

April 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Present:	Arthur M. Merrill	Supervisor
	Gregory L. Lavorgna	Councilman
	Julie A. Markert	Councilwoman
	Daniel J. Pinner	Absent
	Janet Champlin	Councilwoman
	Kenneth Eck Jr.	Highway Superintendent
Recording Secretary:	Allison R. Gill	Town Clerk

Others present: Alan Donner, Rob Hafele, Elizabeth DeFalco (The Reporter) Rogert Lynker, Colleen Griffith, Joan Homovich, Dawn D’Addezio, and Officer Cawley.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00PM by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill and he led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the last regular meeting on April 2, 2025 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Greg Lavorgna. Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-absent, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, motion carried.

GUEST- None

VISITORS COMMENTS- Joan Homovich was in attendance to question the status of the river by the Covered Bridge. She had spoke to Al Carpenter who is also very concerned as this is his livelihood during the summer months. Currently and since the August event, he has been unable to send canoes/kayaks down the river. The landing by Al’s Sport Store is covered and cannot be used at all. There is no flow in the river from the build up of the rocks and debris from the August 2024 storm.

Joan Homovich stated that she is aware that the DEC and Trout Unlimited have very strict regulations to that water. Joan believes that the residents that pay land taxes, that live near the water in question and areas in question, need their own properties and homes protected as much as the fish.

Supervisor Merrill stated that Soil and Water is looking at Downs Brook again for a repair to that. He stated that attempt has been made and looked in to. Supervisor Merrill said at least to get in to move the large tree blocking the water. Highway Superintendent Eck has an application and has filed it with the DEC. Joan Homovich stated that we should be applying no matter what the outcome is on both the State and Federal levels.

Rob Hafele spoke as a landowner next to the river. He started out with words of applause to Highway Superintendent Eck about applying for the permit to fix the water. Rob then asked Kenny and the Board if he would be willing to send a copy of that application to the residents? Highway Superintendent Eck responded with “absolutely.”

The woody debris in the water should at least be removed. Joan then asked if it was possible for Soil and Water to come back now and take a look at the damage and then go from there. Supervisor Merrill said he would see Graydon Dutcher on Thursday evening April 17th and he would speak to Graydon at that time.

There is a total of 5 landowners whose properties are in danger of another flood and damage to their properties. It appears the trees on Andrew Mattson’s side could be removed with no damage

to the stream. There is metal debris and garbage on the “island”. The gravel in the middle could be cleaned out so the water will flow back down through as it always did.

The last time the river was dredged was in 2011 and the job was never completed. The widening of Downs Brook has allowed that much more flow of water to the river in that exact area.

Supervisor Merrill and Highway Superintendent Eck have said they are working on this and are hopeful for an answer of some sort. Joan Homovich stated that this was her last chance to say anything on this issue and if nothing more is attempted that Supervisor Merrill and Highway Superintendent Eck have failed this from the beginning. Supervisor Merrill and Highway Superintendent Eck both stated they will continue to work on this issue.

Al Donner spoke to the Board and has stated that the Planning Board meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday in each month. If there is no agenda or if there is bad weather, the meeting may be cancelled. If this meeting is cancelled due to weather or another circumstance, an emergency meeting will be rescheduled for the following Thursday at 5PM.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A donation was made to the Police Department in the amount of \$500.00 from Harry Patel.

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

- Justice Conrow- February 2025 Report. \$21,256.00 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Planning Board March 20, 2025 Minutes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSR #17537: Meters & Installation – Brian Bush will set up a time to get together with Ronnie MacDonald to see what and where to begin on the meters. The town will pay \$250.00 for each meter installed.
- Public Safety Building: New split unit heating/ac units to begin installation in the first week of May.
- NYCDEP hookup to DWD -change order #3 needs approval.
- Park Paddle Project – Colleen Griffith submitted paperwork to get final payment for this project.
- Town of Colchester Comprehensive Plan.
- Cemetery Drainage Project- Still waiting on Soil and Water.
- Roscoe/Rockland Fire District- The amount that is given next year will be discussed before the new budget comes out.
- Fire Hydrant on Clark Street- Supervisor Merrill has advised Ron MacDonald to order the parts needed to repair this. \$3500.00 is the amount. The question was asked about why should the Water District be in charge of paying for this? Highway Superintendent Eck asked if maybe we should insure the hydrants. Supervisor Merrill did not know and will ask Gladstones about this.
- Transfer station for paint disposal. The town will get the materials and build the shed for the paint to be stored in. The company that will come get the paint will come to the transfer station to let them know exactly what they want.

NEW BUSINESS :

The town received a letter from the Senior Citizen's club asking for help with their trip again this year. The letter listed the 23 town residents who will be attending.

NO. 40-2025 4/16/25 Senior Citizens Villa Roma Trip

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes to cover \$15 of the expense for each of the Town of Colchester residents attending the bus trip to Villa Roma.

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

The Town received a letter stating that it is now required that each town have a website and a domain with .gov. We must have this in effect by December 21, 2025. Emails and websites will all have to be changed. Supervisor Merrill advised the Board of this notice.

So, the subject of starting a new website was brought up again. I had followed up with the original company, Apptegy, to let them know this was happening. I also had 3 other quotes from companies. Apptegy was a logical choice, as the school uses that same company for their website, and Apptegy was the only company that offered a mobile app with the website. The Board discussed the options.

NO. 41-2025 04/16/25 Agreement with Apptegy

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the General Municipal Law, §§300 and 30(7), that requires towns with populations of 1,500 or more to establish and maintain an official website with a ".gov" domain name by December 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, this town does not have this with the current Word Press website or with the email addresses through our local carrier; and

WHEREAS, Apptegy has sent a contract to the Town for a new website and will follow all state codes and laws, and the Board has agreed to said contract; and

WHEREAS, Apptegy has given the Town a \$4500.00 discount on the initial build fee of \$8500.00; making it a total build fee of \$4000.00 and a \$1000.00 discount from \$7500.00 per year to \$6500.00 per year, start up fee will be \$10,500.00 which is the initial build fee plus the yearly subscription,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill to sign said agreement between the Town of Colchester and Apptegy, and work on the new website will begin right away.

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

We have started to receive applications for the summer employment of the Cemetery and for the Town Pool. Supervisor Merrill has a meeting set up with Jody Reed next week to discuss the pool. The Board asked that we do a Help Wanted Ad in the Reporter, and that we contact the school to see if they will post it on the school sign. Allison will contact the school and run the Ad.

Highway Superintendent Ken Eck Jr. would like to give Christopher Biviano a provisional position of MEO Maintenance Supervisor.

NO. 42-2025 04/16/25 Appoint Christopher Biviano to MEO Maintenance Supervisor

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, upon recommendation of the Highway Superintendent, to provisionally appoint Christopher Biviano to a MEO Maintenance Supervisor, pending the passing of a Civil Service test when available

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appoints Christopher Biviano of 130 Knox Ave., Downsville, NY at the rate of \$27.76 total. Base salary is \$26.61 plus his \$0.75 stipend for Shop Foreman, as a provisional position until the civil service test is taken. Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, Arthur Merrill-aye, Dan Pinner-absent, resolution declared adopted.

NO. 43-2025 04/16/25 Change Order #3 for DEP/DWD Water Project

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution;

WHEREAS, the NYCDEP Waterline Extension Project has been almost completed by Robinson Contracting, Inc., and there is extra work that needs to be done

WHEREAS Robinson Contracting Inc., has requested a change order to furnish and install a 4' x 4' PRV Vault outside of the administration building, and:

WHEREAS, Robinson Contracting Inc. has provided the Town with a Change Order Request for \$16,600,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves Change Order #3 for Robinson Contracting Inc, and NYCDEP waterline project.

Julie Markert seconded this motion, Janet Champlin-aye, Dan Pinner-absent, Julie Markert-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, Supervisor Merrill-aye. This resolution was declared adopted

While in town, the Fischer representative noticed the eagle posters. Upon her further asking questions, she became very interested in what the Town did that year and the beauty around it all. She suggested that we bring back the eagles for a 10 year anniversary this summer. The Board discussed this and agreed that it would be a wonderful project to do. Some of the eagles are in need of some minor repairs. Both Julie Markert and Janet Champlin said they would volunteer their time to work on those repairs with anyone else who would be interested. Supervisor Merrill said he would like to see this happen before the Memorial Day Weekend. The members of the Board are all in favor of this endeavor.

NO. 44-2025 04/16/25 Support to "Bring Back Eagle's" for 10 year anniversary

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board has had a suggestion from the Fischer Associates to "Bring Back the Eagles", for a 10 year anniversary this year and;

WHEREAS, the Board has discussed and knows there are some minor repairs on some of the Eagles in storage, and have offered to volunteer their time to help[revitalize these, and;

WHEREAS, the Board all agreed to have this done ASAP but definitely before Memorial Day Weekend,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby agrees to support this 10 year anniversary of the eagles in our town. Resolution was seconded by Julie Markert, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Discussion was again brought up about the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Knox Avenue. Highway Superintendent is going to look in to the cost of a sign with the lights around it. Discussion on what sign should be used. Still no definite answer. Highway Superintendent Eck and Dan Pinner did go look at the tree on Doug Barnes property. Removing that tree will only allow a little clearance and to remove would not be that beneficial. We will follow up again on this issue to figure out the best results.

Highway Superintendent Eck has stated that the town needs to replace the old cop car that the Highway Department uses. Superintendent Eck suggested that the Town purchase a used truck for the replacement.

NO. 45-2025 04/16/25 Purchase a Used Truck for Highway Department in Cooks Falls

Janet Champlin made the following resolution,

WHEREAS, Highway Superintendent Eck has said the old cop car that the highway crews use to get to Cooks Falls needs to be replaced, and:

WHEREAS, Christopher Biviano has looked and found options to buy, and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board has given the approval to the Highway to purchase a used truck and not to exceed the amount of \$30,000.00 Greg Lavorgna seconded the motion, all in favor, Aye. Resolution adopted.

GENERAL/FINAL DISCUSSION:

PERSONNEL: Executive session needed for personnel.

Executive Session called to order at 6:12PM by Janet Champlin, seconded by Julie Markert

Executive Session ended at 6:30PM

Julie Markert ended executive session, and Janet Champlin seconded it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements

- Next Town Board Meeting will be May 7, 2025 @5PM at the Town Hall.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Julie Markert made the motion, seconded by Janet Champlin that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, Dan Pinner-absent, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, motion carried. Abstract No. 8-2025 Voucher No. 233- 279 in the amount of \$78,877.71.

With no further business, Janet Champlin made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Julie Markert, All in favor -aye. Meeting adjourned at 6:33PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison R. Gill, Town Clerk