

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – 7:00 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present via Remote Access: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Robert Hellstrom, Deputy Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman.

Also Present via Remote Access: Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director.

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

1. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** S. Everett asked for a moment of silence.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Special Meeting Agenda for April 28, 2020. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** None.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** *For public input before the meeting please email your comments to PublicInput@columbiact.org. For public input during the meeting, your comments can be submitted through the "Chat" feature in Zoom Meeting or use the "Raise Hand" function" feature to let the host know you would like to speak. PLEASE INCLUDE IN BOTH METHODS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.*

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 5.1 **Review revised and discuss budget recommendations from FiPAC.** S. Everett explained that FiPAC has requested reductions in the FY 20/21 Operating and Capital Budgets totaling \$257,158. FiPAC has asked the Board of Selectman to look at the Town's Capital Plan and Operating budgets and propose recommendations for reductions. S. Everett stated the total updated reduction of the BOS proposed 2020-2021 net Capital decrease is \$3,000 and the net Operating is \$10,106, totaling \$13,106.

The Capital plan includes the following recommended changes:

- \$25,000 to \$40,000 for the Playscape for a net change of \$15,000
- \$35,000 to \$30,000 for the Pavilion for a net change of (\$5,000)
- \$35,000 to \$30,000 for the Pickle Ball Court for a net change of (\$5,000)
- Transfer Station Equipment will remain unchanged with a decrease of (\$8,000).

Total Net Change is (\$3,000).

The Operating budget includes the following recommended changes:

- Reduction of \$6,800 for salt supplies
- Reduction of \$1,000 for postage
- Reduction of \$2,306 for Library grant

Total Net Change is (\$10,106).

S. Everett explained that the pickle all court and the pavilion could be done at a reduced cost with the help of Public Works department. Discussion ensued.

L. Napolitano asked if the culvert on Hunt Rd. could wait. M. Walter explained that he reached out to Anchor Engineering and they said that the degradation to the culvert has not gone further than what they have seen from their original analysis. M. Walter also explained that we will be applying for state funding which may provide a 50% reimbursement from the State.

- 5.2 Approve revised 20/21 budget and send back to FiPAC:** S. Everett MOVED to Accept FiPAC's request for reductions in the Operating and Capital Budgets of \$257,158. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

S. Everett MOVED to authorize the Board of Selectman to send over the 20/21 budget revision suggestions totaling \$13,106 in net additional reductions to FiPAC. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- 6.1 Discussion and vote to support Solar Farm Application.** S. Everett stated that Walt Tabor was approached by US Solar to put solar on his property on Route 87 in a remote area on Walt Tabor's property. S. Everett explained that supporting this application will benefit the Town from a tax-base perspective. Th project includes perennial native vegetation to support honeybees, native pollinators, and songbirds. M. Walter explained that the solar power company would offer to pay \$5,000 pilot payment in lieu of taxes for the solar polar grid. S. Everett shared the support letter to CT DEEP and discussion ensued. S. Everett MOVED to vote in support of the solar farm application. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 6.2 Town Mailer for Beach Passes and Transfer Station.** S. Everett explained that the mailer will state that the beach will not be open until further notice. S. Everett stated we are following the State and CDC recommendations. Discussion ensued.

7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH. None.

8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS. None.

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 9.1 Emergency Management COVID-19 update.** M. Walter shared the weekly update that the Town's Emergency Management Director provides at the beginning of each week. He explained that Dartmouth Village wells had a leak in the system causing the wells to go dry on Friday of last week, but that both wells are up and running now. He added that the Public Works department and Senior Center Director provided Dartmouth with drinking water and that both the Emergency Management Director, Jerry James and Steven Everett were kept abreast on the situation.

M. Walter explained that on Wednesday the Town will be receiving extra PPE equipment, we have ordered more personal computers for employees to work from home and have set up work-from-home protocols. M. Walter explained that he received a call that the Leo's have voted to donate \$250 to the Town and \$250 to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department for COVID-19 related expenses.

M. Walter stated that Tolland County is the least affected area in the State. He stated that there are 7 positive cases and 2 hospitalized with COVID-19. S. Everett stated that this is the cumulative number.

- 9.2 **Office of Policy & Management COVID-19 total spend by Town and BOE.**
This was not covered in the meeting.
10. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
11. **BUDGET:**
- 11.1 **Transfers:** None.
- 11.2 **Refunds:** None.
12. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** None.
13. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Carol Kubala, Lake Rd. asked to have the information repeated on the beach passes and transfer station.
14. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.
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).**
16. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to Adjourn at 7:37 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie