

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held a regular monthly meeting, 2020, at the town building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Weiss, Councilmen Burke, Learned and Reed (7:10)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Cotton

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Woytowich, Clerk; Mark Buddle, Highway Supt.; from Planning Board: Paul Kidder, Ron Bayzon, Donna Rubin; Legislator from Dist.#1, Bill Keeler; Legislator from Dist.#2 and Codes/Zoning Officer, Ray Donley; Gene Doremus, West Winfield Star.

Supervisor Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Pledge of Allegiance.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Learned, seconded by Councilman Burke, to accept the minutes of 1/09/2020.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Learned, to accept the Supervisor and Town Clerk monthly reports.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

-**PLANNING BOARD:** Ron Bayzon, Planning Board Chr., stated that the Planning Board has been working on a Solar Law. Used Town of Litchfield to start. Ron stated that they reviewed and discussed solar laws from several towns and have used sections that they feel would be the best fit for the Town of Columbia. Paul Kidder stated the Planning Board looked to protect our land owners. Local concerns considered. Paul stated that they now have a Draft Solar Energy document for the Town Board to review and discuss. Document would be an addendum to our Zoning Law.

Battery storage was discussed. Paul stated that they have been having workshop meetings with Town of Warren and discussing battery storage.

-The draft Solar Energy document was distributed to the board members and Paul invited them to attend the Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30, with comments/questions and discussion on the addendum.

-Planning Board meeting minutes from January 15, 2020 were distributed.

-**CODES/ZONING:**

-Ray stated he had 2 permits this month (garage & Septic). Cell tower permit was issued

-Bill stated that the County is exploring a county wide codes enforcement. The County feels it would bring uniformity to the service. He is looking to see how the district he represents feels. General feeling was staying with our own codes/zoning would be more efficient. Bill attended a meeting in Town of Warren and they also are satisfied having their own codes officer. German Flatts will discuss it.

-Bill handed out a flyer that the Ilion Fish and Game Club will be holding a 2A Sanctuary Meet and Greet Resolution signing on Saturday February 22nd at 03:00pm.

-HIGHWAY: Mark discussed the following:

- Phone/internet now with Otsego. Spectrum equipment/service returned and disconnected.
- Sarafin Spur - NYS Hwy. will install guard rails in front of Woroby's.
- Warm snow plus ice the norm
- Mark and Bruce visited 3 styles of sand building and have met with one vendor
- Building and grant writer
- NYMIR visit - seemed satisfied
- Summer road work - Huxtable Rd. next

Discussed a new sand building where the present sand pile is located. A smaller but taller building using present property Will look into a possible grant application next week.

BILLS: The Board audited the monthly bills. A **motion** was made by Councilman Reed, seconded by Councilman Learned, to accept the following bills:

General Fund, #18-#30 for \$ 4,017.78
Trust & Agency, #2 for \$ 320.10
Highway, Item 3, #16-#29 for \$ 7,024.86
Highway, Item 4, #8-#14 for \$ 24,534.64

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 2020 Census - accurate count is important. Part time and full time Census Takers are needed.
- Regional workshop on solar energy and the future of farming in the Mohawk Valley - March 7th 2020, at Herkimer College 8:30am-3pm. Free and open to public by prior registration.
- EDF will be holding info meetings at Columbia Town Building March 25(5-8pm) and March 26(10am-1pm)
- From MVEDD: Emergency Loans for Natural Disaster Areas through USDA are available - deadline is Sept. 29,2020
- Herkimer County S&WCD reminder of Envirothon

- Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) conference in Albany May 19-20, 2020

NEW BUSINESS: Herkimer County Humane Society 2020 contract was received. A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Reed, to have the Supervisor sign the Herkimer County Humane Society contract.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

Next meeting will be March 12th.

April meeting will be the 16th. (the third Thursday)

A **motion** was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Learned, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Woytowich
Town Clerk