

**Town of Columbia**  
**Financial Planning and Allocation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 20, 2017 – 7 pm**  
**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room**  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. 06237**

**Members Present:** Chairman Earnest Sharpe; Vice Chairman Jeff Viens; Kelley Peck; Todd Shepard; Dean Toepfer; Judy Ortiz; Richard Szegda.

**Also Present:** Deputy Selectman Steven Everett; Town Administrator Mark Walter; Finance Director Bev Ciurylo.

1. **Call to Order:** E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Audience of Citizens:** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - 4.1 **FiPAC Meeting minutes of July 19, 2017:** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the FiPAC minutes of July 19, 2017. J. Ortiz SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 7:0.
5. **Correspondence:**
  - 5.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2017**
  - 5.2 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2017**
  - 5.3 **BOS Special Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2017**
  - 5.4 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2017**
  - 5.5 **BOE Regular Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2017**
  - 5.6 **BOE Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2017**
  - 5.7 **BOE Regular Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2017**
6. **Old Business:**
  - 6.1 **2016-17 year end:** B. Ciurylo provided year end updates. She stated that the BOE ended the year with a surplus of \$51,270 which will be returned to the town's General Fund. Currently, the General Fund Balance is at approximately 3.5 million.
  - 6.2 **State Budget Update:** M. Walter stated the Governor plans to veto the proposed budget. He explained that Columbia benefits more in regards to town aide with the Republican budget proposal. If there is no budget by September 30<sup>th</sup>, the budget will revert back to the previous budget. S. Everett stated that we still have not seen the Democrat budget proposal. D. Toepfer asked what the BOS and BOE plan to do in anticipation of the budget cut. B. Ciurylo stated that the BOE has issued a soft freeze on spending. M. Walter said that the town plans to hold off on executing a contract on the salt shed, our largest capital project, until we see the final state budget.
  - 6.3 **Long Range Planning:** M. Walter discussed long range planning and capital projects. He stated that the estimated cost for all projects is 10 million however he is still waiting on hard numbers. This includes the school parking lot and Public Works Garage. K. Peck asked if there are any models to regionalize Departments. M. Walter stated that Columbia's Public Works Department is small and hard working. They are very efficient, as is the Fire Department. He believes that regionalizing such

departments would increase our costs. The Fire Department in a sense is regionalized thru mutual aid which works very well.

**7. New Business:**

**7.1 Artisenergy Contract:** M. Walter explained that he was advised by legal counsel that a town meeting is required for approval of a multi-year contract. The Town Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, 10/3 at 6:45 pm in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room. T. Shepard asked if other towns using a similar contract have been contacted. M. Walter said not at this time, but feels that is a good idea and will follow up with the contractor before the Town Meeting.

**7.2 Transfers:** None.

**8. Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7pm.

**9. Adjournment:** T. Shepard MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:49 pm. J. Viens SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona