

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, January 17, 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 Robert Hellstrom; Selectman Robert Bogue.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Mark Walter; Fire Marshal Mike Lester; Ann Dunnack; *The Chronicle* Reporter, Kate Tchelidze.

**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 December 6, 2016; Tri-Board Special Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2016:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the 12/6/16 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED 3:0.  
  
R. Bogue MOVED to approve 12/15/16 Tri-Board Special Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED 2:0:1 with R. Hellstrom abstaining.  
  
C. Vance MOVED to add item 5.6 to the agenda, entitled, "Establishment of Town Meeting." MOTION CARRIED 3:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - 5.1 **Willimantic Classic Road Race:** C. Vance MOVED to authorize Willimantic Classic Road Race to travel through Columbia on May 6, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 3:0.
  - 5.2 **Parks and Rec April Vacation Camp:** C. Vance explained that the Rec Department would like to offer a camp during April vacation. She stated that there will be approximately thirty (30) openings. Discussion followed. R. Hellstrom expressed concern with non-residents registering for the camp. He stated that he would not want to see the camp fill up with non-residents before residents have the chance to sign up. M. Walter stated the Rec Director will add counselors as needed per the head count and does not feel that this will be an issue. Discussion followed. MOTION CARRIED 3:0.  
  
S. Everett arrived at 7:11 pm.
  - 5.3 **Re-naming of "The Meeting Place":** C. Vance stated that after researching past minutes, "The Meeting Place" was named by the Board of Selectmen at a meeting in 1989. She explained that because the building will be used solely for historical purposes going forward, she suggested renaming "The Meeting Place" to "The History Place." R. Bogue asked about the concern of handicapped accessibility that was raised during a previous discussion regarding the building. C. Vance stated that this should not be an issue because the building will not hold operating hours like a public building does. Discussion followed. C. Vance MOVED to rename the "Meeting Place" to the "History Place." MOTION CARRIED 3:0.
  - 5.4 **Jacunski Humes Architect Contract for school and Old Fire House:** M. Walter discussed the proposals for reconfiguration of the bus and car drop off area (\$6,600) for the children at Porter School and for the renovation of the exterior of the Old Firehouse (\$5,600). He explained that the intention of the reconfiguration of the parking lot is to ensure the safety of the children being dropped off. He stated that the Superintendent would like to see an area solely for buses to eliminate children walking in front of other vehicles. The BOS agreed that they do not see how it will be possible to change the set up of the current parking lot and entrance/exit to the school. S. Everett feels that there is a lack of property to allow this reconfiguration to be possible. He asked if there have been problems reported by the individuals that monitor pick up and drop off. M. Walter said he

is unaware of issues and will investigate. Discussion followed. They would like to be assured that reconfiguration is a possibility prior to spending \$6,600 on architectural fees for schematic designing, only to learn that a new configuration is not feasible. M. Walter will speak with the architect and request their assurance that a safer configuration is possible.

M. Walter stated that the renovation to the Old Firehouse will improve the aesthetics of the building, which serves as a maintenance garage for the Facility Managers for the town and school. Discussion followed.

C. Vance MOVED to authorize Jacunski Humes Architects to move forward with a schematic design of the Old Fire House/maintenance garage for a cost of \$5,600 as presented in proposal. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

- 5.5 Authorization for Public Works Director to bid on auction equipment at Petrowski's in Franklin, CT:** M. Walter stated that during last year's budget process, Public Works was approved to purchase a new piece of equipment in the Capital Account. This item was for a front loader which was budgeted at a cost of \$70,000 dollars. Upon review of this piece of equipment and in consideration of fiscal expenditures by our Public Works Department it has been determined that a good condition used piece of equipment would be sufficient for Public Works and the Town of Columbia. He explained that Public Works Director, George Murphy, attended one auction last Fall at Petrowski's Auctioneers in Franklin, CT and saw several units sell for half of what we have already budgeted. All were in very good to near new condition. However, because G. Murphy needed prior approval from Administration, he was unable to purchase equipment at Petrowski's. He has respectfully requested that the BOS issue authorization to bid and possible purchase this piece of equipment at one of their auctions, not to exceed what is currently in the Capital Budget (approximately \$70,000). G. Murphy feels that this would be a worthwhile cost savings to the town. Discussion followed. S. Everett MOVED to authorize Public Works Director to bid and/or purchase equipment at Petrowski's that meets the needs of the Public Works Department and that is within his current budget of approximately \$70,000. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 5.6 Establishment of Town Meeting:** C. Vance MOVED to schedule a town meeting for approval of a funds transfer on February 7, 2017 at 6:45 pm in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

The BOS requested clarification on the proposed transfers. Discussion followed. M. Walter will speak with the Finance Director and get back to the BOS with a clearer explanation of the transfers for approval.

- 6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**
- 6.1 Application of Emma Nyarady for dock repair at 18 Erdoni Road:** C. Vance MOVED to deny the application of E. Nyarady for dock repair at 18 Erdoni Road based on the recommendation made by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 6.2 Application of James Blair on behalf of Russ Inzigna (Breezy Point, Inc) for dock replacement between 41 and 43 Sleepy Hollow Road:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of J. Blair on behalf of R. Inzigna for dock replacement between 41 and 43 Sleepy Hollow Road contingent upon the recommendations made by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 6.3 Application of Sally Robinson and Wes Gregonis for dock repair at 26 Lake Road:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of S. Robinson and W. Gregonis for dock repair at 26 Lake Road contingent upon the recommendations made by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 6.4 Application of Steve Harrington for seawall replacement at 47 Sleepy Hollow Road:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of S. Harrington for seawall replacement at 47 Sleepy Hollow Road contingent upon the recommendations made by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1 with R. Hellstrom abstaining.
- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 7.1 Re-Appointment of Mike Lester as Open Burn Official (OBO):** S. Everett MOVED to re-appoint M. Lester as OBO. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
- 7.2 Resignation of Astrid Belanger as Republican Registrar of Voters (ROV):** The BOS regretfully accepted the resignation of A. Belanger and recognized her replacement, Katherine Morrison, as the Republican Registrar of Voters.

**8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

*S. Everett MOVED to reschedule BOS special budget workshop meeting from February 14, 2017 to February 15, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.*

**9. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**9.1 Thank you letter to CVFD from C. Vance dated December 13, 2016**

**9.2 Letter to Dept of Public Health from State Legislators dated January 10, 2017 re: consolidation of local health departments and health districts**

**9.3 Prescription Drug Card Monthly Savings - November 2016**

**10. BUDGET:**

**10.1 Transfers:** This ITEM has been TABLED.

**10.2 Refunds:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the following refund:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$122.77	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	Stephen Hay

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$318,926.38 including emergency bills, regular bills, library payments, credit cards and paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

**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 8:33 pm with M. Walter and M. Lester present. Executive session ended at 8:55 pm.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:56 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona