

July 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, July 19, 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 Noviello 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, July 05, 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 Noviello inquired about the status of the Local Law Designating Town Highways for Travel by ATVs. Supervisor replied that we have not heard back from the Town Attorney. Councilwoman Markert asked if we had talked with the town of Stamford? Supervisor replied that we are waiting for the Town Attorney and want to make sure we are doing things correctly; hope to have for next meeting. James commented that the front steps look great. Alan Donner commented that he would be interested in providing electrical work on the mobile office unit and that Paul Clynes would be interested in plumbing services; they would work together on both projects. Supervisor stated that we need an estimate of hours needed.

CEO Hascha reported that he has spoken with a few contractors; he suggests that it would be easier to just re-wire the whole building; he gave punch list to Supervisor and Officer Cawley to review; he should have it written up by next week; most contractors stated that they probably would not start until the fall; asking for quotes on labor only, we can supply the materials.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- NYS Dept of Health- two pool inspection reports.

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

- Cooks Falls Water District- June 2023- 16 customer balance due \$1,205.00; Receipts of \$50.02 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Downsville Water District- June 2023- 31 customers balance due \$3,833.17; Receipts of \$501.97 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- June 2023- Total disbursed \$3,726.17 of which \$3,709.17 was Town revenues.
- Town Justice Conrow- \$17,961.00 reported for June 2023.

CEO Hascha commented that we need to get moving on the rules and regulations for Short Term Rentals. Supervisor replied that we are looking at this on the County level.

Councilwoman Champlin reported that she has received a phone call regarding the road paving in Corbett; screwing up their driveway. Highway Supt Eck stated that he has looked at it; it has been an issue for many years and many years to come; there is a low spot and a new box culvert may not fix the problem. Board discussed.

Janet Champlin made the motion to go into executive session to possible litigation, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 5:25PM. Town Clerk and CEO Hascha were invited to stay. Board held discussion. Janet Champlin made the

motion to enter back into regular session, seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered regular session at 5:53PM. Board made no decision forthcoming.

Supervisor Merrill reported that he is playing phone tag with NYCDEP.

Supervisor reported that we are dealing with a new NYS woman with the Park Paddle Project; we are moving forward with the dock; going to leave up some of the old highway building to house the wooden eagles.

Supervisor Merrill inquired if the water committee has any thoughts regarding engineering for the water companies? Councilwoman Markert suggested that we train a new person as backup WPO. She also stated that she may have someone in mind to do the installation of the DWD meters. Board discussed. Councilwoman Markert also commented that an elderly woman has complained that she read a family of four was flat rated and she as a single person was paying more than the flat rate; we need to get these meters done. Supervisor will look into it.

Board discussed the CFWD and its major leak.

Town Board discussed the repairs to Town Hall and the Mobile Office Unit.

Supervisor Merrill reported that he was approached by a group from the Tailwaters Association that they would like to host an event at our Covered Bridge Park and that they would like to plant some trees in our parks. Board discussed. It was suggested to have maple or lilac trees in the Covered Bridge Park and possibly flowering crab trees in Pepacton Park, next to Shirley Homovich's property. Board is interested and Supervisor will contact them back.

Supervisor stated that we need to do a SEQRA, Short Part I & III with a negative declaration for the new salt shed grant.; grant will provide 75% of project with the Town 25% to be \$61,906.75. Supervisor read aloud. Board discussed.

**NO. 63-2023 07/19/23 SEQR Review – Negative Declaration**

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Colchester, as lead Agency, has conducted a review pursuant to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act- SEQR) and in accordance with 6NYCRR Part 617 for this Unlisted Action project, and has prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form; and WHEREAS, the Salt Storage Improvement Project scope does not appear to have any adverse environmental impacts based upon Town determination; and

WHEREAS, the Town needs to render a SEQR determination; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes that the requirements of the state environmental review process (6NYCRR Part 617) have been met.

THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby resolves that, to the best of their knowledge:

1. The requirements of 6NYCRR Part 617.11 have been met; and
2. Consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is the one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating conditions to the decision those mitigating measures that were identified as practicable; and
3. (if applicable) Consistent with the applicable policies of Article 42 of the Executive Law, as implemented by 19NYCRR Part 600.5, this action will achieve balance between the protection of the environment and the need to accommodate social and economic considerations; and
4. The project will not result in any large or important impact(s) and, therefore, is one which will not have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore a negative declaration is hereby declared.

Resolution was seconded by Daniel Pinner.

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 aye
Councilperson, Julie A. Markert	voting aye
Councilperson, Daniel J. Pinner	voting aye

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

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting is Wed., August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5PM.

Councilwoman Markert inquired to the status of the diving board? Supervisor replied that it is to be delivered July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES:** Julie Markert made the motion, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried. Abstract No. 14-2023 Voucher No.400-429; Totaling \$64,766.06.

Supervisor asked for a motion to have Francis Scott O'Brien repair and paint the gable on the front of Town Hall. Board discussed.

**NO. 64-2023 07/19/23 Town Hall Repairs**

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to hire Francis Scott O'Brien to repair and paint the gable on the front of Town Hall located at 72 Tannery Road, Downsville, NY.

Resolution seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried, resolution declared adopted.

With no further business, Greg Lavorgna made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Dan Pinner, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:28PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend, Town Clerk