

January 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:00 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., The Reporter-Elizabeth DeFalco, Alan Donner, James Shields and Officer Cawley.

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

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting of January 04, 2023 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. The minutes of the last regular meeting, January 04, 2023 had been distributed earlier. Greg Lavorgna made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: James Shields reported that the Hamden Hill Ridge Riders have a 104foot bridge they are willing to donate and will transport and help install. Julie Markert commented that the Delaware Valley Ridge Riders have had a meeting and have stated that they will take the bridge. Board discussed.

Allan Donner reported that we may have found an alternate member of the Planning Board; we have had a vacancy for the last year; the Planning Board meets tomorrow night and we will come back with a recommendation.

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

- Cooks Falls Water District- 2022 Annual Report.
- Downsville Water District- 2022 Annual Report.
- Town Clerk- 2022 Annual Report. Police- November 2023 Activity Report.

Supervisor Merrill reported that Scott O'Brien is continuing working on the Mobile Office Unit; the electrician has received the electric meter, now he needs to install it and hopefully have lights and heat to the building soon.

Town Clerk reported that the Town Board Members have completed the audits for the Cooks Falls Water District, Downsville Water District, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Town Justice Conrow and Town Justice Edel.

Supervisor reported that the Town Auditors, Mostert, Manzanero & Scott LLP will be here the second week of February to complete the Town's 2022 Audit.

Supervisor Merrill commented that he would like to form a small committee to give guidance on "Short Term Rentals"; somethings fall under the Code Enforcement Codes; some other towns have already done this and a guidance video is being made; Short Term Rentals are also include in the County's Bed Tax (2%). Board discussed. The Short Term Rental Committee consists of Supervisor Merrill, Councilman Lavorgna, Councilwoman Markert, Planning Board Chair Allan Donner and CEO Rich Hascha.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Town Clerk's Office Closing at 12:30pm Tuesday, Jan 31st.
- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., February 1st at 5PM.

Board discussed issues of the Transfer Station: working on a solution to dim two of the front exterior lights; partition around the side of new compactor, possibly with metal siding; we have three barriers to place in front of each compactor that need to be filled with sand, so residents can not back into compactors; old compactor is being used for cardboard.

Councilwoman Champlin commented that Del Co Office for the Aging is offering Tai Chi Classes at the Downsville Fire Station on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30pm for a total of 20 sessions; not all senior citizens can afford the cost of \$20; could this expense be paid under our budget for Programs for the Aging? There are approximately 20 people taking the class. Board discussed.

NO. 12-2023 01/18/23 Senior Citizens Tai Chi Classes

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes to cover the expense of the Tai Chi Classes being offered by Del Co Office for the Aging at the Downsville Fire Station for those Colchester Senior Citizens who need financial assistance.

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

Councilwoman Markert stated that to save money for the DWD, we asked DWD WPO MacDonald if he go on his wife' health insurance plan; has a response been given to this option? Supervisor replied that WPO MacDonald has stated that it is not a benefit to him, they would have to pay 20% and copays. Supervisor will inquire again.

Councilwoman Markert stated that the Colchester Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Colchester Military Tribute Banners Program; these banners are in honor of all military service members living, deceased, that are newly enlisted, active, reserve, retired or passed; there is a website on Facebook to follow; we need to get the word out to those who Veteran Families that do not live here anymore. Councilwoman Champlin commented that the program is up and running now, the Chamber had samples of the banners at our Music in the Park events this summer.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Julie Markert made the motion, seconded by Dan Pinner, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried. Abstract No. 02-2023 Voucher No.23-61; Totaling \$51,036.48.

Janet Champlin made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 5:38 PM. Board held discussion. Julie Markert made the motion to enter back into regular session, seconded by Janet Champlin all in favor, motion carried. Board entered regular session at 6:03 PM. Board made no decision forthcoming.

With no further business, Greg Lavorgna made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk