

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