

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held a regular monthly meeting October 14, 2021, at the town building.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Reed

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Woytowich, Clerk; Mark Buddle, Highway Supt.; Ray Donley, Codes/Zoning Officer/County Legislator/Dist.#2, 1 Planning Board member and 1 resident

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

PUBLIC HEARING Local Law #2021-01: Public Hearing on Local Law #2021-01 was opened - Supervisor Weiss explained the Local Law was to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c. Legal Notice was published in the Times Telegram on September 29, 2021. With no further discussion the hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING 2022 Budget: The 2022 budget hearing was opened at 7:10 P.M. with Supervisor Weiss asking if there were any questions or comments. The legal notice was published in the Times Telegram on September 29, 2021. With no further discussion the hearing was closed.

Regular meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Cotton, seconded by Councilman Burke, to accept the minutes of 09/09/2021.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

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

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

LOCAL LAW:

Upon motion of Councilman Cotton, seconded by Councilman Learned, the following **resolution #2021- 13** was introduced:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Town Board of the Town of Columbia, New York, that the following Local Law No. 1, 2021, attached hereto and made a part hereof, be and the same hereby is enacted and adopted:

(See attached LOCAL LAW NO. 1, 2021)

The foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Councilman Burke: aye; Councilman Cotton: aye; Councilman Learned: aye; Supervisor Weiss: aye
Councilman: Reed: absent

This resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2021
Town of Columbia, County of Herkimer**

A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Town of Columbia to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Town Board of the Town of Columbia, County of Herkimer, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

-HIGHWAY: Mark reported and discussed the following:

- This year road repairs for submission to CHIPS
- Stimulus money - road sealing
- House Rd. Byrda section - Thanks to following towns for their help. Had 10 trucks moving material for 4 days. German Flatts, Richfield, Stark, Litchfield, Frankfort, Warren. Lot of tree stumps, barb wire, milk can, water, tire chain, etc. into road.
- Fall Trash Day - 100 permits - typical number. Thank you to Bill Keeler and Jim Cotton for their help. Disposal cost \$1,608.04 less scrap metal of \$801.95. Net cost \$806.09 plus labor.
- Peterbuilt is in garage to be evaluated.
- Buell Fuels has State contract for Herkimer County diesel fuel again for 2022

-CODES/ZONING: Building permits have been slow. Ray stated that he has started commercial inspections.

-PLANNING BOARD:

- Minutes from 09/15/2021 were distributed.
- BESS Law was discussed. The Town Board has reviewed.

Planning Board member, Ryan Fagan will let Planning Board know that the Town has no changes and Planning Board can talk to Attorney about next step.

- Ryan Fagan discussed speed on Town & County Roads. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- US Treasury State & Local Funds, Janine Thompson (MVEED), RBT, Brandy Serow (Herkimer County) all sent e-mails notifying that the revised deadline for filing ARPA funding has been changed from Oct. 31, 2021 to April 30, 2022.
- Handout from Bonnie Becker (NYTowns) on weekly virtual meetings
- Handout from Dept. of Public Service - survey on internet service
- Handout - Herkimer County Newsletter

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Councilman Cotton, seconded by Councilman Burke, the following *resolution #2021-14* was introduced:

RESOLVED: The Town of Columbia Town Board hereby adopts the preliminary budget as the final budget for the year 2022.

The foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Councilman Burke: aye; Councilman Cotton: aye; Councilman Learned: aye; Supervisor Weiss: aye
Councilman: Reed: absent

A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Cotton, to transfer \$3,000.00 from Highway DA201 to HRA checking.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

BOARD DISCUSSION: Discussed lease to buy New Western Star.

INPUT: The Board received input from those attending. Town resident questioned status of solar farm - doesn't seem to be any public meetings.

Zoghlin Group:

A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Cotton, authorizing Supervisor Weiss to sign engagement of the Zoghlin Group PLLC for Legal Services Related to ORES (Office of Renewable Energy Siting) Proceeding for Proposed Columbia Solar Project.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Cotton, authorizing Supervisor Weiss to sign engagement of the Zoghlin Group PLLC for Ancillary Legal Services related to Proposed Solar Projects.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

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

- General Fund, #107 - #116 for \$6,292.63
- Trust & Agency, #10 for \$331.98
- Highway, Item #1, #25 - #31 for \$38,595.17
- Highway, Item 3, #103 - #107 for \$1,095.72
- Highway, Item 4, #57 - #62 for \$16,955.80

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

Next meeting November 11th

A **motion** was made by Councilman Cotton, seconded by Councilman Burke, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Supervisor

Town Clerk

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman