

TOWN OF COLUMBIA  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
October 29, 2012

First Selectman Carmen Vance of 1 Beach Road called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. C. Vance introduced the moderator, Robert Baldwin. R. Baldwin read the following aloud:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF COLUMBIA  
TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2012

(AND A REFERENDUM VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012  
WITH RESPECT TO ITEM 1)

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut will be held at the **Horace W. Porter School Gymnasium, 3 Schoolhouse Road, Columbia CT., on October 29, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.** for the following purpose:

1. To receive notice from the Board of Selectmen with respect to, and to consider and act upon the resolution entitled "RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$5,915,000 FOR THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE TOWN OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$5,915,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE."

The Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to the Town Charter and General Statutes, that the vote on the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution (item 1) of the call of the Special Town Meeting to be held on October 29, 2012, be removed from the call of such meeting and adjourned to a referendum vote at Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on November 6, 2012 in conjunction with the General Election scheduled for that date. As a result, the Special Town Meeting will be held to only consider and discuss the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution, not to vote on it. The question to be voted upon at the referendum shall be stated as follows:

Question 1:

"Shall the resolution entitled RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$5,915,000 FOR THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE TOWN OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$5,915,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE', as adopted by the Board of Selectmen, be approved? YES NO"

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

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“Shall the appropriation and bond authorization of \$5,915,000 for the renovation and expansion of the Saxton B. Little Free Town of Columbia Library, as adopted by the Board of Selectmen, be approved? YES/NO”

The voting will be by paper/electronic ballot. Those desiring to vote for the question shall fill in the box in front of the question on the ballot at “YES”. Those desiring to vote against the question shall fill in the box in front of the question on the ballot at “NO”.

The full text of the aforesaid resolution and question are on file, open to public inspection, in the office of the Town Clerk. The vote on the aforesaid resolution is taken under the authority of the Charter.

The polls will be open during the normal Election Day hours between 6 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time and electors shall cast their votes at the **Horace W. Porter School, 3 Schoolhouse Road, Columbia, CT., in the Cafetorium.**

All Qualified Voters must vote at **Horace W. Porter School, 3 Schoolhouse Road, Columbia, CT., in the Gymnasium.**

A Qualified Voter is any citizen who is not a resident of Columbia, who is of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the Town of Columbia for taxes assessed against him or her on an assessment of not less than One Thousand Dollars on the last completed Grand List of the Town of Columbia or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivisions (17), (19), (22), (25) or (26) of Section 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

Absentee ballots will be made available in accordance with law. The Central location for counting of absentee ballots will be at **Horace W. Porter School, 3 Schoolhouse Road, Columbia, CT in the Cafetorium.**

Such Special Town Meeting may consider and act upon any other business which may lawfully come before the Meeting.

Dated at Columbia, Connecticut this eighteenth of September, 2012. Signed by Carmen L. Vance, First Selectman, Robert Hellstrom, Board of Selectmen Member, Robert Bogue, Board of Selectmen Member, William O'Brien, Board of Selectmen Member, Richard Szegda, Board of Selectmen Member. Attested by the Town Clerk, Robin M. Kenefick.

The return of posting and publication of this notice, on file and of record, states that said Notice, bearing the written signatures of all the Selectmen, had been posted on the Town's signpost or other exterior place near the offices of the Town Clerk on October 22, 2012, and a copy thereof had been published in the Willimantic Chronicle, a newspaper having substantial circulation in said Town, in its issue of October 22, 2012.

Accordingly, this meeting will continue for purposes of discussion only with respect to the \$5,915,000 Library bond resolution (item 1).

The next item on the Agenda is the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution

A notice was received from the Board of Selectmen that the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution was adopted by the Board and informing the legal voters of the time and place of the referendum. It will be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting.

I will introduce the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution, Item 1 on the call for consideration tonight:

Resolution appropriating \$5,915,000 for the renovation and expansion of the Saxton B. Little Free Town of Columbia Library and Authorizing the Issue of \$5,915,000 Bonds of the town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

A copy of the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution is available at this meeting.

Is there a motion and a second to waive the reading of the resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting?"

Moved by Paul Kubala of 37 Lake Road. Seconded by Carol Kubala of 37 Lake Road. The vote will be taken by voice vote. Those in favor of waiving the reading indicate by saying Aye. Those opposed indicate by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion passes.

Is there a Motion and Second to adopt the \$5,915,000 LIBRARY bond resolution with the understanding that the vote will be taken on November 6, 2012? The remainder of this meeting will continue for discussion of the resolution only.

Moved by Carmen Vance, of 1 Beach Road. Seconded by Richard Szegda, of 464 Route 87Route 87.

C. Vance made three points about the proposed project. She said that the library is an integral part of the community – that is serves all ages. She said that the current library is too small and in dire need of major renovations. She also said that a bad economy might be a good time to do this library project is because of the low interest rates. C. Vance said that it is nor really plausible to do this project without borrowing money. C. Vance said that there are only two years where increased property taxes due to the library project have a major impact on tax payers. C. Vance noted that the town borrowed money to build the current Firehouse and the town borrowed money to fulfill the school. R. Szegda, who seconded the motion, indicated that he did not want to speak on the motion. C. Vance said that information has been provided in a handout at tonight meeting about the proposed project. C. Vance called the Town Administrator to speak about the finances related to the proposed library project. J. Luiz reviewed the graphs and charts that audience members had received this evening. He discussed the projected financial impact on the town if it borrows \$5,915,000 to renovate and expand the library. R. Baldwin opened discussion

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on the motion to the floor. He reminded audience members to state their name and address for the record. Paul Kubala, of 37 Lake Road said that he would like to see the projected cost of the project presented to tax payers in the format of X number of dollars per \$1,000 of assessed property. Jeffrey Viens of 132 Route 66 said that residence should know that the town is considering buying property development rights and that doing so will take off property from taxation. Pam Viens of 132 Route 66 said that the project does not fit the town because the cost is outrageous and the student population is declining. P. Kubala of asked what the bond cost is over the course of 20 years. J. Luiz directed the audience to a part of the handout that projects the principal and interest costs of the bond to be \$7,953,950 over twenty years. Bill Ross of 183 Route 87 asked about current existing debt. J. Luiz said that the current outstanding debt is attributable to school and firehouse projects. William Ross of 183 Route 87 asked about how the current school roof project impacts current debt. J. Luiz said that the current school roof project does not impact current debt because the town's intent is to pay for the school roof project with cash from the General Fund. J. Viens of 132 Route 66 asked about the town's bond rating. J. Luiz said that he believes that Moody's has rated the town the third highest rating.

With there being no further business to conduct, R. Baldwin asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Paul Kubala, of 37 Lake Road, seconded by Carol Kubala of 37 Lake Road, unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jonathan Luiz, on behalf of Town Clerk Robin M. Kenefick.

Received: November 2, 2012  
At 10:55 AM  
Attest: Dale M. Math  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk <sup>ASST</sup>  
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