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

**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

Ronald Robert

Others present: Jennifer Cole

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

Zoom attendees: Mary Jane Watson, Dennis Eickhoff, Kirke Perry, Jean Fallon, Nate Sochia, Joanne Fisher and Judy Fuhr

Mr. Cayey asked the Board if they had time to review their paperwork for the meeting and if so asked for a motion to pay the bills on warrant #1.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Ms. Hayes to approve the December 9, 2020 minutes and the January 4, 2021 Organizational meeting minutes. There was no monthly meeting in January due to Covid.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**AUTHORIZE TRANSFER, BUDGET AMENDMENT, BANK RECON & BILLS IN WARRANT # 1, 2021**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant # 1, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**General Fund** A1920.4 Municipal Assoc. Dues $1400.00

A5132.2 Garage, Equipment 641.33

**Recommended:**

A599 Fund Balance $2100.00 Budget amendment

A5132.4 Garage Contr. 750.00

General Fund $ 48,351.59

Highway Fund 43,197.89

Library Fund 1,477.24

Sewer Fund #1 2,138.68

Water Fund #1 1,818.14

Colton Light District

South Colton Light District

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud the report Mr. Perkins emailed at the January 2nd full board meeting:

We had 30 resolutions

We elected Joe Lightfoot as the Chairman and Dave Forsythe as the Vice Chair

We had 5 modifications to the budget

We had 1 vacancy position consisting of 12 positions that we filled

We had 10 agreements/contracts to be signed

We had 6 grant resolutions

We had a resolution writing off bad debt for the community services department for $996,614 for approx. 20 yrs

We had a resolution authorizing the use of County owned machinery

We had a resolution correcting and refunding erroneous tax errors

We had a resolution authorizing petty cash and departmental drawers

We had a resolution authorizing blanket bonds for employees and elected officials

We had a resolution authorizing bank depositories and investment of county funds

We had a resolution designating the newspaper and rotation schedule

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

**ANIMAL CONTROL** Mr. McConkey thought he would attend by zoom, but he must have received a call. Ms. Buckley reported: Jim had called the office to ask what dogs are on the Trimm Rd. There has been one loose in the area and can’t catch it.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Ball reported has been out sick with Covid and aiding in the care with his Grandfather and has no report.

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

* I anticipate we will be starting in the field for Black fly Control next month.
* I thought we were all set with crew but when I reached out to the one I hadn’t heard from last week, he told me he decided to quit this summer. He never told me. I won’t go into the details in this report, but his actions were intentional.
* Finding crew is always a challenge, so something I always keep in mind. Donna Dilworth, who worked on the program for many years, did an outstanding job, resigned on good terms to pursue more full-time work, is interested and available to work part-time on the program. I also have two other possibilities that I am in communication with and am checking references.
* Everyone who works on the program must be certified. The next available exams are March 3 and 4 in Utica, and Watertown. In order to take the exams you must pre-register at least a week prior to the exams. In order to pre register you had to successfully complete the 30 hour course. The DEC is allowing training by zoom but usually require a minimum of 10 days to approve a course (even if it is the same course taught in the past). So, you can see I have a very difficult time line. Things are falling into place though. I was on the phone with DEC today and they are approving my course. It is scheduled for February 18-21. I’m still waiting to hear back from the region 6 Pesticide Specialist to see if there is any way I can reserve 1-2 slots for the exam. They are only allowing 6 or 8 people per exam because of COVID so the exams fill up quickly.
* The rest of the crew are excited and ready to get back in the field. So, hopefully I’ll get a new crew member on board. If not, I still will make the program a success. I always do.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Same report as last month with our numbers. 1 permit this year so far. Planning Board meeting tonight with no new business except zoning use updates. State reporting, DEC/FEMA reporting and electronic data input of last year’s permits are consuming Code’s time right now. A couple subdivisions being discussed, and two new home builds being worked on currently. Building materials are at a very high price index right now, with no market outlook to drop down any time soon. It may be a very limited building season this year.

**SAFETY REPORT**

Our highway and DPW crew are eligible for the vaccine, but must sign up on their own to receive the first vaccination. We have resupplied our PPE this week order-wise. We also got through our first outbreak of COVID. We quarantined personal and eliminated the spread to only one other employee. After working through the return to work policies, disinfecting buildings and still getting essential work accomplished, we are now better aware of all the protocol it takes to be successful.

**TRANSFER STATION REPORT**

Trash compactor was running rough, fixed issue. Vermin continue to undermine our compactor unloading area. Working the best possible to compactor any sinkholes before they surface. Everything else is going smoothly.

**DPW REPORT**

Everything running smoothly. Our forced air furnaces and boilers are all functioning well now after a few normal issues which are typical. Winter sports which are considered high risk are still not available to the Section 10 North Country. The rink will remain closed this winter. New phone system proposal has been worked on via George’s request. He will fill you in on this proposal during new business.

**WATER & SEWER REPORT**

About to prepare our first sludge haul for the season. Our Sludge hauling permit will need renewing in the month of March. Our Water/Waste water operators will be getting a desktop computer station to continue license credits for mandated continuing education this spring in the format of distance learning. We have 3 hydrants that open extremely hard. We would like to replace them, each cost of $2,500. In the past when hydrants were replaced, it was split 50/50 between the water district and the Town under safety. I’d like to include any necessary hardware we need for a total of $8,000.

Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 3 HYDRANTS AND NECESSARY HARDWARE**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to authorize the purchase of three hydrants and necessary hardware at an estimated $8,000.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting we have been primarily focusing on snow and ice. Thankfully, the equipment has been functioning well.
* We had a plow catch and bend the mold board. We currently are still plowing with it but it needs replacing. This truck is the one that plows the County Road. A couple years ago the County paved a 5’ wide shim on the shoulder of the road. The plow rides on the crown on the yellow line side and the shim on the fog line side. This leaves about 5’ in the center that the plow doesn’t touch. The County did this patch from our town line back to the cemetery. I have people ask all the time why Parishville’s end of the road is all cleaned better than ours, and that is the reason.
* Viking offers a two- stage plow system that has a secondary flexible cutting edge behing the standard fixed edge that is designed to follow the uneven contour of the road. The replacement cost for the damaged plow is $10,135. This is covered under insurance. The upgrade to the two-stage complete plow and the set-up on our truck at Viking is $12,309.50. My recommendation is to turn into insurance company for the replacement and we pay the difference of $2,174.
* We have had quite a bit of trouble this year on our sidewalk machine. You will notice several invoices from Joe Johnson equipment. We basically totally rebuilt the blower attachment and we have all new drive shafts here to be installed, weather permitting tomorrow.

Motion # 4

**AUTHORIZE REPAIRS TO PLOW TRUCK BLADE**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher Davis to authorize Mr. Hawley to make an insurance claim on the plow truck blade, upgrade to the two-stage blade and cover the rest of the repairs out of his equipment line.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**LIBRARY REPORT** Trustee Jean Fallon reported MCLS Matt Corey is in the process of changing the website.

The proposition for more money in the school budget passed. Curbside has had an increase in usage, getting a lot of Potsdam people since they are closed for major renovations.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT** Mr. Perry reported there are no new applications. The Planning Board is reviewing land use definitions and checking other towns use codes to see what they have that we don’t. Mr. Robert asked about Les Baker’s request for a pizza shop. Mr. Richards explained the area would have to be rezoned or redefine the zone to include an eatery as he wants. Zoning for the Dollar General was mentioned. A short discussion led to the Board putting it back to the Planning/Zoning boards.

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

Nate Sochia is on hand thru Zoom to talk about snowmobile use on sidewalks. He said his child almost got hit by a snowmobile last Saturday. Mr. Sochia is requesting signage. Ms. Watson stated the Town has a local Law to prevent sleds on the sidewalks. She added there were signs at one time but they were torn down. The Board agreed to put signage up and will asked Mr. Hawley to do so.

Ms. Buckley requested the Board appoint Jennifer Cole as Deputy Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector/Deputy Regsistrar in addition to Mrs. Wright with her absence from the Town Clerk’s Office due to covid.

Motion # 5

**APPOINT DEPUTY CLERK**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robert to appoint Jennifer Cole as Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector and Deputy Registrar. Mrs. Cole will receive the same pay per hour as she currently receives as Court Clerk.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS – Interest made in December was $120.17 and $93.89 in January.
2. Reschedule internal audits – Court audit Thursday Feb 18 @ 11, Town audit Wednesday Feb 17th @ 11
3. CHIPs & AIM are going to be reduced by 20%
4. Salt Barn – we have most of our portion of the cost. I want to see this through before my term is up.
5. Money rolled into fund balance $220,000 from General Fund and $83,899 from Highway.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Holiday Decorations – Lighted Christmas decorations for utility poles in South Colton and Colton, cost is $280.29 including freight
2. New Phone Vendor – Phone cost for 2020 $14,000. Blink Voice supplies new phones, multisite networking and user support with a yearly savings of $2,459 and no upfront or additional costs.

Motion # 6

**APPROVE PURCHASE OF HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the purchase of Holiday Decorations, at a total cost of $4,280.29.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 7

**APPROVE PURCHASE/CONTRACT FOR NEW PHONE SYSTEM**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the purchase and contract with Blink Voice for a new phone system.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hayes, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Cayey asked if anyone had any questions or concerns.

Mr. Robert asked about the sales tax issue with the City of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County, the other towns make up what the City doesn’t pay. He recommended calling Legislator Perkins.

Mr. Cayey added the Emergency Pandemic Plan was sent to Matt Ryan, he made changes and it is now completed.

Motion # 8

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Hayes to adjourn.

Ayes 5 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 7:30 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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