

July 9, 2025

A regular scheduled meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2025.

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| 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: Joann Pomeroy, Sharon Harrington, Paula O'brien, Steven Sehen, John Soran, Rob Hafele, Dawn D'Addezio, Rich Bell, Keith Gavette, Briana Houck, and Elizabeth DeFalco(The Reporter).

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 June 18, 2025 had been distributed earlier, Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Julie Markert. The minutes from the Special Meeting on June 24, 2025 were also distributed earlier, and Julie Markert made a motion to accept those minutes as written, seconded by Dan Pinner. Both minutes vote was Greg Lavorgna-aye, Dan Pinner-aye, Julie Markert-aye, Janet Champlin-aye, motion carried.

GUEST- Officers Rich Bell, Keith Gavette, and Bryanna Houck were all present to present a plaque to Steven Sehen. Officer Houck gave the presentation and read the plaque to all. The plaque was a thank you for Steven Sehen heroism on April 27, 2025. Officer Houck initiated a traffic stop, the vehicle was found to be stolen, and the vehicle fled the scene at over 100MPH. Officer Houck was in pursuit of the vehicle, but was forced to terminate due to public safety. The fleeing vehicle entered the Town of Walton, and crashed. The driver and passenger of this vehicle both fled the scene on foot. Steven Sehen witnessed the suspects direction of travel, stopped his vehicle and assisted Officer Houck on foot. Mr. Schen actively aided in the apprehension of one of the fleeing individuals. The Colchester Police and The Town of Colchester Board and Supervisor wanted to commend Mr. Steven Sehen on his bravery and his selfless actions in this matter. The plaque read; his willingness to assist law enforcement in a time of critical need exemplifies the highest standards of civic duty and public service.

The final line that sums it all up states; Let this citation stand as a formal expression of the Town's gratitude and admiration for Mr. Sehen heroic efforts in the service of justice and community service.

A standing ovation was given in recognition to Mr. Steve Sehen's assistance that day. Board members all individually thanked him.

VISITORS COMMENTS- Sharon Harrington spoke and said how nice it was to be able to see something positive with the presentation given for Mr. Steven Sehen.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email was received from George Welker, in appreciation for the upgrade road work done on Chilloway Road. He expressed that he has owned his home on that road for over 30 years and wanted to thank the Highway Department.

A letter of resignation came from Al Donner from the Planning Board for Board Member James Romaglia. James suffered a cardiac event that has left him to recover in a rehabilitation center, and is unable to fulfill his duties to the Planning Board.

NO. 57-2025 07/09/25 Accept Letter of Resignation

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Al Donner has handed in a letter of resignation for James Romaglia, Town of Colchester Planning Board Member, due to illness, effective immediately,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts letter of resignation from James Romaglia with regret.

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

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

- Town Clerk- June Report- \$3,849.75 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Cooks Falls Water District June Report-\$75.02 disbursed to Supervisor
- Downsville Water District June Report-\$263.60 disbursed to Supervisor
- Justice Conrow June Report - \$39,998.00 disbursed to Supervisor
- Justice Lavorgna June Report- \$4,717.00 disbursed to Supervisor
- Police Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS :

- Downsville Water System Improvement Project DWSR #17537: Meters & Installation
- Park Paddle Project – Highway Department is gaining on the work at the Park. There is a big rock that will have a medal eagle placed on it once it is completed.
- Town of Colchester Comprehensive Plan-
- Cemetery Drainage Project- No plans from Soil and Water.
- Fire Hydrant on Clark Street- This will be done as soon as Highway Department can free up time from paving and road work they are currently working on.
- Knox Avenue and Montgomery Avenue Intersection- Waiting for the sign to get delivered.
- Town of Colchester Website- Need the conversion of the emails, then will set up the App and go live with the website.
- Cemetery Mapping- Information requested was sent to Linda Ginart of Delaware County and she will apply for the grant.

NEW BUSINESS :

Burton Tyler Reed passed his WSI swimming certification.

NO. 58-2025 07/09/25 Increase in Pay for WSI certification.

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby acknowledges Burton Tyler Reed's WSI certification and will increase his pay from \$16.00/hr to \$17.00/hr effective June 30, 2025..

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby approves the increase in the hourly wage.

Resolution seconded by Janet Champlin .Janet Champlin- aye Julie Markert—aye Dan Pinner - aye, Greg Lavorgna—aye Supervisor Merrill—aye.

GENERAL/FINAL DISCUSSION:

Julie Markert inquired about a Downsville Water District customer who has no water currently. 14989 State Hwy. 30 home is without water. Water Superintendent MacDonald has been to the home and the problem is from the main to the home. This is the homeowners responsibility and not the Water Districts. The home is receiving water from the neighbor at the time right now until their water can be repaired. Ron MacDonald was looking for someone to come fix it for them but had not been successful as of yet and he told them it would be in to July before he would be able to complete it himself.

Julie also asked about the military banners. In the past, the Board had discussed buying like 10 banners for the Town Veterans that may not have family to purchase the flags. The problem is that a lot of those veteran's, there is no pictures of.

Julie asked about the storage area above the Highway Department Garage for the Chamber of Commerce to use for storage. Rich Bell said that the police department has gotten it all cleaned out with the exception of two boxes of old radio equipment. Rich Bell said that the Chamber will need to see Highway Superintendent Kenny Eck for a key to enter the storage area.

There was talk in previous year about a bridge in the park over the brook. The bridge is currently sitting on the property of Mark Butcher. It was the understanding of the Board that the bridge would be installed by Mark Butcher and Andrew Mattson. This was a project of the snowmobile club DVRR.

Dan Pinner said he spoke to NYSDOT. Milling and paving work of Rte. 30/206 will begin on July 21, 2025. First they will mill up the road which should take 4 to 5 days, and then the new black top will be put down, which will also be about 4 to 5 days. All weather dependent.

Dan said the NYSDOT will not be using the old Town Shed parking lot as that is a new parking lot and they will haul the millings and leave their equipment on the outside of town.

Supervisor Merrill asked the Board their thoughts on the newly renovated floors in the Board Room. It is agreed on that the walls need to be painted to give the whole inside of the building a fresh new look. The Board asked who would do the painting and it was determined that Supervisor Merrill should ask Scott Obrien and Jen to do that as they did an awesome job in the library downstairs and the Historical Society room. Further discussion will be made and decisions finalized on this project.

PERSONNEL: Executive session needed for personnel.

A motion to enter in to executive session was made by Janet Champlin and seconded by Dan Pinner. All in favor – aye. Motion carried.

Entered in to executive session at 5:32PM

Ended executive session at 6:05PM

NO. 59-2025 12/06/23 Appoint Keith Gavette to Officer In Charge

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 for an officer in charge

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby appoints Officer Keith Gavette to the Officer in Charge position.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements

- Next meeting is THURSDAY July 24, 2025 @ 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, Janet Champlin-aye, Greg Lavorgna-aye, motion carried. Abstract No. 13-2025 Voucher No. 420- 469 in the amount of \$296,367.10

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison R. Gill, Town Clerk