**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, December 15, 2021**

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

Present: George Cayey, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Grace Hawley

Kevin Hawley, Highway Supt. Ronald Robert

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Lisa Fisher

Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

Meeting attendees: Deputy Town Clerk Jennifer Cole, Penny Cayey, Jacob Poste, Shelley Rayner

Zoom attendees: Cynthia Hennessy, Mary Jane Watson, Louise Bixby, Jean Fallon, Dennis Eickoff

Supervisor G. Cayey lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6 pm as scheduled.

Motion #1

**Approve November 2021 Minutes**

Motion made by L. Fisher, seconded by R. Robert to approve the minutes from the November 2021 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant #12, 2022**

Motion made by G. Hawley, seconded by R. Robert to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant #12, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund……………………………………… $180,552.67

Highway Fund……………………………………...$106,053.91

Library Fund………………………………………… $ 7,960.05

Sewer Fund #1………………………………………$ 22,022.29

Water Fund #1………………………………………. $ 8,390.87

Colton Light Dist.………………………………………$ 833.17

S. Colton Light Dist.……………………………………$ 778.32

TRANSFERS:

From A7140.1 Recreation Salary…………………………………………….. $ 26,000.00

To A1410.4 Town Clerk Contr…………………………………….$ 608.89 $700.00

A4068.41 Mosquito Contr…………………………………….... $ 87.33 $100.00

A5010.4 Supt of Highway…………………………………….. $ 561.64 $700.00

A5132.4 Garage Contr………………………………………..$ 1,779.17 $2,500.00

A7140.4 Recreation Contr……………………………………$ 1,429.07 $2,500.00

A8160.4 Transfer Station Contr……………………………..$14,825.02 $16,000.00

A8160.12 Transfer Station Salary………………………………$ 820.08 $3,500.00

From DA5130.2 Machinery Equip…………………………………………… $ 30,000.00

To DA5130.4 Machinery Contr……………………………………………… $ 26,145.93

From L7410.431 Library Telephone……………………………………………….$ 575.00

To L7410.41 Books…………………………………………………$ 430.53……$ 450.00

L7410.45 Fuel……………………………………………………$ 123.93…...$ 125.00

From SS8110.2 Sewer Equip………………………………………………………$ 8,000.00

SS1990.4 Contingency……………………………………………………….$ 1,800.00

To SS811.4 Sewer Contr…………………………………………………………...$ 9,800.00

From SLI.599 Fund Balance……………………………………………………………$ 60.00

SL2 Fund Balance………………………………………………………………..$ 60.00

To SL1.5182.4 Colton Light Dist………………………………………………………$ 60.00

SL2.5182.4 S. Colton Light Dist…………………………………………………...$ 60.00

**County Legislators Report:** At the December 6th Full Board Meeting

* We had 49 resolutions.
* We had 10 modifications to the budget.
* We had 29 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.
* We had a resolution authorizing the filling of vacancies positions.
* We had a resolution calling on Governor Hochul to reconsider the closure of the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility.
* We had a resolution charging for tax items.
* We had a resolution adopting the mortgage tax report.
* We had a resolution approving Elections, Real Property, and Community College Apportionments for the year 2022.
* We had a resolution authorizing printing and/or inserting additional information explaining exemptions on the back of the 2022 real property tax bills for the City of Ogdensburg.
* We had a resolution adopting the 2022 Budget.
* We had a resolution adopting proposed local law reapportioning fifteen legislative districts.

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

Rick

**Dog Warden Report:** Dog Warden Jim McConkey reported

Several dog calls, one to Humane Society – returned home. Remaining calls took all dogs home. Four welfare checks.

**Assessor Report:** Nothing at this time.

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**BTI Report:**

* I taught the 30 Hr Bti Training course November 16-19, 2021. Anna Hardiman, who has been working as a Pesticide Apprentice for the last 5 years on Mosquito control, will get certified and will shift to the Black fly Control crew. Michael Amrozowicz of South Colton was the only applicant for the other opening on the crew. I think he will be a good fit. He completed the course, and they are both scheduled to take their exams this month in Utica and Cortland. I am requesting board approval to hire Michael Amrozowicz on the Bti crew.

Motion #3

R. Robert made the motion to hire M. Amrozowicz at step one hire scale, seconded by L. Fisher.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Hawley, Robert, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

* I recently found out Valent biosciences, that manufactures the Bti we use for Black fly control, will not have it available in the 2.5 gallon jugs we normally use. This is a “temporary” issue but there is no information yet when 2.5 gallon jugs will be available again. Right now, the only size it a 264 gallon tote, 45’’ x 40’’ x 46’’ weighing 2500lb when full. We use on average about 120gallons. I have used 160-185 on very wet years. Last year I used 85 gallons because it was so dry and have 77 gallons left over. I have been communicating with ADAPCO, our distributor, Valent, and the other Bti Programs and the DEC to try and come up with some solutions.
* We might be able to share a tote with other Bti programs, each paying their share directly to the distributor.
* I asked if we could purchase a partially filled tote. I’m still waiting for an answer. The tote would need to be stored in a secure location that was above freezing and below 86F. It needs to be mixed well (it’s an aqueous suspension) prior to dispensing into smaller field jugs. I believe there is port on top that I would have to have access to and use a stick or canoe paddle to stir it. One of the other Bti directors suggested using compressed air to mix it. I recall reading a study where too much agitation ruined the efficacy, so I need research that. The Cranberry Lake program offered to store the tote at their location. If I save the Bti containers I currently have, and go to Cranberry Lake to, for example to fill 50 gallons, that wouldn’t be a problem. At this point though, I don’t know if DEC will allow the empty jugs to be refilled. There are strict rules about reusing a pesticide jug. Refilling with the same product may

still be considered reuse. I don’t have an answer yet. If we do store it in Colton, I’m hoping between the different departments we can find a space without having to spend the energy and costs of building a space for it. The storage area doesn’t necessarily have to be at the same location as the Bti office. This is a temporary issue but, again I don’t have an answer on what exactly that means.

* I am teaching a re-certification course to 5 different Bti programs in Piseco, December 7 & 8. This will be another opportunity to brainstorm. Hopefully, we’ll get more information from Valent and the DEC too. I will keep the Board informed as I get more information

Andrea Malik

**Code Enforcement Report** CEO D. Richards reported**:**

**Transfer Station**

Transfer station is running smoothly, still have the same infrastructure issues which the new board will help address. We are shifting the transfer station hours from Christmas Day and New Year’s Day to the Mondays, December 26th and January 3rd respectively.

**Water/Sewer**

Wastewater upgrade with RPA funds are going incredibly slow. Parts are almost in. Just waiting for the DO probe control panels. Koestler associate will be coming by the end of next week to the majority of the overhaul. We are asking people to run water if they have had freeze ups in the past. Small thin stream as big as pencil lead thickness will suffice

**Building and Grounds**

Our two main plow trucks are back in service and our sander has a new motor and is working great again. Food Pantry is coming along. Water has been roughed in by DPW and awaits the rest of the sheetrock to put in the toilet and handicap sink. Our volunteer electrical installer fell ill last week and we have had a delay in the panel meter and finished electrical. He is back on it this week. It also staggers and delays our heating source. Big shout out to S&L electrical and Shea Tree cutting services for their holiday lighting work with their bucket trucks for both street lighting decorations and town hall tree lighting. Great work and nice volunteerism from two community contributors!

**Safety**

All buildings which conduct public business commercially must wear a mask as per NYS mandates. DPW had a safety meeting regarding the transfer station and mask wearing protocol in public areas.

**Code Enforcement Office**

72 permits, one subdivision pending and two-house builds asking for setbacks and elevation requirements for shorelines. These builds will occur first part of spring. Trying to do close outs on open permits this month.

**Town Clerk Report** Deputy Town Clerk Jennifer Cole reported**:**

* + Donna and I have been in contact with North Country Now in regards to advertising. We feel it would be better for the town to go with them as the towns official newspaper as their papers are the most read/distributed newspaper of St. Law Co with almost 19,000 in distribution. NCNow.com website advertising is FREE!

Motion #4

Mr. Robert made the motion to list North Country Now as the Town of Colton’s official newspaper, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* + Donna and I had a conference call with Lisa Brown at CST Group Inc. They are an IT company that specializes in municipalities. Their company employs 19 people out of Malone. Our current IT company is Clear Data Solutions out of Waddington. We have been having issues with communication and service from Clear Data Solutions. Having to wait days and up to weeks before hearing from them for repairs/issues.

Motion #5

Mr. Robert made the motion to contact CST Group Inc. to set up an appointment to have an assessment of all IT equipment for the town, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* + I have attended two tax webinars, a NYS retirement webinar and a seminar in Syracuse in regards to Registrars/Town Clerks, birth/death/marriage certificates.
  + Bill Carboy from Selective Ins stopped by yesterday to look at the wall by the library. Ronnie Robert met with Mr. Carboy at approx. 11:30am.

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**Highway Report** Highway Supt. K. Hawley reported:

* Since the last board meeting, we have been focusing on snow and ice. We did have a mishap with one of the big trucks. The first time out plowing the front plow caught a soft spot on a paved road and dug in ruining the front plow and snapped several mounting bolts off the frame of the truck. I feared the truck frame was bent in the incident, so I took the truck to Whitesboro Spring and Plow shop in Watertown for an all-wheel alignment. The truck was perfectly aligned the plow shop stated the frame was not bent and safe to put back in service. We drove the truck from there to Viking in Harrisville where the repairs to the plow equipment was performed. We picked the truck up last Friday and it is now back in service. This will all be covered by insurance.
* Salt prices this year are down considerably from last year from $90 per ton to $65 per ton delivered.
* We had a problem with truck #711 we took it to Route 11 Trucking, they diagnosed and replaced several sensors and both fuel pumps. It is now running and also back in service. This truck is the green truck we use for plowing the village. This repair ended up costing $3901.31. I had the work done as I felt was an emergency repair as it is one of our main plow trucks. This was over my normal spending limit so I would like to ask the board to approve this expenditure.

Motion #6

Mrs. Hawley made the motion to move forward with payment of repairs for Highway truck #711, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* One of our small pickup sanders was in pretty rough shape due to rusty components. it would have cost a third of the price of a new sander to fix it and it is about ten years old plus it is virtually impossible to get parts for the small equipment these days. I found a new sander at Whitesboro Spring Shop for $5075. I contacted three board members for their approval before I ordered it. The sander is now on our truck and is working well. I would like to ask the board to approve this purchase as well.

Motion #7

Ms. Fisher made the motion to move forward with the payment of the new sander for the Highway Dept., seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* After the recent wind event using our trucks to bull doze trees out of the roads, and the fact that I’ll probably be looking to buy a new pickup in the next few years and turn my current one over to the crew. I wish to put a plow on my town truck. I have a quote from again Whitesboro Plow shop for an 8'6" stainless fisher vee plow installed for $6500. I do come across snow drifts and down trees at times when I’m checking roads after hours. It would be handy to have my own plow. I would like to ask approval to have this installed.

Motion #8

Ms. Fisher made the motion to purchase the new plow for the Highway Supt K. Hawley’s truck, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Lastly... Last winter we bent a one-way plow on frozen dirt. We had it replaced through the insurance company. We also at the time upgraded it to a new option Viking offers. It’s a two-stage plow. Briefly it is a second cutting edge that deploys from the cab behind the normal plow cutting edge. This one resembles a "york rake as it will follow uneven surfaces on the road and it is air activated with the ability to apply downward pressure. I would invite anyone to compare the difference on the next storm Between the County Road where this plow is used, and the gulf road where we still use the traditional single cutting edge. I did add this feature on the last repair that I mentioned earlier, so the only truck we have left without the 2 stage is Chad’s truck which is the one that plows gulf road.  The cost for this option is $8,938.30. I strongly recommend the board also approve this purchase.

Motion #9

Ms. Fisher made the motion to purchase the two-stage plow for Chad Dennis’ Highway plow truck, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Town Supervisor G. Cayey brought it to the attention of the Town Board that the Highway Dept is in need of a new plow truck by the year 2023. The plow truck will take 15 months to be built from date of order.

Motion #10

Mr. Robert made the motion to sell an old Highway plow truck in order to purchase a new Highway plow truck, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Three new loader tires are needed as soon as possible. Cost per tire is $1700.00, total cost requested is $5,100.00

Motion #11

Mrs. Hawley made the motion to purchase three new loader tires, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 – Fisher, Cayey, Hawley, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Planning Board Report:**

The Colton planning board met on November 16, 2021. There were no subdivisions to discuss. Jeff Rouselle shared the information he had gathered on creating a comprehensive plan, showing us the definition of a comprehensive plan and what should be in it; the difference between a comprehensive plan and a strategic plan; why the town should have a comprehensive plan; and the steps we need to take to come up with a good plan. Part of coming up with a comprehensive plan is to involve a good cross section of the residents. This would include members of the planning board, the town board, business owners, and residents. In order to explain what we are trying to do the planning board would like to make a short presentation to the town board at the February meeting. The presentation would only be 10 to 15 minutes, and would include a slide show.

Kirke Perry Chairperson, Colton Planning Board

**Library Report:** Jean Fallon thanked George and Donna for their years of service to the town. Nothing more was reported.

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**Unfinished Business:**

* NYCLASS Investment – made $257.91 between NYCLASS and NBT Bank for November 2021
* Christmas lights are up on the poles in Colton and South Colton.
* Koester upgrade on sewage plant reported in Code Enforcement report.
* Food pantry - opening date is hopefully January 2022.
* RSI has been asked to provide a quote to redo roof on museum.

**New Business:**

* Approval of Matt Norfolk as the new Town of Colton Attorney.

Motion #12

Mr. Robert made the motion to hire Attorney Matt Norfolk out of Lake Placid as the town attorney for Colton, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Cayey, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Leak in rubber membrane in museum has been repaired. RSI has been called to look at it.
* Approve Resolution #10-14 – Income Limitations for Senior Exemptions.

Motion #13

Mrs. Hawley made the motion to approve Resolution #10-14, Income Limitations for Senior Exemptions max income set at $22,499.99, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Cayey, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* Board approval to have transfer station closed on Christmas Day and open the following Monday Dec. 27th. As well as closed New Years Day, January 1st 2022, open the following Monday, January 3rd and Wednesday, January 5th 2022.

Motion #14

Ms. Fisher made the motion to close the transfer station Saturday December 25th. Open the transfer station Monday December 27th and Wednesday December 29th, regular hours and closed January 1st 2022, open regular hours Monday January 3rd and Wednesday January 5th 2022, seconded by Mrs. Hawley.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Cayey, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

* On behalf of the Colton Historical Society Cynthia Hennessy would like to announce this year’s Citizen of the year award goes to Mary Jane Watson. Congratulations Mary Jane!

**Correspondence:** nothing at this time.

**Courtesy of the Floor:** nothing at this time.

**Adjournment:**

Motion #15

With no more business to discuss Ms. Fisher made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 6:55pm, seconded by Mr. Robert.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Hawley, Cayey, Robert

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

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