

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Tuesday, May 5, 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; Judy Ortiz, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; William O'Brien; Selectman.

Robert Hellstrom, Deputy Selectman arrived at 7:10 PM

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

**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 7.1, to Authorize the Town Administrator to assign Moorings and Boat Slips for 2020. And 7.2, to authorize the Rec Director in communication with the Town Administrator and First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen the ability to modify ways of operating the Town Beach in light of changing needs while COVID-19 is Active. MOTION DENIED. 2.2. S. Everett and L. Napolitano Voted Yes. W. O'Brien and J. Ortiz Voted No.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 3.1 **BOS Special Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2020.** L. Napolitano stated that the BOS did not approve the April 21, 2020 meeting minutes. S. Everett asked J. LaVoie to review the last agenda to double check. J. Ortiz requested that under section 6.1 - *Discussion and vote to support Solar Farm Application* to include that both Planning and Zoning and the neighbors will be notified of the solar installation on Walt Tabor's property on Route 87.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** S. Everett asked if any Audience of Citizens would like to speak. No one spoke.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - 5.1 **Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Town Budget as of April 30, 2020.** M. Walter stated that the document provided for the FY 2020-2021 Annual Town Budget was provided to the BOS for their reference and no discussion was needed.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - 6.1 **Approval of the Tax Collector's Suspense List. Suspension list is being submitted for approval.** S. Everett explained that in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 12-165 the suspense list is being submitted for approval. The accounts listed are removed from consideration as assets for the Town of Columbia. This keeps the collectible reporting as accurate as possible. These taxes are not abated, and we do collect accounts on the suspense list each year. The delinquent motor vehicles will remain blocked at DMV and will need to be paid before they receive clearance to register a vehicle. S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Tax Collector's Suspense List as presented. Motion Carried 5.0

- 6.2 **Donation Agreement between Trust for Public Land and The Town of Columbia for the Markell Property.** S. Everett explained that there is a donation to the Town of a small piece of land that is part of the Markell Property.

M. Walter explained that the piece of property is on Pine St. and it is located at the back of the Markell property. The Charter requires that a town gift must be accepted by a Town Meeting, but since we cannot have a Town Meeting due to COVID-19 presenting this to the BOS is the first step, then it will go to Planning and Zoning and then FiPAC for a cursory review. M. Walter explained that there is a request to the Governor to allow an Executive Order to accept this type of procedure. M. Walter explained that this executive order is anticipated to be coming out soon. Discussion ensued over the location of the property, any costs associated with accepting the donation, the possible uses to the town, possible safety issues of having parking on a busy road, and is there a downside in accepting this donation.

S. Everett made the following MOTION, Resolved: that the Board of Selectmen does hereby recommend that the Town accept the donation by Markell Properties of that certain 100' x 100' parcel of property located on Pine Street in accordance with that certain Donation Agreement between The Trust for Public Land and the Town of Columbia.

Resolved: that the proposed acceptance of such donation be referred to the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee for its review prior to acceptance thereof and to the Planning and Zoning Commission for its review under CGS 8-24. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.2 with S. Everett, L. Napolitano and R. Hellstrom voting Yes. J. Ortiz and W. O'Brien abstaining.

7. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH.** None.

8. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**

- 8.1 **Appointment of Heather Pekarovic for the Recreation Commission.** M. Walter explained that Heather will be replacing Brian Pedersen's position. S. Everett MOVE to Appoint Heather Pekarovic to the Recreation Commission to start immediately, May 5, 2020 with term to expire 11/27/23. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

9. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

- 9.1 **Update Emergency Management Report.** M. Walter explained that we have been very busy with COVID19 operations. He explained that we have been distributing meals to our seniors and have had a lot of volunteers helping deliver the meals and added that Marc Volza has provided a lot of help in delivering the meals. Donations have been coming in to help and we recently received a very generous donation of \$5,000 from a resident. These donations are used to purchase debit cards that residents can use for their specific needs. We have picked up and distributed personal protection equipment (PPE) to town departments. Some town business' have requested the PPE and Jerry James, the Emergency Management Director and his wife have distributed the PPE's to the businesses. M. Walter explained that it has been a challenge at the Transfer Station with residents not wearing masks. We will be putting up another sign tomorrow at the Transfer Station asking residents to wear masks. M. Walter explained that Bud Meyer's has been putting together shields to protect employees in the town departments and the library in anticipation of town

departments opening. M. Walter stated that there are two eagle chicks in the nest at the lake. M. Walter explained that the lake is 5-inches over the spillway, and we are be addressing it.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**10.1 Beach and Transfer Station Mailer**

**10.2 FY 20/21 Budget Mailer.** L. Napolitano suggested that we included in the mailer details on what the general fund balance is. M. Walter said that we could put this in the upcoming Public Hearing presentation.

**10.3 May 2020 Town Administrator Newsletter**

**11. BUDGET:**

**11.1 Transfers:** S. Everett MOVED to authorize \$618.00 from General Supplies, Professional Improvement and Conferences/Seminars to Postage. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. S. Everett MOVED to Authorize \$1,000 from Salaries DPW overtime to Transfer Station overtime. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

<b>TRANSFER#/AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TO A/C# DESCRIPTION</b>
2020-028 / \$618.00	10-4800-300 General Supplies – \$160.00 10-4133-710 Professional Improvement - \$400.00 10-4133-750 Conferences/Seminars - \$58.00	10-4133-110 Postage
2020-029 / \$1,000.00	10-4410-011 Salaries DPW OT	10-4420-011 Transfer Station OT

**11.2 Refunds:** None

**12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Authorize the Payment of bills totaling \$32,796.78 consisting of 2019-2020 Emergency, 2019-2020 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

**13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Ann Dunnack, 103 Lake Rd. stated that the piece of property at Markell will be very important as an alternate entrance to the state park and that this will allow for parking for a couple of cars. She added that the only other parking is on Hunt Rd. and Oberlander has no parking. She feels that this property is very important.

**14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** J. Ortiz stated that she felt the added agenda items were very important, but she would like more information before the meeting.

**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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).** None.

**16. ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie