

March 18, 2020 no meeting  
April 01, 2020 no meeting

April 15, 2020

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 7:13 PM via a Zoom Meeting due to the Corona Virus Pandemic; notice was posted on Facebook, on the Colchester Community page.

Supervisor did a roll call for attendance.

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

Recording Secretary: Julie B. Townsend Town Clerk

Others present: Michael DeGroat-Town Attorney, Officer Ernest Cawley, Bonnie Seegmiller, Russ Williams and Michele Hollenbaugh.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill.

The minutes of the last regular meeting, March 04, 2020 had been distributed earlier via email. Julie Markert made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, motion carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- AJ Vessey, Colchester Tax Collector- 74% of taxes have been collected.
- Senator Jen Metzger- Guidelines for businesses as of 4/8/2020.
- Selective Insurance- received check for 2011 Chevrolet Truck that was destroyed by fire in the amount of \$34,492.00.
- James S Moore Post 167 American Legion- Request to shoot/fire cannons at an event to be held at the Firemen's Field at a date to be determined. Board discussed.

NO. 27-2020 04/15/20 American Legion Cannon Event

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes the James S Moore Post 167 American Legion to hold a re-enactment with the firing of cannon and rifles at a date to be determined.

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

Supervisor Merrill reported on the following:

- DWD Filtration Project- documents signed; project should start soon.
- Tiffany Hollow/Gregory Hollow Culvert Project- some work needs to be done to finish.
- NYCDEP DWD Contract- under review.
- NYS CDBG Project- construction is allowed with new guidelines.
- Downsville Park Paddle Project- moving forward; funds approved for grant administration to Pio DeRoda.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Supervisor reported that we paid vouchers so that we were not delinquent; he reviewed each abstract and asked for formal approval.

03-19-2020 Abstract No. 06-2020 Totaling \$22,851.90.

Mark Mattson made the motion, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, that the vouchers be approved, all in favor, motion carried.

04-01-2020 Abstract No. 07-2020 Totaling \$25,473.82.

Mark Mattson made the motion, seconded by Janet Champlin, that the vouchers be approved, all in favor, motion carried.

04-15-2020 Abstract No. 08-2020 Totaling \$29,482.29.

Janet Champlin made the motion, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the LED Streetlight installation has saved us funds; costs were down approximately 40%.

Supervisor stated that we need to hire Gavin Champlin full-time for the cemetery; he started working April 8<sup>th</sup>, the start of the new payroll. Board discussed.

NO. 28-2020 04/15/20 Hire Gavin R. Champlin as HEO1/CL

Mark Mattson made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby hires Gavin R. Champlin as a HEO1/CL provisional for one year, at a pay rate of \$17.55 per hour with benefits, effective April 08, 2020, assignments and duties at the discretion of the Highway Superintendent and Cemetery Supervisor.

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

Supervisor stated that we need to get the word out for Summer employment; a new application is needed each year; applications can be found on the Delaware County Website. Supervisor asked the Pool Committee what needed to be done this year before opening the pool; concrete is needed under each pavilion.

Supervisor Merrill reported that Rural Water has been helping us find leaks for the DWD; we thought there was one on Bellows Lane, but it may be under the road on Knox Ave.; Rural Water may be able to help us find some funds for emergency work.

Supervisor asked Officer Cawley to report on his incident from yesterday. Officer Cawley reported that we received a 911 call yesterday of a possible stroke; he entered the upstairs bedroom wearing mask and gloves not knowing that the victim had tested positive for Covid-19; EMS arrived and transported to helicopter; Officer Cawley went to the Town Hall Office to complete paper work and make phone calls to Del Co Public Health; he cleaned all the surfaces he came in contact with and then went home; we found out later that both individuals had tested positive but had no symptoms and were beyond the 14day watch; because of address or where tested it was directed to Sullivan County instead of Delaware County. Supervisor added that Officer Cawley did not work the following day and then returned to regular schedule as Del Co Public Health stated that he was not on the watch list; it would be up to the Town if they wanted to quarantine him; the building was closed and we cleaned everything the officer touched. Officer Cawley added that he also cleaned the police car, cleaned his clothes and is self-monitoring; NYS Governor has stated that as of this Fri, April 17<sup>th</sup>, everyone must wear a mask when in the public. Councilman Lavorgna asked if any of the office staff has concerns. Supervisor replied that Officers will use the front door entrance and all other staff will use the side door. Supervisor agrees that Officer Cawley should go back to work and he use the same car, other officers can use the other two cars; we have been given a supply of masks and gloves.

Councilwoman Champlin stated that the Cemetery Crew would like to use an aerator roller and purchase a mower. Supervisor replied that we could contact the school to see if we could share services for an aerator; Cemetery Supervisor had received quotes for a mower; in 2018 we paid \$7,750 for a mower. We have received the following Quotes:

Delaware Sport Center	2020 John Deere	\$8,727
White's Farm Supply	2020 Ferris	\$5,200
Eklund Family Farm Machinery	2020 Ferris	\$5,200

Board discussed. Board agreed that since two quotes came in at the same price, we would go with White's Farm Supply in Franklin as it is closer and may need parts/repairs in the future.

NO. 29-2020 04/15/20 Purchase 2020 Ferris Mower

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes the Supervisor to purchase one 2020 Ferris 48in deck, zero turn mower with mulch kit from White's Farm Supply of Franklin, NY for the cost of \$5,200.

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

Supervisor reported that we are doing burials on request, with limited attendance, no funerals.

Councilman Lavorgna reported that Town Justice DeRosia stated that as of March 16<sup>th</sup> Courts were closed and to cease all activity; his staff did not work and did not get paid; had heard that some work was being done in the Downsville Court and being paid; TJ DeRosia recommends that the staff should get paid. Board held discussion. Because the court system can only be accessible from a secure system and not remotely, clerks' hours may vary over the next few months; it will be looked into paying some of their hours in advance.

Supervisor asked the Board to consider giving the full-time employees who have continue to work and not given the option not to work (Cawley, Gavette and Kipp) something extra: money or time off. Councilwoman Markert stated that we were not asked our opinion when the highway dept. was given 30days off with pay; should have been a Board decision; did we need to hire someone new for the cemetery before this meeting, why didn't one of the highway crew fill the position. Supervisor replied that he talked with Hwy Supt Eck and he decided that they would not work until April 15<sup>th</sup>; Councilwoman Markert's points are well taken, we hope to do better in the future.

Board held discussion on Park Permits. Permits will be addressed as they come along.

Councilwoman Markert asked if we have heard anything more on the Eagle Hotel property, they are drilling there again. Supervisor replied that they had taken soil samples for reports; have heard nothing new.

Town/Water Clerk reported that the DWD Water Plant Operator was two weeks late in reading the water meters due to the Corona Virus Pandemic; water bills for both districts will be in the mail by Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>; water bills will be due May 31<sup>st</sup> instead of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Town Hall Closed through April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Next Regular Board Meeting Wed., May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM- may also be Zoom Meeting

With no further business, Julie Markert made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk