

October 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Arthur M. Merrill Supervisor
Julie A. Markert Councilwoman
Janet L. Champlin Councilwoman
Gregory L. Lavorgna Councilman

Absent: Mark W. Mattson Councilman

Recording Secretary: Julie B. Townsend Town Clerk

Others present: Mary Brawley-Fuat, Alan Donner, Dan Pinner, Dawn D'Addezio and Officer Cawley. ZOOM attendees: Toni Vessey, Jeremy Jenkusky, Bonnie Seegmiller, Ron MacDonald and John Bell.

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 06, 2021 had been distributed earlier. Julie Markert made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried.

GUESTS: none

VISITOR COMMENTS: none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Friends of the Library Town of Colchester Board- Thank you for allowing the Library Board use the Town Hall copier to make their annual fund-raising letter.

REPORTS- written reports on file at Town Clerk's Office: none.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we are waiting on Requisition No.2 in the amount of \$49,067.62 for the purchase of DWD meters through the Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSRF #17537 Project; WMBE a waiver needs to be completed on the vendor for the meters.

Supervisor reported that he still can not get on NYCDEP's Passport Site to complete documents for the NYCDEP Downsville Water District Contract.

Supervisor Merrill reported that Delaware Opportunities is completing close out documents for the NYS CDBG Project #260HR301-18 \$500,000 Housing Rehabilitation Program Project.

Supervisor reported that the D'ville Park Paddle Project is on hold until next year; still no permit.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the septic system is in for the Mobile Office Unit; Ron MacDonald oversaw the work.

Supervisor reported that another negotiation meeting for the Teamsters Contract is scheduled for tomorrow.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we need to schedule a Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget; so the public may make comments before we adopt the budget; is there any Board Member that would like to discuss any issues. Councilman Lavorgna commented that he still questions the \$10,000 raise for the bookkeeper; a lot at once; he suggested \$3,000 each year for the next three years; a

large increase is hard to swallow and we're opening a can of worms. Councilwoman Markert stated that we should have done something sooner. Supervisor commented that he wants the Board to agree; not sure what Councilman Mattson wants; the bookkeeper position has gotten more complicated; the \$10,000 raise is 29%, from \$34,125 to \$44,125; we try to give a raise each year as minimum wage goes up each year; don't want to lose her; bookkeeper would like to get to \$52,000 within the next three years. Councilwoman Champlin suggested adding some type of stipend for retirement, has been under paid and also commented that we don't want to lose her. Councilwoman Markert commented that we went over \$10,000 for the purchase of the mobile office unit; and we gave the Deputy Code Enforcement Officer \$20.00 per hour; not see a problem with the raise. Whereas, Zoom Visitor Bonnie Seegmiller, suggested a Conflict of Interest, Councilwoman Markert made the statement that former Town Attorney Michael DeGroat said that as long as there is no monetary gain for Council Member, they can vote on family member salaries and hiring. Supervisor asked if there were any other discussion. Councilman Lavorgna thought that overall the budget looked good. Supervisor added should we continue that we will raise the bookkeeper to \$52,000 within the next three years. Councilwoman Markert stated that we should move forward with the budget as presented, Councilman Lavorgna commented no.

NO.109-2021 10/20/21 Budget Public Hearing

Julie Markert 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, 2022 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 3rd day of November, 2021 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	\$23,175.00	Town Clerk	\$36,550.00
Councilman (4@)	3,585.00 each	Supt. of Highways	54,250.00
Town Justice (2@)	13,500.00 each	Tax Collector	7,150.00

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 Janet Champlin. Roll Call Vote: Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, Arthur Merrill-aye, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we are not sure what is the status of Auctions International.

Supervisor reported that we need to post notice before November 1st of the Seasonal Limited Use Highways and the Winter Road & Sidewalk Maintenance Public Notice. Highway Supt. Eck has stated there were no changes for this year. Board discussed.

NO.110-2021 10/20/21 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 Russell 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, 2021 until April 01, 2022. Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, resolution declared adopted.

NO.111-2021 10/20/21 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 Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-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 Regular Meeting is Wed., Nov. 3rd - Live and ZOOM Public Hearing at 7PM.

Councilman Lavorgna inquired about the Snowmobilers request for opting out of the Holiday Deer Hunt. Supervisor replied that it has been mentioned at County; believes it will be addressed at next Board of Supervisors meeting; they support the snowmobilers.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Julie Markert made the motion, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried. Abstract No. 21-2021 Voucher No.571-597; Totaling \$64,493.19.

With no further business, Greg Lavorgna made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk