**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, February 8, 2023**

**County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 94 Main St., Colton NY 13625**

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher

Kevin Hawley, Highway Supt. Jacob Poste

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Randi-Lee Cook-Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Jeff Tubolino, Shelley Rayner, Kirke Perry, Nancy Robert, Peggy Mousaw, Rick Perkins, Laurie Wright, Ed Fuhr, Grace Hawley

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Peggy Shea, Anne Townsend, Cynthia Hennessy, Dennis Eickoff, Judy Fuhr, Michael Hayes

Supervisor R. Robert led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6pm as scheduled.

Motion #1

**Adopt the agenda for this meeting**

Ms. Fisher made the motion to adopt the agenda for this meeting, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Approve January 2023 Minutes**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Poste to approve the minutes from the January 2023 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #3

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #2, 2023**

Motion made by Mr. Poste, seconded by Mrs. Planty to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #2, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund…………………………………………………………………….$81,002.03

Highway Fund…………………………………………………………………….36,989.25

Library Fund………………………………………………………………………..1,603.99

Outside Fire Protection……………………………………………………………37,500.00

Colton Light Dist……………………………………………………………………..867.51

S. Colton Light Dist…………………………………………………………………..831.41

Sewer Fund #1………………………………………………………………………1,947.23

Water Fund #1……………………………………………………………………….2,742.13

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

* Laurie Wright inquired about the ARPA funds. The first round went to upgrades at the sewer plant. Mrs. Wright asked if the 2nd half could be put towards Broad Band? DPW Superintendent Darren Richards stated that SLIC and Spectrum do not want to deal with the maintenance. Mr. Rick Perkins said it is easier to pay fines than run the service. Ms. Fisher asked if the town could write a letter to Spectrum or SLIC? Mr. Richards asked the Supervisor if he would be drafting that letter? Supervisor Robert said he would write the letter to Spectrum and SLIC.
* Mrs. Wright also wanted to inform the town board and residents of the Town of Colton that the price on garbage is going up to $9 per ton, recyclables up to $24 per ton.
* Peggy Mousaw asked about a broadband map for the town? CEO Darren Richards stated he could get that for her.
* Ms. Mousaw previously sent in a FOIL request regarding applicants for the assessor role opening in February 2022. She asked that the minutes be corrected for the February 2022 emergency meeting, as there was not an application on file for her.
* County Legislator Rick Perkins stated that Office of Open Government – meetings are to be public noticed. However, negotiations do not need to be public.
* Councilperson Lisa Fisher read aloud a letter of opinion on the Morgan Rd Beach Project. In her letter, she stated that in the last several meetings there has been quite a bit of interest on this project. She stated that once the Town finds out if the parcel on Morgan Rd is a viable place for a recreational beach, to have the tax payers of Colton determine by vote whether to move forward with the project.
* Dennis Eickoff requested that the agenda be attached with the zoom invite email. Town Clerk J. Cole stated that the agenda is available on the towns website and that she would also be happy to attach it to the zoom email as well.

**Highway Report:**

* Since the last meeting we have been focusing on snow and ice.  We have also been doing routine vehicle maintenance.
* The new salt storage barn is working out very well. We have noticed a big difference with the waste from frozen chunks. This is mostly from keeping the sand pile dry during the fall rains. Also keeping the wind off the pile helps as well. The available space for salt storage next to the sand also decreases our loading time thus getting the trucks on the road much quicker.
* Our new truck is almost complete at Viking. I expect to get the truck in the next few days.

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**County Legislators Report:**

* We had 44 resolutions.
* We had 15 modifications to the budget.
* We had 16 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.
* We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 14 vacancies positions.
* We had a resolution authorizing the Department of Highways to install a temporary bridge on the Lafavre Rd over Elm Creek for the Snowmobile assoc.
* We had a resolution forgiving interest, penalties and fees on the Property of Frederick and Melinda Goss in Ogdensburg.
* We had a resolution establishing the budget for the NY SCION initiative.
* We had a resolution urging legislative leader to focus their property tax relief efforts on fiscal reforms that will lead to permanent property tax reduction by assuming the cost of State programs currently paid by counties.
* We had a resolution calling upon the NYS Public Service Commission to grant the application for Re-Energy for

designation of a Biomass facility at Fort Drum Military installation as a renewable energy source.

* We had a resolution requesting home rule to extend the Sales Tax Rate as previously authorized from 3%-4%.
* We had a resolution Proclaiming February as Black History month in St Lawrence County.
* We had resolutions reappointing Ruth Doyle as County Administrator and Nancy Lafaver as County Historian.
* We had a resolution supporting the reenactment of the battle of Ogdensburg.
* We had discussions on the Governors proposed NYS Budget which passes more costs onto the Counties’, just one

example is the EFMAP, the federal Medicaid pass thru funds meant for the Counties, the state is keeping which is over $3 million which alone is a 6% tax levy increase for St Lawrence County residents.

**Code Enforcement Report:**

Transfer Station

Each board member has the latest draft of the transfer station blueprints. We are projected to put this out to bid in May 2023. We ask the board to look at this draft and give preliminary approval of the work done so far.

Water/Sewer

As far as water goes, no significant freeze ups other than individual water pipes in their homes. Blue line is discussing plant upgrades and timelines. Mike, Chad, Justin and I are requesting permission to go to Canton for a necessary Water/Sewer conference on March 7th, which is necessary to keep our licenses. The cost is 45.00 per person. This conference is put on by Rural Water at the Best Western.

Motion #4

Ms. Fisher made the motion to have the Mike Schwartfigure, Chad Moore, Justin Johnson, and Darren Richards of the Colton DPW attend the water/sewer conference at the Canton Best Western on March 7th 2023, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Building and Grounds

The skating season is underway with huge successes in regards to the number of people visiting the skating rink for free skate, hockey and broomball. Snow removal has been going very well with little repairs to our equipment. I submit to the town board a quotation from Bonno builders for the ceiling repairs to the museum due to the roof leak damages. This quote was sent to Vikki LaVean our Ins. agent as per request from our former and present town supervisors to submit as an insurance claim.

Safety

I wish to purchase an AED machine for Swift Field and the rink for our athletes, parents, spectators and rink attendees. I need the board approval to purchase this out of our safety budget. It is a very life saving tool which should be at every sporting complex. The current purchase price is 2115.00 and that’s with 500.00 off February Heart Health month. It is the same unit purchased by the school so training on the same unit will be familiar to all staff. According to PERMA our corker’s compensation insurance company, we were incident/accident-free last year with no loss work time. Good job crews and keep up the safe work.

Motion #5

Mrs. Planty made the motion to purchase an AED machine for emergency use at Swift Field and the rink, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Code Enforcement Office

Five permits for the new year. Working on a 1204 Department of State report for 2022 building season still. I’m asking the board permission to go a codes conference in Lake Placid for 5 days. This conference covers my credits needed to recertify me as code officer for another year. They too are mandatory for my license. The conference is held at the High Resort and all in with travel meals, stay and conference registration runs approximately 1,200.00. This will be split with Pierrepont when I return.

Motion #6

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow CEO D. Richards attend the Code Enforcement conference held at the High

Peaks Resort February 26 – March 2, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

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*Code enf report con’t*

Mr. Richards brought it to the boards attention that in some cases conferences and seminars can fill up quickly with participants. Most conferences and seminars have limited seating and/or rooms available. He requested a motion to be put in place allowing the Town Supervisor to solely give permission to a department head and/or employees to attend a conference and/or seminar if there isn’t enough time to ask the board at the next board meeting.

Motion #7

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow the Town Supervisor to approve a department head and/or employee(s) permission to attend a conference and/or seminar if there isn’t enough time for such request at the next scheduled town board meeting with the total cost limit of $2000.00, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Town Clerk Report:**

* Tax Collection has slowed down for now. It was busy throughout January and very busy last week. So far, we have collected over $3million in tax money.
* SLC Public Health contacted me about doing another rabies clinic this year. I set it up for July 20th, to be held at the MSB building, 6pm-7pm.
* Booking conferences - at some point Donna took on the role of doing this for everyone when needed. I am asking that all department heads book for themselves and their employees. This way I do not overlook important information and requests. Currently, in the Town of Colton Employee Handbook it states that all department heads are responsible for any and all bookings of trips.

**Assessor Report:**

* NYClass account interest percentage up to 4.18%, earning $9,300.00 in interest this year.
* Salt barn – in January we received the grant reimbursement of $316,125.00. Final cost of the salt barn over a three year period is pprox.. $764,000.00.
* PERMA Conference coming up in May. Requesting the boards permission to attend.

Motion #8

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow Mrs. Rayner to attend the PERMA conference in May 2023, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**BTI Report:**

* The 30- hour Bti Black fly &amp; Mosquito course was Jan 23-26, 2023. Tom Garvin successfully completed it and will be taking his DEC pesticide technician exams on Feb.9, 2023 in Watertown.
* I just found out that our part-time mosquito control apprentice will not be returning because of personal family matters. There are a couple people that were interested in the Black fly tech positions but because of the course and exam logistics, it didn’t work out. A person can work on Bti Mosquito control as a pesticide apprentice. This requires

8 hours of classroom and 40 hours on the job training. No exams are required. The on-the-job training can be on black fly control. So, hopefully I’ll be able to find someone for the mosquito control program.

* All permits have been filed with DEC. I am currently doing landowner notification.
* I was invited to give a virtual talk about Colton’s Bti Program to the North American Black Fly Associations Annual meeting this Thursday and Friday, Feb 9th &amp; 10th so, have been working on a power point presentation for that.
* I will start monitoring streams in the first week of March and anticipate beginning treatments between March 10-15th.

**Planning Board Report:**

Currently working on comprehensive plan. Looking at grants available.

**Dog Warden Report:**

Nothing at this time

**Library Report:**

* 90% of the $41,800.00 grant has been received. Remaining 10%, will come once a picture of the finished roof is provided.
* Annual report is finished and filed.
* A quote from Bonno Builders was received for the museum ceiling – information is needed to move forward.

**Correspondence:**

**Unfinished Business:**

* Firefighter/EMS percentage off land/school tax? – Still working on this. Currently there is a local law from 2006 in effect.

**New Business:**

* Supervisor Robert is requesting a keyboard specialist for 8-12 hours per week to assist him with some of his office tasks. He is asking to appoint Donna Buckley to this position. Ms. Fisher stated there should be an application process.

Mr. Beary made the motion that the position should not be created. No second. Motion denied.

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**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, February 8, 2023**

*New business con’t*

Motion #9

Ms. Fisher made the motion to advertise the position of a keyboard specialist for Supervisor Robert, total of eight hours per week at $26.10 per hour, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 3 – Fisher, Poste, Planty

Noes 1 – Beary

Abstain - Robert

Motion carried

* Zoom camera – in and installed, working properly. Some discussion on Zoom for meetings. Colton is currently one of the few towns still offering zoom for meetings. Consideration for Colton’s elderly population brought up.
* Town Attorney – Supervisor Robert had been in contact with Attny E. Gustafson asking if he would consider being Colton’s municipal attorney. Attny Gustafson was previously the municipal attorney for Colton several years ago. He is an experienced municipal attorney and has knowledge of our town.

Mr. Beary made the motion to advertise for the position. No second. Motion denied.

Motion #10

Ms. Fisher made the motion to hire Attorney Eric Gustafson as Town of Colton’s municipal attorney, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Poste, Planty. Robert

Noes 1 – Beary

Motion carried

**Announcements:**

* Winterfest – Judy Fuhr has helped with advertisements. Looking forward to a great and fun weekend.
* Peggy Mousaw stated that the Local Government Conference is possibly coming back to SUNY Potsdam. Nothing specific as of yet.
* Rick Perkins said our meetings need help. There are personality issues here. We all need to be respectful of each other even when disagreeing.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion #11

Ms. Fisher made the motion to go into executive session at 7:15pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Return to regular meeting:**

Motion #12

Mrs. Planty made the motion to return to the regular meeting at 7:28pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Adjournment:**

Motion #13

With no further business to discuss Ms. Fisher made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:29pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

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