

**FINANCIAL PLANNING and ALLOCATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2020 – 7 pm
Yeomans Hall
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: Ernie Sharpe, Chairman; Richard Szegda, Co-Vice Chairman; Kelly Peck, Co-Vice Chairman, Judith Jordan; Brian Pedersen, Jeff Viens.

Members Absent: Mike Patel.

Also Present: Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Bev Ciurylo, Finance Director; Maria Geryk, Superintendent; Steven Everett, First Selectman.

CALL TO ORDER: E. Sharpe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 PM.

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR VIRTUAL MEETING:** This is a web-based call, so we are operating under the following procedures: This session is being both video and audio-recorded. Commissioners and staff will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. There will not be any public comment during this meeting. Any Public Input that was provided previously to this meeting will be read during 4.1 Review of Public Input. If a member of the public creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the chair.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 2.1 **FiPAC Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of 5/13/20.** R. Szegda MOVED to Approve the Public Meeting Minutes of 5/13/20. K. Peck Seconded the Motion. 5.0.1 with J. Viens abstaining.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 3.1 BOS Meeting Minutes 4/7/20, 4/21/20 & 5/5/20.
 - 3.2 BOE Meeting Minutes 2/3/20.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 **Review of Public Input:** E. Sharpe stated that a previous email regarding the budget was addressed in the last meeting. Three residents phoned in or zoomed in on the Library budget's voluntary reduction of \$2,306.00 and their request to reverse the reduction. There was no new public input for this meeting. K. Peck MOVED to increase the library budget by \$2,306.00 from the undesignated fund. R. Szegda SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6.0.
 - 4.2 **Modification of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Town Budget as FiPAC deems necessary.** K. Peck MOVED to Adopt the budget with the amendment previously approved. R. Szegda SECONDED the MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6.0.

- 4.3 **Setting of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tax Rate and setting of the dates that taxes are due and payable.** E. Sharpe MOVED to Approve the tax rate for FY 2020/2021 be set at 29.33 and the taxes due and payable on July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. R. Szegda SECONDED MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6.0.
- 4.4 **Executive Order 7S Transfers:**
- 4.4 a **Appropriation of funds for the Inzinga property.**
E. Sharpe MOVED to Approve the Resolution to be read by M. Walter.

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen had previously called a Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 to act upon the proposed appropriation of \$30,000 from the open space land acquisition account to be applied toward the purchase price of the Inzinga/Bauer property more particularly described below; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergencies in the State of Connecticut and executive orders issued by Governor Lamont in conjunction with such declaration the holding of a town meeting would not be prudent; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Executive Order 7S issued by Governor Lamont on April 1, 2020 permits the Board of Selectmen and the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee, by the majority vote of each such body, to authorize an appropriation in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the Town's current total municipal budget without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Planning and Allocation Committee has determined that the appropriation of the funds to be applied to the open space purchase is in the best interest of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has previously approved the appropriation of the sum of \$30,000 from Open Space Land Acquisition, Capital Account #20-6388-013 as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase price of a certain parcel consisting of approximately 99.5 acres of open space land located in the Town of Columbia owned by Russell P. Inzinga, Trustee and the Estate of Angeline I. Bauer and located at Wells Wood Rd. (Lot 51 on Assessor's Map 38).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission approves the appropriation of the sum of \$30,000 from Open Space Land Acquisition, Capital Account #20-6388-013 as a capital contribution to be applied toward the purchase price of a certain parcel consisting of approximately 99.5 acres of open space land located in the Town of Columbia owned by

Russell P. Inzinga, Trustee and the Estate of Angeline I. Bauer and located at Wells Wood Rd. (Lot 51 on Assessor's Map 38).

E. Sharpe MOVED to Approve the Resolution. J. Jordan SECONDED the MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.1 with K. Peck abstaining.

- 4.4.b Appropriation of funds to be applied to the Rescue Truck replacement for Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.** E. Sharpe MOVED to Approve the Resolution to be read by M. Walter.

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen had previously called a Town Meeting to act upon the proposed appropriation of \$300,000 from the General Fund to be applied to the purchase of a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department more particularly described below; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergencies in the State of Connecticut and executive orders issued by Governor Lamont in conjunction with such declaration the holding of a town meeting would not be prudent; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Executive Order 7S issued by Governor Lamont on April 1, 2020 permits the Board of Selectmen and the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission, by the majority vote of each such body, to authorize an appropriation in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the Town's current total municipal budget without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission has determined that the appropriation of the funds to be applied to the Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department is in the best interest of the Town,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission authorizes the Town to appropriate the sum of \$175,000 from the General Fund and transfer those funds to the capital reserve account named CVFD Capital Projects #20-6403-006 in order to purchase a Rescue Truck replacement for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

E. Sharpe MOVED to Approve the Resolution. R. Szegda SECONDED the MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.1 with K. Peck Abstaining.

- 4.4 Markell Property Donation:** M. Walter explained that the BOS approved the acceptance of a property donation at last night's BOS to the town of a 100 x 100 parcel with the closing of the Markell property.

5. **TRANSFERS:** B. Ciurylo reviewed the five transfers totaling \$5,788.00. R. Szegda MOVED to Approve the Transfers as presented by B. Ciurylo. J. Jordan SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6.0.

TRANSFER/ AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C#, DESCRIPTION
#2020-027 / \$1,670.00	10-4112-460 / Commercial Insurance	10-4112-120 / Telephone/Communication
#2020-028 / \$160.00 \$400.00 <u>\$58.00</u> Total: 618.00	10-4133-300 / General Supplies 10-4133-710 / Professional Improvement 10-4133-750 / Conferences/Seminars	10-4133-110 / Postage
#2020-029 / \$1,000.00	10-4110-011 /Salaries DPW OT	10-4420-011 / Salaries – Transfer Station OT
#2020 -030 / \$1,000.000	10-4420-500 / Professional/Tech	10-4420-300 / General Supplies
#2020-031 / \$1,500.00	10-4440-230 / Electricity	10-4112-230 / Electricity

6. **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** Before adjourning the meeting, E. Sharpe asked the FiPAC members if they had any final comments.

R. Szegda stated that he would have preferred a public hearing and town meeting with a town vote instead of virtual meetings. He added he is pleased that this budget included no tax increase.

K. Peck thanked the BOE, BOS, M. Walter, Town Administrator, B. Ciurylo, Finance Director, and J. LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant for their commitment during the budget process and we achieved a budget that did not raise taxes.

B. Pedersen seconded what K. Peck said and thanked everyone for their help.

J. Jordan stated that she appreciated the time M. Walter took with her to explain the process and was pleased that the budget represented the interests of the town.

J. Viens stated that we had a good process that resulted in a good budget for the citizens of Columbia.

E. Sharpe thanked M. Walter, B. Ciurylo, FiPAC, BOS, and BOE.

E. Sharpe MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer LaVoie