**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, July 15, 2020**

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

Present: George Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Katheryn Hayes

Donna Buckley, Clerk Ronald Robert

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Grace Hawley

Lisa Fisher-Davis

Absent: Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt.

Others present: Shelley Rayner, Robert Ball and David Demo

Via Zoom: Dennis Eickhoff, Mary Jane Watson and Les Baker

Everyone in attendance was seated social distancing and each wore facemasks.

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting at 1:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cayey asked if the Board Members had reviewed the minutes, bills and reports.

Motion # 1

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mr. Robert to approve the minutes of the June 12 meeting.

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

Noes 0

Motion carried

Mr. Cayey stated the reason for transfers. Bti had 2 on mosquito instead of one, there is money in her program to move to cover it. The other transfer is for two laptops, one for the bookkeeper and the other for the Town Clerk.

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT # 7 AND BANK RECONCILIATION and TRANSFERS**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to approve the bills on Warrant # 4 and the bank reconciliation.

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

Noes 0

General Fund $ 55,745.72

Highway Fund $ 28,725.65

Hepburn Library Fund $ 1,401.40

Colton Light District $ 721.62

South Colton Light District $ 679.32

Sewer District #1 $ 7,744.64

Water District #1 $ 3,812.38

The following accounts are or will be over budget as of June 30 2020.

**General Fund:**

A4068.13 Mosquito Salary $ 3,012.36

A1220.2 Town Sup. Equip. 1,597.00

**Recommendation for transfer**:

A4068.12 Black Fly Salary $ 6,500.00

A1220.4 Town Sup. Contr. 1,597.00

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Cayey read aloud Mr. Perkin’s report:

At the July 6th Full Board Meeting we;

* Had another informal discussion regarding the Covid-19 pandemic
* Had 4 new cases this past weekend
* Have 224 confirmed cases with 8 of them active and 213 released from isolation, 1 hospitalized
* Are waiting on the Governor’s Office on guidance to continue the re-opening process, the information is slow in coming
* Please continue to keep yourself updated daily on the County , County Chamber of Commerce and IDA websites for the most current information and guidelines for businesses reopening
* 31 resolutions
* 7 budget modifications
* 3 grant resolutions
* 10 agreement/contracts to sign
* A resolution conveying an easement to NY Power Authority for the construction, installation and future repair of roadways to access Smart Path Moses-Adirondack Transmission lines in the Town of Canton owned by St. Lawrence County

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**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’ REPORT CON’T.**

* A resolution proclaiming July 19 – 25, 2020 as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week
* A resolution establishing the Workforce Innovation Program Year 2020
* A resolution setting a date for a public hearing on proposed local law A(no.\_\_) for the year 2020 “Setting Salaries for County Employees
* A resolution proclaiming June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month
* A resolution authorizing the donation of $30,000 to the Bassmaster’s so they could proceed with the tournament this July
* If anyone has any questions please feel free to reach out to me
* Stay Healthy

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT** Mr. Ball reported:

* Since January 1st 2020 there has been 20 new property transfers, 1 new sale since last reported.
* I currently have 46 open site visits that I have been and will continue to monitor over the course of this summer.
* Two grievances of note are SLIC and Erie Boulevard. Both cases did not receive any changes to their assessments. SLIC’s grievance is an ongoing court case. I expect Erie Boulevard will soon file a formal court case against the Town. In regards to this case, my recommendations are as follows:
* Hold off on having an appraisal on the properties done. I would like to asks the boards permission to try and negotiate directly with the attorneys for Erie Boulevard. I have done this in the past with success in other towns. Any negotiations would have to have final approval by the Town Board.
* Ask the town attorney to find an appraiser who is capable of doing an appraisal on these properties and

get prices for them.

* I called and spoke with John Zukowski, he has done several appraisals on power plants. I sent him the information he requested and I am awaiting his response for a price on the appraisal.
* I would like the Town Board to ask the Town Attorney to speak to the School and County Attorney’s to

see if School Board and Legislatures would be willing to help with the appraisal cost. In my past experience they have helped out. The County and School have a lot to lose if the tax base drops dramatically.

* \*Site visits are properties I have to visit and conduct field reviews on. These include building permits I receive from Darren, Property Sales that seem out of line, and requests from property owners to review

the assessed value of a property.

*David Demo* Board of Assessment Review Chairman, stated that the people need to know up front that Erie Boulevard/Brookfield is asking for a 50% decrease in their assessment. Six years ago they received a 25% reduction. The cost of an appraisal is high, could a grant be written for help with it? I feel a committee should

be formed and not just one person negotiating with them. Mr. Cayey replied he will put information out to the public.

Mr. Ball replied the more the public knows the better. This is income property so it’s different and the cost of power has reduced. I don’t get a say, it’s to see what they want and what we can get. The Town Board has the ultimate decision. More discussion led to the following motion.

Motion # 3

**AUTHORIZE ASSESSOR TO TALK WITH BROOKFIELD**

Motion made to authorize Assessor Ball to talk with Brookfield, opening a means of communication.

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

Noes 0

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

* Treatments on steams for black fly control finished July 2, 2020. This is earlier than normal. Many of the streams have dried up with the heat and lack of rain.
* We used approximately 94 gallons of Bti for Black fly control this season, much less than normal because water levels were below average and I was able to coordinate with Brookfield and do some river treatments early in the morning when the hydro generators where shut down. In contrast, last year, a very wet season,

we used 159 gallons of Bti with an average being about 120 gallons.

* Mosquito treatments slowed down too because of the drought. We will finish this week hitting some of the more permanent wetlands for one last round.
* We used approximately 357 pounds of the Bti granules. It varies from 185 pounds to 525 lbs partly on field conditions but mostly on crew availability. Ideally, I like to have two people working on the mosquito program. For a number of years we have had only one person, with black fly crew treating for mosquitoes when caught up on their streams. This season we had two, because the new black fly crew member was unable to take his certification exams due for Covid-19, so I had him working on the mosquito control program.

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**Bti REPORT CON’T.**

I also had him checking the streams that would have been his area and periodically working with me on streams doing the calculations so, he would be ready for the exams and field trained for next season. The new crew took and passed both his certification exams last week.

* The mosquito budget is over by approximately $3000. I expected this since we had 2 crew members on mosquitoes instead of 1. Since there was 1 less crew on Black fly, there is plenty of surplus in the Black fly budget to cover this.

In spite of Covid-19 and being short on crew, the 35th Bti season was another success.

Mr. Cayey reported he received a letter and $50 donation from Katherine Klein to help support the Bti Program.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards presented his report;

33 permits this year so far. We are down by 20 percent on building permits this year to date. We have three home builds this month and another permit application to process for another new home this week.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards gave his report;

*Transfer Station* We are having Casella take the trash compactor after on transfer station days immediately after we close to eliminate the food source from the vermin. We hope they will then turn to the bate boxes for food. Our goal is to reduce the population by 66% over the summer. Our Transfer Station is just on budget this year to date.

*Water and Sewer* Our spending freeze has helped Water and Sewer budgets a great deal. But it also means we are not providing necessary updates to upkeep our infrastructure. The systems are fine for now, but eventually we will need to continue our upgrade programs. For the mean time one upgrade in a blower alarm will be looked at to be installed to dial out and inform us when the plant loses power and the blowers do not kick back on. It is a very important alarm to install. We still have a water signal control unit issue at the well site that might need our calibration company to make a repair at the well site this month.

*Building and Grounds* We are doing our minimum upkeep to our buildings at this point. We are going to service boilers and furnaces for the fall weather soon. The museum work on insulation, porches, doors and siding will start before the end of the Month. We have had one contractor meeting with a vender so far and we are staged to start soon.

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards gave his report;

Our main concern for safety has been COVID-19 and we remain vigilant in our efforts to social distance and mask up when the situation calls for it. I would like to thank the board on their decision making to take this pandemic serious and err on the side of caution. We have had requests on the opening of Swift Field for phase 3.5 and phase 4. Attached in my report is a safety protocol for return to play from the summer soccer league. I just got word they are cancelling the season. I recommend to the board to continue to close Swift Field for all summer programs and remain vigilant. Our efforts should be to keep the North Country Safe for the schools to have the best chance to open.

**LIBRARY REPORT** Mr. Eickhoff gave a report via Zoom;

The curbside service began June 15 with 39 customers served and 477 items checked out. In September we will be allowing people in by appointment.

Mr. Richards noted the Zoom time was getting low.

Mr. Baker was asked what he had to say. He stated he wanted to discuss options to set up his kitchen. Mr. Richards noted he still needs to take his request to the Zoning Board. Mr. Baker said he invited board members from all three boards to view his site and a few came.

Ms. Watson reported the summer musical will be at Pickens Hall and also recorded.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

1. The Clerk’s office is open but the door remains locked to regulate the number of people in at one time. Please wear a mask.
2. NYS contracted with a different company to process fishing/hunting licenses. It went live June 29th or should have. As of Monday July 13, I am able to sell fishing licenses.
3. NYS Retirement is requesting another standard workday resolution. I have provided you with copies of the resolution and the records of activities for all employees that are included. This needs a motion to accept.
4. Wednesday July 29 @ 3:00 there will be a free milk donation. This came about by an email from Red Cross. Since then, I was connected with NYS Dairy Assoc. Cathy Hobb, now we will be receiving 400 boxes of meat and produce too. This event will be at Colton-Pierrepont Central School. Entry will be the driveway on the North end (Potsdam end) and exit will be the South end. For more information, call Donna 315-262-2810 X 1.
5. Garage Sale Weekend is coming up, July 24, 25 & 26. Call to be added to the list and map.

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Motion # 4

**ADOPT RESOLUTION # 7**

Motion made by Mr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to adopt Resolution # 7 – 2020, Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials. This one includes Mr. Ball. It will be posted on the website and the bulletin boards.

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

Noes 0

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS Investment – Made $965.80 in June
2. Bonno Builders should be starting next week on the Museum.
3. SLIC – Mrs. Hawley spoke with Kevin Lynch regarding burying lines. She recommended the lines be buried as close to the tree line as possible and he should speak with the Highway Superintendent.
4. Brookfield – We haven’t been served papers yet over their assessment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Sports on Swift Field - Adult ball leagues, after discussion, for community safety, no.
2. Music Performance at Town Gazebo – No. Motion follows.
3. Approve CHIPS bills with August early bills. Motion follows.
4. Donation from Ms. Klein.
5. New laptops ordered for Bookkeeper and Town Clerk.
6. Change James McConkey’s title from Dog Warden to Animal Control Officer. Motion follows.
7. Problem with property at 8 Spring Street. A short discussion led to a meeting to be scheduled with Town Attorney Gustafson, Judge Robar, Mr. Richards and Supervisor Cayey.

Motion # 5

**DISCONTINUE ALL NON-SCHOOL EVENTS ON TOWN PROPERTY**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to discontinue all non-school events on Town property until further notice.

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

Noes 0

Motion # 6

**APPROVE TO PAY HIGHWAY INVOICES FOR CHIPS WITH EARLY BILLS**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to pay the Highway invoices for CHIPS reimbursement with the early bills.

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

Noes 0

Mr. Richards took this time to explain the proposed Animal Control Law presented to the Board. Mr. McConkey has responded to several calls regarding cows, pigs and other farm animals, of which there is no recourse for habitual offenders (rogue cows) without a local law. Mr. Cayey charged me with the job of pulling one together.

In order for Mr. McConkey to enforce the law he has to be appointed as Animal Control Officer. He is the ACO in Potsdam and for the Potsdam Humane Society.

Motion # 7

**APPOINT DOG WARDEN AS ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to appoint James McConkey as Animal Control Officer effective immediately.

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

Noes 0

Ms. Buckley stated the Board has their copies and we need to schedule a public hearing on the law.

Motion # 8

**PUBLIC HEARING TO BE ADVERTISED AT 5:55 PM. AUGUST 12**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to set the Public Hearing for Local Law # 1 – 2020,

Animal Control at 5:55 p.m. on August 12, 2020.

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

Noes 0

Motion # 9

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Noes 0

Motion carried, 2:35 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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