

March 01, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, March 01, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.

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

Absent: Gregory L. Lavorgna Councilman

Recording Secretary: Kirstie Mattson Deputy Town Clerk

Others present: Julie B. Townsend-Town Clerk, Kenneth R. Eck, Jr.-Highway Supt., The Reporter-Elizabeth DeFalco 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 last regular meeting, February 15, 2023 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner- aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, motion carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Margaretville Telephone Company- rates of services will be increasing as of April 1, 2023.
- Town of Tompkins - 2023 Contract for Shared Highway Services.
- Delaware County Board of Supervisors- The “Healthy Delaware” program has partnered with the US Army to host a military training operation and provide no-cost medical and veterinarian services to the public. The event will be held July 11-19 as a walk in service at the Walton High School Complex.
- Town Clerk Julie B. Townsend – Letter of Retirement; she plans to retire on April 5, 2023 after 27 years of service for the Town.

NO.23-2023 03/01/23 Retirement Letter from Julie B. Townsend

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 01, 2023 a Letter of Retirement was presented to Supervisor Merrill from Julie B. Townsend as Town of Colchester Town Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts said Letter of Retirement of Julie B. Townsend effective April 05, 2023 with regrets;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby thanks Julie for her 27 Years of Service to the Township and wishes her well in her retirement.

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, resolution declared adopted.

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

- Cooks Falls Water District- February 2023- 19 customer balance due \$1,010; Receipts of \$520.01 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Downsville Water District- February 2023- 33 customers balance due \$2,773.47; Receipts of \$5,778.13 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- February 2023- Total disbursed \$3,112.01 of which \$3,099.01 was Town revenues.
- Police- February 2023 Activity Report.
- Town Justice Edel- \$8,470.00 reported for February 2023.
- Planning Board- 11-17-2022 Minutes.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we are waiting for new doors to be installed at the transfer station as part of the American Rescue Plan. There were no bids received for the work that needs to be done at the Cooks Falls Highway Garage.

Supervisor reported that Scott O’Brien is still working on the Mobile Office Unit. The Court and Police must have separate entrances so they have been looking at different layout options.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the DEC Permit for work on the Paddle Park has been extended through the end of the year.

Supervisor reported on behalf of the Short Term Rental Committee that homes with outstanding building permits are not eligible to be short term rentals. Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Hascha, will be sending letters to home owners that participate in short term rentals that also have outstanding permits.

Highway Supt. Eck reported on the culverts that need to be removed. Previously, there were individuals interested in coming to take them but they have not yet done so. Eck has set a deadline of March 31, 2023 for individuals that are interested.

Supervisor Merrill explained that we have received most of the FEMA reimbursements and would like to transfer the funds back into the Repair Reserve Fund. Board discussed.

NO. 24-2023 03/01/23 Transfer \$450,000 to the Repair Reserve Fund

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2017 per Resolution NO. 115-2017, the Town Board established the "Repair Reserve Fund of the Town of Colchester" with surplus funds of \$2,240,000; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2019 per Resolution NO. 129-2019, the Town Board authorized a transfer of \$350,000 from said Repair Reserve Fund to the Highway Tax Account; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2020 the Town Board authorized a transfer of \$100,000 per Resolution NO. 16-2020 from said Repair Reserve Fund to the Highway Tax Account; and

WHEREAS, many FEMA reimbursements have been made to the Highway FEMA account;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to transfer the sum of \$450,000 from the FEMA Highway account #xxxx8417 to the Repair Reserve Fund account #xxxxxxx7554.

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert.

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, Daniel J. Pinner	voting aye
Councilperson, Julie A. Markert	voting aye
Councilperson, Greg L. Lavorgna	Absent

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

Supervisor Merrill reported that he received a letter from Delaware Engineering, DPC about their interest in helping us with the current issue regarding the well and water mains in the Cooks Falls Water District. He would like to discuss the issues and potential solutions with Delaware Engineering, DPC. Board discussed.

NO. 25-2023 03/01/23 Professional Services with Delaware Engineering, DPC

Dan Pinner made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Town of Colchester has deemed it necessary to upgrade the well and water mains of the Cooks Falls Water District; and

WHEREAS, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation has assembled Community Assistance Teams to connect communities with experts who can help undertake critical water infrastructure projects; by helping communities to jumpstart planning, submit funding applications and see projects through to completion; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Colchester will require professional services for the Cooks Falls Water District projects;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to contact Delaware Engineering, DPC regarding Professional Services for the said mentioned project.

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor reported that the Planning Board has made a recommendation to appoint Rob Hafele to fill one of the alternate member vacancies. Board discussed.

NO. 26-2023 03/01/23 Appoint Rob Hafele Alternate Member of Planning Board

Upon recommendation of the Planning Board Chair, Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appointments Rob Hafele as an alternate member of the Planning Board with the term of 03/01/2023 to 12/31/2023.

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, resolution declared adopted.

Highway Supt. Eck reported that J&A Sand and Gravel is liquidating all of their assets. The highway is currently using and in possession of J&A's screening plant. The company asked if we would be interested in purchasing the screening plant. Eck explained that we currently owe them \$20,000 for their services and use of the screening plant. They came to an agreement to discount our current bill by \$10,000 if we purchase the screening plant; Board discussed.

NO. 27-2023 03/01/2023 Purchase Used 2004 Power Screen Turbo Cheiftain 1400  
Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes the purchase of one 2004 Power Screen Turbo Cheiftain 1400-3 S/N 6604798 with 3,479.8 hours from J&A Sand and Gravel for the purchase price of \$65,000.

Resolution seconded by Dan Pinner, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner- aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5PM.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Janet Champlin made the motion, seconded by Dan Pinner, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, motion carried. Abstract No. 05-2023 Voucher No.121-141; Totaling \$88,967.17.

With no further business, Julie Markert made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Dan Pinner, Janet Champlin-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Greg Lavorgna-absent, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kirstie Mattson, Deputy Town Clerk