

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; William O'Brien, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; Jeff Viens.

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter, Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring.

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 November 12, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Approval of BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2019.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** No comments.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 **Discussion of Medical Car.** S. Everett stated that there was a request for the town to think about a second vehicle for medical appointments. B. Derring presented her proposal for a medical car.

J. Viens asked if we got a second driver would that reduce the denied rides. B. Derring said with a medical car we would be able to use the van for wellness trips, as originally intended.

S. Everett asked how many denials were for a medical appointments' out of the 216 rides that were denied over the last 3 months. B. Derring explained that she did not have specifics, but that medical rides takes precedent.

B. Derring explained that the proposal is for an additional driver and an additional 10 hours for the current driver. She said that this would be in increase of \$21,965.00. B. Derring explained that the price for the medical car (2019 Ford Escape) would be \$24,000. B. Derring stated that price of the vehicle includes liability insurance. B. Derring explained that the proposal also includes a request for additional 21 hours for the Dispatcher.

L. Napolitano asked if we would look into volunteer drivers. B. Derring stated she would look into volunteer drivers.

Margaret Ewald, a member of CONA stated that it does not make sense to use a multi-seat vehicle for long distance medical rides. She added that Dial -a- ride is fortunate to have volunteers, but with the economy people don't have the money to volunteer.

S. Everett stated that we have looked at sharing calendars with other towns to combine medical rides. He said that Lebanon and Andover initially were interested, but that it will be challenging to coordinate. He stated that we need to continue to look at that option.

R. Hellstrom asked if we could make a common time for doctor appointments so that residents could schedule their appointments during those times.

J. Viens asked how much in donations do we get a month. B. Derring stated that last month we received \$340.00 in donations. She explained that on average it's closer to \$250.00 per month.

B. Derring explained that the purpose of the Senior Van was for social wellness. Getting residents out of the house, to the Senior Center and for some medical appointments, but they have found out that there are more needs for medical rides.

W. O'Brien asked if there are any social services that could provide rides for medical appointments. B. Derring said she would look into that.

S. Everett asked that the BOS gather their questions and we will compile them and send those questions to B. Derring for the discussions to continue.

6.2 Street Signage:

- **Hearing Impaired Persons (92 Lake Rd.).** S. Everett MOVED to authorize the Town Administrator to purchase and install a hearing-impaired person sign at 92 Lake Road. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- **No Parking (Oakwood Lane).** S. Everett asked to table this issue and to look into this further before making a decision.

6.3 Street Lighting:

- **Adding a Street Light at Edgarton & Rte 6.** S. Everett MOVED to allow the Town Administrator and ConnDOT to put up a light at Edgarton and Rte 6. MOTION CARRIED 5.0
- **Removal of a Streetlight at Strickland (138 & 140) and Rte. 6.** S. Everett MOVED to Authorize the Town Administrator to review the streetlight on Strickland and authorize Eversource and DOT to remove and move the streetlight. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6.4 Street Address Cardinal Directions (North, South, East & West). S. Everett stated that the cardinal directions north south and west have been causing problems with Fire Department and the Post Office. S. Everett MOVED to remove all cardinal directions on all state roads, except for Rte. 66-E. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6.5 Request from Joan Hill to Examine the property located below Columbia Lake and East of Route 87. J. Hill explained that she wanted

to remove the post-Civil War material that has been dumped on the surface of the site and do a series of small "shovel" test pits. J. Hill explained that the site itself is convenient in terms of parking. S. Everett stated it looks dangerous. J. Hill explained that the site is close to the road and there are no water issues. S. Everett asked when did Joan want to perform the dig. J. Hill stated that she would like to do this before the ground freezes.

M. Walter stated that a waiver must be signed by all the participants. M. Walter asked if the State Archeologist would be involved. J. Hill replied that she would be happy to ask the State Archeologist for help.

W. O'Brien MOVED to Grant Joan Hill's Request to Examine the Property Located Below Columbia Lake and East of Route 87. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 6.6 **Memorandum of Agreement for DEMHS Region 4 Homeland Security Grant Program.** S. Everett MOVED to Adopt the Homeland Security Grant Program as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 6.7 **Dedication for Annual Report.** W. O'Brien stated that he would like the BOS to consider Lou Scotti. Lou Scotti served as Selectman for many years and on the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department. S. Everett asked for BOS to think about this and come back at next meeting for any other considerations.
- 6.8 **Approval of BOS 2020 Meeting Times.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve BOS 2020 Meeting times. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
7. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
 - 7.1 **Application for Construction of a Structure on or Over Columbia Lake: Mary Roickle & Martha Carter 34 Erdoni Rd.** J. Viens MOVED to Approve the application to repair boat lift for 34 Erdoni Rd. upon the recommendations set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
 - 7.2 **Application for Construction of a Structure on or Over Columbia Lake: Rick Nassiff & Sonia Digiacomio, 11 Webster Lane.** J. Viens MOVED to Approve the application to repair a dock for 11 Webster Lane upon the recommendations set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
8. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
 - 8.1 **Appointment of Alyssa Gwinnell to the Town Safety Committee.** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint Alyssa Gwinnell to Town Safety Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
 - 8.2 **Appointment of Steve Piro to the Recreation Commission.** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint Steve Piro to the Recreations Commission. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
 - 8.3 **Appointment of Brian Pedersen to the Recreation Commission.** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint Brian Pedersen to the Recreation Commission. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 8.4 Appointment of Nikki Keldsen to the Recreation Commission.** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint Nikki Keldsen to the Recreation Commission. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
- 9.1 Lions Club Tree Lighting Sunday, December 1, 2019.**
- 9.2 Options for the “Welcome to Columbia Lake Beach” sign.** M. Walter presented the two options for the “Welcome to Columbia Lake Beach” sign. The BOS consensus is to explore other options. L. Napolitano suggested an artist’s hand-drawing of the lake.
- 9.3 Summary of Approved P&ZC Regulation Changes.** M. Walter provided information on the updates to the zoning regulations.
- 9.4 Update on Application for Phragmites on Columbia Lake.** M. Walter explained that we were unable to get a permit in enough time from CTDEEP for final treatment of Phragmites before the first hard frost. He explained that we will be working with Solitude on scheduling the next treatment.
- 9.5 Request from Joan Hill for an archaeologist to assess the site by the Hop River Bridge.** M. Walter explained Columbia and Coventry are working on the bridge and has received a federal bridge grant. S. Everett stated that the Town of Columbia does not own any of the land to allow J. Hill to perform a dig. J Hill said that she is not proposing to do any digging there. The property belongs a private citizen and that she was asking the Town to reach out to the designers of the bridge to make them aware of the historical significance of that area. J. Hill also stated that this would be a perfect opportunity to propose more parking, perhaps a kayak launch ramp, or a viewing area. M. Walter stated that he will reach out to the designers
- 9.6 Farmers Market Meeting on Monday, 11/18/19 at 6:45pm at the Saxton B. Little Library.**
- 10. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 10.1 EHHD Programs and Services.**
- 10.2 Town of Columbia Holiday Party Invitation.**
- 10.3 State Policy Monthly Report for September 2019.**
- 10.4 Letter Regarding Transition of Services Completed for Empower Retirement.**
- 10.5 Town Administrators Monthly Newsletter.**
- 10.6 Article on “Raised Ranch damaged by Fire in Columbia”.**
- 10.7 Article on “Hundreds of Acres to be Preserved in Eastern Conn”.**
- 11. BUDGET:**
- 11.1 Transfers:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the transfer of \$23.00 from Misc. Service/Chgs to the Professional Dues.

TRANSFER #/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPTION
2020-011/\$23.00	10-4112-550/Misc Service Charges	10-4112- 720/Professional Dues

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 11.2 Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Refunds totaling \$2,966.42.

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$67.31	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	HYUNDAI LEASE
\$92.83	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	SHELLEY D. CONANT
\$165.42	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	DREW M. GUILD
\$397.71	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	HYUNDAI LEASE
\$286.55	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	TOYOTA LEASE
\$1,951.91	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	DENNIS RILEY

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve payment of bills totaling \$163,201.99, consisting of 2019/2020 Emergency, 2019/2020 Regular, Credit Card, Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
- 14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** W. O'Brien reminded the BOS that there will be a presentation on vaping in Yeomans Hall on November 13th. L. Napolitano shared an article on Connecticut's fiscal health and the US Debt Clock chart. S. Everett said the "Ask the Selectman" meetings are going well. He stated that at the recent PTO meeting that he attended, several issues were brought to his attention regarding road safety including speeding on the roads, the request for larger stop signs and the cutting of vegetation on the roads to ensure safety site lines.
- 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 8:40 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.