**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, March 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: Rick Perkins, Nancy Robert, Peggy Mousaw, Kirke Perry, Shelley Rayner

Zoom attendees: Dennis Eickoff, Attny Matt Norfolk, Mary Jane Watson, Cynthia Hennessy, Ed Fuhr, Peggy Shea

Supervisor R. Robert lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6:00pm as scheduled.

Motion #1

**Approve February 2022 Minutes**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to approve the minutes from the February 2022 regular monthly meeting and the February 18, 2022 emergency meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #3, 2022**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Ms. Fisher to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #3, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

From **General Fund** A1355.4 Sole Assessor, P.S. $10,800.00

To  A1355.11 Assessor, Contr. $10,800.00

 General Fund……………………………………….$48,780.98

 Highway Fund……………………………………….60,971.12

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

 Sewer Fund #1………………………………………..1,778.04

 Water Fund #1………………………………………...2,116.74

 Colton Light Dist……………………………………….922.88

 S. Colton Light Dist…………………………………….861.71

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

Peggy Mousaw asked about appointments and the assessor position.

**County Legislators Report:**

 At the March 7th 2022 Full Board Meeting

* We had 35 resolutions
* We had 10 modifications to the budget/grants
* We had 16 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed
* We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 23 vacancies positions.
* We had resolutions approving bad debt write off for the probation dept
* We had a resolution proclaiming March as colorectal cancer awareness month
* We had a resolution proclaiming March as problem gambling awareness month
* We had a resolution authorizing roadside mowing contracts
* We had a resolution approving federal aid highway project agreement for the final design of the County Route 35 bridge over Trout Brook
* We had a resolution approving federal aid local project for the right of way on the Lazy River Road Bridge over the Grasse River project
* We had a resolution in support of all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile access on the recently acquired NYS conservation easement lands known as the South Branch Grasse River Tract and the Cranberry state forest

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Rick Perkins

**Assessor Report:**

 Nothing at this time.

**Dog Warden Report:**

 Three dogs at large. Two had name tags, one was microchipped. All three returned to their owners.

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**Highway Report:**

* We obviously have been primarily working on snow and ice. We did get the third two stage plow installed and it is working very well. These attachments are positioned directly behind the cutting edge of the nose plow. It is a secondary blade that applies down pressure with a flexible cutting edge that will follow uneven road surfaces. They do a nice job and significantly reduce salt usage at a reasonable cost.
* The issue on the intersection of Raquette River Road and Snell Road is still on going. The metal that was placed in the right of way is still there and with the recent high temperatures the snow bank is melting thus revealing the hazard of jagged sharp metal in the right away. I also am concerned a high wind much like the ones we have been experiencing will cause it to become airborne and potentially cause someone either property damage or personal injury. I have waited from at least January for direction from the town attorney how to proceed with little response. Something needs to be done very soon as next week the remaining snow bank will probably be gone.
* One of our older pickup trucks has a major engine issue. I have had verbal estimates ranging from two thousand dollars to five thousand. The truck is extremely rusted and not worth fixing. A new truck as Ronnie would like is not an option. The earliest one can be ordered is January 2023 and they have no idea at this point of a time frame after that to expect delivery. I did find a couple of used trucks the one i recommend is a 2013 GMC at Ricks auto for $14,500. The truck is in decent shape myself and my foreman took it for a test drive and it runs and drives well with no rust. We do need three pickups for patrolling roads and getting to and from jobsites.

Motion # 3

Ms. Fisher made the motion to have Highway Supt. Kevin Hawley put bids out for new/replacement truck for highway dept., seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* You have my Agreement to spend Highway funds form. This is an agreement between the Town Board and myself to spend the budgeted funds on highway repairs throughout the year. This is normally a two-part form one part refers to maintenance of roads and the other covers chips or our capital improvement program such as paving. I have not included any projects at this time as I do not a firm number from CHIPS on how much funding to expect and with the price of oil going through the roof there is no way to predict what the price of asphalt will be as oil prices directly affect the cost of asphalt. I normally get a letter from chips in the first couple weeks of April telling us what our actual chips funding will be, depending on timing i may possibly have an addendum to our agreement.
* Hopefully by the next meeting we will be onto our spring street cleanup and then the grading of our gravel roads.

**Code Enforcement Report:**

* **Transfer Station**

Transfer station is running well. Would like to start the ad hoc committee on the Transfer station overhaul meeting while Skip Bissnet is still willing to serve as a consultant. Hoping Jeff will assemble the troops soon.

* **Water/Sewer**

Dissolved oxygen probes, motors and vfd drives are being installed this week for the plant upgrade. It should be complete by the 10th.

* **Building and Grounds**

Ice rink is still operational for this week and probably next week. George Cayey and I are working on the RPA grant documentation for the WWTP upgrades. The Kathrine Hayes Food Pantry is officially open and operational. A slop sink and a couple small items are left to install.

* **Safety**

Fire panel bids are not out yet. Still getting specs on the panels needing for the building. MSHA training is being zoomed in this year for highway and we will set that up for them. Dig Safe seminar is on March 10. New ticket reporting will be done on Thursday.

* **Code Enforcement Office**

Cost of building materials has increased to the highest level again. 7/16 OSB is 44.00 a sheet verses less than $10.00 a sheet…. which is the index for most other pricing. A 1000 ft roll of 12-2 romex wire is $600.00 a roll verse $300.00 a roll. Permits are at 3 for the year, but a lot of pre-planning discussion and hoping pricing will come down.

**Library Report:**

 Nothing at this time.

**Correspondence:**

 Nothing at this time.

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**Town Clerk Report:**

* I will be attending a Regional Education Seminar on the 21st. The seminar is being held in Altmar, NY at the Tailwater Lodge. The office will be closed that day as Donna is out of town.
* I contacted Dustin at Clear Data Solutions requesting a copy of our current signed contract. We received an invoice stating that the Town has currently gone over our current contract hours for service.
* It’s time to set the 2nd notice fee for taxes. This is a fee charged to mail another notice to landowners that haven’t paid anything on their taxes yet. It gives them a chance to pay their taxes here before it goes to the County and another penalty is added on.

Motion # 4

Mrs. Planty made the motion to send out the send notice for unpaid taxes with the $2.00 fee, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* ZOOM for the town board meetings? Is this something we want to continue? With COVID regulations lifting, and issues with connection – can we do without it?

Decision was made to continue with ZOOM.

* Requesting permission to pay a bill from NorthCountryNow with the early bills to avoid late fees.

Motion # 5

Ms. Fisher made the motion to pay a bill from NorthCountryNow with the early bills, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

**BTI Report:**

* I’m starting in the field this week and will be treating my first stream on Thursday. The brook that runs through Horton Flats is always open and is the first one I treat. Some species of black flies overwinter as larvae…so they are out there.
* The rest of the crew will start next week. The new crews have to learn their area, where the streams are, etc. Once the weather breaks, we’ll be able to hit the ground running.
* The Bti container issue has been resolved. The 2.5 gallon jugs we always used will be available.
* SPRING IS HERE!....almost..

Andrea Malik

**Planning Board Report:**

* The Colton Planning Board met on February 15 at 6:00 pm.
* We granted a conditional use permit to Austin Garvin to open a Bait, beer and tackle shop in a

garage at his residence on East Hill Road.

* We discussed the upcoming slide presentation about establishing a comprehensive plan to the

town board at their next meeting in March.

* We discussed a cannabis and decided to add it as a conditional use in the community center

district until we can come up with a more detailed plan. Given that a cannabis dispensary would

not be able to open until 2023 and that there is a $200,000 application fee we didn’t think that

there would be anyone that eager to open one in Colton

* We went over changes that we need to make in Pierrepont’s solar law to make it compatible to

Colton.

* We also need to check with the State, County, and APA to see what restrictions that they may

have.

* The State and County are trying to preserve farm land, and as Colton does not have an

agricultural district so we don’t have to worry about most of that.

* We discussed putting together a packet of material as a training packet for new members of the

board. We are still working on what should be in the packet.

* We decided that applications for Conditional Use permits and Subdivisions should include a site

map. We will add all application forms to Google docs so that we can make those changes.

Kirke Perry,

Chair, Colton Planning Board

**New Business:**

 Nothing at this time.

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**Unfinished Business:**

* Clear Data Solutions – current IT company the town depends upon. Kevin Beary read complaints from our court/justice department as well as our BTI department. Listing several instances in the last year where there were issues that were left unattended by Clear Data after our personnel reached out. There was no response and no follow up, often weeks at a time. There have been times of having to utilize other sources for problems and fixes. The clerk’s office has verbally reported several issues as well.

Motion # 6

Mr. Beary made the motion to not renew our contract with Clear Data Solutions this upcoming June 2022 and hire CST Group as our new IT company beginning in June 2022, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

 Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 7

 With no further business to discuss in the regular meeting, Mr. Beary made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 6:50pm and move into executive session, seconded by Mr. Poste.

 Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

 Noes 0

 Motion carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

 Motion #8

 Motion made by Mr. Beary to rescind motion #4 from the February 18th emergency/special meeting after clarification from Mr. Dale Raymo. He requested to be hired on as a consulting basis only, to help get the required assessor duties caught up for the town due to the Sole Assessor not responding to the town and neglecting his duties as Sole Assessor. Mr. Raymo agreed to oversee the appointed acting assessor and assist in documentation, assessing and training. Motion seconded by Ms. Fisher.

 Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

 Noes 0

 Motion carried

 Motion #9

 Motion made by Mrs. Planty to appoint Mrs. Shelley Rayner as the Town of Colton Acting Assessor at the rate of $150.00 per week, seconded by Mr. Poste.

 Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

 Noes 0

 Motion carried

**Adjournment:**

 Motion #10

 Motion made by Mr. Poste to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:15pm, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

 Ayes 5 – Fisher, Beary, Poste, Planty, Robert

 Noes 0

 Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole