**Regular Monthly Colton Town Board Meeting, August 11, 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

Jennifer Cole Deputy Clerk

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01 p.m. as advertised.

Meeting attendees: Kirke Perry, Penny Cayey, Jim McConkey

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Dennis Eickhoff, Shelley Rayner, Deborah Richards, Leah Worden, Casey Dickenson

Motion # 1

**APPROVE July 2021 MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the July 14, 2021 minutes.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**AUTHORIZE, BANK RECON, TRANSFERS & BILLS IN WARRANT #8, 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #8, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 61,413.82

Highway Fund 41,460.68

Library Fund 1,477.24

Sewer Fund #1 6,532.47

Water Fund #1 1,743.14

Colton Light District 747.76

South Colton Light District 696.37

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

General Fund: A1355.132 Assessment Bar PS $ 324.51

Recommended Transfer: A1410.120 Town Clerk Deputy PS $ 325.00

**DOG WARDEN REPORT:** Jim McConkey reported;

4 dogs loose, 2 back to owner, 1 at the Potsdam Humane Society, 1 lost again but hope to find soon. Due to the heat, doing a lot of welfare checks on animals.

**BTI REPORT:**

Done for the season other than working on the invasive species portion.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:**

* We have been getting the roads ready for paving. Pierrepont is doing theirs now and next week. Then it will be our turn.
* I’ve been working on quotes for a new plow truck to make use of the $50,000 international rebate we received and will have a firm quote by the next meeting.
* We have an opening at the Highway Department; therefore, I am asking/want permission to advertise and fill the opening. All applicants must be a Town of Colton resident. Must have at least a Class A, B, or C CDL drivers license, previous municipal snow plowing experience would be preferred.

Motion #3:

Motion made by Mr. Robert to advertise the job opening at the Highway Department. Seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT:**

We have finished the changes on the Residential Recreation Zone. Looking into putting electric charging stations in around town. Thoughts of possibly adding things for people to do while waiting - walkway, bike path, etc.

**1**

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**COUNTY LEGISLATORS REPORT:**

* We had 38 resolutions
* We had 9 modifications to the budget
* We had 21 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed of which were 4 grants
* We had a resolution authorizing the filling of vacancies, 9 positions.
* We had a resolution reversing the default of the Norfolk Bakery regarding tax delinquency due to payment
* We had a resolution proclaiming August as National immunization awareness month
* We had a resolution adopting a policy for appropriate use of St Law Co. Multi-Use Trail funds and authorizing the use of
* County workforce and equipment and the creation of a reserve for the Recreational trails funds
* We had a resolution tabled regarding the endorsing of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric administration (NOAA)
* proposed Marine sanctuary boundary extending to the Robert Moses Saunders dam
* We had a resolution supporting Assembly bill A6206 and Senate bill S4261 to amend the Public Authorities law, in relation to the amount of St. Lawrence County Economic Development power that may be used by the NY Power
* Authority to generate earnings
* We had two resolutions authorizing the use of the HB Smith parking lot for Apparatus Operator- Emergency Vehicle
* Operator Course (EVOC) For St Law County Fire and EMS Personnel, also for the Canton Chamber of Commerce use of the parking lots for the Dairy Princess Parade on 8/14/21
* We had a resolution supporting the Milfoil reduction efforts on Black Lake

If anyone has any questions, please reach out to me. Rick

**LIBRARY REPORT:**

Waiting on paperwork for the grant. This is the grant for $55,000 to fix the library roof, add LED lighting and a cupola.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT**

* 26 new sales have been sent to me this month. Since January 1st 2021 there has been a

total of 56 property transfers, of these sales, 24 are arm’s length transactions. All of these

sales have been processed and sent back to NYS.

* I currently have 74 open site visits. I have been monitoring these sites and will apply

the new assessment to each property as they are completed.

* Processed STAR Report #8 from NYS and sent back the required information.

**CLERKS REPORT:** Deputy Jennifer Cole reported;

* Donna has been helping Jennifer with learning the clerk computer system. Printing daily reports, checking totals, etc.
* Jennifer updated Real Property with address changes from returned tax statements.
* We’ve received notice from the Department of State that Local Law 1 and 2 are now filed.
* Hunting license sales started August 1st.
* There is an upcoming St. Lawrence Co. Municipal Clerks meeting that Donna and Jennifer would like to attend on September 9th

**SALT BARN:** Casey Dickinson reported;

Need contract amendment in the amount of $22,900 to cover frame, construction administration, someone on sight during construction and record drawing. All previous bids were turned down. Now switching from wood to fabric. This will take a couple months to design. Possible bid in December or January. Earliest mobilization would be June or July. Approximately a month to complete.

Motion#4

Motion made by Mr. Robert to approve the $22,900 amendment for the salt barn contract. Seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**2**

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

**Transfer Station**

The brush pile is being chipped and sent out to Fort Drum for their co-gen plant. Seaway Timber started Monday and should be finished up by Friday. They are doing a great job on clean up so far. We also stalked up on bait boxes and we developed a plan to check the brush pile site over afterwards for new burrow holes. We suspect a few vermin nests have been residing in the brush pile as well. We will have Orkin do tracer powder on those sites as well. We are doing a very decent job eliminating the rat population while maintaining them for the most part on not leaving the transfer station and going into town. We hope to improve our infrastructure at the transfer station. I hope the board supports this at budget season.

**Water/Sewer**

We decided to give bidders extra time to submit bids for the updates and improvements to the waste water treatment plant: two dissolved oxygen probes to replace chemical regent process. A new sludge pump on rails to reduce sludge removal costs, isolating a blower to digester aeration tank to control dissolved oxygen better, and increase our air to blowers with 3-10 horsepower motors in the blower room. Blueline Engineering has secured the DEC approval on this project with an engineered stamped letter outlining our project. DEC is on board with our project. Our bid opening is September before the board meeting.

**Building and Grounds**

Tommy Garvin is finally cleared for the summer temporary position. He will start with a two weeks’ notice to his current employer on August 30. We intend to use him as a fall position since he has the fall off from his education. This will still be on budget for the temp position. Our Food Pantry is progressing nicely. Water line has been installed over from the Community Center, approval for the electrical service entrance has been completed from National Grid, water and septic drainage has been installed, foundation floor has been poured and Ronnie is doing the Block this week. Several nice donations are still coming in. I am asking the board to consider a 22 kw generator for the Pantry so food loss isn’t a problem with power outages. I got a rough quote of 7 thousand for an ATS and generator from a contractor. At the very least, we should install an ATS as our normal disconnect during the new install then consider the generator later? Also, since we are getting the building mid to late September, and our underside of our roof must be spray foamed to meet code and prevent ice damming, I recommend ADK storage barns do that work. It’s an additional 5,500. The under decking of the roof must be 50 degrees or more for 24 hours or more to cure. It could possibly not bond otherwise. It would take two applications to adhere 5.5 inches to the ceiling. I highly recommend this application. It will solve problems on install and life use of the building. Also, securing the spray foam materials and service now is important. This application will most likely be in short supply by mid-September. The crushed stone foundation for the gazebo has been constructed for the playground area. It is to be delivered on Friday of this week.

Motion#5

Motion made by Mr. Robert to add an automatic transfer switch for possible generator purposes to the food pantry building. Seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion#6

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to put out bids for spray foam for the food pantry ceiling. Seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Safety**

The Town is following CDC adopted policies of mask wearing. If you are vaccinated, a mask is not required. I did send a message to the Town Supervisor that mask wearing should be implemented in our high traffic areas from the public. Walmart and other institutions have now started a mandated mask wearing policy. New Fire Hydrant was installed on County Route 58. That is our end line hydrant on 58. The project was done very smoothly without issues.

**Code Enforcement Office**

46 Permits so far this year. The trend from other code officers is a 40 % reduction in permits this year due to building costs. These prices are dropping slowly. 7/16 osb is kind of a litmus pricing index and it has dropped from 46 dollars a sheet to 26 dollars a sheet. Although it has been reduced to half, it’s still hard to purchase when it was 7.99 a sheet before the pandemic. We have one subdivision on the books and several more on the way.

**3**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

* NYCLASS and NBT Bank account together made $292.48 for July.
* Spectrum lines are still being upgraded and need to get BlinkVoice, Spectrum, and TOC together.
* New gazebo to be delivered to Swift field on August 13th.
* Navistar engine Settlement gave the town another $40,000 in rebates towards another new dump truck.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* American Rescue Plan Funds – the town has received the first portion of this in the amount of $72,013.46.
* Request to remove street light from Asa Garlough’s house.

Motion#7

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to remove the street light at Asa Garlough’s house, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Erie Boulevard court case scheduled for opening statements on September 24, 2021 at 9:30am.
* Forms have been sent to the St. Lawrence Co. Highway Dept for lowering the speed on Gulf/Cottage Rd.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

Parts 2 and 3 of the full Environmental Assessment Form have been completed. Now the clerk will put it on the EPA website.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Robert asked where Mr. Les Baker stands on his area variance to the Zoning Board. Mr. Richards stated now that we have received notification from the Dept of State, Mr. Baker can move forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion#8

Motion made by Mr. Robert to close the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes taken by Deputy Clerk Jennifer Cole

**4**