

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, April 3, 2018 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: First Selectman, Steven M. Everett; Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; William O'Brien, Selectman; Robert Bogue, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman.

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter, Finance Director, Beverly Ciurylo

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to add to New Business 6.4 – Notice of Award for the Village Hill Bridge Masonry Repairs project to the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. S. Everett MOVED to Approve the April 3, 2018 Agenda. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 Approval of BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2018. R. Bogue MOVED to Approve the March 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Ann Dunnack
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Discussion of FY 18/19 Budget.** M. Walter updated the BOS on the Municipal Aid grant award (MRSA) that the Town received totaling \$26,763.00. S. Everett updated the BOS on the recent FiPAC meeting on 3/28/18 and informed them that M. Walter gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Master Plan for the Recreation Area Improvements (Rec Park). S. Everett added that some of the FiPAC members felt that they would like more input from the public. M. Walter stated that the public meeting for the Master Plan will be held on April 19, 2018. S. Everett explained that ultimately, FiPAC decided to not vote on the BOS operating and capital budget and agreed to defer the vote until next week's Special Meeting on April 4, 2018. S. Everett and G. Murphy discussed the improvements to the old firehouse with regards to taking the old solar panels off the roof and replacing with new solar panels. He added that the company that put the panels on the old firehouse are no longer in business and that the Town is currently working with the new solar company (Greenskies) that Town has contracted for the school and asked them if they could come and take a look at the other facilities and see if they can come up with a scenario for energy efficiency.
 - 5.2 S. Everett added that he and M. Walter recently met with a representative of Eversource regarding a formal easement off the existing driveway at Rec. Park. This easement is for Eversource to be able to access their lines behind Rec Park to perform maintenance. Eversource stated that in the past they have asked the Town for an easement to access their lines and a discussion with the representative ensued about the possibility of Eversource providing assistance with re-building the road/driveway in Rec Park. The representative seemed

receptive to this idea and would further investigate it. S. Everett stated that we are getting updated numbers for revenue collection and is looking very good.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- 6.1 Request from Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program (CCAP) for the 2018 Breakaway Benefit Ride on May 12, 2018.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the CCAP Road Race. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 6.2 Request for the Twenty Seventh Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour Fund Raiser – Saturday August 18, 2018.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Twenty-Seventh Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 6.3 Policy on Economic Development Committee membership.** S. Everett MOVED that the Board of Selectman hereby establishes a policy that, in order to avoid the potential for conflicts of interest, either perceived or actual, residents should not serve concurrently as members for the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Economic Development Commission. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 6.4 Notice of Award for the Village Bridge Masonry Repairs project.** S. Everett stated that the cap on the walls needed replacement and that the project is a 60/40 split with Lebanon, with Lebanon holding 60% of the cost. We had three bids of \$57,000, \$73,990, and \$140,000. We are going to accept the bid of \$57,000 from Mattern Construction Inc. We have done business with Mattern Construction before and have been very happy with their work. S. Everett MOVED to allow the First Selectman to enter into agreement with the Town of Lebanon to fix the Village Hill Bridge with Columbia and acceptance of the \$57,000 bid. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: None.

8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 8.1 Appointment of Rob Hellstrom to EDC.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Appointment of Rob Hellstrom to the EDC for a period of 4 years. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 R. Hellstrom abstained.
- 9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** M. Walter presented a letter that he prepared to support the Windham Regional Transit District regarding the new state budget that has not allocated enough money towards the Special Transportation Fund (STF). The STF is the way in which all of the public transit in CT gets its funding. Because of this, CTDOT has been forced to threaten cuts to transportation, but they are not doing it evenly. Currently the cuts are only focused on the Transportation Districts (Windham, 9 Town, Southeast Area Transit, Middletown, etc.) and no cuts are proposed for the state-run systems (Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, Waterbury, etc.). The letter is to request a universal 2.8% cut for everyone.

M. Walter presented the Columbia Lake Gate Schedule of Operation. S. Everett asked when Fishing season opens. L. Napolitano replied that Fishing season opens the 2nd Saturday of April. S. Everett wants to talk to Bob Powell about opening day and how we can plan for the fisherman. M. Walter said he would follow up with this. A. Dunnack added that she respectfully suggests that we talk to the fishermen as well.

M. Walter talked about the procedures of how we process billing and how we can get the Payment of Bills to the BOS for them to review before the meeting. It was determined that B. Ciurylo will email the bills to R. Hellstrom and L. Napolitano

on Tuesday morning before the BOS meeting, as well as give all the BOS hard copies before the meeting.

M. Walter presented the CCM Legislative update. In particular he pointed out several House Bills (HB). He discussed HB 5143 that is an act lowering the age of eligibility for property tax relief for elderly persons. This would lower the age from 70 to 65 to be available for property tax relief; HB 5312 is an act concerning recommendations by the DMV regarding the vehicle statutes. He added right now our Assessors can call the DMV and get information on registered vehicles in CT. DMV says it's not "their job" so they want to repeal the law that Assessors can't call the DMV to get this information; and HB 5370 is an act concerning change orders in construction contracts. This act would require all pending or approved change order or directives to have a minimum allowable rate of overhead and profit of 15%. This would include the cost of all labor, direct supervision, material and equipment required to perform such extra work. M. Walter also stated on the positive side that there is legislation to help with crumbling foundations by attaching a \$20.00 surcharge to insurance companies.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Monthly CT State Trooper Police Report. M. Walter also added two articles from Willimantic Chronicle regarding the Columbia grand list showing an increase and the Director of CCM asked Windham to stay with CCM.

11. BUDGET:

11.1 Transfers: R. Bogue MOVED to Approve the following Transfers:

AMOUNT/TRANSFER#	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C#, DESCRIPTION
\$72.00 / 10-4112-040	Group Insurance	10-4112-460 / Commercial Insurance
\$340.00 / 10-4133-300	Supplies	10-4133-110 / Postage

MOTION CARRIED 5:0

11.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to Approve the following Refunds of \$15,927.41 to the respective business and homeowners.

AMOUNT#	FROM	TO
\$3,641.77	Town of Columbia	Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service on behalf of Kathleen & Michael Hamilton
\$4,559.14	Town of Columbia	Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service on behalf of James & Cory Hoover
\$2,763.82	Town of Columbia	Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service on behalf of Bryan & Melinda Tarbell
\$1,773.23	Town of Columbia	Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service on behalf of Kathryn Tuckewycz
\$3,108.93	Town of Columbia	Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service on behalf of David & Lynn White
\$38.36	Town of Columbia	Jeffrey & Donna Vose
\$36.33	Town of Columbia	Jeffrey & Donna Vose
\$5.83	Town of Columbia	Kenefick Construction

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Bogue MOVED to Approve 2017-2018 Emergency, 2017-2018 Regular, SBL Grant Payment 4 of 4, Credit Card, and Paychex totaling \$130,442.85. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

S. Everett asked about whether we had any Rec Park Funds that we can set up a donation to fund memorial benches. B. Ciurylo said we used to have this set up years ago, but do not have that set up presently. S. Everett asked B. Ciurylo to look into this and maybe put something into Columbia Views.

- 13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** BOS discussion on the Oberlander timeline extension.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 14.1 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).** None

- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to end the meeting at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie