**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, June 8, 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. - ABSENT Jacob Poste

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Randi-Lee Cook-Planty

Donna Buckley, Deputy Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Matthew Norfolk, Shelley Rayner, Kirke Perry, Rick Perkins, Laurie Thornton,

Ron Gilmore and Bill Lemieux.

Zoom attendees: Casey Dickinson, Jeff Tubolino, Dennis Eickhoff, Mary Jane Watson and Peggy Shea

Supervisor Robert called the June regular monthly meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mrs. Cook-Planty to approve the minutes of the May 11 Town Board meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**AUTHORIZE BILLS ON WARRANT # 6 AND BANK RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to authorize payment of bills on Warrant #6 and bank reconciliation.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 75,577.22

Highway Fund 29,006.65

Library Fund 1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1 15,046.30

Water Fund #1 2,658.10

Colton Light Dist. 795.43

S. Colton Light Dist. 743.82

**Mr. Casey Dickinson** asked if the contracts for the Salt Storage Facility have been signed. The Board gave the Supervisor authority to sign them at the last meeting. Ms. Buckley stated they hadn’t received the electrical contract. Mr. Dickinson will resend. Upon signing contractors can start right away. Color sheets were provided to choose color for siding and roofing. Ash gray for siding and evergreen for the roof was chosen.

**Mr. Jeff Tubolino** reported the pedestrian improvements and the Transfer Station survey are complete. Mr. Tubolino stated it was time to update the information on the revolving fund in order to keep our project (wastewater treatment plant) on the list. A meeting with NYS DOT was attended by Supervisor Robert, DPW Sup. Mr. Richards and myself concerning sidewalk replacement/repair from Garret St. to Hull St. Hopefully this work can be performed under the “standing work permit”. Do we want to put a bid out? Move ahead with the bid process.

Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE TOWN ENGINEER TO UPDATE REOLVING FUND**

Motion made by Mrs. Cook-Planty, seconded by Mr. Poste to authorize Town Engineer, Jeff Tubolino to update the Town’s information on the revolving fund site.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE SIDEWALK BIDS**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Ms. Fisher to authorize advertising sidewalk bids.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement Report:**

We doubled our building permits to 28. 14 permits in one month. A few more already set up for next week as well. I completed the free energy building training to add to the grant points for the next NYSERDA round. Preconstruction meetings for the Salt Barns are next.

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**County Legislators Report:** At the June 6th 2022 Full Board Meeting

We had 28 resolutions

We had 8 modifications to the budget

We had 14 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 12 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution adopting the mortgage tax report

We had a resolution setting a date for a public hearing setting the Salary of the County Historian

We had a resolution establishing a standard work day for the NYS retirement system for reporting purposes

We had a resolution proclaiming June as Dairy month

We had a presentation from the Board of election regarding primaries this year and early voting, I urge anyone interested to go to the County’s website under the Elections department for specific information

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

**Highway Report:**

Since the last board meeting, we have completed our portion of the work we can doon the site work for the new salt barn. We hauled the gravel base material from Ward excavating.

We have a few fairly minor wash out issues from the recent heavy rain events. The worse one was on Windmill Road near the intersection of Wildwood. This was the result of a breached beaver dam. We did not loose any asphalt from this just some shoulder gravel.

We have not finished grading our gravel roads yet as the frequent rains have been interfering with this work. Every clear day we are working at it.

Suite Kote did our profiling work and it went well. I am currently waiting for a day at the asphalt plant to pave the binder course on the Raquette River Road. Tentatively next Tuesday is the day I’m expecting this to happen. Asphalt did increase in price a few dollars a ton this month but it’s still cheaper than in the past.

My grader needs a few repairs. The fuel tank has developed a leak and costs $2000, several of the hydraulic cylinders are leaking and the rebuild kits for them are $600. This is just over my spending limit so I’m requesting the board to approve these repairs.

Motion # 5

**APPROVE FUEL TANK REPAIR**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to approve repairs to the highway fuel tank.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Transfer Station**

Transfer Station re-design is ready for review. This enables the attendant to be more accessible and be on the flow control side of the station and two lanes of traffic as one lane would cause too much back up and wait time. SEQR is being done for the transfer station

**Water/Sewer**

Lift stations are all working as they should now. All infiltration, electrical and mechanical issues have been solved. Three pumps are at Lawton’s for work. Once these are back, there should be redundancy in our Collection system again. The new sludge pump at the sewer plant works incredibly well. We loaded an 8,000-gallon tractor trailer tanker in 26 minutes. Our last of 3 loads took 30 minutes as head pressure was a bit more. That process normally takes 2.5 hours with a very loud vac truck for each load. The RPA funds have saved 1500.00 already plus some energy saving costs. All documents for the RPA grant were reported and submitted.

The section of sidewalk ready to be replaced is all set. Water/sewer infrastructure is prepared for demo and replacement sidewalk. Gulf road main valve stem and cover was fixed.

**Building and Grounds**

The Librarian and the Historical Society wish to bid out the construction of roof replacements on both the Museum and the Library. As of noon on Tuesday, June 6th, we received one bid one for each building by two different contractors. Now the Board needs to accept the bids or choose to rebid or table the projects. Grass is finally doing well in front of the Rink warming room. We mixed in peat moss to a hard clay topsoil and it did the trick. Rink is open and prepped for indoor basketball this summer. Summer Soccer for men’s and women’s has begun and women’s softball is slated to start soon. A big thanks to George and Penny Cayey who donated two outdoor rockers for the front of the Food Pantry.

**Safety**

Sidewalk safety committee met and determined priority sidewalks that need replacing. We found grant money for a portion of these sidewalk renovations. Blue Line is checking in for the Hull Street to Garret Street portion of 56 soon to be put out to bid. The Memorial Wall at the corner is down and palleted. The wall was taken down to grade or one course up from grade to give it an even look for now. The site is barricaded and coned off for safety. Each cap or brick was taken off one by one by hand to preserve it for reuse if chosen to do so. The sidewalk committee including Laurie Thornton to check infrastructure, code and aesthetics.

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**Dog Warden Report:** Mr. Jim McConkey says business was slow this last month with only two calls for dogs “at large”. They were both returned to owners. Although there have been many calls about the missing Bernese Mountain Dog -Rhonda.

**Bookkeeper Report:** Mrs. Shelley Rayner reported she has moved town funds from NYCLASS to NBT Bank where the interest is higher. Interest this last month increased to $1600 from $419.

**Assessor Report:** Mr. Rayner reported she sat with the books for the advertised times. Grievance Day was June 1. There were 16 corrections and the taxable value of the Town has increased $1.5 million.

**Ron Gilmore and Bill LeMieux** residents of West Higley Road asked if progress is being made to have the Town take the road over. A lengthy discussion was held along with Town Attorney Matt Norfolk. Ms. Buckley questioned if all residents were in favor of the Town taking over the road. The reply was yes,100%. A lot would have to be done to bring the road up to specs, conveyances, SEQR. Attorney Norfolk, Hwy. Sup. Hawley and Engineer Tubolino to meet and discuss what residents need to know yet.

**BTI Report:**

* The excessive rain has been keeping us extremely busy. Usually, some of the streams dry up or partially dry, making them a little shorter and or eliminating some of them. Not this season.
* The cool, wet conditions also seem to be favoring larval development. Typically, there is a 3-4 week turn around where we have to treat a stream again as another batch of eggs hatch. This season it’s more like every

2 weeks. I treated portions of the river 2 weeks ago this coming Friday and it needs to be treated again. I’m trying to find out from Brookfield if they will be shutting off the generator at the South Colton station this week as they often do, overnight into the early morning. Treating it when its low saves a lot of BTI.

* I’m getting low on my BTI supply because of the higher-than-normal water levels. I may have to order more.
* So, we all have been working extremely hard to keep up and its going well in spite of the challenging field conditions.

**Planning Board Report:**

* The Colton Planning Board met Tuesday, May 17 at 6:00. We discussed Comprehensive planning and the slideshow and discussion for the town board.
* We went through the proposed Solar law and corrected all spelling and grammatical errors. The only thing left is to correct some references that were to Pierrepont's land use code to our land use code, and the law will ready for review by the town board. The slideshow for the town board consists of 10 slides. They go over what a comprehensive plan is, why it is important to have a one, who should be involved in creating one, and how to create one. It will take approximately 30 minutes with time for questions.

**Library Report:** Mr. Eickhoff stated he presented a grant application but still had to add something. Plus the concrete was poured for the story book walk. There will be no Library Trustee Meetings for the next couple months.

**Museum Report:** Mr. Richards stated the Museum roof needs to be tested for asbestos before replacement. Mr. Robert mentioned the expense we are facing with litigation so recommended we hold off on the Museum roof.

Motion # 6

**TABLE MUSEUM ROOF**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Poste to table the Museum roof repair/replacement.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Town Clerk Report:**

* The rabies clinic on May 26th went well. We had 70 appointments. Only five no shows.
* I passed my notary exam. Waiting to get my notary number to be able to order my stamp and seal. Then I will have to go to the county to sign my signature card for verification.
* This year and next years swim program is being taken over by Colton-Pierrepont school. The school received a grant to do this. Children from the towns of Colton and Pierrepont will be able to attend since the school is providing the service. We have had a few phone calls from parents thus far. Person of contact for the swim program for the school is Dale Munn. My hope, once the school grant funding runs out, is that the Town of Pierrepont will recognize the need for this program and help us pay for the program in the future so Pierrepont children can attend.
* Land tax collection is pretty much done. We collected 97% of Town of Colton taxes in the office.
* Our new IT company, CST Group has launched as of June 1. Just a few more small details that need to be worked out. I have a phone meeting with Lisa – owner, tomorrow at 10am.
* Permission to pay recently received bills with the early bills as our next town board meeting is over a month away. This is to avoid late fees. Clear Data Solutions, CST Group Norfolk Law, and Potsdam Agway. All invoices total $3,246.05

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**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, June 8, 2022**

Motion # 7

**PAY EARLY BILLS**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Poste to pay the early bills and include any that will add a late fee if wait till next month which is six weeks out.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Correspondence:** Plow truck voucher – the letter explains the voucher quoted a truck with an extended cab and other amenities it doesn’t actually have.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Robert spoke in regards to Walt Paul Sr. donating land to the Town of Colton. Attorney Norfolk stated there needs to be a stub search and contract drawn with necessary easement language.

**New Business:**

Mr. Robert mentioned Wounded Warrior Camp Serenity. He asked about putting a boat launch in for handicapped persons across from the Town Hall where its sandy and people already swim there. Ms. Buckley informed the Board the property is owned by Brookfield, not the Town of Colton. Mr. Robert said he would contact Brookfield.

Mr. Robert asked if there was anymore business to discuss. Attorney Norfolk requested an Executive Session.

At this time others in attendance left and Zoom was closed.

Motion # 8

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Fisher to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried 7:40 p.m.

After Executive Session closed and returned to the regular meeting with the following decision made.

Motion # 9

**AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY HARRIS TO HIRE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF COLTON**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to authorize Attorney Dylan Harris of Lewis & Greer Law to hire Appraisal Economics and Bunk Engineer on behalf of the Town of Colton for the Brookfield litigation.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Robert also said he forgot to ask about a resolution to follow up with the motion made in the past for snow mobile and ATV parking at the South Colton Pavilion. Ms. Buckley said she would look it up and do a resolution for the next meeting.

Motion # 10

**Adjournment:**

With no more business to discuss a motion to close the regular monthly meeting was made by Ms. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried, 8:05 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Deputy Town Clerk

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