Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, September 12, 2018

**County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 94 Main St., Colton 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, Penny Cayey, Mary Jane Watson, Kevin Beary, Ruth McWilliams, Joe McWilliams, Kirke Perry, Brad Barber, Rick Perkins and Erica Leonard

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

Mr. Cayey asked for a motion to approve minutes.

Motion # 1

**ACCEPT MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis seconded by Mrs. Hawley to accept the minutes of August 8th, Public Hearing minutes of August 21 and Special Meeting minutes of August 21.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

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

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

Ayes 4 Hawley, Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 64,405.08

Highway Fund $ 99,545.83

Colton Light District $ 735.56

South Colton Light District $ 690.57

Sewer District #1 $ 2,666.31

Water District #1 $ 3,852.21

The following accounts are over budget as of August 31, 2018.

**General Fund:**

A1620.4 Bldgs. Contr. $994.11 (40,000)

A3310.4 Signs/Traffic Control 268.39 (500)

A8010.4 ZBA Contr. 14.66 (200)

A4068.4 Insect BF Contr. 1418.65 (2200)

A4068.41 Insect Mosq. Contr. 159.47 (300)

A7310.1 Youth Programs P.S. 608.50 (608.50)

**Recommendation for transfer**:

A1990.4 Contingency $ 21008.50

A1410.4 Attorney Contr. 15000

A5140.4 Brush/Weeds P.S. 3000

A7140.22 Rec. Equip. LaMora 1800

A4068.12 Insect Control P.S. 2500

A7310.4 Youth Programs Contr. 500

**LEGISLATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Perkins reported the Legislator’s made 23 resolutions, filled 8 vacancies along with a proclamation for Constitution Week September 17 to 23. Mr. Perkins stated they contracted the tax auction to a third party vendor, Auctions International. Only two parcels did not sell. There were 353 bidders and 11 were online bidders.

Bids totaled $1.9 Million and outstanding taxes were $1.5 Million.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

We are currently at 62 permits for the season and several prospects on permits forthcoming. Quiet on the forefront for Planning and ZBA. Planning had an excellent wind law workshop. Three citizens’ complaints on property maintenance issues, all are verbal and not written. Attempting to resolve issues prior to a consent order issued.

1

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

The new STAR process is beginning to pull together. For those people who complete a renewal application each year I will be sending out the new IVP form along with the renewal application for this year. Both forms must be completed and returned. Those who have received the green postcard, you will not have to do anything. If NYS Department of Taxation and Finance need further information they will contact you directly. People have already been receiving requests for information for both the STAR and the Property Tax Relief Credit. Some of the forms ask to have the information returned within 5 days. Please try to get the information back as soon as possible.

Sales were about even above and below assessed value over the past three months. There were 16 valid sales. Eight were above assessed value and eight were below. In two of the below assessed value sales there were conditions in place which resulted in a lower sale price. One of the below AV sales was only a difference of $100.00. One involved tax sale issues and one had two transfers within the same day. If these conditioned sales were excluded, the valid sales higher than the assessed value would be eight and the valid sales below assessed value would be five. The difference between the sale and assessed values are generally small margins in both the higher and the lower sale prices.

Kevin Beary, Colton resident asked what to do if you don’t get either the forms or green card. Ms. Miller replied the person should call her in January if they haven’t received either by the end of December. 315-262-2848

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* Secured retaining wall block from Upstone Materials. State contract for the 2,000lb 2 ft x 2 ft x 6ft blocks is $75.00 apiece. We bought 30 blocks at $65.00 apiece for a total of $1950.00 These will start our retaining wall for the metal bin side pit we will construct next year sometime.

*Water and Sewer* 2 projects for Sewer are to start this month. The ATS will be swapped out at the Sewer Plant. Electrical mother board still needs to be replaced. Lift stations will be worked on electrically as well. Floats and three phase receptacles and plugs will be swapped out for pumps. DEC inspection of WWTP is being held on Dec 18th.

*Building and Grounds* Grounds are looking good this year. Lawns did not have much down time this growing season. Buildings are running smoothly. A few Verizon lines out and Spectrum lines as well. Service disruptions cause havoc for our security and fire panels. We are requesting to the board to purchase a budgeted Z-track lawn mower with 72-inch deck for our bulk mowing. Our current Z-turn is just over 10 years old and has seen many acres for a commercial mower. The JD Z970 Ztrak with Twill Tires and a 72-inch deck on state contract lists for $12,576.41 I would like the permission of the board to authorize the purchase of this mower.

Mrs. Fisher-Davis asked if buying under state contract voids the warranty. Mr. Richards replied no, we have the usual warranty that comes with the machine.

Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF MOWER**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize DPW to purchase the JD Z970 Ztrak Mower for the State Contract price of $12,576.41.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting we have been primarily working on our capital improvement projects.
* At this time, we completed paving on McKabe Road.
* We also have done 130 ton of binder on Stowe Bay Road, on an area that we lowered the road approximately four feet, to increase sight distance. All work is done on Stowe Bay Road except the shoulders.
* We will likely if things go well on Wednesday start paving East Hill and Scovil Rd. Cold Brook Drive should be first part of next week.
* Asphalt went up $11 a ton. That decreased what I planned on paving.
* After we are done paving, we will be working with Pierrepont on their paving for a week or so, and then we will be working on our shoulders.
* After all of that it will be time to start our winter sand pile.

**SAFETY** Mr. Richards reported:

Reviewed with a few crewmembers of highway regarding being in a hurry at the end of the workday is the highest accident-prone time of the day. Taking your time and being mindful gets everyone home safely at the end of the day. ISO report stated hydrant flow rates on second hydrant pitot gauges to be very adequate. PERMA Conference in Binghamton NY of Nov. 1&2. If it quiets down a bit, I would like to ask the board to attend this safety Conference.

2

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, September 12, 2018**

**BTI REPORT** Ms. Arquiett read aloud Ms. Malik’s submitted report: Nothing to report for BTI

**Invasive Species**:

* On August 30, we had an Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop at the fire station.

Megan Pistolese from the St Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) and Erin Vennie-Vollrath from the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, spoke about the impacts of invasive species and the PRISM volunteer networks. They also taught a segment on aquatic plant identification. Stephanie Larkin, Ecologist with NYS DEC spoke about management techniques and Kyle Mumman, a graduate student at Clarkson, working on a grant funded milfoil project at Norwood, discussed things they are working on, such as benthic mats and using a native milfoil weevil to control the milfoil. It cannot be over stated though that the best technique for managing invasive species is prevention, which starts with education. Joanne Hudson and I also discussed the upcoming drawdown and strategies for hand pulling the milfoil.

* The draw down will be September 13-16th. If you live on the reservoir, take care of your own beachfront. Any assistance is welcome! We have mesh bags for collecting the milfoil, boogie boards for hauling it, and little nets to catch broken fragments---which is very important. This plant spreads by fragmentation so it is important to catch any broken pieces of milfoil. Contact Joanne if you need supplies 315-265-2255, coltonmilfoil@gmail.com. Contact either Joanne or myself, 315-212-6259, btidirector@townofcolton.com if you have questions.
* Now that the knotweed, (bamboo) is flowering, I am starting treatments for that invasive species. Contact me if you would like me to treat knotweed on your property. It can take a few years to completely get rid of it. If I have treated your property in the past, I will keep coming back each year until it is gone. It is not necessary to contact me again unless you have questions or concerns.

Mrs. McWilliams stated she was not aware Ms. Malik was treating resident’s property, she thought it was only Town property. Mrs. McWilliams said we should let people know. Ms. Arquiett replied that Ms. Malik has stopped at properties and either spoke with the owners or left notes for them in regards to treating their knotweed.

**LIBRARY REPORT** Ms. Watson reported the new building has arrived. Mr. Cayey stated Mr. Tremaine called questioning Mr. Eickhoff’s authority to sign the grant. Mr. Cayey said he had to email Mr. Tremaine a letter authorizing Mr. Eickhoff to sign.

**PLANNING/ZONING BOARD REPORTS** Mr. Fuhr reported:

The Planning Board meeting was held on August 28, 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. The board discussed the positives on the wind towers and green energy. Wind towers vs dams, efficiency, noise, taxes, etc. They also spoke of their previous meetings with other towns whom have considered and/or now currently have wind towers, i.e. Parishville and Chateaugay, to help bring thought and consideration to the law and code that the Town of Colton my want in their land use codebook.

\* Motion passed for Kirke Perry to become Vice Chairman of the Colton Planning Board.

\* CEO Report

Motion # 4

**APPOINT PLANNING BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to appoint Kirke Perry as Planning Board Vice Chairman.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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

* James Perkins provided me with the numbers for the summer swim program. The most kids attended the 1st week at Postwood Park and the last 2 weeks that were at Higley Flow State Park. There was a lull in numbers the 4th and 5th weeks he thought was due to soccer camp. There were questions of having the swim program at Higley for the whole season. At this point NYS Parks are only offering the 2 weeks.
* We started selling hunting licenses August 1.
* I am still plugging away on genealogy requests.
* The Games of Chance Law referendum will appear on the November ballot. Attorney Gustafson got it to us and it was sent to BOE. I have gathered information to put on the website to be done before long.
* 17 people have been signed up for Local Government Day.
* Primary is tomorrow. You vote 12 noon to 9 p.m. at the J R Watson Community Center in South Colton.
* The notices for the Ordinance Public Hearing was sent to the paper.
* Dennis Bulger resigned from the Ethics Committee. This leaves Warren Harman and Grace Hawley on the committee. We need to accept his resignation. Mr. Cayey asked if anyone wanted to fill the opening, no. Decision to fill the position was tabled.
* GovPayNet notified us they are increasing the fees to use a debit card with a minimum fee of $3.95.

Motion # 5

**ACCEPT MR. BULGER’S RESIGNATION**

Motion made by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to accept Dennis Bulger’s resignation effective August 28, 2018.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried 3

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, September 12, 2018**

**TOWN ENGINEER’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey offered a remembrance for Ike Cook, Town Engineer who passed away Labor Day weekend in a tragic ATV accident. He added Ike was a good friend to many and is already missed.

M. Cayey reported he will be meeting with Ike’s business partner Jeff Tubilino Friday.

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

With the end of summer nearing and autumn getting close the committee is winding down activities and gearing up for the next season.

**Summer Help** This summer the committee was assisted by nine Colton-Pierrepont Central School (CPCS) students as well as Colton-Pierrepont Senior Racqueteers in implementing various activities, as summarized below.

* **CPCS Students**—We sincerely appreciate the assistance of Lauren Buckley, Jayden Burcume, Mary Donnelly, Andrew Edwards, Christopher Edwards, Kara McKinley, Noah Rousell, Michael Schwartfigure, and Rachel Sleeper. Each of the students applied for and accepted positions with the town. Collectively they worked for more than 300 hours, helping with Colton Country Days and activities related to Beautification, Stone Valley, the Stone Valley Information Center in the Museum, and the Summer Music Series. Each student’s tasks and associated work hours was documented by a supervisor via a job agreement.
* **Colton-Pierrepont Senior Racqueteers**—Daily staffing this summer of the Stone Valley Information Center in the Museum ended on Labor Day. We greatly appreciate assistance by members of the Colton-Pierrepont Senior Racqueteers who helped us keep the Museum open from 10am to 2pm each day. By doing so the group has fulfilled its agreement with the town to provide at least 100 hours of staffing assistance. Assistance by the Senior Racqueteers and others was documented by Scott Muller who coordinated staffing for the committee again this year.

**Summer Music Series** The 2018 series began June 27 and ended August 29 with a diverse mix of five groups sharing their talents. Over 500 people attended the performances with many others assisting in various ways. We sincerely appreciate assistance with venues and food by the Colton Historical Society, Colton Methodist Church, St. Paul’s – St. Patrick’s Altar Rosary Society, Colt’s Pride Booster Club, and CPCS. Also we are grateful to the Colton Hepburn Library for displaying the five barn quilts raffled during the summer which raised more than $800 to help cover expenses. In addition we thank the St. Lawrence County Arts Council for advance grant support as well as five businesses (Canterbury Builders LLC, Catamount Lodge & Forest LLC, Gray & Gray and Associates, Raquette River Pub, and S&L Electric) for sponsoring the series. As we prepare for next summer we are looking for additional volunteers to assist the committee with organizing and hosting performances. If interested in being part of the project coordination team, then please contact Ruth McWilliams (ruth@catamountlodge.com; 315-262-2450).

**Remembrance Trees**

Planning for the Fifth Annual Remembrance Trees Project is getting underway by Dave Crosby as the project leader. The price per tree will still just be $35; and soon the updated announcement and order form will be posted on the town website. The deadline for ordering will be November 9 this year. Around October 1st prior sponsors will be contacted by Scott Muller who is helping Dave remind past sponsors and others about this wonderful opportunity to remember loved ones as well as to celebrate the holidays and brighten winter nights. The goal is to have at least 50 trees displayed once again through the holidays and Winterfest.

**Winterfest**

We are assisting the Winterfest Planning Committee chaired by Grace Hawley with a new approach to Winterfest. The new approach, discussed during an initial planning meeting on August 23, generally groups activities and spreads them out over three consecutive weekends—January 11-13 (history), January 18-20 (active sports), and January 25-27 (school). Anyone interested in organizing events should plan to attend the next planning meeting scheduled for September 26 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall.

**Next Monthly Meeting – Monday, October 8 (4-5:30pm)**

The agenda will focus on autumn activities and planning for winter.

**UNFINSHED BUSINESS**

1. Water/Sewer Rates – The Public Hearing and Special Meeting will be Wednesday September 19, in the Town Hall Board Room, starting at 6:00 p.m.
2. NYCLASS – the interest rate increases daily and is now at 1.89%. To date we have earned #11,591.73
3. Salt Barn – Ike had sent the grant in, wait and see now.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Resolutions – Ms. Arquiett read aloud resolution # 8-2018. Mr. Hawley suggested to request St. Lawrence County Highway Dept. to measure the required distances, install the signs and paint road markings. A short discussion led to the change made in the resolution which in theses minutes.
2. Planning Board By-Laws – Mr. Cayey asked to have the Planning Board By-Laws changed to read their meeting would be a week earlier. This allows them to be paid in the month they meet in. Meeting the last Tuesday of the month caused missing the last payroll.
3. Approve payment of invoices with early bills to avoid late fees/finance charges. Motion made and passed.
4. Reappointments to Zoning and BAR Boards. Motion made and passed.

4

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, September 12, 2018**

Motion # 6

**ADOPT RESOLUTION # 8-2018**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to adopt resolution # 8-2018 THREE WAY STOP AT

GULF ROAD /COTTAGE ROAD INTERSECTION, requesting St. Lawrence County Hwy. Dept. to install the signs as required.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**THREE-WAY STOP AT GULF ROAD / COTTAGE ROAD INTERSECTION**

Resolution # 8-2018

**WHEREAS,** currently Gulf Road and Cottage Road meet on a curve in the Town of Colton with one stop sign coming from Cottage Road onto Gulf Road, and

**WHEREAS,** these are Town roads and are maintained by the Town of Colton Highway Department, and

**WHEREAS,** currently as someone going south or north on Gulf Road there isn’t sufficient sight distance to see around a sharp curve at the intersection of Cottage Road and Gulf Road. Most drivers that are not familiar with the intersection think that the right of way is from Gulf Road onto Cottage Road, when in fact the right of way is straight north and south on Gulf Road which has almost caused multiple accidents, and

**WHEREAS,** the homeowners residing near this intersection have requested a three-way stop at this intersection, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town recognizes and shares the concerns of the senior citizens and homeowners living on Cottage and Gulf Roads.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,** the Colton Town Board requests the St. Lawrence County Highway Department to install stop signs on the north and south side of Gulf Road, making the intersection a 3-way stop.

Motion # 7

**CHANGE PB BY-LAWS**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to authorize the change to the Planning board By-Laws which states they meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month to meet a week earlier, whichever day they want.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 8

**APROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITH EARLY BILLS**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize payment of invoices with early bills to avoid late fee and/or finance charges.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 9

**REAPOINT JUDY FUHR AND SHIRLEY SOCHIA**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to re-appoint Judy Fuhr to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term expires September 30, 2023 and Shirley Sochia to the Board of Assessment Review, term expires September 30, 2023.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

*Ed Fuhr*, spoke about budgeting for the future and said he though an adhoc committee should be formed to work with Brookfield Power.

*Kevin Beary*, reminded people to vote in the Primary, stated the signs on Gulf Road are a good idea and he introduced his political rival Erica Leonard.

*Erica Leonard*, thanked her opponent Kevin Beary for the introduction. She said she lives in Parishville, runs the Massena Mall, is the St. Lawrence County 2018 Woman of the Year and is an Officer at the Potsdam Elks Lodge.

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Donna Arquiett, Town Clerk

5