

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 7:00 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present via Remote Access: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Robert Hellstrom, Deputy Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman.

Also Present via Remote Access: Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director; Carol Price, Tax Collector, Marc Volza, Recreation Director, Mary Lavallee, Assessor.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 PM

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** S. Everett asked for a moment of reflection.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett **MOVED** to add to the Agenda the following:
 - o 5.3 Reverse the MOTION approved by BOS on March 31, 2020 whereas a town meeting was approved to be held on a date to be determined concerning the appropriation from the General Fund of \$300,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund in order to complete the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD).
 - o 5.4 Board of Selectman recommend appropriation of \$175,000 from the General Fund to Account # 20-6403-006 CVFD Capital Projects as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase of a Rescue truck.
 - o 6.2 Award Contract for 2021 Revaluation Services for the Town of Columbia.

MOTION CARRIED 4.0 (R. Hellstrom had not arrived yet)

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **BOS Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2020.** S. Everett **MOVED** to Approve the Minutes from April 7, 2020. MOTION CARRIED 4.0 (R. Hellstrom had not arrived yet).
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** *For public input before the meeting please email your comments to PublicInput@columbiact.org. For public input during the meeting, your comments can be submitted through the "Chat" feature in Zoom Meeting. PLEASE INCLUDE IN BOTH METHODS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.* No Comments from the Audience.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Discussion and Possible Vote to Authorize the Funding for a Medical Car Lease to be Paid in the 2020 FY Budget.** M. Walter explained that they would hold the contract from Columbia Ford once we get FiPAC Approval. S. Everett explained we are just waiting until we get through COVID-19 and the budget before we move forward.
 - 5.2 **Discussion and voting on possible changes to recommend to FiPAC on FY 2020-2021 budget.** S. Everett explained that the BOS will not move forward until FiPAC gives them directions to make changes or reductions to the budget.

- 5.3 **Reverse the MOTION approved by BOS on March 31, 2020 whereas a town meeting was approved to be held on a date to be determined concerning the appropriation from the General Fund of \$300,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund in order to complete the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD).**

S. Everett MOVED to Rescind the MOTION to set a Town Meeting to approve a General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund in order to complete the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen had previously called a Town Meeting to act upon the proposed appropriation of \$300,000 from the General Fund to be applied to the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department more particularly described below; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergencies in the State of Connecticut and executive orders issued by Governor Lamont in conjunction with such declaration the holding of a town meeting would not be prudent; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Executive Order 7S issued by Governor Lamont on April 1, 2020 permits the Board of Selectmen and the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee, by the majority vote of each such body, to authorize an appropriation in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the Town's current total municipal budget without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen have determined that the appropriation of the funds to be applied to the Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department is in the best interest of the Town,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Town shall appropriate the sum of \$175,000 from the General Fund to Account # 20-6403-006 CVFD Capital Projects as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 5.4 **Board of Selectman recommend appropriation of \$175,000 from the General Fund to Account # 20-6403-006 CVFD Capital Projects as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase of a Rescue truck.**

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 6.1 **BOS Resolution to Participate in the Deferment Program for all Taxpayers, Businesses, Nonprofits and Residents in the Town of Columbia.** S. Everett explained that the Deferment Program includes a 90-day deferment or a second option of 3 months at 3% for delinquent taxes. C. Price explained it defers the last day to pay to August 1st. She stated that the State is giving us the last day to pay by October 1st with no penalty. S. Everett MOVED that the Columbia Board of Selectmen does hereby elect to participate in the Deferment Program for all

taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents in the Town of Columbia as described in Section 6(a), as well as eligible landlords as described in Section 6(c), of Executive Order No. 7S issued by Gov. Ned Lamont on April 1, 2020, as modified by Section 1(b) of Executive Order 7W issued by Gov. Ned Lamont on April 9, 2020, and any supplemental guidance or documentation issued in conjunction therewith by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 6.2 Award Contract for 2021 Revaluation Services for the Town of Columbia.** S. Everett stated the bids came in as projected and a total of three bids came in from eQuality, Tyler, and Vision. M. Lavallee explained that eQuality is our choice because eQuality most closely agreed to our stipulations for the contract. We will be using their software and their staff and service. Another important point to be considered is that the sister company of eQuality is Quality Data Service which has provided our assessors administration and billing on the tax side for decades. Their staff is without question the best in the business. the S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Contract with eQualtiy. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 6.3 Discussion and Approval to Request a Traffic Study – Rte. 66 at West Street and Hunt Rd. from the Department of Transportation.** S. Everett explained that the residents have asked the local traffic authority to get another traffic study. He explained the last traffic survey done in 2015 and it did not warrant traffic lights at that intersection. Discussion ensued about concerns and there should be some push to make it safer. S. Everett stated he would like to meet with the State when they come out to take the study. The BOS overwhelming approved a request for a traffic study.
- 7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH.**
- 7.1 Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding a Policy to Protect Residents While Using the Town Beach in Light of COVID-19 and Distancing Requirements.** S. Everett was looking for input from the BOS on the plan the Recreation Director provided. W. O’Brien thought it might be too soon to make a plan. J. Ortiz asked what other towns are doing. S. Everett explained that southern part of the state has been shut down. L. Napolitano said to hold off and look toward a Memorial Day date and go from there. R. Hellstrom stated that we may need to wait a little bit and delay opening. S. Everett stated we will put this issue back on the agenda before opening of the beach.
- 8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS.**
- 8.1 Appointment of the 2020 Marine Patrol Staff:** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint the following personnel to the 2020 Marine Patrol Staff. MOTION Carried 5.0.
- Nicole Morey
 - Luke Stover
 - Maizey Mabry Smith
 - Sharon Smith
 - David Evans
 - Michael Franchi
 - Eleanor Duva
 - Alysha Drabek
 - James Drabek
 - George Lewandoski
 - Tom Griffith

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

9.1 Update Emergency Management Report. M. Walter explained we have been on constant conference calls with multiple entities such as the Eastern Highland Health District and Department of Emergency Management and lot of great information is being provided which allows him to move this information to the department heads. M. Walter shared the Emergency Management Directors update.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Chronicle Articles on “Pandemic Distraction” and “Mansfield extends tax grace period.”

11. BUDGET:

11.1 Transfers: S. Everett MOVED to Authorize the Transfer of \$1,670.00 from Commercial Insurance to Telephone to cover the overbudgeted cost of telephone service at Town Hall. The transfer includes covering the current overspending of \$14.32 as well as an estimate for covering telephone costs to the end of the fiscal year.

TRANSFER#/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPTION
2020-027 / \$1,670.00	10-4112-460 Commercial Insurance	10-4112-120 Telephone

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

11.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to pay 130.72 to Hyundai Lease Titling Trust. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Payment of Bills Totaling \$52,059.72 consisting of 2019-2020 Emergency, 2019-2020 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: No comments.

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: No comments.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 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).

16. ADJOURNMENT: S. Everett MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – 7:00 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present via Remote Access: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Robert Hellstrom, Deputy Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman.

Also Present via Remote Access: Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda for April 7, 2020. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 BOS Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2020.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the BOS Special Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2020. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.1 with Bill O'Brien Abstaining.
- 4. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** S. Everett explained that we received several comments to the PublicInput@columbiact.org email account regarding the Mono Pond State Park and most were in favor.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS:** None.
 - 5.1 Cancelling of April 7, 2020 Town Meeting per Executive Order 7S.** S. Everett explained that we had to cancel the April 7, 2020 Town Meeting based on the Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S that permits the Board of Selectmen and the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee, by the majority vote of each such body, to authorize an appropriation in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the Town's current total municipal budget without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such appropriation.
 - 5.2 Act upon the proposed appropriation of \$30,000 from the Open Space Land Acquisition account to be applied toward the purchase price of the Inzinga/Bauer property.** S. Everett read the MOTION. WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen had previously called a Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 to act upon the proposed appropriation of \$30,000 from the open space land acquisition account to be applied toward the purchase price of the Inzinga/Bauer property more particularly described below; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergencies in the State of Connecticut and executive orders issued by Governor Lamont in conjunction with such declaration the holding of a town meeting would not be prudent; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Executive Order 7S issued by Governor Lamont on April 1, 2020 permits the Board of Selectmen and the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee, by the majority vote of each such body, to authorize an

appropriation in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the Town's current total municipal budget without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has determined that the appropriation of the funds to be applied to the open space purchase is in the best interest of the Town,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Town shall appropriate the sum of \$30,000 from Open Space Land Acquisition, Capital Account #20-6388-013 as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase price of a certain parcel consisting of approximately 99.5 acres of open space land located in the Town of Columbia owned by Russell P. Inzinga, Trustee and the Estate of Angeline I. Bauer and located at Wells Wood Rd. (Lot 51 on Assessor's Map 38).

MOTION CARRIED 4.1, with Lisa Napolitano voting No.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Recommendation to Approve James Blair Landscaping, LLC proposal for Town Facilities Walkways project for \$26,669.00. S. Everett MOVED to hire James Blair Landscaping LLC as the winning bid for the Town Facilities Walkways. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6.2 Recommendation to Approve Higgins Electric, LLC proposal for Horace Porter School Generator Replacement net bid of \$69,334.00 which includes a \$5,200.00 trade in credit. S. Everett MOVED to hire Higgins Electric, LLC as the winning bid of \$69,334.00 for the Horace Porter School Generator Replacement. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH. None.

8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS. None.

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

9.1 Unified Command. M. Walter stated that the Unified Command has been very active staying on top of the Governor's Executive Orders, joining in conference calls with Governor's Office, Eastern Highland Health District, Department of Emergency Management and other local and state agencies. Staff have been working accordingly to keep only one person in each office and we are now training employees for remote access. Working on parks with social distancing. 3 confirmed cases in Columbia.

9.2 FEMA Declaration. M. Walter stated that we have prepared a FEMA Declaration so that the Town can receive FEMA for reimbursement for documented expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Town Administrator's April Monthly newsletter.

11. BUDGET:

11.1 Transfers: S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Transfer of \$26,669.00 to cover the cost of the Facilities Walkway project per bid award with James Blair Landscaping. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Transfer of \$700.00 to cover the overbudgeted cost of heating oil for Town Hall. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

TRANSFER#/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPTION
2020-025 / \$26,669.00	10-4800-900 Contingency	20-6206-002 DPW Capital Improvements Buildings
2020-026 / \$700.00	10-4112-460 Commercial Insurance	10-4510-720 Professional Dues

11.2 MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

11.3 Refunds: None.

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: S. Everett MOVED to Approve Bills totaling \$57,752.13, consisting of 2019/2020 Emergency, 2019/2020 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: Paul Kabula 37 Lake Rd. asked what authority the Governor has with these Executive Orders.

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: J. Ortiz, stated that AHM was reaching out on Everything Columbia Facebook page for any residents in need. Lisa Napolitano stated she is proud of everyone for all the work they do, including residents.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 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). None.

16. ADJOURNMENT: S. Everett MOVED to Adjourn at 7:35pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

5.3 & 5.4

For Board of Selectmen

S. Everett MOVES to Rescind the MOTION to set a Town Meeting to approve a General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund in order to complete the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen had previously called a Town Meeting to act upon the proposed appropriation of \$300,000 from the General Fund to be applied to the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department more particularly described below; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergencies in the State of Connecticut and executive orders issued by Governor Lamont in conjunction with such declaration the holding of a town meeting would not be prudent; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Executive Order 7S issued by Governor Lamont on April 1, 2020 permits the Board of Selectmen and the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee, by the majority vote of each such body, to authorize an appropriation in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the Town's current total municipal budget without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen have determined that the appropriation of the funds to be applied to the Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department is in the best interest of the Town,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Town shall appropriate the sum of \$175,000 from the General Fund to Account # 20-6403-006 CVFD Capital Projects as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee recommends that the Town shall appropriate the sum of \$175,000 from the General Fund Account #20-6403-006 CVFD Capital Projects as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

6.1

“RESOLVED, that the Columbia Board of Selectmen does hereby elect to participate in the Deferment Program for all taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents in the Town of Columbia as described in Section 6(a), as well as eligible landlords as described in Section 6(c), of Executive Order No. 7S issued by Gov. Ned Lamont on April 1, 2020, as modified by Section 1(b) of Executive Order 7W issued by Gov. Ned Lamont on April 9, 2020, and any supplemental guidance or documentation issued in conjunction therewith by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.”



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S SECTION 6 MUNICIPALITY PROGRAM ELECTION

The municipality of Columbia by determination of our local legislative body, or in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, voted and approved on 4-21-20, that we will participate in the following program(s):

Deferment Program. During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that the Governor declared the public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including July 1, 2020, municipalities participating in the Deferment Program shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by CO VID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall issue guidance as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the Deferment Program, but participating municipalities may, upon approval of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, extend eligibility for the deferment program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.

Low Interest Rate Program. For municipalities participating in the Low Interest Rate Program, notwithstanding Section 12-146 of the General Statutes, (i) the delinquent portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric charges or assessments or part thereof shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from the time when it became due and payable until the same is paid, for any such tax, rate, charge, or assessment due and payable from March 10 through and including July 1, 2020, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established; and (ii) any portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments or part thereof that had been delinquent on or prior to March 10, shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from this Order, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety (90) days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established.

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

CEO CERTIFICATION:

Dated this ____ day of April, 2020.

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

DUE TO OPM NO LATER THAN APRIL 25, 2020 ~ RETURN TO: Martin.Heft@ct.gov

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7S

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND
RESPONSE – SAFE STORES, RELIEF FOR POLICYHOLDERS, TAXPAYERS, AND
TENANTS**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued seventeen (17) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7N imposed certain safety restrictions and mandates on retail establishments in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 among customers, employees, and others entering such establishments; and

WHEREAS, there exists a compelling state interest in a consistent and easily understandable statewide approach to reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among customers, staff, and other persons entering retail establishments, to limit community transmission of COVID-19 statewide, and to ensure the continuity of essential retail services and safe conduct of permitted non-essential retail services; and

WHEREAS, widespread financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and necessary responses to it may prevent policyholders from timely payment of insurance premiums, and any resulting penalties, including cancellation or non-renewal of policies, create additional hardship, cause further damage to the economy, and endanger property and public health; and

WHEREAS, to encourage social distancing and protect public health and safety, my Executive Order 7D, dated March 16, 2020 and Executive Order 7G, dated March 19, 2020, closed bars and restaurants to all on-premise service of food and beverages; and

WHEREAS, many businesses may be experiencing lost revenue from the prohibition of on-premise food and beverage sales, which will hinder their ability to make timely payments to their creditors; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut serves many elders and disabled individuals through multiple home and community based services waivers and Medicaid state plan benefits under the Medicaid program, including clients of the Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Developmental Services, who rely upon these home-based services to remain in their homes, avoid institutionalization and achieve maximum independence and functioning, and certain adjustments to the provision of services under these various waivers are necessary to ensure continuity of services and provide greater flexibility during COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has advised the Department of Social Services that it may, on an expedited basis, and without providing a notice and comment period, take advantage of opportunities included in Appendix K to the Home and Community Based Waivers under Section 1915(c), as well as Sections 1115 (a) and 1135, of the Social Security Act, and also including, as applicable, amendments to Medicaid state plan provisions under other relevant provisions, such as sections 1915(i), 1915(k) and 1945 of the Social Security Act, in order to act quickly to address critical health needs of Medicaid beneficiaries and others in Connecticut in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 204 of the Connecticut General Statutes sets forth tax collection deadlines that will be difficult for residential and commercial property owners to meet in light of the significant job and economic losses experienced by Connecticut residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have sought relief on behalf of taxpayers who are struggling due to business operations being suspended or ceased, layoffs and other complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, certain municipal charters, ordinances or resolutions require critical town fiscal and budgetary decisions to be voted on by referendum or town meeting that create a risk to public health; and

WHEREAS, Sections 12-170aa(e) and (f) and Sections 12-129b and 12-129c of the Connecticut General Statutes require municipalities to conduct specific duties, including but not limited to processing tax relief claims that require in-person meetings and application filing requirements for taxpayers who have attained age sixty-five or over or are totally disabled; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-62 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires municipalities to conduct in-person inspections which will create increased risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-63c of the Connecticut General Statutes requires taxpayer filings based on information in Income and Expense Statements by Assessors, which were previously extended under Executive Order 7I, Section 15; and

WHEREAS, it will promote the public health and safety of all Connecticut residents to prohibit evictions during the public health and civil preparedness emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch has suspended all evictions and ejection proceedings and Executive Order No. 7G suspended non-critical court operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Safe Stores Mandatory Statewide Rules, Amending Executive Order No. 7N, Sec. 3.** Effective upon the opening of each retail establishment for the first time on April 3, 2020, every retail establishment in the State of Connecticut shall take additional protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between and among customers, employees, and other persons such as delivery drivers or maintenance people. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall issue mandatory statewide rules prescribing such additional protective measures no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2020. Such rules shall be mandatory throughout the state and shall supersede and preempt any current or future municipal order and shall supersede the requirements of Executive Order No. 7N, Sec. 3, providing that nothing in this order shall eliminate or reduce the requirements of Executive Order No. 7N, Sec. 3 regarding firearms transactions.
2. **60-Day Grace Period for Premium Payments, Policy Cancellations and Non-Renewals of Insurance Policies.** Beginning on April 1, 2020, for a period of sixty (60) calendar days ending on June 1, 2020, no insurer may, without a court order, lapse, terminate or cause to be forfeited a covered insurance policy because a covered policyholder does not pay a premium or interest or indebtedness on a premium under the policy that is due except as provided hereunder. This grace period shall apply to entities licensed or regulated by the Insurance Department including admitted and non-admitted insurance companies that provide any insurance coverage in Connecticut including, life, health, auto, property, casualty and other types of insurance as follows:
 - a. Insurers shall provide such 60-day grace period to individuals that have individual insurance policies who, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, were laid off, furloughed, or fired from employment or otherwise sustained a significant loss in revenue. Such individuals may be required to provide an affidavit or other statement acceptable to their insurance carrier, explaining that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic they were laid

off, furloughed, or fired from employment or otherwise sustained a significant loss in revenue.

- b. Insurers shall provide such 60-day grace period to businesses that are group policyholders, have group insurance and/or have property/casualty insurance that were required to close or significantly reduce operations or suffered significant revenue loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such businesses may be required to provide an affidavit or other statement acceptable to their insurance carriers, explaining that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were required to close or significantly reduce their business operations or suffered a significant revenue loss.
 - c. This 60-day grace period is not automatic. To be eligible, affected policyholders must provide the information outlined above in an affidavit or other statement acceptable to their insurance carriers. Carriers shall provide instructions on how policyholders are to provide such information.
 - d. Policyholders are advised that this grace period is not a waiver or forgiveness of the premium; it is only an extension of time in which to pay premiums. Policyholders are advised that they may be subject to restrictions if they are in receipt of state or federal stimulus funding relating to COVID-19.
 - e. Individuals or businesses that do not meet the criteria for the 60-day grace period set forth above, will need to contact their insurance carrier should they wish to discuss a premium deferral.
 - f. This order does not apply to self-funded health plans.
 - g. If a carrier has already provided a policyholder with a 60-day grace period for March and April 2020 premiums, or offers to provide a 60-day grace period for that time frame and it is accepted, the carrier will be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this Executive Order with respect to that policyholder.
 - h. This 60-day grace period shall only apply to policyholders that were in good standing with their insurance carrier on March 12, 2020, and shall only apply to premiums due after the initial premium has been made to secure coverage.
 - i. This 60-day grace period applies only to cancellation or non-renewals attributed to a failure to pay premiums during the applicable 60-day grace period. If a policy is to be cancelled or non-renewed for any other allowable reason, the cancellation or non-renewal may be made pursuant to statutory notice requirements and for legally recognized reasons.
3. **Extension of 30-Day Period of Credit for Liquor Permittees.** Section 30-48(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 30-6-A36 and 30-6-A37a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, which permit no more than a thirty-day period of credit, from

manufacturers, wholesalers, or others specified in such statute and regulations, is modified so that the maximum period of credit shall be ninety days after the date of delivery for all permittees prohibited from engaging in on-premise sales per Executive Order No. 7D, as amended by Executive Order No. 7H. The extension of credit shall not apply to permits that were delinquent at the time Executive Order No. 7D became effective on March 16, 2020. The period of delinquency shall begin on the ninety-first day after the date of delivery. All other requirements under the above-referenced statute and regulations shall apply, except as modified to reflect the increased period of credit, and the standard thirty-day period of credit shall continue to apply to all permittees whose businesses who were not engaging in on-premise sales at the time Executive Order No. 7D became effective. The credit extension shall remain in effect for any delivery made prior to the time Executive Order No. 7D expires or is terminated, or if extended or renewed, through any period of extension or renewal.

4. **Daily Payment of Certain Taxes Changed to Weekly.** Section 12-575 (h) of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified so that the licensee authorized to operate off-track betting in Connecticut shall file with the Department of Consumer Protection: a daily electronic report of the amount of wagers collected; and, no later than 12:00 PM every Tuesday, the tax filing and payment for the week preceding.
5. **Flexibility to Amend Medicaid Waivers and State Plan.** Section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to the extent that it requires: the submission of proposed applications to submit waivers or make certain amendments to Medicaid waivers or the Medicaid state plan (for such amendments that would have required a waiver but for the Affordable Care Act) to the joint standing committees having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations; a 30-day public notice and comment period prior to submission of the proposed amendments to said committees; the holding of a public hearing by said committees; and the approval of the applications for amendment by said committees, is modified retroactive to the declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergency on March 10, 2020, to authorize the Commissioner of Social Services, on an expedited basis, to exercise the waiver flexibilities provided in response to COVID-19 and afforded by Appendix K to the Home and Community Based Waivers under Section 1915(c), as well as Sections 1115 (a) and 1135, of the Social Security Act and also including, as applicable and in response to COVID-19, amendments to Medicaid state plan provisions under other relevant provisions, such as sections 1915(i), 1915(k) and 1945 of the Social Security Act. The suspension of the aforesaid requirements is limited solely to emergency waivers related to the COVID-19 declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies.
6. **Suspension and Modification of Tax Deadlines and Collection Efforts.** Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of Chapter 204 of the Connecticut General Statutes or of any special act, charter, home-rule ordinance, local ordinance or other local law, there shall be established two programs to offer support to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Such programs shall be known as the "Deferment Program" and the "Low Interest Rate Program." Each

municipality, as defined in section 7-148 of the general statutes, by determination of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, shall participate in one or both programs and shall notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management no later than April 25, 2020, about which program or programs it is electing to participate in.

- a. **Deferment Program.** During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that I declared the public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including July 1, 2020, municipalities participating in the Deferment Program shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall issue guidance as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the Deferment Program, but participating municipalities may, upon approval of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, extend eligibility for the deferment program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.
- b. **Low Interest Rate Program.** For municipalities participating in the Low Interest Rate Program, notwithstanding Section 12-146 of the General Statutes, (i) the delinquent portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric charges or assessments or part thereof shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from the time when it became due and payable until the same is paid, for any such tax, rate, charge, or assessment due and payable from March 10 through and including July 1, 2020, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established; and (ii) any portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments or part thereof that had been delinquent on or prior to March 10, shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from this Order, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety (90) days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established.
- c. **Eligibility of Landlords.** In order for a landlord, or any taxpayer that rents or leases to any commercial, residential, or institutional tenant or lessee, to be eligible for the Deferment Program, said landlord must provide documentation to the municipality that the parcel has or will suffer a significant income decline or that commensurate

forbearance was offered to their tenants or lessees. Any taxpayer that rents or leases to any commercial, residential, or institutional tenant or lessee shall only be eligible for the Low Interest Rate Program if said landlord offers commensurate forbearance to tenants or lessees, upon their request.

- d. **Escrow Payments.** Financial institutions and mortgage servicers that hold property tax payments in escrow on behalf of a borrower shall continue to remit property taxes to the municipality, so long as the borrower remains current on their mortgage or is in a forbearance or deferment program, irrespective of the borrower's eligibility for or participation in the Deferment Program or the Low Interest Rate Program.
- e. **Liens Remain Valid.** Nothing in this order affects any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes relating to continuing, recording and releasing property tax liens and the precedence and enforcement of taxes, rates, charges and assessments shall remain applicable to any deferred tax, rate, charge or assessment or installment or portion thereof.

7. **Allowance of Suspension of In-Person Voting Requirements for Critical and Time Sensitive Municipal Fiscal Deadlines.** Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including Title 7, or any special act, municipal charter, ordinance or resolution that conflicts with this order, the legislative body of a municipality, or in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting other than a representative town meeting, the board of selectmen, and the budget-making authority of said municipality if different from the legislative body or board of selectmen, by majority vote of each such body, as applicable, may authorize (i) any supplemental, additional or special appropriations under Section 7-348 of the Connecticut General Statutes or comparable provisions of any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, (ii) any tax anticipation notes to be issued under Section 7-405a of the Connecticut General Statutes or comparable provisions of any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, or (iii) municipal general obligation bonds or notes to be issued in anticipation of such bonds to be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes for capital improvement purposes, without complying with any requirements for in-person approval by electors or taxpayers, including but not limited to, annual or special town meetings requiring votes or referenda. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the legislative body and budget-making authority, if they are separate entities, are taking any action specified in (ii) or (iii) above, or any action under (i) above, which involves an appropriation in an amount in excess of 1% of the current year's total municipal budget without complying with any in-person approval requirements normally required by statute, special act, municipal charter, ordinance or resolution, such body(ies) shall make specific findings that such actions are necessary to permit the orderly operation of the municipality and that there is a need to act immediately and during the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency in order to avoid endangering public health and welfare, prevent significant financial loss, or that action is otherwise necessary for the protection of persons and property within the municipality. In so acting, the legislative body and, if different from the legislative body, the budget-making

authority of the municipality, shall comply with open meeting requirements set forth in Executive Order No. 7B. All conditions precedent to any such approval, including without limitation, public notices, hearings or presentations, shall proceed in a manner as closely consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, town charters, municipal ordinances, resolutions or procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meeting provisions set forth in Executive Order 7B. Nothing in this order shall be construed to prohibit a municipality from conducting any in-person meeting, approval process, or referendum, provided such municipality first consults with local or state public health officials and conducts such meeting, approval process, or referendum in a way that significantly reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19

8. **Suspension of Reapplication Filing Requirement for the Homeowners' Elderly/Disabled Circuit Breaker Tax Relief Program and for the Homeowners' Elderly/Disabled Freeze Tax Relief Program.** The biennial filing requirements under Sections 12-170aa(e) and (f) and Sections 12-129b and 12-129c of the Connecticut General Statutes for any taxpayers who were granted the benefit for the Grand List year 2017 and who is required to recertify for the Grand List year 2019, are suspended and such taxpayers shall automatically maintain their benefits for the next biennial cycle ending in Grand List year 2021.
9. **Substitution of Full Inspection Requirements Pertaining to October 1, 2020 Grand List Revaluations.** The requirement set forth under Section 12-62 of the Connecticut General Statutes pertaining to October 1, 2020 Grand List revaluations that require a full interior inspection of property, for which such interior inspection that has not yet been completed, is suspended and replaced with the alternative requirement to send a questionnaire to the owner as outlined in Section 12-62(b)(4).
10. **Extension of Deadline to File Income and Expense Statement.** The taxpayer filing deadline set forth under Section 12-63c of the Connecticut General Statutes is extended to August 15, 2020.
11. **Suspension of Non-Judicial Tax Sales.** Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including but not limited to Section 12-157 or Section 7-258, or any special act, municipal charter or ordinance that conflicts with this order, (1) no municipality nor water pollution control authority may conduct any sale pursuant to General Statutes Section 12-157 or Section 7-258, until thirty days after the end of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, including any period of renewal or extension of such emergency. Any sale for which notice had been filed prior to March 10, 2020 shall be adjourned by operation of law to a date to be determined by the tax collector. Such adjourned date shall be no earlier than thirty days after the end of the public health and civil preparedness emergency; and (2) For any sales held under Section 12-157 or Section 7-258 that were conducted prior to March 10, 2020, any six-month redemption period in General Statutes Section 12-157 shall be extended for the number of calendar days the public health and civil preparedness emergency remains in effect. The time period from March 10, 2020 to the end of the emergency shall be considered a

“holding period.” Redemption interest during said holding period shall be charged at a monthly rate equivalent to three per cent per annum.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified or terminated by me.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st day of April, 2020.



Ned Lamont
Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7BB

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
AND RESPONSE – USE OF FACEMASKS OR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS,
RESCHEDULING OF PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY TO AUGUST 11**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued twenty-eight (28) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that wearing a cloth face covering may prevent transmission by an infected person; and

WHEREAS, there exists a compelling interest, in order to limit the transmission of COVID-19, in requiring the use of appropriate personal protective equipment in public places when and where the risk of transmission is higher; and

WHEREAS, there exists a compelling interest in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among voters, poll workers, and residents, which risk would be heightened in the settings of indoor polling places and potential lines for voting, especially in polling places such as senior centers, schools, community centers, and other public facilities; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7G, Section 1 rescheduled Connecticut's presidential preference primary from April 28, 2020 to June 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that on June 2, 2020, the currently scheduled date of Connecticut's presidential preference primary, such heightened risk will remain; and

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2020 Connecticut is scheduled to conduct primary elections for other offices pursuant to Section 9-415 of the Connecticut General Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Cloth Face Coverings or Higher Level of Protection Required in Public Wherever Close Contact is Unavoidable.** Effective at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering. In addition, individuals shall use a mask or cloth face covering when using the services of any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing or similar service or means of mass public transit, or while within any semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall issue updated versions to the Safe Workplace rules issued pursuant to Executive Order No. 7V, Section 1 and the Safe Stores rules issued pursuant to Executive Order No. 7S, Section 1, which updated versions shall set forth additional requirements for face coverings within those settings. Nothing in this order shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, a child in a child care setting, anyone under the age of 2 years, or an older child if the parent, guardian or person responsible for the child is unable to place the mask safely on the child's face. If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition as described above, such person shall not be required to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition. This order shall supersede and preempt any current or future municipal order.
2. **Further Postponement of Presidential Preference Primary to August 11.** To protect the health and safety of voters, poll workers, and the most vulnerable members of our population, I hereby further modify Section 9-464 of the Connecticut General Statutes to provide that on August 11, 2020, each party shall conduct a primary in each town if the names of two or more candidates for President of the

United States remain on such party's ballot in accordance with the provisions of chapter 154 of the General Statutes.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 17th day of April, 2020.



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State



6.2

Town of Columbia Bid Summary 860-228-0110					Bidder #1	Bidder #2	Bidder #3	
ITEM:	2021 REVALUATION SERVICES, TOWN OF COLUMBIA, CT				Vision	Tyler	eQuality	
SOLICITATION #:			DATE:	04/20/20				
			TIME:	11:00 AM				
ITEM #		QUANTITY		UNIT OF MEASURE	DESCRIPTION			
2021 Revaluation Services, Town of Columbia CT					The Town of Columbia, Connecticut is undertaking a program to do a Revaluation of all Real Property, effective October 1, 2021.	\$99,800	\$91,200.00 with 19 exceptions	\$99,000 with 3 exception.
					GRAND TOTAL	\$99,800	\$91,200	\$99,000

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS SUMMARY ONLY REPRESENTS PRICES AS SUBMITTED ON THE ABOVE DATE.
ALL BIDS WILL BE REVIEWED FOR COMPLIANCE TO SPECIFICATIONS.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Even though Tyler is the low bidder, eQuality most closely agreed to our stipulations for the contract. We will be using their software and their staff and service is superior to Tyler's. Another important point to be considered is that the sister company of eQuality is Quality Data Service which has provided our assessors administration and billing on the tax side for decades. Their staff is without question the best in the business.

6.3



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237
(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

April 21, 2020

The Connecticut Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Engineering
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

Attn: Natasha Fatu, P.E., PTOE

RE: Traffic Study – Rte. 66 at West Street and Hunt Rd, Columbia, CT.

Dear Ms. Fatu,

As the Legal Traffic Authority and supported by the Town of Columbia Board of Selectmen I am requesting The Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Engineering perform a Traffic Study regarding Route 66 at West Street and Hunt Road in the Town of Columbia. Considering the recent crash requiring life star and the many previous accidents including one about five years ago that resulted in a young woman's death. We would like to review your study upon completion and have a chance to evaluate your recommendations to improve this dangerous intersection.

Regards,

Steven M. Everett
First Selectman

s:\selectman\mark walter\correspondence\correspondence steven everett\ctdot traffic study rte. 66 at west st. & hunt rd4.21.20.doc

Steven M. Everett, *First Selectman*

7.0



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237

(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

Office of Parks and Recreation

From: Marc Volza

Re: Beach Operations

Date: 04/21/2020

To: Mark Walter, Town Administrator.

Mark,

This memo is based on your request for an alternate way to operate the beach while Covid-19 is active and social distancing is recommended.

I believe we can keep the beach open and operate safely, minus lifeguarding. Swimming would be at your own risk as when there are no guards on duty. Staff would be utilized to count and limit the number of residents allowed on the beach, similar to what stores are currently doing. Once our number has been reached, we would close the gate until residents leave. This would allow for residents to have safe access to the beach and lake while also helping to put some of our residents back to work, even if only for the summer.

The capacity of the beach would be based on the square footage and allowing for six-foot distances between beach goers. Safe distance zones would be created in the sand as reference points.

Coinciding with the closure of town facilities to the public the Murphy House would remain closed to the public and residents would be allowed to use the portable bathroom. Currently, we are also looking into a sanitization station that would be kept indoors off hours.

Marc Volza
Director of Parks and Recreation

From: Jerry James
Sent: Apr 20, 2020 7:59 AM

Subject: April 20 to April 26 Update

General

Mandatory Mask / Covering for face in public in effect at 8:00 PM on April 20th

Town has ordered 1000 surgical masks - hopeful delivery date between April 28 and May 6

Maintain Social Distancing and report any deficiencies for appropriate correction.

Town wide Street Sweeping continues (weather permitting).

HW Porter - REMOTE Learning restarts April 20th.

AHM Youth & Family Services available 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (M-F) 860-228-9488 Ext. 13

Monday

Emergency Meals - HW Porter School – 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Tuesday

Non-perishable food donations - Beckish Senior Center - 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Meals on Wheels delivery – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Selectman's Virtual meeting - 7:00 PM

Marginal Risk for severe thunderstorms in the afternoon with high winds

Special Board of Education special meeting -virtual at 6:30 PM.

Wednesday

Emergency Meals - HW Porter School – 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Transfer Station OPEN for household waste and recyclables, leaf drop off - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Local Health District phone Conference Call with CT DPH - 1:00 PM

EMD Conference Call with DEMHS Region 4 using "Zoom" - 2:30 PM

Governor's Phone Conference Call - 5:00 PM

FIPAC Virtual meeting - 7:00 PM

Thursday

FD / Ambulance PPE pick-up at Mohegan Sun Expo Center 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Town Office departments closing at 4:00 PM

Friday

Emergency Meals - HW Porter School – 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Saturday

Transfer Station OPEN for household waste and recyclables, leaf drop off - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Pandemic distraction

Storm impacts area, causes outages

LISA MASSICOTTE

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Nothing like a severe wind and rain storm to, briefly, distract communities from a worldwide pandemic.

With nearly 47,000 Eversource Energy power outages at the height of Monday's wind storm, utility and public works crews have been working nonstop to get Connecticut out of the dark.

Utility workers and responders had to navigate not only the severe weather Monday, but also the public health emergency, as Connecticut may be approaching its peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For towns, it was a crash course in multiple crisis management.

"We're having half the

staff versus all the staff. It creates a little bit of a hurdle in dealing with events like today," Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney said Monday, explaining how most of the town's personnel is on an alternating schedule.

As of 8:30 a.m. today, there were still 9,799 Eversource customers without power in the state, according to the Eversource outage map.

Peak wind gusts hit 49 miles per hour for Windham/Willimantic Monday at about 4:40 p.m., according to NBC Connecticut meteorologists.

Windham took a small hit of about 242 total outages compared to surrounding towns, according to the

STORM, Page 4



A pedestrian wears a mask and gloves while walking in the rain near the post office on Main Street in Willimantic on Monday afternoon. Roxanne Pandolff | Staff

Storm impacts area, causes outages

Continued from Page 1

Eversource outage map.

The storm caused about five weather-related incidents in Willimantic, including a downed light pole on Main Street and an elevator rescue on Valley Street, according to Willimantic Fire Department Chief Marc Scrivener.

Work to turn on the lights began as the wind was dying down Monday.

"This is going to take a while," Eversource spokesman Mitch Gross said Monday evening, explaining the utility company has been prioritizing areas with the most affected customers.

He emphasized people should treat all downed wires as if they are live and call emergency services immediately.

Gross said the Eversource crews have to send out one worker per truck in order to stay in compliance with the Gov. Ned Lamont's social distancing executive order.

The same applied to municipal public works crews, in addition to many area towns alternating, or splitting their public works crews.

"Public works crews were

split into two teams to assure that we could respond to emergencies and to keep our treatment plant operational with licensed folks," Coventry Town Manager John Elsesser said.

"We're doing that to keep employees safe and trying to follow the executive orders," Tierney said.

Hebron was one of the hardest-hit towns, having the most reported Eversource power outages in the state Monday evening.

The town had 2,717 power outages at 7:04 p.m. Monday, according to the Eversource outage map.

"Yes we did have the most outages in the state of Connecticut and it was directly in the center of town which affected many priority resources," Tierney said Monday night.

"Whenever we seem to have high wind events like today, Hebron elevation is pretty high up there, so we seem to have higher outage numbers due to that. It's a pretty severe windstorm," Tierney said.

The towns of Plainfield and Sterling followed, both with over 1,600 outages at

7:04 p.m. Monday, according to the Eversource outage map.

Locally, the other towns hit hardest included Columbia, which had 823 Eversource outages at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday along with Coventry, which had 711 outages recorded Monday evening.

"I've sent all the employees home, the only ones left unfortunately are public works," Columbia Town Administrator Mark Walter said Monday afternoon during the height of the storm, which dropped a couple inches of rain and featured wind gusts in the 50- to 60-mile-per hour range.

Having half a public works crew in Columbia meant three employees and the public works director working to keep the town safe from fallen trees and down wires, according to Walter.

Those outage numbers have since dropped, with Hebron and Coventry almost entirely restored as of this morning.

"We worked very well with Eversource," Tierney said. "We still have more to do but I was pleased that in the middle of the storm, we were

able to have such a large change in residence out of power."

According to area fire departments, however, the state's social distancing mandate did not pose too much of an impact on their response to storm-related incidents.

"We have a few hundred outages," Mansfield Fire Department Chief Francis Raiola said, adding they've responded to seven to eight downed trees and power lines.

"In terms of the storm, we didn't respond any differently than we have to other storms in the past, which means we did staff a couple of extra individuals and volunteers in the height of the storm," Raiola said.

Hebron Fire Department Chief Nick Wallick echoed Raiola's statement.

"At this point, we're not treating (this storm) any differently because we're not working closely together," Wallick said, adding the fire department did not alternate its crews as the town's public works department did.

Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.

Mansfield extends tax grace period

MICHELLE FIRESTONE
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MANSFIELD — Council members have adopted a new tax deferral program in an effort to assist Mansfield residents struggling to pay bills during the coronavirus pandemic.

The program extends the grace period for tax payment by two months, with taxes due by Oct. 1. Typically, the grace period ends July 1.

Under the program, taxes become delinquent after Oct. 1.

"I think financially, we can manage that swing, even if it's all taxpayers," Mansfield Finance Director Cherie Trahan said during Monday's town council meeting.

The tax deferral program was approved by council members by a vote of 8-0.

Under Lamont's Executive Order 78, which was issued April 1, taxpayers who can attest that 20 percent or more of their income is being impacted by the pandemic will qualify for the assistance.

However, Trahan said the town could open the program up to all taxpayers if it chooses.

"There's language in the executive order that allows you to expand the program," she said.

The tax deferral program does not apply to people delinquent on taxes or to taxes held in escrow, with those people still having taxes due by July 1.

Trahan said the taxes in escrow will bring in an estimated \$5 million in revenue.

Personnel in the finance department recommended the tax deferral program because it is the

The tax deferral program does not apply to people delinquent on taxes or to taxes held in escrow, with those people still having taxes due by July 1.

MANSFIELD, Page 4

Mansfield extends tax grace period

Continued from Page 1

easiest program of the two to administer.

There is also a program that reduces interest rates for late payments during the three-month period, but local leaders were leaning toward a simple blanket tax deferral program.

"The low-interest rate program is going to be very complex to implement, especially if there are partial payments made," Trahan said. "The interest rate reverts back to the higher rate if they don't make the full payment by Oct. 1."

Mansfield Revenue Collector Jerl Casey said the consensus among town officials in Windham and Tolland counties was to just offer the tax deferral program and to offer it to all taxpayers.

"It's the most generous to the taxpayers and the residents of the town and it's the easiest to implement," he said.

Council member David Freudmann said he agreed that option is "very cumbersome."

"I just want to say there's nothing that can be done about it, but this deferral program probably won't be much help to the people who need it most," he said.

Trahan said some come in and "pay their taxes religiously" on July 1 and many others pay in the second or third week.

"I think we're still going to see a lot of people pay on time," she said.

Trahan said sewer bills went out recently and, with the grace period extension, will now be due July 1.

For more information about the tax deferral program, contact the revenue collector's office at 860-429-3307.

Follow Michelle Firestone on Twitter - @mfirestonec.