**Colton Regular Monthly Meeting, February 9, 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 Cook-Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Shelley Rayner, Peggy Mousaw, Steve Thornton, Laurie Thornton, Jeff Tubilino, Deb Christy

Zoom attendees: Board Member Lisa Fisher, Dennis Eickoff, Cynthia Hennessy, Mary Jane Watson, Peggy Shea, Anne Townsend, Town Attorney Matt Norfolk

Supervisor R. Robert lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6:02pm.

Motion #1

Mr. Beary made the motion to reappoint Ms. Lisa Fisher to the Town Board, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Approve January 2022 Minutes**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Mr. Poste to approve the minutes from the January 2022 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #3

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant # 2, 2022**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Mrs. Planty to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant # 2, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund……………………………….$104,354.61

Highway Fund………………………………...42,009.12

Library Fund……………………………………1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1………………………………….6,939.49

Water Fund #1………………………………….3,550.32

Colton Light Dist…………………………………893.06

S. Colton Light Dist………………………………833.88

$160,130.04

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

Deb Christy spoke on behalf of the St. Lawrence Co. Snowmobile Association and the importance of the construction and maintenance of the Jones Rd Bridge. Mrs. Christy and the SLC Snowmobile Assoc. is looking for the support of the Town of Colton in re-opening the NYS snowmobile trail #8 and construction and maintenance of the bridge at Rainbow Dam.

Motion #4

Motion made to adopt Resolution No. 01-2022 In Support of Re-opening N.Y.S. Snowmobile Trail 8 and Construction of a Bridge at Rainbow Dam by Mrs. Planty, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Due to NYS Retirement regulations, when an individual retires from NYS retirement, that person must resign from all NYS municipal positions that they are paid for as an employee. That former employee may then be reappointed after their retirement is finalized. Peggy Mousaw sent her letter of resignation to the Colton clerk’s office February 6th. Ms. Mousaw requests reappointment to both the Colton Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Assessment Review. Ms. Mousaw gave a lengthy list of her qualifications for both board openings.

Motion #5

Mr. Beary made the motion to table the reappointment of Ms. Mousaw as there are other parties interested in the openings, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**County Legislators Report:** nothing at this time.

**Dog Warden Report:**

Jim McConkey reported: Two dogs at large, returned home. Two welfare checks.

**Assessor Report:** nothing at this time.

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**Highway Report:**

Since the last board meeting, we have been focusing on snow and ice.

We had two trucks breakdown they both had to be towed to the dealer. I was able to procure a loaner truck from St. Lawrence County highway, that along with our spare got us through without a noticeable change in our plowing abilities. The 2018 turned out being just a broken wire so that was not too big of a deal. The 2015 was a little more serious. A turbo shaft snapped and allowed the crankcase oil to be pumped into the exhaust. This in turn caused an estimated $20,000 in parts damage. Both trucks are now back in service and the County's truck has been returned. I still have not received the bill on either of these repairs.

The proposed budget from the Governor indicates her wish to increase our Chips funding. She wants to keep Chips, Pave NY and extreme winter recovery programs funding the same and add a new program called pave our potholes the tune of $150 million. This is the same funding as the existing EWR program. Last year our allotment was $36,826 for Extreme winter recovery. If the budget remains as presented by the Governor, I certainly expect our total allotment to increase by that amount. In the past when the budget is sent to the senate, the senate has always lobbied for more funding of our programs, so I expect the proposed increase will at least pass the senate if not even more of an increase. This is a direct effect of the federal government investing in our infrastructure as I'm sure you have all heard on the news.

I have reached out to Barton Lagudice engineering again regarding The East Higley Road intersection project that was discussed last month. I asked them to provide me with a detailed cost estimate to present to the board. I have not received anything yet. As soon as I have the information, I will present it to the board for your review. This project has been in my sights for many years. Everyone that lives on the road is in favor of it. I expect the engineering and essential federal wetlands permit process to take up to a year. The actual cost of the project itself if and when the time comes could very well be a Chips eligible charge so it is not like we would have to raise taxes or bond for the project.

I would like to request a notice be put in the local paper for all roads in the Town of Colton, to be temporarily

closed to vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 6 tons. This is in compliance with Section 1660 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Motion #6

Mrs. Planty made the motion to put an ad in local paper NorthCountryNow for Town of Colton roads to be temporarily closed to vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 6 tons, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Town Clerk Report:**

* CST Group – IT company out of Malone. Attorney M. Norfolk advised the town clerk and board to get a copy of the current contract from the current IT company.
* Tax collection has gone well. Thankful to have Donna here for guidance.
* Selective insurance sent a letter stating they would not be covering the damage to the wall by the library. Claiming that the “earth movement under and around the wall caused the gaps in the wall blocks. This condition occurred over an extended period of time and was not a onetime event.”
* NYS DOT sent the town a letter concluding the evaluation regarding a reduced speed zone on a portion of Gulf Rd. Based on their study, a 45 MPH speed zone is appropriate for that portion of road.
* The clerk’s office has gotten several complaints from a resident in regards to plowing near his property/driveway and clearing of the sidewalk in front of his house. I have made Ronnie and Kevin aware of this. We emailed this resident for a meeting Tuesday morning February 8th at 9am. The resident did not respond to the email and did not show up to the meeting.
* JCAP grant – the court has been awarded $23,400.00 for new flooring, refurbish existing courtroom doors and refurbish the seating area in the courtroom.

**BTI Report:**

* The mosquito control permit applications have all been submitted to the DEC.
* All new riparian owners for both mosquito and black fly control have been notified.
* I am in communication with Valent Bioscience, the manufacturer of the Bti, regarding the status of the Bti containers. In my last communication, about a week ago, it sounded more hopeful that the 2.5-gallon containers we normally use will be available. Worst case scenario is we will need to get a 264-gallon tote. I have three other Bti programs on board to share it so either way, we’ll be all set.
* We will start in the field early next month, exact dates depending on the weather.

**Planning Board Report:**

The Planning Board met on January 18, 2022. We did a combination Zoom/in person meeting.

We did not have a quorum so we did not have an official meeting. However, we discussed cannabis law and have gotten examples of other towns from the county planning board. We discussed solar law and have the town of Pierrepont’s solar law as an example. We also reached out to the Adirondack Park Agency and have their regulations on solar panels and have access to the state’s guidelines. We decided to postpone the strategic and comprehensive plan presentation to the town board until their March meeting.

There are two people interested in joining the planning board, Kristopher Koehler and Steven Knight.

Our Google docs files are now on Darren’s Google account, not Jeff Rousell’s.

Motion #7

Motion made to table appointment to the Planning Board made by Mr. Poste, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**Code Enforcement Report:**

**Transfer Station**

We went to an open bin outside for the e-waste recyclable materials located by the metal bin. Signs clearly mark out the two bins. This will save the e-waste company hauling costs as they pick up the e-waste for free. It will also provide a more convenient location for our citizens to dispose of their e-waste recyclables.

**Water/Sewer**

Sludge pump, rails, crane and control panels are now in for the sludge pumping station. That part has been installed for the RRPA funds so far. The electrical panel has been upgraded as well for the 10 hp motors and VFD’s controls. Still waiting on warmer weather for DO probes and motor and VFD installs. All equipment is on site finally. Generators were all tested and given a load for exercise before snow storms. All back up equipment performed as it should.

**Building and Grounds**

The Ice Rink is once again a huge hit with the kids. It takes a year without it for us to know what a special place it is for the community. We have had a steady stream of skaters in all January and the weather has made it possible to be open every day this past month without a thaw. We have updates on sidewalk improvements, salt barn progress, transfer station drawings and food pantry have been discussed this week. We need to form committees on these areas which involve Jeff Tubolino, our town Engineer. Specifically Pedestrian safety, Salt Barn, and Transfer Station which are all ongoing projects that were started last year. The Town Supervisor would also like to explore a town beach development and to have the board endorse pursuing a grant to get that underway.

Motion #8

Motion made by Mrs. Planty to form committees for Pedestrian/Sidewalk Safety, Salt Barn and the Transfer Station, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

\*A committee was formed for Pedestrian/Sidewalk safety. Committee members are Kevin Hawley, Darren Richards, Ronald Robert, Jeff Tubolino and Lisa Fisher.

\*A committee was formed for the Salt Barn. Committee members are Kevin Hawley, Darren Richards, Ronald Robert, George Cayey and Jake Poste.

\*A committee was formed for the Transfer Station. Committee members are Ronald Robert, Jeff Tubolino, Jake Poste, Darren Richards and Kevin Beary.

Motion #9

Motion made by Mr. Poste to pursuing the possibility of a town beach, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Safety**

I am asking the board to put out to bid two fire and security panels which were budgeted for this year. We have several panels which need to be updated from analog to digital and are all expired panels by codes standards.

Motion #10

Mr. Beary made the motion to put out a bid for two fire and security panels, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement Office**

Several prospective plans and inquiries are coming in for planning the 2022 building season from contractors and home owners. Codes class for recertification is February 28th to March 4th. I will be in Lake Placid for mandatory classes on Code Updates. One Conditional Use Permit is pending approval.

**Zoning Board Report:** nothing at this time.

**Library Report:**

Dennis Eickoff reported that the annual report is done, waiting for approval by the library board. Request to have the snow behind the book nook removed so the fuel company is able to access the tanks easier.

**Correspondence:** none at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

* NYCLASS Investment – made $9.64 for January
* Estimates to heat and insulate the MSB building – recommend to budget for next year.

**New Business:**

* Monday morning meetings with department heads at 9:00am.
* Time clocks
* DPW truck

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* Bookkeeper Shelley Rayner requesting all time sheets be turned in at the town hall. No longer wants them emailed.
* Emails for T.O.C. Board members.

Motion #11

Mr. Beary made the motion to assign town emails to all the T.O.C Board members, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #12

Mrs. Planty made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:26pm and move into executive session for personnel issue and possible litigation, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #13

Motion made by Mr. Beary to close the executive session and move into regular meeting at 8:15pm, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #14

Motion made to suspend current assessor pay effective immediately made by Mr. Poste, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

After lengthy discussion DPW/Code Enforcement Officer D. Richards conceded that the Code Enforcement truck will remain on Town property during non-working hours.

**Adjournment:**

Motion #15

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Beary made the motion to close the regular meeting at 8:35pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

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