**Regular Monthly Colton Town Board Meeting, January 12, 2022**

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

Present: Ronald Robert, Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher

 Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Randi-Lee Planty

 Donna Buckley, Deputy Clerk Jacob Poste

 Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt. Kevin Beary

Others present: Kirke Perry, Steve and Laurie Thornton

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

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Dennis Eickhoff and Cynthia Hennessy

Mr. Robert asked the Board if they reviewed the minutes and if so, asked for a motion to approve them.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 ORGANIZATIONAL MINUTES**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mrs. Planty to approve the December 15, 2021 minutes and the January 3, 2022 Organizational meeting minutes.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**AUTHORIZE TRANSFER, BUDGET AMENDMENT, BANK RECON & BILLS IN WARRANT # 1, 2022**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Mr. Poste to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant # 1, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

**General Fund** A1620.41 Food Pantry $429.90

 ***Recommended:***

 A1620.4 Buildings $430.00

General Fund $ 131,692.39

Highway Fund 95,634.80

Library Fund 1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1 11,742.99

Water Fund #1 1,437.18

Colton Light District 883.13

South Colton Light District 824.62

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Ms. Buckley read aloud the report Mr. Perkins emailed.

Bill Sheridan was voted as Chairman and Larry Denesha as Vice Chairman for a second term

We had 30 resolutions some of which are related to the organizational meeting and annual updates

We had 5 modifications to the budget

We had 5 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 9 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution accepting a Grant for the Sheriffs dept.

We had a resolution supporting the Expansion of Broadband Infrastructure in St Lawrence County

We had a resolution adopting a revised FMLA act policy

We had a resolution opposing the NYS wage board recommendation decreasing the overtime threshold for farm workers

We had a resolution encouraging the Dept of Health to not issue fines for violations of the mask mandate

We had two resolutions tabled regarding the newspaper designation/rotation schedule

We had a resolution urging the State to complete and settle the Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance program (eFMAP) Reconciliation from last year and to compensate The County according to Federal requirements - $4,018,842

We left on the table a resolution authorizing the exemption of sales tax on home heating fuel until we obtain more information

We had a resolution authorizing the Chair to sign an agreement with the towns of Brasher, Norfolk and Massena related to a public service law article 10 proceeding recommending the issuance of a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need to construct an industrial scale solar generating facility to be sited on approx. 1,200-1400 acres of land.

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

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**ANIMAL CONTROL** Mr. McConkey reported he had 3 calls, all were dog at large. Two were taken to the animal shelter and one was returned home.

**BTI REPORT** Ms. Buckley read aloud Ms. Malik’s report:

* The two new Black fly control crew passed their DEC pesticide certification exams in December. They should be receiving their pesticide ID cards by mid-end of February, so we will be all set with crew to start in the field in early March.
* I just received riparian owner updates. (A GIS professor at Paul Smiths College has been doing that, free of charge, for me for many years now. He told me he enjoys doing it and learns a lot in the process. It’s also less time consuming and much more accurate than the way I used to do it.) So, I’m in the process of doing landowner notification for both the black fly and mosquito control programs.
* The mosquito control permit applications are almost done and will be submitted to DEC this month. I am still waiting for the Wetlands permit for mosquito control in designated wetlands which was submitted last year. We are on year three, of a five- year permit for the black fly control program so, I just need to do the riparian owner notification.
* I have a solution for the Bti tote storage situation I described in my Dec 2021 report. Darren Richards is letting me temporarily use the DPW, small warm bay in the Wildwood Road building.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

No new permits this 2022 year so far. Our end of the year 1204 report is due to the Department of State soon and I will be working on closing out permits for this report. 4 home builds are occurring on Pine (Mud Pond Rd), Evergreen Trail, Backwoods Rd, and Arbuckle Lane. Still awaiting on one subdivision application to be complete before bringing it to the Planning Board. I’d like to address a complaint in the codes dept. as well.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding use of the code truck. The subject was tabled until more information is available.

**SAFETY**

All buildings which conduct public business commercially must wear a mask as per NYS mandates. This mandate continues/ DPW had a safety meeting regarding the transfer station and the rink regarding mask wearing protocol in public areas.

**TRANSFER STATION**

No report on transfer station. Our exiting board left the design and the overhaul challenges of the transfer station to the new board. I recommend an ad hoc committee be formed to report back to the whole town board on the project.

**WATER/SEWER**

Wastewater upgrade with RPA funds made very little advancements. Three phase breakers were found at S&L again for new upgrades for our panel to upgrade the blower motors and sludge pump. Koestler’s breakers were not the right ones. It’s difficult to find 52-year-old breakers. COVID hit the Koestler Company’s crews. This pushed their timeline to the week of January 29th to return to our plant to continue their work. Again, we are asking our water customers to run their water if they have had freeze ups in the past. Water Quality report, and Water Withdrawal report are now complete thanks to our DPW Clerk

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**

The Ice Rink is now open with our regular hours Wright’s Choice is our pinch point in advancement to the pantry. COVID hit their company as well forcing them to go to emergency repairs only for a while. They are up to full crew now and I expect results next week. Our Town Supervisor has asked us to get a quote on an immediate construction project which will increase safety for both Highway and DPW departments. Our quote from Bonno construction will be shared to the board.

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting, we have been focused on snow and ice.
* The truck that we had the incident with in November is back in service and working fine.
* I did receive an email from the insurance company that they have issued a check for almost $12000 to cover the cost of the repairs minus the $1000 deductible. I would like the adjustments made putting the amount in my equipment line.
* The new truck to replace our 2007 has been ordered with an estimated delivery sometime in 2023.
* I am in need of a new sander for the sidewalks. The one I’m requesting is from Whitesboro plow shop for $3,360. This is over my spending limit so I would like to ask the board’s approval of this purchase.

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Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE HIGHWAY BUDGET CHANGE**

Motion made by Mrs. Planty, seconded by Mr. Poste to change the Highway budget to apply revenue to the expense line “refund of expenditure” DA5130.4. The refund is from the insurance company in the amount of $11,893.61.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF SIDEWALK SANDER OUT OF GENERAL FUND**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Poste to authorize the purchase of a sidewalk sander out of general fund in the amount of $3360.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 5

**APPOINT TREVOR WOOD AS WORKING CREW LEADER**

Motion made by Mr. Poste seconded by Mrs. Planty to appoint Trevor Wood as working crew leader with a 30 cent per hour increase in pay.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

**LIBRARY REPORT** Dennis Eickhoff reported:

The Library Trustees held their reorganizational meeting Monday, January 10th and listed the officers. He stated they will be working on the annual report.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT** Mr. Perry reported:

The planning board has created an informative slide show to present to the new board for next month’s meeting.

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

* Jennifer will be returning to the Office tomorrow.!!!!!! (Insert happy face here)
* Tractor Supply has sent the $102.16 bill to McCarthy, Burgess & Wolff for collection.
* Food pantry donated fund are getting eaten away by monthly bank fees. I would recommend closing the account, keeping the money on hand to pay for the large photo of Ms. Hayes and towards the plaque with donors listed.

Motion # 6

**AUTHORIZE CLOSING OF BANK DONATION ACCOUNT**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher seconded by Mr. Beary to authorize Ms. Buckley to close the Miss Hayes donation bank account and use the money for the framed photo at the food pantry named after her.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS – Interest made in December $9.96
2. Reschedule internal audits – Court audit Friday Jan. 21 @ 10 am, Town audit Wednesday Jan. 26 @ 9 am

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Monday morning meetings with department heads
2. CST Group for IT – Tabled after a short discussion.
3. Marijuana Law – Mr. Beary explained it was too late to opt out. Now it goes to the planning board to provide regulations such as location, etc.
4. Covid Policy – was discussed regarding pay and time off. A policy needs to be worked on. Mr. Robert said he would contact Legislator Perkins and ask what the County has for a policy.
5. Mr. Hawley spoke about needing fill for the job and filing necessary paperwork with DEC for wetlands.
6. Mr. Robert is proposing to offer Coffee and doughnuts Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Town Hall to listen to residents’ concerns/opinions etc.
7. One estimate was presented to insulate and heat the storage building on Wildwood Road. This was discussed a bit and tabled.

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Mrs. Rayner asked permission to attend the PERMA conference this year, May 26. PERMA is our Worker’s Compensation carrier; therefore, one person is granted to go free.

Motion # 7

**AUTHORIZE BOOKKEEPER TO ATTEND PERMA CONFERENCE**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize Bookkeeper Rayner to attend the PERMA Conference in May.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Beary asked the Board’s permission to have direct contact with Attorney Office of Lewis and Greer for our battle with Brookfield. Mr. Robert requested he inform him first.

Motion # 8

**AUTHORIZE MR. BEARY TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH ATTORNEY**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher seconded by Mr. Poste to authorize Mr. Beary to have direct contact with Attorneys Office of Lewis and Greer who are representing the Town of Colton in the Brookfield lawsuit.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary

Noes 0

Abstain 1 Robert

Motion carried

Mr. Beary asked the Board if they would mind moving Courtesy of the Floor to the beginning of the meeting so people don’t have to sit through the whole meeting after they have addressed their concerns. The Board agreed and Mr. Robert stated he would move it up earlier on the agenda.

Mr. Robert requested a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss employees.

Motion # 9

**MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher seconded by Mr. Beary to move to Executive Session.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried 8:07

Motion # 10

**CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

Motion made by Mr. Beary seconded by Ms. Fisher to close Executive Session and return to the Regular Monthly Meeting.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried 9:05

The Board reported one of the issues involving an employee has been tabled until more information could be gathered. The following motion was addressing the second employee issue.

Motion # 11

**FOLLOW UNION CONTRACT**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to allow the union member employee to “roll over” only 40 hours as directed in the Union Contract.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 13

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Ms. Fisher to adjourn.

Ayes 5 Fisher, Planty, Poste, Beary, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried, 9:10 p.m.

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 Donna Buckley, Deputy Town Clerk

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