

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – 6:45 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

A Special Town Meeting of the duly electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town Meeting of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut was held in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:45pm.

Present: Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; Selectman, William O'Brien; Mark Walter, Town Administrator.

Moderator: Mark Vining

Clerk: Jennifer C. LaVoie

Citizens :None.

The meeting was called to order by R. Hellstrom at 6:45pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

R. Hellstrom read the legal advertisement from The Chronicle which included the following CLAUSES into the record:

CLAUSE 1 - To consider amendments to Columbia Town Ordinance 18-3 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters to extend the existing tax abatement for eligible members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to benefit eligible retired members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81w as amended by Connecticut Public Act 16-99 and to make certain clarifying changes to said ordinance.

CLAUSE 2 – To approve, if Clause 1 is adopted, that in lieu of publishing the full text of revised Town Ordinance 18-3, as required by Section 3.5 of the Town Charter, a summary notice be published instead, as permitted by said Section 3.5 and Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-157(b); and that said notice read substantially as follows: “Columbia Town Ordinance 18-3 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters has been amended so as to extend the annual \$1,000 property tax abatement available for eligible members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to also include eligible retired members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. This summary is prepared for the benefit of the public solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This summary does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Columbia for any purpose. A complete copy of amended and restated Ordinance 18-3 is available at the offices of the Columbia Town Clerk and Town Administrator and is also available at www.columbiact.org.” (copy of legal notice here).

The meeting was then turned over to the Moderator. The Moderator stated that the clauses were already read, so he will not re-read them.

The Moderator asked if there is a Motion for Clause 1. R. Hellstrom MOVED to consider amendments to Columbia Town Ordinance 18-3 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters to extend the existing tax abatement for eligible members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to benefit eligible retired members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81w as amended by Connecticut Public Act 16-99 and to make certain clarifying changes to said ordinance.

W. O'Brien SECONDED the MOTION.

The Moderator then turned to meeting over to R. Hellstrom as the first person to have the opportunity to speak. R. Hellstrom stated that this is a good benefit for the firefighters and is a well-deserved benefit. The Moderator asked if W. O'Brien had any additional comments. W. O'Brien said he agreed with all of R. Hellstroms' comments and had no additional comments.

The Moderator asked if there were any comments from the Audience of Citizens. With no comments the Moderator re-read the MOTION from Clause 1. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Moderator asked if there is a Motion for Clause 2. R. Hellstrom MOVED to consider amendments to Columbia Town Ordinance 18-3 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters to extend the existing tax abatement for eligible members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to benefit eligible retired members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81w as amended by Connecticut Public Act 16-99 and to make certain clarifying changes to said ordinance.

W. O'Brien SECONDED the MOTION.

The Moderator asked if there were any comments from the Audience of Citizens. With no comments the Moderator re-read the MOTION from Clause 2. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Moderator asked if there were any further discussion regarding the Motions. There was no further discussion or debate.

R. Hellstrom MOVED to ADJOURN the Special Town Meeting at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie