**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, May 11, 2022**

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

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher

Kevin Hawley, Highway Supt. Jacob Poste

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Randi-Lee Cook-Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Councilwoman Randi-Lee Cook-Planty was absent from this meeting.

Meeting attendees: Rick Perkins, Jason Wendt, Jeff Tubolino, Todd Harris, Sam Charleson, Jeremy Bronson, John Hart, Laura Hart, Ron Gilmore, Dennis Eickoff, Casey Dickenson and

Zoom attendees: Dennis Eickoff, Cynthia Hennessy, Anne Townsend, Ayah Badran, Joanne Fisher, Peggy Shea, Mary Jane Watson

Supervisor R. Robert lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6:00 pm as scheduled.

Motion #1

**Approve April 2022 Minutes**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to approve the minutes from the April 2022 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #5, 2022**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #5, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund………………………………………………………$44,171.87

Highway Fund…………………………………………………….. 23,561.55

Library Fund………………………………………………………. 1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1…………………………………………………….. 2,520.47

Water Fund #1…………………………………………………….. 1,730.31

Colton Light Dist………………………………………………….. 821.11

S. Colton Light Dist……………………………………………….. 767.54

**County Legislators Report:** by County Legislator Rick Perkins

We had 40 resolutions.

We had 12 modifications to the budget/grants.

We had 9 Agreements/Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 14 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution supporting Assembly and Senate bills to codify the current Sales tax sharing arrangement for the

additional 1% sale taxes within the City of Ogdensburg.

We had a resolution asking the State to establish Solar Panel Recycling Regulations.

We had a resolution approving the NYS Dept of Transportation supplemental agreement for preliminary design for the

Lazy River Road Bridge over the Grasse River.

We had numerous resolutions urging the Governor to eliminate county fiscal responsibilities for State

mandated-unfunded programs along with other eliminating Regulations that hurt our County and encouraging the

implementation of other programs to help County needs as part of our Legislative Agendas. A group went to Albany to

meet with State Representative’s to plead our cases.

We had a resolution proclaiming May as older Americans month with the Theme being Age “My Way”.

We had a resolution approving the St Law County Affirmative Action/equal employment FMLA leave act Americans with

Disabilities plan.

We had a resolution appointing Jason Photenhauer as certifying officer for the environmental review for the community

block grant award.

We had a resolution determining the county wide housing rehab program round #4 is not subject to an environmental

review.

We had a resolution proclaiming May as Mental Health Awareness month.

We had a resolution Accepting the Recommendations for the use of ARPA funds.

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

**Courtesy of the Floor:**

Ron Gilmore spoke on behalf of many residents of the West Higley Flow Rd. a private road in the Town of Colton. The residents of the West Higley Flow Rd. are looking for assistance with road maintenance from the Town. This has been ongoing for many years. The residents have pooled together their own funds over the years to be able to make the road more assessable for homeowners, locals and deliveries. Some of the projects that the residents of West Higley Flow Rd. have done are as follows: widening the road, cut a hill down, moved a power pole, paved large area of the road, buried a large rock, removed trees, made a turnaround spot for plows and large vehicles. NYS DOT has been contacted and they agreed that there is a need for West Higley Flow Rd. to be a Town Rd. Colton-Pierrepont Central School agrees as well as the local fire department chief agrees that there is a need for this road to be a Town rd. for students/busing and emergency purposes. Most recently there have been more home deliveries being made due to the pandemic. The residents of West Higley Flow Rd. put a camera up for 30days. In that 30days there were over 4,700 pictures of cars/vehicles/commercial vehicles on the road. In the past ten years the residents have had their properties and the road surveyed three times. Town Supervisor Robert and Town Attorney Norfolk will look into what needs to be done to help the residents of West Higley Flow Rd. out with the maintenance of the road.

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**Town Engineers Casey Dickenson and Jeff Tubolino:**

SALT STORAGE BARN – Bid prices came in more favorable and under cost opinion. Total cost currently came in at $912,000.00 with a healthy contingency fund of over $100,000.00. Last year’s bid was over 1.2 million. The engineers reached out and screened the contractors interested. At this time the Town Board needs to award the contractors selected and a resolution needs to be signed. There is a grant that was awarded in the sum of $421,500.00. To keep this grant the Town would have to put in half of the grant dollar amount. This would bring total Town cost to $490,500.00 which includes the contingency fee. The engineers are hopeful that the Salt Storage Barn would be finished in October of 2022.

Motion #3

Ms. Fisher made the motion for Town Supervisor Robert to sign the resolution awarding the general contractor and the electrical contractor for the Salt Storage Barn, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #4

Ms. Fisher made the motion for Town Supervisor Robert to sign the agreement for Atlantic Testing Laboratories to do the special inspections required by building code, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS/SIDEWALKS – Gustin Square and the intersection at Route 56/68, Gulf, Kunoco have been identified as high priority in the Town. Town Engineer J. Tubolino gave a proposal to the Supervisor and the Town Board to review. Mr. Tubolino will contact the NYS DOT to get a permit administrator here to look at the intersection. This proposal is in the earliest of stages. Currently we have a schematic design. Proposal is hourly not to exceed 1 million over the course of 30 years.

TRANSFER STATION – with an aged and failing infrastructure, several safety concerns and the need for efficiency improvements the Town would like to replace/update the existing transfer station on Lenny Rd. Town engineer J. Tubolino offered a proposal for the construction. This would possibly take place in the spring to fall of 2023. Four prime contracts would be required – General Construction, Electrical Construction, HVAC Construction and Plumbing Construction. The Town would procure in a bid the new compacting equipment from the supplier. This would be cost effective. The Town will also look into obtaining a grant to help with cost. No exact dollar amount yet for the transfer station updates. Possible of approximately 1.2 million dollars.

MORGAN RD BEACH – property at the end of Morgan Rd. in South Colton was donated over 50 years ago with the intended use of a public beach. Town engineer J. Tubolino had a meeting recently with NYS DEC in regards to the possibility of a beach. The idea was well received. It is recommended that the Town form a committee to oversee the development of the Morgan Rd. Beach project. This proposal is in the assessment/early stage. There is a meeting on May 18th with Brookfield where a conceptual layout for the project will be discussed.

Motion #5

Ms. Fisher made the motion approving Jeff Tubolino of Blue Line Engineering to build the initial sight map, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 3 Fisher, Poste, Robert

Noes 1 Beary

Motion carried

**Assessor Report:** by acting Assessor Shelley Rayner

* I sat with the new tax roll May 10th for 4 hours and received one call. I will be sitting with the roll 3 more times. This Saturday May 14th from 8 am til noon, one evening and one afternoon next week.
* A reminder that the Grievance Day for the Town of Colton is June 1st rom 4 pm to 8 pm.
* I have signed up for a 6-day training course in June, which I will be completing in house here in the office and there is no cost to the town. There will be a monitored exam and as long as I pass, it will take care of one of the required courses to become a certified assessor.
* I have also pre-registered for a class in Ithaca NY in July. The one-week class, which includes the tuition, hotel, meals, and mileage, is all-reimbursable and will be paid back to the town. This class is also part of the required training to become certified. I am asking permission to attend the July 17th thru the 22nd training as it will put me out of the office those days.

Motion #6

Mr. Poste made the motion to allow acting Assessor Shelley Rayner to attend the one-week class in Ithaca July of 2022, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**BTI Report:** by BTI Supervisor Andrea Malik

report on file.

**Planning Board Report:** Chairman Kirke Perry

nothing at this time.

Dennis Eickoff arrived at the meeting in person at 7:30pm.

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**Dog Warden Report:** by Dog Warden Jim McConkey

One welfare check. Five dogs at large, three back to owners, one not found, one belonged to an out of towner. Many cats have been dropped off on Lenny Rd. Mr. McConkey has been able to catch some. The cats that have been caught have been taken to the local animal shelter. Mr. McConkey did state that none of the cats have been kittens.

**Highway Report:** by Highway Superintendent Kevin Hawley

* Since the last board meeting, we did have to plow one more time. We have now removed all of the plow equipment and as of Monday the street cleaning is now complete.
* We started today on the site preparation for the salt storage barn. A few weeks ago, we spent 2 days moving a stock pile of crushed stone to the gravel pit at the Fish and Game club that was in the way of the new building. I am ready to begin excavating  May 11th. I expect ten working days from now the site will be ready for the contractor.
* We started grading dirt roads on Tuesday this week. this normally takes about two weeks to complete. After that we will be starting our capital work for the year. May 12th Suite Kote is scheduled to do my profiling work. I’m doing 8/10ths of a mile on French Hill Road 9/10ths on the Raquette River road. This is the process when we spread 3 to 4 inches of crushed stone on the blacktop the pro-filler grinds the asphalt and mixes the crushed stone with several inches of subbase and the existing asphalt, this creates a much stronger and consistent base that not only strengthens the road but also makes it less susceptible to frost heaving.
* I did finally receive my official Chips letter informing us of the actual funds we will receive from Chips, Extreme Winter Recovery Pave NY and the new program POP which stands for "Pave our potholes" this year is $269,140.19. Last fall at budget time we used the base chips number of $124,000. A budget amendment increasing both the revenue line of DA3501 and the expenditure line DA 5112.2  by 145,140.19 respectively will include this increase in my budget.

Motion #7

Mr. Beary made the motion to amend the budget by $145,140.19 in the revenue and expenditure line for Highway, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

* With these numbers at today’s asphalt prices, I could pave in the neighborhood of 5 miles this year. As we all know the price of oil is skyrocketing and that directly effects the price of asphalt. I will have my amended agreement to spend highway funds report available in the Town Clerks office by Monday for the boards review and signage. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me.
* Included this year in my paving is 9/10ths mile of the Racquette River road from Parishville town-line (this finishes this road), 8/10ths of a mile from the Parishville Townline on French Hill Road, 2/10ths mile on Cove Road 1.5 miles of top on Cold Brook Drive from the Pierrepont town-line to little john intersection, 1.5 miles on Windmill Rd from the top of Bicknell hill to Number nine road intersection, and 7/10ths miles on Easthill from last year’s project back to Scovil Road intersection. These projects will use up this year’s allotment from chips at this month’s prices if the asphalt prices increase which I expect they will one of the projects will need to shorten.

Motion #8

Motion made to approve Mr. Hawley’s two submitted Item 1 agreements by Mr. Poste, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement Report:** by CEO and DPW Supervisor Darren Richards

**Transfer Station**

Transfer Station design proposal will be discussed by Blue Line Engineering today. The DPW weighed in on some design changes to increase traffic flow and disposal flow process on the new design.

**Water/Sewer**

56 Lift station’s electrical panel was converted to a stainless-steel panel due to state highway road salt deteriorating the old electrical panel. Riverside pumping station was discovered to have severe water infiltration from the river in the base of the man hole. This issue is a major issue which had to be addressed immediately. Lisa, Randi Lee and Ronnie were notified of a solution and an epoxy liner was installed by the Camden Group based out of Syracuse. Our Town waste water engineer approved the solution to the problem and DEC was notified and emergency repair was granted on the project. It was a $12,000.00 repair. It saved two manholes to be replaced and across Riverside Drive not to be torn up due to a dig repair. The hole would have been 17 feet down and at least a 20ft radius with the river flowing into the hole. Gulf Road pumping station also had had electronic issues which, we believe have been solved today with a relay replaced by Mike Schwartfigure.

Carrie Tuttle from DANC and I presented to the County Legislatures in Canton on Monday night on a biosolids disposal solution. It was well received and the County agreed to do a feasibility study on the issue and we are confident that this will result in solving our sludge removal high costs in the future.

**Building and Grounds**

The Librarian and the Historical Society wish to bid out the construction of roof replacements on both the Museum and the Library. Both are past their life use. Placing out the roof bids do not commit you to accept bids as we will

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Code Enf. Continued -

state: “the right to refuse any and all bids”. The library is expected to receive the roof grant in June, but securing a contractor soon is critical of fulfilling the grant. The feasibility of a beach was asked of me to look into. Meetings with DEC and Brookfield in preliminary discussions are surprisingly favorable. Moving forward on the preliminary planning will be covered by Blueline Engineering as well.

Motion #9

Ms. Fisher made the motion to advertise the bid for the Library roof replacement, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #10

Ms. Fisher made the motion to advertise the bid for the replacement of the Museum roof, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 3 Fisher, Poste, Robert

Noes 1 Beary

Motion carried

Motion #11

Mr. Poste made the motion to continue with the Court grant to refurbish the doors, seating and floor in Community room. Community room floor will be ceramic tile instead of vinyl or laminate, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 3 Fisher, Poste, Robert

Noes 1 Beary

Motion carried

**Safety**

The Antennae on the water tower was replaced due to malfunction on the old one. The new one can reach a few more miles which is helpful to BTI and the Fire Department. Jenn and I will be scheduling sexual harassment training starting next week as per state mandates. Pedestrian safety meeting occurred on May 5th with Karen Bage from Health Initiative, Blue Line Engineering, Lisa and Ronnie. We have a grant opportunity with Complete Streets again. We will be applying for sidewalk repair grant funding for this Summer.

Motion #12

Motion made by Ms. Fisher to apply for the sidewalk grant, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement Office**

Building permits are up to 14 for the season. This is extremely low for this year. Cost of construction prices are, of course the cause. Our home builds numbers are on par however compared to other years. I added another training seminar at Potsdam State for energy building to add to the grant points for the next NYSERDA round of energy savings. This will add point to the next round of grants if we also choose to do EV stations for electric cars.

**Town Clerk Report:** by Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

* April 21st, I attended a Notary class presented by SLL BOCES. This class started at 9am, lasted until 3:30pm. Our teacher was very informative and helpful. I highly recommend this class to anyone who is interested in becoming a NYS Notary.
* NYSTCA Conference April 24th – 27th was amazing. I was able to speak with many senior clerks as well as new clerks. I attended nine different classes. All, I felt, were very insightful for any clerk – junior or senior. The classes I chose to attend were – Notary Public, Town Clerk hot topics, minute basics, petitions and propositions, belligerent resident to active shooter, DECALS (DEC), NYS Retirement and Ethics. Classes ranged from 2 - 4plus hours in length. Monday there was an opening ceremony with a banner parade. Each county in NYS was represented in this parade with their own banner. Wednesday evening was formal anniversary banquet where awards were given.
* On May 17th I will be in Syracuse taking the NYS Notary test. With two classes taken, a study book, and several practice tests taken I am feeling pretty good about the outcome.
* Seconded notices for taxes have been sent. Tax collection is winding down.
* Received an email from Sarah Williamson of the Adirondack Park Paranormal Society. Every year they do a haunted house event with proceeds going to local charity. This year they are hoping to do the event here in Colton with the benefactor being the food pantry. The event would be taking place the first two weeks in October. They are hoping to be able to utilize the Swift field pavilion.
* June 9th there is a SLC Municipal Clerks meeting in Hammond. Dinner is $25.00 per person. I would like to attend as these meetings are very beneficial for clerks, especially new clerks.

Motion #13

Ms. Fisher made the motion to allow Town Clerk Jennifer Cole to attend the upcoming County Clerks meeting on June 9th, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**Library Report:** by Librarian and Town Historian Dennis Eickoff

Recently we had 38 pieces of art hung at the library. This art is from Colton – Pierrepont Central School elementary students. The art will be on display until June 8th. Concerns in regards to the wall next to the library on the corner of Route 56 and Main St. These safety concerns were brought to the attention of the previous Town Board last year by Highway Superintendent Kevin Hawley. The damage to the wall was sent in to insurance. We received a letter last year from our insurance stating “natural causes” and they would not cover.

Motion #14

Ms. Fisher made the motion to tear down a part of the wall after Memorial Day and have a temporary barrier put in place until it can be decided what to do with the wall and materials, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

The tear down will start after Memorial Day.

**Correspondence:** nothing at this time.

**Unfinished Business:** nothing at this time.

**New Business:** nothing at this time.

**Adjournment:**

Motion #15

With no further business to discuss Ms. Fisher made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 8:07pm, seconded by Mr. Poste.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

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