

June 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

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

Others present: James Noviello, Jeremy Jenkusky, Colleen Griffith, Al Donner, Rob Hafele, Lucas Elmore, Elizabeth DeFalco(The Reporter), Keith Gavette, and Dawn D’Addezio

The Meeting was called to order at 5:02PM by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill and he led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the last regular meeting on June 4, 2025 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, motion carried.

GUEST- None

VISITORS COMMENTS- James Noviello spoke to the Board about the Local Law with the use of UTV’s on Town Roads. In May of 2024, James had approached the Board for money to start up their club. The Board told him then to explore other options. DVRR, the snowmobile club, offered to help out. They did a chair raffle and donated all proceeds to the start up of the UTV club. The club is in the process of getting set up. It was \$1500.00 to hire the lawyer to set up the legal aspects of the club.

Julie Markert asked where the trail system is and if it is being worked on. Currently, James is waiting on legal formalities for the club, but work is being looked in to to set up the trail system. They are holding a public meeting tonight at 6PM at the Legion Hall in Downsville.

James then asked the Board for some clarification of the Local Law. Concerns were raised and James and Jeremy Jenkusky were both receiving calls in regards to if the Local Law would stand up to the use of the UTV’s, as it was said on social media platform that it did not matter what the Town Law said. That NYS traffic laws were what would come in to play. James stated, that the social media post is counter productive and that the misinformation hurts the building of the club. James stated that in the 18 months that this Local Law has been active, there has only been less than 10 complaints and 5 incidents. Officer Gavette stated that they have told many that the use of the State and County roads is not allowed. The officers have been approached about how to access the Town Roads. The cops are allowing the use of State Rt. 30 in town if you are going to one of the local businesses and following all the rules. There have been reports of UTV’s being on Co. Rte. 17 and that is not an approved road. Greg Lavorgna asked if the club could get a list of all the roads that are allowed. James said they had posted it once to a Facebook page, and they will post it again for future reference.

James was looking for assistance as to what he should be telling people when they question if they will be in trouble using roads. The Board stated that as long as it is a Town Road, that road is acceptable, rules and laws need to be followed, and respect for our neighbors is what everyone is striving to achieve.

One incident where the cops were called, the UTV riders “dodged” the cops. This is a common thing. Even with snowmobile club members. It was stated also that the Board does support all of this, however, they can instill other rules, and even set a curfew if it comes to be too

much of a problem. Once the trail system is set up and people only have to use the Town Roads to get to the trail system, it should improve some. Board is in support of all of this and just wants everyone to remember to set good examples.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Merrill read a Thank You letter from Joyce Conroy. Joyce was complimenting Officer Brianna Houck. Her professionalism and her calm demeanor is an asset to the Colchester Police force. This letter will be placed in Officer Houck's file.

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

- Police Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS :**

- Downsview Water System Improvement Project DWSR #17537: Meters & Installation
- Park Paddle Project – Work is under way again. Concrete will be completed. Build steps and Flag Pole needs to go up.
- Town of Colchester Comprehensive Plan- Meeting Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5PM
- Cemetery Drainage Project- No plans from Soil and Water.
- Fire Hydrant on Clark Street- Highway guys will need to assist when done with paving. Superintendent Eck said in July.
- Knox Avenue and Montgomery Avenue Intersection- Waiting for the sign to get delivered.
- Town of Colchester Website- Waiting for the conversion of the emails to .gov and developing the website to hopefully go live soon.
- Cemetery Mapping- Linda Ginart of Delaware County has requested information, and once received she will apply for a 50/50 match grant.

Julie Markert asked what we are going to do with the old building at the Pepacton Park. We now have this beautiful deck and the building looks old. Supervisor Merrill stated that it will be made in to a pavilion. Julie asked if we were going to extend the roof towards the parking lot. Supervisor Merrill stated not at this time. That the park needs to be finished with what was in the original plans first. Julie stated that it looks great so far.

**NEW BUSINESS :**

Superintendent Eck asked the Board for permission to use Mike O'Reilly who will engineer for a grant for the Salt Shed. The cost will be \$1000.00, but he is very hopeful that Mike will be able to get the grant approved this time.

**NO. 54-2025 06/18/25 Hire Grant Writer for Salt Shed Grant**

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorize Mike O'Reilly to engineer the paperwork for the Salt Shed Grant. Total cost for this to happen and to apply is \$1000.00

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, aye; resolution declared adopted.

Janet Champlin and Julie Markert met with the pool director Jody Reed. Jody stated that she would like to keep the landline phone at the pool. They discussed that Jody is interested in possibly adding adult swim lessons on the opposite night of the Aqua Fit classes.

The tiles and grates that are broken at the pool need to be replaced. The broken grates are a safety issue. Ron does not have new ones in stock to replace them with. New grates will need to be

ordered and Scott Reed will install them. The drains in the concrete have also deteriorated over time and with sun exposure. Those also need to be replaced. Scott Reed will do that work as well. Plans to open the pool on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The annual water carnival after the swimming lessons will be on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jody stated that the shed is wonderful and that they do offer water, chips, Gatorade for purchase. Proceeds go towards the Night Swims and the Water Carnival.

New benches are being made at the school with the Tech class. Jody had asked about new lounge chairs as the plastic ones are falling apart. Jody suggested that the town get them at Al's again. Possibly get 3 new ones this year and 3 more next summer.

There was a discussion in regards to a crowd that stays at the Fireman's Field for a long weekend. Last year some of the people from there were disrespectful and smoking inside the pool fence. Swearing and not following the rules. Some were intoxicated and became out of control. Showers are being taken there and then one guy plugged the men's bathroom toilet, and did not tell anyone and just left.

Colleen Griffith said that the problems were addressed. She is not anticipating any issues with any of them this year. The Board has told Jody with the first misbehavior to just call the cops. Someone will advise the cops when they are at the Field.

#### GENERAL/FINAL DISCUSSION:

Julie Markert questioned the Board about if there is a town ordinance for lawn mowing, like the sidewalk ordinance. Supervisor Merrill has stated that in the past we have contacted the homeowner, mowed the lawn, and then billed the homeowner. The grass in some of the lawns becomes a hazard for seeing at the corners. The problem with the grass is New York State only says that the grass needs to be mowed twice a year. Supervisor Merrill will speak to the Town Lawyer to see what can be done.

Janet Champlin also asked about the bill for Scott O'brien for the pool. Supervisor Merrill stated that Ron needed help to finish the setup of the pool and the Highway Department workers were now all paving roads. Ron asked if he could ask Scott and Jen to help him finish it so that the Fire Department could fill it and get it open by June 30, 2025. Supervisor Merrill told Ron that he could ask Scott.

The water leak at the front of the old Duke's property has been fixed. The line feeding to the Dollar General store had a leak.

PERSONNEL: Executive session needed for personnel.

Executive Session called to order at 3:40 by Janet Champlin, seconded by Dan Pinner

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements

- Next meeting is July 2, 2025.

SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES: Janet Champlin made the motion, seconded by Greg Lavorgna that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, motion carried. Abstract No. 12-2025 Voucher No. 388-419 in the amount of \$148,862.94

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison R. Gill, Town Clerk