

October 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Arthur M. Merrill Supervisor
Janet L. Champlin Councilwoman
Mark W. Mattson Councilman entered at 7:05PM
Julie A. Markert Councilwoman

Absent: Gilbert D. Close Councilman
Recording Secretary: Julie B. Townsend Town Clerk

Others present: Kenneth R. Eck, Jr.-Highway Supt., Lillian Browne-Walton Reporter, Bonnie Seegmiller, Mary Brawley-Fuat, Greg Lavorgna, Joan Homovich, Pio DeRoda, Louie Banker and Jeff Skelding-FUDR.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the last regular meeting, October 07, 2015 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: Jeff Skelding of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River commented that they have spent a lot of time organizing a couple of coalitions: Tailwaters (UDRTC) and Upper Delaware River Business Coalition.

Councilman Mark Mattson entered the meeting at 7:05PM.

Mr. Skelding added that they are making awareness and gathering partners and making a plan; they have scheduled a meeting with Commissioner Emily Lloyd on Nov. 6th in Hancock. Supervisor commented that we are working on flood mitigation and land studies; also tweaking the Flexible Flow Management, to have more consistency in levels and reclaim streams. Mr. Skelding commented that there are big releases out of Cannonsville Reservoir; we are asking to share those releases with other reservoirs. Supervisor added that Pepacton Reservoir has the best water for NYC, so they don't want to release that water; rebuild mitigations over 773 miles, 4 on the West Branch and 5 on the Beaverkill; Sands Creek is the pilot project; getting a group together to make a plan for Colchester. Mr. Skelding commented that it is important that we have private owners giving permission; we also need to get funding to get more funding for projects. Supervisor Merrill thanked Mr. Skelding for coming to tonight's meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- David Lange, National Park Service- The National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is pleased to announce an award of continuing consultation-level assistance to the Town of Colchester Fitness Trail project in Downsville; Karl Beard will be the RTCA contact; Oct 2015 to Sept 2016.
- Tony Bonavist- Memorial to the Late Frank Mele; suggestion of park bench with memorial plaque. Supervisor commented that we need to come up with a bench design that will be uniform, so that if anyone else would like to donate a bench, they would look all the same. Board agreed and suggested bluestone; design committee will review and make a presentation.
- NYS Dept. of Public Service- Public Hearings to seek consumer input regarding the state Public Service Commission's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding; 11-17-15 Binghamton City Hall.

- Office of the Governor- Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program- Wed., Oct. 28th at 6pm at the Deposit State Theater.
- Margaretville Telephone Company- MTC will be completing an upgrade to its telephone switching network and voicemail platforms; brief service interruption and voicemail will need to be reestablished.
- Delaware County Veteran Services- Inaugural Newsletter.

Highway Supt Kenneth Eck reported that R.DeVincentis Construction has the deck on bridge for the FEMA#1710-PW150-H4 Holiday Brook Rd Bridge Replacement Project-TC-2015-01; tomorrow they will tear down the temporary bridge. We will place another announcement on the radio that the road will be temporary closed for paving. Highway Supt. reported that the deck should be here tomorrow for the FEMA#1710-PW150-H5 Berg Brook Rd Bridge- TC-2015-02-Project. Supervisor added that we received a letter approving our extension until 2016. Highway Supt replied they should be done by 11-15-15.

Supervisor Merrill reported that he needs to re-submit some paperwork on the SAM Grant for the Replacement Salt Storage Shed at 6292 River Road Garage.

Supervisor also received an annual status report inquiry for the Cooks Falls Water District NYSEFC DWSRF Grant.

Supervisor Merrill reported that more documents are being submitted to the Bonacic Grant Award for the Town Hall Project.

Supervisor commented that he heard that Delaware Opportunities have started their walk-throughs for the CDBG- Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Supervisor reported that the Tentative Budget was presented last meeting; do you have any concerns or changes, if not then we need to adopt this as the preliminary budget and schedule the public hearing. Board discussed.

NO.110-2015 10/21/15 Budget Public Hearing

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby gives notice that the preliminary budget of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York for the fiscal year beginning January 01, 2016 has been filed in the office of the Town Clerk of said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during regular office hours. Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of said Town of Colchester will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, the 4th day of November, 2015 at the Town Hall, 72 Tannery Road, Downsville, New York and that at such hearing any person may be heard in favor or against any item therein contained. And further notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law that the following are proposed yearly salaries of the Town Officers of this Town:

Supervisor	\$20,000.00	Town Clerk	\$30,000.00
Councilman (4@)	3,000.00 each	Supt. of Highways	46,000.00
Town Justice (2@)	11,500.00 each	Tax Collector	6,100.00
Assessor-Chairman	11,000.00	Assessors (2@)	5,000.00 each

And further notice is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Town Board will be held immediately following the Preliminary Budget Hearing.

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert. Roll Call Vote: Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the visit from Mark Fenton, a National public health, planning and transportation consultant and foremost expert on designing healthy, walkable communities, was well attended on October 15th and very informative; we walked thru the Colchester Recreational/Fitness Trail, Main Street and Knox Avenue; he will give us his perception of what we should do to make our village and town more inviting to walk; the last fifty years things were geared for vehicles. Supervisor stated that he and the Highway Supt having been reviewing how to make our rural roads friendlier; possibly to make shoulders flatter and add fog lines. Supervisor added that Mr. Fenton urged us as the first step to adopt the Complete Streets concept. Planning Board Member Mary Brawley-Fuat commented that she attended the presentation that was held at SUNY Delhi; she suggests that we make our policy before the 2016 NYSDOT Bridge Project is started. Supervisor replied that he hopes to get this done soon.

Highway Supt. Eck reported that we did not purchase the used 2013 New Holland TS6 110 Brush Hog Machine from Tracey Road Equipment; found out that used equipment does not qualify for the NY/NJ/PA National Bid Contract; therefore he asked permission do go out to bid. Board discussed.

NO.111-2015 10/21/15 Bid No.02-15 Mower/Brush Machine

Mark Mattson made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby gives authorization to Highway Supt Kenneth R. Eck Jr. to advertise for bids for the purpose of purchasing one 2013 or newer Mower/Brush Machine 4WD Diesel Tractor 110HP with less than 1000 hours under 1000 hours.

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor reported that it is time to place the Seasonal Limited Use Highways Notice and the Winter Road & Sidewalk Maintenance Public Notice in the newspaper; same as last year with the deletion of Campbell Mtn. Rd. from its intersection with Campbell Brook Road northeasterly to said point at 1171 Campbell Mtn. Road, the road is open now. Board discussed. The description of Lower Russell Brook Road was changed.

NO.112-2015 10/21/15 Seasonal Limited Use Highways

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 205-a of the Highway Law which authorizes the Town Highway Superintendent annually before November 1st to designate any highway without occupied residences or commercial buildings dependent upon the road access as a "Seasonal Limited Use Highway";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts the Highway Superintendent's recommendation to designate the following Town of Colchester Highways as Seasonal Limited Use Highways:

- Dry Brook Road
- Hawks Hollow Road
- Berg Brook Road
- Horse Brook Road- from the junction of Rogers Hill Road to Morton Hill Road
- Lower Russell Brook Road- from entrance of Russel Brook Campground northeasterly to said point of abandonment, being 523 feet.
- Upper Russell Brook Road- from its intersection with Morton Hill Road southwesterly to said point of abandonment, being 4,137 feet.
- Murphy Hill Road- from 1407 Murphy Hill Road to the end
- Baxter Mt. Road- from Rosencranse to the end

FURTHERMORE, these highways shall be appropriately posted that snow & ice removal and maintenance may be temporarily discontinued from December 01, 2015 until April 01, 2016. Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, resolution declared adopted.

NO.113-2015 10/21/15 Winter Road & Sidewalk Maintenance Public Notice

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester has hereby approved the Winter Road & Sidewalk Maintenance Public Notice to be posted.

Resolution was seconded by Mark Mattson, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, resolution declared adopted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

- It is the Town of Colchester Highway Department's goal to keep Town Highways in a passable condition during the winter months. Any obstructions located in the Town's right-of-way may hinder the ability of snow removal and storage.
- In an attempt to clear roads, drivers try to be careful not to damage any obstruction in the right-of-way; however that is not always possible. Therefore, any damage which may be done to mailboxes and fences while the Town Highway Department is trying to maintain the roads during the winter, will no longer be repaired or replaced by the Town, but will be the owner's expense.
- Vehicles parked on the Town right-of-way are also a hindrance when trying to clear roads of snow. Attempts will be made to contact the owners of such vehicles so they can be removed. However, if the Highway Dept. is unable to reach the owner, or if the vehicle is not removed, the Town will have the vehicle towed, at the owner's expense.
- It is also a violation to plow snow across or shovel snow back into Town Highways when residents clear out their own driveways and/or sidewalks. Be it noted that violators will be prosecuted.
- Reminder to all Town of Colchester Residents, the Town has a Sidewalk Ordinance which states: Snow and ice shall be removed from sidewalks within twelve hours after the snow has stopped falling and that the sidewalk shall be continuously maintained to be kept free of snow and ice.
- Local Law No. 2-1989 states no person, firm, corporation, association or other organization shall commence the construction, enlargement, alteration, improvement of an access road or driveway from private lands to a Town Highway located in the Town of Colchester, without having applied for or obtained a Highway Access Permit from the Town Code Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

Next Board Meeting-Wed., November 4, 2015 after the Budget Hearing at 7:00 PM

Supervisor commented that he has spent the last two days in Hale Eddy at the conference "Water Water Every Where"; it was well attended and very informative; another opportunity to learn ; focused on to help control flooding and the water flow.

Pio DeRoda commented that the design committee is an open forum and suggested that if any was interested to participate to go to the Town website.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Julie Markert made the motion, seconded by Mark Mattson, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, motion carried. Abstract No.19-2015; Voucher No.559-579; Totaling \$235,231.19.

Supervisor commented that the recent Maple Leaf Festival and 2016 Streetscape Arts Project Benefit was well attended; everyone enjoyed the DEC Presentation: The Eagle Reintroduction Project, that was held in the Covered Bridge; spoke with DCS Administration suggesting that they also have the DEC Presentation.

Supervisor Merrill commented that it has been reported that the steel fabrications have started for the Corbett Bridge.

With no further business, Julie Markert made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Gilbert Close-absent, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend
Town Clerk