**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, July 19, 2023**

**County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 94 Main St., Colton NY 13625**

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher

Jacob Poste

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Stephen Knight

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Rick Perkins, Mary Jane Watson, Kirke Perry, Jeff Tubolino, Nancy Robert, Mary Rutley, Margaret Zappia, Grace Hawley

Zoom attendees: Dennis Eickhoff, Joanne Fisher, Cynthia Hennessy, Peggy Shea, Judy Fuhr, Ed Fuhr

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

Motion #1

**Adopt the agenda for this meeting**

Discussion on the reasoning for moving executive session to the beginning of the meeting. Councilman Kevin Beary stated he felt that moving executive session to the beginning of the meeting was to dissuade people to attend meetings and to interfere with courtesy of the floor.

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Poste to adopt the agenda for this meeting.

Ayes 4

Noes 1 - Beary

Motion carried

Meeting moved to executive session at 6:08 pm. Mr. Beary did not attend executive session.

Executive session ended; board members came back to the regular meeting at 6:25pm.

Motion #2

**Approve June 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Knight to approve the minutes from the June 2023 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #3

Ms. Fisher made the motion to approve the executive session minutes from June 2023, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #4

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant # 7, 2023**

Motion made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Poste to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #7, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund…………………………………………………………………………$117,120.67

Highway Fund…………………………………………………………………………..34,331.04

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

Colton Light Dist…………………………………………………………………….……..820.46

S. Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………………….……..767.18

Sewer Fund #1………………………………………………………………………....….2,668.62

Water Fund #1……………………………………………………………………………..8,113.64

TRANSFERS:

To: A1110.4 Town Justice Contr…………………………………………………….$ 3,000.00

A1620.11 Summer Help……………………………………………………………...5,000.00

A5132.22 Salt Barn…………………………………………………………………..2,000.00

A5132.4 Garage Contr……………………………………………………………….3,000.00

A8160.2 Trans. Station Equip…………………………………………………..….500,000.00

From: A599 Fund Bal…………………………………………………………………508,000.00

A1620.1 Buildings P.S……………………………………………………………5,000.00

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

Darren Richards spoke on behalf of the Raquette River Pub. The Raquette River Pub would like to hold their fall festival on September 23rd, 2023, from 8am to 11pm. They are requesting the board’s permission to block off the bridge during that time.

Motion #5

Mr. Poste made the motion to allow the Raquette River Pub to block off the bridge on Main St. on September 23rd, 2023, from 8am to 11pm for their fall festival, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mary Rutley stated that in the November 16th, 2022 town board meeting, the town board voted to keep courtesy of the floor. Moving executive session to the beginning of the meeting to shorten meetings is not courteous of taxpayers. You are on taxpayers time.

**1**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, July 19, 2023**

**County Legislators Report:** Rick Perkins

We had 34 resolutions.

We had 7 modifications to the budget.

We had 16 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 15 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution adopting a Health and Safety Policy manual for St. Lawrence County.

We had a resolution authorizing hourly rate changes for Examination monitors to Proctor Civil Service exams for 2023

and 2024.

We had a resolution approving a PILOT agreement in relation to Solar project on parcel 74.003-2-8.1 located at 6578

County Route 27 in the town of Canton, I voted no.

We had a resolution proclaiming July 16-22, 2023, as Probation, Parole and Community supervision week in St Lawrence

County.

We had a resolution appointing the Planning Director to serve as the Certifying officer for the County in regards to the

environmental review for the Community Development Block Grant programs.

We had a resolution Closing the Multi use Trail Capital Project.

We had a resolution opposing the “All Electric Building Act” as included in the 2024 NYS budget.

We had a resolution establishing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act budget for program year 2023 -2024.

We had a resolution approving the North Country Regional Workforce Development plan and two year Modification.

We had a resolution urging the Governor to veto NYS Assembly bill A.428B and Senate bill S.3505B an Act to amend the

Town law The Village law, the County law, and Municipal Home Rule Law, in relation to moving certain elections to even

– numbered years.

**Engineer Report:** Jeff Tubolino

There was a preconstruction meeting this morning, July 19 at 10am. Whitton construction is underway. There is an insurance issue with Hyde Stone. Jeff and the town’s insurance agent have been working on this for some time. The issue should be resolved soon. The fill that was stockpiled at the transfer station has been used up. Darren and crew are trying to find more. They will be contacting the Thomas family from S. Colton to purchase sand from their sand pit. Kevin Hawley and crew have been cutting back on the Lenny Rd. In doing so, it has given the transfer station another 1000 yards of fill. Color for the exterior and interior was chosen today for the transfer station upgrades.

Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements – the clarifier/sweeper needs improvement. The clarifier is not turning at all. This repair needs to be made an emergency repair as the DEC can and has issued violations. Needed will be a quote to get it done. Tank drain, inspection, measure, then get the equipment fabricated. It’s an extensive procedure.

Motion #6

Mr. Knight made the motion to proceed with the necessary emergency work needed for the clarifier at the Colton wastewater treatment plant, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Dog Warden Report:** Mike Gilbo

Nothing at this time.

**Bookkeeper/Assessor Report:** Shelley Rayner

Nothing at this time.

**BTI Report:** Andrea Malik

* We finished Bti applications last week and are cleaning and doing maintenance on our gear so we will be all set for next season.
* DEC now requires electronic filing of our pesticide usage. The entire seasons report, which we had been maintaining daily was accidently deleted so we have to reconstruct that.
* It has been an ongoing issue of finding and keeping Bti crew members. At last month’s board meeting, I outlined the process required to become eligible for a position on the Bti crew: attending a DEC 30 hour training course (which they are only reimbursed if they work the entire season), passing two DEC exams (which the time and travel is on their own dime, closest locations being Utica, Watertown, or Ray Brook) They need to pass a physical and drug/alcohol test. This is a lengthy process which at the latest has to start in January with the course, for a job that begins in mid -March. I highlighted the
* fact that Bti is a restricted product , even though it is relatively benign to humans and the environment, it has all the DEC regulations and protocols involved with dealing with restricted products. We have the physical dangers of our work environment bushwhacking in often less than desirable field conditions. (Past history of injuries demonstrates this) We are now these last few years dealing with ticks that can carry a wide range of debilitating to life threatening diseases. This issue will only get worse as now invasive species of ticks that carry even more diseases are making their way north.
* At last month’s meeting, I was asked what I thought the starting pay for a new Bti technician should be. I found out the temporary cleaner is being paid $18 per hour. So, using that as a reference point, taking into consideration the comparable level of skill, training, responsibility and hazards involved in the Bti technician positions, I recommend the starting pay for the Bti crew be $20/ hour.
* I will prepare a cost comparison of the current pay rate with my proposed rate for you to review at the August board meeting. I would like to attend the September meeting and meet with you in executive session. I need the board to make a decision on this at this meeting so I can find and train crew in time for the 2024 season.

**2**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, July 19, 2023**

**Code Enforcement/DPW Report:** Darren Richards

Transfer Station

Preconstruction meeting went really well.

Water/Sewer

Two of our fire hydrants were replaced this last month. One on Gulf Road and one on the corner of Wildwood and County Route 58. The first one had a clamp collar slip out and moved a whole cemented hydrant valve. It gave us an opportunity to flush our system. But we had to put the water district on a boil water advisory for 32hours. Again, we would like to support our water customers for their patience and support. The second hydrant was installed yesterday without incident. The sweeper arms on the Clarifier appears to be broken and puts up in mechanical failure for part of our treatment process at the wastewater treatment plant. We were not in compliance for the month of June having an elevated fecal Coli parts per million. We made a limit in June with adjustments at the plant and were under our 200 parts per million by the time June was over. We were at 13 fecal coli for the month of July, but with that mechanical failure, it puts us up to a potential 2 month in a row violation which moves into the category of being “significant” which means automatically consent orders. We are advising the board to declare this repair as an emergency to place immediacy to this situation to fix this issue with the grant funding that has been secured.

Building and Grounds

Grounds have looked really nice this summer. Our lawns, fields and grounds are really full with all this rain this past month. The library corner has really filled in nice, as well as our hydro-seeded areas we did with the State DOT shared services in Colton and South Colton. Next we turn our attention on finishing the garage and sports complex at Swift Field.

Safety

Two new hydrants installed are great upgrades for fire protection. MSHA site specific training was done for our highway crew. The training session was an hour long at the Fish and Game gravel pit.

Code Enforcement Office

61 permits for the new year. We have had three subdivisions passed, and one subdivision proposed for next month. As fire marshal, I worked with the Fire Department on a fire hazard situation on a multiple residence complex. United Helpers and catholic charities helped get the complex back to code compliance.

**Highway Report:** Kevin Hawley

* Since the last meeting, we have been working primarily on the Lenny Road. We are cutting brush on the sides and widening it a bit on each side. We do have a house being built past the transfer station so we will need to plow it farther. Parishville is working on their end as well, I expect this road will be plowed all the way through now.
* We also have been helping Hopkinton and Parishville with their paving, supplying them with trucks thru shared services. I do have an update on our bridge job. The beams are set to start being built the last week in August. Our original mid September election time frame is looking good. When we get closer, I will contact the effected landowners as the bridge will be closed to traffic up to 2 days.
* Requesting a budget amendment of $291,084.01 for highway improvement/Chips?

Motion #7

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow a budget amendment in the amount of $291,084.01 for highway improvement/Chips, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Library Report:** Dennis Eickhoff

Nothing at this time.

**Planning Board Report:** Kirke Perry

Three subdivisions were done at the last meeting. The board will be reading the Town of Cantons solar law to better understand and be able to compare it to the work in progress of the Town of Colton solar law. More meetings are coming for the comprehensive plan.

**Town Clerk Report:** Jennifer Cole

* Last month in Shelleys report she stated that a special board meeting would be needed in August to approve bills. I am requesting that the board set a date for this meeting. I am also requesting permission to place an ad in NCC for the special meeting.

Motion #8

After some discussion, Mr. Knight made the motion to schedule a special meeting on August 23rd, 2023 6pm, for the purpose of bill/voucher paying, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #9

Ms. Fisher made the motion to place an ad in the town’s official paper for the special meeting taking place on August 23rd, 2023, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Ashley Clark, resident of Colton, contacted me about the town possibly purchasing banner brackets for the telephone poles for State Hwy 56 in Colton and S. Colton. Mrs. Clark is hoping to have H.S. senior banners

**3**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, July 19, 2023**

*Cont’ town clerk report:*

placed on the poles instead of having yard signs. Mrs. Clark is also looking into Hometown Heroes banners as well. I did some investigating on the cost for brackets and attachments – for a 30in banner it would be approx. $54.00.

* The Town of Colton will be hosting a rabies clinic tomorrow from 6pm-7pm. The clinic will take place at the MSB building. The Veterinarian that has previously worked with us is from Gouverneur. He will do this clinic for us, but would like us to find a new vet for future clinics.
* SUNY Potsdam is holding the local government conference on Tuesday Oct 10. The conference will be covering assessing/assessors, board member/budge & finance, town clerk info, highway superintendents info, planning and zoning, and public works. Please let me know if you would like to attend so I can make arrangements. Registration fee is $35.00 per employee. Registration due date is Oct 3rd 2023.

**Correspondence:**

Nothing at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

* Museum ceiling – Bonno Builders will start on this project before the end of July.

**New Business:**

* Lazy Hazy Days Report – many compliments were given. Residents were very grateful and said it was a job well done. All donations went to the Kathryn Hayes food pantry.
* Sidewalks – Mark Fisher of Fisher Builders will do the work. Table this subject until the quote is received.
* Letter of support for SLC Snowmobile grant application. A new groomer is needed. A new groomer costs approx. $80,000.00

Motion #10

Mr. Knight made the motion to write a letter of support for the SLC Snowmobile grant application, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4 – Robert, Fisher, Knight, Beary

Noes 0

Absent - Poste

Motion carried

* Gravel is needed for the Pleasant Mound Cemetery. Requesting Hwy Superintendent Kevin Hawley to deliver a couple loads of gravel at no cost.

Motion #11

Mr. Beary made the motion to have Colton Highway Superintendent Kevin Hawley deliver two loads of gravel to the Pleasant Mound Cemetery in Colton at no cost, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Ayes 4 – Robert, Fisher, Beary Knight

Noes 0

Absent - Poste

Motion carried

**Announcements:**

Supervisor Robert stated that there will be no more name calling during meetings or any other public environment at the Town of Colton. At previous meetings there has been name calling, it is to stop, or the offender will be asked to leave. This goes for everyone. Mary Rutley asked if that included Supervisor Robert. He stated that it does include him. Mrs. Rutley stated that Mr. Robert needed to be nicer to people.

Councilman Kevin Beary asked about a report he had just recently received. Mr. Beary asked why the board had not been getting the monthly dispense report previously. It is the duty of the town supervisor to supply the board members with this report. Supervisor Robert stated that he didn’t have an answer as to why it hadn’t been done in the past but it’s here now. Bickering ensued. Mr. Beary stated that if Supervisor Robert cannot do his job correctly, he should resign. County Legislature Councilman Rick Perkins spoke up stating that the behavior of Mr. Beary and Supervisor Robert was childish and immature. No reason for it.

**Adjournment:**

Motion #12

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Fisher made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:30pm, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

**4**