**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, October 19, 2022**

**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: Ron Gilmore, Rick Perkins, Kirk Robideau, Marty Collins, Laurie Thornton, Ed Fuhr, Tim Dawley, Elwyn Couglar, Anna Green, Dean Green. Chad Dennis, Anne Clarkson, Mike Crosley, Deb Christy, Danny Collins, Gary Duvall, Bill Smith, Mary Rutley, Shelley Rayner

Zoom attendees: Cynthia Hennessy, Dennis Eickoff, Peggy Shea, Peggy Mousaw, Joanne Fisher, Mary Jane Watson

Councilman Jacob Poste was absent from this meeting.

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

Motion #1

**Approve September 14, 2022 Town Board Meeting Minutes and October 3 Public Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mrs. Planty to approve the minutes from the September 2022 regular monthly meeting and October 3, 2022 Public meeting.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #10, 2022**

Motion made by Mrs. Planty, seconded by Ms. Fisher to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #10, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund…………………………………………………………….…….$215,353.70

Highway Fund………………………………………………………….………...57,060.11

Library Fund…………………………………………………………….…………1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1……………………………………………………………………13,514.13

Water Fund #1……………………………………………………………………..5,458.10

Colton Light Dist…………………………………………………………………….901.70

S. Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………………….842.18

To - A1110.12Town Justice PS………………………………………………….$3,000.00

A1110.4Town Justice Contr…………………………………………………2,000.00

From – A1110.2Town Justice Equip…………………………………………….$5,000.00

To – A1420.4Attorney Contr……………………………………………….…...$3,000.00

A1620.4Buildings Contr…………………………………………….……..17,700.00

A5140.1Brush Weeds PS……………………………………………..……..6,800.00

From – A3010.2Sidewalks……………………………………………………..$27,500.00

To – A7140.4Recreation Contr…………………………………………….……$5,000.00

From – A7140.21Recreation Equip……………………………………….…….$5,000.00

To – SS8110.4Sewer Contr…………………………………………….………$10,374.00

From – SS1990.4Contingency………………………………………….……….$5,874.00

SS8110.2Sewer Equip………………………………………….………..4,500.00

To - A5132.22Salt Barn………………………………………………………$100,000.00

From – A599Fund Bal………………………………………………………..$100,000.00

**Courtesy of the Floor**

Marty Collins resident of Stowe Bay Rd asked about getting town support for Spectrum to come to that area. Code Enforcement Officer Darren Richards suggested a letter of support be written up.

Motion #3

Ms. Fisher made the motion to write a letter of support of support for Mr. Collins to Spectrum, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Ron Gilmore resident of West Higley Flow Camp Rd asked for an update on the Town taking over W. Higley Flow Camp Rd. Town Attorney M. Norfolk gave an update of what more needs to be done. Attorney Norfolk to email the town forms that are required to move forward.

1

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, October 19, 2022**

**TOWN ENGINEER**

Town Engineer Jeff Tubolino presented the board with resolution #9-2022 part 2 of the SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review Act) for the transfer station. Town Attorney M. Norfolk read out loud the resolution.

Motion #4

Ms. Fisher made the motion to accept resolution #9-2022 SEQR NEGATIVE DECLARATION, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**County Legislators Report:**

We had 54 resolutions

We had 17 modifications to the budget.

We had 17 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 15 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution proclaiming October 23-29th as national lead poisoning week and October as Domestic Violence

awareness month and Cybersecurity month.

We had a resolution accepting a donation of five IPADS from the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the Community Services

Dept.

We had a resolution authorizing the Seaway Valley Prevention Council to offer Peer services for the State Mandated

medication for addiction treatment program at the correctional facility.

We had a resolution authorizing the Sheriff’s office to enter into an agreement with Community services for the MAT

program.

We had a resolution revising the Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement Policy.

We had a resolution establishing the St Lawrence County secondary job policy.

We had a resolution approving a change order with Lawman heating for heating and cooling of the fuel island stations in

Lisbon, Russell, and Potsdam highway outpost facilities.

We had a resolution authorizing collection of omitted taxes.

We had a resolution adopting the Equalization rates for 2023 County taxes.

We had a resolution transferring funds from the 2019 tax foreclosure sale to the environmental remediation reserve

account.

We had a resolution amending the bank depositories and investments for the county.

We had a resolution calling on the dept of defense to initiate salary increases for active-duty military personnel.

We had a resolution celebrating October as St. Lawrence County History month and commemorating the 220th

anniversary of the County with recognition of the contributions of its founding officials.

We had a resolution adopting proposed local law authorizing the use of video or similar service for remote attendance

of meetings of public bodies acting in the name of St Lawrence County.

We had a resolution authorizing the creation of a Sheriffs marked vehicle reserve for the purpose of ensuring that St

Lawrence County patrol vehicles are replaced on a schedule that ensures public safety.

We had a resolution authorizing the County attorney to act “Of Counsel” to the plaintiffs in challenging the recently

enacted “Concealed Carry Improvement act” as a violation of the US Constitution.

**Highway Report:**

* Since the last board meeting, we finished our sandpile. I believe the new building holds plenty of material for our needs. We did put an extra 100 loads outside with no salt just to be sure we have enough.
* We also have been cutting brush on various roads.
* All of our equipment seems to be ready for winter.

**Code Enforcement Report:**

Transfer Station

Blue line Engineering will speak to the core samples and our alternative since ATL is several months out. We

had a tour of the facilities from an environmental science class from SLU. We are doing a lot of progressive

things at this facility and will do more when the new facility is online.

Water/Sewer

Sewer has seen a lot of moving parts replaced this year with new Blowers, pulleys, belts, generator repairs,

electrical component replacements, etc. Our facility, being fifty years old has some years that take more

maintenance than other years. This is one of those years. Hopefully the grant for County ARPA funds will

cover a few large costs that are coming down the road. DPW will be servicing pumps at lift stations and

diffusers at the sewer plant as well as shutting water off at the MSB.

Building and Grounds

The roof is going on the filming tower/soccer storage/gator and lawnmower garage this week. The building is

going to be a beautiful addition to our recreational facilities. The Paranormal Society did a very nice job

providing the community with a Halloween event which we hope to host next year as well. Great group to

work with. Benches will be picked up next week and we are starting our prep for winter,

Safety

Both MSHA and PERMA inspectors were out touring our facilities and our auditing our safety programs last

week. Our evaluations were very positive, and we are being highlighted in a news story for our enhanced safety

program which was rebuilt by Andrea Malik for BTI. This turned our injury claims around to the highest to the

lowest in a 3-year span. No tickets were issued for MSHA, so that inspection went well. We also have a few

things to implement to improve as well.

2

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, October 19, 2022**

Code Enforcement Office

We doubled our building permits to 65. 10 permits this month. One continuing complaint for noise at Sevey’s

corner. I will be spending time out there on Thursday to address the complaint the best we can. Decibel levels

are measured and our local law doesn’t have a limit threshold which makes it difficult to enforce.

**Town Clerk Report:**

* Permission to pay General Code bill in the amount of $286.00 asap to avoid late fees.

Motion #5

Mrs. Planty made the motion to pay General Code bill in the amount of $286.00 immediately, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

* I will be purchasing a new Town Law Manual from AOT. The one I have is from 2002. The most recent version is from 2016. Would any other town employee like one or need one?
* Reappoint Cynthia Hennessy to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Stephen Knight to the Board of Assessment Review.

Motion #6

Ms. Fisher made the motion to reappoint Cynthia Hennessy to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #7

Mrs. Planty made the motion to reappoint Stephen Knight to the Board of Assessment Review, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

A brief conversation on resolution 4-2022 Recreational Parking at Swift Field took place. Concerns over Cold Brook Dr. in South Colton were brought up. Possibility of widening the road? Mr. Beary proposed a resolution terminating the Morgan Rd. Beach project.

Motion #8

Ms. Fisher made the motion to table for review the resolution proposed by Councilman K. Beary terminating the Morgan Rd. Beach project, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Assessor/Bookkeeper Report:**

Acting Assessor Shelley Rayner reported that a few lines are overdrawn (shown above in these minutes). Mrs. Rayner will be working with Casey Dickenson from BCI on Salt Barn invoices for reimbursement from a previous grant that was awarded. Mrs. Rayner requested that the regular Town Board meeting in November be moved from the 2nd to the 16th to avoid a long time period between bill paying November - December bill payments.

Motion #9

Ms. Fisher made the motion to move the regular Town Board meeting from November 2nd to November 16th, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Town Clerk Jennifer Cole requested permission from the board to place an ad in the Towns official paper for the advertisement of the November 16th regular Town Board meeting.

Motion #10

Mrs. Planty made the motion to have town clerk Jennifer Cole place an ad in the Towns official paper for the November 16th regular Town Board meeting, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mrs. Rayner shared a letter she received from the County stating she had met all her requirements to become Sole Assessor.

Motion #11

Mrs. Planty made the motion to appoint Mrs. Shelley Rayner as the Town of Colton Sole Assessor, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

3

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, October 19, 2022**

**BTI Report:**

Bti

 The new Bti crew member from last season will not be returning. He needs full-time work. I have been recruiting new crew, something I do all year because of the challenges in keeping crew. I’ll be meeting with someone who has expressed

interest today.

 I spoke with the DEC about increasing the area. It would not require any fees. I would have to complete a full environmental assessment form and aquatic permit application. They need it by January 2023. I plan on doing it in

December.

Invasive Species

 I completed knotweed (bamboo) and phragmites treatments on October 5, 2022. I am compiling a master list of all my treatment areas. Each year I get more sites to treat as residents learn about the program but, I also have to return to sites previously treated since it is impossible to completely eradicate the invasive plants in one season. It can take years and if left unchecked would reinvest an area as if it had never been treated.

 In 2020, I got a special wetland permit to treat the invasive Phragmites in wetland CO 21, a.k.a. Horton flats. I had noted three relatively small patches of the invasive plant which in a few years could have completely taken over the almost 30 acre wetland. It has been a great success. Cattails are regrowing where the phragmites was. I just had to treat a few plants this year. This is the perfect scenario, to stop a problem before it becomes one, before most people were even aware there was a potential problem.

 I was asked to participate in a jumping worm study. Jumping worms are invasive, most likely introduced unintentionally through nursery plants. Asian jumping worms reproduce twice as fast as European earthworms and are so efficient in consuming organic soil matter, they tremendously degrade the soil. The soil looks like coffee grounds in areas where this worm is present. They don’t provide food for other species since they are toxic to birds and amphibians. I had a positive ID that I submitted to iMapinvasives a few years ago. I just received the sample packet. It might be too late in the season to do collections this year, if so, then next year. (They are fairly easy to identify). They have a snake like behavior, twitch and thrash when agitated. The clitellum, the band that completely encircles the worm is closer to the head, is milky white or grey and smooth to the body, not raised, while the European earthworm has a more reddish clitellum, raised from the body and located more in the middle of the worm.

Sidewalk

 I continue to get many town residents expressing gratitude that the sidewalks are being cleaned of the weeds and restored.

 The steps I’m taking are to use hand tools and torch to remove the balance of weeds superficially, then to use the power washer to really clean out the cracks, use needle nose pliers to pull out the imbedded long rooted weeds, torch the exposed cracked to burn up any remaining root fragments or seeds. Then brush in polymeric sand in the cracks and wet it to activate the sand. I might need to use a blower to remove debris in the exposed cracks because of the fall leaves, especially cedar, before the final torching and sand.

 So far, I have the sidewalk from the museum all the way up to the driveway with the yellow chain by the Dunn building, finished. I plan on continuing up to the corner with the stop sign, hopefully completing that section this week. Then I was planning on the sidewalk section in front of the town hall, then jump back up to the RT 56 section, moving down and back onto Main Street in front of the library.

**Planning Board Report:**

The Colton Planning Board met on 9/20/2022. We had no subdivisions or conditional use permits. We reviewed the county planning boards recommendations on changes to the proposed solar law and made most of the changes. Some of the recommendations were not clear and we agreed to contact the county planning board and have them clarify what they

meant, and possibly join us for our next meeting.

**Dog Warden Report:**

The Town would like to accept and hire Michael Gilbo for the position of Dog Warden for the Town of Colton. Mr. Gilbo is currently the Dog Warden for Potsdam and Norwood and he resides here in Colton.

Motion #12

Mrs. Planty made the motion approving the hire of Michael Gilbo for the position of Dog Warden, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #13

Mr. Beary made the motion to start Mr. Gilbo at the salary of $6,000.00 per year plus mileage, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Library Report:**

Tax cap filing for the library is done. A letter was received regarding the Library Construction Grant from 2021. The grant will be in the amount $41,850.00

**Correspondence:**

Nothing at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

Transfer station Improvements.

**New Business:**

ARPA Grant – transfer station

4

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, October 19, 2022**

Counselman Kevin Beary requested the meeting minutes to reflect that Mr. Beary presented the Town Board with a letter from Liberty Counsel (a nonprofit litigation, education, and public policy organization) out of Washington DC, Orlando FL, and Lynchburg, VA in regard to “investigation of Town Board Member over letter to the editor”.

DPW Supervisor and Code Enforcement Officer Darren Richards requested an executive session with the Board.

Motion #14

Ms. Fisher made the motion to move the meeting into executive session, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Regular Town Board meeting moved into executive session at 7:15pm.

\*\*\*\*NO RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION\*\*\*\*

**Adjournment:**

Motion #15

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Fisher made the motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 8:30pm, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

5