Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, December 11, 2019

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

Present: George R. Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Grace Hawley

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Ronald Robert

Donna Buckley, Clerk

Absent: Kevin Hawley, Katheryn Hayes and Lisa Fisher-Davis

Others present: Robert Ball, Penny Cayey, Mary Jane Watson, Rick Perkins, Ruth McWilliams, Danny Collins,

Kirke Perry and Kitty O’Neil

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m. as advertised. Ms. Hayes called to say she would not make the meeting because of the bad weather. Mrs. Fisher-Davis called to say she was unable to make it because everyone in her family was called to work so she was left with the baby. Mr. Robert came and couldn’t stay long because he was sick.

Mr. Cayey asked the Board if they reviewed the last meeting minutes, bills and transfers, if so asked for a motion to accept.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the November Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as written.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Cayey asked for a motion to amend the salt barn lines.

Motion # 2

**INCREASE SALT BARN REVENUE**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Mr. Robert to increase the salt barn revenue A3397. $105,375 and A5132.33- $105,375.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Cayey read aloud the transfers and spoke of the new heating systems.

Motion # 3

**APPROVE WARRANT # 12, TRANSFER, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the bills on Warrant # 12 with the transfers, bank statement and reconciliation.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 184,428.61

Highway Fund $ 89,955.34

Hepburn Library Fund $ 6,668.01

Colton Light District $ 763.07

South Colton Light District $ 718.05

Sewer District #1 $ 8,621.13

Water District #1 $ 9,407.57

The following accounts are over budget as of November 30 2019.

**General Fund:**

A1620.1 Bldgs Salary. $ 3,341.76 (14000)

A1620.2 Bldgs Equip . 12,251.30 (13000)

A1620.4 Bldgs Contr. 4,036.37 (10000)

A7450.4 Rec. Contr. 182.08 (1000)

A8160.4 Transfer Station Contr. 3,463.32 (20000) **TOTAL $38,000**

**Recommendation for transfer**:

A4068.12 Insect Contr. BF $ 2,500.00

A4068.13 Insect Contr. M 500.00

A7140.1 Recreation PS 13,000.00

A9010.8 State Retirement 15,000.00

A9035.8 Medicare 6,000.00

A9050.8 Unemployment Ins. 5,000.00

A9060.8 Health Ins. 22,000.00

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Over budget accounts continued.

**Highway Fund**

DA9030.8 Social Security $ 508.73 (4000)

**Recommended Transfer**

DA9035.8 Medicare $ 4,000.00

**Library Fund**

L9030.8 Social Security $ 55.51(350)

**Recommended Transfer**

L9035.80 Medicare $ 350.00

**Sewer**

SS8110.4 Contr. $ 14.07

**Recommended Transfer**

SS8110.12 PS $3000.00

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Perkins reported:

The Legislators made 11 modifications to the budget, filled 10 positions, signed 14 agreement/contracts and passed these resolutions: 1) approving St. Lawrence County information technology acceptable use policy 2) authorized the Planning department to apply for a Community Development Block Grant 3) authorized the Public Health Department to accept a laptop for the County Coroners to aid in the battle against the Opioid Epidemic 4) charge tax items and erroneous errors 5) adopted the mortgage tax report 6) there were two resolutions abandoning portions of roads – SH 732in Oswegatchie and Rt 832 in Pitcairn 7) two resolutions to approve engineering for the Jones Rd. Bridges and the South Shore rd. in Oswegatchie 8) accepted the new solid waste fees 9) designated the Chamber of Commerce as St. Lawrence County 2020 promotion Agent and Director 10) accepted to install a temporary bridge on the Jones Rd. for snowmobile and ATV use 11) set the Organizational Meeting as January 2 at 6:00. If anyone has any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Ball reported:

* Since January 1st 2019 there has been 104 property transfers/sales (13 new since last month) Of these sales 44 are Arm’s length sales. These 44 sales will be used by the State to determine the Town’s equalization rate.
* Currently there are 74 open building permits. I am in the process of visiting each of these properties. After I have visited a property and the building is complete, I then update the property record card, the RPS program and add the value to the assessment roll.
* New changes have been made to the STAR Program. This change applies to property owners who own more than one home. In these cases if the property owner moves from one home to another, their STAR Exemption will be suspended while they live in the second home. If said property owner moves back to the first home they are eligible for the STAR Exemption to be re-activated.
* I am currently in the process of preparing exemption renewal applications to be mailed out at the first of the year. These renewal applications will be mailed out to property owners who have the Senior Citizens Exemption and Agricultural Exemption holders.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

93 permits this year to date. A demolition permit came in for a camp to be replaced by a year round home on Stark Reservoir next spring. More homes are being built on the upper reservoirs above Higley. An operating permit might be in the works in the Town of Colton Hamlet. The appearance ticket has still not been addressed by our town attorney.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* - Sludge study is almost complete. Our first round of information and meetings complete. Cost analysis is all but finalized. The Compost Program proposed will be our best cost effective way if we do as much as possible in house vs outsource.

*Water and Sewer* See above transfer station report for sludge study progress.

*Building and Grounds* The MSB propane boiler conversion from fuel oil is complete. Wright Choice is in the middle of the DPW Station being converted to a new propane boiler from forced air fuel oil furnace. The Museum is complete by Aeon in switching to propane furnace from a fuel oil furnace. Community Center will be the next heating unit and should be done before December 31. S&L Electric will begin their LED conversion starting Monday and will continue through the remainder of our buildings. Our grant is under way for the 50,000. We received our first installment of 12,500. According to our calculations from the NYSERDA milestone and deliverables worksheet, our cost savings on the 50,000 grant will be 147,000 in a twenty year period, without inflation savings. Rink liner in and waiting for Mother Nature to take over. Sander parts are in and the sander is currently being repaired.

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**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

The quote for adding on a camera at the courthouse came in high due to the fact the old system is over 12 years old and cannot sustain another camera. We can replace the system next year. We are just looking to switch a camera to a more needed spot possibly until the new system can be afforded and installed. Street lights are fixed on Main Street. Safety budget should just last until end of the season.

**CLERK’S REPORT** Ms. Buckley reported:

1. Tomorrow there is a webinar refresher for tax collection that I signed up for,
2. The class that I attended this past Monday had two representatives from NYS Vital Records. It was very helpful. It covered the new Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) The death certificate is started by the Doctor or Coroner, it’s then emailed to the Funeral Director that the family chose and from there it’s emailed to the Clerk to finish and print.
3. NYS has waived their portion of the Marriage License fee of $22.50 for Active Duty Armed Forces. It is up to the Town if they want to waive the Town’s portion $17.50. This can be done with a resolution. I can have a resolution ready for the next meeting.
4. The Organizational meeting is next on Thursday January 2nd, 2020. What time do you wanrt it scheduled for? Schedule for 3:00 p.m. The Regular January Meeting will be Wednesday January 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
5. With Christmas smack in the middle of the week, some folks with vacation time to use and the annual dinner, the Town Offices are closed the week of Christmas.

**PLANNING /ZONING BOARD REPORT** Mr. Perry reported:

The Planning Board meeting was held on December 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Colton Town Hall. The legal notice of this meeting was posted in the local newspapers as usual. The issues brought up for discussion were:

* Application for Subdivision: Town of Colton, Applicant Lisa Fisher-Davis, Application No. BP-90-2019, Zoning District SCH, Parcel I.D. No. 120.002-1-13. (43 Morgan Rd, Colton NY).

Parent parcel (of land) was purchased from Lisa Fisher-Davis by Deborah and James Champagne previously. This new parcel is essentially to extend their property for more privacy. The subdivision was approved with one condition. The new parcel needs to be attached to the parent parcel (by the purchasers) within 6 months.

* Blue Line Engineering was kosher with all of the corrections that the planning board made to the Wind Law draft with the exception of decibels (for noise compliance), which needs more discussion with Blue Line Engineering (possibly a conference call).

Code Enforcement Officer Report:

* 92 permits to date
* 1 house being built on Upper Higley
* SLIC Booster Station is being housed on the Higley Hooch Property

New Business:

* Airbnb, brief discussion. More information is being gathered so we can have more of an in depth discussion on laws, rules and regulations for Airbnb’s.
* Jeff Rousell is looking into new chromebooks for all of the Planning Board members. There is enough money in the budget to accommodate this purchase.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS – Made in November $3,034.47 interest.
2. The Community Center is completed and the barn quilt will be back up before Winterfest.
3. Sidewalk contractors have not provided quotes yet. Mr. Robert will deal with the contractors.
4. Mr. Eickhoff has moved his Not for profit ambulance out of our MSB building.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Chrome tablets for Planning Board – Donna will order tomorrow.
2. Video surveillance for courthouse. - $4600
3. Assoc. of Towns Supervisors and Mayors signed a resolution opposing sales tax to the Towns & Villages by the County,
4. Chargebacks on tax bills.
5. Proposed dissolution of Tourism/Beautification Committee

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF CHROMEBOOKS FOR PB**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize the purchase of 8 chromebooks for the use by the Planning Board Members and Code Enforcement Officer at roughly $300 each.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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Motion # 5

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AT COURTHOUSE**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to purchase a video surveillance system for the Courthouse in the amount of $4600.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**TOURISM/BEAUTIFICATION REPORT** Mrs. McWilliams reported:

The committee’s work is now in transition since no one has stepped forward to serve in 2020 as the town’s Tourism & Beautification Coordinator and chair of the Tourism & Beautification Committee. And so Ruth McWilliams requests with the committee’s support that a phasing out process be followed during 2020 to facilitate the transition of work, as described below.

**Committee’s Proposed Dissolution Process**

The Tourism & Beautification Committee, as currently functioning, was formed in 2010 based upon the vision of bringing conservation and development opportunities together to result in more integrated environmental, social, and economic benefits for visitors as well as local residents, businesses, and organizations. The approach focused on protecting natural assets and embracing the community’s heritage and character while promoting the community as a year-round destination, creating recreational and educational experiences for visitors, and enhancing the community’s pride. Specific activities presented in annual work plans and budgets to the Town Board reflected the interests of committee participants.

Some committee activities are nearing completion and others are ongoing, as shared this week with George Cayey and the committee in a 3-page proposal. And so a phasing out process is proposed to allow orderly transitions of work to take place during 2020. Although there will be no more monthly committee meetings or reports to the Town Board, Ruth and others involved with activities outlined in the document expect to meet with George and others during the year to facilitate transitions as desired by the town and other interested parties.

At this time we are able to report that the Remembrance Trees Project will continue next year with Town Clerk Donna Buckley taking Dave Crosby’s place as the lead. Dave has discussed the changing situation with our tree supplier, Adirondack Growers. And Donna welcomes help by others including the Colton Historical Society which has hosted a reception for the public each year following the tree lightings to recognize tree sponsors and those being remembered.

**Winterfest Planning**

The Winterfest Planning Committee chaired by Grace Hawley (315-262-2439) is finalizing the schedule of festival events for January 23-26.  Winterfest will kick off on Thursday evening with a Spaghetti Dinner in the school cafeteria hosted by the Class of 2020 during which the town’s Citizen of the Year—Lorraine Gowing—will be recognized.  And it will end on Sunday with two family-oriented events: an educational program in the school auditorium by Lena the Lizard Lady supported by the CPCS Teachers’ Association and the Winterfest Planning Committee; and Cardboard Sled Races and a Sledding Party organized and hosted by the Racquette Valley Fish & Game Club.

As in the past, the winter festival continues to support the Neighborhood Center serving Colton, Pierrepont, and Parishville.  This year the Winterfest Planning Committee will hold a silent auction of folk and fine art during January, announcing winning bids shortly after the festival ends.  More details about fundraising activities will be announced in coming weeks; however anyone wishing to donate artworks should contact Krystal Hewer at school (315-262-2100) or Ruth McWilliams (315-262-2450).

Mr. Cayey requested Mrs. McWilliams hold off until the next meeting to discuss the dissolution.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR** Nobody had anything to discuss.

Motion # 6

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to adjourn.

Ayes 3 Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 6:30 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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