

July 06, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, July 06, 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: Alan Donner, Debbie Barsch, Michele Massaro, Darryl Houck 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, June 08, 2022 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: Michele Massaro spoke to the Board with her concerns with the intersection of Montgomery Ave and Knox Ave; it is very difficult seeing oncoming traffic on the left side; could a mirror be put in place? Darryl Houck suggested to cut down the tree and curb back the yard; he added that Doug Barnes has no problem with the Town fixing the problem. Debbie Barsch commented that she was almost involved in an accident there recently. Board discussed. Supervisor commented that he is not sure what can be done; he will contact the County DPW to do a survey and pass on their concerns to the Town Hwy Supt.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- NYS Dept of Taxation & Finance- Town of Colchester Segment Equalization Rate for Roscoe School District 2022-2023: Tentative Segment Rate of 2.21.
- NYS Ag & Markets- Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for 6/22/2022 rate of "Satisfactory".
- Michael Gavette- Thank You for the opportunity to be a part of the Ride-a-Long with the Colchester Police Dept.
- Darlene N. Beers- Letter of Resignation/Retirement as Deputy Town Clerk. She was appointed October 17, 2019 to present. Board accepted with regrets.

NO. 63-2022 07/06/22 Accept Letter of Resignation of Darlene N. Beers

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Deputy Town Clerk Darlene N. Beers has handed in a letter of resignation/retirement as the Town of Colchester Deputy Town Clerk, effective June 01, 2022;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts letter of resignation/retirement from Darlene N. Beers with regrets, thanking her for her service to the Township and wishing her well in her retirement.

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

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

- Cooks Falls Water District- June 2022- 16 customer balance due \$1,455.00; Receipts of \$100.00 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Downsville Water District- June 2022- 28 customers balance due \$4,241.52; Receipts of \$1,612.13 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- June 2022- Total disbursed \$3,045.51 of which \$3,018.51 was Town revenues.
- Police- June 2022 Activity Report.

- Town Justice Edel- \$5,914.00 reported for June 2022.
- Town Justice Conrow- \$9,657.00 reported for May 2022.
- Planning Board- Minutes of May 19, 2022.

Supervisor Merrill reported on the American Rescue Plan: Taggart has started the lighting project at the Transfer Station; we have had no luck in getting a quote for the covering of the C&D bin; we need to get new quotes for the roofing projects; and we do not have a plumber for the new office unit. Councilman Pinner reported that he has heard from Seabright; they are working on our order; the gentleman that came here and took our order, passed away on June 24th; he took a lot of pictures; they are trying to go through his computer. Seabright is still looking at 50% down payment to get things going, \$28,197.50. We need to get the electrical specs; Councilman Pinner will call them back. Supervisor commented that Transfer Station Supt Ken Kipp would like the electric shut down and start dismantling the compactor unit.

Supervisor reported that NYSDOH has given the Cooks Falls Water District some violations; one violation was for the backup water source; the well pump is not working, this is one of the DASNY SAM Grant Projects. Supervisor spoke with Jim & Noma Lacey last night regarding the other violations. Board discussed and it was suggested that the water at the Cooks Falls Hwy Garage/Court is good water. Supervisor replied that is a long distance to the water district.

Councilwoman Champlin inquired to the number of meters that have been installed for the Downsville Water System Improvement Project? Supervisor replied that the DWD WPO has been focusing on getting the pool ready. Board held discussion.

Supervisor Merrill had nothing new to report on the EMS/Fire Calls Policy.

Supervisor reported that Colleen Griffith called asking if there was a loss of power; the breaker is off on the EV Charging Station and she could not turn it back on; it will need to be looked at.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the rain delayed the installation of the skirting on the Mobile Office Unit; Town Justice Edel is researching what regulations are needed for the Court to be moved; it was suggested that Officers Cawley and Ennist could build the walls as an in-house project. Supervisor commented that Taggart has estimated a generator at \$37,300. Board discussed options for central air and heating.

Supervisor reported that we need to pave the parking lot for the Park Paddle Project and then see what money is left.

Supervisor reported that the Humane Society of Central Delaware County, Inc. (d/b/a Heart of the Catskills Humane Society) has sent the Humane Society Agreement for 2022 to be signed; agreement is the same as previous years and we have crossed out all references to cats. Board discussed.

NO. 64-2022 07/06/22 Humane Society Agreement 2022

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to sign the Agreement between the Town of Colchester, NY and the Humane Society of Central Delaware County, Inc. (d/b/a Heart of the Catskills Humane Society) of Delhi, NY to utilize the Humane Society's Shelter for the care and confinement of those stray or lost dogs which are picked up by the Town of Colchester Dog Control Officer or Police Officers. Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill asked the Board what they would like to do with the 2018 Ford Police vehicle; CEO Hascha has inquired if we could keep it, so that he may use it to do property inspections.

Supervisor added that we would not have to pay mileage and other Town employees could use if needed to travel to bank, etc. Board discussed.

NO. 65-2022 07/06/22 2018 Ford Utility Police Interceptor

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester agrees that three police vehicles are not needed to maintain the Town's Police Force;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to change the status of the 2018 Ford Utility Police Interceptor from Police Vehicle to Town Hall Vehicle;

FURTHER RESOLVED, all police equipment and lettering will be removed before Town Hall employee usage.

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

Supervisor commented that we are not happy that Community Bank, NA is closing the Downsville Branch; we have 22 accounts and the closest branch is Walton; if we move money to another bank we still need to travel to Walton or Delhi. Board discussed. Maybe another bank will take over and maybe it is time to do direct deposit for employees. Board Members signed a petition to call for a delay of action and discussed further.

NO. 66-2022 07/06/22 Request Community Bank, NA to Reconsider Closing Downsville Branch
Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Community Bank, NA has announced the closure of its Downsville Branch on September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this is the only financial institution within a ten-mile radius; and

WHEREAS, the closure of this branch office will impact the Town and its community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to write a letter to Community Bank, NA on behalf of the Township, asking the bank to reconsider the planned foreclosure.

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

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., July 20th at 7PM.

Councilwoman Markert commented that the STOP sign at the end of Tannery Road needs to be replaced.

Councilwoman Markert commented that there are members of the Colchester Senior Citizens Club that are from Walton, Roscoe and Hamden; we give the CSC Club money for bus trips, hence giving non-residents a benefit; it was stated the non-club members do pay a higher cost for bus trips. Board will reconsider the Programs for the Aging Budget Line in next year's budget.

Councilwoman Markert inquired if we can do anything regarding high grass on properties. Supervisor replied that we will have to look into it.

Councilman Lavorgna stated that there is a pothole across from the NYS Hwy 17 exit; can we fix it with some hot-mix? Councilman Pinner commented that the State owns it.

Councilwoman Markert commented that the Downsville Covered Bridge is getting a lot of abuse; the fire hydrant also. Board discussed.

Councilman Lavorgna stated that we need to look into direct deposit again.

Councilwoman Champlin asked if the fire hydrants could be painted. Supervisor suggested to contact the fire dept.

Councilwoman Champlin commented that Code Complainants would like to see the written complaints. She also stated that she addressed complaints that the Town was taking down trees on private property; the trees along Legion Lane were hitting the tops of trucks; Cobleskill Stone said they would not deliver any more stone to the Town's property until taken care of trees; Hwy Dept contacted landowner, who stated they could be taken down.

Councilwoman Champlin reported that the Pool Committee decided that since there were only six full-time lifeguards, swimming lessons would be limited to Colchester residents and/or DCS students; this cut out about 20 swimmers; not open on weekends during swimming lessons. Councilwoman Markert asked for a sign-in sheet and stated that the shut offs for the bathhouses needed work.

Councilwoman Champlin inquired when the lettering would get put on the new police vehicle? Officer Cawley stated that KJBL just finished installing needed accessories; the person who did our lettering in the past has retired. It was suggested to contact Kim Reed.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: 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. 11-2022 Voucher No.331-378; Totaling \$102,824.16.

With no further business, Greg Lavorgna made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk