponsoring” the project. This will be funded 100% by the Federal government, managed by State, and the Town is the pass through for funding.

- 2) **State Budget:** B. Ciurylo provided a report on the State Municipal Aid as of 12/12/17 and reported there is a shortfall from state budget at \$314,131.00 pending the state finalizing the municipal aid funding. There is \$50,000 in the Town 17-18 budget for the Teacher Pension payment that was anticipated during the 17/18 budget process but at this time is not due to be paid. After applying this to the municipal aid shortfall, there is an anticipated \$264,131.00 shortfall in municipal aid. The Circuit breaker property tax relief for the elderly and the rental assistance program are still being reviewed by the state. The Town may have to fund those but still waiting to hear from the state for an update.

B. Bogue asked a question pertaining to the State pension of 4% or 5% and is it likely to be funded with teachers kicking in 1%. If so, then why is the Town carrying this as a potential draw on our funds? B. Ciurylo answered that we have a placeholder this year (\$50,000) if something unexpected occurs in the State budget for this year and will have to see what is announced for next year.

L. Fearon reported that there was no plan for Education Cost Share (ECS) funding to be held harmless. The State is looking at property wealth and per capita income. This will

impact 2/3rds of the town in Connecticut for ECS funding. No final numbers have been published. The State plan is to impose contributions to the teacher pension fund potentially by towns. For now, the State has decided to have teachers contribute an additional 1% increase to the teacher retirement plan effective January 1, 2018.

- 3) **Tax Collection/Tax Sale:** Covered above.
- 4) **Capital Projects:** Covered above. M. Walter added the following:
  - Siding project for the Town Hall is done and on budget.
  - Beach project is still in progress and is at the moment under budget and is expected to come in on budget.
  - Salt shed: currently receiving quotes and looking like it will come under budget.
  - Capital projects are being reviewed and will bring to the long range planning committee.

**b. Education:**

- 1) **Status of 17-18 Revenues & Expenditures:** B. Ciurylo presented the 17/18 Columbia School Expenditure Report as of 12/20/17. She explained that the reports show all BOE grants and BOE expenditures paid and encumbered year to date. B. Ciurylo mentioned that everything that could be encumbered has been encumbered except for some tuition items that were pending. B. Ciurylo also announced that the BOE was awarded by the state a new Title IV Grant for \$10,000. L. Fearon stated that the BOE is trying to be economical with the conservation of electricity, and freezing supplies. They are slowly releasing funds for class room supplies, etc. 70% of the supply budget is typically spent by the summer, but during the rest of the year, supplies will need to be replenished. M. Walter added that the solar project is being wrapped up at the Horace P. Porter School with a projected savings of \$750,000 to \$1 million in electricity costs over the next 20 years. L. Fearon added that there is a 27 year warranty on the roof and that the panels for the solar project are a lease for 20 years. The project is pending verification by the roofing company that the roof warranty will still be intact once the solar panels are installed. The installer of the solar panel takes responsibility of the panels and covers all liability regarding them.
- 2) **Special Education Costs:** L. Fearon reported on the 17/18 Special Education costs. There will be reduced special education transportation costs this year due to consolidating the transportation vendors to one vendor. There are a couple of Special Education students who will be graduating or aging out of the program. This will result in reducing the Special Education budget this year and next year without taking into account possible new students to Special Education. L. Fearon stated that they are looking at costs/discrepancies at EO Smith and Bolton tuition invoices as to whether there are regular education costs rolled into special education costs. If so, corrections to the invoices will be requested.
- 3) **Early Retirement for 17-18:** L/ Fearon announced that for the 18/19 budget, the BOE is looking to reduce costs by reducing staff by 3.0 FTE certified staff (Elementary Computer Education- 0.5 FTE position, SRBI/Support Services in LA/Math-0.5 FTE position, Classroom teachers- 2.0 FTE). L. Fearon also discussed the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan (VERIP) that has been approved by the BOE. L. Fearon felt

that the BOE will be able to cover the cost of the VERIP in the 17/18 budget with the salary savings of hiring replacement teachers at a lower step will be reflected in the 18/19 budget. The offering of the VERIP helps to save the BOE budget for potential unemployment costs in the 18/19 budget. There are currently two staff members that will be taking the early retirement incentive with others considering (a possible total of 4 or 5). A deadline in January 2018 has been set for teachers to take the retirement incentive.

## 6. KEY ISSUES IMPACTING THE FY 18-19 BUDGET:

### a. Municipal

- 1) **Tax Base /Grand List:** M. Walter did not have any information to report. The Assessor is still reviewing the data. M. Walter reported that the Assessor is optimistic that the grand list is growing not shrinking.
- 2) **Tax Collection Rate:** Reviewed previously.
- 3) **Debt Payments:** M. Walter reported that there are only a few years left on the one bond the Town has. \$181,000 is due this year and \$174,000 is due next year.
- 4) **Undesignated Fund Balance:** Already announced.
- 5) **Revenues from the State of Connecticut:** Already discussed.

### b. Education

- 1) **Grants that go directly to the school:** Already discussed. B. Ciurylo distributed a report regarding the BOE grants.
- 2) **Projected Student Counts:** Already discussed.
- 3) **Special Education Costs:** L. Fearon noted that there are anticipated lower high school special education costs – potential (400k savings). Several factors contributing to the lower costs include; anticipated lower special education caseload grades 9-12, out-of-district placement include 3 students (1 residential) graduating or aging out (\$373,000 less next year on the out placement), special education transportation costs efficiency due to single vendor (\$29,000 savings with single vendor) , professional services contract reductions (OT/PT), outside evaluations). Additional savings could be considered with Middle School athletics, before and after school care/programs by the BOE considering “pay-for-play” or fees being charged for participation.
- 4) **17-18 Early Retirement Impact:** As previously discussed. L. Fearon reported that two staff members have submitted for early retirement.
- 5) **Staffing:** As previously discussed, the BOE is looking to reduce staff by 3.0 FTE positions. Enrollment is at 432 now, but for next year enrollment is looking at 420.
- 6) **Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR):** Discussion began on the impact of the Minimum Budget Requirement on the BOE budget. L. Fearon discussed what he knew of the legislation. Budget may be less than prior year but there is uncertainty as to which prior year. Based on what was heard, the Town can reduce expenditures up to and equal to amount of the decrease in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding. For example, a 100 % reduction in ECS funding can result in the Town reducing the BOE budget by the amount of the ECS funding. Some cost efficiencies and student count reductions can also be considered in BOE budget reductions without impacting MBR. L. Fearon will share more information on MBR as he receives it.

## 7. LONG RANGE PLANNING

- Municipal: No discussion
- Education: L. Fearon discussed a number of points for the school districts long range planning and budget:
  - L. Fearon stated that the BOE is still pursuing long range plans through the Future Needs Committee. A survey coming out soon and the results will provide information on potentially pursuing a single high school choice for middle school students.
  - Changes to ECS formula – l. Fearon there are changes being made by the State in how the Education Cost Sharing funding will be calculated. The Town is in the middle of the ECS funding range and may not be impacted as much as the bigger towns/cities. There will be minimal impact of the change on the smallest of towns. There are anticipated changes in Federal Title 1 funds. State could reduce Title funds by 15% in 18/19. The town uses about approximately \$100,000 for support services.
  - The BOE is anticipating for the Food Services program at Porter School. The school joined a consortium (4 other school districts) with EastConn for food services. With this consortium, the buying power is spread out and the BOE is no longer are responsible for the Food Services personnel.
  - Student enrollment projections for next year - L. Fearon noted that currently there are 431 enrolled, up from the 2017/18 projection of 412. Next year the enrollment is projected to be 423; therefore, there will be a drop of 8 students for next year. There are no numbers yet for what students may attend the Magnet Schools.
  - Bolton High School and EO Smith High School student counts are slightly down. There is a potential 1% to 1.5% increase to the 18/19 tuition for Bolton or EO Smith.
  - Vo-Ag Tuition: There are no student count numbers available yet for 18-19; however, there are 5 students in the currently enrolled. There is a potential that more will enroll each year. Tuition for the Vo-Ag programs are lower than the other high school options.
  - Windham Tech: This is a Town tuition free option for Columbia students in addition to opting to attend EO Smith High School or Bolton High School. For 18/19, enrollment numbers are not finalized until summer since some who are accepted to Windham Tech tend to change to one of the other high school choices prior to the next school year starting. The Tech schools are tuition free for towns since they are state funded.
  - Capital Improvement Projects for BOE: L. Fearon presented a draft Capital Improvement Plan that has yet to be presented to the BOE. By shifting some items forward, the 18/19 budget is reduced from \$175,000 to \$141,000. For example, the fire alarm system upgrade for \$30,000 was been moved up in the Capital plan. The emergency generator will need to be replaced as it is at the end of its life. The purchase cost for the generator is \$64,000. The BOE have reserved the option to apply for a \$10,000 grant this year that will help offset the cost. The fire suppressions system has been installed using excess funds from the

16/17 budget. The cafeteria project with the enclosure of the staircase will be done at the end of December. There is a bid for a steel rail and retaining wall for the balcony area in the cafeteria to be completed this year at a cost between \$37,000 and \$40,000 and it is anticipated to be under budget. The VOIP telephone system has \$50,000 budgeted with \$26,000 spent so far. The balance will be used to upgrade access points and internet cabling at Porter School. Originally budgeted for 50k, but the cost may be up to 60k. The BOE is applying for E-Rate funding, which will provide a 40% reduction in savings.

- L. Fearon mentioned that the BOE is looking at other types of outsourcing; such as shared positions in support services area (school reading specialists, etc.).

**8. DISCUSSION GENERAL FUND RESERVES AND MILL RATE:** E. Sharpe noted that with the reduction of ECS funding and municipal aid, consideration is needed regarding the reliance on the Town's General Fund and minimizing the mill rate increases. How long does the Town want to rely on the general fund? The Town currently has a 12% to 15% General Fund reserve of total budgeted expenditures. E. Sharpe stated that 1.75 mills needs to be factored into the budget if things are to remain stable and that the Town needs to take this into consideration in the next 2 to 4 years.

**9. AUTHORIZATION FROM BOS TO APPROVE GRANT APPLICATIONS (only BOS members voted)**

- 1) **Eversource Energy Savings.** S. Everett MOVED to approve. MOTION CARRIED 4.0
- 2) **Historical Society Grant: Rehab for Moor's Indian School.** S. Everett MOVED to approve. MOTION CARRIED 4.0

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** B. Bogue MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:30 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 7 pm  
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room  
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**Attendees:** Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Bob Bogue, Selectman; Robert Hellstrom, Deputy Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; William O'Brien arrived 7:12.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator, Mark Walter

**CALL TO ORDER:** S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7 pm

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett asked if anyone had any changes to the Agenda. S. Everett stated he would like to delete 8.3 -Appointment of Nancy Yale for Animal Control Officer until further research. S. Everett MOVED to Approve Agenda. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There was a discussion on whether a 2<sup>nd</sup> is needed in a BOS meeting. After further review of the charter the need for a second is not required in the BOS meetings. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Vincent Almeida, Resident and Brian Pendersen, Chair of Rec Commission.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - 6.1 **2018-2019 Municipal Holiday Schedule** – S. Everett moved the 2018-2019 Holiday Schedule to the Executive Session for further discussion. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
  - 6.2 **Willimantic Classic Road Race:** B. Bogue MOVED to approve the 2018 Willimantic Classic Road Race. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
  - 6.3 **Agenda Memorandum of Agreement for Homeland Security:** S. Everett MOVED to sign the 2017 Agenda Memorandum of Agreement for Homeland Security. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
  - 6.4 **Funding for Defibrillator for the Senior Van:** M. Walter stated that training will be provided for the Van Driver. There is \$6,000 in funds for the Senior Van and we can use those funds to purchase the defibrillator. M. Walter is currently researching further pricing, but preliminary costs are around 1,000. S. Everett MOVED to approve funding for Defibrillator for the Senior Van: MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 6.5 **Randazzo Rd Issue:** S. Everett said that DPW's paving plan for Randazzo Rd will be moved to FY19/20.
7. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH.** M. Walter added that the beach restoration project is within budget and is going very well.
8. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 8.1 **Appointment of Ingrid Wood for Town Historian:** S. Everett MOVED to appoint Ingrid Wood for Town Historian. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.2 **Appointments for Recreation Commission:** Cindy Postemsky, Jeff Buskey, Shane Vertefeuille, Nikki Keldsen, and Kelly DeForest. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.3 **Appointment of Nancy Yale for Animal Control Officer.** Removed from Agenda pending further research.
- 8.4 **Appointment of Andrea Drabicki for liaison for Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG).** S. Everett MOVED to Appointment of Andrea Drabicki for liaison for Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.5 **Appointment of Halloran & Sage for Town Attorney.** M. Walter informed the BOS that Halloran & Sage submitted an open engagement letter that states that Halloran & Sage will maintain the rate structure without an increase. They will continue to provide pro-bono work for town meetings as well as include educational series once a year. M. Walter states that he asked Halloran & Sage to provide FOIA training as part of the educational series. R. Hellstrom commented that he would like Halloran & Sage to continue the free seminars series. S. Everett MOVED to Appointment of Halloran & Sage for Town Attorney. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.6 **Appointment of Jerry James for Emergency Management Director:** S. Everett MOVED to Appointment of Jerry James for Emergency Management Director. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.7 **Appointments for Town Meeting Moderators:** Millie Ramsey and Mark Vining. S. Everett MOVED to Appointment for Town Meeting Moderators: Millie Ramsey and Mark Vining. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.8 **Appointments for Columbia Commission on Aging:** S. Everett MOVED to Appointment for Columbia Commission on Aging: Catherine Rowe, Paula Cahalan, Millie Ramsey, Margaret (Maggie) Ewald, Edith Prague, Jill Livingston, and Lyn Buonocore. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8.9 **Appointments for Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWCC):** S. Everett MOVED to Appointment for Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWCC): Claude Garritt, William Ross, Carol Jaswinski, and Ian Dann. Motion S. Everett, L. Napolitano. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

**8.10 Appointments for Szegda Farm:** S. Everett MOVED to Appointments for Szegda Farm: Rob Hellstrom, Gary King, Tom McGrath, Nancy (Massey) Schwartz, David Szegda, and Anthony Ortiz. B. Bogue had a question regarding a conflict of interest on whether a committee member can serve on multiple boards. W. O'Brien said that this is not a problem with the Szegda Farm commission as it does not involve finances. He further stated that; for example if someone is on FiPAC they cannot serve on any other boards that deal with finances. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

**8.11 Appointments for Youth Services:** S. Everett MOVED to Appointment for Youth Services: Denise Morell, William O'Brien, Melissa Petrone, Daniel Leavitt, Carol Wiggins, Trooper Greg DeCarli, Maureen Allen, Alyssa Gwinnell, Rebecca Allen, Marc Volza. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

**9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: M. Walters reported:**

**9.1 Flanders River Road Bridge - Update on Bridge Projects in process:**

- Flanders River invoices was budgeted for 25k, we are short 36K. Coventry is paying more at a 2/3 – 1/3 split. Coventry is paying another 75k. The total of the project is \$59,344.00. The reason for the increase is that until we took the whole deck off we did not know what issues were involved with the deck. There was structural deterioration of the cement. B. Ciurylo and M. Walter will look to see if we can transfer from another capital project (bridge), or we may recommend taking from the general fund.
- Village Hill Bridge. We received an estimate at \$30,400. It has not gone out to bid yet. We have \$25,700 balances remaining. Lebanon is budgeted to spend 45,600. R Hellstrom asked how do we control the costing. M. Walter stated that a strong, quality engineering report is needed to provide the Town with the most accurate information to base its estimate on.
- Pucker Street Bridge is finished. The State needs to give final approve to close out STEAP grant. We have \$4,089.00 in budget. We are estimating final billing of \$3,000 to \$4,000.
- Town and City Magazine from CCM was provided to the BOS that details current legislative tasks. M. Walter went to an educational Budget 101 that was led by the Town Manager of Avon and Finance Director from Farmington. M. Walter has reviewed with S. Everett, and will sit down with B. Ciurylo and E. Sharpe to prepare properly in case we do want to bond.
- DPW worked 18 hours in the recent Winter Storm Brody. Some residents were out of power, but restored fairly quickly.
- Grant Opportunities for Moor's Indian School: We received a quote of 40k for taking lead paint off the building. The windows need to be fixed as well. There is grant funding that we would have to have matching funds.

M. Walter asked if this something the Board would want us to pursue. S. Everett stated that we should look into more grants to see what's available. Other options to consider are reaching out to Dartmouth Alumni and Historical Society to possibly see if they would be willing to donate. W. Obrien responded that perhaps the Historical Society could pursue with the Towns help. S. Everett said we should pursue all avenues.

- Calendar process – 2018/19 Budget schedule needs to change from 4/18/18 Public Hearing to 4/25/18 due to school vacation week conflicting with the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 10.1 State Police Monthly Services – December 2017
- 10.2 The Chronicle article 12/26/17 regarding Town of Columbia:
- 10.3 Thank you letter to Saint Columba Church for their donation to the Columbia Fuel Assistance Fund

**11. BUDGET:**

- 11.1 **Transfers:** S. Everett MOVED to approve the following transfers:

TRANSFER#/AMOUNT	FROM A/C#, DESCRIPTION	TO A/C#, DESCRIPTION
2018-003/ \$100.00	10-4130-016, Election Workers	10-4130-0110, Postage
2018-004/\$30.00	104260-300, Supplies	10-4260-710 Professional Improvements
2018-005/\$450.00	10-4260-230, Electricity	10-4260-300, Supplies
2018-006/\$450.00	10-4250-600, Repairs/Maint	10-4250-300, Supplies
2018-007/\$232.00	10-4330-300, Supplies	10-4330-811, Mach/Equip <\$5,000
2018-008/\$120.00	10-4112-300, Supplies	10-4112-710, Professional Improvement
2018-009/\$500.00	10-4112-040, Group Insurance	10-4117-120, Telephone & Internet

MOTION CARRIED 5.0

- 11.2 **Refunds:** B. Bogue MOVED to approve the following refunds:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$133.77	Town of Columbia	Enterprise F M Trust
\$81.17	Town of Columbia	Toyota Motor Credit
\$424.36	Town of Columbia	Cab East LLC
\$300.64	Town of Columbia	Cab East LLC

MOTION CARRIED 5.0

12. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** W. O'Brien MOVED to approve the payment of bills totaling \$459,321.56. MOTION CARRIED 5:0
13. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**  
B. Bogue asked how many more payments are left for the Szegda Farm Development Rights and if Ronald Szegda asks for an advance, when will that take place. M. Walter will find out and get back to the BOS at the next meeting.
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** S. Everett motion to go into executive session at 8:01 with M. Walter present. Executive session ended at 8:30.

**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)**

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** B. Bogue MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:36 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, January 16, 2018 – 7 pm  
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room  
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**

**8.1 Defining Ending Terms For The 5 Appointed Recreation Commission:**

- Cindy Postemsky 1-9-18 – 11/22/21
- Nikki Keldsen 1/9/18 – 11/25/19
- Jeff Buskey 1-9-18 – 11/22/21
- Shane Vertefuille 1-9-18 – 11/22/21
- Kelly DeForest 1-9-18 – 11/22/21

**8.2 Appointment for Citation Hearing Officer, Paul Ramsey**

**8.3 Appointment for Charter Communications Advisory Council, Edgar Eugene Sellers**

**8.4 Appointment for Animal Control Officer, Nancy Yale**



# TOWN OF COLUMBIA

323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237  
(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

## OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

June 19, 2017

### **Addendum #4 to the Agreement between the Town of Columbia and Ronald Szegda regarding the payment plan for Columbia's share of the purchase of the Szegda Farm Development Rights in 2013.**

The original request by Mr. Ronald Szegda was to have the Town of Columbia pay its share of the Development Rights to his property at 1 Robinson Road over a 10 year period. The agreement was that Mr. Szegda receives a payment of \$19,878.97 on January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year from 2014 through 2022 with the balance of \$19,878.93 be paid on January 15, 2023. Total payments due from the Town of Columbia equal \$198,789.66.

In April 2015, Mr. Szegda requested verbally an additional payment in 2015 to meet needed repairs to the property caused by an exceptionally hard winter. Because the dollars for the full purchase price had been budgeted by the Town of Columbia, it had been agreed to provide him the additional \$30,000 which was paid by check on June 9, 2015.

As of December 1, 2015, Mr. Szegda is delinquent on his taxes owed as of July 1, 2015 in the amount of \$11,821.66. The total currently due is \$14,975.66 (which includes the January property tax installment of \$3,154.00) as listed on the attached statement from the Town of Columbia Tax Collector. The Town of Columbia agrees to provide Mr. Szegda with another payment in the same amount so that he is able to pay his delinquent taxes. This payment will also be deducted from the total amount owed. Mr. Szegda has also agreed to provide the town with a payment by check in the full amount of the property taxes owed.

On June 15, 2016, Mr Szegda requested an additional \$20,000 per phone call to Kim Bona, Administrative Assistant. It has been agreed by Carmen Vance, First Selectman and Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director to approve his request for the additional payment and amend the payment schedule going forward.

On June 16, 2017, Mr. Szegda requested an additional \$20,000 per phone call to Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director. It has been agreed by Carmen Vance, First Selectman to approve his request for the additional payment and amend the payment schedule going forward.

*Carmen Vance, First Selectman*

Therefore, with the current requested payment of \$20,000, the revised balance owed to Mr. Szegda by the Town of Columbia is as follows:

Total Purchase Price	\$198,789.66
Less Total Payments Made to Date	<u>144,491.54</u>
Net Due	\$ 54,298.46
Less Additional June 2017 Payment	<u>20,000.00</u>
Net Due	<u>\$ 34,298.46</u>

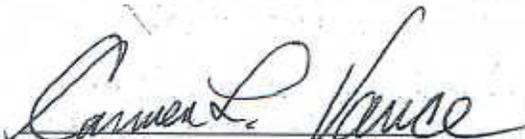
As a result of this additional payment being made as of June 20, 2017 the payment plan has been amended as follows:

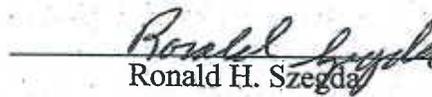
**Amended Payment Plan as per Addendum #4:**

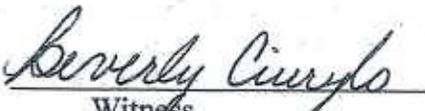
January 16, 2018	\$ 19,878.97
January 16, 2019	<u>\$ 14,419.49</u>
Total Amended Payments	<u>\$ 34,298.46</u>

This addendum is made as of the 20th day of June 2017 as agreed by both parties as signed and witnessed below.

Town of Columbia

  
Carmen L. Vance  
First Selectman

  
Ronald H. Szegda  
Property Owner

  
Witness

Carmen Vance, First Selectman

**Columbia Open Space Committee**

**Sunday, January 21, 2018, 1:00 PM**

**Site Walk**

**Wells Wood Road, Columbia**

**Call to order**

**Walk the Lyman Woods Easement Property**

**Adjournment**

## Town Administrator

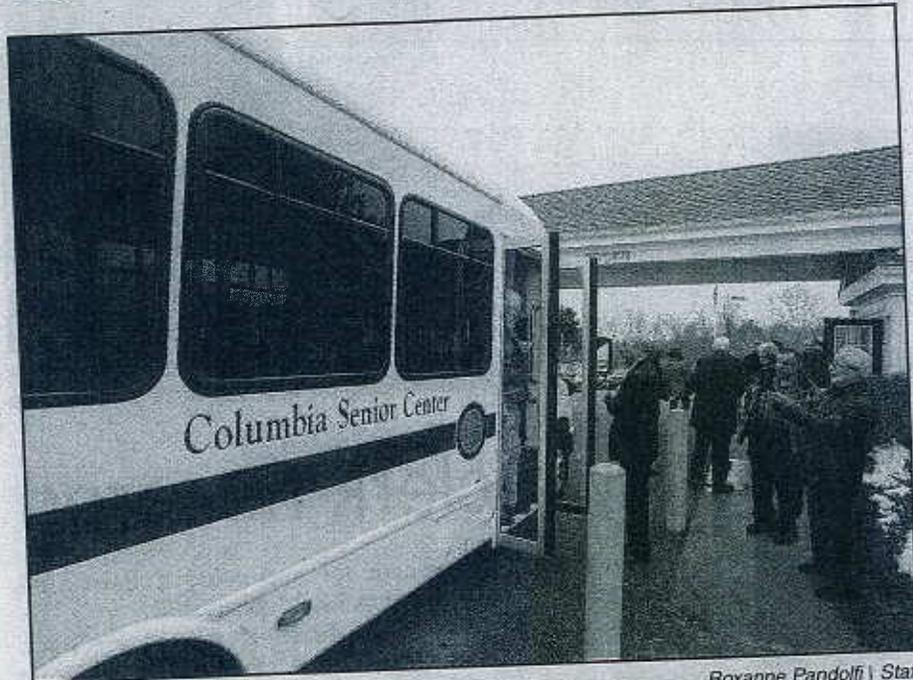
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**From:** Peter Huckins [peterhuckins@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 11:13 AM  
**To:** Christine Abikoff; Michael Zambo; Town Administrator; firstselectman@union.necoxmail.com; Joyce M. Stille (joyce.stille@boltonct.org); Steven Werbner (swerbner@tolland.org); Beverly Bellody; Robin Campbell  
**Subject:** Re: Update: CDBG Crumbling Foundation Testing Application

The Town of Coventry has received its Award Letter from the Dept of Housing for the CDBG foundation testing application. The Town of Coventry will be signing an Assistance Agreement with the State. The Program cannot begin until the Town receives the executed agreement back from DOH. Once the executed documents are received we will notify everyone of the next step.

Thanks,  
Megan

# get new rides



Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

ABOVE: Seniors gets a firsthand look at the Beckish Senior Center's new van during a ceremony Thursday in Columbia. BELOW: Maggie Ewald, of the Columbia Commission on Aging, left, talks with Ed Mathiew, right, while touring the van.

## Columbia's van arrives to applause

By EKATERINE TCHELIDZE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

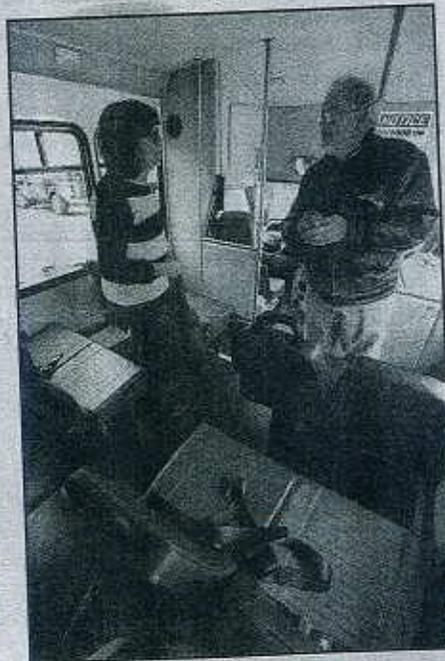
COLUMBIA — The Beckish Senior Center celebrated a new beginning — the start of senior transportation services — with applause, friendly smiles and hugs.

The senior center received its first, long-awaited senior van in December and hosted a special celebration Thursday that was well-attended.

"We started this van, like, 20 years ago," said former state senator and Columbia resident Edith Prague. "Well, hurray, hurray, hurray — Columbia has a van," she told a crowd of about 75 people, who cheered in response.

"The next thing we need is the senior housing."

According to Maggie Ewald, a member of Columbia's Commission on Aging, who was one of the people who



worked to get the van, compared to all the surrounding towns, Columbia has the highest population of older adults.

Columbia was also one of a few towns in the area that didn't have senior center transportation until now.

"It was long overdue," Ewald said.

Town Historian Ingrid Wood said Columbia is an attractive town to retire

(Columbia's, Page 4)

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# Columbia's new van arrives to applause

(Continued from Page 1)

in, which makes the older population grow significantly.

Having a senior van in town gives "a really wonderful opportunity for Columbia seniors to come together over a phenomenal resource that they have."

Director of Senior Services Bernadette Derring said about 370 seniors use the senior center and not having a transportation system was tough.

Previously, Columbia utilized Windham Region Transit District services, which didn't always work.

Now, local transportation services will accommodate all Columbia seniors and disabled adults, Derring said.

"Many seniors 65 years of age and older do not drive. This makes their need for transportation an even bigger necessity," she said. "The center is now a place where you can find your every need, including a bright warm smile."

In fact, according to Wood, the Beckish Senior Center is more than just a senior center.

"It's the town's cultural center," she said. "It's a new start for Columbia."

Many local seniors who come to the center on a regular basis showed their excitement and gratitude during the celebration, because the van will not only bring them to important appointments, but it will get them out of the house, contributing to their social life.

"I think it's so important because it will bring people together and get them out of their homes to actually spend time with other people and

not feel so isolated," said resident Sheran Smith, president of the Columbia Senior Organization.

State Sen. Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, who attended the celebration, said she was happy to support the grants that allowed the purchase of the van, which is important for the town and its seniors.

Columbia received a state grant of \$48,000 to pay for a \$61,721 van and the remaining funds were built into the budget.

"It's been a long time coming," said former first selectman Carmen Vance. "It's a great addition for the town."

Current First Selectman Steven Everett reminded residents there are rules to using the van and the center and seniors should work together to maintain those rules.

"We are just getting started and we want to increase our ridership and look forward to providing as much good services," said senior van driver Bob Raiola.

Raiola has already driven the van and said it runs nicely.

He said he is looking forward to meeting new people and driving them around.

Raiola is CPR, AED and first aid certified.

Columbia's per-diem driver will be Sherry Major and Margaret Verizzi, current program assistant, will be the transportation services dispatcher.

The van runs Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the senior center or the transportation program, visit the senior center at 188 Route 66, call 860-228-0759 or email at [beckish@columbia-ct.org](mailto:beckish@columbia-ct.org).

## Police say man who stole wood

Norwich Bulletin

KILLINGLY — Police

a complaint that he had stolen firewood from his grand-