

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

(To commence immediately following adjournment of Public Hearing)

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 Bogue.

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Facilities Manager Bud Meyers; Rec Director Marc Volza; *The Chronicle* reporter Ekaterine Tchelidze; Ann Dunnack; Bryan Tarbell; Andrea Drabicki; Carol Coley; Tom Currier; Judy Ortiz.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2017:** S. Everett MOVED to approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1 with C. Vance abstaining.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Artisenergy – lighting upgrade to Town Hall and Beckish Senior Center:** Facilities Manager Bud Meyers explained that this lighting upgrade would consist of converting all lights to LED. He stated that the town will be required to take out a non-interest bearing loan, which will be paid monthly with the savings that is incurred from the lighting upgrade. Once the loan is paid off, which is estimated to be over the course of approximately four years, any cost savings will be solely for the town. Cost savings will be projected by Eversource and the work will be done by Artisenergy. Discussion followed.

Bryan Tarbell, Chairman of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) stated that the EAC has approximately \$500 left over from the clean energy awards, and would like to give it back to the town to be spent towards some type of energy program.

C. Vance MOVED to proceed with lighting upgrades to the Town Hall and Beckish Senior Center as presented by B. Meyers. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.
 - 5.2 **Adoption of Ordinance #21-5 entitled “Fracking Waste Ban”:** W. O'Brien MOVED to adopt #21-5 entitled “Fracking Waste Ban” as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0. C. Vance thanked B. Tarbell and the EAC for all the work and effort they put into this.
 - 5.3 **Discussion of Commissions:** C. Vance stated that over the past year, the Rec Commission has had a very difficult time holding meetings due to no quorums. C. Vance explained that many years ago, the Rec Commission started out as the Rec Council. This Council ran all of the programs and activities, and members volunteered their time to do the work required behind these events. The town eventually hired a PT Rec Director and a Recreation Commission was formed. Now, the town has a FT Rec Director in addition to the Rec Commission. C. Vance wonders if the Rec Commission has a role anymore. S. Everett asked M. Volza if he feels that he benefits from the Rec Commission. M. Volza stated there really is no benefit. Due to the lack of meetings, he does not have interaction with them. M. Volza stated that although these individuals volunteer to be on the commission, they do not volunteer to step up for any of the programs, etc. He explained that he and his part time assistant are the ones who do the work related to the programs and events. M. Volza explained that he mainly relies on resident input and then makes the decisions related to events.

A. Dunnack stated that she served for 10 years on the Rec Council and then another 10 year on the Rec Commission. She explained that the Rec Council raised the money, ran the programs, constructed fields at Rec Park, etc. A. Dunnack said that the council had a lot of projects to do, and the volunteers were very willing at the time. Eventually, they began to burn out, and that is when staff came about. She doesn't feel that the Rec Commission ever got a clear charge and she does not know why. If the BOS can find a good charge for the commission, perhaps they can be of help to the Rec Department.

C. Vance read the section of the Charter pertaining to the Rec Commission. W. O'Brien stated he is concerned about running up against the Charter, which will take more than the BOS to change it. W. O'Brien feels as though the duties and responsibilities of the Rec Commission may be changed, but without a Charter revision, he does not feel that the Rec Commission can be eliminated.

A. Dunnack would like to see commission remain, with roles defined and a job to do. Without a focus, no one wants to be involved. Discussion followed. W. O'Brien suggested that perhaps the meeting schedule can be revised so they are not scheduled to meet on such a frequent basis. There are options that can be looked into. B. Tarbell stated that he feels that the Rec Commission serves more as the community/outreach part of recreation and that M. Volza serves more as an administrator. C. Vance said that she, M. Walter, and M. Volza will meet with the commission and review what we have been discussing. She will report back on that meeting so the BOS can continue to discuss.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:

6.1 Application of E. A. Wells to install raft at 37 and 39 Woodland Terrace: C. Vance MOVED to approve the application of E. A. Wells to install a raft at 37 and 39 Woodland Terrace, contingent upon the conditions set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

7.1 Appointment of Rebecca Allen (D) to the Youth Services Committee (YSC): W. O'Brien MOVED to appoint R. Allen to the YSC. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Senior Van driver and dispatcher update;
- Memo to Secretary Benjamin Barnes re: Columbia's fund balance as it relates to the state budget;
- Updated fall schedule for Columbia lake gate monitor;
- Salmon River Water Shed updates and accomplishments.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 Monthly Police Services – July 2017

9.2 Thank you letter from Covenant Soup Kitchen – July 2017

9.3 Thank you letter from Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT – August 2017

10. BUDGET:

10.1 Transfers: None.

10.2 Refunds: None.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: R. Bogue MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$56,725.13 including regular bills, emergency bills, 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); None.

14. ADJOURNMENT: C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:29 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona