Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, November 13, 2019

**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. Katheryn Hayes

Donna Buckley, Clerk Lisa Fisher-Davis

Ronald Robert

Absent: Kevin Hawley

Others present: Penny Cayey, Mary Jane Watson, Jim McConkey, Margaret Stowe and Olivia Parker

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 Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve the September October 9 Regular Monthly, Budget meetings of October 23 and 28, 2019 minutes, Budget Public Hearing and Special Meeting minutes of November 6, 2019 as written.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Cayey read aloud the transfers and explained why they were necessary.

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 11, TRANSFER, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the bills on Warrant # 11 with the transfers, bank statement and reconciliation.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 88,059.15

Highway Fund $ 62,374.80

Hepburn Library Fund $ 1,401.40

Colton Light District $ 707.29

South Colton Light District $ 751.48

Sewer District #1 $ 15,045.99

Water District #1 $ 2,346.73

The following accounts are over budget as of September 30 2019.

**General Fund:**

A1490.4 Public Works Contr. $ 120.00 (120)

A7450.4 Museum Contr. 1,373.23 (1900)

A1440.4 Engineering Contr. 2,785.00 (4000)

A3989.4 Safety Contr. 642.79 (1500)

A5132.22 Garage Salt Barn 15,489.20 (15500) **TOTAL $23,020**

**Recommendation for transfer**:

A1990.4 Contingency $ 13,956.00

A5132.2 Garage Equip. 9,064.00

**Highway Fund**

DA5130.4 Machinery Contr. $ 0 (15000)

DA5110.0 Improvements $ 0 (18150)

**Recommended for Transfer**

DA5120.4 Bridges $ 15,000

DA5110.0 Road Maintenance 18,150

**Library**

L7410.428 Reading Program $ 64.89

**Recommendation for transfer**

L7410.436 Contracts w/Libraries $ 100

L7410.469 Other O&M Svc 100

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**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud Mr. Perkin’s report.

There was 39 resolutions. \*13 modifications to the budget.\*1 vacancy was filled. \*12 agreements/contracts were signed.\* we had 3 grants.\* We had a resolution accepting a donation from Martin Harding and Mazzotti for 50 bicycle helmets for the St. Lawrence County Traffic Safety Program.\* We had a resolution requesting the NYSDOH to delay the implementation of the new lead poisoning regulations due to the unworkable timeline and exorbitant cost.\* We had a resolution calling on Gov. Cuomo and the Dept. of Homeland security and emergency services to set aside sufficient funding for counties to properly maintain existing systems and become compliant with Federal Communications Commission Funding opportunities.\* We had a resolution urging NYS to classify Emergency Medical Services as Essential Services for the purposes of State aid.\* We had a resolution opposing NYS Senate and Assembly bills relating to medication assisted treatment in County jails which causes unfunded mandates for the county.\* We had a resolution in support of Federal legislation to repeal the Medicaid inmate exclusion policy for pre-trial inmates which also causes unfunded mandates for the county.\* We had a resolution opposing the NYS Senate and Assembly bills relating to the humane alternatives to long term solitaire confinement act which will cause another unfunded mandate for the county.\* We had a resolution urging for renewed funding for electronic waste collection.\* A resolution requesting relief amid an ongoing recycling crisis.\* A resolution calling fo the State of NY to allow for County Home Rule regarding employment residency requirements.\* A resolution adopting the 2020 Budget, total levy $253,141,829.00 with a local tax levy of $49,077,286.00.

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

**DOGWARDEN REPORT** Mr. McConkey reported he spent several hours on license compliance. There was three “dog at large” calls and several welfare checks on dogs outside.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud Mr. Ball’s report in his absence;

• Since January 1st 2019 there has been 91 property transfers/sales(15 new since last month). I am in the process

of reviewing these sales to determine if they are Arm’s Length Sales.

• Currently have 66 open building permits (5 New). I am in the process of visiting each of these properties.

To date I have been to 39 of these properties.

• In the process of reorganizing the office. I also order a large monitor for my computer. This allows me to easily

show residence information that is on my laptop.

• Continuing to work with property owners who did not receive the Enhanced STAR exemption this year due to the State removing the exemption. The exemption was typically removed because the State was not able to verify the property owner’s income. Once the property owner fill out the required paperwork they are able to get the Exemption re-instated. The State then issues a new Tax Bill or refund check depending on the situation.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards reported; 84 permits this year so far with three more on their way. ISO and APA are both requesting a building permit report which are both quite extensive. Appearance ticket has still not been addressed by our town attorney.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards gave this report;

*Transfer Station* Things are running smoothly at the transfer station. We are going to discuss a future compost program which might solve our sludge handling issues as well. A study will be under way upon the approval of the board.

*Water and Sewer* We still have not solved our sludge hauling issues and are coming up with alternatives in the near future based on a study proposed by our Town Engineer. Skip from Casella stating that Watertown hauling could be up to 40 cents per gallon which would not be economically sustainable for our Sewer’s operating budget. In the meantime, we also have to clean our digester tank out because our lime deposits have gone past our diffusers for operation. NRC gave us a proposal in 2016 at $18,760.00 and a proposal in September 2019 for $18,625.00. We have held off for as long as possible. This material has to come out of the tank right away. The landfill tipping fees could reach around $4000.00 for this materials as well depending on tonnage. Well pump number two is down right now due to an electrical disconnect which malfunctioned. Parts for that were ordered today at S&L Electric.

*Building and Grounds* Hedge trimming was just finished at the Library. I am asking the board approval to include this bill in with the early bills. Chamberlain Landscaping did a great job. The threshold tilework in the entry of the Community Center is being done tomorrow due to new entryway. Seamless gutters will start soon on the Community Center as well. The DPW did a great job on this project overall. Grounds were re-mowed again recently. Grounds look good. A few trees were taken down this past month, one being at Sunday Rock. The Town must discuss a tree replacement program soon.

A conversation about the sludge and expense to get rid of it produced a committee to review and decide how to proceed. Mrs. Hawley will be on the committee since she is the only Board Member in the water district. Ms. Buckley suggested contacting Andrew McKinley because he has been in the office and vocal about the water/sewer bill. Mr. Richards will contact Mr. McKinley. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 20th at 9 a.m. Mr. Richards asked about getting Blue Line Engineering to help write a grant for composting. The Board agreed a grant should be applied for if one is available.

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Motion # 3

**CONTRACT WITH BLUELINE ENGINEERING TO HELP WITH GRANT APPLICATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to contract with Blue Line Engineering to help with the grant application for composting sludge.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Richards addressed the “Believe” rig stored in the MSB building. After talking with our insurance company about the policy and the inventory of vehicle, they noted we should not be storing a vehicle that isn’t ours and it will not be covered in case of some sort of accident in the building. Mr. Richards spoke with the Fire Chiefs and there is no ill will. Mr. Richards explained it was part of the agreement when the Town acquired the old fire station. The Board stated to follow the insurance company’s recommendation, and write a letter to Mr. Eickhoff asking him to remove the vehicle.

Motion # 4

**HAVE MR. EICKHOFF REMOVE THE VEHICLE FROM THE MSB**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to have Mr. Eickhoff remove the vehicle from the MSB building.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**PLANNING/ZONING REPORT** Mr. Richards reported on Mr. Fuhr’s behalf in his absence.

Blue Line Engineering reviewed the proposed wind law and recommended some changes. It will go back to the Planning Board to implement the changes as they move forward.

Motion #5

**PLANNING BOARD TO IMPLEMENT REVISIONS TO PROPOSED WIND LAW**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to recommend the Planning Board follow through with the revisions from Blue Line Engineering on the proposed wind law.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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

* Since the last board meeting we did completely finish paving and shoulder work. We also, after numerous problems with the screening plant, managed to get our sand pile up and we helped Pierrepont get theirs up as well.
* We also got the three main plow trucks harnessed up with snow equipment last Wednesday just in time for the weekend snow event.
* During the storm, we had one of our trucks break down so we had to dig out our tractor-trailer lowboy Monday night to retrieve the truck and haul it back to the barn. Yesterday afternoon Stadium international repaired the truck and it is back in service. If you noticed a green truck plowing your street that was a spare truck from St Lawrence county highway that I borrowed for the storm.
* I want to buy a slide in sander to go in the back the fish hatchery truck, out of this year’s budget. I still have $13,000 plus in equipment. The sander is $10,240 from Viking Cives. After the first of the year, I will need to put a plow on the truck. A verbal quote from Whitesboro on a 10.5’ fisher plow, for around $8500 that I would like to order for the first of the year with the Board’s approval.
* I do still have an employee off on disability. Donna advertised for a temporary opening in my department. After reviewing the applications, I selected James Wright Jr of South Colton. He is scheduled for pre-employment drug and alcohol testing on Monday. He will be starting as soon as we get the results from the test.
* I did turn in my Chips report last week; unfortunately, my last Sheehan invoice for asphalt was not paid in time for this round of funding. The deadline for expenditures was November 1. Our total allotment for chips this year was $176,000. All of my expenditures that qualified on or before November 1 left me short about $30,000. This means that the next round of chips in March we will receive the remainder of our funding then. Shelly printed me a report today and after this month’s bills are paid, I still have $36,000 left in General repairs so this will cover the shortfall in revenue for this fiscal year.
* I would like to ask permission to advertise with Auctions International, our old Dodge and Chevy pickup trucks and the side boom mower tractor that will be replaced in next year’s budget.

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Motion # 5

**AUTHORIZE HWY SUPT TO PURCAHSE A SANDER**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize Hwy. Supt. Hawley to purchase a sander at the cost of $10,240.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 6

**AUTHORIZE HWY SUPT TO ADVERTISE WITH AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize Hwy Sup’t. Hawley to advertise the “old” dodge and chevy pickup trucks and the side-boom mower tractor.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**TOURISM/BEAUTIFICATION REPORT** Mrs. McWilliams reported:

As the end of the year gets closer the Tourism & Beautification Committee continues to work on the following activities and more. If no new Committee chair is identified by the December meeting, then recommendations will be made about the future of activities previously done by the committee.

**Remembrance Trees / Tree Lightings and Reception on December 6**

The deadline for ordering trees was November 8; and now Dave Crosby, as project lead, is coordinating the delivery of the thirty-six trees sponsored this year in memory of loved ones. On Friday, November 29 we expect the trees to be delivered and staked by Adirondack Growers and tagged by Dave for sponsors to decorate with LED lights and non-electrical decorations including non-glass ornaments. If all goes as planned, then sponsors will have the weekend and the following week before their lighting takes place on December 6—starting at 6pm in Three Falls Park at the corner of State Highway 56 and Sugar Bush Lane in South Colton; and then taking place at 6:30pm along Main Street in Colton. Following the lightings the Colton Historical Society will once again host a reception with refreshments for sponsors and others in the Town Hall during which the names of those being remembered along with the sponsors will be read. The Town will leave the trees lighted through Winterfest at the end of January. Any lights and decorations still on trees after February 1st will be discarded or become the property of the Town. Since this is Dave’s last year leading the project anyone wishing to carry it on in future years should contact him right away (315-212-0674; dcrosby0674@gmail.com).

**2020 Winterfest / One-Weekend Only…January 23-26**

At the November meeting of the Winterfest Planning Committee chaired by Grace Hawley the decision was made to regroup and go back to having Winterfest be for just one weekend only and during the last full weekend of January as done for many years.  So the 2020 Winterfest will be held on Thursday, January 23 through Sunday, January 26; and will kick off with a Spaghetti Dinner at the school during which the Citizen of the Year will be honored. Event organizers are asked to fill out an Event Form posted on the town’s website for scheduling and publicity purposes before the committee's next meeting on December 5. Also a silent auction of fine and folk art during January is being planned to benefit the Neighborhood Center serving Colton, Pierrepont, and Parishville. On December 12 the committee will meet again to finalize the schedule and publicity plan as well as distribute posters for displaying around town and elsewhere. Any individual, business, or organization wishing to organize a Winterfest event, participate in Winterfest planning, donate art, or assist in other ways should call Grace (315-262-2439).

**Next Monthly Meeting / December 9**

The Tourism & Beautification Committee’s next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Monday, December 9. If no one has stepped forward to chair the committee by that date, then the committee will recommend dissolution.

**LIBRARY REPORT** Olivia Parker, Library Trustee reported;

The patron survey was on a laptop in the main area for patrons to do, it wasn’t as successful as thought it would be. Next year we will return to mailing the survey. We are still working on the annual report. A grant funded a kids ceramic class, 10 children attended and the registration filled up in 3 days.

**TOWN CLERK’S REPORT** Ms. Buckley reported;

1. Kevin, Darren and I have been filling out the annual forms for insurance updates of our vehicles, property, equipment, etc., roughly 30 pages.
2. A motion is necessary to re-levy the unpaid water/sewer bills.
3. I am asking to attend the Town Clerk’s quarterly meeting December 5th and the quarterly Clerk’s educational training December 9th.
4. Otherwise we are getting geared up for tax collection – yeehaw!

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Motion # 7

**REVEVY UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize the unpaid water/sewer bills be relevied onto the 2020 Town and County tax bills.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 8

**PERMIT TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND MEETING/TRAINING**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to permit Town Clerk Buckley to attend the quarterly SLC Clerk’s meeting and the quarterly NYS Clerk’s education training.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SLIC has decided to put their generator, etc. at Higley Hooch property.
2. The Board needs to decided if they want the Planning Board to address rentals/AirB & B’s.
3. Life Flight resolution $500.
4. Budget Amendment - $12,500 received from grant Mr. Richards applied for to apply to 89 Riverside Dr.

(old fire station)

Motion # 9

**REQUEST PLANNING BOARD TO ADDRESS AIRB & B**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to request the Planning Board to address rentals

and AirB & B’s.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 10

**AGREE TO CONTRACT WITH LIFE FLIGHT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to agree to the contract with Life Flight for $500.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 11

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize the following budget amendment.

Increase revenue line A3089.B and increase revenue line A1620.2 by $12,500.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Richards stated by April 2020 all Town of Colton buildings will have been changed to LED lighting and by the end of this year, all the heating systems will have been replaced except for the transfer station.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

*Olivia Parker,* Colton resident stated that when she is walked to get mail and to the Library with her 3 kids, it’s was tough to get over the snow that gets plowed into the crosswalks. Mr. Cayey explained that the highways are plowed first and when done the man-power is available to do the sidewalks.

Mr. Cayey asked for a motion to adjourn and then realized we forgot to approve the budget, so the motion was withdrawn.

Motion # 12

**ADOPT 2020 BUDGET**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to adopt the budget for 2020.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Robert, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes

Motion carried

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**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, November 13, 2019**

## Resolution of the Colton Town Board to Adopt the 2020Town Budget

**Whereas,** the Town Board met on this date and place as specified in the Public Hearing Notice on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons asking to be heard,

**Therefore resolving that,** the unpaid water and sewer bills be relevied onto the 2020 Town and County tax bills, and

**Be it resolved** **that,** the preliminary budget be and hereby is adopted as the Annual Budget for the Town of Colton for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 2020 and that said budget be adopted and entered in detail in the minutes of the proceeding meeting,

**Now be it further resolved,** that the Town Clerk of the town shall prepare and certify in duplicate, copies of said Annual Budget as adopted by the Town Board pursuant to Section 202A Subdivision 2 of Town Law, and deliver one copy thereof to the Supervisor of the Town, in which he will present the said budget to the Legislative Body of the County.

Mr. Robert questioned the union contract negotiations and affect to the 2020 budget. Mr. Cayey replied it is going to remediation.

Mr. Cayey asked if anyone had anything to add, if not a motion to adjourn.

Motion # 13

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to adjourn.

Ayes 5 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:00 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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