

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, April 2, 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, Jeffrey Viens.

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter; Facilities Manager, Bud Meyers.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:26 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda with the following modifications: under agenda item #3 - Approval of Minutes, Add 3.2 - Approval of BOS Public Hearing Minutes for March 19, 2019 and to Move Audience of Citizens after agenda item #12 - Approve Payment of Bills. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Approval of BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2019.** J. Viens MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.2 with S. Everett and R. Hellstrom abstaining.
 - 3.2 **Approval of Public Hearing Minutes for March 19, 2019.** L. Napolitano MOVED to Approve the Public Hearing Minutes for March 19, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.2 with S. Everett and R. Hellstrom abstaining.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 4.1 **2019-20 Budget Process.** M. Walter shared FiPAC's proposed FY Budget for 19-20 that calls for a no mill rate increase and keeping the current mill rate of 29.33 as well as the use of \$580,000 from the General Fund Balance. M. Walter highlighted several of the factors that were considered in the various budget requests that included changes in available state municipal aid, changes in various budget lines including the newly proposed state mandated municipal Teachers Retirement contribution, and infrastructure maintenance and capital needs. M. Walter discussed the proposed cut of \$30,000 from the Rec Park budget and a discussion ensued about the use of the Brand fund as exclusively for recreation purposes. M. Walter stated that the Proposed Budget for FY 19/20 will be presented at the Public Hearing on 4/24/19.
 - 4.2 **Capital Approval Funds Transfer within Building Improvement Line.** M. Walter explained that a Town Meeting is not required to transfer the funds within the Capital Building Improvement line since we are not moving funds between capital budget lines. He stated that the BOS will need to make a motion to repurpose the \$50,000 in capital funds from the

proposed Senior Center Heating/Cooling System since the project is postponed to FY 20/21 to the Town Hall Roof Replacement. S. Everett MOVED to repurpose \$50,000 that was previously proposed for the Senior Center Heating/Cooling System to the Town Hall Roof Replacement. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 4.3 **Waive Requirement for Sealed Bid Using the CRCOG Competitive Bidding Processes for Replacement of The Town Hall Roof.** M. Walter explained that we are using the eGordian (ezIQC) system through the CRCOG competitive bid process to obtain the bids for the Town Hall Roof Replacement project. The ezIQC program designs, implements and maintains a job order contracting program on behalf of the CRCOG membership. He explained that we received 2 bids and Rockfall Company was the lowest bidder. M. Walter explained that we have used Rockfall before and have been very pleased with their work. M. Walter explained that the BOS will need to make a motion to waive the 3 bid requirement. S. Everett MOVED to waive the mandatory 3 bid requirement through the Town Charter for the Town Hall Roof Replacement project. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. S. Everett MOVED to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract with the Rockfall company for roofing the Town Hall for \$40,425. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. S. Everett MOVED to waive the mandatory 3 bid requirement though the Town Charter and authorize CT Renewables for removal and re-installation of the solar array panels on the Town Hall roof for \$6,500. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 4.4 **Ownership and Taxation of Assessor's Map 43 Lot 7.** M. Walter explained that through the course of the Town acquiring the 57-acre parcel owned by the Oberlander family it was found through a title search that Lot 7 is most likely owned by the heirs of an Elisha D. Lewis dating back to 1886. He explained that to substantiate definitively that title to Lot 7 is owned by Elisha D. Lewis heirs, this would require a tremendous amount of time to assemble a reliable historic research. M. Walter recommended suspending the taxes on the property from 2014 to current and going forward until ownership is identified. Discussion ensued. A. Dunnack suggested we check with Joan Hill to do research. S. Everett MOVED to suspend the taxes on this property from Grand List 2014 to current and going forward until ownership is identified. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 5.1 **Discussion of Beckish Senior Center Van Usage.** S. Everett explained that a group would like to use the Sr. Center Van back to take visitors that are interested in walking the Oberlander property on 4/13/19. He explained that we checked the grant for the usage of the Sr. Center Van and this falls within the correct usage of the grant.
- 5.2 **Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Update.** L. Napolitano explained that we have an Emerald Ash Borer infestation and that its fairly extensive in town and she expressed her concern that the Town needs to develop a plan in addressing this issue. W. O'Brien suggested that L. Napolitano chair a committee. S. Everett opened the meeting to audience of citizens to speak about the issue. Genevova Person, owner of Eric's Tree Service, and Joette Garay, Certified Arborist spoke to the BOS about the problem and treatment of infested trees. G. Person explained that Eric's Tree Service

has worked with professors at UCONN and have worked at UCONN using integrated approaches to manage insects and diseases.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: None.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS: None.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

8.1 Oberlander Walk on 4/12/19. R. Hellstrom said that he will lead a hike for the BOS on the Oberlander property on 4/12/19 at 9:00 am.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 Saint Columba Church Donation to Columbia Fuel Assistance Fund & Columbia Food Pantry.

9.2 Article in The Chronicle on Sustainable CT.

10. BUDGET:

10.1 Transfers: S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Transfers totaling \$3,790 from Salaries – Public Works OT to Salaries-Waste Disposal and transfers from Professional Tech to Electricity and Contracted Services. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

S. Everett MOVED to Approve a Transfer for \$9.00 from Professional Improvement to Contracted Services. MOTION CARRIED. 5.0.

S. Everett MOVED to Approve a Transfer for \$640.00 from Account # 10-4440-230 Electricity to Account # 10-4116-230 Electricity to cover the cost above budget for electricity at the Chapel building. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

S. Everett MOVED to Approve Transfers totaling \$520.00 from Telephone and Fuel to Electricity to cover the cost above budget for electricity at the History Place. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

S. Everett MOVED to Approve a Transfer of \$875.00 from the fuel line to the Old Fire House fuel line.

TRANSFER #/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPITON
2019 #022 / \$3,100.00	10-4410-011 / DPW OT Salaries	10-4420-010 / Salaries-Waste Disposal
2019 #022 / \$640.00	10-4420-500 / Professional/Tech	10-4420-230 / Electricity
2019 #022 / \$50.00	10-4420-500 / Professional Tech	10-4400-515 / Contracted Services
2019 #023 / \$9.00	10-4260-710 / Professional Improvement	10-4260-515 / Contracted Services
2019 #024 / \$640.00	10-4440-230 / Electricity	10-4116-230 / Electricity
2019 #025 / \$300.00	10-4117-120 / Telephone	10-4117-230 / Electricity
2019 #025 / \$220.00	10-4117-240 / Fuel	10-4117-230 / Electricity
2019-026 / \$875.00	10-4410-240 / Fuel	10-4115-240 / Fuel

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

10.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to Approve Refunds totaling \$1,774.39.

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$1,774.39	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	DEBORAH L. HADAWAY

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve Bills totaling \$227,608.90 consisting of 2018-19 Emergency, 2018-19 Regular, SBL Town Grant Payment 4 of 4, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.
13. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** A. Dunnack suggested to L. Napolitano that if she sets up a committee to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation that she might want to involve the Environmental Advisory Committee.
14. **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)** S. Everett MOVED to go into Executive Session at 7:55pm for real estate with M. Walter and

Ann Dunnack in attendance. S. Everett MOVED to end the Executive Session at 8:19 PM. No action was taken. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:20 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie