

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 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; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; Selectman, William O'Brien.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator; Mark Walter, Paula Stahl; Town Planner.

**CALL TO ORDER:** S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda for 1/15/19. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- 3.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2019.** R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve the Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- 4.1 **Zoning Fee Ordinance 22-1 and 22-2 Fee Discussion.** S. Everett explained last week at the BOS we discussed the current Zoning Fee Ordinance and changes to the fees and the request was for the BOS to take a look at the information received from P. Stahl and to come back tonight to discuss further. S. Everett stated that at the meeting we will be discussing specifically the planning and zoning fees, zoning permit fees and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Fees. R. Hellstrom asked for clarification on what constituted the "Budgeted" and the "YTD Revenues" numbers in the handout. M. Walter explained that the budgeted figure is what we think we will take in for anticipated fee and the revenue is what we actually took in. S. Everett stated that he feels that the fees are not keeping people from doing business with the town, but it is how businesses view working with the Town. He stated that the ZBA is looking at how to make the process easier when working with the Town. R. Hellstrom stated he felt it is part of a perception problem and if we raise fee's this adds to a negative opinion and feels it is sending the wrong message. He would like to encourage businesses not discourage. L. Napolitano stated that she would like to keep the fees at a minimum. W. O'Brien stated that fees are cost of doing business and supports the fee revisions that are being proposed as reasonable. P. Stahl stated that prior to the new charter, this would go to a Town Meeting, but with the New Charter in 2009, the BOS can make the decision after they hold a public hearing for any ordinance. W. O'Brien and R. Hellstrom stated they would welcome the public's feedback. S. Everett MOVED to schedule a Public Hearing concerning the changes in the fee ordinance on February 19, 2019 at 6:45 pm. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
- 4.2 **Ice Fisherman – Bait Bucket Disposal.** M. Walter updated the BOS on the plan to implement the bait bucket for fisherman to put their bait in. He explained that there is a drainage basin that the bait bucket will drain into

and is 75 ft from the Murphy House well. A sign will be posted indicating where fisherman can put their bait.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 5.1 Beach Hours.** S. Everett explained that the Rec Department would like to change the beach hours to better accommodate when people will be using the beach the change would be Mon-Fri 10:30am-7pm and Sat/Sun 12pm-7pm to 10:30am - 6:30pm every day. L. Napolitano MOVED to Approve the beach hours from 10:30am to 6:30pm. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

- 6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:** None.

- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:** None.

**8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

- 8.1 Update on CT Recreational Trails Program Grant.** M. Walter explained that the grant requires a 20% match and he confirmed that the match can be accrued up to 18 months prior to contract document finalization and the match can be provided as cash or in-kind services. M. Walter is the Town of Columbia's representative for this project and his hours over the 24 months of the project will equate to the in-kind services.

- 8.2 Recap of Retirement Plan Employee Presentations.** M. Walter explained that we did 8 presentations to our employees on Tuesday, January 15th for the possible change in the retirement plan. Main concern was to follow an open and transparent bidding process and an RFP was sent out to receive proposals and four were received. The recommended record keeper is Empower Retirement. Costs from AXA will be requested again to provide a document for cost comparisons. Then the next step is to get a contract from Empower and the town attorney will review before presented for approval from the BOS and BOE.

- 8.3** M. Walter gave an update on the recent Route 87 Traffic Safety Concerns and 2019 Traffic Safety Priorities meeting for Columbia meeting was a general discussion on safety concerns on the roads in Columbia. The engineering firm hired by CRCOG looked at creative ideas and identified three areas of concern — the intersection of Rte. 87 and Rte. 66, Pine St., and West St. crossing Rte. 66. S. Everett stated that they will study two areas that include the center of Town and Rte. 66 and Pine St. and West St. intersections.

- 8.4** M. Walter stated that he attended a legislative meeting with CCM and they have created the CT School Finance Project. A non-profit is driving the program and are working with UCONN. The study can be found at [www.ctschool.finance.org](http://www.ctschool.finance.org). He explained that they performed an analysis of all 50 states and CT is one of only four states with no system for funding all of its more than 74,500 special education students. He added that they are recommending creating an insurance agency (a Special Education Predictable Cost Cooperative) to handle special education and run by town and state representatives. M. Walter stated he will forward the report to the BOS.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 9.1 17/18 Audit Report.**

9.2 **MBR Correspondence.** S. Everett explained that Lol Fearon, Interim Superintendent had sent a letter on behalf of the Columbia Board of Education requesting a waiver to the Commissioner of Education. We received a response and the waiver was denied.

**10. BUDGET:**

10.1 **Transfers:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Transfers as follows.

<b>TRANSFER #/AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TO A/C#, DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>2019-013 / 400.00</b>	10-4130-016 / Salaries-Election Workers	10-4130-110 / Postage

MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

10.2 **Refunds:** None

11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Payment of Bills totaling \$34,225.55 consisting of 2018-19 Emergency, 2018-2019 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

12. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** A. Dunnack asked if we have any updated on the Sustainable CT initiative. S. Everett stated that Andrea Drabicki is the Sustainable CT Liaison and will be working with a team on the initiative. A. Dunnack stated that on West St. and Rte. 66 a number of years ago the State put in an island to separate West St. and Rte. 66 in the commuter lot and that farm wagons pulling hay cannot make the turnoff.

13. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** S. Everett stated that the new sidewalk at the History Place was installed and it looks great. L. Napolitano brought up the Permitted and Prohibited Uses (Section 6 in the Zoning Regulations) and concerns were raised with the lack of clarity.

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 Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A);** None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** W. O'Brien MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:12 pm. MOTION CARRIED. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie