

November 18, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Arthur M. Merrill Supervisor  
Janet L. Champlin Councilwoman  
Mark W. Mattson Councilman  
Julie A. Markert Councilwoman entered at 7:10PM  
Gilbert D. Close Councilman

Recording Secretary: Susan D. Early Deputy Town Clerk

Others present: Kenneth R. Eck, Jr.-Highway Supt., Michael P. DeGroat-Town Attorney, Lillian Browne-Walton Reporter, Bonnie Seegmiller, Greg Lavorgna, Joan Homovich and Jim Shields.

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

The minutes of the Public Hearing of November 04, 2015 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Mattson, Janet Champlin-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Gilbert Close-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Julie Markert-absent, motion carried. The minutes of the last regular meeting, November 04, 2015 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Gilbert Close, Janet Champlin-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Gilbert Close-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Julie Markert-absent, motion carried.

Councilwoman Julie Markert entered the meeting at 7:10PM.

VISITOR COMMENTS: Joan Homovich voiced a concern brought to her from a homeowner in Downsville regarding secondhand smoke from outdoor wood furnaces; wood smoke was staying low and the odor was irritating; she inquired if the Town had any regulations overseeing this type of furnace. Lillian Brown also asked if the Town had any kind of air quality regulation. Supervisor Merrill replied that the matter had come up years ago with one furnace and had been taken care of; there are many more in our township now and each would have to be evaluated on an individual basis; Supervisor will speak with CEO Zampolin on this issue.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Del. Co. DPW- Solid Waste Management Center and Compost Facility Holiday Schedule.
- Tony Bonavist- Plaque ordered for Frank Mele Memorial bench.

#### REPORTS- written reports on file at Town Clerk's Office:

- Town Justice Edward J. DeRosia- October 2015.

Supervisor reported that guiderails are needed for both projects of the FEMA#1710-PW150-H4 Holiday Brook Rd Bridge Replacement Project and the FEMA#1710-PW150-H5 Berg Brook Rd Bridge. Lillian Browne inquired if the detour sign for Holiday Brook Rd was for these two bridges- are they open? Supervisor informed her that the sign was not put up by our township and was a detour for the closed Beaverkill Covered Bridge in Sullivan Co.

Supervisor Merrill reported that he received a phone call from Sarah Antonacci regarding the SAM Grant; the amount we would receive was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000; Ms. Antonacci believes that the Senate Finance Committee in charge of this grant combined the

Replacement Salt Storage Shed and the Town Hall Restoration Project grant monies; they are looking into straightening this out so both projects can go forward in a timely manner.

Supervisor next spoke about the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program grant; Delaware Opportunities has begun doing walkthroughs on buildings and bids were out on work to be done.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the new 2016 Freightliner truck had arrived and the Tractor/Brush machine should be here next week.

Highway Supt. Eck and Supervisor Merrill informed the Board about the light situation at the Cooks Falls Highway Garage.; most of the lights don't work and need to be replaced as soon as possible; Highway Supt had NYSEG evaluate and their proposal was that they would replace the lights and do the installation; 70% of the cost they would pay and the Town would be responsible for 30%. Highway Supt. was not sure if we would pay prevailing wage for labor. Town Attorney thought that we would have to; he will verify this. Board discussed. Councilwoman Markert wondered if it would be more cost effective to do the purchasing and work ourselves. Supervisor replied that this is a very good deal and the savings on energy will pay for the project in 1-2 years. Board discussed further.

NO.123-2015 11/18/15 NYSEG- Small Business Energy Efficiency Program

Mark Mattson made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, NYSEG has a Small Business Energy Efficiency Program; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Colchester will benefit from this program with installing energy efficient lighting to the Cooks Falls Highway Garage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to sign the Small Business Energy Efficiency Program Customer Authorization Form with EnerPath Services, Inc. and hereby authorizes the payment of the Town's proposed cost of 30% of the project (NYSEG contributes 70%) to be paid at the time of project installation.

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Mark Mattson-aye, Gilbert Close-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Julie Markert-no, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor and Highway Supt. have been contacted by GIS Solutions of North Carolina concerning the implementation of software (ConnectGIS Program) for our Town to track and catalogue our infrastructure- maps, roads, water mains, etc. to be accessed in a quick and organized manner; they received information from web presentations; this would be extremely beneficial in the case of flooding where FEMA would want to have data of prior conditions and expedite aid.; this would also help future officials become familiar with the township's infrastructure; initial cost would be \$7,000 for the program and training, then an annual fee of \$4,200 for maintenance; we would use Town employees to input data; if we signed this agreement, we would have 60 days to try it, and there would be no cost if we chose to return it after the 60 days. Board discussed. There was a concern of the high cost and also if 60 days was long enough to review. Councilwoman Markert inquired if we knew any other townships, etc. who used this.; she would like more information; she also felt it would be a bad time of the year to have to go to all these infrastructures in the town to input the data. Councilwoman Champlin asked how many hours it will take to put in the data; this would be an extra cost to us. Bonnie Seegmiller asked where the funds would come from to purchase this. Supervisor replied that initially it would come from Highway but probably Water Districts and Cemetery would be added as their data would also be included. Greg Lavorgna asked if we signed the agreement and decided to return it after 60 days, would we be able to purchase it in the future. Supervisor felt that it may not be offered and if it was, the cost would be higher. Board decided that further research would have to be done and tabled it.

A question arose as to whether the larger “NO TRUCKS” signs had been put up on the Horton Brook side of Fuller Hill; also could the police issue tickets if a large truck travels on it. Greg Lavorgna replied that he had seen the signs there. Supervisor reported that flashing solar lights still need to be added and that police could issue tickets if the signs are disobeyed; a smaller “NO TRUCKS” sign is posted on the Fuller Hill side.

Supervisor Merrill reported that at the Board of Supervisor’s monthly meeting next week they will revisit the bed tax; he will again vote “no”. Supervisor commented that he was pleased with the meeting on Nov. 6th of the UDRTBC and Emily Lloyd, Comm. of the DEP; the issue of “yo-yo releases” as a result of directed releases by the DEP and the resulting effects on the surrounding communities and their economies was discussed and will be addressed. Supervisor also attended an advisory meeting of the Stream Corridor Management Plan (two others are pending) and another for the Coalition of Watershed Towns discussing capricious management of permits, especially septic, concerning businesses in the Watershed.

Supervisor asked the Town Attorney if we have a “Notice of Defect” Policy; our Selective Insurance representative stated we needed one. Town Attorney replied that he believes this is a statutory issue but will look into it.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Town Hall Offices Closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>
- Next Regular Board Meeting Wed., December 2nd

**SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES:** Mark Mattson made the motion, seconded by Julie Markert, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried. Abstract No.21-2015; Voucher No.616-645; Totaling \$36,774.91.

With no further business, Mark Mattson made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Gilbert Close, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan D. Early  
Deputy Town Clerk