

February 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

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

Recording Secretary: Julie B. Townsend Town Clerk

Others present: Kenneth R. Eck, Jr.-Highway Supt., Alan Donner, Jim Shields, Nathan Homovich and Officer Cawley. Zoom Attendees: The Reporter-Lillian Browne, Ron MacDonald, Tim Smith, John Bell and Jeremy Jenkusky.

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, February 16, 2022 had been distributed earlier. Greg Lavorgna made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Catskill Watershed Corporation- Ballot for the Board of Directors Election; Supervisor sent in ballot re-electing those already in office.
- MTC Cable- Pending rate increases for MTC Cable Services effective April 01, 2022.
- Del. Co. Board of Supervisors to NYSDOH Commissioner- New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program; petition to halt open Space Land Acquisition.

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

- Town Justice Conrow- January 2022.

Supervisor Merrill reported that WPO MacDonald will start replacing meters soon for the Downsville Water District.

Supervisor reported that he is still working on the permit extension for the boat launch for the Downsville Park Paddle Project.

Supervisor reported that CEO Hascha is firming up the date of delivery for the Mobile Office Unit.

Supervisor Merrill reported on the American Rescue Plan spending options: an electrician has looked at the Transfer Station and a roofer has looked at the Transfer Station and Cooks Falls Garage, but have not received any reports. Councilman Lavorgna reported that we have a quote for Stalker Radar of \$3,080 for the new police vehicle. Supervisor replied that we can wait until we get the vehicle to move forward with this purchase. Councilman Pinner reported that he received an estimate of \$45,000 to take out and install a new compactor for the Transfer Station; they are sending a spec sheet, which we will complete and have them send a firmer quote. Supervisor reminded the Board that we need to have our expenditure plan in by 2024 and need to spend the funds by 2026; we have only paid the EFPR Group out of the ARP Funds.

Supervisor reported that Chris Erwin has decline the sale of the Sig Sauer P220 .45 cal. Semi-auto pistol serial #G341847, with three 7 round magazines; after much consideration Chris D'Addezio has decided to purchase the third firearm. Board discussed.

NO. 20-2022 02/16/22 Sale of Surplus Firearm

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS on February 02, 2022, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester adopted Resolution No. 16-2022 authorizing the sale of a Sig Sauer P220 .45 cal. Semi-auto pistol serial #G341847, with three 7 round magazines to Christopher W. Erwin, a former Town of Colchester Police Officer, at a price of \$400.00; and

WHEREAS, at this time, Christopher W. Erwin has declined the sale of said Sig Sauer P220 .45 cal. Semi-auto pistol serial #G341847; and

WHEREAS, Christopher L. D'Addezio has stated that he would like to purchase the Sig Sauer P220 .45 cal. Semi-auto pistol serial #G341847, with three 7 round magazines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes to sell the Sig Sauer P220 .45 cal. Semi-auto pistol serial #G341847, with three 7 round magazines to Christopher L. D'Addezio, a former Town of Colchester Police Officer, at a price of \$400.00.

Resolution was seconded by Dan Pinner. This resolution was put to a vote by roll call and resulted as follows:

Town Supervisor, Arthur M. Merrill	voting aye
Councilperson, Janet L. Champlin	voting aye
Councilperson, Gregory L. Lavorgna	voting aye
Councilperson, Julie A. Markert	voting aye
Councilperson, Daniel J. Pinner	voting aye

The resolution was declared to be duly adopted by the members of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we received an application to use the Downsville Covered Bridge Park on Sat., June 4th from 1-3PM for a wedding ceremony. Board discussed.

NO. 21-2022 02/16/22 Public Facility Permit No.01-2022

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Tammy Perroth & Ian Osonitsch have applied for a Public Facility Permit to use the Downsville Covered Bridge Park located at 48 Bridge Street, on Saturday, June 4th from 1:00PM to 3:00PM for a wedding ceremony;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to issue Public Facility Permit No. No.01-2022 to Tammy Perroth & Ian Osonitsch for the use of the Downsville Covered Bridge Park located at 48 Bridge Street, Downsville, NY on June 04, 2022.

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

Supervisor reported that we have received a Letter of Resignation from Kevin Doig as a Colchester Police Officer; he has taken a full time position with the Town of Vestal Police. Board discussed.

NO. 22-2022 02/16/22 Accept Letter of Resignation of Police Officer Kevin W. Doig

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Police Officer Kevin W. Doig has handed in a letter of resignation from the Town of Colchester Police Department, effective February 19, 2022;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts letter of resignation from Police Officer Kevin W. Doig with regrets and wishes him well in the Town of Vestal Police Department..

Resolution was seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor reported that we have also received a Letter of Resignation from Mike Ennist as a Colchester Police Officer; Mike is retiring from the NYS Police & Fire Retirement System, but he

would like to be hired back as a part-time officer; for retirement purposes he must resign for at least one day. Board discussed.

NO. 23-2022 02/16/22 Accept Letter of Resignation of Police Officer Michael J. Ennist
Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Police Officer Michael J. Ennist plans to retire from the New York State Police and Fire Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, Police Officer Michael Ennist has handed in a letter of resignation from the Town of Colchester Police Department for NYS retirement purposes, effective February 25, 2022;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts letter of resignation from Police Officer Michael J. Ennist.

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

NO. 24-2022 02/16/22 Appoint Part-time Police Officer Michael J. Ennist
Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester recognizes the need of continuing its Police Dept. for the safety and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester recognizes the need of Part-time Police Officers for the future of the Police Dept.;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appoints the following certified officer, Michael J. Ennist of 112 South Side Spur, Margaretville, New York, as a Town of Colchester Part-time Police Officer at the pay rate of \$21.00 per hour with no benefits

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Town Hall Offices Closed- Monday, Feb. 21st- Presidents' Day
- Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic Tues., Mar. 15th 5-6:30PM Hwy Garage- 6292 River Rd
- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., March 16th at 7PM - Live and ZOOM

Councilman Lavorgna stated that the Transfer Station needs a new flag and possibly a solar light. Supervisor will contact the Legion about a new flag.

Councilwoman Markert suggested that the Town should be collecting the scrap metal at the transfer station and turning in ourselves to help offset the cost of the C&D bin. Board discussed.

Councilwoman Markert inquired to the Town's status of the Cannabis-Related Business. Visitor Jim Shields commented that the media made the issue confusing. Supervisor replied that we did nothing; we passed a resolution in September 2021 stating "the Town of Colchester **will not** opt out of Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Sites as authorized under Cannabis Law Article 4 with-in the Town's jurisdiction." If someone wanted to have a Cannabis-Related Business we were not stopping them.

Councilwoman Champlin commented that there will be a chicken & biscuit dinner to benefit the Backpack Buddies Program at the firehall on Sat., Feb. 26th. Supervisor Merrill would like to Congratulate Janet Champlin and Jeanne Langdon for receiving the Southern Tier Tuesday \$2,000 Grant for their DCS Backpack Buddies Program; it is amazing what our community does.

Highway Supt Eck reported that the highway garage was having problems with the boiler; we had a company from Binghamton work on it; they have submitted a contract for annual maintenance at \$7,800 per year; Hwy Supt will review contract and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Janet Champlin 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. 4-2022 Voucher No.92-114; Totaling \$97,870.41.

Upon recommendation of Supervisor Merrill, Julie Markert made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a highway personnel issue, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 7:35 PM, Hwy Supt Eck was invited to stay. Board held discussion. Janet Champlin made the motion to enter back into regular session, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered regular session at 7:52 PM. Board discussed and reaffirmed their position regarding Health Insurance. The Health Insurance Policy adopted 11/07/2018 Per Resolution No.113-2018 states that "All full time Highway personnel receive full paid coverage as they choose (Union members in Teamster's Local contribute 6% toward the cost)." Therefore, those who are not in the Teamsters Union will no longer pay the 6% toward their health insurance.

With no further business, Greg Lavorgna made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk