**Regular Monthly Meeting, Colton Town Board, October 14, 2020**

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

Present: George Cayey, Supervisor Councilpersons: Katheryn Hayes

Donna Buckley, Clerk Grace Hawley

Darren Richards, DPW Supt. Lisa Fisher-Davis

Kevin Hawley, Hwy. Supt.

Absent: Ronald Robert

Others present: Robert Ball, Linden Snyder, Jim McConkey and Rick Perkins

Everyone in attendance was seated social distancing and each wore face coverings.

Supervisor Cayey opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. 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. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the minutes of the September 9 meeting.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 2

**APPROVE WARRANT #10, BANK RECONCILIATION and TRANSFERS**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Ms. Hayes to approve the bills on Warrant # 10, the bank reconciliation and transfers

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

General Fund $ 79,263.04

Highway Fund $ 61,305.57

Hepburn Library Fund $ 1,437.16

Colton Light District $ 738.19

South Colton Light District $ 694.74

Sewer District #1 $ 9,401.86

Water District #1 $ 5,458.22

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

General Fund:

A1420.41 Attorney Roemer $ 3,000.00

A3310.4 Traffic Control/Signs 2,792.25 (3000)

A3989.4 Safety Contr. 1,180.09 (4000)

A7450.2 Museum Equip. 7,089.00 (7100)

Recommendation for transfer:

A1420.40 Attorney Gustafson $ 3,000.00

A3010.2 Public Safety 14,100.00

Highway Fund

DA5110.1 Road Maint. P.S. $ 14,263.20

Recommended transfer:

DA5140.1 Brush & Weeds P.S. $ 15,000.00

Library Fund

L7410.121 Tech Salary $ 2500.00

Recommended Transfer

L7410.453 Renovations $ 2500.00

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Motion # 3

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Authorize a budget amendment from the lighting district fund balances of $1,000 to each light district, SL1-5182.4 and SL2-5182.4.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR’S REPORT** Mr. Perkins gave this report: at the October 5th full board meeting

We had: 31 resolutions, 6 budget modifications and 12 agreements/contracts to sign.

A few of the Resolutions 1) accept a grant for the Public Health Dept., 2) declare October as Domestic Awareness Month, 3) authorize purchase of face masks for SLC students 4) proclaiming October 25-31 National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 5) authorize filling vacancies, 6) adopt equalization rates for 2021 County taxes, 7) adopt records retention schedule LGS1, 8) authorize collection of omitted taxes, 9) authorize release of funds for Fort De’ La Presentation, 10) authorize Chair to sign a contract with Council 82, Local 2390 for 2018-2024,

11) reappoint Jonnie Dorothy as Director of Human Resources/Personnel Officer for SLC

A resolution was tabled until the December meeting, authorizing change to retiree pharmacy prescription co-pays to keep pace with CSEA Union negotiated prescription co-pays for active employees. Another resolution didn’t pass authorizing to revise the Medicare Part B premium reimbursement policy for SLC. We also received the tentative budget.

Mr. Perkins stated St. Lawrence County will render aid if needed to secure an expert Attorney. The County Attorney has recommended the Law Firm Jones, Hacker & Murphy of Albany.

Mr. Cayey reported other towns and the County are grouping with us to fight Brookfield and sharing the cost.

Mr. Cayey asked Mr. Perkins about AIM monies being 20% less. Mr. Perkins replied he believes the funds come from the NYS through the County to the Towns and is acquired from internet sales tax. He said the County’s share was cut too.

**ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT** Mr. McConkey came with his new K9 partner, Willow, a black Labrador Siberian husky mix. He said he had rescued 4 pups from a residence (not in Colton). Mr. McConkey received calls to check animal welfare, State Police went with him and the owner surrendered the animals, 4 dog at large calls (2 went to the shelter) and a couple call of dogs barking.

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

* Since January 1st 2020 there has been 40 property transfers, 8 new sale since last reported. I have processed these sales and they have been sent to the state for analysis.

• I currently have 94 open site visits

\*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, are requests from property owners to review the assessed

value of a property.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

60 permits this year so far. Hunting camp builds are increasing and we have had ten new permits in the last couple of weeks. Permits are increasing to normal levels regardless of such a late building start.

**DPW REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

*Transfer Station* We have an operational meeting with Skip from Casella and most likely Chuck Weir, his operational manager to go over new protocol and clean up some overlap issues at the Transfer Station. Our next holiday falls on Veteran’s Day. I need the board to make a decision on staying open or closing the Transfer Station on that day.

*Water and Sewer* The parts are in for the well house for water metering on our 12 inch main. Our calibrations technician will schedule us sometime in the next couple of weeks to install. The propane heater at the well site will be installed at the end of October. This will provide a lower cost heat source than electric and give us redundancy in a high importance building, heat-wise.

*Building and Grounds* Museum renovations and insulation project is complete, we have received a great deal of compliments and a nice job for Bonno Builders. We have one prevailing wage schedule to file and we can close the contract. We are determining the rink opening by the recommendations of the Health Department and will mirror image something similar to policies that Section 10 sports and municipal recreation provide. The Rink is still of question to be opened or not and if the procedure is too cost prohibitive we will ask the board on the decision on a rink opening regardless. We are also examining whether we can get by without temporary help schedule-wise.

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Motion # 4

**CLOSE TRANSFER STATION ON VETERANS DAY**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to close the Transfer Station on Wednesday November 11, Veteran’s Day to avoid overtime. The Transfer Station will be open the following day, Thursday November 12.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**SAFETY REPORT** Mr. Richards reported:

Fire Extinguishers and Fire Panel inspections were done a month early for MSHA purposes and early fire panel maintenance issues. Should be our last bigger budget costs on a well-used safety budget this year due to COVID-19.

**LIBRARY REPORT** Cynthia Dusharm, Library Trustee reported the Trustees met Monday. They discussed the reading program and the kids that finish will receive a treat of some kind. Trustees have made good progress on the “minimum standards”. Mrs. Dusharm stated the Trustees also voted to give Mr. Eickhoff a bonus of $2500 for all the extra work put in the last few months. She said letters of recommendation (unsolicited) came in to support the bonus. The Trustees voted to have the money moved from renovation funds to cover it.

Motion # 5

**APPROVE BONUS FOR MR. EICKHOFF**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Hawley to approve the $2500 bonus to Mr. Eickhoff. The money transfer is from the library renovations to his salary line.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

**PLANNING/ZONING BOARDS REPORT** Mr. Fuhr reported via Zoom: the Planning Board completed the Wind Law it will go to Attorney Gustafson for review. They are still working on changing “uses” in different zones and mapping.

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

1. Please wear a mask when you come to the Town Offices. It is in your best interest to call for an appointment. 315-262-2810 x 1
2. Another food distribution is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday October 28 at the MSB. Time is

yet to be announced.

1. Received letters from the following residents giving their opinion on what the Town should do regarding the lawsuit with Brookfield Hydro Power.

* John & Rose Bartholomew

1. Hunting License Sales: started Aug 1 and to Sept. 30 total sales $4,630 the Towns portion is $254.50.
2. Need to set time and date for budget public hearing – Nov. 4 @ 5:55 p.m.
3. The following people are up for re-appointment:

* Peggy Mousaw – term expired September 30, 2020 ZBA
* Linda Pratt – term expired September 30, 2020 BAR
* Harold Granger – term expires October 31, 2020 PB

Motion # 6

**ADVERTISE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion made by Mrs. Hawley, seconded by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to have Clerk advertise the Public Hearing for proposed 2021 Budget. Public Hearing to be November 4 at 5:55 p.m. followed by the regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion # 7

**RE-APPOINTMENTS**

Motion made by Mrs. Fisher-Davis to re-appoint Peggy Mousaw to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Mrs. Pratt to the Board of Assessment Review and Mr. Granger to the Planning Board.

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried

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**ENGINEERS REPORT** Mr. Richards stated he spoke with Jeff at Blue Line today, he said the salt barn drawings are completed and waiting to attend a meeting to review them.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NYCLASS Investment – Made $109.79 in September
2. Bonno Builders have finished the Museum work.
3. SLIC – has started putting internet lines in town right of way. They are still negotiating w/National Grid over use of the utility poles. Mr. Cayey added he has been negotiating to get free internet at the Highway garage.
4. Brookfield - Update was covered earlier in meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The 2012 plow truck sold at auction for $60,000 and those funds will be used as the down payment on the new truck to be delivered by the beginning of December.
2. Appointments – done previously.
3. Sexual Harassment Training – Scheduled Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 10 a.m. All persons employed or on a committee will need to attend. Call Donna to sign up and also to get the Zoom meeting code.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Linden Snyder, President, Higley Association read aloud their letter concerning Brookfield (Erie Boulevard).

Letter will be attached to minutes, same as others and will be on [www.townofcolton.com](http://www.townofcolton.com)

Mr. Cayey stated it would be a couple of years yet before we even make any headway.

Motion # 8

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes 4 Fisher-Davis, Hawley, Hayes, Cayey

Noes 0

Motion carried, 6:55 p.m.

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Donna Buckley, Town Clerk

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