**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, March 10, 2021**

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

Present: George Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher-Davis

 Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt. Ronald Robert

 Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Grace Hawley

 Donna Buckley, Clerk

Absent: Katheryn Hayes

Others present: Robert Ball,

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cayey asked if the Board Members had reviewed the minutes, bills and reports.

Motion # 1

**ACCEPT MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to accept the February 10 regular monthly meeting minutes and the Court audit meeting minutes.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 3 AND BANK RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the bills on Warrant # 3 and the bank reconciliation.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud Legislator Perkin’s report:

* We had 27 resolutions
* We had 5 modifications to the budget
* We had 11 Agreements/Contracts to be signed
* We had a resolution authorizing the renaming of Community Services Chemical Dependency Clinics to St. Lawrence County Addition Services.
* We had a resolution proclaiming February Black History Month.
* We had a resolution proclaiming March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month.
* We had a resolution approving NYS Dept. of Transportation Supplemental Agreement for the final design for the St. Lawrence County bridge preservation (2 bridges).
* We had a resolution commending Judge Storie for adopting new policies associated with the restrictions and cross referencing pistol licenses in St. Lawrence County.
* We had a resolution setting the date for a public hearing for a proposed local law Re-establishing St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trail System and Establishing a Trail Permitting Process.
* We had a resolution appointing Kelly Pearson as Records Management Officer for St. Lawrence County.

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

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

* Since January 1st 2021 there have been 7 property transfers, of these sales 4 are arm’s length transactions. All of these sales have been processed and sent back to NYS.
* I currently have 195 open site visits. \*
* Received and process all of the Exemption Renewals for the 2021 Roll.
* Processed 20 new Exemption Applications for the 2021 Roll.

Mr. Robert asked if anything has progressed with Erie Boulevard. Mr. Ball replied he hasn’t heard anything.

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

3 permits this year so far. Planning Board meets March 16th to rewrite zoning uses in various zones…no new business except zoning use updates. One ZBA application on an area variance will be processed in March. State reporting, DEC/FEMA reporting and electronic data input of last year’s permits are consuming Code’s time right now. Building materials are at a very high price index right now, with no market outlook to drop down any time soon. Again, it may be a very limited building season this year. Codes officer has completed almost half of the continuing education credits this year for accreditation upkeep.

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**BTI REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud Ms. Malik’s report:

1. The 37 th Bti season is ready to begin. DEC needs to be notified 7-14 days prior of the actual first

treatment date. This is challenging because of the variable weather conditions at this time of year.

There is at least one stream open so, our first treatment date will be Thursday March 11 th . We may

have to pause a few days until more streams open up a little more.

1. People are often surprised we need to start so early. There are 100 miles of streams that we treat,

involving hiking to the streams to look for larvae to determine relative amounts and size, hiking the

entire length up and down to treat, and returning to the stream after treatment to determine larval

mortality. There is a species of black fly that overwinters in the steams in the larval stage. They are

out there now. With four crew, it takes about a month to get the first round of streams treated. If we

were to start later, larvae in some of the streams may pupate as temperatures rise and we would have

flies coming out. There are also eggs that overwinter. So, when we finish the first round, we’re gearing

up to do it all over again, and then again 4-8 times depending on the stream.

1. The new crew member, Josh McDaniel completed the 30 -hour course and took his DEC exams last

week. The pre-employment physical and drug/alcohol test have also been completed.

1. Donna Dilworth will be returning to work part-time, 2 days a week, as an apprentice on the mosquito

control program. She completed her 8 -hour training course and she will do her required 40 -hour, on

the job training with me once we are in full operation. She has also completed her pre-employment

requirements.

1. Michael Reynolds will be returning in a couple weeks when he finishes his winter job.
2. Jason Fogg will be returning this week. I will be field training him on the black fly control. Last year he

wasn’t able to take the DEC certification exams until July because of Covid so had worked on mosquito

control.

1. Anna Hardiman will be returning as an apprentice in May, after her winter job, to work on the

mosquito program.

1. I had a college student who lives in Colton contact me regarding the Bti Program. She is currently

taking College courses on-line but inquired about the possibility of volunteering on the program to gain

some experience and also to determine if this is the type of career she wants to pursue. She would not

be able to handle the Bti and I’m not sure I could practically use a volunteer on a regular basis. I think

though, it is a wonderful opportunity for a young person such as this, to get involved and gain on the

job exposure, if nothing else than to just help them decide what direction to pursue in future careers.

Down the road she may want to apply to be on the crew when we have an opening. I love working

with young people and the Bti Program is a unique opportunity. I also plan on connecting her with the

outreach directors for the invasive species program through SLELO and APIP prisms. They utilize

volunteers quite a bit.

1. I spoke with Donna Buckley and Darren Richards regarding Volunteer Agreements. Both had one. I

don’t know if they are the same agreement. Yesterday when I spoke with Darren Richards about it, he

said his Volunteer Agreement had been approved by the Town lawyer.

Motion # 3

**HIRE Bti CREW**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize the hiring of a Bti Crew as recommended by Ms. Malik at the rate of pay indicated in the Organization Meeting minutes for their experience.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST MS. MALIK**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize a volunteer to assist Ms. Malik during her daily routine. The “Volunteer” has to sign a waiver, assist only Ms. Malik and transportation to the field will be with Ms. Malik in the Town Bti truck.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**DPW REPORT**: Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* - Nothing new to report. Our DEC reports have been submitted for the 2020 year.

*Water and Sewer* - Our DPW job trailer is coming to completion. It will be nice to reduce hours of errands on Water/Sewer collection and distribution repairs in the field. Mr. Richards requested to order hydrant clamps that are necessary for new installs. None have been ordered in 10 years. Two estimates were the same price of about $3600.

*Building and Grounds* - New phone system will be on line before the ending of spring saving the town $12,000 in a five year time span. Everything is operation as it should. Getting some early spring cleaning organized as well. The Salt barn designs are finished and the bidding timeline will be discussed in new business.

**2**

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Motion # 5

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF HYDRANT CLAMPS**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize the purchase of hydrant clamps not to exceed $4,000.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

School crosswalk was struck by a hit and run driver. The State DOT was notified and temporary repairs were done to make the crosswalk functioning and parts are ordered. Micro spikes were ordered and poles as well for BTI and DPW workers. Slips and falls can be prevented with the right equipment.

Mr. Richards spoke about a BOCES student he has working with the DPW Dept. Mr. Richards asked that the student be allowed to drive a town vehicle on his permit as long as an employee is with him. Mrs. Fisher-Davis asked he do a pre-inspection.

Motion # 6

**AUTHORIZE STUDENT TO DRIVE TOWN VEHICLE**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to allow the student to drive a town vehicle, with an employee and pre-inspection.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting we have primarily been concentrating on snow and ice. We worked with NYSDOT and the Village of Potsdam removing snow from State Route 56 and some of the side streets in Colton.

I had plans of doing more including South Colton, however Potsdam snow blower lost a bearing and brought us to a stop.

* The banks along 56 were higher than normal because of the large amount of snow accumulation this winter coupled with the lack of a midwinter thaw that we normally experience. The banks cause a significant loss of sightline for residents exiting side roads driveways and parking lots.
* We also had a major problem with the snow from the state plows filling our sidewalk back in with snow after we had them cleaned out. This project was entirely completed through shared services with very minimal actual cost.
* I have contacted the towns insurance company regarding our damaged plow. I was asked to forward some pictures to their adjuster which I did. So far I have not got an answer from them on coverage. The plow is still useable it just doesn't scrape quite as good as it should.
* We had a problem with the 2018 international plow truck that required installation of a new clutch. This was completed early last week and the truck is now back in service.
* I received an email from our state association announcing the reinstatement of last year's chips shortfall. If I understand it correctly one option is to allow the money to roll into this year's allotment. I forwarded the email to Supervisor Cayey for his review.
* This is the time of year that the Board asks Donna to advertise in paper for spring road posting. I feel that needs to be done in the near future as I've had two calls from loggers wanting to start operations on Gulf Road and possibly Number nine road.
* The “No Snowmobiles on Sidewalk” signs have been ordered.

Motion # 7

**ADVERTISE ROAD POSTING**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize Town Clerk to advertise the spring road closing.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**3**

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Mr. Hawley stated since he’s not getting what he wants with the current plans for a salt barn he would like to check into a different salt barn than what is proposed. He said a company named SourceWell is almost half the price and the structure could be up within 6 weeks. It also has a 25 year warranty and doesn’t have to go out to bid.

Mr. Robert replied he would to have a meeting with the Engineer, Kevin, George, Darren and Himself as soon as it could be arranged before making any decision.

Motion #7

**ITEM 1 AGREEMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to sign item 1 agreement as recommended by Highway Superintendent.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**LIBRARY REPORT** Ms. Dusharm reported:

At the Library Trustees meeting Monday they accepted a proposal to open the Library the regular hours to the public on April 7. Ms. Dusharm asked if the “smoke free drug fee” signs were ordered. Yes.

**PLANNING/ZONING REPORT** Mr. Richards said the Planning Board wasn’t too happy being asked to change zoning that will affect the whole town, not just the applicant. Mr. Richards stated he thinks an area variance and still allow to protect the hamlet.

**CLERKS REPORT** Ms. Buckley reported:

Flags have been ordered for the cemeteries. Road closing notice was sent to the paper. Swim Program is still up in the air, depends upon Potsdam Recreation. We will have a food distribution Friday, April 9 from 3-6pm, at 25 Wildwood Rd. Unclear as to when we are having our rabies clinic due to county requirements. Parishville is having their rabies clinic on April 29, 6-7pm at the Parishville Station.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

1. Lorraine Gowing – Colton resident wants to know about “Friends of Colton” putting a survey on the Facebook page and Website.
2. Going back thru looking for examples of signs the students had to offer.

Motion #8

**SANCTION FRIENDS OF COLTON COMMITTEE**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Roberts to Sanction Friends of Colton Committee.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #9

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried at 7:10pm

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 Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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