**Colton Public Hearing for 2023 Town Budget, November 2, 2022**

**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. Randi-Lee Cook-Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Shelley Rayner, Peggy Mousaw, Mary Rutley, Ed Fuhr, Steve Knight

Zoom attendees: Peggy Shea, Dennis Eickoff, Mary Jane Watson, Anne Townsend

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

Supervisor Robert opened the floor to public questions and comments.

Colton resident Peggy Mousaw stated she has previously asked for information regarding salaries and wages. In particular wages for Mrs. Shelley Rayner the Town bookkeeper, assessor, personnel manager and highway secretary. Ms. Mousaw stated by her calculations Mrs. Rayner will be the highest paid employee working for the Town in 2023 with wages/salaries totaling $80,839.00. Mrs. Rayner stated that that information was incorrect. Her wages/salary total for all jobs combined would be $77,963.00 in 2023. Questions on new hires, wages/salaries etc. Ms. Mousaw stated that in 2020 the prior town clerk, bookkeeper and BTI supervisor were given 12.8% raises. No other positions were given that increase. Mrs. Rayner then stated that those three employees were given a merit increase due to their job responsibilities by the Town Board. Ms. Mousaw also stated that this current year the new assessor, Mrs. Rayner, did not take a cut in pay as the new assessor for the town. Mrs. Rayner replied that Ms. Mousaw was incorrect on that as well. Mrs. Rayner’s wages as the new assessor are $150.00 per week. Mrs. Rayner stated that the prior assessor’s salary was $25,841.00. Mrs. Rayner did not accept the acting assessor role until mid March of 2022.

Colton resident Mary Rutley spoke in support of Peggy Mousaw. Ms. Rutley also asked about the $5,000.00 in the 2023 budget that was set aside for the Morgan Rd. Beach Project. The Town Board, Code Enforcement Officer Darren Richards, and Mrs. Rayner all assured Ms. Rutley that those monies are specifically for testing the area where the Morgan Rd. Beach has been proposed to possibly exist. That nothing is set in stone for the beach and that all board members except for Mr. Beary are neither for nor against the possibility of a beach. At this time the majority of the board members are just wanting information for this project to see if the area is viable for a beach. If the area is viable for a beach, the majority of the board would like to open a referendum to the public for vote on this project. Mr. Beary is against the Morgan Rd. Beach project and has stated such in previous meetings. Questions on the site plan, beach elevation, water samples, water levels and road width were asked.

With no further questions or comments from the public or board members, Supervisor Robert asked if there was a motion to accept the 2023 budget with changes.

Motion# 1

Mr. Poste made the motion to accept the 2023 budget with changes, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

Mr. Beary made the motion to accept the resolution of the Colton Town Board to Adopt the 2023 Town Budget, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Resolution of the Colton Town Board to Adopt the 2023 Town Budget**

**Whereas,** the Town Board met on this date and place as specified in the Public Hearing Notice on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons asking to be heard, therefore,

**Resolving that,** the preliminary budget be and hereby is adopted as the Annual Budget for the Town of Colton for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 2023 and that said budget be adopted and entered in detail in the minutes of the proceeding meeting, be it

**Further resolved,** that the Town Clerk of the town shall prepare and certify in duplicate, copies of said Annual Budget as adopted by the Town Board pursuant to Section 202A Subdivision 2 of Town Law, and deliver one copy thereof to the Supervisor of the Town, in which he will present the said budget to the Legislative Body of the County.

**Adjournment:**

Motion #3

With no further business to discuss Mr. Beary made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:36pm, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 5

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole