

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, January 8, 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, Selectman, Robert Bogue.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator, Mark Walter, Paula Stahl, Planning & Zoning. Mike Lester, Fire Marshal.

**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 Add Under Old Business 4.2 Annual Report Dedication Page and Add Under Town Administrator Report 8.3 Lebanon's contribution towards appraisal cost of the Markel Property and Add Under Town Administrator Report 8.4 Connecticut Recreational Trails Program FY 2018-19 Grant Round Grant Award Notification. S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Amended Agenda. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 3.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2018.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Minutes for December 18, 2018. MOTION CARRIED. 5.0.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - 4.1 **Firefighters abatement ordinance.** S. Everett MOVED to schedule Special Town meeting on February 5, 2019 at 6:45pm. He read the legal notice "Clause 1 - To consider amendments to Columbia Town Ordinance 18-3 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters to extend the existing tax abatement for eligible members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to benefit eligible retired members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81w as amended by Connecticut Public Act 16-99 and to make certain clarifying changes to said ordinance.

Clause 2 – To approve, if Clause 1 is adopted, that in lieu of publishing the full text of revised Town Ordinance 18-3, as required by Section 3.5 of the Town Charter, a summary notice be published instead, as permitted by said Section 3.5 and Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-157(b); and that said notice read substantially as follows: "Columbia Town Ordinance 18-3 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters has been amended so as to extend the annual \$1,000 property tax abatement available for eligible members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to also include eligible retired members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. This summary is prepared for the benefit of the public solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This summary does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Columbia for any purpose. A complete copy of amended and restated Ordinance 18-3 is

available at the offices of the Columbia Town Clerk and Town Administrator and is also available at [www.columbia.ct.org](http://www.columbia.ct.org).”

S. Everett asked if this includes Columbia EMT personnel. M. Lester said yes. S. Everett explained that we did try to get this benefit for a surviving spouse, but unfortunately, we were not able to do that because it is not in the state statute. L. Napolitano stated that it encourages people to stick with it. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 4.2 **Annual Report Dedication Page.** S. Everett explained in the last meeting we had discussed who the BOS would like to dedicate this year’s Annual Report to. Discussion ensued. R. Bogue MOVED to close the nomination. R. Bogue MOVED to appoint Dean Toepfer for the Annual Report dedication page. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 5.1 **Zoning Fee Ordinance 22-1 and 22-2.** S. Everett stated that he has had discussions with P. Stahl and Rick Nassiff on various planning and zoning matters and he added that the goal is to make it a fair and honest playing field and to make it easier to do business in Columbia. S. Everett then turned the floor over to P. Stahl stated that she has brought this to the BOS to discuss the established ordinance for zoning fees for applications to the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), other fees for permits and certificates issued by staff. She noted that the fees to the Chronicle for legal notices can be very expensive. P. Stahl explained that she looked at all the applications that came to the PZC during FY 17/18 and compared the fees paid by the applicant with the Chronicle legal notice costs. She added that the fees for Columbia have not changed in 7 years.

P. Stahl stated that the legal notice requirement is by State Statute. The requirement to publish legal notices include two notices of an upcoming public hearing, and one notice of decisions on all applications. She stated that the average legal notices are around \$140.00 each and \$470.00 for a public hearing. She noted that other towns fees have revised their fees. She stated that she has worked with the commission on reviewing the current planning and zoning fees and that they did not want the fees to jump as high as they could have. She explained that occasionally the Planning and Zoning Commission would have an outside consultant to determine if a proposal would meet zoning or subdivision regulations, but that the cost must be determined before an application is submitted, which can be very difficult to determine. R. Bogue asked if P. Stahl could give an example. P. Stahl gave an example of a subdivision that would include reviewing the plan on how water is to be drained along the slope of the road and is it draining well. Current ordinance states that the Town can hire an outside consultant, but before the application comes through the door, you would have to determine the fees. W. O’Brien MOVED to approve the proposed fee ordinance amendments and send them to a Town Meeting on Feb. 5, 2019. R. Hellstrom stated as a general comment his main concern is the fees are too much and it’s discouraging for people when looking to build in Columbia. Discussion ensued on the fees. W. O’Brien MOVED to withdraw the motion and table until next week. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 5.2 **Ice Fisherman – Bait Bucket Disposal.** M. Walter explained that a sign was created and ready to install, but the process on how to handle this has not been finalized. S. Everett asked M. Walter to talk with the DPW Director and LMAC on what their final decision is on how to handle this.
6. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
- 6.1 **Application for Karen Loiselle Goodwin to repair an existing seawall.** W. O'Brien MOVED to Approve the Application per the LMAC recommendations. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
7. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:** None.
8. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
- 8.1 **Update Connecticut Collaborative Health Insurance Program (CT-CHIP).** M. Walter gave an update on the collaborative health insurance program. E-CHIP is now CT CHIP made up of 6 towns that include Columbia, Bolton, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Thompson, Union. Each Town will have their individual policies, but it will be packaged together as a group with 546 participants. The collaborative of smaller towns that are fully insured went out to bid and the results will be a reduction in the health care costs. R. Bogue asked how the Town will renew our policy. M. Walter explained that we will renew as a group, but each town will have its own premium and it will go into effect in July.
- 8.2 **Traffic Safety.** M. Walter explained that we have set up a Route 87 Traffic Safety Concerns and 2019 Traffic Safety Priorities for Columbia meeting on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with Andrea Drabicki, the Town's Transportation Liaison, Mark Walter, Steven Everett, Trooper Greg DeCarli, Paula Stahl and George Murphy. The meeting is a general discussion on safety concerns and that it will include other roads, not just Route 87.
- 8.3 **Lebanon's Contribution Towards Appraisal Cost of the Markel Property.** M. Walter explained that he and Honor Lawler from Trust for Public Land made a presentation to the Town of Lebanon Board of Selectman (BOS) on Tuesday. The Lebanon BOS voted to give Columbia \$1,000.00 towards the Markel property appraisal.
- 8.4 **Connecticut Recreational Trails Program FY 2018-19 Grant Round Grant Award Notification.** M. Walter stated that the CT DEEP Trails & Greenways Program and The CT Greenways Council provided a grant award notification for the Air Line State Park Trail 12 Town Task Force.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
10. **BUDGET:**
- 10.1 Transfers: R. Bogue MOVED to Approve the Transfers listed below.

<b>TRANSFER #/AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TO A/C#, DESCRIPTION</b>
2019-012 / 300.00	10-4112-300 / General Supplies	10-4112-720 / Professional Dues
2019-012 / 200.00	10-4112-300 / General Supplies	10-4112-750 / Conferences/Seminars

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

**10.2 Refunds: R. Bogue MOVED to Approve Refunds totaling \$196.60.**

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
\$68.23	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	Ann C. Lanciano

MOTION CARRIED 5.0

- 11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** R. Bogue MOVED to Approve the payment of bills totaling \$350,123.78 made up of Emergency 18/19, Regular 18/19, SBL Payment 3 of 4, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 12. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** A. Dunnack stated she would like to make note in the BOS minutes that she would like to commend the Town Department of Public Works crew picking up the trash on the side of the road and would like to commend them for that. Discussion ensued about a town-wide clean up.
- 13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.**
- 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);** S. Everett MOVED to go into Executive Session at 8:37 pm for personnel with M. Walter in attendance. Session ended at 8:56 pm. No action was taken. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** W. O'Brien MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie