**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 14, 2022**

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

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher

Kevin Hawley, Highway Supt. Jacob Poste

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Randi-Lee Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Judy Fuhr, Diane Wilson, Jon Richardson, Mike Hayes, Anne Townsend, Lorraine Gowing, Cindy Dusharm, Patti Larock, Ron Gilmore, Steve Knight, Sandra Ucchi, David Crosby, Joe Bean, Mary Bean, Jeremy Bronson, Ed Fuhr, Mary Rutley Kirke Perry, Lori Thornton, Nancy Robert, Deborah Regan

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Dennis Eickoff, Randi-Lee Planty, Peggy Shea, Cynthia Hennessy

Supervisor R. Robert lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6 pm as scheduled.

Motion #1

**Approve August 2022 Minutes**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Poste to approve the minutes from the August 2022 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #9, Sept. 2022**

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

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund…………………………………………………………..$211,526.28

Highway Fund…………………………………………………………..155,410.58

Library Fund……………………………………………………………….1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1……………………………………………………………10,546.13

Water Fund #1……………………………………………………………..3,248.72

Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………….…862.16

S. Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………….805.78

From - A1355.11 Assessment PS…………………………………………$5,750.00

A1990.4 Contingency………………………………………………4,550.00

To - A1355.2 Assessment Equip…………………………………………2,000.00

A1355.4 Assesment Contr………………………………………….8,300.00

From – A599 Unapprop Fund Bal………………………………………$150,000.00

To A5132.22 Salt Barn……………………………………………….150,000.00

From – D9060.8 Health Ins………………………………………………….$500.00

To DA5140.4 Brush & Weeds……………………………………………..40.23

From – DA5110.4 Road Maint. Contr…………………………………….$35,297.00

To DA5112.2 CHIPS…………………………………………………..35,296.54

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

*Diane Wilson*, Colton resident, stated that in 2007 there was an in-depth study done for a beach on the Morgan Rd. The results founded at that time were that the area was not viable for a public beach. Mrs. Wilson also stated that currently Parishville is paying $150,000.00 yearly for their public beach. Security gates, upkeep, porta potties etc all come at a cost to the taxpayers of the town. Mrs. Wilson provided the Colton Town Board with a petition signed by residents of the Morgan Rd. against the Morgan Rd. beach project. Mrs. Wilson asked that she be notified on any further meetings involving the Morgan Rd. beach project.

*Anne Townsend* thanked Andrea Malik (BTI Supervisor) and the Town Board for all the hard work on the sidewalks. Ms. Townsend asked what the sustainability of this work is? What resources are available? Will this be built into the towns budget? Supervisor Robert assured Ms. Townsend that the sidewalks will not get to the condition that they were in before all of Ms. Maliks work. Once the weeding is all done, polymetric sand will be used on the sidewalks. After that it will just be maintenance.

*Judy Fuhr* presented the board with the “Adopt a Garden” idea – since the Tourism and Beautification committee has dissolved, we are looking for volunteers to maintain a small garden or two around Colton and South Colton.

*Lorraine Gowing* spoke up stating that her husband and herself did some lawn work at the Colton Hepburn Library. Mrs. Gowing is a member of the “Friends of the Colton Library.” Mrs. Gowing did a lot of the leg work writing the grant to make the Story Garden possible at the library. After the new grass seed was planted the library lawn grew and grew as it needs to with new seeding. The DPW dept. then mowed the area. Mrs. Gowing and her husband felt that it needed a touch up as the mowing was uneven, clippings were in the mulch, chairs were moved and not moved back into place, weeding wasn’t done. Recently the DPW dept grieved the Gowing’s for the work they performed. Mrs. Gowing stated that as a volunteer, member of the library and a tax payer this is very discouraging.

*Cindy Dusharm* stated that the library is more appealing to the community and others passing though when it is mowed and looking nice and kept. Could the weeding and trimming be done at the same time as the mowing?

*Stephen Knight* stated that the grant written for the Story Garden at the library was one of the best he had seen. He stated that the library needs to look good or the town won’t look good. Mr. Knight asked if there is a written clear plan on who does the

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***Cont’ Courtesy of the Floor -***

work and how it is to be done? Mr. Knight also stated that the Town Hall overall needs to look better. Mr. Knight gave a written letter to the town clerk to keep on file.

*Ed Fuhr* stated that perhaps there needs to be a memorandum with the understanding of unions and volunteers that is clear and concise.

*Dave Crosby* spoke on the sidewalks and the weed work that has been done. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that has been done to date.

*Mary Rutley* expressed her support to Councilman Kevin Beary and his first amendment right to freedom of speech. Ms. Rutley then expressed her concern over the road to Higley Flow State Park and the usage of UTVs and ATVs on that road. Ms. Rutley also is in support of the petition against the Morgan Rd. Beach project. She stated that her letter would be sent in to North Country Now.

**County Legislators Report:**

We had 29 resolutions.

We had 10 modifications to the budget.

We had 9 Agreements/Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution setting the business hours for the St Law County Opioid treatment program clinic.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 11 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution proclaiming September 17-23 2022 as constitution week.

We had a resolution calling on the Climate action council to craft a final scoping document that reflects the differing

climate zones and wealth in the state and that no action be taken to reduce or ban any energy source until reliable

energy sources have been proven safe and affordable are in place.

We had a resolution supporting efforts to end the waiting lists for clinic appointment services for addiction and mental

health services when a request is received.

We had a resolution setting a date for a public hearing on proposed local law authorizing the use of video or similar

service for remote attendance of meetings of public bodies acting in the name of St Lawrence County.

We had a resolution authorizing the creation of a Sheriffs marked vehicle reserve for the purpose of ensuring that St

Lawrence County patrol vehicles are replaced on a schedule that ensures public safety.

We had a resolution in opposition of the recently enacted “Concealed Carry Improvement act” and authorizing the

County Attorney to explore options for legal challenges.

**Town Engineer – Jeff Tubolino:**

Mr. Tubolino asked if the change order/rebid for the Salt Storage facility – adding outside lighting, motion sensors etc. for safety purposes - had been reviewed by the board members and if it was ready to be signed by Supervisor Robert? Also, if the Substantial Completion Certificates for the electrical and the general construction had been reviewed by the board and were ready to be signed by Supervisor Robert?

Motion #3

Ms. Fisher made the motion to accept the rebid on the lighting for the Salt Barn and to have Supervisor Robert sign the rebid and both Substantial Completion Certificates for the electrical and general construction of the Salt Barn, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

EJCDC (Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee) – ENI Mechanical Inc., invoice in the amount of $28,500.00. This is the final payment for the electrical contractors for the Salt Barn. Requesting permission from the board to pay ASAP.

Motion #4

Ms. Fisher made the motion to pay he ENI Mechanical Inc. invoice in the amount of $28,500.00 asap, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Highway Report:**

* + Since the last meeting we have been doing vehicle maintenance and general repairs on numerous roads.
  + We also are about a third of the way around our second time on roadside mowing.
  + We are in the process of helping Pierrepont put up their sand pile, once that is done we'll be starting ours.
  + Ward paving did a nice job paving inside our salt barn. Our paver is too big to use inside a building, this worked out well
  + Our auction on auctions international went pretty well, netting $32,000. That money should be arriving soon. All of the invoices have been paid so it's the Auction company payment I'm waiting for.
  + The new plow truck is in Harrisville. We had a pre-build meeting up there last week to go over how the equipment will be installed. The truck should be ready for delivery in about a month.

**Code Enforcement Report:**

Transfer Station

Transfer Station continues to collect used oil for the highway barn for this winter. This continues to save over 10,000 yearly. A few public announcements for people: When folks go around each other, do not go back into the first lane as you are blocking people in. Our two-lane traffic lines will take care of this. No plastic bags in with zero sort recycling, no dirt, rocks or lumber in brush pile please.

Water/Sewer

As Blue Line Engineering and the DPW prepare for the County ARPA grant funding application, we would like to include in our match the ARPA funds from first and second round of funding. It would be helpful to achieve the grant award in our favor if we demonstrate our commitment to the WWTP upgrades to continue the longevity of the plant. Can we get a motion to dedicate these funds to the WWTP project in order to illustrate a closer match of 33%? If yes, we will include these

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***Cont’ Code Enf Report -***

minutes in our grant application. Also, Plant has seen some biological and chemical upset resulting in de-nitrification and then filament bulking. Process control and hypo-chlorinating is being done to remedy the biologicals at the plant. The crew is doing a tremendous job rectifying the plant’s issues. We are still making permit. Water system doing great without any issues or leaks detected for some time.

Motion #5

Mr. Poste made the motion to dedicate these ARPA funds to the WWTP project in order to illustrate a

closer match of 33%, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Richards also presented to the board a resolution in support of a 2022 SLC Centralized Biosolids Composting Facility Feasibility Study.

Motion #6

Mr. Poste made the motion to accept resolution #7-2022 in support of a 2022 St. Lawrence County Centralized Biosolids Composting Facility Feasibility Study, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Town of Colton Resolution #7-2022**

Resolution in support of a 2022 St. Lawrence County Centralized Biosolids

Composting Facility Feasibility Study

**Whereas,** the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislator’s (County) have entered into an agreement with the Development Authority of the North Country to complete a Feasibility Study for a Centralized Biosolids Composting Facility, and

**Whereas,** the Town of Colton will act as a participating municipality for a shared services project, involving multiple local governments in the North Country and will provide 3 years of data from their wastewater operations to assist in completing the feasibility of a centralized biosolids facility, and

**Whereas,** the Development Authority will compile the participating municipalities data, identify centralized facility permitting requirements, prepare a basis of design, prepare an operational model, develop project cost estimates, determine a project funding strategy and issue a final report, and

**Whereas,** the Town of Colton understands that they are not obligated to any monetary match for this study nor do they have to continue to be part a subsequent project after the feasibility study is completed.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that the Town of Colton will participate as a municipal partner, and

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Town of Colton will provide the required documentation and the support of its staff (as necessary) to the Development Authority of the North Country by October 15, 2022 in performance of compiling the operational data needed to complete the Centralized Biosolids Composting Facility Feasibility Study.

Building and Grounds

Pickleball is doing extremely well and is well used. Big thanks to Kirke, Ben Johnson and the Mahogany Ridge for their support and all the donors. The Community Center floor is done and under the adjusted budget. It looks really great and matches the entire building. School building tower is coming slow, but will be a beautiful addition to Swift. Salt Barn is complete with the repair finished on the broken support.

Safety

Sidewalk safety committee met again and discussed supporting the corner with a gentle slope hill in the back of the wall tear down and to take down the black iron fencing for an unobstructed view of the library. Andrea Malik is doing a great job with sidewalk preservation. It was said by the engineers of the downtown revitalization project (Spencer Thew) that the weeds must be eradicated or they will spread the bricks apart and start frost upheaval. This work not only looks great, but is vital to the preservation of the sidewalk according to the engineers. I have priced out a pallet of polymetric sand for the cracks in the sidewalk and it is for your approval. $1,655.20 is the cost.

Motion #7

Ms. Fisher made the motion to purchase a pallet of polymetric sand at the cost of $1,655.20, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Code Enforcement Office

We doubled our building permits to 55. 14 permits in a second month in a row. Two complaints for property

maintenance and noise. Both were addressed. One is potentially ongoing. Decibel levels are measured and our

local law doesn’t have a limit threshold which makes it difficult to enforce.

**Town Clerk Report:**

* I’ve spoken with Sarah Williamson with the ADK Paranormal Society. They will start setting up for the haunted house the week of October 3rd. I’ve also spoken with Darren and CPCS on this to make sure all scheduling goes smoothly.
* Hunting license sales have started picking up.
* Brittney our current Court Clerk has agreed to stay on until the end of September to help find a new court clerk and train the new hire properly. We’ve had four applicants thus far.

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**Assessor Report:**

Acting Assessor Shelley Rayner requested the board to review and consider accepting the purchase of a new computer program. The new program will allow pictures to be attached to properties along with other various upgrades to what she is currently using. The new program will have an annual contract of $1200.00.

Motion #8

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow the purchase of the new computer program proposed by Acting Assessor Shelley Rayner, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mrs. Rayner also requested the board to consider hiring Brittney Gravlin to help with assessor filing. Pay to be taken out of the assessor line.

Motion #9

Mr. Poste made the motion to hire Brittney Gravlin to help with filing at the assessor’s office, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**BTI Report:**

I have been working on the Main Street sidewalks, cleaning the grass from the crevices of the paving stone using a combination of meticulously digging out the weeds and roots with a small tool and torching. I then plan to blow out the dirt or possibly use a pressure washer to remove the loose dirt and debris. Finally, apply polymetric sand, fine grains of sand which has additives when put in contact with water acts as an ultra-powerful bonding agent. This will help weeds from regrowing.

As of Tuesday September 13, 2022, I have spent 7 days, totaling 60 hours on the sidewalk. The public response has been overwhelming. Town residents have been coming up to me expressing much gratitude and thanks to me for cleaning the sidewalk. They expressed the condition of the sidewalk has been upsetting for years, they are concerned that I should be “paid extra” and they expressed they hoped the funding came from the appropriate department.

In the fall I work on controlling invasive plant species, primarily Japanese knotweed, Phragmites, and to some degree the aquatic variable-leaf milfoil. The budget, Brush and Weeds approximately $4000 is for that. The side walk work should be funded from a different source. In a brief discussion with Shelley Rayner, she suggested monies be added to the Brush and Weeds to cover the sidewalk work rather than having a separate budget line. This is something the Town Board needs to decide. Variable-leaf milfoil: I'll be meeting with a crew from the parks department on Thursday regarding the invasive milfoil. They are coming to do hand harvesting while the river is drawn down.

After this week, I plan on pausing the sidewalk work and focus more on the knotweed and phragmites since that work is more temperature sensitive.

**Planning Board Report:**

The Colton Planning Board met on 8/9/2022. We had two subdivision applications. One was for Michael Regan for property off Stowe Bay Road, which was approved with the condition that it be attached to the new owners existing property. The subdivision application for Harold Skiff on McKabe Road was denied as the new subdivision would not have met zoning requirements for lot size or road frontage. We have also received recommendations from the County Planning Board as to our proposed Solar Law. We will be incorporating those changes into the proposed law at our next meeting on September 20. We have also received a request from the town’s attorney to create a summary or index of the solar law to facilitate his review. We will do that as soon as we have made the changes that the county has recommended.

**Dog Warden Report:**

Nothing at this time.

**Library Report:**

Nothing at this time.

**Correspondence:**

Nothing at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

* Transfer Station Improvements – Jeff Tubolino stating waiting on the SEQR. Still on schedule.
* Dog Warden – new hire – the Town of Colton is still looking to fill this position.

**New Business:**

* Adopt a garden – since the Tourism and Beautification committee has dissolved, we are looking for volunteers to maintain a small garden or two around Colton and South Colton.
* Resolution for Income Limitations for Senior Citizens - #6-2022 – Public Hearing scheduled for 5:50pm. See Public Hearing minutes on this.
* Proclamation – for the 235 anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Motion #10

Ms. Fisher made the motion to accept the proclamation for the 235 Anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America, seconded by Mr. Poste.

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***Cont’ New Business -***

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

* RRPOC (Raquette River Property Owners Committee) and Brookfield Power – dock fees, insurance etc.
* Grant of Easement – 73 Lenny Road

Motion #11

Mr. Poste made the motion to grant the easement at 73 Lenny Rd, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Change of October Town Board meeting date to October 19th. Ronnie will be out of town.

Motion #12

Ms. Fisher made the motion to change the October 2022 Town Board meeting to October 19th at 6pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 3 Fisher, Poster, Robert

Noes 1 Beary

Motion carried

* Octoberfest – date?
* Court Clerk position opening – covered previously in this meeting.
* Unified Court System court grant. The Colton Town Court is requesting board approval to apply for a court grant to update some filing cabinets and a few other minor items.

Motion #13

Ms. Fisher made the motion of approval to apply for the Unified Court Grant, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Resolution # 8-2022

**WHEREAS;** The Town of Colton authorizes the Colton Town Court to apply for a JCAP

grant in the 2022-23 grant cycle up to $30,000.00.

**BE IT RESOLVED;** that the Honorable Ronald Robert 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 special meeting dated September 14, 2022 was duly put to vote and

carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Motion #14

With no further business to discuss Ms. Fisher made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:45pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole