**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

**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. Stephen Knight

 Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Mary Rutley, Andrea Malik, Grace Hawley, Jeff Tubolino, Mary Jane Watson, Ashley Clark, Jeff Rousel, Nancy Robert, Linda Shaver, Richard Hammill, Sara Sharlow, Amy Irish, Sandra Uecki, David Crosby, Kirk Snyder

Zoom attendees: Dennis Eickhoff, Peggy Shea, Cynthia Hennessy

Supervisor R. Robert led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6:04pm.

Motion #1

**Adopt the agenda for this meeting**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Knight to adopt the agenda for this meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Approve 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Poste to approve the minutes from the August 2023 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #3

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #09, 2023**

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

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

 General Fund…………………………………………………………………………$422,081.90

 Highway Fund…………………………………………………………………………..31,251.96

 Library Fund……………………………………………………………………………..1,603.99

 Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………………………..….850.24

 S. Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………………….……..794.91

Sewer Fund #1…………………………………………………………………………..37,346.88

 Water Fund #1…………………………………………………………………………….4,161.72

 TRANSFERS:

 To: A1355.4 Assess. Contr………………………………………………….………....….$750.00

 A1420.4 Attorney Contr……………………………………………….………..…$20,000.00

 A1910.4 Unallocated Ins……………………………………………….…….……..$1,500.00

 A4020.4 Registrar Vital Stats……………………………………………….…..….…..300.00

 A7450.2 Museum……………………………………………………..……..……..$18,000.00

 A8810.4 Cemerteries……………………………………………………….…………$750.00

 From:A599 Fund Balance…………………………………………………………..…….$23,000.00

 A9060.8 Health Ins……………………………………………………….………..$18,300.00

 To: DA5140.1 Brush and Weeds……………………………………………………….$7,400.00

 From: DA599 Fund Balance……………………………………………………….………$7,400.00

 To: L7410.435 Travel………………………………………………………………………$150.00

 From: L7410.736 Contracts…………………………………………………….……………..$150.00

. To: SS8110.2………………………………………………………………………………$7,503.00

 From: SS1990.4 Contingency……………………………………………………………….$3.445.00

 SS599 Fund balance………………………………………………………………….$4,058.00

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

*Linda Shaver* - lives on French Hill Rd. wanted to bring to the boards attention a serious safety issue on/near her property. Ms. Shaver gave to the board maps of her property showing gardens, driveways, her home, etc. Ms. Shaver is asking the Town Board to enforce the “NO ATV’s & UTV’s” just on French Hill Rd. She would like to see a sign up on each end of the French Hill Rd.

*Mary Rutley* – would like to thank Cynthia Hennessy for her diligence at the most recent ZBA meeting. This meeting lasted three hours and Mrs. Hennessy ran it very well. Mrs. Rutley also brought up her concern again over the trees that were cut down at Sunday Rock in South Colton. Mrs. Rutley also spoke of the transfer station improvements, Councilman Beary and the Towns Facebook page. Quoting Councilman Beary’s response to “Roberts August Report” and concerns of where the money is coming from to pay for the improvements at the transfer station.

**County Legislators Report:** Rick Perkins

At the September 11th Full Board Meeting:

We had a Moment of silence to reflect upon the anniversary of September 11th.

We had a Suicide awareness coalition presentation – co-chairs Lindsay Best and Anne Marie Snell.

We had 30 resolutions We had 7 modifications to the budget We had 9 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 9 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution proclaiming September as national suicide prevention month in St. Lawrence County.

We had a resolution authorization to fill a medical consultant position in the public health department.

 **1**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

*Cont’ Legislator rep.*

We had a resolution in opposition to the implementation of background checks for the acquisition of ammunition and to the imposition of fees for the performance of any background checks for the acquisition of firearms or ammunition as required under the concealed carry improvement act

We had a resolution Opposing the issuance of executive orders directing the placement of migrants in local communities over the objection of citizenry and the impacted county and commending the refusal of governor Hochul to issue an executive order directing placement of migrants in upstate communities.

We had a resolution adopting proposed local law a (no. \_) for the year 2023, “allowing 12 and 13 year old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season with the supervision of an adult licensed Hunter” and rescinding local law b for the year 2021.

We had a resolution proclaiming September 17-23, 2023, as Sheriff’s week in St. Lawrence County.

We had a resolution urging federal and state government representatives to advocate for increased funding levels for older adults in the federal and state budgets to allocate to local government allowing area agencies on aging to provide critical services to older adults so they may age safely in place

We had a resolution objecting to the inclusion of St. Lawrence County on the list of “sanctuary counties” related to immigration as maintained by the center for immigration services and directing action to seek delisting of the county from any such designation

We had a resolution in opposition to the placement of migrants in the town of Massena and authorizing the county attorney to render legal aid to those municipalities designated as potential placement locations by the department of homeland security and the city of New York.

We had a resolution proclaiming the week of September 17 – 23, 2023 as Constitution week.

We had a proclamation recognizing the 100th birthday of Mrs. Ethel Boyd Foote

We had a resolution discouraging implementation of restrictive covid protocols due to their adverse impacts on childhood education, public health, and the economy.

We had a resolution authorizing the transfer of property from St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES to St. Lawrence County at 2695 white hill road in the town of Hopkinton, County of St. Lawrence.

We had a resolution amending resolution no. 197-2013 extending the authorization of St. Lawrence County to Impose an additional one percent of sales and compensating use taxes.

**Engineer Report:** Jeff Tubolino

Mr. Tubolino spoke on the transfer station improvements. The wood framing is going up soon. He and CEO D. Richards are working on the grant for the transfer station. Mr. Tubolino and Mr. Richards are also working on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. They have the bid documents prepared. Mr. Tubolino is requesting the bid ad be placed in the town’s official paper by September 29th, 2023. Opening the sealed bids on October 16th, 2023.

 Motion #4

Ms. Fisher made a motion to advertise in the town’s official paper, North Country Now, requesting bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Tubolino has also been involved with the Solar Law adoption. Mr. Tubolino stated that the County has reviewed the local law the town has proposed as well as the town attorney E. Gustafson. There is a three step SEQR process. The first step of that process is to declare the lead agency. Mr. Tubolino proposed a resolution to declare the Town of Colton as the lead agency for the Town of Colton Solar Law.

# Resolution # 11-2023

# Resolution to Declare Lead Agency Status

At a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County, New York, held at 94 Main Street, Colton, New York, on September 20th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Robert and upon roll being called, the following were:

# PRESENT: Ronald Robert, Supervisor

Kevin Beary, Councilmember

Stephen Knight, Councilmember

Lisa Fisher, Councilmember

Jacob Poste, Councilmember

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Colton is creating a new Solar Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is proposing the Town of Colton is creating a new Solar Law; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Colton is proposing a Type 1 SEQR; and,

Where evaluating all proposed actions submitted for the proposed construction of the Town of Colton Transfer Station Improvements and consider any impacts it may have on the environment in light of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder (SEQR); and

**WHEREAS**, the involved agencies for the Project include the United Stated Department of Agriculture Rural Development; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; St. Lawrence County Planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Colton desires to serve and act as the lead agency for the purposes of SEQR; and

**WHEREAS**, to aid the Council of the Town of Colton in determining whether the Action may have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Long Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) dated August 10, 2022 has been prepared by the Town’s engineer and a copy of which has been filed with the Town Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Colton that:

The Council of the Town of Colton makes the following findings and determinations with respect to the proposed project:

1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth hereafter.
2. The Project is classified as an unlisted action for the purposes of SEQR.
3. Part 1 of the EAF as prepared by the Town Engineer is accepted as presented. The Council hereby declares lead

 **2**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

*Cont’ resolution 11-2023*

agency status for the purposes of the SEQR review for the Project.

1. The Town’s Engineer is hereby directed to forward Part 1 of the EAF to the other involved agencies together with notice that this Council desires to serve as lead agency and seek the consent thereto.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

 Motion #5

Ms. Fisher made a motion to approve and sign the resolution making the Town of Colton the lead agency on the Town of Colton Solar Law, seconded by Mr. Poste.

 Ayes 4

Noes 1 - Beary

Motion carried

Mr. Tubolino proposed the engineering services for the Town of Colton Solar Law.

 Motion #6

Mr. Knight made a motion to accept Blue Line Engineering as the engineering services for the Town of Colton Solar Law, seconded by Mr. Poste.

 Ayes 4

Noes 1 - Beary

Motion carried

Councilman Beary had questions on the Solar Law. Mr. Beary felt that the language in some areas needed to be changed. Section 1 of the proposed solar law used the word promote. Mr. Beary feels that using the word promote, which means actively encourage should be taken out and, in its place, use the word allow or regulated. The law should be revised.

 Motion #7

Ms. Fisher made a motion to change the language in the Town of Colton Solar Law from promote to allow, seconded by Mr. Poste.

 Ayes 4

Noes 1 - Beary

Motion carried

**Dog Warden Report:** Mike Gilbo

Nothing at this time.

**Bookkeeper/Assessor Report:** Shelley Rayner

Bookkeeper

* Interest earned last month $17,823.90
* Presentation of Tentative Budget prior to October 5th deadline.
* Budget workshops need to be scheduled.

Tentative Budget Highlights

* General Fund Budget does not include ongoing Transfer station Improvements.
* All budgets do not reflect potential wage increases from the new Union contract.
* Per Library budget, the library board is anticipating the town is paying 80% of a “Back Wall” $43,013. This has not been put into the budget.
* General & Highway Funds do not reflect any Tax Increase.

Assessor

* 2023 vs 2022 Town Assessment Totals
* I passed the 4th exam in July for certification 2 more to go.

Mrs. Rayner also wanted to add, to clear up the ongoing confusion/misconception being spoke of around town. Any large projects that the town has undertaken have all been paid for out of the general fund line. This is the line that has typically anywhere from 1.5million to 3million in it. Taxes have not increased in over 6 years. Taxes are not increasing due to the transfer station improvements. **Transfer Station Improvements are being paid for out of the General Fund.** This is a fund that is increasing not decreasing due to investments. In 2022 the general fund started at 3.84million. In 2023 the general fund started at 3.87million.

**BTI Report:** Andrea Malik

SIDEWALK

* Sidewalk work on Main Street is finished. I used 35 bags of polymeric sand. I redid most of the sidewalk because the sand I used last year was poor quality and did not harden as it should have. This year I got the sand from Willow Tree and it worked great.

INVASIVE SPECIES

* 5 people from the Parks Dept came down to pull invasive milfoil during the draw down sept 14-17. I worked on it for 3 days using my paddleboard and rowing canoe. I think using a diver assisted suction harvester would be the best method.
* There is a grant through DEC for invasive species due by Nov 1. I am not a grant writer but would be happy to work with someone on this.
* I have started treatments for knotweed and Phragmites BTI.
* Requesting a motion be made regarding the new Bti crew wages I had proposed: 1st year $20/hr, 2nd year $21.50/hr, 3rd year $22.00/hr, 4th and on +\_\_\_ %

Motion #8

Ms. Fisher made the motion to increase the BTI crew starting wage to $20.00 per hour, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 5

 **3**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

*Cont’ motion #8*

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Request that the Bti crew get paid holidays Memorial Day and 4 th of July.
* I would like to discuss the hiring process for Bti crew: 30hr course (not paid to take) in December or January, DEC exams Watertown, Utica, Ray Brook (on own time and mileage, Town pays the $100 exam fee, physical, D/A test, then get on payroll. Crew is paid the course fee, $380 at the end of the season if they worked the entire season along with gear &amp; cell phone reimbursement. Should this be changed? Get on payroll first? I just had a conversation with the Town Supervisor and bookkeeper regarding this: prospective crew get paid as a contractor $20/hr for 30hr course, $600; $50 for time taking exams and mileage to and from exam location. $650 plus mileage. They would not get $380 course fee at the end of the season since they don’t actually pay for the course. (the course fee reimbursement was a work around for the fact that they couldn’t turn hours and be paid for taking the course because they aren’t on payroll yet)
* I have often spoken about the difficulty in getting and keeping crew. As of right now, it looks like no one will be returning. We often drop each other off so we only have to walk in one direction. Would the town consider buying an E bike(rough cost $2100) and a ramp for the truck, or reimburse me a % of it?
* There is a 3day Black Fly Conference in February 2024 in PA I would like to attend. Rough cost $100 for conference, $150/ night hotel, mileage &amp; meals

Motion #9

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve BTI Director Andrea Malik to attend a three day black fly conference in Pennsylvania, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement/DPW Report:** Darren Richards

Transfer Station

Construction is going well. We are still on target budget-wise and below actually. The brush grinding went well and our landing zone looks very clean for the next two years of service. Framing will commence mid October as Whitton schedule allows.

Water/Sewer

The new sweeper arms are working great and our product leaving the wwtp is better than ever. Much thanks to Koester associates, Blue Line Eng., Rivers Septic and NRC. In addition, our DPW crew worked above and beyond throughout the night to get our plant working right. This repair and upgrade will be all reimbursable once we get returned checks to bill the grant. We also are asking the Board to approve a concrete skirting to be done in the inside of the wwtp building. It will provide a safer and more sanitary work environment as well. This is part of our continuing upgrade program to keep our plant from being replaced any time soon. Attached is the bid advertisement.

Building and Grounds

The tower building at Swift field is complete with a punch list of things to be done, but ready to be occupied. Grounds continue to look good throughout the town.

Safety

We are gearing up for fire extinguisher inspections, and fire panel inspections in the month of October. We have scheduled those already. Town Supervisor is preparing more pedestrian sidewalk repair for pedestrian safety. A few minor incidents which involved the safety officer to be on scene, but no one was hurt and vehicles were not towed from the scene. No drug and alcohol testing were necessary. We are under budget for our safety spending this year. More medical supplies are needed for our med kits.

Peggy and Rick Shea, residents of Snell Rd. in South Colton expressed the need for crosswalk at the Snell Rd. and Cold Brook Dr. intersection. A crosswalk would help to slow the traffic coming into South Colton. Many children are riding their bikes or walking to get to Swift Field or to the store.

Code Enforcement Office

79 permits for the new year. We have had two subdivisions pending for September and one subdivision passed this month. The other went to the ZBA for an area variance on 9/19. Solar Law is being completed and going out for SEQR review, and Public Notice in October. We would also like to ask the board to pass a climate Smart Community resolution.

Resolution #10-2023

September 20, 2023

Supervisor Ronald Robert proposes the following:

**Whereas,** the Town of Colton recognizes the advantages of cooperating as well as collaborating with the County and State offices and agencies to improve services to the citizens of Colton, ease the increased costs of energy used throughout the Town facilities, and improve the quality of life for our workers and residents, and

**Whereas,** participation as a climate smart community will allow the Town to access those services that are available, and

**Whereas,** it is understood that the participation as a climate smart community has the potential of new grants opportunities for the Town, and

**Whereas,** participation as a Climate Smart Community is voluntary and can be pursued, postponed, or discontinued at any time at the discretion of the Town Board.

**Be it resolved that**, the Town of Colton, County of St. Lawrence, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

1. Build a climate-smart community.
2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
3. Decrease energy use.

**4**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

*Cont’ resolution #10-2023*

1. Shift to clean, renewable energy.
2. Use climate-smart materials management.
3. Implement climate-smart land use.
4. Enhance community resilience to climate change.
5. Support a green innovation economy.
6. Inform and inspire the public.
7. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

**Be it further resolved that**; the Code Enforcement Officer be named as the Climate Smart Coordinator and the Planning Board be named as the Steering Committee for the Climate Smart Community program for the Town of Colton.

 Motion #10

 Ms. Fisher made a motion to approve the Climate Smart Resolution, seconded by Mr. Knight.

 Ayes 4

Noes 1 - Beary

Motion carried

**Highway Report:** Kevin Hawley

* Since the last meeting we have been doing general maintenance on our roads. We have repaired washout on several roads. We did some major drainage work on Scovil Rd installing 4 new cross pipes and lots of ditching. This road has always been susceptible to washing out during major rain events. This work should minimize the effects in the future.
* We also have cut some dangerous trees along the roads.
* All the material for our bridge project will be here this week with the exception of the bridge itself. The actual bridge will be delivered and put in place on Tuesday the 26th. I'm planning to close the bridge at 8 a.m. Monday the 25th and remove the deck panels which will lighten the bridge by 10 tons making it easily liftable by the crane on Tuesday

morning. If all goes well local traffic will be able to pass Wednesday, the 27th by the end of the day. I have contacted the one full-time resident affected and they are totally understanding and supportive. I've also contacted affected landowners and hunting clubs. We also erected signs last week advertising the upcoming bridge closure.

* We had a dump box cylinder breakdown. To fix this I will need board approval as it is over my spending limit. The estimate is approximately $3,000.00.

Motion #11

Ms. Fisher made a motion to have the dump box cylinder fixed asap, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Questions on the sidewalk project. Bids? Only two thus far. One from Fisher Builders, the other from Bonno Builders. Quotes are needed. LaBaff refused.

**Library Report:** Dennis Eickhoff

Nothing at this time.

**Planning Board Report:** Kirke Perry

The Planning Board met on September 12, 2023.

We had 2 subdivisions, one for Sunset View Lane, the other for Stowe Bay Lane Extension. The Sunset View Lane subdivision was passed with the condition that any subdivided portion that was less than an acre be attached to the property that it was being conveyed to. The Stowe Bay Lane subdivision was denied because it did not meet the zones criteria (it was being divided into parcels less than an acre). It is now going to the Zoning Board of Appeals to be considered for a variance. We talked about the proposed solar law and that the town’s attorney wanted us to look at Canton’s Solar law, especially the sections about fees and PILOT agreements. We had looked at them and incorporated those into our proposed law. Copies were sent to the town attorney and to the Town clerk to distribute to the board. Blue Line Engineering has since sent us some more changes, adding more vegetative screening and an anti-glare section. Members of the board met with Karen Bage and Eric Backus and his Clarkson team to discuss progress on the Comprehensive plan. They are still developing a way to get feedback from residents about what changes they want made.

**Town Clerk Report:** Jennifer Cole

* Permission to have Supervisor Robert sign the 2024 Potsdam Humane Society contract in the amount of $3,893.00.

Motion #12

Mr. Knight made the motion to have Supervisor Robert sign the contract with the Town of Colton and the Potsdam Humane Society for 2024, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Donna would like to step away from the deputy clerk position and Laurie will be retiring soon. I would like to hire someone before December so I have time to train them. I would like the board to consider $19 per hour for a new deputy clerk. Primarily I will need someone during tax season.

Motion #13

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow Town Clerk Jennifer Cole to hire a new deputy clerk at $19.00 per hour, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

* SUNY Potsdam is holding the local government conference on Tuesday Oct 10. The conference will be covering

**5**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

*Cont’ town clerk report*

* assessing/assessors, board member/budget & finance, town clerk info, highway superintendents’ info, planning and zoning, and public works. Please let me know if you would like to attend so I can make arrangements. Registration fee is $35.00 per employee. Registration due date is Oct 3rd, 2023. This is my final reminder. I will be making arrangements with SUNY Potsdam on September 28th.
* The Colton town court would like the board permission to apply for the 2024 JCAP grant of up to $30,000.00.

Motion #14

Mr. Poste made the motion to allow the Colton Town Court to apply for the JCAP grant of up to $30,000.00, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Correspondence:**

Mrs. Cynthia Hennessy is requesting that the Pleasant Street Park be named after her husband, Timothy Hennessy.

 Motion #15

 Mr. Knight made the motion to name Pleasant Street Park after Mr. Timothy Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Unfinished Business:**

* Brackets for banners on the light poles in Colton and South Colton.

Motion #16

Mr. Poste made a motion for the town to purchase brackets to hold banners for CPCS seniors and local Veterans in Colton and South Colton, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**New Business:**

* Public budget meeting scheduled for October 11th, 2023 at 2pm.
* Resolution #08-2023 Even Year Elections

**RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO VETO A.04282B/S.3505B**

**#8-2023**

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Colton believes that increasing participation in the election process and reducing costs of government operations is good for our republic, and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2023 legislative session, Assembly Member Amy Paulin and State Senator James Skoufis reintroduced this legislation, which would move local elections to even-numbered years, and

**WHEREAS,** versions of this legislation were introduced in previous years and failed to reach the floor for a vote due to lack of support, and

**WHEREAS,** after the 2022 session concluded, the bill sponsor indicated that hearings would be held on the proposal through the Election Committee process, and

**WHEREAS,** no such hearings were held, and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed legislation circumvented the legislative committee process during the legislative session, limiting public input and understanding of the impacts, and

**WHEREAS,** there has been no financial analysis or operational analysis of the impacts on local Boards of Elections, and

**WHEREAS,** this legislation passed in the middle of the night on the last days of the legislative session, which is counter to the idea of an open and transparent government, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Colton has many concerns with this bill, especially its diminishment of adequate attention to local issues and local voices, and

**WHEREAS,** by forcing local elections to compete against national and state-level campaigns, this legislation will decrease voters’ attention to important local issues and deprive local candidates of appropriate platforms to explain their stance on issues, and

**WHEREAS,** moving local elections to even-numbered years would increase the cost of campaigns for local office due to advertising prices being driven up by demand from national and state level campaigns, thereby reducing the ability of local campaigns to get their messages out, and

**WHEREAS,** this legislation excludes elections to offices in New York City and all other cities and villages in New York State, as well as certain offices within all counties and towns, thereby negating any possible savings to local Boards of Election, and

**WHEREAS,** this legislation usurps Home Rule powers reserved by local governments and protected by the Constitution of the State of New York, raising questions of legality and constitutional authority, and

**WHEREAS,** local municipalities have had the ability to change their elections to even-numbered years for decades, and have chosen not to do so, and

**WHEREAS,** establishing the schedule of local elections is the right of the local government, supported by more than a

century of precedent, and

**WHEREAS,** the Assembly Bill sponsor indicated that she had not received any messages of support for this proposal from any of the 57 Counties and 933 Towns across New York State impacted by this legislation, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town of Colton calls on Governor Hochul to strongly oppose this legislation and utilize her veto authority to reject this proposal, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the town clerk for the Town of Colton be, and hereby is, directed to forward certified copies

 **6**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, September 20, 2023**

*Cont’ resolution 8-2023*

of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Minority Leader Robert Ortt, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Assembly Bill Sponsor Amy Paulin, Senate Bill Sponsor James Skoufis, Senator Daniel Stec, Senator Mark Walczak, Assemblyman Scott Gray,

Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, as well as to any others deemed necessary and appropriate.

Motion #17

Ms. Fisher made a motion to adopt resolution #8-2023 requesting Governor Hochul to veto bill #A.04282B/S.3505B on even year elections, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Abstain 1 - Knight

Motion carried

* Resolution #9-2023 Voter ID

**RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO DRAFT AND ENACT LEGISLATION REGARDING A VOTER’S IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

**#9-2023**

**WHEREAS,** this country was formed on the principles of democracy and our forefathers fought for our rights to elect our representation; and

**WHEREAS,** the majority of the states in the U.S. require a voter’s identification to increase the public’s confidence and ensure a fair election process; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Elections may not get notification of a voter registering in another location or of a death of a registered voter; and

**WHEREAS,** in an economy where the Board of Elections may not have sufficient funding or staffing to purge voters rolls of individuals who no longer live in each election district or county, as required; and

**WHEREAS,** in a day and age where the ability to work does not necessarily need to be where you live, this allows for more individuals to be transient in nature and the addition of voter’s identification will assist in keeping all voter rolls current; and

**WHEREAS,** in the State of New York the requirement is to compare the signature on file, this doesn’t necessarily help maintain current voter registration, as name and address changes are not necessarily communicated in the current process, also this would assist in the purging of the roles of individuals who are no longer active voters in that county; and

**WHEREAS,** the subject of the resolution is not an action as defined by 6 N.Y.C.R.R. §617.2 (b), and therefore no further SEQRA review is required.

**NOW, THEREFORE THE TOWN OF COLTON HEREBY REQUESTS** the New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul to draft and enact legislation to allow for a voter’s identification process to assist with maintaining voter’s registration rolls; and

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the town clerk of the Town of Colton is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Hochul, all representatives in government, leaders of both houses and all local government.

Motion #18

Ms. Fisher made a motion to accept resolution #9-2023 supporting Voter ID, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Abstain 1 - Knight

Motion carried

**Executive session:**

Motion #19

Ms. Fisher made a motion to move into executive session at 8:24pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #20

Ms. Fisher made a motion to return to the regular meeting at 8:41pm, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Adjournment:**

Motion #21

With no further business to discuss Mr. Knight made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 8:43pm, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

 Ayes 5

 Noes 0

 Motion carried

Meeting minutes get approved at the following/next months town board meeting.

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

 **7**