

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Collins, County of Erie, State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 14093 Mill Street, Collins, NY on Monday the 10th day of March 2025.

Present: Kenneth Martin, Supervisor
Jacquelyn McLean, Councilmember
James Hotnich, Councilmember
Jane Sion, Councilmember
Robert O'Connor, Councilmember
Becky Jo Summers, Town Clerk
Attorney Musacchio

Also Present: ECSO Shane Miller, John & Alice Savino, Candee Termer and Mathias Arbeiter VI

Supervisor Martin called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with the pledge to the Flag.

RESOLUTION #84: AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion made by Supervisor Martin and seconded by Councilmember Hotnich that the agenda be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean, Sion, Hotnich, Martin
Nay 0

Resolution # 85: MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion made by Councilmember O'Connor, seconded by Councilmember Sion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 regular meeting.

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean Sion, , Hotnich, Martin
Nay 0

Resolution # 86: BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

Motion made by Councilmember Hotnich, seconded by Councilmember O'Connor to approve the following budget modifications:

1.) Increase the budget for the TRANSPORTATION & DIST. – CONT. expense account SW#-8340.400 in the amount of \$ 1,112.00. Funding for this modification is coming from the Unappropriated Fund Balance.

2.) SW1 Fund:

Transfer from	SW1 9950.9 Transfer to Reserve	\$ 10,000.00
Transfer to	SW1 8340.400 Transportation & Distribution – Contractual	\$ 10,000.00

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean Sion, Hotnich, Martin
Nay 0

Approval / Adoption of Abstract

Resolution # 87: ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Motion by Councilmember McLean seconded by Councilmember O'Connor that the bills be paid on abstract # 3 for 2025 dated March 10, 2025 for listed vouchers # 83 - 141 for \$ 348,240.29:

General – Townwide	15,353.79	Special Refuse Fund	5,188.17
General – Part Town	2,485.10	Water District # 1	21,218.84
Highway	39,737.58	Water District # 3	542.94
Drainage Improvements	1,242.00	Water District #4	6.56
Collins Fire District	261,443.50	Total	\$ 348,240.29
Special Lighting	1,021.81		

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean, Sion, Hotnich, Martin
Nay 0

Public Access

1. John Savino inquired as to why residents have to pay towards the transfer station when they have garbage pick-up. It was explained that the cost of the transfer station is included in the property tax of all residents in the garbage district, whether they use it or not.

2. EC Deputy Shane Miller reported in the last month there were 123 calls, 21 traffic stops, 9 accidents and one arrest. Deputy Miller will work with Deputy Mohawk on the summer events the town has planned.

3. A good turn-out was reported on the chicken BBQ.

Reports of Department Heads

Attorney Musacchio reported he is trying to get the Town removed from the lawsuit on the highway barn.

Building and grounds report was submitted to the board.

Highway reported March 29th is trash day, snow was plowed 23 times, new truck chassis in is and waiting for parts, a new sweeper has been ordered, been cleaning up the town, members of the highway superintendents went to Albany to try and get more Chips money. Candace Termer asked about the welcome sign. We have the permits and installation is on Chris' list along with speed signs to be put up.

Recreation report was given out.

Town Clerk reported sales of \$ 3,108.70, the Town's portion \$ 3,032.48. Taxes are still being collected.

Reports of Board Members

Supervisor Martin reported that the auditors are here and he attended the Rural Transit meeting.

New Business

1. Resolution needed to appoint 2025 seasonal beautification laborers

RESOLUTION # 88: **APPOINT 2025 SEASONAL BEAUTIFICATION LABORERS**

Motion made by Councilmember Hotnich and seconded by Councilmember O'Connor that the following is:

ADOPTED	Aye	5	O'Connor, McLean, Sion , Hotnich, Martin
	Nay	0	

WHEREAS, the Town of Collins sponsors a Summer Beautification program to assist in maintaining the Town parks, cemeteries, and other Town properties, and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to fill the positions necessary for this program, and

WHEREAS, the Town advertised for the positions of Seasonal Beautification Laborers and received seven (7) applications for employment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Collins Town Board follow the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and appoint on as needed/weather dependent basis the following applicants as employees for the 2025 Summer Beautification Program at a rate of \$17.95 per hour: Susan M. Harvey, Gregory S. Hazelton, Christina Wilder, Rebecca D. Bushen (alternate) and Cathleen S. Allen (alternate).

2. Resolution needed to approve Town of Collins policy on the release of employee disciplinary records under FOIL

RESOLUTION # 89: **APPROVE TOWN OF COLLINS POLICY ON THE RELEASE OF EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINARY RECORDS UNDER FOIL**

Motion made by Councilmember O'Connor and seconded by Councilmember Hotnich, that the following is:

ADOPTED	Aye	5	O'Connor, McLean, Sion , Hotnich, Martin
	Nay	0	

WHEREAS, in order to comply with Public Officers Law §87 (6), all Towns in New York State shall adopt a policy to notify Town employees, and former Town employees, when the Town responds to a request concerning their disciplinary records.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Collins Town Board hereby adopts the Town of Collins Policy on the Release of Employee Disciplinary Records Under FOIL.

3. Resolution needed to approve a letter of support for Erie County Division of Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) Ambulance Service

RESOLUTION # 90: **APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ERIE COUNTY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (ECEMS) AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Motion made by Supervisor Martin and seconded by Councilmember Sion that the following is:

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean, Sion , Hotnich, Martin
 Nay 0

That the Collins Town Board hereby sends a letter to Erie County Department of Health-EMS in support of the Erie County Division of Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Service application to transition their temporary Medical Certificate of need to a permanent status.

4. Resolution needed to approve Municipal Solutions, Inc contract to develop for submission a wastewater infrastructure engineering plan grant (EPG)

RESOLUTION# 91: **APPROVE MUNICIPAL SOLUTIONS, INC CONTRACT TO DEVELOP FOR SUBMISSION A WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING GRANT (EPG)**

Motion made by Councilmember Hotnich and seconded by Councilmember McLean that the following is:

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean, Sion , Hotnich, Martin
 Nay 0

WHEREAS, the Town of Collins does not operate any centralized sewer systems outside of the Village of Gowanda, thus relying on individual septic systems throughout the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Collins wishes to study the feasibility of the installation and operation of sewers systems in the more concentrated developments within the Town (Hamlets of Collins and Collins Center).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Collins Town Board hereby approves the contract with Municipal Solutions, Inc to prepare an application to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for an Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) to study the feasibility of constructing a wastewater collection and treatment system for the Hamlets of Collins and Collins Center at a cost of \$4,900.00, and that the Town Supervisor be authorized to sign the contract.

5. Resolution needed to amend the Buy American Salt Act (\$9441)

RESOLUTION# 92: **AMEND THE BUY AMERICAN SALT ACT (\$9441)**

Motion made by Councilmember Sion and seconded by Councilmember McLean that the following is:

ADOPTED Aye 5 O'Connor, McLean, Sion , Hotnich, Martin
 Nay 0

WHEREAS, the Buy American Salt Act (\$9441) went into effect in the fall of 2024, requiring New York State governments to procure salt exclusively from American-sourced salt mines, and

WHEREAS, due to this legislation, Erie County was forced to reject the low salt bid submitted by Compass Minerals, as their material was sourced in Ontario, Canada, with the winning bid awarded to American Rock Salt in Livingston County, which subsequently secured both Erie County and New York State salt supply contracts, and

WHEREAS, at the time of the award, the Town Highway Superintendents Association of Erie County raised concerns about the potential negative effects of relying on a single supplier for salt, anticipating the lack of competition could lead to price increases and the risk of supply shortages, and

WHEREAS, the expressed concerns have come to fruition within less than one year, as there is currently a significant salt supply shortage, and

WHEREAS, this shortage poses serious challenges to our ability to maintain proper service levels and ensure the safety of residents across Erie County, and all respective towns,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Collins strongly urges the State Legislature to amend the Buy American Salt Act to a Buy North American Salt Act. This amendment would allow us to source materials from a broader range of vendors, including Canadian suppliers, ensuring a stable and adequate supply of salt to keep our roads safe during winter months; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Honorable Governor Kathy Hochul, Honorable Speaker of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie, Honorable Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Honorable Republican Senate Minority Leader Robert G. Ort, Honorable Majority Leader of the Assembly Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Honorable Minority Leader of the Assembly William A. Barclay, and the Western New York Delegation and Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and the Erie County Legislature.

Discussion and Comments

Town-wide resident Notification system

Town supervisor and Board Members will sit in on a zoom meeting with text My Gov on Tuesday, March 11th. The Board will be looking into other programs that would notify town residents in the case of an emergency. Councilmember O'Connor has spoken with a Code Red representative.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilmember Sion seconded by Councilmember Hotnich the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Becky Jo Summers, Town Clerk