

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – 7 pm**

Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

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

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Mark Walter; Ann Dunnack; *The Chronicle* reporter Ekaterine Tchelidze; Tax Collector Carol Price, Lake Management representative Mary Roickle

**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 September 19, 2017:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the BOS Minutes of October 3, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - 5.1 **Flanders River Bridge update:** Mark reported that unknown citizen(s) had moved the barricades and driven over the exposed rebar, causing considerable damage. This damage has made the rebar unusable as had been previously planned. At this point the cost of bridge repair will increase from \$57,000.00. New England Infrastructure is doing the work.  
Bill O'Brien questioned the liability of the company doing the work. He believes the company should have cordoned off the bridge work area with jersey barriers when they began work. Bill suggested that Mark contact the town attorney to put the company on notice for damages and price increases. Mark will follow up on this.
6. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:** Mary Roickle, a Lake Management Advisory Committee representative spoke to the LMAC motion to Town of Columbia (TOC) Board of Selectman (BOS) to eliminate Phragmites Australia on or near Columbia Lake Lakebed dated October 4, 2017. See Attached. Carmen said only #1 would be addresses tonight. Mary advised that the part 1A of the TREATMENT PROTOCOL is the recommended 1<sup>st</sup> step to be done as soon as the lake is drawn down. The cutting, bagging and removal of the invasives will be coordinated by the Dept. of Public Works and LMAC. Carmen asked if volunteers could be used for this. Yes, with supervision, was the answer. LMAC will be doing more research on 1B. Parts 2 and 3 will be addressed at future meetings. Bill O'Brien MOVED to approve 1A of the TREATMENT PROTOCOL as presented by the LMAC in a document dated October 4, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 4:0  
Mark Walter will coordinate this activity with DPW and LMAC.
7. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:** NONE
8. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** M. Walter reported:
  - The Auditors will be working all week with the Finance Office.
  - The financial TRI Board meeting set for October 25 is dependent on having a State budget to respond to.
  - The Town has received a small Education Equalization Grant in the amount of \$189,260.00.
  - The Moody bonding report indicated that Columbia is in the group of towns to be re-graded for a negative outlook.
  - A resident was bitten by an unleashed dog at Rec Park over the week end. All necessary fines and reports have been done.
  - Gas tank removal at the 7- 11 will be delayed until November 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - CIRMA recommended an endorsement to Columbia's Blanket Crime Policy BDE-1040927 with Hanover that increases the False Pretense Coverage limit to

\$50,000.00 with a \$500.00 deductible effective 10/10/2017. The premium addition is \$200.00.

- 9. CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - 9.1 ST of CT monthly police report of police services occurring within Columbia. TOC letter to Walter Crosby with Tree Warden's decision on maple tree at Columbia Lake Beach.**
  
- 10. BUDGET:**
  - 10.1 Transfers:** C. Vance MOVED to approve a transfer of \$43.00 from postage to legal notices. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
  
  - 10.2 Refunds:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the refunds totaling \$99.61. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
  
- 11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the payment of bills totaling \$53,702.96 including emergency bills, regular bills, credit cards and paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
  
- 12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

B. Bogue commented that he has been on the BOS for 7.5 years and during that time there has been much discussion concerning invasive plants at Columbia Lake and now we are facing a potentially serious problem with Phragmites a plant not carried into the lake by boats.

B. O'Brien has concerns about the unsightly condition at the intersection of 66 & 6 (the 5 corners). He would like to see something done about the area. C. Vance suggested putting together a letter to DOT to request a spruce up.
  
- 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);**

C. Vance moved to enter into executive session at 7:40pm with M. Walter and C. Price present. Executive Session ended at 8:04p.m.
  
- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:05. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4:0. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Millie K. Ramsey