Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, October 9, 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. Katheryn Hayes

Donna Buckley, Clerk Lisa Fisher-Davis

Absent: Kevin Hawley and Ronald Robert

Others present: Robert Smullen, Bob Ball, Penny Cayey, Ruth McWilliams, Mary Jane Watson, Rick Perkins,

Joe McWilliams, Anne Clarkson, Jake Crosley, Mike Crosley, Ed Fuhr, Danny Collins, Ellie Menz,

Kirk Robideau, Jim McConkey and Debbie Christy

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

Mr. Cayey asked the Board if they reviewed the last meeting minutes, bills and transfers, if so asked for a motion to accept. Mr. Cayey read aloud the transfers and explained why they were necessary.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve the September 11 minutes.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 10, TRANSFER, BANK STATEMENT & RECONCILIATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to approve the bills on Warrant # 10 with the transfers, bank statement and reconciliation.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 101,752.55

Highway Fund $ 108,193.20

Hepburn Library Fund $ 1,401.40

Colton Light District $ 741.27

South Colton Light District $ 697.72

Sewer District #1 $ 2,530.14

Water District #1 $ 2,911.97

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

**General Fund:**

A1110.4 Town Justice Contr. $ 141.84 (3000)

A1620.2 Bldgs. Equip. 37,200.00

**Recommendation for transfer**:

A1990.4 Contingency $ 5,000.00

A5132.21 Garage Equip. 4,300.00

A7450.2 Museum Equip. 3,900.00

A9040.8 Workers Comp 27,000.00

**Library Fund**

L7410.41 Books $ 1,500.00

**Recommended for transfer**

L7410.45 Fuel $ 500.00

L1990.4 Contingency 1,000.00

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Perkins reported at the October 7 Legislator’s meeting they had 39 resolutions and 7 budget modifications. They filled 2 vacant positions, signed 12 contracts/agreements and adopted a local law to Adopt the Sanitary Code of the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department. Resolutions were passed proclaiming October 20-26 2019 as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, proclaiming September 22-28 2019 as Sheriffs Week in St. Lawrence County and proclaiming October Domestic Violence Month. Mr. Perkins added the Legislator’s passed a resolution for the creation of a work release program at the St. Lawrence County Correctional Facility. Other resolutions were for the collection of omitted taxes and adopting the equalization rates for the 2020 taxes. Jason Pfotenhauer was appointed as the new Planning Director and Matthew Denner was appointed as the new EMS Director. We approved federal aid highway project for the construction/ inspection phase of the St. Lawrence County Bridge Preservation Project. Lastly, we adopted the Rights of Public Officers and Employees absent on Military Duty as Members of the Organized Militia or of Reserve Forces of Reserve Components of the Armed Forces pursuant to the military law in St. Lawrence County.

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**DOG WARDEN REPORT** Mr. McConkey reported he worked fifteen hours on license compliance. He received six “dog at large” complaints, of which 1 went to the shelter because he couldn’t find the owner and three nonstop barking complaints. Mr. McConkey stated he received an email from someone who wanted him to respond to their residence to trap a skunk. Mr. McConkey replied he is a dog warden and directed the person in the right direction.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey introduced Assessor Robert Ball. Mr. Ball reported on his 12 years experience as an assessor in Jefferson County. He then reported there have been 76 sales from January 1 to present and 61 open building permits to review. Mr. Ball added there has been some confusion with the STAR tax freeze checks and he is working on record storage. He said currently his office hours are on Wednesdays 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and his cell phone number is 315-771-6342 for appointments.

Mr. Cayey stated we need to appoint Mr. Ball as Sole Assessor since he was appointed interim assessor while Ms. Miller was still here.

Motion # 3

**APPOINT MR. BALL AS SOLE ASSESSOR**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Ms. Hayes to appoint Robert Ball as Sole Assessor. Mr. Ball’s term will expire September 20, 2025.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**BTI REPORT** Ms. Malik sent a short report stating she is picking away at knotweed and recovering from knee surgery.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

* *Water and Sewer* We still have not solved our sludge hauling issues and are coming up with alternatives in the near future based on a study proposed by our Town Engineer. Skip from Casella stating that Watertown hauling could be up to 40 cents per gallon which would not be economically sustainable for our Sewer’s operating budget. In the meantime, we also have to clean our digester tank out because our lime deposits have gone past our diffusers for operation. NRC gave us a proposal in 2016 at $18,760.00 and a proposal in September 2019 for $18,625.00. We have held off for as long as possible. This material has to come out of the tank right away. The landfill tipping fees could reach around $4000.00 for this materials as well depending on tonnage. Well pump number two is down right now due to an electrical disconnect which malfunctioned. Parts for that were ordered today at S&L Electric.
* *Building and Grounds* Hedge trimming was just finished at the Library. I am asking the board approval to include this bill in with the early bills. Chamberlain Landscaping did a great job. The threshold tilework in the entry of the Community Center is being done tomorrow due to new entryway. Seamless gutters will start soon on the Community Center as well. The DPW did a great job on this project overall. Grounds were re-mowed again recently. Grounds look good. A few trees were taken down this past month, one being at Sunday Rock. The Town must discuss a tree replacement program soon.
* *Transfer Station* Things are running smoothly at the transfer station. We are going to discuss a future compost program which might solve our sludge handling issues as well. A study will be under way upon the approval of the board.

Mr. Richards explained the options and pricing the Town has to rid of the sludge at the Sewer Plant is hauling away verses drying and composting.

Motion # 4

**HIRE NRC TO HAUL SLUDGE**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to hire NRC to haul the sludge this one time for now until the study is completed.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 5

**CONTRACT WRIGHT’S CHOICE TO REPLACE MUSEUM HEATING SYSTEM**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to contract Wright’s Choice to replace the Museum heating system with a high efficiency propane heating system costing $5800.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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Motion # 6

**AUTHORIZE BLUE LINE ENGINEERING TO PERFORM A SLUDGE STUDY**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize Blue Line Engineering to perform a sludge study.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Richards and Ms. Buckley requested couple bills be paid with the early bills.

Motion # 7

**ADD BILLS TO EARLY BILLS**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to add the bill from The Tile Guy, Chamberlain Landscaping and Century Linen.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards reported: 84 permits this year so far with three more on their way. ISO and APA are both requesting a building permit report which are both quite extensive. Appearance ticket has still not been addressed by our town attorney

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported: Fire Extinguishers were serviced and inspected for all buildings and vehicles for the town this past month by G&E Extinguishers. The Safety Budget was proposed to the board for the 2020 year with hopes of little or no cutbacks to the budget.

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Cayey presented Mr. Hawley’s report in his absence.

1. We paved the Raquette River Road. It went exactly as planned and we are right on the money.
2. SuiteCote will be on Raquette River Road doing the shoulder mulch on Monday.
3. Our screening plant is back to finish screening our winter road sand, then we will haul it to the garage as soon as the salt pile at the port is uncovered.
4. Chad’s truck needed repairs again; he took it on the lowboy. The high-pressure fuel pump needed replacing. I haven’t received a bill yet.

**TOURISM/BEAUTIFICATION REPORT**

The conclusion of many summer activities means planning for autumn and winter is underway.

**Stone Valley Information Center**: Staffing of the information center for the season ended on Labor Day during the final whitewater release of the summer by Brookfield Renewable at Stone Valley. We sincerely thank all those who made it possible for the Museum to be open on a regular basis during the summer including the Colton-Pierrepont Senior Racqueteers who worked under an agreement with the town and three Colton-Pierrepont Central School (CPCS) students who applied for jobs and were hired by the town. During the off season people can make appointments to visit the Museum by calling Cyndy Hennessy, President of the Colton Historical Society (315-262-2524).

**Barn Quilts / Barn Quilt Tourism Project:** The committee continues to partner with Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY) and other organizations on the grant-supported 2019 Barn Quilt Tourism Project focusing on St. Lawrence County. During the summer the committee offered a series of barn quilt painting classes taught by Ruth McWilliams at The TAUNY Center in Canton, organized and led the creation of the new ‘Towns of St. Lawrence County Barn Quilt’ mural, hosted one of four community barn quilt parties held around the county, and participated as a vendor in the Massena party. Upcoming project activities include:

* Pilot bus tour for French and English speaking people on September 14 being organized by TAUNY and the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce;
* Reception at The TAUNY Center to officially unveil the barn quilt mural and thank all those involved including the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Town Historians, and painters; and
* Release of an online map of barn quilts in St. Lawrence County being developed by the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.

This work and more underway is in lead up to a major exhibit about barn quilts at The TAUNY Center in 2020. With completion of the barn quilt mural the committee will transition back to using the CPCS Art Room as the home base for classes and painting sessions during the school year.

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**TOURISM/BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED**

**Remembrance Trees:** Planning has begun for the popular Remembrance Trees Project, now in its sixth year with Dave Crosby as project coordinator. As in the past we expect to acquire the trees from Adirondack Growers in time for sponsors to decorate them shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday before a reception is hosted by the Colton Historical Society in early December. This year the committee is seeking a partnering organization to learn about, assist with, and benefit from the project. We anticipate announcing the project details including the order form by the end of September. Organizations interested in helping with the project should contact Ruth McWilliams (315-262-2450; [ruth@catamountlodge.com](mailto:ruth@catamountlodge.com)).

The committee’s next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Monday, October 7. The agenda will focus on autumn and winter activities. Since this is Ruth McWilliams tenth and final year chairing the committee, anyone wishing to serve the town in this way should send a letter of interest to Town Supervisor George Cayey at 94 Main Street, Colton, NY 13625. There is a very real possibility the committee will dissolve

**LIBRARY REPORT** Mrs. Menz, Library Trustee thanked Supervisor Cayey for his perseverance to the grant funds the Library was awarded. The end of season book sale will be October 19, $2 per bag starting at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**PLANNING/ZONING REPORT** Mr. Fuhr reported he has been sick and the Planning Board has been working on a cemetery law. Mr. Fuhr stated Mr. Rousell is up for reappointment to the Planning Board.

Motion # 8

**REAPPOINT MR. ROUSELL TO PLANNING BOARD**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to reappoint Jeffrey Rousell to the Planning Board.

This term will expire October 31, 2026.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**CLERK’S REPORT**

* APPOINTMENTS – Re-appoint Jeffrey Rousell to Planning Board
* There are 14 people registered for Local Gov’t. Day, Tuesday October 15.
* There is a copy of the EARLY VOTING HOURS on the counter, which is at the Board of Elections Office. Even though it’s on the 2nd floor of the new building on SH 310 it is fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

**ENGINEERS REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

The wind law draft was sent to the Town Attorney for review and it is recommended to hire a specialist to review it also. Blue Line Engineering gave an estimate of $1850.

Motion # 9

**HIRE BLUE LINE ENGINEERING**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to hire Blue Line Engineering to review the proposed wind law.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS Investment – Made $4,276.70 for the month of September
2. Town Barn Roof and Siding – All work has been completed by Sands and approved for payment.
3. Approved Fisher Builders to fix well, handicap entrance and exterior smart board siding on Library under grant funds.
4. Sidewalk contractors have not provided quotes yet.
5. Need to move $4,110.90 from account A1620.2 to A5132.2. The transaction coded to wrong account for windows for Town Barns.

Motion # 10

**AUTHORIZE CHANGE OF CODING ERROR**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize the change of coding error to bill the correct account. Move $4,110.90 from A1620.2 to A5132.2 since they were highway garage repairs.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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* **NEW BUSINESS**

1. SLIC to get 20 x 20 slab approval next to town barns, town gets free internet service at town barns
2. Board needs to approve or disapprove to get grant for Judges Chambers on Community Center.
3. Resolution to file NAVISTAR claim for defective EGR emissions system.

Mr. Cayey reported a conversation he had with SLIC representative Darlene Cole. The areas SLIC plans on providing access to are Cold Brook Drive, Littlejohn Road, Windmill Road to Morgan Road, SH 56 from South Colton to Colton, Raquette River Road, Trimm Road, Cayey Road and French Pond Road.

The Board discussed the refurbishing that has been done on the JR Watson Community Center and the request of Judge Robar to add a judges chamber. Judge Robar would get the grant funding as he has for the past for the Courtroom. Mr. Cayey asked Mrs. Hawley what her decision was – she replied no, Mrs. Fisher-Davis – replied no,

Ms. Hayes replied no and Mr. Cayey replied no to the request for a judge’s chamber.

Mr. Richards thought that if Judge Robar wanted to apply for a grant, he could possible apply for one to replace the flooring on the other side of the building since he uses that room too on court nights.

Mr. Cayey congratulated Mike and Anne Crosley for their Small Business Award. The Crosley’s gave credos to their employees for the award.

Motion # 11

**PASS RESOLUTION # 5 – 2019**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to pass Resolution # 5 – 2019, Authorization To File A Claim In The Navistar Maxxforce Engine Settlement.

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**AUTHORIZATION TO FILE A CLAIM IN THE**

**NAVISTAR MAXXFORCE ENGINE SETTLEMENT**

Resolution # 5 - 2019

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Colton Highway Department has received a legal notice by order of the

United District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for the Navistar Maxxforce Engine Settlement, and

**WHEREAS,** the lawsuit claimed that Navistar, Inc., and Navistar International Corporation (“Navistar”) sold

or leased vehicles, model years 2011-2014, equipped with a defective EGR emissions system, and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed settlement offers a rebate of up to $10,000 per class vehicle which may be applied

toward the purchase of a new Navistar Class 8 heavy-duty truck, and

**WHEREAS,** the Colton Highway Department owns a class vehicle covered under the settlement, resulting in

a rebate of $10,000 toward the purchase of one (1) plow truck, and

**WHEREAS,** the Colton Highway Superintendent recommends a claim be submitted to receive the rebate.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Colton Town Board authorizes the Colton Highway

Superintendent to file a claim in the Navistar Maxxforce Engine Settlement, upon approval of the Attorney

for the Town of Colton, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the proposed settlement of a rebate of up to $10,000 is to be applied toward

the purchase of a new Navistar Class 8 heavy-duty truck.

* **Courtesy of the floor**

Deb Christy spoke about the multiuse trail opening between the Raquette River Fish & Game Club to Russell.

The trail also allows for the businesses in South Colton to benefit with the sale of gas for the machines along with food and snacks purchased. We hope to get the Town’s support and assistance in the efforts to keep the trail as it is.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS**

A budget meeting will be at 3:00 Wednesday, October 23.

Motion # 12

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:03 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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