Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, March 14, 2018

**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 Arquiett, Clerk Lisa Fisher-Davis

 Ronald Robert

Others present: Shelley Rayner, Ed Fuhr, Tina Miller, Jim McConkey, Kevin Beary, Penny Cayey, Ruth McWilliams,

 Joe McWilliams, Mary Jane Watson, Rick Perkins and Dave Bradford

Absent: Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt.

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, warrant and the single transfer.

Motion # **1**

**APPROVE FEB. MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the February 7, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as written.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # **2**

**APPROVE WARRANT # 3, TRANSFER, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mr. Cayey, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the bills on Warrant # 3 along with the transfer, bank statement & reconciliation.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 51,193.52

Highway Fund $ 28,770.72

Colton Light District $ 751.14

South Colton Light District $ 710.12

Sewer District #1 $ 3,406.74

Water District #1 $ 4,047.53

The following accounts are over budget as of February 28, 2018.

**General Fund:** A1375.4 Credit Card Fees. $ 38.61

**Recommendation for transfer**: A1990.4 Contingency $ 200.00

Mr. Cayey asked the Bookkeeper if she wanted to address her questions. Mrs. Rayner requested to attend the Association of Towns Finance School in Saratoga May 3 & 4 along with the PERMA Conference May 24 & 25.

Mrs. Rayner noted the PERMA Conference room and meals are free.

Motion # **3**

**AUTHORIZE BOOKKEEPER TO ATTEND TRAINING**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize Bookkeeper Shelley Rayner to attend the two training events in May as referenced above.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mrs. Rayner noted afterward the registration date for the Finance School is before the next regular monthly bills and requested to pay it with the early bills.

Motion # **4**

**AUTHORIZE BOOKKEEPPER TO PAY TRAINING REGISTRATION WITH EARLY BILLS**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize the Bookkeeper to pay the Finance School Training Registration with the early bills.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

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Mr. Cayey asked Mrs. Rayner to explain the issue with the annual truck loan payment. She explained that the loan was initially through 1st Niagara and it is now Key Bank. The bill missed getting paid with the regular bills and didn’t make it into the early bills so we accrued a late fee of $360 which they added to this years’ invoice.

Mrs. Rayner stated she called the Comptrollers’ Office to find out if it could be paid without approval since the Board authorized the loan in the first place. It has to be put specifically in the minutes in order to be done.

Motion # **5**

**AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF ANNUAL LOANS WHEN DUE**

Motion made by Mr. Robert seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize the payment of annual loans when they are due to avoid late payment fees and to pay the current invoice for the truck payment with the early bills to avoid a late fee.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**DOG WARDEN REPORT** Mr. James McConkey reported:

The past month has been easy, only a few calls. There is a dog owner that doesn’t believe in licensing or leashing their dog. I have been to their residence several times but no answer.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Ms. Tina Miller reported:

* The March 1st taxable status date has come and gone. This means all exemptions, exemption renewals; property splits and merges must have been in my office for the upcoming 2018-2019 assessment (taxable) year by March 1. Anything that comes in after March 1, 2018 will be applied to the 2019 - 2020 assessment (taxable) year.
* I have one person who was receiving the Sr. Low Income exemption that I have called 4 times and not been able to get through. I also went to the property and no one came to the door. It is the home owner’s responsibility to get the exemption renewals back to me. I do my very best to contact those that have not returned them but there is only so much I can do. It is not easy for me to remove an exemption but because NYS is performing audits of assessment offices I have to be very careful when renewing exemption. Renewal applications are mailed in the beginning of January. This gives the homeowner 2 months to complete the application and return it to my office. If there are questions on how to complete the application always feel free to call my office and I will assist in whatever way I can.
* For the next month it is a very busy time for paperwork. Final review of permits, exemptions, exemption renewals and requested property reviews need to be keyed in the state system, values placed and finally noted in the 2018 field book. This is also the time for review and reporting of all Taxable State Owned Land and Easements, utility value review and 480a forest land review. These duties and more are in preparation for the 2018 tentative roll.
* My office hours are noted as Thursday evenings but I am there most Wednesday evenings as well and am available for weekend appointments if needed. Please remember to leave a message on my answering machine so I can return your call. I generally try to return calls within 1-2 business days. 315-262-2848. Please remember the Town Clerk cannot answer assessment questions, call my office and I will return your call.

Mr. Cayey asked about a sales report. Ms. Miller stated she didn’t bring one but will drop one off tomorrow after work. She did say that most of the sales have stayed at the assessed value or higher.

**Bti AND INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT** Mr. Cayey read Ms. Andrea Malik’s’ written report she submitted.

* March 10, 2018-I started field training one of the new Bti crew. The other new crew member is still completing pre-employment requirements.
* Treatments for Black flies started March 12th.
* We are still waiting for the mosquito permit. Mosquito treatments usually start in April when we have standing water.

**Invasive Species**

I have coordinated training on aquatic invasive plants and hand pulling variable leaf milfoil on August 30, 2018, 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Colton Fire Station. This is open to anyone interested in learning more about invasive species and how to prevent their spread and to learn about volunteering for the group effort to pull variable -leaf milfoil out of the Raquette River during the fall draw down in September.

Mr. Cayey spoke about an incident between DEC and Bti that caused a problem with permits last year that the new person in charge caught. This generated a $1000.00 fine to the Town of Colton. Mr. Cayey stated he called Town Attorney Gustafson and asked him to contact DEC on our behalf because of Ms. Malik’s 30 year work history not to mention she has been known to help train and educate DEC employees. Attorney Gustafson reported the fine will remain at $1000 after being told it could be $5,000. The $1000 fine was paid.

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**DPW REPORT** Mr. Darren Richards reported:

**Transfer Station**

The Town Supervisor, I and Skip Bisnett met to discuss the China restrictions on recycling and other issues with the on-going stock piling and warehousing of recycled materials. The recycling rate will be increased to $130.00/ T effective February first. This makes recycling a lot more expensive than landfill materials. It is still the law to recycle and we must enforce this state mandate.

**Waste Water & Water**

The Water district system is running smoothly this winter so far. Wastewater had another valve issue with the new knife valve. Wastewater divers removed the faulty valve and we repaired the old butterfly valve from 1970 and reinstalled it. The emergency repair with Seaway Divers was cheaper than their last scheduled repair and they had two decontaminated suites vs one the last time. Plant is back running normal now, still needing head-works to be re-outfitted. The bypass fabricated by the crew was complimented by the DEC when gaining permission to conduct the bypass during repair time and prior.

**Building and Grounds**

Snow removal and winter conditions have been dealt with without much issue so far this season. This rink has suffered an early shut down due to the consistent thawing daylight hours we have been enjoying this past month. The DPW has obtained three quotes needed for the heating replacement at the Station. It was our intention all along to replace the boiler at the MSB this year. We intend to use those funds for the new DPW space since the heating demands have decreased a great deal in the MSB this past winter and future years. The quotes were: Wright’s Choice $24,685; Eon Heating & Air Conditioning $26,600 and Bronson’s $27,366. I am recommending Wright’s Choice and reserve the option of installation until summer in order to include it with the Smart Communities Grant. If the cost is more than budgeted we have enough funds in equipment to cover any overage. Mr. Richards to check on how long the quote is good for.

Motion # **6**

**APPROVE BOILER PURCHASE**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the purchase of a boiler from Wright’s Choice this summer.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**SMART COMMUNITIES GRANT** Mr. Richards explained this grant for $50,000. He reported there are 10 requirements and we already have a couple, LED streetlights and Benchmarking. When I go to an energy training April 1 it will meet another requirement. I plan on talking with S & L Electric about the feasibility of Car Charging Ports. Mr. Richards supplied example resolutions and grant information for the Board to review and vote on next month.

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Darren Richards reported:

We are sending five members of the DPW to the North Eastern Region Dig Safe Seminar at SUNY Potsdam on March 22, 2018. Codes classes covered a large amount of new codes for buildings which were safety related. From the safety of air exchange handlers, safe electrical practices and better building systems for safer commercial and residential projects.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

We are currently at 9 permits for the season and several open permits from last year still ongoing. A new business and a mixed occupancy with two apartments are being proposed for South Colton. More information forthcoming on that as we receive an operating permit application that goes to the planning board. Code Enforcement class was successful from March 5th through to the 8th.

**PLANNING/ZONING BOARDS REPORT** Mr. Edward Fuhr reported:

The Planning Board meeting was held February 27, 2018, 7:00 P.M. at the Colton Town Hall. The legal notice of the meeting will be posted in the newspapers as usual. The issues brought up for discussion were:

* The TOC Planning Board conducted a public hearing for minor subdivision SD-02-2018 applied for by Mike Crosley and Anne Clarkson to separate their home and place of business. This was approved by the ZBA because of one lot being too small.
* The TOC Planning Board conducted a public hearing for minor subdivision SD-05-2018 applied for by Sidney Harrison for a minor subdivision of his farm. There were some questions asked and the application complies with all requirements.
* SD-02-2018 and SD-05-2018 were voted on and approved.
* There was discussion that the Town of Colton should be promoting The Clean Energy Communities programs.

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There was a short discussion regarding wind laws and Fort Drum.

**DAVID BRADFORD**, Energy Circuit Rider, provided more information on the Smart Communities Grant. He stated he wasn’t here to tell us what to do but to help guide us to a Green Sustainable Future and to help communities make informed decisions to move toward that goal. Mr. Bradford added if we pass the 2 resolutions next month, it will fulfill another requirement for the grant.

**TOURISM/BEAUTIFICATION REPORT** Mrs. Ruth McWilliams stated Mrs. Joann Hudson, Beautification Chair is in Florida so no report is available from her. Mrs. McWilliams presented this Tourism report:

Right now the committee is focusing on a number of tourism-related projects, as follows.

**Raquette River Blueway Trail Kiosks**

Final design meetings for panels of ten new kiosks along the river were held March 9 in Potsdam and Tupper Lake. Once the changes are all made by the contractor’s graphic designers the designs will be sent to the NYS Department of State to review since the project is grant supported. We expect the kiosks will be installed by participating communities around the end of April or early May, including the one for South Colton on green space between State Highway 56 and the parking area for the J. R. Watson Community Center. Each kiosk will have four panels with the first showing the Raquette River watershed with a ‘You Are Here’ marker. The other three panels are community-specific, focusing on access points to the river, local history, and other points of interest.

A short discussion ended with the kiosks being installed by the Town unless an emergency arises, and then Northeastern Sign said they could do it.

**Art Around Town / Barn Quilts**

During the winter, barn quilt classes are being held for people who have expressed interest in painting their own. In addition the committee is selling barn quilts not sold during Winterfest at The TAUNY Center in Canton to support the Summer Music Series plus painting more to raffle and sell during the summer months. While this is going on the school art teacher Krystal Hewer is incorporating barn quilt painting into school curriculum, teaching fourth graders who then will be able to assist with community projects through the school art club if interested. Anyone wishing to learn more about upcoming classes or the project should contact Ruth McWilliams (315-262-2350; ruth@catamountlodge.com).

**Tourism Destination Area Planning**

The committee is restarting a project begun a year ago and put on hold when funding issues of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce interfered with the schedule. The Tourism & Beautification Committee will serve as host and guide for the project to be facilitated by Brooke Rouse of the Chamber of Commerce which serves as the county’s Tourism Promotion Agent. A project team, to be established by the committee with representation from groups and organizations in town, will work with Brooke to complete the Tourism Destination Area (TDA) workbook designed by the North Country Regional Economic Development Council as a community and economic development tool. The project will be a year-long process, kicking off in spring 2018 and ending in spring 2019. We expect there will be a series of public meetings and focus groups. Preparatory work includes gathering existing planning documents and making them available electronically and in hard copy for people to review (e.g., 2000 Community Development Plan, Visual Analysis, Raquette River Blueway Trail Plan, etc.) during the project.

**Next Monthly Meeting**

On Monday, April 9 the committee will focus on spring activities and summer work.

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Cayey reported in Mr. Hawley’s absence:

Road postings are to be approved by the Board and the Item 1 Agreement is ready for signing.

Motion # **7**

**AUTHORIZE ROAD POSTING**

Motion made by Mr. Robert seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize the Highway Superintendent to post the roads and also approve the “unposting” of roads.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # **8**

**SIGN ITEM 1 AGREEMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Robert seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to sign the Item 1 Agreement as written by Hwy Supt. Hawley for this year’s paving.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**LIBRARY REPORT** No one was present from the Library to report. Mr. Cayey stated he called about the promised library grant. It was suggested a couple things be changed and the amount increased from $50k to $60k.

**CLERK’S REPORT** Ms. Donna Arquiett reported:

* Tax collection has had a couple hic-cups. With the Governor’s decision to allow “early” payments, residents paid regardless if they were in escrow. When the bank pays the escrow accounts, it doesn’t balance. Therefore, I have to return the overpayment to the bank.
* At this point we have collected 92% of our tax warrant. There is $455,908.19 remaining to collect by May 31.
* The dog law has been revised and I forgot to print it for you, It’ll be in your folders tomorrow. Do you want the public hearing prior to the next meeting, if so how long do you want it for?
* The gaming law will be worked on and has to go to referendum and voted on at the next general election.

Mr. Cayey explained the revision to the dog law was the reinstatement of a “purebred/kennel” license to bring us into compliance with the price change to a resident last year.

Motion # **9**

**ADVERTISE PH NEXT MONTH**

Motion made by Mr. Robert seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize the Clerk to advertise the public hearing for Local Law # 1 – 2018 Revision of Local Law # 10 – 2010 Dog Control Law.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**ENGINEER’S REPORT** Mr. Ike Cook unavailable.

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Rick Perkins reported:

The County Legislators have made several modifications to the budget and applied for grants. We tabled the vote on the Bass Masters request of $30,000 until we can examine their finances and what we made last year. Mrs. McWilliams said there should be a way to get people to pay the bed tax. When the Bass Masters come around people rent their house to them for the week and they do not report the bed tax. It’s not fair to the rest who pay year round. Mr. Perkins added the County is looking at putting up a facility to house 16 – 17 year olds that can no longer be housed with adults. The State says they will fund it but we’ve been burned by them before.

**INTERNET COMMITTEE REPORT** Mrs. Grace Hawley reported:

A meeting was held yesterday March 13th with SLIC representative Kevin Lynch, Peter Edwards, Kitty O’Neil, George Cayey and I. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the $17 million grant which SLIC received to expand internet service to unserved areas. Kevin explained which areas of Colton were awarded to SLIC. The remainder of Colton’s award is awarded to Hughes Net.

The problem of the delineation of the areas awarded to each presents a problem, since the awards are for one side of the road in areas such as Cayey Road, County Route 58 and French Pond Road. This will be appealed by SLIC, since it will not be possible to connect neighbors living on opposite sides of the road. Upon completion of the project and payment to SLIC for work accomplished, it should be possible to revisit those still not receiving service due to the grant guidelines, but that would not be before 2021. They receive no money until the project is completed and paperwork filed.

At a point when more data is available, maps will be available to the public so residents will know if they are in the areas awarded to SLIC.

Residents are asked to write to the Governor’s Office, to elected officials Schumer, Gillibrand, Stefanik and Marc Butler explaining our situation and calling upon pressure to be directed to Gov. Cuomo’s Office, since they promised 100% coverage and that is not what we are getting.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Senator Betty Little Senator Charles Schumer

P. O. Box 273 45th District Suite 3 100 So. Clinton St. Rm 841

Lowville, NY 13367 Glens Falls, NY 12801 Syracuse, NY 13261

Assemblyman Marc Butler Governor Andrew Cuomo Congresswoman Elise Stefanik

236 N. Prospect St. NYS Capitol Building 120 Washington St., Suite 200

Herkimer, NY 13350 Albany, NY 12224 Watertown, NY 13601

Mr. Cayey asked if anyone had anything to add.

Mr. Kevin Beary stated he and Kirke Perry are starting a cider brewery.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:58 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Donna Arquiett, Town Clerk

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