**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, January 11, 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. Randi-Lee Cook-Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Jeff Tubolino, Rick Perkins, Grace Hawley, Shelley Rayner, Nancy Robert, Kirke Perry, Ed Fuhr

Zoom attendees: Peggy Shea, Michael Hayes, Dennis Eickhoff, Mary Jane Watson, Cynthia Hennessy, Nancy Shea

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

Motion #1

**Approve the agenda for this meeting**

Ms. Fisher made the motion to accept and approve the agenda for this meeting, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Approve December 2022 Town Board Minutes**

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

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #3

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant # 1, 2023**

Motion made by Mrs. Planty, seconded by Mr. Poste to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #1, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund……………………………………………………..$196,225.42

Highway Fund……………………………………………………....73,862.32

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

Sewer Fund #1……………………………………………………....12,942.90

Water Fund #1………………………………………………………..2,047.73

Colton Light Dist……………………………………………………….907.93

S. Colton Light Dist…………………………………………………….848.09

Transfers

To: Highway Fund DA5142.1……………………………………$281.42

From: Road Maint. Sal DA5110.1………………………………...281.42

To: Sewer Fund SS8110.4………………………………………….15.75

From: Sewer Equip SS8110.2………………………………………15.75

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

Ed Fuhr shared a letter of intent with the Board. The letter stated that if a Town Board member were to step down, he would be available to fill their position if necessary. A copy of Mr. Fuhr’s letter is on file at the Town Hall.

**County Legislators Report:**

We had 35 resolutions.

We had 10 modifications to the budget.

We had 9 Agreements/Contracts to be signed.

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

We had 2 Grant resolutions.

We Elected Dave Forsythe for the Chairman of the Board and myself as Vice Chairman.

We had a resolution requesting the NYS environmental facilities Corp include all bodies of water in the septic system

replacement program for St Law County.

We had a resolution correcting and refunding erroneous taxes.

We had a resolution adopting the use of county – owned machinery.

We had a resolution for bank depositories and investment of county funds.

We had a resolution authorizing petty cash accounts and departmental cash drawers.

We had a resolution opposing any alterations to NYS law that would change the mission and function of Soil and Water

districts without input from the County board of legislators and supervisors, NYS farm bureau, NYS dept of Agriculture

and markets, and the four -way partnership of the Soil and Water district system that include natural resources,

conservation services, NY association of conservation districts, the State committee, and the employee associations.

We had a Proclamation the month of January as national slavery and human trafficking prevention month.

We had resolutions reappointing Steve Button as County Attorney and James McGann as the Public Defender.

We had a resolution Authorizing a Blanket Bond in lieu of individual sureties for county officials and employees.

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**Town Engineer:**

Town Engineer Jeff Tubolino stated that the architecture and structure for the Transfer station are making headway. Darren and Mr. Tubolino will be bringing the NYSDEC up to speed on the project. ARPA grant funds in the amount of $400,000.00 were awarded for the transfer station. That money needs to be exhausted by 2026.

**Highway Report:**

* Since the last board meeting we have been focused on snow and ice. We have had 3 events with heavy snow and wind causing numerous trees blocking all of our roads at one point or another. The crew did a great job keeping everything open during these events.
* The new village truck has been built and is at Viking in Harrisville awaiting installation of the plow equipment. I do not have a time frame yet on when that will take place but I would expect delivery in the next few weeks.
* CHIPs check came in the last week of December in the amount of $269,140.19. This is a record amount.

**Code Enforcement Report:**

Transfer Station

I will defer to Blueline Engineering on the schedule of timeline for the Transfer Station Construction. The schedule will be moving fast pretty soon as for as document approvals for the bidding process.

Water/Sewer

This was written in our report in September:

“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%?”

Because of this and Ronnie’s permission to allow me to travel to Watertown for a couple of writing sessions, Jeff Tubolino and myself co-authored a grant application for a waste-water treatment plant upgrade that was just awarded. We were funded 400,000.00 for this upgrade. I’d like to thank Ronnie, the Town Board and especially Jeff Tubolino for making this grant possible for our Hamlet of Colton to ensure a successful waste-water treatment program out into the Racquette river. Water district doing well. No issues this winter so far.

Building and Grounds

Rink liner is in, filled and getting frozen. We are ready to open the rink when mother nature cooperates. Everything else is running smoothly and little issues with our building staying warm with new propane units and less demand this heating season so far.

Safety

Sidewalk forms are in for the Spring building season. The catwalks will be replaced at the waste-water plant with this new upgrade. This is a critical safety issue which will be resolved with this new plant upgrade grant. These catwalks need replacing as soon as possible. The DEC regulatory officer won’t use them.

Code Enforcement Office

Two permits for the new year. Working on a 1204 Department of State report for 2022 building season. A few speculation meetings on preliminary builds and subdivisions. New home going in on Backwoods Rd.

**Town Clerk Report:**

Tax collection is in full swing.

**Assessor Report:**

Still working on building permits.

**BTI Report:**

* One of the Bti crew will not be returning because he needs fulltime year-round employment.
* One person applied for the Bti position, Tom Garvin. I will be teaching the 30-hour training course January 23-26, 2023. DEC exams will be February 9, 2023, in Watertown. If all goes well, they should have their Pesticide ID by mid-March when we start in the field.
* Permit to expand the Black fly control area was submitted to DEC in December 2022. I will be submitting the mosquito permits to the DEC when I get the check for application fees after this meeting.
* Landowner notifications for new property owners will be done by the end of this month.

**Planning Board Report:**

Nothing at this time.

**Dog Warden Report:**

Nothing at this time.

**Library Report:**

Reorganizational meeting was held . All positions are the same.

**Correspondence:**

Nothing at this time.

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**Unfinished Business:**

The Town has an existing agreement with DANC (Development Authority of the North Country) as part of the “shared services’ agreement. A portion of that shared services agreement is the GIS (Geographic Information System) Project. The town has been requested to pay $950.00 by the lead agency – Town of Tupper Lake towards that project.

Motion #4

Mr. Beary made the motion to pay $950.00 to the Town of Tupper Lake as part of the GIS project, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**New Business:**

Nothing at this time.

**Announcements:**

WINTERFEST will be held February 10th, 11th, and 12th. . Ms. Fisher has been working with Judy Fuhr for advertising. They are planning a lot of events and new stuff. All proceeds are going to the Colton Food Pantry aka Kathryns Kupboard.

Fire Chief Aaron Johnson joined the meeting late due to an emergency call. The Town Board offered him “Courtesy of the Floor” at this time. Mr. Johnson asked if there was any more information regarding a percentage off land taxes for volunteer EMTs and Fire Fighters. Town Clerk Jennifer Cole stated that she has been in contact with the Town of Pierrepont for information on this. Still working on it. Mr. Johnson also asked about the Morgan Rd. Beach Project. Is this project still in the works? Ms. Fisher stated to Mr. Johnson that we (the town) are still waiting for the water testing results. Mr. Johnson then asked the Town Board to consider the location, congestion, parking and safety of the area chosen for this beach project. Chief Johnson then added that Colton Vol. Rescue gets sent to Higley Flow State Park on average 12 times during the summer months.

Mr. Beary then asked about the town attorney being present at the SLC Trail Systems meeting previously and why the town taxpayers are footing that bill? County Legislator Rick Perkins spoke up – stating that many towns attending the SLC Trail System meetings request their town attorney attend the meetings as well. Mr. Perkins then went on to discuss how town employees, residents and people attending board meetings should speak and behave in a professional manner. Mr. Beary asked if there was a memorandum of understanding for the SLC Trail system? Mr. Perkins stated that negotiations are not final for the SLC Trail system, the memorandum would not be available until negotiations are done. Mr. Beary then asked if any other parties (NYSDOT etc) involved had been approached regarding the quarter-mile section of road in S. Colton on Route 56 (between Windmill Rd. and Cold Brook Dr.) to see if the trail system is even a possibility? Mr. Perkins stated that SLC Trail System is looking at all avenues and that we (SLC T.S.) are not even at the SEQR stage yet. Mr. Beary stated he does not want tax payers spending their money on this if the NYSDOT will not allow opening that quarter mile section. Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Beary if he was in support of the trail system. Mr. Beary did state that he is for the SLC Trail System as long as it is in the woods. Mr. Perkins then stated to Mr. Beary “how many businesses do you find in the woods?” Mr. Beary asked Mr. Perkins if he agreed with allowing vehicles, ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles to illegally drive/use the roadways? Mr. Perkins stated “that is what our local law enforcement is for. Same as a regular vehicle speeding etc on the roads; law enforcement are the ones to enforce the laws.”

**Adjournment:**

Motion #5

With no further business to discuss Ms. Fisher made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 6:52pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

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