

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 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; Selectman Robert Bogue.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Mark Walter; Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo.

**CALL TO ORDER:** C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **BUDGET WORKSHOP:** C. Vance explained that a lot of time was spent going over the proposed FY 17-18 budget. She stated that the proposed budget presented this evening includes the "worst case scenario" in terms of what the state decides. The proposed budget includes \$613,199 which is Columbia's portion of the state's proposal for towns to fund 1/3 of the teacher pension.

Discussion regarding insurance costs ensued. M. Walter and C. Vance explained that the proposed budget includes moving all town and library employees to a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and Health Savings Account (HSA).

C. Vance explained that the proposed budget includes an increase in transfer station stickers, beach passes and swim lessons. It consists of a 2% wage increase for town staff, excluding seasonal employees, floaters and election workers. The hourly rates will remain the same as FY 16-17. She stated that the budget includes a 2.27% (\$4,300) increase as requested by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD). C. Vance explained that the request from the Library was initially 5% increase and was reduced \$8,000 to 3% (adjusted increase totals \$11,675).

C. Vance stated S. Everett worked with George Murphy on reviewing capital projects in order to even out expenses over the five year proposal. M. Walter explained he feels funding the \$90,000 beach project, \$75,000 Old Firehouse/Maintenance Facility and \$250,000 Salt Shed could be paid from the General/Undesignated Fund Balance (UFB) and perhaps this should be suggested to FiPAC. S. Everett feels that if the UFB is healthy enough, perhaps funding more from the general fund (another project in addition to the three totaling \$415,000) should be considered. Then there would be a one-time withdrawal from the UFB versus going back again and again to the town for more funding. Per the budget document, the UFB is estimated to be \$3,236,841 by June 30, 2017 pending any changes before year end and a review of budget variances. Discussion followed.

W. O'Brien MOVED to approve to send the proposed FY 17-18 budget to FiPAC as presented, including the current BOE budget as is or as amended at its meeting on March 6, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

3. **ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:53 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona