Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, January 10, 2018

**County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 94 Main St., Colton 13625**

Present: George R. Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Grace Hawley

Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt. Katheryn Hayes

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Lisa Fisher-Davis

Donna Arquiett, Clerk Ronald Robert

Others present: Shelley Rayner, Ed Fuhr, Kevin Beary, Joanne Fisher, Penny Cayey, Ruth McWilliams,

Joe McWilliams, Rick Perkins, Laurie Thornton, Mary Jane Watson and Jerry Wilson

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

Mr. Cayey asked the Board if they had time to review their paperwork for the meeting and if so asked for a motion to accept minutes and the warrant since there are no transfers.

Motion # 1

# ACCEPT DECEMBER 13, 2017 MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT #1, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the bills on Warrant # 1 along with the bank statement & reconciliation.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 63,205.08

Highway Fund $ 12,939.73

Colton Light District $ 748.94

South Colton Light District $ 708.00

Sewer District #1 $ 10,109.47

Water District #1 $ 2,035.40

Mr. Cayey continued the meeting with department reports.

* **Animal Control/Dog Warden**: Mr. Cayey stated Mr. McConkey has been out and about checking licenses.
* **Assessor**: Ms. Miller is ill and unable to attend and stated nothing has changed since last month.
* **BTI – Report Submitted**

I am currently working on the Town's mosquito permit. We still have two more years on our five year permit for black flies. The Bti Black fly Control Program will need two new technicians. I extensively advertised at the employment office, newspaper, the town's website, posters, colleges (6), and with the outreach coordinators for both SLELO and APIP's Invasive Plant Programs. I had very few inquiries. Fortunately two very qualified individuals with great references and relevant experience applied. **Tyler Torelli** from Potsdam and **Michael Reynolds** from Winthrop. The 30 hour Training course for the new crew will be January 29-February 1

* **Code Enforcement – Mr. Richards reported:**

We are currently at 0 permits for the season and several open permits from last year still going. Ed Fuhr and I have a meeting planned to address General Code services to put our land use code on line.

* **DPW** - Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer:* Transfer Station is operating smoothly at this point. Our numbers were down during the cold snap. We will see a busy period during the next weather break. Mr. Richards added the 4th of July falls on Wednesday this year. What does the Board want to do? Pay holiday time and have it open OR close it and open it Tuesday or Thursday OR close it and not open another day until the next Saturday. After a short discussion the Board voted to close it Wednesday and open Thursday July 5.

## Waste Water & Water: For water freezing issues: We are asking people in the water district to run their water a pencil size thickness-type of stream in one sink in each household. We have had a few freeze ups so far this winter season. The well site had an issue with a three phase starter switch. Parts will be here and the problem should be fixed by the end of this week. WWTP and the rest of the sewer system operating ok for now.

*Building and Grounds****:*** The DPW has started the ice rink for the skating season. 542 people have attended our rink so for this season. We will have extended rink hours during winter-fest for the broomball tournament. New equipment at Swift field has been well received. The new automatic skate sharpener has been a nice addition to our ice rink services.

1

#### Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, January 10, 2018

Motion # 3

**CLOSE TRANSFER STATION 4TH OF JULY**

Motion made by Mr. Cayey, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to close the transfer station Wednesday July 4 and open Thursday July 5.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

* **Safety** : Mr. Richards reported:

The new DPW building (old fire station) had several wiring issues, including several unsafe connections. S&L has been instrumental in helping us update the wiring. A new panel was determined to be needed on this facility. A truck lift was ordered and the new DPW building will house this lift after some ceiling modifications were recently made to accommodate the new lift. This will provide a great deal of safety working on vehicles.

* **Library:** Joanne Fisher, Trustee reported the Library Trustees held their Organizational Meeting January 8 and

followed with the Regular monthly meeting afterward, everything remained the same. Mrs. Fisher gave statistics on use of the library, computer, ancestry users and fines.

* **Planning / Zoning:** Mr. Fuhr reported: As is customary there was no monthly meeting of the Planning Board due to the Holidays. The next Planning Board meeting will be held January 23, 2018, 7:00 P.M. at the Colton Town Hall. The legal notice of the meeting will be posted in the newspapers as usual. There are no impending local issues requiring a hearing.

* **Town Clerk/Tax Collection:**  Ms. Arquiett reported: There are no appointments or resolutions to do tonight. Here is a list of things I am working on at this time of year.

1. Collecting tax payments (early payments: 77 totaled $126,889.68)
2. Doing end of month and end of year reports
3. Updating government entities with new elected officials
4. Completed and mailed the Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit letters
5. Catching up on minutes
6. Working on 2020 Census
7. Getting insurance coverage for Winterfest

* **Highway Report:** Mr. Hawley reported:

Since the last board meeting we have been working primarily on snow and ice. All in all it is going pretty well so far.

We are again having problems with the new truck, it has had a noise in it that we have not been able to pin point. The noise has gotten worse as it is happening more frequently. We unharnessed it and took it back to Watertown today. I am hopeful we will have some answers tomorrow or the next day.

I had a request for the installation of guide rail on a section of East Hill Road near the intersection of State Highway 56. I passed the request on to the County Engineering Department. They have visited the site and it was the field technicians initial thoughts that rail may not be necessary. Guide rail in itself is considered a hazard, so theoretically if rail can be avoided, by improving the situation by filling in a hazard, much like we have started on Gulf Road, it is not only a cheaper solution and in most cases it is safer as well. The technicians did take elevation grade shots of the area and will be coming up with a plan to improve the site.

Mr. Cayey asked if the County is who decides whether or not a rail goes in. Mr. Hawley replied yes, he follows their recommendation. Mr. Hawley added they Town needs to adopt highway road specs. Ms. Watson stated she thought there was something in the Code Book. A short discussion put the request onto the Planning Board.

Motion # 4

# DIRECT PB TO RESEARCH AND PROVIDE ROAD SPECS

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to direct the Planning Board to research and provide highway road specifications for the Town of Colton.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Hawley asked the Board to appoint Harold Bush as the Deputy Highway Superintendent. Mr. Cayey asked what Mr. Hawley was recommending as a stipend for the title. Mr. Hawley replied he checked with other Towns and the rate would be 50 cents per hour more. After discussing it, Mr. Cayey said that was reasonable but if at some time Mr. Bush is no longer the Deputy the stipend is taken back.

Motion # 5

**APPOINT H. BUSH AS DEPUTY HWY SUPT.**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to appoint Harold Bush as Deputy Highway Superintendent with an hourly increase of 50 cents. The hourly increase will be surrendered if Mr. Bush is no longer Deputy.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

2

#### Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, January 10, 2018

Mrs. Rayner asked if this was a good time for executive session since it concerns a retired highway employee.

Motion # 6

# EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to move to Executive Session.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 6:35 p.m.

Motion # 7

# CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to close Executive Session and return to regular meeting.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Cayey explained retired employees have a benefit up till 65 years of age that allows them a certain dollar amount reimbursement towards health insurance. The amount for this retiree is $425/month. After retiring a few months’s he found he couldn’t afford health insurance and dropped it. Shortly after that he found out he has cancer. The question is should the Town reimburse him for medical related bills and medicine providing he provides receipts. Upon approval of receipts, he would only get reimbursed up to the $425/month. The money for each retired employee is budgeted for regardless if they receive it or not. Mr. Cayey added that if this passes we will be setting precedence.

Motion # 8

# APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT UP TO $425/MONTH FOR MEDICAL BILLS OF RETIREE

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the reimbursement for medical expenses upon proper receipts presented for payment, not to exceed $425 per month.

Mr. Cayey performed a roll call vote;

Ms. Hayes – abstain

Mr. Robert – Yes

Mrs. Fisher-Davis – abstain

Mrs. Hawley – yes

Mr. Cayey – yes

Motion carried

* **Legislator’s report:** Mr. Perkins reported the Legislator’s also had their Organizational meeting. The only change

was of course in the District Attorney’s position. We passed 42 resolutions, filled 12 positions, approved solid waste fee rates, approved a rabies clinic to be held at the mall and talked about roads open for atv use.

* **Tourism/Beautification** Mrs. McWilliams reported:

During the holidays the town received a congratulatory letter from the St. Lawrence County Arts Council indicating the town will be granted funds for the 2018 Colton Riverside Performances.  Since the grant funds requested cover about a third of the costs of the summer series we will be raising the balance through other means throughout the year including the sale of barn quilts during Winterfest.  After Winterfest we will turn our attention to planning the music series and other activities.

Right now the committee is focusing on its involvement in Winterfest along with the Winterfest Planning Committee chaired by Grace Hawley. Publicity about Winterfest is a major contribution of our committee and so this report focuses on activities leading up to, during, and following Winterfest.

Activities leading up to Winterfest

A number of activities are underway, including the following.

* The Remembrance Trees lighted on December 8 will stay lighted through Winterfest Weekend to brighten the winter nights.
* School art club students are helping paint barn quilts featuring wildlife in the area to sell and raffle during Winterfest to support the town-school ‘Art Around Town’ project and the Neighborhood Center.
* Themed gift baskets are being prepared for the Silent Auction being held throughout Winterfest Weekend at events in the school starting with the spaghetti dinner on January 25 to benefit the Neighborhood Center.
* The Colton Historical Society (CHS) is hosting a presentation on the history of the Snow Bowl on Sunday, January 14 at 2pm; and we expect the event will be moved from the Town Hall to the school cafeteria given the expected attendance.
* Orders for new winter apparel are being taken during Winterfest and through the end of January, with forms available at the Snow Bowl presentation, on the town website, and in the Town Hall.

##### Activities during Winterfest

The complete schedule is posted on the town website and hard copies are available in the Town Hall with many events benefiting the Neighborhood Center. The latest revision includes some new events plus some new twists on old events.

* A new 100-mile Snowmobile Fun Ride on January 27, hosted by Ike Cook, was just announced last week by the SUNY Canton Alumni Office.

3

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, January 10, 2018**

##### Activities during Winterfest

* Entries for the new Crafty Snowman Contest being organized by the Colton Methodist Church are due no later than January 27 at 9am.
* Quilt Show on January 27-28 includes three venues this year with St. Patrick’s Church Parish Center being a new venue in place of Zion Church, accommodating expanded displays of quilts, quilting supplies, and barn quilts being sold and raffled during the festival.
* Family Day at Higley Flow State Park on January 28 includes expanded activities including gear swap and sale, snowshoe race, and lessons.
* Dog Sled Rides at Call of the Wild are back this year on January 28.
* Frying Pan Toss at AmVets on January 28 will be followed by a Chicken Barbecue this year.
* The Educational Wildlife Presentation on January 28 at the school focuses on loons this year and kicks off a follow-on program with school students.

Activities following Winterfest

On Sunday, January 28 the wildlife presentation on loons kicks off a follow-up activity with K-6 students at CPCS. The students will be invited to participate in a book writing contest about “Higley,” the resident loon on Higley Flow. Using striking pictures taken by John Bartholomew and information from the loon presentation, they will write short books about the loon who had a misadventure in the fall of 2017. The winning book will be bound and placed in the school library for all to read.

Next Monthly Meeting

On Monday, February 5 the committee will turn its attention to various projects in its 2018 Work Plan.

* **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Water/Sewage Rate Adjustments - Information will be in the 2nd quarter billing for residents
2. Internet – tabled

* **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Board meetings will be held at 6 P.M.
2. Old Fire Station Transfer – Deed is being processed by town attorney.

* **Courtesy of the floor**
* Mr. Robert questioned Mr. Richards about the wiring and insulation at the now Town owned “old” fire station. Mr. Robert asked Mr. Richards to provide him with a detailed list of what’s been done so far and what the cost has been.
* Mr. Beary asked if an e-mail list could be made to notify people of meetings, etc. Several people noted it is advertised in papers, Town website and facebook. Ms. Arquiett stated when we tried that before, if someone changed their e-mail address anyone after them on the list was dropped. She said she didn’t know if that were still the same or not.

Motion # 9

# ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:10 p.m.

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Donna Arquiett, Town Clerk

4