Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, September 11, 2019

**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. Katheryn Hayes

 Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt. Lisa Fisher-Davis

 Donna Buckley, Clerk Ronald Robert

Others present: Tina Miller, Penny Cayey, Ruth McWilliams, Mary Jane Watson, Rick Perkins, Brody Erwin,

Kirke Perry, Danny Collins, Don Shoen, David Seymour, Kirk Robideau, Ed Boyce and Brenda

Boyce

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m. as advertised.

Mr. Cayey asked the Board if they reviewed the last meeting minutes, bills and transfers, if so asked for a motion to accept. Mr. Cayey read aloud the transfers.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve the August 14 minutes.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 9, TRANSFER, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the bills on Warrant # 9 with the transfers, bank statement and reconciliation.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 178,898.46

Highway Fund $ 75,105.22

Hepburn Library Fund $ 19,422.75

Colton Light District $ 726.65

South Colton Light District $ 683.94

Sewer District #1 $ 1,205.38

Water District #1 $ 5,202.63

The following account is over budget as of August 30 2019.

**General Fund:**

A1355.11 Assessor, P.S. $ 1580.00

A1620.11 Summer Temp. P.S. 1700.00

A1620.2 Bldgs. Equip. 3600.00 (7600)

**Recommendation for transfer**:

A1620.4 Bldgs. Contr. $ 4000.00

A1990.4 Contingency 6880.00

**Sewer Fund:**

SS8110.2 Sewer, Equip. $5236.38

**Recommended for transfer:**

SS8110.4 Sewer, Contr. $5300.00

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Perkins reported they had a full Board meeting in which they had

27 resolutions. Four budget modifications, five vacancies were filled, signed seven agreements/contracts along with two grant resolutions. They Proclaimed September 17 – 23 Constitution week. There were resolutions passed to file a claim with Navistar Maxxforce Engine, settlement of a court action case and to appoint Randi Merrill as SLC Historian. The SLC Legislator’s created a temporary position for Planning Director, issued a negative declaration related to a new Emergency Communication Tower to be constructed. A date was set for a Public Hearing on proposed local law for the Sanitary Code of St. Lawrence County Public Health Department.

Mr. Perkins stated they will be continuing the vacancy review process and the Property Tax Auction is this Saturday in Ogdensburg.

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**ANIMAL CONTROL** Mr. McConkey reported the animal cruelty case in Colton has resulted in the arrest with felony charges against the person who had broken his dogs jaw. Three non-stop barking complaints were made along with three to check on animal welfare. Mr. McConkey answered 15 dog at large calls and has been working on license compliance.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT**

* As mentioned at the last meeting the State is still having issues with the income verification and Enhanced STAR. After sending documentation 3 times for a few of our seniors, I know of at least one who is still struggling.
* As you all know, tax bills have been mailed. This is a very busy time. Often when people get their taxes they call to see what I can do about them. Just a reminder, I do not generate nor do I send out the tax bills. I place value on property.
* Bob Ball has begun working with me in the assessor’s office. I will be directing questions regarding assessment to Bob as he will be the person who places value for the next roll year. Bob has already been out on the road familiarizing himself with the town. He will be working on sales verification and permit review. Bob drives a black pickup truck.
* Starting in October the office will be open on Wednesdays. Bob will set the hours and post a note on the door and answering machine. It is important for people to leave a name, number and a message in order for Bob to return calls. Also, it is important to speak clearly as I had a couple of calls recently that I was unable to understand a few telephone numbers and my call log stated private for one and the other stated wireless caller. No available number.
* I am saddened to say this will be my last board meeting as the Assessor for the Town of Colton. I hope that the people of Colton will welcome Bob and show him the courtesy that most have shown me over the years.

**BTI/INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL**

* I’m focusing on recovering from my knee surgery, September 4th, doing PT at home and in Potsdam with a therapist.
* The draw down in Higley reservoir is this week, September 12-15. Joanne Hudson and I are coordinating volunteers to help with hand pulling of the variable-leaf milfoil.
* I have my first follow-up appointment with my surgeon on September 18th. I am hopeful to get clearance at that time to work in the field on knotweed since very little walking is involved.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

80 permits this year so far. One property maintenance ticket was issued and the case was deleted by the judge. Planning Board is presenting the Town Board on a Wind Law that is finally ready for review by Town Board. DEC is providing some auditing for FEMA on Flood Plain Cases in the Town of Colton. There is some work that needs to be done administratively on past cases, 41 to be exact. We have seen issues in the public eye regarding cemeteries and home burials. Currently this is not addressed in our Town Code Book. Would the Board direct the Planning Board to investigate it and add it to our code?

Motion # 3

**DIRECT PLANNING BOARD INVESTIGATE CEMETERY LAWS**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to direct the Planning Board to investigate cemetery law regarding all cemetery options and add it to Town of Colton Code Book.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**DPW REPORT**

*Transfer Station* The DPW is starting the design phase of the building at the transfer station. We started discussing the layout and placement with the Town Engineer. We still have a retaining wall that needs a temporary repair this fall before replacement during upgrade.

*Water and Sewer* New pumps are in for the left stations. Whey will be a relief to some pumps that are 12 to 14 years old and past their lifespan by several years. Our last sludge haul to Casella’s is next Monday and we do not have a plan in place for further disposal. Casella was working on a Canton haul solution since they still land inject.

*Building and Grounds* Community Center front door, front door trim and backside foundation siding is left for punch list for 9 Sugarbush Lane. The door is coming in sometime this week. Remaining foundation siding was dropped yesterday. The lift is being moved across the road to help with the 20-foot backstop fence for additional pedestrian safety and further fencing at Swift. Siding at the Highway has been stopped for the last two weeks. Sands should be finishing up soon. They are still on track or ahead of schedule. Library well roof should be started soon as well as the re-siding for handicap ramp building portion of the building by Fisher Builders.

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**SAFETY REPORT**

New chaps and helmet with ear protection and chip guards were purchased for the highway department, new safety shirts purchased and delivered to new highway personal. Site Specific Training was done for highway personal for Fish and Game Club pit so they can open up pit to put up sand. Fall protection gear is being purchased for DPW. New harness and for fall lanyard has been purchased, a shorter double lanyard is being investigated for the Sewer plant. We had to red tag a man lift cage from a sub-contractor which did not meet OSHA standards. MSHA visited the pit today 9-10-19. I fielded the questions from MSHA for Highway Department.

**HIGHWAY REPORT**

1. Since the last board meeting, we have been working on the Racquette River Road. This 2-mile section is now ready for Suit Cote, who has indicated that they will be here on or before the 18th.
2. We also finished our roadside mowing.
3. We also had a problem with the large double culvert on Riehl Road. The beaver plugged the pipes, and as the water level raised, the end of the culverts literally floated up out of soil about 10 feet. These culverts are very deep so we were unable to reach this with our excavator. I rented a long stick from Sheehan Equipment and this week we fixed the problem. With the long reach we were able to reach down. After the pipes were back in place we added several loads of large boulders over the top of the pipes, this will hold them in place.
4. We had two issues with our trucks one of which was an alignment issue that was covered under warranty. The other one was an emissions issue. Both trucks are fixed and back in service.
5. Our screening plant will be coming back at the end of this week. Over the next few weeks we need about 4 days to finish screening our winter road sand, then we will haul it to the garage as soon as the salt pile at the port is uncovered.

**TOURISM/BEAUTIFICATION REPORT**

The conclusion of many summer activities means planning for autumn and winter is underway.

**Stone Valley Information Center**: Staffing of the information center for the season ended on Labor Day during the final whitewater release of the summer by Brookfield Renewable at Stone Valley. We sincerely thank all those who made it possible for the Museum to be open on a regular basis during the summer including the Colton-Pierrepont Senior Racqueteers who worked under an agreement with the town and three Colton-Pierrepont Central School (CPCS) students who applied for jobs and were hired by the town. During the off-season people can make appointments to visit the Museum by calling Cyndy Hennessy, President of the Colton Historical Society (315-262-2524).

**Barn Quilts / Barn Quilt Tourism Project:** The committee continues to partner with Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY) and other organizations on the grant-supported 2019 Barn Quilt Tourism Project focusing on St. Lawrence County. During the summer the committee offered a series of barn quilt painting classes taught by Ruth McWilliams at The TAUNY Center in Canton, organized and led the creation of the new ‘Towns of St. Lawrence County Barn Quilt’ mural, hosted one of four community barn quilt parties held around the county, and participated as a vendor in the Massena party. Upcoming project activities include:

* Pilot bus tour for French and English speaking people on September 14 being organized by TAUNY and the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce;
* Reception at The TAUNY Center to officially unveil the barn quilt mural and thank all those involved including the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Town Historians, and painters; and
* Release of an online map of barn quilts in St. Lawrence County being developed by the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.

This work and more underway is in lead up to a major exhibit about barn quilts at The TAUNY Center in 2020. With completion of the barn quilt mural the committee will transition back to using the CPCS Art Room as the home base for classes and painting sessions during the school year.

**Remembrance Trees:** Planning has begun for the popular Remembrance Trees Project, now in its sixth year with Dave Crosby as project coordinator. As in the past we expect to acquire the trees from Adirondack Growers in time for sponsors to decorate them shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday before a reception is hosted by the Colton Historical Society in early December. This year the committee is seeking a partnering organization to learn about, assist with, and benefit from the project. We anticipate announcing the project details including the order form by the end of September. Organizations interested in helping with the project should contact Ruth McWilliams (315-262-2450; ruth@catamountlodge.com).

The committee’s next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Monday, October 7. The agenda will focus on autumn and winter activities. Since this is Ruth McWilliams tenth and final year chairing the committee, anyone wishing to serve the town in this way should send a letter of interest to Town Supervisor George Cayey at 94 Main Street, Colton, NY 13625.

Mary Jane Watson showed a copy of North Country This Week, which has an article ” Top 10 Places to Visit in St. Lawrence County” and the Colton Museum is listed!

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**LIBRARY REPORT** Mr. Cayey reported on their behalf stating he received the paperwork for the Library Grant and we can start billing to be reimbursed. S & L Electric will do the LED lighting next month.

Mr. Cayey said by next April all Town buildings and streetlights will be converted to LED lighting and Mike Crosley is making the Town of Colton lettering to go on the Highway Garage. He added, if you haven’t seen the JR Watson Community Center then take a ride to see it, it looks great.

**PLANNING/ZONING REPORT** Kirke Perry reported the Planning Board sent a request to the Zoning Board for review and they are ready to provide a Local Wind Law to the Town Board. Mr. Cayey stated that when he gets it, he will forward it to the Town Attorney and Town Engineer for review.

**TOWN CLER’S REPORT**

* Attached for the Board Members is a copy of the computer generated monthly report. Hunting license sales have consistently dropped over the years, mostly due to online sales and the fact DEC sells thousands at the NYS Fair.
* We received a packet of information from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Among other things,

 it contains U.S. Constitution Facts and Amendment Summaries, a poster for Constitution Week

and a Proclamation. They are requesting we adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 – 23 as Constitution Week.

* APPOINTMENTS – Floyd Supernault, ZBA Member, term expires September 30. It’s a 5-year term.

 Peggy Mousaw, BAR Member, term expires September 30. Also a 5-year term.

* I am asking permission to attend the quarterly district meeting in Saranac Lake September 22 -23.
* We received an email today naming the week of September 9 – 13 *Lifeline Awareness Week.* The FCC offers a program designed to make telephone lifeline service more affordable. Information can be obtained at www.townofcolton.com and there is a button on the front page.
* Health Initiative’s fall meeting is Thursday October 10 and I would like to attend. I’m hoping to learn things about what they offer for our community.
* Local Gov’t. Day is Tuesday October 15. Let me know if you plan on attending so I can preregister you.

Motion # 4

**PROCLAIM CONSTITUTION WEEK**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to Proclaim the week of September 17 to 23 to be Constitution Week, and authorize Supervisor Cayey to sign the Proclamation.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 5

**REAPPOINT MR. SUPERNAULT TO ZBA**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to reappoint Floyd Supernault to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) with the five year term expiring September 30, 2024.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 6

**REAPPOINT PEGGY MOUSAW TO BAR**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to reappoint Peggy Mousaw to the Board of Assessment Review with the five year term expiring September 30, 2024

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 1 Robert

Motion carried

Motion # 7

**AUTHORIZE CLERK TO ATTEND DISTRICT MEETING**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize Town Clerk Donna Buckley to attend the District meeting in Saranac Lake September 22 & 23.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 8

**AUTHORIZE CLERK TO ATTEND MEETING**

Motion made by Mrs. Robert, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize the Town Clerk to attend the Health Initiative Meeting Thursday October 10.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

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Motion # 9

**ADOPT LOCAL LAW # 1 – 2019 DOG CONTROL LAW**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to adopt Local Law # 1 – 2019, Dog Control Law

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS Investment – Made $5, 060 in August, $43,960 ytd
2. Town Barn Roof and Siding – Roof is done, new windows installed and siding is completed.
3. Library Grant paperwork is completed. Town can now bill for changes under the grant.
4. Sidewalk priority list completed. Waiting on contractors to provide quotes. Mr. Cayey explained we want to do a five-year contract to get the sidewalks done. We would do the removal and contractor do the rest. Mr. Hawley added timing is everything.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce new Assessor, Robert Ball (if here). Next month.
2. SLIC – wants to put a concrete pad with a building on it to store equipment while they are working in the area. They requested it be by the Highway Garage. We have to see where they want it before making a decision.
3. Local Law 1 – 2019 will be sent to NYS for filing.
4. CP Raqueteers – requesting to be paid the full amount of $1500. Mr. Cayey read aloud the letter received from the Raqueteers. After a discussion, the Board agreed to pay for the hours actually worked for a total of $1260.
5. Museum Siding – Mr. Cayey reported he checked with the NYS Historic Preservation Office about the siding. They said the siding can be changed as long as it keeps in line with the same color, but can not change the finials.
6. Mr. Cayey read aloud the letter from Spectrum with the increased rate changes coming.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

1. David Seymour, Colton resident and past Town Board Member, said he knows it’s budget time and asked that nothing be cut from Bti or the Transfer Station.
2. Donald Shoen, South Colton resident and past Town Board Member, commented on the ATV traffic on Cold Brook Drive since the trail has opened. He said there wasn’t one irresponsible person going by his place. He added he went by Boyce’s Store and the parking lot was full. Isn’t that what we want, business coming into town and spending money?

Almost forgotten was to accept a resignation from Ms. Miller.

Motion # 10

**ACCEPT MS. MILLER’S RESIGNATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to accept with gratitude Tina Miller’s resignation as Town of Colton Assessor effective September 31, 2019.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 11

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:15 p.m.

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 Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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