**Regular Monthly Colton Town Board Meeting, July 14, 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

Motion # 1

**APPROVE May 2021 MINUTES**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**AUTHORIZE, BANK RECON, TRANSFERS & BILLS IN WARRANT #7, 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #7, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 83,541.26

Highway Fund 68,168.58

Library Fund 1,477.24

Sewer Fund #1 6,597.00

Water Fund #1 5,149.09

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: A4068.130 Black Fly Salary $3,454.00

Highway Fund: DA5130.400 Machinery Contr $12,300.00

Recommended Transfer: A4068.120 Mosquito Salary $3,454.00

DA599 Fund Balance $12,300.00

Motion #3

**AUTHORIZE FOOD PANTRY TRANSFER**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize transfer from Fund Balance $40,000.00 to Food Pantry.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

The following account was created for the Food Pantry, A1620.410. Monies in the amount of $40,000.00 will be transferred from the A599 Fund Balance and placed into the A1620.410 account.

**COUNTY LEGISLATORS REPORT:**

* We had 22 resolutions.
* We had 8 modifications to the budget.
* We had 10 Agreements/Contracts to be signed.
* We had a resolution authorizing the filing of vacancies, 9 positions.
* We had a resolution authorizing the acquisition of a parcel of land for the construction of a County Highway facility in the Town of Potsdam.
* We had a resolution declaring default on 3 properties regarding tax delinquency.
* We had a resolution authorizing Workers Compensation Self-Insurance apportionment for the year 2022.
* We had a resolution authorizing approving the proposed bankruptcy restructuring plan of Perdue Parma. LP and authorizing a vote in favor of the proposed settlement regarding the manufacture and distribution of Opioids.
* We had a resolution authorizing the access agreement with the Town of Pierrepont Veterans Memorial fund to establish and erect a monument on County property dedicated to honoring St. Lawrence Co. Veterans.
* We did authorize $88,000.00 for the major league Bass Masters Fishing Tournament in Massena.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Rick

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**LIBRARY REPORT:**

Town of Colton is applying for a grant in the amount of $54,000.00 to help with the replacement/update of the library roof.

Motion #4

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to allow the library to file a for grant for library roof updates, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**FOOD PANTRY:**

The committee is meeting weekly. We have put a $3,000.00 deposit on a building for the pantry. Town of Colton will be adopting the building for general maintenance and care. Setbacks will include 38 ft from edge of sidewalk, 64 feet from center line of route 56, 24 feet from the edge of Sugar Bush Lane, 32 feet from the center line of Sugar Bush Lane, 28 feet from side lot – neighbor H. Klemko.

Motion #5

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to allow setback stated above, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT**

* 13 new sales have been sent to me this month. Since January 1st 2021 there has been a total of 30 property transfers, of these sales 19 are arm’s length transactions. All of these sales have been processed and sent back to NYS.
* I currently have 70 open site visits. I have been monitoring these sites and will apply the new assessment to each property as they are completed.
* The 2021 Final Assessment Roll has been signed and filed with the Town Clerk. Notice of the filing was put in the local newspaper.
* NYS has established the 2021 Equalization rate for the Town of Colton at 100%.

**BTI REPORT**

* We are wrapping up the 35th season of the Bti Program. Overall, I think the program went well. The Colton bypass, Stone Valley was treated yesterday for the fifth time this season, and I treated the Five Falls bypass this morning, also for the fifth and final treatment of the season.
* I'm working on my end of season reports for the DEC so don't have exact numbers at the moment but, we used a lot less Bti than normal years because of the drier conditions.
* We will be over budget on Black fly budget but I believe have enough surplus in the mosquito budget to cover it.
* One issue that continues to be problem is finding and keeping crew. One of the Black fly crew will be leaving the program even though they love and excel at the job. The crew have to go through specialized training, pass DEC exams to get pesticide certification, work in extreme field condition everything from snow to blistering heat. They have to be in better than average physical condition and risk of physical injury is higher than on many other jobs. In more recent years we have the additional concerns of getting a tickborne disease. Tick populations are on the rise with roughly 1 in 4 carrying a transmittable disease such as Lyme, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis. A friend in Potsdam was recently hospitalized with anaplasmosis from a tick bite. Rocky mountain spotted fever and Powasssan are also tickborne diseases found more down state. Some of these diseases can be transmitted in as little as 15 minutes.

The tick proof clothing we wear certainly helps a lot but getting a tick bite is a major concern for us. The Bti starting pay is $14/ hour. McDonalds is paying $15/hour. The current Bti pay scale is not sustainable. This is something I plan to address at budget time.

Andrea Malik

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

Changes have been made to the Residential Recreation Zoning District. Long-term, the Planning Board would like local business owners to look into the next 5-10 year plan. Danielle Edwards and Jeremy Bronson would like to be considered for the open Planning Board position.

Kirke Perry Chairperson,

Colton Planning Board

Motion #6

Motion made to appoint Jeremy Bronson to the Planning Board 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**

The rodent population has been drastically reduced and Orkin is doing a great job. We have less than a 10% population at the transfer station to be sure. The crew fixed a safety rail, a sliding door and we need to work on other updates soon.

**Water and Sewer**

Water tank inspection is in, I will share it with the board. We have to do some two part epoxy paint on the first six feet around the base of the tower. Other than that, the tank will be good for another 5 years.

We are asking the board to bid out the following updates and improvements to the waste water treatment plant:

2 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 can support this proposal and call for bidding process. Blueline will simply charge time for handling the bid process and help oversee the work.

Motion #7

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to bid out for update and improvements to the waste water treatment plant, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Building and Grounds**

Our first summer help person fell through and cannot come to work for us. We are asking if we can hire Tommy Garvin for the summer temporary position. He was canvassed through a search at the school. Our Food Pantry broke ground this past Monday. Water line has been installed over from the Community Center, and the haunch and foundation dirt works are done. Several nice donations are coming in. We will list them for the board.

Motion#8

Motion made by Ms. Fisher for TOC new summer hire to by Tommy Garvin, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, 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. 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**

41 Permits so far this year. Construction debris from the corner of main and 56 is taken care of. The owners know that much more must be done and needs to be done soon to button up that building. I am asking the board for approval to purchase a new laptop for the Code Enforcement’s office. I would like to share costs with Pierrepont. The docking station, wireless keyboard and mouse will stay in Colton and the laptop will be shared between towns. The total cost is 2619.00 and I’m asking Pierrepont to cover 1,000 of that just for the unit itself.

Motion #9

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to purchase new laptop for the Code Enforcement Officer, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**HIGHWAY REPORT**

* Since the last board meeting we have been focusing on our Chips projects.
* We have been mowing roadsides.
* We started last Thursday with Suite Kote on our reclamation projects. We add nearly 5000 tons of crush stone to the base of 3 miles of roads. This strengthens the subbase so the finished paved surface will last much longer, and it also helps with the winter frost heaves as it makes the subbase more consistent which makes the road freeze and expand more evenly.
* I have a few areas on Windmill Road that I want to raise the road where an existing dip is. This will help by increasing sight distance and it will provide more cover over existing culverts also reducing the frost heave effects from our winters.
* East Hill is pretty much ready for asphalt on the section we reclaimed, short of a day fine grading it the day before paving.
* With the added Chips money comes a busier asphalt producers season as all the Towns, the County and New York State are all trying to do more. As soon as there is an opening that we can get mix, East Hill will be paved, then the other roads will follow as they get prepared.
* Next week on Monday barring any unforeseen down pours I am starting the large culvert on Coldbrook Drive. This project will take approximately 3 days to complete. Unfortunately, the road will need to be closed during this time.

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

* The swim program started officially on July 12th ending August 20th.
* Donna and Jennifer worked on the garage sale map for the weekend of July 16-18th.
* Donna has been helping Jennifer to learn the guidelines of local law filing.
* Jennifer has been stamping the monthly bills for a few months now.
* Need authorization to pay 2 M-B Companies Inc bills, 2 Selective bills, one Viking-Cives bill and one Philadelphia bill with early bills. Both Highway Dept bills.

Motion #10

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to pay above bills with the early bills, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**TOC ENGINEER REPORT:**

Working on part 2 & 3 of the local wind law SEQR. Once done there will be 2 more resolutions. Then will be working on the bid for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

* NYCLASS and NBT Bank account together made $300.61 for June.
* Spectrum lines are still being upgraded and need to get BlinkVoice, Spectrum, and TOC together to finalize.
* Salt Barn was put out for bid. Cost came in at $1,088,000.00. The TOC Board rejected this. BCA to put a new bid back out for a soft cover salt barn.
* Approval of Local Law 1 for the wind law.

Motion #11

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley for the approval of Local Law 1 for the wind law, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Approval to revise local law 2 for 2017.

Motion #12

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to revise Local Law 2 for 2017, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Pest control issue at the transfer station is going well. Bringing in Orkin has helped immensely. Rat issue is down more than half.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* Logging on Cayey Rd, issue with a guard rail. Proposal of taking the guard rail down to move machinery across then put back up.

Motion #13

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to remove guard rail on Cayey Rd to move machinery across then put back up, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Need TOC Board approval to lower speed limit at the intersection of Gulf and Cottage roads to Cold Brook Drive.

Motion #14

Motion made by Mr. Robert to lower speed limit at the intersection above through to Cold Brook Drive, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:** Idea of having a gazebo at Swift Field for families to utilize in the hot months while children are playing.

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Motion #15

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

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Town of Colton Board meeting closed at 7:35pm

Board meeting minutes by,

Deputy Clerk Jennifer Cole

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