

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, December 6 2016 – 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.

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo; Ann Dunnack; LMAC Chair Mike Gnazzo; Karl Then; Carl Foster; Henry Beck; Robert Powell, Mary Roickle, Dan O'Neill, Steve Harrington.

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 November 15, 2016:** W. O'Brien MOVED to approve the BOS minutes of November 15, 2016 as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Recreation Floater to Recreation Assistant:** M. Walter explained that the Director of Parks and Recreation has requested a title change for the current Rec Floater position. He stated that her exceptional job performance and change in duties warrants a title change to Recreation Assistant. M. Walter explained that this is simply a title change and that there will be no increase in hours or wages. Discussion followed. R. Hellstrom MOVED to approve the title change request from Rec Floater to Recreation Assistant and to approve the proposed job description of Recreation Assistant as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
 - 5.2 **2017-2018 Municipal Holiday Schedule:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the 2017-2018 Municipal Holiday schedule as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
 - 5.3 **Clean Energy Community Program Awards:** M. Walter explained that because of how well Columbia has done in terms of energy conservation, the town has been awarded \$9,000 (two awards at \$4,500 each) to complete a project that will help continue to conserve energy in town. After meeting with the Facilities Manager and members of the Environmental Advisory Committee, it was decided that replacing the windows at the Meeting Place would be the best proposed project at this time. The estimated cost for this window replacement is approximately \$12,000 of which \$9,000 will be funded by the Clean Energy Award monies. S. Everett MOVED to accept the Clean Energy Community Program Awards and move forward with the proposed window replacement project at the Meeting Place. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
6. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**
 - 6.1 **Request from LMAC re: gate at Beach:** M. Gnazzo explained that LMAC has been discussing installing a gate at the boat launch to help reduce the risk of invasive species being brought into the lake for some time. He stated that the other option to help eliminate invasive species is a boat wash. However, these are quite expensive and can be highly complex. He explained that other lakes in Connecticut have implemented similar systems such as a gate, which consist of restricted access to the lake. M. Gnazzo stated that all boats accessing the lake will require inspections prior to being put on the lake. This gate would be staffed and a schedule would have to be created as to when the gate is open. R. Powell stated that the possibility of Marine Patrol staffing the gate has been discussed and thought to be wiser than having lifeguards staff the gate due to the young age of the guards and the possibility of potentially confrontational situations arising. He explained that in addition, Marine Patrol performs annual inspections of all boats on the lake. Therefore, this would be combines with inspecting for invasive species. Discussion followed.

S. Everett asked how many people are on Marine Patrol. R. Powell stated currently there are seven (7) Marine Patrol employees, which would have to increase. S. Everett asked what the hourly rate is for Marine Patrol staff. M. Walter stated it is \$13.54 per hour.

W. O'Brien asked if LMAC had considered using volunteers, summer interns, etc. to staff the gate. R. Powell stated that the issue with volunteers is that they are not always reliable.

H. Beck stated that if the town chooses to enforce the new gate by utilizing the Resident State Trooper and creating a fine system, it will have to be managed professionally through the town.

M. Walter explained that based on his experience, the annual cost to manage invasive species can range anywhere from \$15,000 - \$250,000. He stated that lake associations usually help to raise money while the town and sometimes the state contribute as well.

W. O'Brien asked if canoes and kayaks would be included. H. Beck said yes, they would be included in the inspections.

K. Then stated kayaks, jet skis, powerboats of any kind, etc. must all be inspected. He explained that once invasive species get into the lake, the only option remaining will be to manage it, because there will be no way to get them out. He expressed the importance of protecting what we have.

M. Gnazzo stated that transient boaters are the greatest risk in terms of bringing invasive species into the lake.

M. Roickle stated that at a meeting in July, unanimous vote showed that the number 1 (one) threat to the lake is invasive species and that the gate would be the number 1 (one) solution to prevent this from occurring. She stated that currently, limnologist Dr. Kortmann monitors the lake.

Carl Foster stated that impact on the value to lake-front homes on infested lakes has proved to decline by approximately 32-40%.

C. Vance explained that she would like to get a general idea from the BOS in terms of whether or not they are in favor of this before time is put into organizing staff, creating a schedule, etc. The BOS was in favor of a gate at the beach to prevent invasive species from entering the lake.

R. Hellstrom pointed out that the town is currently looking into making significant changes to the beach area, and feels that a gate should be included.

A. Dunnack asked if the gate would be complete this summer, unlike the proposed beach project. C. Vance and Mike Gnazzo said yes.

LMAC will work on creating a schedule, anticipated costs, etc. and bring this information back to the BOS at a future meeting.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS: None.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: *(see attached)*

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 Thank you letter to R. Powell from C. Vance dated 11/21/16

9.2 Prescription Drug Savings Report – October 2016

9.3 Thank you letter to C. Vance from TVCCA dated 11/22/16

9.4 Troop K- Crime Data Analysis

9.5 MBR Legislation

9.6 Emergency Notification Guidelines

10. BUDGET:

10.1 Transfers: C. Vance MOVED to approve the following transfers:

AMOUNT / TRANSFER #	FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #, DESCRIPTION
\$600 / 2017-005	10-4112-012, Admin Auto Allowance	10-4112-010, Admin Salaries
\$856 / 2017-006	10-4136-010, Finance Salaries	10-4410-010, DPW Salaries
\$532 / 2017-006	10-4420-010, Waste Disposal Salaries	10-4410-010, DPW Salaries
\$517 / 2017-006	10-4420-011, Waste Disposal Salaries	10-4410-010, DPW Salaries
\$3,397 / 2017-006 total \$5,302	10-4670-010, Rec Salaries	10-4410-010, DPW Salaries
\$548 / 2017-007	10-4420-011 Waste Disposal OT Salaries	10-4420-011, DPW OT Salaries
\$11,269 / 2017-008	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4112-010, Admin Salaries
\$275 / 2017-009	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4130-010, ROV Salaries
\$163 / 2017-009	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4130-016, Election Workers Salaries
\$1,709 / 2017-010	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4132-010, Assessor Salaries
\$1,261 / 2017-011	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4133-010, Tax Collector Salaries
\$1,538 / 2017-012	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4134-010, Town Clerk Salaries
\$1,272 / 2017-013	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4260-010, Senior Center Salaries
\$115 / 2017-014	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4330-010, Fire Marshal Salaries
\$54 / 2017-015	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4345-010, Emergency Mgmt Director Salaries
\$148 / 2017-016	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4350-010, LMAC Salaries
\$1,132 / 2017-017	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4410-010, DPW Salaries
\$8,176 / 2017-018	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4510-010, PZC Salaries
\$155 / 2017-019	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4520-010, IWWC Salaries
\$159 / 2017-020	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4570-010, Land Use Salaries
\$667 / 2017-021	10-4800-900, Contingency	10-4640-010, Beach Svcs Salaries
\$417 / 2017-022	10-4112-040, Admin Group Insurance	10-4620-120, Library telephone/communications
\$1,564 / 2017-022 total \$1,981	10-4112-040, Admin Group Insurance	10-4620-230, Library Electricity
\$3,000 / 2017-023	10-4112-040, Admin Group Insurance	10-4113-600, IT Repairs/Maintenance

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

10.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to approve the following refunds:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$58.82	Town of Columbia	Gervais, Gerald and Dale
\$157.78	Town of Columbia	Toyota Motor Credit Corporation
\$1,426.88	Town of Columbia	Corelogic on behalf of Sherwood, William and Stacey
\$2,159.53	Town of Columbia	Loreta LLC on behalf of Robbins, Richard

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: C. Vance MOVED to approve the payment of bills including emergency bills, regular bills, bond payments, credit cards and paychex totaling \$108,736.57. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: W. O'Brien expressed a concern that the town hall does not have an alarm system. M. Walter stated that this can be looked into. Discussion followed. S. Everett stated that the Gazebo Lighting was fantastic. C. Vance stated that the Lions were very complimentary regarding Marks attendance at last week's Lions Club dinner/meeting. S. Everett feels that the Rec Park Master Plan meeting last week was very well done and well received.

Ann Dunnack stated that Senator Cathy Osten will be attending the Open Space meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2016 and invited the BOS.

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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A); C. Vance MOVED to enter into executive session at 8:14 pm. MOTION CARRIED 4:0. Executive session ended at 8:29 pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT: C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:30 pm and the MOTION CARRIED 4:0. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona