

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF COLUMBIA
FEBRUARY 28, 2011
7:00 PM**

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town of Columbia, Connecticut was held in the Horace W. Porter Cafetorium, 2 Schoolhouse Road, Columbia on Monday February 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Carmen Vance, First Selectman, Richard J. Szegda, William O'Brien, and Rob Hellstrom, Selectmen, Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator, Henry Beck, Town Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Carmen Vance at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was turned over to the Moderator, who explained the procedures and rules of this meeting.

MODERATOR: Steve Arntsen
TOWN CLERK: Robin M. Kenefick
CITIZENS: 264 + Present

CLAUSE 1: Motion was made by Carmen Vance:

“I MOVE that the Board of Selectmen implements the following recommendations of the Solid Waste Recycling Advisory Committee: (1) That the Pay-As-You-Throw bag program be made permanent; (2) That the price of bags be reduced; (3) That the price of Transfer Station permits be reduced; and (4) That bag sale revenues be placed into a special revenue account and be spent only on Transfer Station related expenses.”

Motion was seconded. The Moderator informed the citizens, the First Selectman will speak on the subject first then a presentation with information will be given by the Solid Waste/Recycling Advisory Commission (SWRAC) before the floor would be opened for discussion. Each person called upon would be allowed to speak for two minutes to give everyone a chance to speak. The Moderator called on Carmen Vance, First

Selectman to start. Carmen Vance, First Selectman, explained that Town ordinance 21-4 states the Board of Selectmen set the fees for the transfer station and that was the reason why the clause was stated in this manner. The Moderator then called on Kris Earle, Chairman of **SWRAC**, who introduced the members of the committee – Diane Duva, Ingrid Wood, Laurie Rogers, Vera Englert, Russ Haddad, and Rick Friedman. The Pay-As-You-Throw trial period ran from September 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011. **SWRAC** gathered facts for the past six months. Their presentation was to show the results obtained and why they are recommending this program be made permanent. During the trial period, Municipal Solid Waste decreased by 54%, the Town's recycling rate increased from 27% to 40%, and the Town saved \$13,493 on the cost of Hauling and Tipping costs. The bottom line showed that the Town of Columbia saved money and reduced trash. The floor was opened for discussion. Questions ranged from placing stickers on your own bag of trash instead of using the orange bags, purchasing of the orange bags at the transfer station, to not being in favor of the present bag. Clarification was made on the vote taking place: A YES vote would make the trial period permanent and a NO vote would have operations go back to what they were prior to the Pay-As-You Throw trial.

Ralph Marshall called the question. The Moderator allowed **SWRAC** to finish the point they were speaking to. Point of order was called by Noreen Steele on calling the question. The Moderator again stated he was allowing the commission to finish speaking before addressing the "calling of the question". The Moderator explained a two thirds vote was needed to pass the motion. The Motion passed by a majority vote.

The Moderator reread Clause 1. The vote: YES 85 NO 179. The motion failed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.