

**ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MAY 8, 2012
TOWN OF COLUMBIA**

The Annual Budget Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town Meeting of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut, was held in the Horace W. Porter Cafetorium on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

Present were Carmen Vance, First Selectman, Richard J. Szegda, William O'Brien, Selectmen, Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator, Kerry Hoffman, Lisa Napolitano, John Schroder, James Thorn, Board of Education, and Francine Coss, Superintendent.

Presenting the budget for Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) was Earnest Sharpe, Chairman, Patricia Gabel, Pam Missal, Judith Ortiz, Michael Robertson, and Allen Smith.

CITIZENS:	67 Present
CLERK:	Gail C. McGrath
MODERATOR:	Mark Vining

Carmen Vance, First Selectman, acknowledged the 65th anniversary of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman, Carmen Vance, at 7:34 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The meeting was turned over to the Moderator who explained the process and procedure to run the annual Budget meeting and that the vote is by secret ballot. The Moderator asked if there was a Motion. Carmen Vance made the following motion:

“I move to approve the Annual Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 as proposed by FiPAC.”

The motion was seconded by Earnest Sharpe. The floor was opened for discussion. Carmen Vance explained that the budget process was a joint effort between the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education, and FiPAC and that all three boards worked hard on this budget. C. Vance went on to say that had revaluation not taken place, then there would have been no increase in the mill rate. She said that due to revaluation, the current mill rate of 23.55 would increase to 27.13, an increase of 3.58 mills. C. Vance said that this is a good budget and that she encourages those present to vote Yes.

Earnest Sharpe, Chairman of the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission, thanked all three boards for their work. E. Sharpe said that FiPAC worked hard on this budget, going through some sound financial analysis and analyzing data

from the past, current, and future. He said that the process was not smooth, due to a law change last June, but it was productive. E. Sharpe urged audience members to support this budget.

The Moderator turned the discussion over to the audience for their comments on the motion as it was presented. No discussion took place.

Mike Lester, of 56 Szegda Road, called the question. The motion was seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote. A voice vote was taken on the motion to call the question. The motion passed with all in the room voting in favor and no one voting against.

A paper ballot vote was taken on the motion to accept the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The results of the paper ballot vote were announced by the Moderator as follows:

YES: 69 NO: 12 Abstention: 1
(Vote consisted of qualified voters)

The Moderator announced that the Motion passes.

Earnest Sharpe said FiPAC will vote to establish the mill rate at a FiPAC meeting that follows this budget meeting and he expects that the new mill rate will be set at 27.13 mills.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail C. McGrath
Assistant Town Clerk