

August 07, 2019

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, August 07, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Arthur M. Merrill Supervisor
Mark W. Mattson Councilman
Julie A. Markert Councilwoman
Gregory L. Lavorgna Councilman
Janet L. Champlin Councilwoman
Recording Secretary: Julie B. Townsend Town Clerk

Others present: Michael DeGroat-Town Attorney, Dawn D'Addezio-Bookkeeper, Vicky Klukkert-The Reporter, Jeff Francisco-Delaware Engineering, Joan Homovich, Alan Donner, Mary Brawley-Fuat, Gene & Ruth Wilhowsky.

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, July 17, 2019 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, motion carried. The minutes of the special meeting, July 24, 2019 had been distributed earlier. Greg Lavorgna made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, motion carried.

GUESTS: Jeff Francisco of Delaware Engineering reported that Downs ville Water District could get more interest free loan amount for the Filtration of the Spring System Improvement Project DWSRF #17537. Supervisor commented that we may need to increase rates again; he suggested \$25.00 per year per service, not sure this will cover everything.

Dawn D'Addezio, Supervisor's Bookkeeper reported that back in March a survey was sent out inquiring about direct deposit; not all responses came back; it was stated when the survey went out that it would not be determine by majority vote, whereas other factors needed to be considered; also we would consider all or none for direct deposit; we have talked with our software support and either a check would need to be printed or on plain paper; system verifies the check number; we would process as normal then enter each check to each payee at Community Bank; the bank would then do an ACH process with accounts and other banks; I am human and could make a mistake. Ms. D'Addezio stated her opinion" Not Broke Don't Fix It". Supervisor added that we would save some money on checks but more time spent and errors can happen; must send receipt; if we do, we would start after the first of the year, when we do not have all the summer help. Councilwoman Markert added that these days a picture on your smartphone can be taken and directly deposited into your account. Board discussed.

NO. 85-2019 08/07/19 Direct Deposit Declined

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, inquiries have been made concerning direct deposit of payroll checks; and

WHEREAS, as research has been done in the direct deposit process, it has been determined to keep the current payroll system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at this time, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester will hereby not offer direct deposit to Town Employees.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS: Joan Homovich thanked the Highway Dept. for taking care of the tree in the park so quickly; mentioned it at the last Board Meeting and the next day it was down in about an hour. Ms. Homovich commented that she always asks question, may not be against or for it, but wants to know the information. She asked if the EIS was started or posted for the

paddle park grant. Supervisor replied that it is in the process. Ms. Homovich inquired about the committee. Supervisor replied that it was the ad-hoc committee. Ms. Homovich asked if these meetings will be posted; you have a public group handing half a million dollar project; the grant application stated that we were a poor community, but asking us for our share of \$221,000. Councilwoman Markert stated that our share would include in-kind services. Supervisor added that this grant project will take three years to complete; not complete on in-kind service, a lot can change; we talked from the beginning that this was a 50/50 grant project. Ms. Homovich asked if there was any dollar amount given when the Board approved this project; she doesn't like to waste the money; she stated that it was the Board's fault that they didn't know what was going to cost the taxpayers.

Ruth Wilhowsky asked Councilwoman Champlin if she or the Board talked with the Officer in regards to the letter of complaint from the last meeting. Councilwoman Champlin stated that she did not speak with the Officer. Supervisor replied that the Officer in Charge handled this.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- McFarland Johnson- Knox Avenue over the Wilson Hollow Brook Bridge Rehabilitation Flyer- questions or comments due by August 26th; project begins March 2020 completed by July 2020.
- Maria & Pete LaMarch- Copy of letter sent to MTC- Excellent service.
- NYS Dept. of Public Service- Scheduled public statement hearings for NYSED proposed rate increase to take effect April 2020.
- CWC- Catskills Local Government Day on October 18th in Hunter, NY RSVP ASAP.
- NYS Dept. of State- Local Government Innovation Conference on Oct. 17&18 in Albany.
- NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance- Special Segment Equalization Rate 2.61 for the Town of Colchester of the Roscoe School District.

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

- Cooks Falls Water District- July 2019- 33 customers balance due \$3,425; Receipts of \$2,720.01 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Downsville Water District- July 2019- 70 customers balance due \$9,121.96; Receipts of \$13,338.11 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- July 2019- Total disbursed \$1,746.35 of which \$1,624.85 was Town revenues.
- Police- July 2019 Activity Report.
- Planning Board- June 20, 2019 Minutes.
- Town Justice DeRosia- July 2019.
- Town Justice Edel- July 2019.

Supervisor asked the Board what they would like to do with the DWD Filtration of the Spring System Improvement Project; increase the rates \$25 per customer per year. Councilman Mattson asked if there would be a cost in fixing the spring lines in the future. Supervisor replied probably. Councilman Mattson asked if DOH approved this. Supervisor replied that they did approve the original plan. Councilman Lavorgna asked if we could afford this project. Supervisor replied that we would have to raise rates; we are getting more expenses: more tests (78 tests done in June), higher electricity costs, more pumps. Supervisor suggested that \$10.00 more a quarter per customer should handle things. Board discussed. Councilwoman Champlin suggested putting out a flyer.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the Tiffany Hollow NFPP Grant- Gregory Hollow Road Culvert Replacement project should be started soon by DOIG Excavating, Inc.

Supervisor reported that the Town Attorney is working on the DWD Contract with NYCDEP.

Supervisor Merrill reported that Delaware Opportunities has completed the CDBG Environmental Review and a resolution is needed as the Certifying Officer can sign the required documents. Board discussed.

NO. 86-2019 08/07/19 CDBG Environmental Review

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Colchester has been awarded a grant from the New York State Office of Community Renewal under the provisions of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant, Small Cities Program identified as 260-HR301-18 for the purpose of conducting a housing rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, the above referenced grant requires that the Town of Colchester complete an environmental review and prepare an environmental review record. The Town acknowledges that the findings of the environmental review indicate the project to be SEQRA classified as a Type II Action (6NYCRR Section 617.5) and NEPA Categorically Excluded as defined in 24 CFR 58.35(a) and that the Certifying Officer (Arthur M. Merrill) has signed the certifications forms as of this date.

Resolution was seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor reported that an Informational Downsville Park Paddle Trail Development Project Meeting was held on August 5th @ 6PM at Pepacton Park; a few interested residents attended; a brief history of the five year project was given: back shed coming down; adding a boat launch; a dock that will be handicap accessible going behind the old building; more paved parking; storage area; pavilion to house skating rink and farmers' markets or family events; old stuff out of the way first; walking bridge is included in this grant; maybe the trail can be included, could be some in-kind services. Committee Members are: Supervisor, Pio DeRoda, Katie Mattson, Anne Flannery, Mary Brawley-Fuat, Barry Jones, Jeannie Langdon and Bonnie Seegmiller. Councilwoman Markert asked if the Eagles could be placed in the pavilion. Supervisor replied yes, that was in the plan.

Supervisor Merrill stated that he has spoken to some residents and it has been suggested that the Town build a Community Civic Center to house the Town Hall. Do we want to look into this? Supervisor added that he has been asked if we would be interested in selling the Eagle Hotel Lot. Councilman Mattson commented that the Fire Hall building is getting bad, a cinderblock building just like Town Hall. Board discussed and would like to discuss further. Officer Cawley commented that FEMA has up to \$15million for Public Safety Buildings. Supervisor added that he will need help in going further with this project.

Supervisor Merrill asked the Board to re-appoint Gerald Merrill as Assessor Chairman; he had to resign last meeting due to retiring from DCS and his term ends this year; we have decided to go to a Sole Appointed Assessor. Board discussed.

NO. 87-2019 08/07/19 Appoint Gerald P. Merrill as Assessor Chairman

Mark Mattson made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appoints Gerald P. Merrill to fill the current Town of Colchester Assessor Chairman vacancy for the period of 08-08-2019 to 12-31-2019.

Resolution was seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Town Clerk's Office Closing at Noon on Fridays through August 30th
- Next Regular Board Meeting Wed., August 21st @ 7PM
- Music in the Park- Thursday, August 22nd 6-9PM

Councilman Lavorgna commented that our roads look good.

Councilman Mattson commented that the area before the Corbett Bridge needs patching. Supervisor added that it needs mowing also.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Janet Champlin made the motion, seconded by Mark Mattson, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried. Abstract No.14-2019 Voucher No.420-463; Totaling \$79,320.19.

Supervisor Merrill read the resolution titled “In Memory of William H Beers Jr.” and asked for its adoption.

NO. 87-2019 08/07/19 In Memory of William H Beers Jr.

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, William H Beers Jr. passed away on August 04, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Bill served as a Town Assessor for one year in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Bill served as a Board of Elections Custodian for six years, 2003-2008; and

WHEREAS, Bill served on the Board of Assessment Review from May 03, 2000 to March 11, 2019; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted and important member of the community in these numerous capacities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board and the Citizens of the Town of Colchester extend their sympathy to Bill’s family and recognize with sincere appreciation and gratitude his numerous contributions.

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

With no further business, Janet Champlin made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk