**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, August 16, 2023**

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

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Kevin Beary

 Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Jacob Poste

 Stephen Knight

Meeting attendees: Kirke Perry, Ashely Clark, Mary Jane Watson, Nancy Robert, Rick Perkins, Sandi Uechi, David Crosby, Linda Shaver, Mary Rutley, Ed Fuhr, Grace Hawley, Sara Sharlow, Amy Irish, Anne Townsend, Aaron Johnson, Jackie Johnson, Kirk Snyder, Bob Agel, Marilyn Fayette

Zoom attendees: Dennis Eickhoff, Cynthia Hennessy, Judy Fuhr, Peggy Shea, Peggy Mousaw

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**

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

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Approve 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Mr. Knight to approve the minutes from the July 2023 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

Motion #3

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #8, 2023**

Motion made by Mr. Poste, seconded by Mr. Beary to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #8, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

*Mary Jane Watson* on behalf of the Colton Historical Society wanted to thank all involved on getting the roof and ceiling at the museum repaired.

*Mary Rutley* asked why the trees at Sunday Rock were taken down? Supervisor Robert explained that the trees were rotting from the inside. Councilman Knight stated an arborist was contacted for the inspection and removal of the trees.

*Ed Fuhr* stated that the Planning Board is working on the comprehensive plan for the town. It is much more complicated than they thought.

*Bob Agel* asked about the transfer station upgrades. He stated at the July Higley Association meeting that Councilman Beary was in attendance representing the Colton Town Board. Mr. Agel stated that Mr. Beary spoke during the meeting stating that the transfer station would cost $1.5 million with a grant reimbursement of $600,000. Then at the August Higley Association meeting Mr. Beary stated that the transfer station improvements would cost more by the end of the project and the grant would only be 25% of the total cost. The Town has a contingency fund with $3 million in it Mr. Agel was told. Can this be used to offset the cost? Town engineer Jeff Tubolino spoke up stating that the transfer station improvements budget has remained unchanged and that the project is currently under budget. Mr. Tubolino stated that they are working to try to get more than 25% from the grant. Mr. Beary proposed that there be a resolution to have the entire cost of the transfer station improvements come out of the general fund. Councilman Knight disagreed. Mr. Knight stated that the town is currently doing just that. Also, the town has an ongoing lawsuit with Erie Boulevard. We do not know how that will work out or what the future brings.

*Ashely Clark* presented to the board the idea of “Hometown Heros Banners” and “High-school Senior banners” on the telephone poles in Colton and South Colton. Mrs. Clark showed the board members a sample banner she was able to get from the town of Massena. Mrs. Clark is asking that the town purchase the brackets for the telephone poles to put the banners on. The board requested that Mrs. Clark get some numbers and come back next month with that information.

**County Legislators Report:** Rick Perkins

We had 15 resolutions.

We had 6 modifications to the budget.

We had 4 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 19 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution approving the Workers Compensation Self Apportionment for the year 2024.

We had a resolution authorizing the solicitation of bids for the renovations at the Public Safety Complex and appointing

 the owner’s representative/ clerk of the works for the project.

We had a resolution approving the 2023 St Lawrence County Solid Waste Department Fee rates.

We had a resolution proclaiming August 2023 as National immunization Awareness month.

We had a resolution setting a date for a public hearing on proposed local law for 2023 “Allowing 12 and 13 year old

 licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season with the supervision of an adult licensed

 hunter” and rescinding local law B for the year 2021.

**Engineer Report:** Jeff Tubolino

Mr. Tubolino provided the current budget for the Transfer station improvements. Currently the project is $49,000 under budget. There is a small safety issue involving the compactors – they are working to rectify that. Potential savings from National Grid of $21,000 - $25,000.

On July 27th Mr. Tubolino met with the DPW department at the water/sewer plant. Their suspicions were correct about the clarifier. It is not turning properly. Mr. Tubolino and the DPW dept. will be working on this during the late night/early morning hours of the 22nd and 23rd of August to fix the issue.

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**Dog Warden Report:** Mike Gilbo

Nothing at this time.

**Bookkeeper/Assessor Report:** Shelley Rayner

Nothing at this time.

**BTI Report:** Andrea Malik

* We finished the 2023 BTI season in mid-July and pesticide application reports have all been submitted to the DEC.
* Reimbursements for BTI field gear; i.e. boots, raingear, etc. had been increased from $250 to $350 last year, but it still has not had Board approval and the employee handbook needs to be updated. I would like to request that a motion be made to do that in this meeting.

Motion #4

Mr. Knight made a motion to raise the reimbursement dollar amount for the BTI crew for field gear/safety clothing and equipment from $250 to $350; seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

* Please see attached proposed BTI technician pay rate. I will be at the September meeting and would like to go over it with you in executive session

 Sidewalk

* The polymeric sand I used last year from Lowes was poor quality, often clumpy and did not set up correctly. I bought different sand from Willow Tree and it’s working great!

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

Transfer Station

Construction is going well. We need to grind our transfer station brush and stump pile with a tub or horizontal grinder. Our best rate is 500.00 an hour from Seaway Timber. The second lowest bid was 900.00 and hour from Greg Hopple from Gouverneur. Seaway Timber is inclusive on fuel, mobilization and excavator included work. Hopple doesn’t include any of these needs. It will take approximately 25-30 hours to complete this task. This is an estimate. We usually chip and grind this for free, but Re-Energy is closing down because wood is not a renewable energy apparently.

 Motion #5

Mr. Poste made a motion to hire Seaway Timber at $500.00 per hour for the stump/brush grinding at the transfer station; seconded by Mr. Knight.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

Water/Sewer

Water district is working as it should. Still have a leak we are scheduled to fix on the 29th of August. 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 in compliance for the month of July and August having 13 and 8 parts per million. We made limit in June with adjustments at the plant and were under our 200 parts per million by the time June was over as well. The next scheduled repair is August 22nd.

Building and Grounds

Our crews are working on the Tower at Swift field. We hope to have that complete for soccer season. Our Water and Sewer projects will of course come first.

Safety

We received one minor fine for MSHA inspections this year. That isn’t bad as they often find fault with two or three minor things each year.

Code Enforcement Office

70 permits for the new year. We have had two subdivisions pending for September and, one subdivision passed this month.

**Highway Report:** Kevin Hawley

* Since the last meeting we have completed our second trip around mowing roadsides.
* We also have our winter sand all screened at the Fish and Game club and have started hauling it to the garage.
* The Cayey Road Bridge project is on schedule with Jefferson County Concrete, the casting of the beams will start on the 30th with delivery the third week of September.
* Lisbon hopes to finish with the paver this week, in the next couple weeks I hope to get our paving done with exception of a small amount on the Cayey Road project.
* Requesting a budget amendment of $129,795.01 for highway improvement/Chips? Last month it was requested that $291,084.01 be amended. That amount was incorrect.

Motion #6

Mr. Beary made a motion to correct the budget amendment from last months meeting from $291,084.01 to $129,795.01 for highway improvements/Chips; seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

**Library Report:** Dennis Eickhoff

The back wall at the library is still a concern. The library board is all on board for the repairs. Aiming for next year for that project. The cost could be reduced from $78,000 to $53,000.

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**Planning Board Report:** Kirke Perry

One subdivision last month. Received a report from Adirondack North Country Association on clean smart energy. Planning board members are also working on the solar law for the town. Working on the comprehensive plan as well. They have a student intern that will be working with them and coming to all meetings regarding the comprehensive plan.

**Town Clerk Report:** Jennifer Cole

* Requesting permission to pay two Coakleys invoices with the early bills. The invoices total $6199.98 combined. They are from June.

Motion #7

Mr. Poste made a motion to pay the two Coakley bills totalling $6199.98 with the early bills ; seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

* SUNY Potsdam is holding the local government conference on Tuesday Oct 10. The conference will be covering assessing/assessors, board member/budget & 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 was completed. Dennis Eickhoff spoke up stating that the lighting hasn’t been put back in place yet.
* Change Mr. Schwartfigure’s title to interim DPW Superintendent to be paid hourly at $29.95.

 Motion #8

Mr. Knight made a motion to change Mr. Schwartfigure’s title to Interim DPW Superintendent to be paid hourly at $29.95; seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

* Mr. Beary proposed a resolution for the contractors cost of the transfer station improvements to come out of the general fund account. No second. Motion denied.

**New Business:**

* Sidewalk repairs – the town received quotes from Mark Fisher for a two phase repair. First phase would be $13,275. and the second phase would be $16,000. Mr. Knight made a motion to accept the bids from Mr. Fisher; seconded by Mr. Poste. Mr. Beary requested a discussion on this. He read from the towns procurement policy that purchases less than $35,000. but greater than $10,000. require bids from three contactors. Discussion on if the sidewalks would be considered an emergency as they are in bad condition in some areas. Mr. Beary stated that he wants to make sure we are following policy. Mr. Knight suggested tabling this until the next meeting.
* Requesting approval for the supervisor to ratify purchases via phone in emergencies as recommended by the Association of Towns. Discussion on what would be considered an emergency and if there would be a limit on the cost. Mr. Beary felt that by agreeing to this it could possibly get out of hand with spending.

Motion #9

Mr. Poste made a motion to allow department heads with the approval of the town supervisor to make emergency purchases without board approval that do not comply with current procurement policy. The purchase will be reviewed by the full board and ratified at the next board meeting; seconded by Mr. Knight.

Ayes 3 – Poste, Knight, Robert

Noes 1 - Beary

Absent - Fisher

Motion carried

**Adjournment:**

Motion #10

With no further business to discuss Mr. Knight made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:05pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

 Ayes 4

 Noes 0

 Absent - Fisher

 Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

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