

**REGULAR MEETING MOTIONS
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Immediately after Town Meeting at 6:30 PM
Adella G. Urban Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: Judy Ortiz, Deputy First Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; Christopher Lent, Selectman.

Members Absent: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman.

Also Present: Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator, Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge of Allegiance was already recited in the Special Town Meeting.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Agenda as Presented. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2024.** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2024. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Update on Boathouse Pavilion.** M. Walter said we are trying to come up with a better thought process for handicap access to the boathouse pavilion. One option that was rejected was a lift that was too expensive and too much maintenance. The other option that was considered was a bridge that would occupy the whole front yard and would be level with the retaining wall. This option would also require a sidewalk all the way back to the parking lot. Both of those options carried a cost of about \$75,000. M. Walter said we asked Bob Powell, who is a retired architect, to come up with another option. He came up with an idea to put in a ramp off the side out 30' towards the kayak rack on the side of the building and then 30' back. The railings would not be present in the front of the whole property. M. Walter said that by law we are not forced to put in handicap access if the cost is more than 20% of the cost of the project, and it is three stories. M. Walter said that the railings width could be reduced, which may bring some cost savings. The only stone work required would be connecting the existing sidewalk to the platform. The public hearing is October 1st.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- 6.1 Preliminary FY 23/24 Year End Budget Review.** B. Ciurylo gave an update on the preliminary FY 23/24 year-end budget. She said without finishing the year-end adjustment and the audit, the Board of Selectmen General Fund Expenditures budget is showing about \$316,000 surplus, the Board of Education (BOE) has a surplus of \$230,000 and the revenues are coming in at \$426,000 with a total of \$982,000 going back into the General Fund. She said that we have already taken \$499,000 this year and \$499,000 last year and another \$325,000 last year as well so it is basically a wash. She said with the \$499,000 coming out this year the General Fund balance is about 17%. She said that we are in good shape starting off the year. B. Ciurylo said next month she will give the board another update including the transfers for the BOE. C. Lent asked if there was any discussion from the BOE on the non-lapsing account. B. Ciurylo said that they decided to give all the funds back. They did take money out of their surplus and they are replacing an oil tank at a cost of \$225,000 and they have some other year-end expenditures which will reduce their surplus.

J. Ortiz asked what made up the \$230,000 BOE surplus. B. Ciurylo said there were savings in the salary line by the current superintendent doing the dual role, which came to about \$80,000, grant funds that helped pay the new language curriculum of about \$82,000, a credit from the bus company of over \$30,000, a grant to help buy computer equipment and additional funds carried forward to cover laptops, and tuition money left over of about \$7,500.

7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:

8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 8.1 Resignation of Brandon McClean from the Columbia Conservation and Agricultural Commission.** J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Removal of Brandon McClean from the Columbia Conservation and Agricultural Commission and Economic Development Commission and any other boards or commissions he is on. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 9.1 CT 2024 Law Enforcement Quick Reference for Safe & Secure Elections.**
- 9.2 CCM Sponsored Statewide Flood Study Report.** CCM led this study and the rollout will be released soon. The study was conducted because throughout Connecticut towns and cities have been impacted by flooding. The study included a review of the existing flood risk management policy framework, a survey of CT municipalities to gather information on flood-related issues. M. Walter said that what the study has found is that all the towns and cities have undersized culverts and drainage systems that were not designed for the amount of heavy rain we have been experiencing over the last several years. He said the other frustration is the criteria that has to be met for any grants that could help fund the repair or replacement of a culvert. For example, we received a 50/50 grant for the Pine Street culvert, but we were denied for the Thompson Hill culvert because the culvert started too small to begin with to meet the state parameters of 1.2 times bigger than the stream. He said it's a catch 22, we need to expand the size of the

culvert to accommodate the water, but the culvert is too small to begin with to meet the parameters set by the state for the grant. Discussion ensued about the bridge/culvert committee, the study of the towns current road conditions.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 State of CT State Police monthly report August 2024.

10.2 Thank you letters from Access Agency and United Services, Inc.

11. BUDGET:

11.1 Transfers: None.

11.2 Refunds: S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Refunds Totaling \$793.22. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: J. Ortiz MOVED to APPROVE the Payment of Bills Totaling \$77,166.32, consisting of 2024-2025 Emergency, 2024-2025 Regular, Credit Card, and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: Ann Dunnack, 102 Lake Road said a few meetings ago the Board of Selectmen (BOS) appropriated money to Lake Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) for additional study for water quality of Utley Brook. M. Walter said it is in the works and will be reported to LMAC and then the BOS. M. Walter said that they will be going towards the source as opposed to the outlet. M. Walter said he will find out more information from LMAC.

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A). J. Ortiz MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 7:26 pm and invited Mark Walter, Town Administrator and Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director. MOTION CARRIED 4.0. Executive Session ended at 7:45 PM with No Action Taken. J. Ortiz MOVED to Appoint Carol Price as Temporary Tax Collector. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

15.1 Legal: No Action Taken.

16. ADJOURNMENT: J. Ortiz MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:46 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie