**Regular Monthly Colton Town Board Meeting, September 15, 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

Jennifer Cole Deputy Clerk Kevin Hawley – Highway Sup’t

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01 p.m. as advertised.

Meeting attendees: Kirke Perry, Shelley Rayner, Jeff Tubolino, Rick Perkins, Darren Richards - CEO

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Dennis Eickhoff, Deborah Richards, Leah Worden, Randi Lee Planty, Cindy Hennessy

Motion # 1

**APPROVE August 2021 MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the August 11, 2021 minutes.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**AUTHORIZE, BANK RECON, TRANSFERS & BILLS IN WARRANT #9, 2021**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #9, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 101,283.74

Highway Fund 229,149.40

Library Fund 1,477.24

Sewer Fund #1 7,823.73

Water Fund #1 1,813.27

Colton Light District 1,470.42

South Colton Light District 1,470.06

The following accounts are or will be over budget as of August 30, 2021:

General Fund: A1355.132 Assessment Bar PS $ 72.51 $73.00

A3010.400 Public Safety Admn $309.18 $310.00

A1620.200 Building Infrastructure $32,938.25 $35,000.00

A5010.400 Supt Highway Contr $790.80 $1,500.00

A7310.10 Youth Program PS $49.80 $49.80

A8020.130 Planning Chair $97.87 $365.00

A8510.400 Beautification Contr $3,000.00 $3,000.00

Recommended Transfer: A3010.200 Public Safety, Equip. $9,445.55

A1620.410 Food Pantry $30,779.25

A1410.120 Town Clerk Deputy PS $73.00

**TOWN CLERKS REPORT:** Deputy Jennifer Cole reported:

* Two appointments to make as their term is ending on September 30, 2021. Dennis Eickhoff as Board Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and David Demo as Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review.
* Hunting licenses are picking up. We have been told that we are one of the only offices open for hunting, fishing, turkey etc. licenses.
* With hunting licenses picking up, I am learning more of the clerk’s job.
* The annual resolution for the Justice Court Assistance Program needs voting on. This JCAP grant is for $30,000 to help enhance the Justice Department further.
* Reminder: need to schedule a public hearing for our budget as well as the fire protection.
* Summer Swim Program averaged 12 children per day throughout the program.
* Town Clerk Donna Buckley requested that since Deputy Town Clerk Jennifer Cole is running unopposed for the position of Town Clerk in the upcoming election in November 2021, Jennifer be brought on to work/train at the town hall under Donna as soon as possible after the election.

Motion #3

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to bring Deputy Town Clerk Jennifer Cole on to train with Donna at the Town Hall once the election has passed. Seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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

**Transfer Station:** Blue line Engineering is conducting a site map, cost analysis, and new design on a transfer station. Jeff is currently identifying funding sources as well. The DPW fixed the ram and plates on trash compactor and Casella will fix the approach and re-secure the trash compactor on Friday. These are fixes for now, but our transfer station will need to be overhauled very soon.

Motion #4

Mr. Robert made a motion to form a committee search for grant funding for the Transfer Station, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #5

Motion made by Mr. Robert for the members of the committee to be Mr. Ronald Robert, Mr. Jeff Tubolino and Mr. George Cayey. Seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Water/Sewer:** We have received only one bid on the project. Pricing has increased 6,000 on the original quote but the company will honor the original quote. I suggest we accept the bid and complete this project before snow falls to capture the savings on hauling, energy and chemicals in lab costs all projected to save money in wastewater expenses. Asking for a motion to accept this bid. Repairs to the clarifier were made last week which helped strengthen the sweeper mechanicals. Two more hydrants scheduled for installs Monday and Tuesday if the weather holds.

Motion #6

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley to approve the bid of $66,000.00 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant to get the project started. This will be paid out of ARPA funds from Dept. of Treasury. Seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Building and Grounds:** Food Pantry has a new porch floor and a cement sidewalk/ ramp finished by the DPW. ADK Storage Barn is finalizing the construction of the shell. Jeremy Bronson / Mike Morse and S&L are helping with labor and materials for the electrical next.

**Safety:** G & E fire extinguishers are updating and inspecting hydrants today for all buildings and equipment. I am asking the board permission to attend a PERMA conference on October 28 and 29th in Verona on NYS Legalization of Marijuana and other current safety topics.

Motion #7

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to allow CEO D. Richards to attend the PERMA conference on October 28&29th. Seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement Office:** 66 Permits so far this year. The cost of building materials has drastically reduced and projects that were put on hold are now being pursued. Two new home builds are coming next week and several more projects coming as well. Four Subdivisions for the Planning Board to consider and one operating permit to be considered by the planning board and ZBA on a joint meeting occurring on September 21.

**Planning Board Report:** Mr. Perry reported:

One subdivision in August. It is on hold, going to the ZBA with a sight plan. Jeff Rousell has been doing a lot of work on the strategy planning for the town. Next year we will be applying for the River Walk grant. The grant monies for this start at $500,000 and go up to $5 million. We had a meeting September 1st to accommodate scheduling for a subdivision. Next Tuesday there will be a joint meeting the with the planning board and the zoning board of appeals for an area variance.

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**COUNTY LEGISLATORS REPORT:**

We had 36 resolutions.

We had 5 modifications to the budget.

We had 20 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed of which were 5 grants.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of vacancies, 6 positions.

We had a resolution dedicating a plaque on the Jones rd bridge in Hopkinton for Dennis Binan who tragically passed away from an accident near the bridge.

We had a resolution proclaiming the week of September 17-23 2021 as constitution week.

We had a resolution proclaiming September 4th as national wildlife day.

We had a resolution proclaiming September 12-18 2021 as national arts in education week.

We had a resolution ADOPTING THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS OF THE AMICUS BRIEF BY Arizona and twenty five similar states in the matter of the NYS rifle and pistol assoc.

We had a resolution setting a date for a public hearing for proposed local law setting the salary for the County Attorney $158,000.00.

We had a resolution we tabled supporting Sylvia lake with their milfoil reduction efforts.

We had a resolution authorizing a moratorium on funding invasive species in St Law County.

We had a resolution conveying property to the Town of Fine for the delinquent taxes.

We had a resolution proclaiming September as national recovery month.

We had a resolution affirming Jolene Munger as the interim Director of Public Health.

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

**LIBRARY REPORT:**

We had a zoom meeting with LLSA, the grant monies will be direct deposited on Friday of this week. Due to many libraries around the state applying for the LLSA grant the percentage did change from 75% down to 67%. The percentage will not go lower than the 67%. The library steps need to be sealed before winter and hand rail painted.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:**

1. Since the last board meeting, we did manage to finish up our paving. Everything went well this year. All towns face a significant increase in funding this year which made the asphalt plants extremely busy, making it more difficult to get mix. We did get it done and on about our normal time frame. Pierrepont finished their paving today.
2. The County Highways shoulder machine is scheduled for tomorrow to start our shoulders. This process goes pretty quickly a couple days they will be done.
3. We will start screening our road sand next week and begin getting our winter sand pile up.
4. I reviewed the job applications received for our open position. I selected Matthew LaRock as the individual to hire. He is currently working for the county highway department paving crew, and in the winter months is a snow plow operator. Based on his experience I am asking the board’s approval to complete this hire.

Motion #8

Motion made by Mr. Robert to hire Mr. Matthew LaRock of South Colton under union contract to the Highway Dept. Seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

1. There is one last bill from Sheehan to arrive. Can it be paid with the early bills so I can get the CHiPS report done.

Motion #9

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to pay the Sheehan asap. Seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**DOG WARDEN REPORT:**

One horse loose – returned to pasture, owner not home. Two dogs at large, both had microchips, both returned to owner. Two cats taken to Potsdam Humane Society.

**BTI REPORT:**

Finishing up the season. Just working on knotweed and phragmites.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

* NYCLASS and NBT Bank account together made $296.21 for August.
* The gazebo is in at Swift Field.
* The SLIC lawsuit against the town has been dropped.
* The Christmas lights for both towns are in. Waiting on National Grid to install the outlets on the poles.
* ARPA funds now total $72,307.48

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The town has accepted the resignation of town attorney E. Gustafson.

Motion #10

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to accept the resignation of town attorney E. Gustafson. Seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Town Supervisor Cayey has spoken to the members of the town board in regards to a new town attorney.

Motion #11

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to hire Attorney Colin Loomis of Nash and Palm as the Town of Colton new town attorney. Seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Fisher, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Ideas on how senior citizens can earn their $1,500.00 per year from the town.

* Food pantry
* Book nook
* Town gardens
* Museum

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion #12

Motion made by Mr. Robert to close the meeting at 7pm, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Robert, Cayey, Fisher

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes taken by Deputy Clerk Jennifer Cole

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