

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 Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).

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

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie