

November 6, 2024

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York on Wednesday, November 06, 2024 at 5:00pm in the Town Hall for the purpose of hearing the public's comments on the Preliminary Budget for 2025. Proof of Notice having been read by the Town Clerk, the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2025 was called to order by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill.

No one spoke in favor of the 2025 Budget.

No one spoke against of the 2025 Budget.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing was declared closed by Supervisor Merrill at 5:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Allison R. Gill , Town Clerk

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 5:06 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), Larry Gugliermo, Ron DuPrey, Blaine Stickle, Larry Berdhoff, Asa Hafele, 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 16, 2024 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Dan Pinner, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, motion carried.

GUEST: Cody Lafever from Delaware Engineering, Joe Gifford

Cody Lafever presented the Board with his recommendation to award the lowest bidder of the DEP-DWD waterline project to R.B. Robinson Inc. Based upon review of the bids submitted and opened on Thursday, October 24, 2024, Delaware Engineering recommendd that the Town award Contract No. TC1-G-2024 General to R.B. Robinson Contracting Inc., of Candor, New York, for the base bid contract price of \$321,400. Five bids were received, ranging from \$321,400 to \$694,250.

NO-85-2024 11/6/24 Award Bid for DWD/DEP Waterline Project

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Colchester had advertised for Bid Proposal for NYCDEP Waterline Extension Project, Contract # TC1-G-24 and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2024 the Town received said proposals from five companies and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2024 the Town opened said bids from the bidders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts the bid from R.B. Robinson Inc., Candor, New York, ,in the amount of \$321,400,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute the necessary paperwork for contract initiation and completion of the work (e.g., Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Change Orders, Agreement, Certificat of Substantial Completion, checks for contractor payment, etc.)

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby gives authorization to Delaware Engineering to prepare 3 copies of the Contract Document for subsequent execution by the respective contractor and the Town,

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert.

This resolution was put to a vote 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.

Joe Gifford was there with some town Veteran's to speak on their behalf about the Eligible Funds Exemption in regards to the Veteran's taxes. This reduces the assessed value of the Veteran's home that has purchased with Veteran Funds etc.. Colchester and Delhi are the only Towns in our county that have not converted over to the Eligible Funds Exemption for their Veterans. We have 45 eligible Veteran's and/or spouses in our town.

The Town Board discussed, along with the Veteran's. The Board agrees with converting over to the Eligible Funds Exemption as it will be most beneficial for our Veterans. The town Board will have to adopt a Local Law to make this conversion.

NO: 86-2024 11-6-24 Local Law to Convert to Eligible Funds Exemption for Veteran's

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester will move forward and will have a new Local Law done so that The Town Of Colchester can convert their Exemtions for the taxes to the Eligible Funds Exemption. Greg Lavorgna seconded this motion. All in favor, aye. Motion so carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

CORRESPONDENCE: Loraine Reed of the Downsville Booster Club, sent the Board the information for the Insurance Premium that in the past the Town has covered for the sake of youth sports. The total cost for the premium for the year is \$671.28.

NO. 87-2024 11/6/24 Downsville Athletics Booster Club

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Downsville Athletics Booster Club has submitted a request to pay their insurance premium for youth sports, covering Youth Basketball, Little League Baseball & Softball Programs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester wants to continue sporting our youth programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to pay Sluiter Agency, Inc. in the amount of \$671.28 for the insurance premium of the Downsville Athletics Booster Club.

Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Julie Markert-aye, resolution declared adopted.

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

All reports on file in Town Clerk's Office

- Colchester Town Court, Judge Lavorgna- October 2024 \$8,252.00 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- October 2024- \$1,815.24 disbursed to Supervisor.
- DWD- October 2024-\$16,189.29 disbursed to Supervisor
- CFWD- October 2024- \$2,595.66 disbursed to Supervisor
- Colchester Police Department- October 2024 Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSR #17537: Meters & Installation – Trevor Dolph was hired. Supervisor Merrill will meet with him to set this up.
- Public Safety Building- Open house November 7, 2024 3PM to 6PM
- NYCDEP hookup to DWD: award bid to R. B. Robinson Inc.
- Park Paddle Project – Town highway guys will resume work on Fridays on this project.
- Town of Colchester Comprehensive Plan – RFQ was reviewed and they have decided to contact the companies that did not bid on the job and see why and what was the reasoning. Then we may reopen the bid again.
- Cemetery Drainage Project –Soil and Water is putting together the blueprints to fix the drainage issue. Last storm there was no problem at all.

NEW BUSINESS :

The 2024 Delinquent water bills for the Downsville Water District and Cooks Falls Water District has been passed around to the Board members.

NO. 88-2024 11/06/24 Delinquent Water Bills Added to Property Taxes

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorize Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to submit a list of all delinquent water bills of the Downsville and Cooks Falls Water Districts to the County to be added to the property owners' tax bills for 2025, if these bills are not paid by October 31, 2024.

Resolution was seconded by Greg Lavorgna.

This resolution was put to a vote 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

An application was received for snow shoveling this winter.

NO. 89-2024 11/6/24 Hire Sophia Biviano for Snow Shoveling

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to hire Sophia L. Biviano to shovel snow off the bridge located at 15105 State Hwy 30, Downsville and Town Hall as needed, by voucher and at the rate of \$11.00 per site per occasion.

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

Janet Champlin spoke on behalf of the Senior Citizens. Tai Chi classes will be available for the Town of Colchester residence again for 10 weeks. It will be Tuesday and Thursdays. Cost is \$50.00 per participant. Janet asked the Board if the town would like to pay for those classes for anyone who is a resident of the Town of Colchester.

NO. 90-2024 11/6/24 Senior Citizens Tai Chi Classes

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes to cover the expense of the Tai Chi Classes being offered by Del Co Office for the Aging at the Downsville Fire Station for those Colchester Senior Citizens who need financial assistance.

Resolution was seconded by Dan Pinner, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, resolution declared adopted.

NO. 91-2024 11/6/24 Senior Citizens Floral Arrangement Class

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes to cover \$30 of the expense for the floral arrangement class offered by Del Co Office for the Aging for those Colchester Senior Citizens who need financial assistance. Twenty five participants will be the maximum amount allowed to take the class.

Resolution was seconded by Dan Pinner, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, resolution declared adopted

Julie Markert asked about sidewalk maintenance in the winter months. There is a Local Law about this in the town now. If someone does not follow through, what can the town do? Could it be possible that we shovel and then the Town charges that homeowner? Julie asked if we can post the Winter Sidewalk Maintenance on the website. Allison Gill stated she would have that done.

Julie Markert then asked what was going to be done with the wood floors in the Town Hall? Supervisor Merrill asked her to ask Tom Markert if he would be interested in doing them for us. Julie will get back to us on his answer.

All of the highway flood work will have to be completed by November 15, 2024, as the permits run out that day.

Supervisor Merrill was asked about the letter to the residence on Clark Street. He is still working on completing that letter.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, December 4, 2024 @ 5PM.
- The regular Board meetings in January 2025 will be the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The Organizational Meeting will be on January 8, 2025 and the next meeting will be January 22, 2025. This is due to the first Wednesday is New Year's Day. February meetings will then go back to the first and third Wednesday's.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Dan Pinner made the motion, seconded by Julie Markert, 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. 20-2024 Voucher No. 748-789, Totaling \$515,751.48

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

Board entered executive session at 5:51PM. 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 6:01PM.

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 6:03PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison R. Gill, Town Clerk