

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 8, 2024**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held an meeting August 8, 2024 6:30 P.M. at the town building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathan Seamon — Supervisor
 Bruce Learned — Councilperson
 H. Ed Reed — Councilperson
 Jim Cotton — Councilperson
 Ryan Fagan — Councilperson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Therese Winchester — Town Clerk
 R. Mark Buddle — Superintendent of Highways
 10 Community Members

Supervisor Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., which was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

Approval of July 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the Minutes by Councilperson Cotton, seconded by Councilperson Reed :

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 5 Seamon, Learned, Reed, Cotton, Fagan
 Nays 0
 Absent 0

Supervisor Monthly Reports – Financial statements were presented.

Town Clerk Monthly Reports – There were 18 dog permits, 8 Death Certificates, 1 Marriage license, Building Permits 1.

Other Reports (as necessary)

Highway Department – Osley road dig out finally happened – Rep from Verizon came out to locate to help with field location of “High Value” fiber conduit July 15th – field Tech – Very good person – was improperly marked – 6” underground north side – 12” south side @their new markers – 110 loads of material removed. Paving scheduled for Tues August 13, 2024. 2nd trip of roadside mowing completed. 03 international – Auctions International closed at \$17,000
Motion to accept and sell the 03 International truck for \$17,000 on Auction International was made by Cotton and seconded by Fagan.

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 5 Seamon, Learned, Reed, Cotton, Fagan
 Nays 0
 Absent 0

Town Clerk – Vital statistics representative is coming in to assess what the town needs to be compliant with state and federal regulations.

Codes Enforcement – There are 19 permits.

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Tax Collector – During the months of May, June, and July I have been fielding phone calls from Town of Columbia Landowners, Herkimer County tax collecting personnel, and others who are checking on payment of taxes on specific parcels.

One parcel of land was paid twice. The owner’s sister paid for the parcel on February 23, 20224. Then the landowner paid again on March 12, 2024. I sent a refund on June 10,2024. In the Big Blue Book that I give to Herkimer County at the end of tax collecting I note next to each parcel the date it was paid. I then highlight the unpaid parcels. Based on this information Herkimer County advises me how much money I owe them for taxes collected. I made two mistakes in the Big Blue Book when I did not show the taxes had been paid (when they were indeed paid). I sent a check to Herkimer County to correct these errors.

I am in the process of checking on a tax payment in 2023. The landowner is stating the taxes were paid (by their escrow company). I am currently communicating with the 3rd party firm (Core Logic) to determine if they show a check was sent and cashed.

I gathered change of address information during the January to March tax collecting season. This information was then emailed to Jim Fresco at Herkimer County Real Properties Tax Service.

A few town residents have requested a duplicated copy of the receipt I provided them with when their taxes were paid.

Planning Board - No report but planning board minutes are posted on the website

Zoning Board of Appeals – No report

Dog Control – No report

Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Local Law Update – The law has been sent in and filed on 7/23/2024

Correspondence: A Towns person wrote a letter about a concern on the speed on Elizabeth town and Brewer Road. Supervisor Seamon follows up on the next steps in the process.

Privilege of the Floor – No report

Consideration of Unfinished Business and New Business

Board Discussion

2025 Town Board budget discussions will be started.

Audit, Approval of Bills and Transfers

A motion was made to pay the warrant by Councilperson Fagan seconded by Councilperson Reed:

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 5 Seamon, Learned, Reed, Cotton, Fagan
 Nays 0
 Absent 0

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The next Town Board meeting will occur September 12, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Council Member Fagan, seconded by Council Member Cotton, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Supervisor

Town Clerk

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member