Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, December 9, 2020

**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

Absent: Kevin Hawley, Katheryn Hayes

Others present: Kirk Perry and Peter McConkey

Others present via Zoom: Dennis Eickhoff, Mary Jane Watson, Ed Fuhr and Judy Fuhr.

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

Mr. Cayey asked the Board if they reviewed the last meeting minutes, bills and transfers, if so asked for a motion to accept.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Hayes to approve the November Regular Monthly meeting as written.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Cayey read aloud the transfers and explained the necessity.

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 12, TRANSFER, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the bills on Warrant # 12 with the transfers, bank statement and reconciliation.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 87,900.62

Highway Fund $ 28,936.15

Hepburn Library Fund $ 1,477.24

Colton Light District $ 721.15

South Colton Light District $ 766.41

Sewer District #1 $ 11,716.51

Water District #1 $ 2,383.00

The following accounts are over budget as of November 30, 2020.

**General Fund:**

A1620.2 Buildings Equip. $ 5,000.00

A3989.4 Safety Contr. 2,000.00

A5132.4 Garage Contr. 1,000.00

A8160.4 Transfer Station Contr. 22,000.00 Total $30,000.00

Recommended transfers:

A1110.0 Town Justice Equip. $ 10,000.00

A1440.4 Engineering Contr. 13,000.00

A3010.2 Public Safety, Sidewalks 7,000.00

**Highway Fund**

DA5140.4 Brush&Weeds Contr. $ 1,000.00

Recommended Transfer

DA5110.4 Road Maint. Contr. $ 1,000.00

**Library Fund**

L7410.124 Bldg. Staff P.S. $ 33.00

Recommended Transfer

L7410.453 Bldg. Renovations $ 33.00

**1**

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**LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud the report Legislator Perkins emailed.

At the December 7th, Full Board Meeting:

We had 40 resolutions

We had 5 modifications to the budget

We had 1 resolution accepting a Grant

We had 21 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed

We had a resolution accepting a donation of a car from the city of Ogdensburg for the District Attorneys office

We had a resolution authorizing the purchase of two Rheonix Rapid Fully Automated Covid-19 testing workstations

We had a resolution appropriating Road Machinery fund balance ($2,500,000) to the 2021 Road Machinery budget for purchasing equipment

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of seven vacancies.

We had a resolution that would authorize DANC to do a broad band survey for County Cost of $32,250

We had a resolution accepting Elections, Real Property $ Community College apportionments for the year 2021

We had a resolution charging tax items due to error corrections

We had a resolution adopting the Mortgage Tax report

We had a resolution establishing a date for the Organizational meeting for Jan 4th 6:00 pm

We had a resolution creating a reserve for the Bassmaster’s tournament

We had a resolution signing a contract with civil service employee’s association local 1000 unit 8427 (Solid Waste)

We had a resolution authorizing the County Attorney to support the Town of Clare in the legal defense of pending legal action known as the Adirondack Council v. Town of Clare

We had a resolution authorizing to extend the flexibility to St Lawrence county employees the option to acess vacation buyback accruals and extend personal time accruals during the Covid- 19 response

If anyone has any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

Stay healthy

**DOG WARDEN REPORT** Mr. McConkey was unable to make it so his son Peter came to report since he has been helping his father. Peter reported they received 5 calls for dogs at large of which only one was taken to the shelter. A cow has been on the loose and have been unable to make contact with the owner as yet.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Ball reported:

Since January 1st 2020 there have been 53 property transfers, 8 new sales since last reported. I have processed these sales and they have been sent to the state for analysis. • I currently have 99 open site visits. \* • In the process of preparing the renewal exemption for Senior Citizens and Agricultural Exemptions. In the letters being sent out, I am informing property owners to come to the office by appointment only. This will prevent a long line of people at the office as I have had in years past. My cell phone number will also be on the letter so people can get ahold of me outside of my office hours. Hopefully, I can answer any questions they have over the phone and minimize the number of people who have to come into my office.

**BTI REPORT**

* 2021 will be the second year into our five year Black fly control DEC permit.
* I am currently working on the annual Aquatic permits for mosquito control and am waiting to receive riparian landowner updates for both Black fly and Mosquito programs and plan on mailing notification letters next month.
* The Wetland permit which allows us to treat NYS designated wetlands for mosquitoes expires in April so, I am also currently working on that.
* I've been in touch with most of the crew recently. They have managed to find some work to fill the gap until field season begins again in March. So, hopefully all will be returning next season.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* Transfer Station is operating normally. With COVID 19 exposure rates increasing more than ever, our Transfer Station will practice a greater social distance and possibly have people call the control shack if he is asked for isolated work detail. The Cell number will be posted on the door.

*Water and Sewer* The Well house now has a new metering system for water tracking. It also has a heating redundancy in case mechanical failure. Seasonal water customers are all shut down and buttoned up now. We had a late departure by many folks this year.

*Building and Grounds* The DPW installed two memorial Christmas Trees for the holidays at the request from the Town. The big Spruce Tree was redecorated with white lights at the Town Hall as well. A big shout out to Chris Shea for installing the lights for several hours this past Saturday. He did a tremendous job once again. Plow markers were placed on the perimeters of the parking lots to reduce spring plow mark repairs. The Town Board needs to make a final determination on the rink being closed or open for this season.

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**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

The work order is still in for the 7 street lights which are out on Main St. to S&L Electric. They are extremely busy, but will be at it soon. A new emergency light is going to be installed at the library as well. We have a street light request for County Rt 58, across from the well house entrance from Laura Garcia who is in the lighting district. Laura has school age children and wish additional lighting at that intersection.

Mr. Cayey noted that the light poles pass in front of her residence and won’t cost the town anything.

Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE DPW SUPT. TO CONTACT NATIONAL GRID FOR LIGHT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize DPW Supt. Richards to contact National Grid to put a light near the Garcia residence.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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

67 permits this year so far. We have started to get an influx of folks asking development questions for the next year’s building season. The Planning Board is still working on the zoning uses updates. We have an appointment with our town attorney on the Wind Law next week in terms of liability clause topics.

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud Mr. Hawley’s report in his absence.

* Since the last board meeting we have been geared up for snow and ice. Fortunately the weather has been pretty quiet, we have only been out a few times.
* We received two red flags on Cayey Road bridge. One was for deficient bridge marker signs which were replaced the next day. The other was for guide rail that was removed to allow the log trucks easier access across the bridge. The rail was put back on a few days later as it worked out the logging job was done and they had moved out. Both red flags were removed. The logger called me a week later and wanted to move back in there, as there was two private landowners that wish to have their land cut off. I did obtain permission from the land owner adjacent to the bridge, to dig some more of the hill out so the log trucks are able to approach the bridge straight on so the rail will not be in the way.
* The waste oil tank that I asked approval for last month turned out to be not acceptable in NY. Thankfully I had not ordered it yet. I did send the specifications to a guy in Albany who said it looked fine to him. The local DEC guy from Watertown has been working from home and I had not been able to contact him. He did finally call me back two weeks ago and informed me the poly tank was not acceptable.  He gave me three names of different suppliers for approved waste oil storage tanks. One actually called me back and supplied us with a quote. There are several other safety devices that are required by the state for the small tank that the furnace came with and the proposed new installation. Everything materials only, comes to $4990.81 from Jim Hines out of Malone. I recommend going with him.
* We received approval from three board members to erect a small addition on the back of the garage to house the new tank and as long as we were building it was decided a few feet bigger would allow room to keep the sidewalk plows and help free up space in our garage. The building is coming along well, we hung the last sheet of sheet rock yesterday. We did the entire project in-house with our forces at a time when our equipment was idled because of the lack of snow.
* The new plow truck will be done either Thursday or Friday this week with a Monday or Tuesday next week delivery.

Motion # 4

**APPROVE HIGHWAY SUPT. PURCHASE OF OIL TANK**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the purchase of an oil tank up to $5,000

and pay it with the early bills so it can be paid out of this year’s budget.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 5

**APPROVE FUNDS AND FINANCE REMAINDER OF NEW HWY TRUCK**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve using $60,000 of fund balance (which came from the sale of the old truck) $50,000 of 2021 budgeted funds for the new highway truck and finance the remaining $100,000 @ 4% through SunTrust.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**LIBRARY REPORT** Mr. Eickhoff reported he’s expecting grant funds of $10,460.66 about the 15th of the month and the Town will get their portion back. Lorraine Gowing and Friends of the Library have put up the Story Walk along the hedge. He stated the minimum standards have 14 items he and Bill Swafford have addressed and will be voted on at the next Trustee meeting. Mr. Eickhoff added they are going back to curbside delivery. Mondays 4-7,

Thursdays 1-4 and Saturdays 9-12, other deliveries two times a week.

**PLANNING/ZONING REPORT**

The Planning Board meeting was held on November 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm with a few members at the Colton Town Hall and the rest of the Planning Board members via ZOOM. The legal notice of this meeting was posted in the local newspapers as usual. The issues brought up for discussion were:

* Discuss information gathered and possible changes in the land use definitions. This is an ongoing matter that the Planning Board members are working diligently on trying to resolve. The decisions cannot be made lightly and without adequate research into any and all options. The Planning Board members are working to update the zones in a timely manner, not just based solely on one case.
* Complete the review of suggestions from Blue Line Engineering for the wind laws and send them to the town board (which has already been sent to the Lawyers).

New  Business:

* Ed Fuhr will be stepping down as Planning Board Chair as of January 1, 2021. Kirke Perry will be taking over his position (pending Town Board approval). Ed Fuhr will be staying on as a board member.

Motion # 6

**ACCEPT MR. FUHR’S RESIGNATION AS CHAIR, APPOINT MR. PERRY AS CHAIR**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to accept Mr. Fuhr’s resignation as Planning Board Chairman and appoint Kirke Perry as Planning Board Chairman, effective January 1, 2021 along with the pay scale changes.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**CLERK’S REPORT**

* Tis that time of year! Getting end of year jobs done and ready for the new!
* Filed the Budget with St. Lawrence County and Rose & Kienan along with the annual updates for next year’s insurance.
* Sent several change of addresses to SLC Office of Real Property since they are the ones who print and mail the tax bills.
* One Re:appoinment: Pam Dumas as Library Trustee
* The Town Offices will be closed the week of Christmas. The Clerk’s Office is closed Dec 18 to the 29th.

Motion # 7

**REAPPOINT MRS. DUMAS AS LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to reappoint Pamela Dumas as Library Trustee, the

term expires December 31, 2025.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Before moving on to unfinished business, a discussion was held regarding Covid-19. Pertaining to who decides if an employee needs a test for covid if they aren’t feeling well and/or not necessarily presenting with symptoms? Do they use their own time? What if they get Covid more than once? Plus many scenarios and what ifs.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS – November investment made $212.40
2. Salt Barn Update – Cost estimate came in where it needs to be. We’ve approved the site and drawings. Specifications are being done. Using $245,000 of fund balance and the bond/ban to cover the remainder.
3. “No Parking” signs on Cottage Rd. by mailboxes to be installed soon.
4. Two Christmas Trees with lights have been put up in each hamlet for anyone to hang remembrance ornaments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Salt Barn Resolution – passed unanimously
* South Colton Ice Rink is closed this season due to Covid-19 and the precautions necessary to maintain it.
* North Country Now for advertising – address next month
* Until further notice Board meetings will be done via Zoom. No Public allowed in and all town buildings will be locked, making appointments necessary.

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Motion # 8

**APPROVE BOND RESOLUTION**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the Bond Resolution as summarized.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

The Town Board of the Town of Colton, County of St. Lawrence, New York, on the 9th day of December, 2020

adopted a resolution pursuant to the Local Finance Law of the State of New York a summary of which is as follows:

To issue its serial bonds or statutory installment bonds in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed $912,000.00 along with notes in anticipation of the issuance thereof pursuant to the Local Finance Law of the State of New York in order to pay the costs of the design and building of the Salt Storage Facility of the Town of Colton as designed by BCA Architects & Engineers and approved by the Town Board of the Town of Colton, the total cost of which is not to exceed the sum of $912,000.00, and a probable useful life of Ten (10) years. A complete copy of such resolution is filed at the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County, New York and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

The validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town of Colton, County of St. Lawrence, New York is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Motion # 9

**CLOSE ICE RINK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to close the South Colton Ice Rink until further notice.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

*Judy Fuhr* asked if there is any update on Brookfield. Mr. Cayey replied all Towns sued be Brookfield are part of

one lawsuit. The Towns, St. Lawrence County and Colton-Pierrepont Central School Attorneys have selected Stewart, Jones, Hacker and Murphy to represent and an Appraiser out of Buffalo. As it looks now, it will probably two to four years before

it gets to court.

*Dennis Eickhoff* asked about those who missed the Sexual Harassment training, what do they do? Mr. Cayey replied

it was recorded and can be scheduled another time for those who missed. Do we get a certificate? Yes.

Mr. Cayey noted in the past employees were given Christmas Eve off and asked if the Board wanted to continue

the practice? Yes.

Motion # 10

**GIVE ALL EMPLOYEES CHRISTMAS EVE OFF**

Motion made by Mr. Cayey, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to give all Town Employees Christmas Eve off.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 11

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:10 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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