**Regular Monthly Colton Town Board Meeting, June 09, 2021**

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

Present: George R. Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Grace Hawley

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Ronald Robert

Donna Buckley, Clerk Lisa Fisher-Davis

Jennifer Cole Deputy Clerk

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m. as advertised.

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Dennis Eickhoff, Shelley Rayner, Jeff Tubolino, Deborah Richards, Brandi Graham, Leah Payne-Worden, Nicole Rutledge, Trish LaPierre

Motion # 1

**APPROVE May 2021 MINUTES**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the May 09, 2021 minutes.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**AUTHORIZE, BANK RECON, TRANSFERS & BILLS IN WARRANT #6, 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Fisher to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant # 5, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 44,412.28

Highway Fund 35,615.87

Library Fund 1,477.24

Sewer Fund #1 2,118.08

Water Fund #1 1,946.89

Colton Light District 734.19

South Colton Light District 683.71

The following accounts are or will be over budget as of June 30, 2021:

General Fund: A1330.4 Tax Collection $120.00

A1410.2 Town Clerk Equip. 109.00

A1490.4 Public Works 48.38 (70.50) TOTAL $277.88

Recommended Transfer: A1330.2 Tax Collection Equip. $250.00

A1490.12 Public works Sec 50.00

Library Fund: L7410.429 Misc. $139.92

Recommended Transfer: L1990.4 Contingency $140.00

**DOG CONTROL REPORT:** Three dogs at large – returned to their homes. Two welfare checks.

**COUNTY LEGISLATORS REPORT:**

At the June 7th, Full Board Meeting

* We had 27 resolutions
* We had 4 modifications to the budget
* We had 12 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed
* We had a resolution authorizing the filling of vacancies, 11 positions.
* We had a resolution adding 13 parcels to the Agricultural district 2, consisting of 1,010.3 acres
* We had a resolution authorizing the release of funds set aside for the Bassmaster 2021 elite series in Waddington
* We had a resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the Town of Morristown
* We had a resolution authorizing a bond resolution for the acquisition and construction of two equipment garages and two salt/ sand storage buildings
* We had a resolution authorizing real property tax law correctio of errors
* We had a resolution adopting the Mortgage tax report
* We had a public hearing, and a resolution adopting local law allowing 12 and 13 year old licensed hunter to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season with the supervision of an adult(21) licensed hunter
* We had two resolutions tabled for lease space in Ogdensburg until further information is available

**1**

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**LIBRARY REPORT:**

NYS Construction Grant is under way. Phase 1 is complete. Next is to get a quote on paper by August 16th. May possibly need letter from Town of Colton stating town owns the land.

**FOOD PANTRY:**

Looking at storage buildings from North Country Storage and Adirondack Storage. Size will be 12ft x 44ft or 14ft x 44ft. Price range for the building is $14,500 - $17,000. The building will have a metal insulated door, 4 windows. Food Pantry board members will be setting up a meeting soon.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT**

* 23 new sales have been sent to me this month. Since January 1st 2021 there have been 30 property transfers, of these sale 13 are arm’s length transactions. All of these sales have been processed and sent back to NYS.
* I currently have 70 open site visits.
* The Board of Assessment Review met on Wednesday June 2nd. The board reviewed a total of 18 Grievances. 6 Grievances were lowered, 9 were left unchanged. The board also approved the changes to 3 Stipulated Agreements between the assessor and property owner.
* All of the changes from the Board of Assessment Review have been sent to the County to be processed. They will be making the required changes and printing out the 2021 Final Assessment Roll.
* The notice of filing of the 2021 Final Assessment Roll has been sent to the Town Clerk and will be posted in the local newspaper.
* NYS has established the 2021 Equalization rate for the Town of Colton at 100%.

**BTI REPORT**

* We are on the fourth round of treatments on many of the streams. Some have dried up or partially dried up because of the lack of rain. In some ways it is more challenging since we have to hunt down where the stream is flowing, finding the larvae concentrated in those places that are flowing.
* Portions of the river have been treated three times. I treated the section in South Colton early this morning, coordinating with Brookfield to do the treatment when the river was low. I used just over a gallon of Bti this morning vs using 20 gallons when the river has been high. Since I have to work with life cycle of the larvae I can't always wait for all conditions to be optimal.
* I have had a few reports of clouds of insects being seen in the evening and had photos forwarded to me of the insects. They are a non-biting midge not black flies and are an important food source for wildlife. I have them at my house too.
* There are a lot of mosquitoes out. The crew is working hard and doing the best they can. Since mosquitoes can breed in any standing water, it is important for property owners to do their part in removing/preventing standing water in their yards. I mentioned in the past, logging operations often leave lands that are filled with ruts which become prime mosquito habitat. I am surprised though, given how dry it has been, that we have so many mosquitoes. It would be much worse if we weren't treating.
* I experimented with wearing footwear traction devices, Katoola EXO SPIKES, after the snow and ice disappeared to see if they would work on preventing slips and falls when stepping on slippery rock, logs, etc. They have been fantastic! Not only does wearing them prevent falls, but also cuts down on the constant slipping and twisting which occurs by walking all day on uneven and slippery surfaces. The ankle and knee joints are less stressed. I have all the crew wearing them.
* I had an interesting encounter with a bear a few weeks ago. When I encountered it, it initially ran off but then spun around and started huffing at me. It most likely had cubs nearby. I didn't stick around to investigate. I always consider it a gift to see wildlife, this time though it was also an adrenaline rush!

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

The planning board met May 18 at 6:00 pm via zoom.

Presentation by Matilda Larson, SLC Planning Board. She recommended changes for the new wind law. Mr. Perry will email complete wind law to Ms. Buckley. Mr. Perry worked with Jeff Rousell on incorporating the zoning law in with the wind law. Next step will be to accept changes and hold a public meeting. Also, the Planning Board will be looking for a new board member. Adds will be placed in local newspapers. Send any letters of interest to the Town of Colton, 94 Main Street, Colton NY 13625.

Motion #3

Motion made to place add in local newspaper for new Planning Board member made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**2**

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**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* Orkin has been contracted to take care of our rodent issue. 10 bait boxes have been set up and tracer powder has been laced in all the burrow holes to have the rodents return to the nests with poison on their bodies. We are then asking the Fire station to wash out burrow spoils from the compactor area. The Orkin technician is asking for an 80% kill rate before doing so. Casella is being responsive and removing the food source after Wednesdays at least. A new control shack, and relocation of our compactor pumps, new hippa filtering system are required to be installed at the transfer station next. I’m asking the board for support to budget this endeavor. I would like to go over the transfer station report for review for everybody.

*Water and Sewer* Casella is hauling tomorrow for our second sludge haul of the season. The crew has jetted a portion of the main lines on 56 for sewer and helped out a customer with a lateral after the owner installed an outside cleanout to make that possible. Massena is reseeding their WWTP and we are assisting in that endeavor. Water tank has been inspected and we are waiting for that report. The preliminary verbal report has been favorable with fixing a screen and epoxying the first 6 feet of the base or the tank, we should be in good shape.

*Building and Grounds* A load of mulch was hauled today for all the flower beds. First Park is the war memorial park on the 15th, then the 3 Falls Park area. We will coordinate with Lorraine on moving the mulch trailer to each location to work for the trailer to make it easier. Afterwards we will pick up the debris when they are ready. I met with a contractor to get a written rough quote for the library roof for an upcoming grant. Community center and Sift facilities opening up or not? ATV club? Quilting. Birthdays, baby showers?

*Safety* The Town is following CDC adopted policies of mask wearing. If you are vaccinated, a mask is not required. High visibility shirts are being ordered for both DPW and Highway this month. Kudos to Andrea Malik who has increased mandatory PPE and has had several safety meetings to secure a safer environment. I have sat in on those discussions a couple of times.

*Code Enforcement Office* 35 Permits so far this year. Building season is in full swing despite record materials pricing. The zoning policy changes are coming to a close. I will let the Planning Chair address this update to the board. Met with Arlene Gotham, Julie Vaisey and Loren Lapierre in regards to the construction debris from the corner of main and 56.

**HIGHWAY REPORT**

Since the last board meeting, we have finished grading our gravel roads. We also have started our first round of roadside mowing. We have just about finished stock piling stone for our projects with Suit Kote, that is scheduled to begin next week. We also have been hauling asphalt for neighboring towns through shared services.

I have a pipe order in that I’m expecting within the next couple of weeks. Most of the pipes I need to do are small jobs, but I do have one large project on Cold Brook Drive at Warm Brook Crossing. This will require the road to be closed to through traffic for about 3 days. I will give as much notice prior to this closure as possible. I’m tentatively hoping for Mid July. I believe an amendment to my budget was made to reflect the increase in Chips funding. The actual allotments from the website are as follows Chips $186,223.68 Pave NY is $48,310.21  And Extreme Winter Recovery is 41,613.92   For a total of $276,147.89 in Chips.,   This reflects a sizeable increase across the board on all three programs as well as a return of the 20% the withheld from last year.

Motion #4

Motion made to rescind last month’s meeting for CHIPS funding made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #5

Motion made for CHIPS funding for the Town Highway to increase to $276,147.81 made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #6

Motion made to purchase new radiator for truck #6 2018 International Highway truck - $4011.05, by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mrs. Cole request the Insurance and Toshiba bills be paid with the early bills.

Motion # 7

Motion made to pay the Insurance and Toshiba bills with the early bills by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**3**

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**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:**

Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review David Demo:

* Wants to keep the people of the town up to date on the assessment of Erie Boulevard (Dams). The BAR came to the decision to keep the dams at the same tax assessment. The Towns people would have to make up the difference if the assessment was lowered.
* Asked the Town Board to reconsider having 3 assessors. Having 3 people looking at the properties could benefit the town at assessment time.
* Re-appointments – please check with the board members of the BAR. One board member is very difficult. He said he has been on the BAR for 25 years. This year at the BAR meeting there were 4 grievances. They took 4 hours when it should have been 1 hour. One BAR member argued for a resident, was argumentative, with no compromise and was wrong on a couple things. I am asking to be reappointed.
* Mr. Demo reported that it was the worst meeting he had ever attended. Everyone has an opinion but the members need to work as a team.

**TOWN CLERK’S REPORT** Deputy Clerk Jennifer Cole reported:

* Tax collection is over.
* Fireworks Display is scheduled by the Higley Assoc. for July 17th with July 18th as the rain date. Lin couldn’t be here so he dropped the contract off to be approved and signed. He stated they will serve ice cream in sealed cups but no cake this year and Shawn Reed will provide entertainment.

Motion #8

Motion made to accept fireworks application made by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* There is no Colton Country Day this year. However, the town-wide garage sale will be the same weekend as the fireworks, July 16, 17 & 18. Call 315/262-2810 x1, and talk to Jennifer or Donna to get on the garage sale map.
* We have a resolution to adopt Support Local Government Efficiency Grant Application.
* The summer swim program – I’m having trouble getting dates verified. It’s still a tentative start date of July 12 to August 13. There has been no reply from the State Park as to the 2 weeks they have provided in the past.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Parents of CPCS Class of 2021 are wanting or organize a summer after graduation/prom party for the students. Cannot have at school. Hoping to have event at Swift field. Concerns of CDC guidelines and who will be responsible for making sure attendees following them. Attendees will have to provide proof of Covid vaccination. Non vaccinated attendees will have to provide negative test results. Possible dates for the event will by July 2nd or the 16th.

Motion #9

Motion to move to executive session made at 7:15pm made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #10

Motion to close the executive session and go back to regular session made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

The following motion is the result of the executive session:

Motion #11

Motion to hire Mr. Andrew Cochran at union wage for the DPW Dept. made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to adjourn.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried Board meeting minutes by,

Deputy Clerk Jennifer Cole

**4**