

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2020**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held a regular monthly meeting January 9, 2020, at the town building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Weiss, Councilmen Burke, Cotton,
Learned and Reed

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Woytowich, Clerk; Mark Buddle, Highway Supt.; Ray Donley, Dist.#2 Legislature & Codes/Zoning Officer; Bill Keeler, Dist.#1 Legislature; Tax Collector; Judge Skinner & Clerk; several residents including Planning Board Representatives; 3 representatives from EDF Renewables.

Supervisor Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

A **motion** was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Learned, to accept the minutes of 12/12/2019 and 01/02/2020.

VOTE: All members voted aye.

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

VOTE: All members voted aye.

Supervisor Weiss introduced Jack Honor (Development Mgr. with EDF Renewables) and Keith Silliman (Senior Project Manager with Stantec) Jack Honor was presenting a general update on Columbia Site:

- Project Website - www.columbiasolarproject.com
- Notifications and other useful info
- Links to learn about EDF Renewables
- Follow the projects Article 10 permit process. Register to receive updates, submit comments online - case #19-F-0639. Search the case number in google to bring up the NY Department of Public Service site
- Attend an open house meeting. Next 2 open houses will be in March, dates TBD. Adds will be in 5 local newspapers 2 weeks before the meeting. Invites will be sent in the mail to all residents or property owners within 2500 feet of the project and anyone who signs up for notifications on Article 10 website or project website

COLUMBIA SOLAR ENERGY CENTER - 350MW

- 1787 acres under lease, 18 landowners at end of 2019 with 3-4 to sign in January.

- Project will require 2,100 buildable acres (80% in Columbia at this time)
- Land Agents from CanAcre-Diana Road- meeting with landowners
- Connection to transmission line near Elizabethtown Rd.
- Permitting under NY Public Service Commission Article 10. Filed Public involvement Program plan, the first step in Article 10 process on September 26, 2019.
- Stantec preparing Project Scoping Statement (file in March)

Keith Silliman (Senior Project Manager with Stantec)

- Doing a winter visual study identifying sensitive and significant resources within five miles
- Winter grassland bird surveys by conducting weekly point count in project area and documenting species
- Doing sound surveys
- Will share results of wildlife study

Discussion followed-Solar Law-Article 10 timeline. Questions/comments from the public were discussed.

The two March meetings will be advertised.

Supervisor Weiss thanked Mr. Honor and Mr. Silliman for the update.

AUDIT BOOKS:

The Judge submitted a paper showing the revenue received each month and the town portion. He also showed how much he received for 2015-2019 and how much went to the town. The Judge also showed a copy of December 2019 cash received.

Supervisor and Clerk presented Cash Books and Bank Statements for 2019 year. The Clerk also presented separate print outs of zoning, building, dog licenses, deaths, births, marriages, misc. and parking hangers.

Keith VanNort, Tax Collector showed his Abstract of Settlement from Herkimer County and bank statements.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Cotton, seconded by Councilman Learned, that the Town of Columbia Town Board has reviewed and accepted the documents as presented of the Supervisor, Clerk, Justice, and Tax Collector.

VOTE: All members voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

-CODES/ZONING: Ray stated that Cooperstown KOA asked him about putting a temporary sign on wheels on Rt. 28 (May - Oct.) He will be going to Planning Board meeting to see if they are ok with it. Ray will be making an appointment with Board of Health to inspect the Golden Horseshoe Trailer Park.

-PLANNING BOARD: Paul Kidder stated that the Planning Board has been busy reviewing the Town of Litchfield's Solar Law. Minutes of Dec.2019 meeting were distributed to the Town Board.

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

General Fund, #1-#17 for \$ 4,249.57
Trust & Agency, #1 for \$ 480.15
Highway, Item #1, #1 for \$ 450.00
Highway, Item 3, #1-#15 for \$ 78,327.32
Highway, Item 4, #1-#7 for \$ 47,257.25

VOTE: All members voted aye.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Herkimer County Soil & Water 2020 Envirothon May 6, 2020
- Herkimer County Soil & Water - left calendar on invasive species which show photos, descriptions and management strategies.
- Letter was read from packet received from Association of Towns. Annual meeting will be Feb. 16-19, 2020.
- Councilman Reed will be attending the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Councilman Cotton, seconded by Supervisor Weiss, the following **resolution #2020- 03** was introduced:

RESOLVED: The Town of Columbia Town Board hereby designates H. Ed Reed as voting delegate at the Annual Business Session of the Association of Towns of the State of New York to be held February 19, 2020.

VOTE: Councilmen Burke, aye; Cotton, aye;
Learned, nay; Reed, aye;
Supervisor Weiss, aye

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Councilman Reed stated that the town web-site (townofcolumbia.org) is now up. He will continue to add info.

INPUT: The Board received input from those attending. Resident Lee Sterling inquired about a speed limit on Eberline Rd.

Next meeting 2/13/2020. A **motion** was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Cotton, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Woytowich
Town Clerk