

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 – 7 pm  
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room  
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**Members Present:** Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; William O'Brien (arrived at 7:03 pm), Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; Jeff Viens.

Members Absent: Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator, Mark Walter.

**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 19, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 3.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2019.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 3.0. L. Napolitano stated that she would like to add that her point of her comments regarding U.S. Debt and CT's Fiscal Health was that we should be careful when taking grant money from the US Government due to the degree of debt.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - 5.1 **Dedication Annual Report.** S. Everett MOVED to honor Lou Scotti and dedicate the Annual Report to him. MOTION CARRIED 4.0
  - 5.2 **Continued Discussion on Medical Car.** S. Everett discussed scheduling options for the van that would include medical transportation and wellness trips. He stated that we could try using a new schedule to accommodate the various uses of the van before financing a new car and an additional driver. W. O'Brien stated that the original intention for the van was not for medical transport and he has concerns that there is wear-and-tear on the van with the use of medical rides. W. O'Brien stated that he was not opposed to a temporary fix by adding more hours. He also asked if the town could look into getting funds for the medical car through a grant or a donation/sponsorship by a local car dealership. J. Ortiz stated that if a resident is on Medicaid, they will pay for a cab. She stated that the BOS should be aware of all the options. J. Viens stated he would be in favor of expanding the hours but would be leery about buying another car. S. Everett stated that we have asked B. Derring to look into a Social Worker to help not just the seniors but other residents. L. Napolitano asked if the town has looked into a mobile trailer park for seniors. S. Everett stated that this discussion will continue to the next BOS meeting on December 3, 2019.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

**6.1 Approval of Budget Schedule for FY 2020-21.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Budget Schedule for FY 2020-21. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

**6.2 Set and Discuss Tri-Board Meeting on 12/18/19 at 7:00 pm.**

**6.3 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 23-1, Art. III, Justice of the Peace.**

**6.4 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 4-1, Art. II, Canvassers.**

**6.5 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 15-1, Art. I, Abandoned Refrigerators.**

**6.6 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 9-1, Art. I, Library Planning Commission.**

S. Everett MOVED to Repeal Ordinance 23-1, 4-1, 15-1 and 9-1. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

**6.7 Signage at Rec Park, Transfer Station and Roadway Signage.** S. Everett stated that the DPW Director and Rec Director have asked for permission to place signage at Rec. Park stating that there are to be no pets allowed on athletic fields.

S. Everett stated that fines will be levied against the town if we don't comply with recycling mandates. To help residents with what's recyclable and where it should go at the Transfer Station, we will be putting up more signage at the Transfer Station to help residents. S. Everett stated on Macht Rd. there is a problem with speeding and people using the road as a thru-way to the Transfer Station. He said that we are looking into different options for signage to help with this problem. S. Everett stated we are also looking at installing larger stop signs at 66 and 87 and at other major intersections. S. Everett MOVED to add signage at Rec Park, "No Animals Allowed on Athletic Fields." MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

**7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**

**7.1 Application for Construction of a Structure on or Over Columbia Lake: Henry Beck, 41 Sleepy Hollow Road.** W. O'Brien MOVED to Approve the application as set forth by the LMAC Committee with the listed conditions. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

**7.2 Distribute Overview of Changes Recommended for Standard Guidelines for Construction and Maintenance of Structures and Shoreline on Columbia Lake.** S. Everett stated that there is a 2-page summary of the changes to the standard guidelines as well as the completed guidelines with the changes. S. Everett asked that the BOS take this information and read through it. L. Napolitano asked how the people who will be most affected be made aware of the changes. J. Viens stated that these are guidelines and that these guidelines can be changed. W. O'Brien stated that most importantly it should be fair, and he felt that it would be a good idea to have a Public Hearing. S. Everett stated that a continued discussion will be at the next BOS meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

and the BOS will decide next steps. Mary Roickle of 34 Erdoni Rd. stated that the Columbia Lake Association (CLA) Board has reviewed the changes and have blessed the guidelines. She stated that there will be occasional issues and the Board would take into consideration those issues. She stated that we don't want to see the lake shrink by adding more buoys. She also stated that CLA is recommending no additional buoys and that in the guidelines there are no enforcement clauses.

**8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**

**8.1 Resignation of Gary King from the Szegda Farm Management Committee.** J. Viens MOVED to Accept the Resignation of Gary King from the Szegda Farm Management Committee. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

**8.2 Appointment for Antonio Tigeleiro to the Recreation Commission.** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint Antonio Tigeleiro to the Town Recreation Commission. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

**9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

**9.1 CIRMA Update.** M. Walter stated that CIRMA has had an incredible financial year. Net earned Premium is at \$79.1M, down 6%; Investment Income is at \$11.2M, up 10%; Total Revenue is at \$89.8M, a decrease of 4.5%; Loss and Expense is at \$44.6M, a decrease of 22%; Net Income is at \$35.8M, up 30%; Total Assets is at \$402M, and has grown by \$8.2M from prior year; Members' Equity is at \$177M up \$88.4M over the last 5 years; and Members' Equity Distribution is at \$5M, nearly \$30M over the last 9 years. M. Walter stated that we have received a member equity distribution for the 9<sup>th</sup> year. M. Walter said that he attended a recent safety meeting and that CIRMA is analyzing safety in all aspects of the town. He stated that cybercrimes are up and that the employees will be going to training. He said that we are having Novus Insight; our IT Consultant go over our IT security. CIRMA is at 98% retention.

M. Walter stated that at a recent CCM meeting the biggest problem that the State currently has is unfunded pensions.

M. Walter stated that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been approved for the Community Match Fund program through Sustainable CT. The Community Match Fund is a new program that provides matching funds to support sustainability projects in Sustainable CT-registered towns. TPL is leading the efforts to expand Mono Pond State Park. TPL is looking for funding to cover the costs of surveys, appraisals, environmental, and title & closing costs for the 99-acre property purchase.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**10.1 CT State Police Monthly Report for October 2019.**

**11. BUDGET:**

**11.1 Transfers:** None

**11.2 Refunds:** None

**12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve payment of bills totaling \$64,637.01, consisting of 2019/2020 Emergency, 2019/2020 Regular, Bond '01 Interest Payment, Credit Card, Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

13. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
14. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** S. Everett welcomed Judy Ortiz to the Board of Selectman. S. Everett expressed his appreciation for J. Vien's guidance on all the boards and that Jeff has always done what's right for the Town of Columbia and will be missed. W. O'Brien expressed his appreciation for J. Viens ability to drill down on issues and he has been very helpful. J. Viens thanked the BOS for having him on the board.
15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
  - 15.1 **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.
16. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:05 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie