

November 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 5:00PM 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, 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 on November 6, 2024 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: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Merrill spoke about a letter each board member had received from the Town of Walton. The letter was about asking Delaware County to share a percentage of the county sales tax with each Village/Town in the county.

This was presented to the Delaware County Finance Committee. Supervisor Merrill stated his thoughts on this matter. The Board discussed this amongst each other. Supervisor Merrill suggests that the County wants to see what happens with the new traffic conversion. Board members discussed how the sales tax is down this year and what happens if the County cannot sustain the percentage they would give to each town/village. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the county's sales tax money goes to Solid Waste Management. Therefore, each town is benefiting from the sales tax now, as is tax payers in the county.

After discussion, board members agreed its best to leave the sales tax as is now as it is being shared the best way possible right now.

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

All reports on file in Town Clerk's Office

- Town of Colchester Court- Judge Conrow- October 2024 \$37,338.00 disbursed to Supervisor

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSR #17537: Meters & Installation – Supervisor Merrill still unable to contact Trevor Dolph. Will try again and if no answer, the board will look in to the person that Roger Lynker suggested. DWD put in request for some monies from this grant for expenses that have occurred with the new pump.
- Public Safety Building-
- NYCDEP hookup to DWD: The contractor is scheduled to begin November 24, 2024.

- Park Paddle Project –
- Town of Colchester Comprehensive Plan- Meeting was held and it was agreed to hire Fisher Associates for the Comprehensive Plan. The next meeting will be in January 2025, when we will meet with the Fisher associates for discussions. We would like to have this be a well-attended meeting again.
- Cemetery Drainage Project –No update.

**NEW BUSINESS :**

**NO. 92-2024            11/20/24            Appoint Full-Time Police Officer from List**

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester recognizes the need of continuing its Police Dept. for the safety and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester recognizes the need of Full -time Police Officers for the future of the Police Dept.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appoints certified officer Bryanna N. Houck of 10 Beale Blvd, Sidney, NY, as a Town of Colchester Full-time Police Officer off the Eligibility List.

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

Supervisor Merrill stated that the 2025 Budget needs to be adopted.

**NO. 93-2024   11/20/24            2025 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 2025 as presented and that it be adopted as the Final 2025 Budget.

Resolution was seconded by Greg Lavorgna.

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 having received majority vote of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, the 2025 Budget was declared to be duly adopted. And hereby affixed one certified copy of the 2025 Budget.

Cooks Falls Water District is under a Boil Water Advisory until further notice. Due to the drought, the water supervisor got calls about limited pressure. After inspection, it was discovered that the spring were pretty much dried up for the time. Supervisor Merrill called multiple places to find trucks to ship water in to the district. Finally, a company from Owego, NY was able to get the water to them.

Multiple loads of water were delivered to Cooks Falls and the next morning, it was further discovered that the tank was not holding the water. Ron MacDonald was called and they found a water main break. The break was fixed and residents were without water for approximately 3 hours.

Water has been restored now, but a Boil Water is still advised until the Department of Health needs to come on scene and certain tests need to be completed before the advisory can be lifted. A date of December 12, 2024 has been set for this.

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. 21-2024 Voucher No. 790-825, Totaling \$402,551.68.

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

Board entered executive session at 5:33PM. Town Clerk 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 5:44PM.

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 5:47PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison R. Gill, Town Clerk