**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, July 10, 2019**

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

Present: George Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Grace Hawley

Katheryn Hayes

Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt. Ronald Robert

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Lisa Fisher-Davis

Absent: Donna Buckley

Others Present: Tina Miller, Rick Perkins, Penny Cayey, Mary Jane Watson, Ruth McWilliams and Kirke Perry

Supervisor Cayey called the regular monthly meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 PM.

Motion # 1

**ACCEPT MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2019 regular monthly meeting.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried.

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 6, BANK STATEMENT, RECONCILIATION AND TRANSFER**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the bills on Warrant # 7, as listed below, the bank statement, reconciliation and transfer.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 89,849.53

Highway Fund $ 60,374.24

Colton Light District $ 711.48

South Colton Light District $ 669.76

Sewer District #1 $ 2,033.37

Water District #1 $ 400.96

Recommended transfer: A8810.4 Cemeteries Contractual from A9050.8 Unemployment Ins. $300

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey reported Mr. Perkins has a new job and proceeded to read the report Mr. Perkins emailed: At the July 1st full Board meeting; We had 44 resolutions, 8 modifications to the budget, one of which was accepting the EWR Extreme Winter Recovery (CHIPS) funding. We filled 13 vacant positions, signed 14 agreements/contracts. There were 2 grant resolutions and another calling on the Governor to support residents along the St. Lawrence River who have been impacted by the high water levels. Other important resolutions put forth included in the 44 resolutions – 1) proclaiming July 21 – 27 as probation,parole and community supervision week; 2) establishing new public bus routes to service Clarkson, SUNY Canton, Potsdam and surrounding areas; 3)Authorized the creation of a County Animal Response Team and a plan for animal emergencies; 4) Amended the County Reforestation Land Management Plan to focus on land management instead of revenue; 5) Opposing the Driver’s License Legislation giving undocumented individuals driver’s licenses; and

We passed a resolution establishing a standard work day for NYS Retirement purposes.

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

* The STAR Income Verification Program is being reviewed and updated by NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. They have been sending lists for the Assessor’s to review. We have found many errors that the state has made. Assessors are doing their best to correct these errors and return back to the state for final review. If there have been changes made to a property owners STAR they should receive a letter from Department of Taxation and Finance. If you feel a change has been made in error there will be a contact address on the letter. Please be sure to contact the state. The assessor cannot adjust final changes that the state has made.
* The final 2019 roll has been filed. There is a hard copy at the office of the Town Clerk that is for public viewing. You may also find the 2019 roll on the St. Lawrence County web site at [www.stlawco.org](http://www.stlawco.org) and on the Town of Colton web site at [www.townofcolton.com](http://www.townofcolton.com).
* The town of Colton has not yet received a final equalization rate. It is my understanding that the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is going to review the final roll prior to issuing the final equalization rate.

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**Bti REPORT** Ms. Malik emailed this report:

* We are currently finishing up the field work for this seasons Bti Program. It was the 34th season.
* Normally some of the streams dry up as the season progresses, but with all the rain that wasn't the case this year. So, it was a busy season.
* We will most likely treat a few sections of the river one more time. The last river treatment, 6/27, I was able to coordinate with Brookfield where they were able to shut down the generators at the South Colton station for two hours early in the morning. I was able to save around 13 gallons of Bti ($42/ gallon) on that one application doing that. The more water, the more Bti I need to use.
* There are more mosquitoes than normal because of the incessant rains. All I can say is it would be much worse if we weren't treating. We are doing insect control , not eradication . If property owners maintained their property by eliminating standing water when possible, it would help a lot too.

**INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT** Ms. Malik provided this report:

* On July 2, we hosted an Aquatic Invasive Plants workshop at the Colton-Pierrepont school cafeteria. Megan Pistolese from the SLELO Prism gave an introduction to invasive species , the NYS PRISM network, and an introduction to the iMap Invasive mobile app. Erin Vennie-Vollrath brought in specimens of aquatic invasive plants and native plants and taught plant identification. Molly Farrell , NYS DEC, spoke about AIS control methods and DEC permit requirements. Dr. Diana White, Clarkson University's Invasive Milfoil Project, spoke about their current project at Norwood, the research and control methods they are using. I had a good discussion with her about my ideas of using a diver assisted suction harvester for Higley and the other reservoirs in Colton. This was an important contact to make if the Town wants me to pursue an aquatic invasive species grant in the future.
* Joanne Hudson and I are coordinating volunteers to do hand harvesting during the fall draw down, September 12-15.
* I will be treating for knotweed ( Japanese Bamboo) control in the fall after the plant flowers.

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

55 permits this year so far. Four property maintenance consent orders have been issued with two almost fully complied so far, one will be issued a ticket within the next week if the 30 day compliant letter expires.

**DPW REPORT**

*Transfer Station* - Currently we are switching e-waste companies to a local company, First Class out of Parishville. Faster and better service, and it costs the same… nothing. We are catching more people from out of Town coming into the transfer station. Currently we turn them around and reject their loads, but soon we will need to fine people for theft of services if the garbage is not generated from the Town of Colton. We are also re-enforcing the no lumber policy and construction debris.

*Water and Sewer* - Everything running smoothly in both water and wastewater. Still need our Town Board and Casella to come up with a sludge haul solution. We even asked DANC to look into a solution for a service option. We will be sending most of the crew to Alexandria Bay for a conference August 16th.

*Building and Grounds* - Community Center siding is stripped, columns taken down and the handicap ramp demolished and removed. New Porch is being constructed currently. Swift field and the Recreation Center is being utilized quite a bit this summer. Highway Garage grounds is cleaned up and is prepped for roofing and siding to begin. We recommend the highway barn bid for LED replacement fixtures be awarded to S&L Electric for $13,500.00 once our NYSERDA contract is complete. This is a grant on grant program. The project will save approximately 20% of the energy bill each year at the highway garage and costs the Town nothing for the project.

The Court Room is need of a new server and back up files server for the PCU’s at the Community Center. Currently the back-up server is over ten years old and is failing. We have a proposal for a $3,696.00 Dell server to replace the old one from Clear Data Solutions. Our court files are in jeopardy of being lost if this isn’t replaced.

Motion # 3

**GRANT FOR HIGHWAY GARAGE LIGHTING**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve the lowest quote for the job, S & L Electric at $13,500

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF SERVER AT COURT HOUSE**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize the purchase of a computer server for the Court House.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, July 10, 2019**

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting we have pretty much finished grading our dirt roads, with the exception of Cayey Road. Loggers have been in there and with all the truck traffic it would be impossible to grade without shutting them down for a day. They should be out of there this week so next week we will be doing that road.
* We did pave the remainder of Backwoods Road. The project went well. With our crew plus shared services with the towns of Pierrepont, Parishville, Hopkinton and Lisbon.
* I plan on starting on Raquette River Road job next Monday.
* We did receive the official letter from CHIPS stating that the Extreme Winter Recovery money was indeed reinstated. At this time I wish to ask for an official budget amendment to reflect the following additional monies to appear in both my revenue line and expenditure line under improvements capital outlay. Base chips equals $124,514.34, Pave NY equals $28,421.64 and Extreme Winter Recovery program equals $23,937.21 for a total in chips capital outlay of $176,873.19.
* As you all know Ed retired and we have one employee off on medical leave for a good share of the summer. This makes it pretty difficult to perform our road work. We have posted in the paper for an opening as a laborer. I wish to ask the boards permission to fill this position after the interview process.
* The Villiage of Potsdam has a trackless municipal machine they have put on surplus. It has with it a v plow, sand salt spreader and snowblower that can be utilized on sidewalk snow removal. It also has a 12 foot finish mower. The package is available for $7500. I wish to ask the boards approval to purchase this.

Motion # 5

**AMEND HIGHWAY BUDGET TO REFLECT CHIPS FUNDING**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to amend the highway budget to reflect the increase in CHIPS funding. DA5112.2 Equipment/Capital Outlay has $124,000 for base chips. Increase DA5112.2 by $52,973.19 for a total of $176,873.19

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 6

**HIRE HIGHWAY LABORER AFTER INTERVIEWS**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis for the Highway Superintendent to hire a laborer after the interviews. After the interviews, Trevor Wood was hired.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 7

**AUTHORIZE HWY SUPT TO PURCHASE A TRACKLESS SIDEWALK TRACTOR**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize Hwy Supt Hawley to purchase the trackless sidewalk tractor from the Village of Potsdam for $7500.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

Hydrants were flushed this past month. The crosswalks are currently being built in South Colton. The walk, curbing and braille plates are in. The on-demand, solar powered, LED light crosswalk poles will be installed within the next couple days. NCC fixed an alarm in South Colton providing false alarms. The DPW Crew and Highway Crew received their excavator training certification cards today and are on file. Sun screen dispensers and 12x12 easy-ups have been ordered for sun protection for town employees. These are covered under a grant.

**TOURISM & BEAUTIFICATION REPORT** Mrs. McWilliams reported: The schedule for Country Days is basically my report. The week-long event “Colton Country Days” has been advertised in the North Country This Week. The list of events are in the schedule that was handed out and is available on the Town of Colton Facebook Page and hardcopies will be available at the Museum, Library and Town Hall.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

The Planning Board meeting was held on June 18, 2019, 7pm at the Town of Colton Hall. The legal notice of this meeting was posted in the local newspapers as usual. The issues brought up for discussion were:

* CUP-27-2019, Clinton and Catherine Perrigo

Brian Parrotte, neighbors to the new Perrigo business in South Colton spoke requesting that a stipulation be put in as to if this business (or any business at the site of the old Red Pine Pub) fail, he does not want to see another bar in that location. It was explained that IF that were to ever happen, a liquor license would need to be obtained, approved and another conditional use permit would also have to be obtained. Due to zoning in that specific area, “we” cannot limit the sale/use of the property.

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**Planning Board Report Continued:**

* CUP-27-2019 (Perrigo) was accepted. There were no additional changes or conditions since May meeting and the County Referral had no issues when it came to a county impact so it was returned for a local action decision.
* A final draft for the town boards review on the progress of the Wind Laws will be drawn up for the August meeting.

The Town Board is asking the Planning Board to look into a policy change for the town regarding alcohol on town grounds.

T-Mobile wants to add an antenna bank to the already existing (120') tower at Richards Logging up near Sevey Corners. The board members agreed and a letter of approval will be sent out.

There was an APA permit that didn't get passed along to the planning board. There was a subdivision that happened up in Cranberry Lake where a very small portion of the land included Town of Colton land. Darren will continue to look into it further and keep us updated on the issue.

Mr. Richards stated there was a request to use the pavilion July 23rd as a fund raiser for Hospice in which wine tasting is an event they are planning, if the Board approves it.

Motion # 8

**APPROVE SLC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE USE OF PAVILION**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce use of the Pavilion. The event will include wine tasting as a fund raiser for Hospice.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**TOWN ENGINEER REPORT** Town Engineer Jeff Tubilino reported as far as the Salt Barn – all information has been entered into the grants gateway. DEC and BCA have been updated and BCA has the design Kevin wants.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS Investment – made $5,847.85 for the month of June.
2. Town Barn Roof & Siding started July 1, 2019.
3. State approved Library Grant on June 28th.
4. $50,000 Grant for old firehouse. The grant folks approved $26,000 of the money to purchase a new furnace and the rest will be applied to the LED lighting at the Town Barn.
5. Siding work has started on the Community Center.
6. Bti Truck is in, new cover for the back has been put on and the Board approved and paid for the truck outright from the general fund.
7. Water Level Gauge was installed with the approval of the homeowner at Larry Patzwald’s old dock. So far it is tracking Brookfield operating water levels according to the FERC license.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Hired Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux for union contract negotiations. They are on retainer to handle many other items. Motion to follow.
2. Board approval of adjustments for CHIPS funds, motion #5.
3. Water level gauge to be installed on Higley Flow to track Brookfield water levels.
4. Approval to advertise for Town Assessor. Advertised last month, received 2 resumes.
5. St. Lawrence County Commerce request was granted in motion #8.
6. Approval to hire new Town Highway Employee was approved in motion #6.
7. Sheehan vs County Asphalt Contracts. Mr. Cayey explained he had contacted Town Attorney Gustafson and others involved and verified the Town was not in error contracting with Sheehan instead of the County contract.
8. Resolution for Library Grant, motion and resolution to follow.

Motion # 9

**CONTRACT WITH ROEMER WALLENS GOLD & MINEAUX**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to contract with Roemer Wallens Gold & Mimeaux for union contract negotiations along with other items they can handle.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, July 10, 2019**

Motion # 10

**PASS MOTION TO SUPPORT LIBRARY GRANT APPLICATION**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to pass a motion to support the Colton Hepburn Library’s grant application. This is to satisfy the grant committee on the application applied for in 2017 after the vandalism at the Library.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**SUPPORT COLTON-HEPBURN LIBRARY GRANT APPLICATION**

Resolution # 4 - 2019

**WHEREAS,** the Colton-Hepburn Library in July 2016 experienced vandalism to a costly degree, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Colton has aided to rehabilitate and remediate the site, and

**THEREFORE,** the Town of Colton fully supports the Colton-Hepburn Library and the Library

Board of Trustees with their grant application.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. Brandon Irwin asked the Board to allow him more time to remove things off Town property next to his residence. He stated his Grandfather, Paul Caster had maintained the land next door for years and announced it was hi not the Towns. Mr. Irwin was advised to check with the Real Property Office in Canton. Mr. Irwin continued to explain there is 50 years of stuff on the backside of the property, why after all this time these things have to be moved. Mr. Cayey explained the surveyor that was there for the Caster family found the stakes marking the John Stone property that was deeded to the Town. Since this property is close to our aquifer, we need to protect the boundaries. Mr. Irwin was granted a 30-day extension to finish cleaning the property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:23 p.m.

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Jennifer Cole in Ms. Arquiett’s absence

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