

**REGULAR MEETING Minutes**  
**COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Tuesday, November 21, 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**

**Members Absent: Robert Bogue**

**Also Present: Town Administrator - Mark Walter; Assistant Town Clerk - Gail McGrath; Ann Dunnack, Lisa Napolitano; Kate Tchelidza**

**CALL TO ORDER: Carmen Vance called the meeting to order at 7:04**

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge was recited.
- 1.1. Swearing in of New Selectmen: Steven Everett, Robert Hellstrom, and Lisa Napolitano:** Assistant Town Clerk, Gail McGrath was present to administer the oath of office to **Steven Everett** the incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman.
- 1.2.** Assistant Town Clerk, Gail McGrath was present to administer the oath of office to **Robert Hellstrom and Lisa Napolitano** incoming Selectmen. New Terms begin Monday, November 27, 2017
- 1.3. Refreshments**
- 2. MINUTES: BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2017; S. Everett MOVED to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 14, 2017 as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0**
- 3. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**
- 4. OLD BUSINESS:**
- 4.1 Discussion of RFP for treatment of phragmites at Columbia Lake:** Mark has LMAC, the Environmental Committee and the Town Planner reviewing the proposal with the goal of having the proposals sent out in December. There will be a Public Hearing once the RFPs have been returned and reviewed.
- 5. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 5.1 2018 BOS meeting schedule:** The tentative 2018 calendar of meeting dates for the BOS will be finalized at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: NONE**
- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 7.1 Appointment of Board of Education Member to fill the remaining term of Lisa Napolitano** B. O'Brien MOVED to appoint Gary Littlefield to fill the remaining term on the Board of Education vacated by Lisa Napolitano. MOTION CARRIED 4:0
- 7.2 Appointment of Jennifer LaVoie as Executive Administrative Assistant:** C. Vance MOVED to hire J. LaVoie as Executive Administrative Assistant. MOTION CARRIED 4:0
- 7.3 M. Ramsey request to not be reappointed to Columbia Recreation Commission:** ACCEPTED with thanks.
- 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
  - Dave and Chris Ramm have offered a 35-acre piece of land for purchase off an approved development on Welles Woods Rd.
  - Open Space and Conservation Commission will be evaluating the land and reporting their thoughts back to the BOS.
  - Modifications to our sign regulations will be discussed at a public hearing on November 27, 2017 at 7:00 in the Conference Room.

- Update on a meeting Mark arranged with Eversource personnel to review problems with the Emergency Response Plan concerning the storm damage and lack of Make-safe Action Plan protocol.
- George Murphy reported to me that there is an overwhelming number of tree damage due to environmental issues due to two years of drought, insect damage, and storms. 63 trees need to be removed – an extra \$10,000 is needed in the tree budget.
- New senior bus will be delivered on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at the Public Works garage.
- FY 18/19 will have a new school financing formula ECS contribution. Will be based on a new per pupil formula, a property wealth factor of 70%, and an income wealth factor of 30%. MBR can be reduced by the same amount as the States reduction to our school funding.

## **8.1 State budget update**

- State Budget: the latest long awaited budget and Governor Malloy’s budget adjustments are now released. \$700 million of the reductions are tied to labor savings with state employees. Of the remaining \$182 million half of the amount (\$91 Million) represents cuts to municipal aid.
- The net decrease to Columbia’s state aid total \$314,131.00, minus the \$50,000 we budgeted for teacher pension payment. Net decrease in budgeted state municipal aid is \$264,131.00
- The legislature must still come back into session to resolve a few more short falls in the budget. The towns are on the hook for 50% of the renters rebate program. Final numbers are due after Thanksgiving.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**9.1 Thank you letter from Carmen Vance to the Chronicle News Editor**

**9.2 Lisa Napolitano letter of resignation from the Board of Education**

**9.3 Board of Education endorsement for Gary Littefield**

**9.4 Letter from Tom McGrath for BOS consideration:** To be discussed at Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **10. BUDGET:**

**10.1 Transfers :NONE**

**10.2 Refunds: NONE**

**11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$40,062.98. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Carmen thanked the Board members for their many years of service and expressed her gratitude for being such a great group to work with over the years.

## **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**13.1 Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6); 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 7:35pm with M. Walter present. MOTION CARRIED 4:0Executive session ended at 8:00pm

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:01pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted by: Jennifer C. LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant

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