

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
June 6, 2024**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held a meeting **June 6, 2024**, 6:30 P.M. at the town building

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Therese Winchester — Town Clerk  
R. Mark Buddle — Superintendent of Highways  
9 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 May 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilperson Learned, seconded by Councilperson Reed:

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

The Motion was approved.

Supervisor Monthly Reports – Financial statements were presented.

Town Clerk Monthly Reports – Town Clerk monthly report was presented.

**Other Reports**

**Highway Department** – Electric motor failure on shop air compressor 40 years old, replacement installed. Old unit is on auction international approval.

A motion was made to sell the old air compressor by Councilperson Cotton, seconded by Councilperson Learned:

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

The Motion was approved.

Cold patch 238 tons at \$68 Ton, compared to \$100.00 a ton and it is better quality. Continuing working on culvert changes and new installations for water and drainage issues.

Summer shutdown June 28 – July 8

**Town Clerk** – New hours are working out well.

**Codes Enforcement** – Permits, are up to Ten (10). There is a total of 13. The 3 we are waiting for more information.

**Tax Collector** – No report

**Planning Board** – No report

**Zoning Board of Appeals** - Town of Columbia Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 27th, 2024 at the Town Building, 147Columbia Center Rd, Ilion, New York to hear an appeal request for an area variance at Tax Map # 132.2-2-2.3 on 874 Kingdom Road in the Town of Columbia. The appeal calls for an accessory building with a front set back which is less than the allowed minimum set back of 75 feet from the centerline of the road required by the Town of Columbia Local Law Article III Section 304 F No. 4. At this time all interested parties will be heard.

**Board of Assessment** - Public hearing, and issues

**Dog Control** – No report the

**Privilege of the Floor** - No items

**Correspondence:** Early voting Sat June 15 – 23 will be at Columbia Town Hall.

Herkimer county humane society must fix a few items to be following the regulations.

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**Consideration of Unfinished Business and New Business**

**Snow Plowing Contract with the County of Herkimer -**

A motion was made to accept the snow plowing contract with the County of Herkimer by Councilperson Learned, seconded by Councilperson Fagan.

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

The Motion was approved.

**New York State Highway Law Section - 2024 TOWN OF COLUMBIA AGREEMENT  
FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONIES**

This agreement is between the Superintendent of Highways and the Town Board of the Town of Columbia, Herkimer County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town Board. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the New York State Highway Law, we agree that monies levied and collected in the Town of Columbia for repair and improvement of highways, and received from New York State for state aid for repairs and improvement of highways shall be expended as follows:

1. General Maintenance & Repairs: The sum of \$50,000 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 33.59 miles of Town highways. The total sum of \$50,000 shall be set aside and not exceeded unless this agreement is amended and signed by the Town Board and the Superintendent of Highways.
2. Permanent Improvements: The following sum shall be set aside to be expended for permanent improvements to Town highways utilizing Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and related monies, distributed by New York State to the Town of Columbia. A total sum of \$200,377.84 shall be set aside and not exceeded unless this agreement is amended and signed by the Town Board and the Superintendent of Highways.

It is agreed that all guidelines and sections as set forth by the New York State Department of Transportation, The New York State Highway Law, and the New York State Town Law will be adhered to and subjected to by the undersigned. It is further agreed the Town of Columbia Superintendent of Highways will complete and submit in a timely manner all state aid forms and required information to the appropriate agency.

This agreement executed the   June   Day of   6  , 2024

A motion was made by to accept the agreement Councilperson Reed, seconded by Councilperson Learned

**ADOPTED VOTE:**       Ayes    5 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton, Learned  
                              Nays    0  
                              Absent 0  
                              The Motion was approved.

**Town of Columbia Resolution #2024–14 presented by Council Member         Cotton        ,  
seconded by Council Member                         Reed                        .**

RESOLUTION REINTRODUCING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024, THE COLUMBIA SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES LAW, SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF THE

HEARING TO THE PUBLIC AND NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, the Town of Columbia (the “Town”) on April 11, 2024, introduced Local Law 1 of 2024, titled “Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Local Law”, commenced SEQRA review, designated the action as a Type 1 Action pursuant to SEQRA, and referred the draft law to the Town Planning Board for review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2024, the Town having received and reviewed the recommendations of the Town Planning Board, reintroduced Local Law 1 of 2024, titled “Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Local Law” (the “Draft Solar Law”), including minor substantive and formatting changes recommended by the Town Planning Board and special legal counsel, completed a draft of parts 1,

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2, and 3 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form; and referred the Draft Solar Law to the relevant county planning agency pursuant to § 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program Chairman issued recommended changes to the Draft Solar Law via Notice of County Recommendation dated May 20, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Town has made a series of non-substantive changes to the Draft Solar Law in accordance with the recommended changes, and now seeks to reintroduce the Draft Solar Law, set a public hearing law, and provide notice of the public hearing to neighboring municipalities in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Columbia, New York, hereby reintroduces Local Law 1 of 2024, titled “Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Local Law”, and a copy of the reintroduced law is attached to this Resolution, and that the findings of Town of Columbia Resolution #2024–11 are expressly incorporated herein by reference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Columbia hereby resolves that, pursuant to Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, a public hearing on the proposed Solar Law shall be held on the 11th day of July, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Columbia Town Building, 147 Columbia Center Road, Ilion, NY 13357; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia further directs the Town Clerk to publish an official notice of the time and place of such hearing describing in general terms the proposed local law on or before the 26th day of June, 2024 in an official newspaper or a newspaper having general circulation within the Town, a draft of the notice being attached to this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia further directs the Town Clerk to publish the attached “Notice of Public Hearing” on the Town’s official bulletin board or signboard and website;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia directs the Town Clerk to send letters and a copy of the proposed solar law to neighboring municipalities in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia further directs the Town Clerk to send the letters and copies to neighboring municipalities at least 10 days prior to the public hearing.

AND THEREFORE, the Town Clerk is hereby directed to enter this resolution in the minutes of this meeting.

The question of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote as follows:

**ADOPTED VOTE:**       Ayes    5 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton, Learned  
                              Nays    0  
                              Absent 0  
                              The Motion was approved.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Reed, seconded by Council Member Fagan to accept the warrant.

**ADOPTED VOTE:**       Ayes    5 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton, Learned  
                              Nays    0  
                              Absent 0  
                              The Motion was approved.

A motion was made by Council Member Reed, seconded by Council Member Fagan to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

_____	_____
Supervisor	Town Clerk
_____	_____
Council Member	Council Member
_____	_____
Council Member	Council Member