

November 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, November 17, 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: Alan Donner and Officer Cawley. ZOOM attendees: Randy Shephard-The Reporter, Jeremy Jenkusky, Dan Bennett, Ron MacDonald, LGSytlio, KG and TS.

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 10, 2021 had been distributed earlier. Greg Lavorgna made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried. The minutes of the last regular meeting, November 10, 2021 had been distributed earlier. Greg Lavorgna made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- State of New York- Richard Hascha has successfully completed the requirements of a Basic Code Enforcement Training Program established by the Minimum Standards for Code Enforcement Personnel in the State of New York as a Code Enforcement Official.
- Camille O'Brien Director of Legislative Affairs for Senator Mike Martucci held a Mobile Office here today at Town Hall from 11am to 3pm.
- NYS Comptroller's Office- email: questions regarding 2020 Audit that was forwarded to our auditors, Mostert, Manzanero & Scott LLP.

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

Town Historian- Colchester History Connections Newsletter: Volume 11, Issue 3.

Supervisor Merrill reported that EFC contacted him today regarding the Disbursement Request for the meters under the Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSRF #17537; they still need the WMBE Waiver; Supervisor is working on it.

Supervisor commented that there was a rumor that the Mobile Office Unit was going to be delivered today; not true; we're on their schedule.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we have a voucher in tonight to pay EFPR Group who has calculated our loss of revenues for the American Rescue Plan.

Supervisor reported that we are getting close on settling the Teamsters' Contract.

Supervisor Merrill reported that one of the negotiation items for the Teamsters was adding a vision plan to the health care benefits; Kaatirondack has suggested Simply Vision Plan; they have four different tiers; Board reviewed plans. Supervisor suggests the Simply Vision Silver; estimated cost is under \$400 per month; copay of \$25 would be covered under the HRA. Board discussed.
NO.116-2021 11/17/21 Offer Simply Vision Silver

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts the proposed vision plan and will offer the Excellus Simply Vision Silver Plan starting January 01, 2022 to all full-time employees.

Resolution seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor read a letter of resignation from Cindy Conrow as Cooks Falls Justice Clerk.

NO.117-2021 11/17/21 Accept Letter of Resignation

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2021 a Letter of Resignation was presented to Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill from Cindy S. Conrow as Cooks Falls Justice Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts with regret said Letter of Resignation from Cindy S. Conrow as Cooks Falls Justice Clerk effective August 19, 2021 and wishes her well in her new position as Town Justice beginning 01/01/2022.

Resolution was seconded by Greg Lavorgna, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried, motion carried.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we received a second letter from Cindy Conrow; as Town Justice Elect, she has recommended Deborah Melvin to replace her as CF Justice Clerk. Board discussed.

NO.118-2021 11/17/21 Appoint Justice Clerk

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appoints Deborah L. Melvin of 6681 County Hwy 7, Roscoe, New York as a Part-time Justice Clerk for the Town of Colchester Cooks Falls Court, at the pay rate of \$15.80 per hour with no benefits.

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor reported that Shantel Knorr has shown interest in shoveling snow this year for the Town; she has had an application in for a couple of months. Board discussed.

NO.119-2021 11/17/21 Hire Shantel Knorr for Snow Shoveling

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to hire Shantel M. Knorr to shovel snow off the bridge located at 15105 State Hwy 30, Downsville and Town Hall as needed, by voucher and at the rate of \$11.00 per site per occasion.

Resolution seconded by Greg Lavorgna, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Mark Mattson-absent, motion carried, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Town Hall Offices Closed Thurs. Nov 25th and Fri. Nov 26th Thanksgiving Holiday
- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., December 1st - Live and ZOOM at 7PM

Councilwoman Markert commented that Tommy Markert would like the Town to recognize Side-by-side vehicles as Farm Vehicles; the Farm Bureau recognizes ATV and Side-by-side vehicles as Farm Vehicles. Officer Cawley stated that we could enact a local law; it was suggested to have the Town Attorney look into this. Supervisor commented that Farm Vehicles are allowed to go to farm to farm; he suggested to contact Cornell Cooperative.

Councilwoman Markert asked if there have been any comments about the hitching post? Supervisor replied that the Pattersons had called him and stated that they did not apply to NYSDOT to remove; hitching post is going to stay and they had to change the language in the sale contract.

Councilman Lavorgna commented that he saw in the Conservationist Magazine that *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has extended late bow and muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone to provide a Holiday Deer Hunt from December 26 to January 1.* Supervisor replied that the County Board of Supervisors opted out of the Holiday Hunt last week; this only for NY State trails.

Supervisor reported that the County has received materials to repair the Corbett Bridge; they are making repairs and then contacting NYSDOT if bridge can be re-opened.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Janet Champlin 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. 22-2021 Voucher No.598-653; Totaling \$75,492.23.

Councilwoman Markert inquired if there were any issues with the DWD. Supervisor replied no, the new filtration system sends a signal to WPO Ron MacDonald if there are any problems. Councilwoman Markert asked about the status of installing meters. Supervisor replied that the WPO has a list and will start next month. Councilman Lavorgna commented that this should eliminate some of the flat rates.

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 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk