

November 02, 2022

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York on Wednesday, November 02, 2022 at 5:00pm in the Town Hall for the purpose of hearing the public's comments on the Preliminary Budget for 2023. Proof of Notice having been read by the Town Clerk, the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2023 was called to order by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill.

No one spoke in favor of the 2023 Budget.

No one spoke against of the 2023 Budget.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing was declared closed by Supervisor Merrill at 5:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk

November 02, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, November 02, 2022 at 5:03pm immediately following the Public Hearing 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., Kirstie Mattson-Deputy Town Clerk, The Reporter-Elizabeth DeFalco, Alan Donner, Dawn D'Addezzo, Louis Bunker 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, October 19, 2022 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merril-aye, Daniel Pinner-absent, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: Dawn D'Addezzo on behalf of the Corbett Community Corp. commented that the CCC applied for a grant for funds for the construction of their pavilion and because of their IRS status, they do not qualify for grants; the CCC has their own water system that is paid by the users and only income they get is by renting out the hall and pavilion; the CCC is asking the Town for help in changing their IRS status to "Not for Profit"; was wondering if the Town's Attorney could help as the CCC is part of the Township. Board discussed. Supervisor will contact Coughlin & Gerhart.

Councilman Dan Pinner entered the meeting at 5:06PM.

Louis Bunker inquired on the current status of the transfer station compactor gates and added that opening is very narrow. Supervisor replied that as a safety issue the gates are closed on the compactor; will not work with the gates open; unfortunately, you will have to throw the bags over the gate. Councilman Lavorgna asked if someone backs into the compactor area and hits the compactor gates, who is liable? Supervisor replied that who ever backs in or causes damages will be responsible for damages. Supervisor added that he and the Transfer Station Supt will revisit the issue later on.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Dayette Zampolin- Community Project for the Board to consider- contribute to the replacement of the deteriorated sidewalk entrance to the American Legion building.

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

- Cooks Falls Water District- October 2022- 24 customer balance due \$3,335.00; Receipts of \$3,190.01 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Downsville Water District- October 2022- 82 customers balance due \$11,089.43; Receipts of \$8,135.08 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- October 2022- Total disbursed \$2,089.02 of which \$2,033.02 was Town revenues.
- Police- October 2022 Activity Report.
- Town Justice Conrow- \$9,770.00 reported for October 2022.
- Town Justice Edel- \$9,632.00 reported for October 2022.
- Planning Board- Sept. 15, 2022 Minutes.

Supervisor Merrill reported that Scott O'Brien has been taking up floor tiles at the Mobile Office Unit; he is approximately ¾ of the way done; next we need to patch the sub-floor.

Supervisor reported that the Downsville Park Paddle Project is on hold until next Year.

Supervisor Merrill stated that there was a 1.933% increase in the 2023 Budget; an increase of \$46,900 (24,900General + 22,000Highway). Supervisor stated if there is no more discussion, he would like to adopt the budget.

NO.104-2022 11/02/22 2023 Budget Adopted

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts the Town of Colchester Preliminary Budget for 2023 as presented and that it be adopted as the Final 2023 Budget.

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 Champlin	voting aye
Councilperson, Gregory L. Lavorgna	voting no
Councilperson, Julie A. Markert	voting aye
Councilperson, Daniel J. Pinner	voting no

The resolution having received majority vote of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, the 2023 Budget was declared to be duly adopted. And hereby affixed one certified copy of the 2023 Budget.

Supervisor asked Council why the “no” votes. Councilman Lavorgna stated that he did not agree with Bookkeeper getting a 9% increase and everyone else a 3% increase. Councilman Pinner also stated the Bookkeeper increase was not fair and thought we should look into a percentage paid on health insurance, should not be a free benefit to some and highway pays 6%.

Supervisor reported that Taggart Electric has sent a new proposal to supply and install a new convertor from the Transfer Station's new compactor in the amount of \$10,915; total compactor project will be \$67,310. Board discussed and agreed to accept proposal.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., November 16th at 5PM.
- Town Hall Offices Closed Fri. Nov. 11th Veterans' Day.
- Town Hall Offices Closed Thurs, Nov 24th and Fri, Nov 25th Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Town Clerk's Office Closing at 12:30PM on Wed., Nov. 30th.

Councilman Lavorgna inquired about a check machine for the Downsville Court. Supervisor replied that Community Bank has sent a check depositing machine to the Court; we have found out that all of us can use the same machine; we have ordered a laptop computer that we will set up with Community's check depositing machine in a localized place at Town Hall; will help us but will still need to go to Community Bank to make cash deposits. Supervisor added that he had talked to Community Bank about purchasing the building in Downsville; their reply was that it will take many month before they have a purchase price; Supervisor asked if the Town could purchase for one dollar; was then asked what we would do with it; he replied stating to bring in business to further our community.

Councilwoman Markert commented that she had drafted a resolution to move forward with a local law to allow UTVs, ATVs and ORVs to operate as farm vehicles on public highways. Copies were presented to Board Members. A copy will be sent to the Town Attorney to draft a local law.

Councilwoman Markert inquired to the status of the EV Charging Station. Supervisor replied that Colleen Griffith was trying to get a technician here to look at it; we have received about \$188 from the user fees so far.

Councilwoman Markert also inquired about a digital speed sign for Knox Ave. Officer Cawley replied that we should be getting the County's sign again next week. Officer Cawley presented a flyer on solar "your speed is" signs. Board reviewed and suggested to get four signs. Officer Cawley will look into a grant to purchase.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Julie Markert made the motion, seconded by Janet Champlin, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried. Abstract No. 19-2022 Voucher No.592-616; Totaling \$49,648.46.

With no further business, Greg Lavorgna made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk