**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, October 18, 2018**

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

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

Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt. Katheryn Hayes

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Lisa Fisher-Davis

Donna Arquiett, Clerk

Absent: Ronald Robert

Others present: Tina Miller, Ed Fuhr, Penny Cayey, Mary Jane Watson, Brad Barber, Rick Perkins, Allison Johnson,

Justin Johnson with 3 of his boys and Micki Nesbitt arrived at 7:15.

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

Mr. Cayey asked for a motion to approve minutes. Mr. Cayey explained the Emergency Meeting was held to provide the necessary paperwork/requirements for Judge Robar to apply for a grant. He missed asking for the last meeting because the quotes he needed didn’t come on time so he didn’t think he would be applying.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley seconded by Ms. Hayes to approve the minutes of September 12, Public Hearing minutes of September 19 and Emergency Meeting minutes of October 1, 2018.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Hayes, Fisher-Davis, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 9, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve warrant # 9 along with the bank statement and reconciliation.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 43,771.40

Highway Fund $225,066.71

Hepburn Library $ 1,375.01

Colton Light District $ 748.06

South Colton Light District $ 703.91

Sewer District #1 $ 2,511.41

Water District #1 $ 3,031.29

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Perkins reported the Legislators at their last meeting passed 35 resolutions, filled 15 vacancies, applied for 4 grants, agrees to 7 contracts dis some policy reviews and made budget modifications. He said they have a tentative budget that eliminates the need to borrow and they stayed under the tax cap. This will be the 4th year in a row the County share of taxes has decreased. Mr. Perkins stated he would not be here for next month’s meeting.

Mr. Cayey asked about the news story regarding trash and zero sort, our fee have gone up from $133/ton to $150/ton. Mr. Perkins replied DEC is changing things. There is no place to put everything; we have to find another way to use recyclables.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Ms. Miller reported:

* Nothing new on STAR. I will announce when I have renewal applications. It is important that applicant complete the form in its entirety. Often the phone numbers are not filled in on the application. If I am provided with a phone number, I can contact the applicant if anything is missing.
* There were four valid sales for the month of September. All sale prices were over the assessed value. The average amount over the assessed value was $32,100. The highest difference was $74,000 and the lowest was $6,600.

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

We are currently at 71 permits for the season and two subdivisions coming down the pike. Quiet on the forefront for Planning and ZBA. Planning had another wind law workshop. One verbal complaint, nothing written. PSA: Change your batteries in your smoke detectors. Always change the batteries during your time change spring and fall.

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**INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT** Ms. Arquiett read aloud Ms. Malik’s report.

* I am finishing injection for the Knotweed, (bamboo) this week. I had 11 new sites in addition to returning to previous years sites. It can take a few years to completely get rid of the knotweed. Treatments work a lot better if the knotweed isn’t cut. The small plants that regrow don’t have enough plant material to absorb the herbicide and completely kill it.
* So, I can’t emphasize enough that if you have knotweed, don’t cut it! Let me know and I will put you on my list for next year.
* The new injection gun that I started using last year is a big improvement over the standard injector I had been using. It is much faster and easier on the hand. Still, using it is repetitive motion and I have sustained injury from using it. The injector has a counter on it. Over the last 2 seasons I made 32,458 injections or 16,229 per season. Just flexing your finger in the air that many times would cause injury. I spoke with the inventor of the injector about my injury. (this injector was originally developed for veterinarians to inoculate large herds of animals. I am the first person to use it for invasive plants.) He acknowledged the repetition of pressing the trigger was a problem when a lot of injections are done at once and told me how to modify the injector. He is also working on developing a lithium battery for me to make it lighter. I have a doctor appointment with a hand specialist next week and plan on taking the injector with me to see if a brace can be made that might also help in addition to the modification to the injector.
* An interesting side note: Nick D’Antonio, the inventor of the injector, told me that word of my innovational use of the injector on Japanese Knotweed has spread. It may be soon used in the United Kingdom and Ireland where the knotweed is a big problem. He told me to expect some phone calls. I’ve also encouraged the more local Invasive Plant Programs to try this injector as well.
* I am also hoping to collaborate with Megan Pistolese from the SLELO PRISM and to promote their Invasive Species Volunteer Surveillance Network. The effort here is to work on early detection of invasive species in the river.

Next week I will be going to an Invasive Species meeting in Keene.

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

Town Board member Lisa Fisher-Davis asked me to look into a safety issue with children and community crossing from Swift Field to Boyce’s store or any other across State Highway 56 travel on the 4 corners of South Colton. I have secured a grant for approximately 11,000 for the pedestrian on-demand, LED, solar powered crosswalk devices and the handicap curbing plates. The Town’s share would be acquiring the DOT permit through engineered plans estimated up to $2500.00 and having a contractor install the handicap curbing and crosswalk devices which we are getting a rough quote for the board to review. I am asking the board to commission our Town Engineer to obtain the permit and the board approval of this project pending a DOT permit. Also, we are asking for a letter of support of this project to go with the permit from the Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent and the Colton-Pierrepont Central School Superintendent.

Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE MR. RICHARDS TO PURSUE GRANT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to authorize Mr. Richards to pursue the afore mentioned grant he has secured for approximately $11,000.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Hayes, Fisher-Davis, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE TOWN ENGINEER TO OBTAIN DOT PERMIT AND PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize Town Engineer Jeff Tubilino to obtain a permit from NYS DOT and provide engineering services for this project up to $2500. Letters of support will be provided by Mr. Cayey and Mr. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Hayes, Fisher-Davis, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Richards added NYS DOT may insist the crosswalk cross SH 56 on the 3 Falls Park corner and then cross Windmill because of a sight distance regulation.

Mr. Richards reported a new Federal Law has come through requiring all equipment operators be certified with Dig Safe. Training and expenses are unknown at this time.

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**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last meeting we have finished up our paving projects.
* We also worked with Pierrepont on their paving, finishing that up on Monday.
* I have a little hot mix to do on McKabe Rd. and Spring St. and a driveway pipe on East Hill.
* We did spend the day yesterday hauling our winter sand to the barn.
* I have the town of Lawrence up here with their shoulder machine helping us with our shoulders, they were not available yesterday so we put the day in on sand. I expect all of the shoulder work to be done by the middle of next week.
* I still have several small projects to do before winter, including several driveway pipes and some brush cutting.
* I loaned the Town of Hermon our dump trailer and the main support to the rear axle broke. I turned it into our insurance company and they have sent us a check minus the deductible. Our insurance company will try to recoup the damages from the Town of Hermon. Since the cost of repairs is over my limit without permission I need Board approval.

Motion # 5

**AUTHORIZE REPAIRS TO DUMP TRAILER**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize Mr. Hawley to have the dump trailer repaired costing approximately $3200.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* We have seen some return on our metal this year even with bin rental and trucking. It has offset the cost marginally for our increase on zero-sort recyclables. Our summer crowd is dwindling and slowing down our demand a bit.

*Water and Sewer* The automatic transfer switch at the waste water treatment plant was finally completed. The invoice will go to Selective insurance before the end of this week. We still are having a wiring issue at the generator side of the fence. The generator is not reading the shut off command after the plant is restored to land power after exercising and during emergencies. The plugs, receptacles and floats have all been replaced in the lift stations. A much needed upgrade to our infrastructure. Cemeteries’ water hook ups are shut down for the season.

*Building and Grounds* New 6 foot Z-turn mower does a great job on the athletic fields. The building addition at the Community Center is coming along nicely. Painted walls and ceilings and propane hot water tank are next on the list, then tiling the floors. Casey Collins once again volunteered the labor for the slight handicap ramp entering the new addition and the building space between the parking lot and the foundation for ground water prevention in the basement on the North side of the Community Center.

**PLANNING & ZONING REPORT** Mr. Fuhr reported:

The Planning Board meeting was held on September 25, 2018, 7:00 P.M. 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:

**\*** Discussion on wind tower laws for the Town of Colton. Much discussion of overlay maps and flood

zones for the wind towers, buildable areas, non buildable areas, setbacks, etc. Also, thought and

consideration put in so the new law can and will be adaptable to the landowners.

A suggestion was brought forth of having a preliminary regulatory meeting with the DEC, DOT, APA,

SLC, etc. to discuss the matter of wind towers, laws, and all that would be entailed.

**\*** We would like the Town Board join us on a road trip in the Spring.

**\*** The Planning Board will no longer accept incomplete applications, meaning photos and prints all go

with the application. None of this “I’ll bring them to the meeting” because they don’t.

**\*** Additionally we need to do something about commercial fees.

**\*** Change of day for the monthly Planning Board meeting. No longer fourth Tuesday of the month. Now

the meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month.

**\*** CEO Report

Mr. Perkins added the State is looking for brownfields and landfills to put solar arrays on. Mr. Richards told him we looked into that for the land at the transfer station but the 3- phase power there wouldn’t allow enough to be added. He said the fire department was talking about it for the Hanson Road field.

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**TOURISM & BEAUTIFICATION REPORT** Ms. Arquiett read aloud Mrs. McWilliams report in her absence.

Autumn is in full swing and so is the committee, implementing activities and helping others with theirs.

**Spooky Town Train / Exhibit Open until Halloween**

Dave Crosby does a lot for the community in conjunction with the committee; and now his passion for creating fun and interesting train layouts will delight all who see his new Halloween display. His family-oriented Spooky Town Train exhibit in his two-car garage focuses on fun, not fright. The display with haunted buildings, lights, and sounds as well as trains running through the ghostly countryside is available to see at 29 Riverside Drive in the hamlet of Colton on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 6-7pm until Halloween.

**Tales of the Quest / Presentation on November 1**

The committee continues to assist the Colton Historical Society with its series of presentations. Its next presentation on November 1st at 7pm in the Town Hall features Town Historian and Librarian Dennis Eickhoff who is the 8th person to receive the “Vagabond” award for visiting all 102 villages and towns of the Adirondacks outlined in Martin Podskoch’s *Adirondack 102 Club* guide book published in 2014. And thanks to Dennis the town of Colton is well represented in the book. During the presentation he will share his ‘Tales of the Quest’ to get his book stamped or signed at each of the 102 locations. Also Mark Friden, Town of Clifton Historian and the 3rd person to receive the “Vagabond” award, will share information about the club itself. The beautiful hard cover book, which normally retails for $20, will be available for just $15 during the presentation. The book is great for families and others who like to explore and find hidden gems in less traveled places. And it makes a great gift! Information about the book and club also is available at [www.adirondack102club.com](http://www.adirondack102club.com).

**Remembrance Trees / November 9 Deadline to Order**

The November 9 deadline for ordering Remembrance Trees to honor loved ones, celebrate the holidays, and brighten winter nights is fast approaching. The price per tree is still just $35; and the announcement with order form can be picked up in the Town Hall or downloaded from the town website. Adirondack Growers will supply the trees and stake them in place at sites in the hamlets of Colton and South Colton. Then the committee will tag them so sponsors can find and decorate their trees with LED lights as well as non-electrical and non-glass decorations by the lighting event on Friday, December 7. Once again the goal is to have at least 50 trees displayed through the holidays and Winterfest.

**Winterfest Planning / November 16 Deadline for Event Forms & Citizen of the Year Nominations**

We are assisting the Winterfest Planning Committee chaired by Grace Hawley (315-262-2439) with advance planning. And we hope the 2019 Winterfest—with the theme Rockin’ in the Great South Woods—will include favorites of the past plus some new twists and new fun activities. A new approach to the annual festival spreads activities out during the month of January, giving people the chance to participate in more events. Rather than holding all events during the last full weekend of January, the Winterfest Planning Committee is grouping activities during three consecutive weekends as follows.

* January 11-13 – History focus including Citizen of the Year Award during Spaghetti Dinner, Quilt Show, History Presentation, and more
* January 18-20 – Active Sports focus including Cross-Country Ski Race, Sleigh Rides, and more
* January 25-27 – School focus including Health and Craft Fairs, Educational Program, and more

Any individual, business, or organization wishing to organize and host a Winterfest event is asked to complete an Event Form and return it to Grace at the Colton Town Hall by November 16 for scheduling and publicity purposes. The form is available on the town website ([www.townofcolton.com](http://www.townofcolton.com)) under News and at the Town Hall. Also by November 16 Grace would like to receive nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award which honors a town resident who is an active volunteer and who exemplifies the adage ‘neighbors caring for neighbors.’ The list of past recipients is on the town website under Community. The next planning meeting, open to anyone wishing to help, will be October 24 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall.

**Next Monthly Tourism & Beautification Committee Meeting / Monday, November 12 (4-5:30pm)**

The agenda will focus on the committee’s 2019 work plan as well as winter activities, including Winterfest.

**TOWN CLERK’S REPORT** Ms. Arquiett reported:

* Hunting license sales continue to decrease. So far we have sold 91 licenses totaling $8,137 with our commission out of that being $429.72
* The Games of Chance Law referendum will appear on the November ballot. A link to information explaining the Local Law intent has been put on facebook and our website.
* Election Day is November 6 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the J R Watson Community Center in South Colton.
* The Water and Sewer Ordinances have been completed and on file in the ordinance book.
* We have received the contracts for 2019 if you want to vote to accept them and authorize Mr. Cayey to sign them: o Life Flight $500 has a contract and a resolution which will be # 10
  + Potsdam Humane Society $3972
  + Adirondack Local Govt. Review Board $300

we haven’t received the contracts from CDP $5,000, AATV $549 or Assoc. of Towns $1,000

* I am asking for cell phone reimbursement like other department heads $32.50/mo.
* The November Board meeting will be November 14 at 6:00 p.m.

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Motion # 6

**RENEW ANNUAL CONTRACTS AND AUTHORIZE MR. CAYEY TO SIGN**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to renew our annual contracts with Life Flight, Potsdam Humane Society and Adirondack Local Government Review Board.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 7

**PAY TOWN CLERK MONTHLY CELL PHONE REIMBUREMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to authorize the Town Clerk to be paid monthly cell phone reimbursement $32.50/month upon receipt of copies of bill. Same as other department heads.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Water/Sewer Rate Adjustments – in effect
2. NYCLASS Investment – earned about $15,000 and interest keeps rising
3. 3 way stop @ Cottage & Gulf – installed
4. West Higley Flow Camp Rd – 6 letters have not been returned yet and so far there are 2 no’s

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. New Sexual Harassment Policy – after speaking with the Assoc. of Towns Attorney and our Town Attorney we need “everyone” to take the training when it comes available. By “everyone” this means all full-time, part-time and seasonal employees, members of all boards, contractors we deal with etc. Right now I have a 9 page policy and an attached complaint form for approval.
2. New Well at Swift Field – Mr. Richards said for years the J R Watson Community Center well has fed Swift Field. A water line broke in between causing an issue for the Community Center. Therefore, we needed a new well for the field and ice rink. He contacted 3 Board members to get per-authorization to get the well drilled. Darren Wilson drilled the well 260’ deep with 25-30 gal/min. We had” guess”timated $10,500 and will be below that cost.
3. Budget Meeting – Tuesday, October 23 @ 2:30 p.m.
4. PERMA – Mr. Cayey reported he has moved the PERMA responsibilities from the Bookkeeper to the Safety Officer Darren Richards. When accident reports come in either Donna or I will submit them online then they will go to Darren.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

*Allison and Justin Johnson* – South Colton residents asked about the roadside maintenance done near their property on Windmill Road. Mrs. Johnson said apple trees and a maple tree were cut down, the cut brush was left on the road and there is a hole that is approximately 3’ deep near the edge of the road. She added that she called the Hwy Supt. to clean up the mess replace the cut trees, leaving messages because he didn’t answer his phone. Mr. Hawley replied he didn’t answer because he was in the middle of something and it was after working hours. When Mrs. Johnson asked about getting new trees, because the Garvin’s got new ones when theirs were destroyed. Mr. Cayey said after he received her e-mail he went to check it out. The trees and even their fence was within the Town’s right-of-way.

Other complaints from the Johnson’s included the issue with the speed sign a few years ago and since the road was paved the crown and drainage has changed and runs directly into his barn.

A heated discussion lasted about 15 minutes. Mr. & Mrs. Johnson added all they wanted in the 1st place was for Mr. Hawley to say he was sorry for the damage done and that would have been the end of it.

Ms. Arquiett will look for the previous speed reduction request and at Boards direction send another one. Mr. Hawley said he would come fill the hole 1st thing in the morning. Mr. Johnson stated he wants a heads up the next time they plan on doing work near his property.

Motion # 8

**REQUEST LOWER SPEED ZONE**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to direct Town Clerk to request a lower speed zone from the Morgan to the South Colton Hamlet line on Windmill Road.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 9

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to adjourn.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:35 p.m.

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Donna Arquiett, Town Clerk 5