

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 2, 2024**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held a meeting **May 2, 2024**, 6:30 P.M. at the town building

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Learned — Councilperson

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 April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilperson Cotton, seconded by Councilperson Fagan adopt the following Motion:

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 4 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton
Nays 0
Absent 1 Learned

Supervisor Monthly Reports – Financial statements were presented.

Town Clerk Monthly Reports – Town Clerk monthly report was presented. Permits and Dog licenses are coming in.

Other Reports

Highway Department – Parking lot drainage has been installed. New Loader is at the Town Barn. Budget for CHIPS has gone through. This will be used on Parking lot, Osley off 28, Hoffman Road. These will be fog sealed then next year will be stoned and oiled. \$25,00 for reshaping the entry of Osley Rd. ICE legislation for heavy duty vehicles, manufacture has to sell an electric vehicle before buying combustion vehicle. CHIPS dollars will be the same as last year. Trash day is Saturday. The only items not taken is chemical, paint. Tire for a fee.

Town Clerk – Switch hours from Monday to Tuesday 8:30-11:00 am. Foot traffic on Thursday has improved.

Codes Enforcement – Training was completed in Syracuse. Permits are coming in. the Clerk has revised a sheet to let land owners know what is needed for the permit. Rt 28 property is being worked on, and it has to be put through the county. There will be a driveway on 28 and Hoffman Road. There is a house on Brewer Road has built a deck but did not have a permit. A letter was sent to go see the town clerk to get the proper building permit. Working on a Codes advisory board for the county.

Tax Collector – There were four (4) people that sent in their taxes. They were forwarded to the county. The checking account will be zeroed out.

Planning Board – Sent recommendations for the Solar Law

Dog Control – No report

Privilege of the Floor - No items

Correspondence: No Items

Consideration of Unfinished Business and New Business

Bank Of Cooperstown Accounts – they are being in the process of being closed. The CD Matured on Sunday the 28th of April. The money was rolled into the general account. Then split into two(2) checks, one (1) for General account one(1) for Highway account. They will be put into the NBT Account on May 3, 2024

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 2, 2024**

Dog Licensing & Control Law for the Town of Columbia 2010-#1 – After review of the state law and the town law. The town law has been on the books since 2010. The consensus of the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor that it State Law does not need to be enacted and invoked. The town law is posted on our web site.

A motion was made by Councilperson Reed, seconded by Councilperson Cotton adopt the following motion:

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 4 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Learned

Town of Columbia Resolution #2024–12 presented by Council Member Reed, seconded by Council Member Cotton.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS IN A TIMELY FASHION

WHEREAS, the Town of Columbia intends to pay the Town of Columbia NBT Bank Business credit card, Town of Columbia American Express credit card, and Town of Columbia Trash Day invoice(s) in a timely fashion to avoid interest, penalties or late fees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Columbia directs the Town Supervisor to pay the Town of Columbia NBT Bank Business credit card of an approved amount up to \$2,000 within ten (10) days of the Town having received the closing statement and invoice; and

BEIT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Columbia directs the Town Supervisor to pay the Town of Columbia American Express credit card of an approved amount up to \$1,000 within ten (10) days of the Town having received the closing statement and invoice; and

BEIT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Columbia directs the Town Supervisor to pay the Town of Columbia Trash Day invoice of an approved amount up to \$3,000 within ten (10) days of the Town having received the related invoice(s).

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

By the order of the Town Council of the Town of Columbia, New York.

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 4 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Learned

Town of Columbia Resolution #2024–13 presented by Council Member Reed, seconded by Council Member Cotton.

RESOLUTION REINTRODUCING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024 THE COLUMBIA SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES LAW, IDENTIFYING LEAD AGENCY FOR SEQRA REVIEW, AND REFERRING THE DRAFT LAW TO THE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW AND

RECOMMENDATION

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, the Town of Columbia, having received and reviewed the recommendations of the Town Planning Board, desires to reintroduce Local Law 1 of 2024, titled “Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Local Law”, including minor substantive and formatting changes recommended by the Planning Board and special legal counsel;

WHEREAS, the Town has completed a draft of parts 1, 2, and 3 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form considering the potential impacts of adopting the Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Law, including consideration all changes made to the draft law upon reintroduction; and

WHEREAS, New York State law requires the Town to refer a draft of the Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Law to the relevant county planning agency pursuant to § 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Columbia, New York,

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 2, 2024**

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 are expressly incorporated herein by reference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Columbia hereby acknowledges that it is the only involved agency for the purposes of SEQRA review, and identifies itself as the Lead Agency for the purposes of SEQRA review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia has reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment Form, Parts 1, 2, and 3, and considers the draft forms sufficient for referral to the county planning agency in accordance with § 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Columbia hereby authorizes and requires referral of the reintroduced Columbia Solar Energy Facilities Local Law and associated resolutions, and completed drafts of Parts 1, 2, 3 of the Environmental Assessment Form, to the Herkimer County Planning Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia will review any relevant submissions and comments related to the proposed Solar Law, including the comments of the County Planning Agency, in order to make a determination of environmental significance pursuant to SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a determination of environmental significance of the proposed Local Law, a public hearing on the proposed Local Law, and provision of notice of the local law and public hearing to adjacent municipalities, shall occur at a time and date to be set after receipt of the County Planning Board’s recommendations, if any;

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 4 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Learned

Audit, Approval of Bills and Transfers Fagan seconded by Councilperson Reed:

ADOPTED VOTE: Ayes 4 Seamon, Fagan, Reed, Cotton
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Learned

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

A motion was made by Council Member Cotton, seconded by Council Member Fagan to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Supervisor

Town Clerk

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member