**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, September 9, 2020**

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

Present: Grace Hawley, Deputy Supervisor Councilpersons: Katheryn Hayes

Donna Buckley, Clerk Ronald Robert

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Lisa Fisher-Davis

Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Sup.

Absent: George Cayey, Supervisor

Others present: Kevin Beary Dave Seymour, Bill LaPierre, Joanne LaPierre, Sandra Worden, Don Shoen,

Stan Luce and Pat Luce

Via Zoom: Dennis Eickhoff, Mary Jane Watson, Judy Fuhr, Ed Fuhr, Eleanor Menz, Cynthia Hennessy,

and Les Baker

Everyone in attendance was seated social distancing and each wore facemasks.

Deputy Supervisor Hawley opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hawley asked if the Board Members had reviewed the minutes, bills and reports.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve the minutes of the August 12 meeting.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mrs. Hawley read aloud the transfers and asked for a motion to approve them.

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 8, BANK RECONCILIATION and TRANSFERS**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the bills on Warrant # 9, the bank reconciliation and transfers

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 112,291.86

Highway Fund $ 28,711.83

Hepburn Library Fund $ 1,437.16

Colton Light District $ 727.27

South Colton Light District $ 684.45

Sewer District #1 $ 7,610.35

Water District #1 $ 2,967.65

The following accounts are or will be over budget as of September 2020.

General Fund:

A1420.4 Attorney Gustafson $ 5,110.00

A3989.12 Safety Sec. Salary. 663.66

Recommendation for transfer:

A1420.41 Attorney Matt $ 5,110.00

A1910.4 Unallocated Ins. 1,200.00

Mrs. Hawley stated Erie Boulevard served the Town with notice for review of the assessments on their six parcels in Colton. The original settlement for the years 2007 thru 2012 was concluded in 2019.

Assessor Bob Ball is in the process of securing names of appraisal experts and Attorney Gustafson is contacting attorneys who specialize in these situations.

We are on top of this and assure you we will be affected also and will do the best we can to get a fair resolution.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

*Dave Seymour,* Colton resident and taxpayer, stated he wants the Town to fight the lawsuit with Brookfield

with everything we’ve got, even if it costs a million dollars. Brookfield will pay half. Don’t let them scare

you and don’t give up.

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**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR CONTINUED**

*Bill LaPierre*, Colton resident and taxpayer, stated his concerns re: more tax reductions for Brookfield. The Town must do all possible to fight this corporation. We got severely beat up as taxpayers as a result of the last settlement, as you know. Please help us convince the Board to hire competent legal representatives to aid our efforts. This town cannot afford to give this away again. Hopefully, our request can be a matter of record. Thanks Bill and Joanne LaPierre.

*Kevin Beary*, Colton resident and taxpayer, read aloud a petition he put together. The petition will be attached.

*Judy Fuhr*, Colton resident and taxpayer, said the meeting should be about Brookfield. She said they are only aware of what Kevin Beary sends out. The Town should be more transparent regarding this lawsuit.

*Bob Ball*, Colton Assessor, replied when you are in litigation you don’t discuss your strategy in an open meeting.

He added that it may take anywhere from 3 – 5 years to be settled, we’re only 3 months into it. We are doing everything we can possibly do at this stage.

*Stan Luce*, taxpayer and seasonal resident, says he’s been here for 46 years and has seen a lot of camp turnovers since the last lawsuit. He requested the Town Board do everything they can to fight it.

Ms. Buckley stated she received more letters via e-mail and over the counter from:

1. Ed & Judy Fuhr
2. Joe & Jutta Fitzsimons
3. Richard & Bonnie Matzell
4. Gary & Lorraine Gowing
5. Joanne & Larry Hudson
6. Shelly Everding
7. Claudia & Jerry Lioy

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Ball reported:

* Since January 1st 2020 there has been 32 property transfers, 12 new sale since last reported. I have processed these sales and they have been sent to the state for analysis.
* I currently have 89 open site visits, I will be continuing to work on them throughout the next few months.
* Erie Boulevard updates.

At this point all the guests left the meeting.

**Bti / INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT** Ms. Malik sent this report:

* I treated the invasive Phragmites (Common Reed) in Horton Flats last week.  This was the project  we needed the Wetland permit for.
* I'm working on treating knotweed (bamboo).  I'll do as much as I can until the budget runs out.  I anticipate being finished by the end of this month-first week in October.
* Fall Webworms The webbing you may have noticed at the ends of tree branches is from a fall webworm. They do eat the leaves but, the leaves will be dropping soon anyway. They are not a threat and generally will not harm the  trees.  So, they are nothing to worry about.

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

50 permits this year so far. Another home build permit came in for Gulf Rd. One subdivision for this month’s

planning board meeting. Building material costs are increasing at a significant rate.

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

We trained 12 town personal in 3 departments for First Aid, AED and CPR this past reporting month. That is a

very good turnout. Department of Labor discontinued covering the MSHA 8 hour refresher, training session but

was at least helpful setting up our own in-house training session with three highway personal. A site specific

Fire Extinguishers are next in annual inspections.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* :We are finding our seasonal residents are staying longer due to COVID-19 in hot states and the ability to social distance

*Water and Sewer* Our hopes is to still purchase a lift station pump for our regular maintenance replacement program. This pump will cost approximately $7,500.00 and will rotate out an older pump in service for the last 12 years. If we do not see any unforeseeable future issues, we would like to order this lift station pump the beginning of October. Water monitoring is still being worked on quote-wise for parts. We also still have a pick up for contamination items at well house. Budgets are in on time for the September 4 th deadline. We worked hard decreasing our operation budget for next year as economic uncertainty still is an issue.

*Building and Grounds* Museum renovations and insulation project is almost complete. A walk through was done with contractor on 9-8-2020 for final punch list. We are considering painting the upper fascia and soffit of the museum’s main roof including the corbels. CPCS has not decided to use Swift Field or have fall sports at this given time. Everything is pending with school opening success in question. The town supervisor gave the DPW permission to purchase a new rink liner but we have doubts the rink will be open this winter.

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Motion # 3

**APPROVE PURCHASE OF LIFT STATION PUMP**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve purchase of a lift pump at the estimated cost of $7500.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 4

**CONTRACT W/ BONNO BUILDERS TO REPAIR MUSEUM ROOF/PAINT EXTERIOR WOOD**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to contract with Bonno Builders to repair the Museum roof at an estimated $5,000 and scrape/paint all exterior wood for an estimated $2500.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert

Noes 0

Abstain 1 Hayes

Motion carried

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting we have been doing General Maintenance, ie cutting brush picking roadside garbage, patching potholes, etc.
* I have an update on the new plow truck. The chassis was delivered to Viking last week, and my contact at Viking said it is scheduled for the build late October. We should see the truck in mid to late November. That being said my opinion on the 2012 that we are replacing should be listed with Auctions International immediately. Chad spent the lions share of last week touching up the paint and making it look good for the pictures. I do have the picture taker from Auctions international coming Thursday this week.  With the boards approval I can list the truck and hopefully have the auction results by the next meeting.
* I do still have around $65,000 in General repairs.  In last months report. I asked to spend $25,000 on Windmill Road from wildwood road intersection to the top of Bicknel Hill. This stretch was paved about 2006 with rap from Barretts and has not heldup  well, my request was denied. I am still leaving a very healthy balance in the event of a shortfall in chips, which we already had covered with the extra revenue we already received from chips this spring from last year. By waiting another month to do this project the air temperature is bound to be lower and may cause us not to be able to do the project at all.
* Also I need to replace the undercarriage on our Dozer. The cost is $8000 for chains sprockets and rolls. I have $45000 left in machinery contractual so I would like permission to order the parts.

Motion # 5

**APPROVAL TO LIST OLD HWY TRUCK ON AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve Mr. Hawley to list the retiring highway truck on Auctions International but do not take any less than $60,000.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 6

**PAY SOLVAY BANK W/EARLY BILLS**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Hayes to pay Solvay Bank the balance of $51,402.60 with the early bills.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 7

**AUTHORIZE PAVING COLTON END OF WINDMILL RD TO TOP OF BICKNELL HILL**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, to authorize the paving as requested by Mr. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 8

**AUTHORIZE REPAIR OF DOZER**

Motion made by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize the repair of the dozer undercarriage for an estimated $8,000.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

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

1. Please wear a mask when you come to the Town Offices. It is in your best interest to call for an appointment. 315-262-2810 x 1
2. The letter came yesterday confirming the filing of Local Law # 2 – 2020.
3. We have another food distribution next Tuesday starting 3 p.m. at the MSB
4. There have been many calls regarding school taxes. I can get on line and see what they are and make a copy for them.
5. Judge Robar came this evening with his paperwork applying for a grant which needs signatures and a resolution passed.

Motion # 9

**AUTHORIZE JUDGE TO APPLY FOR GRANT/PASS RESOLUTION**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Ms. Hayes to authorize Judge Robar to apply for a court grant along with the passing and signing of this resolution.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

**JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Resolution # 9 -2020

**WHEREAS;** The Justice of the Town of Colton wishes to apply for a grant under the Justice Court Assistance Program to further enhance the department.

**BE IT RESOLVED;** that the Honorable George R. Cayey has Board approval to apply for a grant under the Justice Court Assistance Program up to the maximum amount available.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that, this resolution upon presentation to the Colton Town Board at a regular monthly meeting dated September 9, 2020 was duly put to vote and carried unanimously.

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Perkins sent this report: At the October 5th, Full Board Meeting

We had 31 resolutions, 6 modifications to the budget

We had 1 resolution accepting a Grant for the Public Health Dept.

We had 12 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed

We had a resolution declaring October as Domestic Awareness month

We had a resolution authorizing the purchase of face masks for students in St Lawrence County

We had a resolution not passing, authorizing to revise the Medicare Part B Premium reimbursement policy for SLC

We had a resolution tabled, until our December meeting, authorizing to change retiree pharmacy prescription co-pays to keep pace with CSEA Union negotiated prescription co-pays for active employees

We had a resolution proclaiming the week of October 25-31 as National Lead Poisoning Prevention week

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of vacancies.

We had a resolution adopting the equalization rates for 2021 County taxes

We had a resolution adopting the Records Retention Schedule LGS1

We had one resolution authorizing the collection of omitted taxes

We had a resolution authorizing the release of funds set aside for the Fort De’ La Presentation

We had a resolution authorizing the Chair to sign a contract with Council 82, Local 2390 for 2018-2024

We had a resolution reappointing Jonnie Dorothy to Director of Human Resources / Personnel Officer for SLC

We also received a copy of the Tentative budget, I haven’t had a chance to review it yet

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

Stay healthy

Motion # 10

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Ms. Hayes to adjourn.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:05 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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