

October 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.

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

Recording Secretary: Allison R. Gill       Town Clerk

Others present: Kenneth R. Eck, Jr.-Highway Supt., Alan Donner, Roger Lynker, Rob Hafele, Liz Defalco (The Reporter), 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 had been distributed earlier. Greg Lavorgna made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Janet Champlin, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, motion carried.

GUEST: None

#### VISITOR COMMENTS:

Roger Lynker questioned the Board about Downsville Water District rates at the Town Hall, the Fire Department, and the School. He stated that those yearly rates are all the same and that it is unfair that the Town of Colchester pays the same yearly amount as the School District, as the school clearly uses a lot more water. Supervisor Merrill explained that this was set up years ago when the Water District first formed. Roger then just wanted to know about the Cemetery Crew and if they were considered Highway employees. Supervisor Merrill explained that there is a separate budget for the cemetery. Roger also asked about our prices on burials and plots. Supervisor Merrill gave him these figures.

The Board recognized that the last Comprehensive Plan Meeting was well attended by many residents. There was talk about the post on Facebook about the meeting was late in the day and that people needed more advance notice of the meetings in order to attend.

The electric sign coming in to town was discussed as a great place to post upcoming meetings and comprehensive plan meetings, as long as any other news. The Board members suggested maybe speaking with Asa Hafele about getting it up and running again. The concern is the weather is harmful to the device and we would need to build a small roof over it. Even just a metal cap. Board discussed.

Julie Markert had a customer come in who was a planner from Catamount Planning. He gave her his card and Julie gave the card to Supervisor Merrill to give to Colleen to reach out to. It was explained that for the comprehensive plan, the bidding for the planners was already completed. They only received one bid so the committee will decide whether to hire that firm or to put it back out to re bid it.'

Harry Triebe was here with questions on removal of the rocks from the river beds. He is willing to truck the rock out and to his business for nothing if the town receives permits to do so. Superintendent Eck spoke on the difficulties of getting these permits, but will keep in contact with Harry if and when the Town is able to do anything.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Police Traffic Services was read to the Board and a grant totaling \$3600.00 was issued to the Police Department. Funds from that grant will be used towards patrol expenses.

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

-- All reports on file in Town Clerk's Office

- Downsville Water District- \$1,509.18 disbursed to Supervisor, 42 Customers in arrears with a balance of \$3,251.06
- Cooks Falls Water District- \$50.03 disbursed to Supervisor, 21 customers in arrears with balance of \$1,005.00.
- Town Clerk- \$4,480.29 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Colchester Town Court, Judge Lavorgna- \$10,860.00 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town of Colchester Police- September Report

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- DWD- Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSR #17537: Meters & Installation – Trevor Dolph, a plumber from Walton, came in and expressed interest in installing the meters.
- Public Safety Building- Schedule an Open House for the community to come see the new building.
- NYCDEP hookup to DWD: Board needs to authorize the Town Clerk to be allowed to set up a Bid Notice in The Reporter.
- Park Paddle Project – Town highway guys will resume work on Fridays on this project.
- Town of Colchester Comprehensive Plan Update Grant- Next meeting is 10/24/24
- Cemetery Drainage Project –Soil and Water is putting together the blueprints to fix the drainage issue. Last storm there was no problem at all.
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#### NEW BUSINESS :

October 8, 2024 @ 10:00AM will be the virtual Kickoff meeting for FEMA event DR4825. This event is the August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 storm.

Supervisor Merrill and Highway Superintendent Eck will contact the Union Representative to change the time of the Highway Employees Negotiation meeting as it is for the same time as this Kickoff event.

The Tentative 2025 Budget was read to the Board Members. The members discussed the salary for the Town Historian and agreed to change her increase to \$2500.00 per year.

Janet Champlin stated that she had received calls in regards to a fire hydrant on Clark Street. The hydrant needs to be dug out. Superintendent Eck will send a crew.

Greg Lavorgna let the Board know that Justice Conrow is home from the extended hospital stay and will be returning to work. Board was happy to hear this and wishes Justice Conrow continued healing.

Greg then asked Superintendent Eck if the Horton Brook road was to be paved. Superintendent Eck stated that due to this last storm event, they have repaired the roads so they are passable for now. Horton Brook still needs a rock wall built and will be finished after that is completed.

Greg Lavorgna also then presented the Board with a petition from the residents on Clark Street and Clark Street Extension that included twelve (12) signatures. In the petition they are asking if the town can restrict heavy traffic on Clark Street and Clark Street extension. The petition states that the heavy traffic on the street poses a safety risk to our community members and deteriorates the quality of the road, their driveways, and utilities. The petition reads that the constant hum of the engines, the danger of heavy vehicles passing by their homes, and the declining condition of the asphalt, is a reminder daily of the issue. The petition is a plea to Downsville authorities to stop allowing heavy traffic on Clark Street and Clark Street extension. They would like proactive measures to reroute the heavy traffic to major roadways that are designed to handle such traffic. They also are looking for a permanent fixed barrier at Clark Street extension where The Schoolhouse Inn exits. The petition was passed around to all Board Members. Board discussed. Supervisor Merrill will draw up a response letter to all the signatures on the petition.

Superintendent Eck stated that he has checked the status of Clark Street and Clark Street Extension many times and the road is not deteriorating any more than any other street in the Town of Colchester. There is no weight restriction on any of these roads and it was discussed that if these changes were to be made to Clark Street, they would have to be made to every single street in the Town of Colchester.

Janet Champlin received a call about two streams by Gregory Hollow and how they are in need of digging out. FEMA has declared an event and the Superintendent of Highway will do what he can to get the permits to fix the damages from the storm to the creeks and streams. Dan Pinner asked Superintendent Eck on specific permits for the Covered Bridge and Eck stated that he has sent in that permit. The other permits for Corbett and Shinhopple will go out in the next week.

#### **NO. 80-24 10/02/2024 Authorize Town Clerk to put Bid Request in The Reporter for DWD/DEP Project**

Dan Pinner made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Allison Gill, Town Clerk, to advertise to open bids for the DWD/DEP water project in The Reporter.

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

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 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, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, motion carried. Abstract No. 18-2024 Voucher No. 667-708; Totaling \$592,841.90.

Janet Champlin made the motion to go into executive session, seconded by Julie Markert, for personnel discussion.

Board entered executive session at 6:24PM. Hwy Supt was invited to stay. Board held discussion. Julie Markert made the motion to enter back into regular session, seconded by Dan Pinner, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, motion carried. Board entered regular session at 6:30PM.

**NO. 81-24 10/02/2024 Hire Trevor Dolph to install water meters for DWD**

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Downsville Water District has the meters to be installed in the homes in our district, and

WHEREAS, Trevor Dolph has expressed interest in this job,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board wishes to hire Trevor Dolph for the installation of the remaining meters. . Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

With no further business, Julie Markert made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Janet Champlin, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison R. Gill, Town Clerk