

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:10 pm

SUPERVISOR DEPASQUALE OPENED THE MEETING WITH A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF BERNARD HORSCHER AND ROBERT HENNING FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

PRESENT

Councilman Dennis Robinson
Councilman Jesse Hrycik
Councilwoman Patricia Zurbrick
Councilman Gerald Pietraszek
Supervisor James DePasquale

ALSO PRESENT

Highway Superintendent Lee Wohlhueter
CEO Tom Dziulko
Planning Board Chairman Walt Kammer
Erie County Sheriff Officer (ECSO) Deputy Malican
Town Clerk Deborah Jusiak
Approximately 2 residents

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Supervisor DePasquale asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January Town Board Meeting.

MOTION made by Councilman Hrycik, seconded by Councilman Pietraszek, and unanimously approved the minutes from the Town Board Meeting held on January 8, 2026.

SAFETY

ECSO Deputy Malican reported the Sheriff's responses in Colden in January 2026:

- 68 Calls
- 38 Premise checks
- 16 Accidents
- 1 Arrest

Malican presented a new 411 tip line and QR code to be posted on the Town's website.

REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

Website Conversion

Supervisor DePasquale stated the Town Board had a workshop to discuss the Town's website. The current site is older and does not support the NYS .gov regulations. The Board discussed converting to a site hosted by Erie County. Surrounding towns that use Erie County said it is easy to use, and it would save the Town money and conform to the NYS .gov regulations. The Town

would be able to post its own content in a timely manner. He asked for a motion to have the Town convert to the Erie County site.

MOTION made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilwoman Zurbrick and unanimously approved to convert the Town website to an Erie County hosted website.

Mill St bridge

Supervisor DePasquale said the Mill St bridge was discussed at a workshop held earlier in the evening. Shawn Baer from G&W was present at the workshop and said repairs to the timber bridge would cost \$30,000 for an as-is repair but not bring it up to current safety standards. The Town said they would not take ownership of the bridge and would like to see the structure removed and replaced by an at-street crossing. Baer said G&W would consider making a larger contribution towards having the structure removed. Superintendent Wohlhueter, the Town Board, and Planning Board Chairman Kammer discussing contacting Nussbaumer and Clarke for a Phase 1 and budget feasibility study.

MOTION made by Supervisor DePasquale, seconded by Councilwoman Zurbrick and unanimously approved to direct the Planning Board to request a Phase 1 budget and feasibility study to have the Mill St bridge replaced by an at-road crossing.

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING REPORT

Councilman Robinson directed attention to the icicles on the Senior Center and Town Hall. The Board asked Superintendent Wohlhueter to close the Senior Center parking lot until the icicles are down. DePasquale reported that a resident fell on the curb at the back entrance of the Town Hall. Cones and signs were erected to alert people to the curb.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Report for the month of January 2026 – CEO Dziulko read the following report:

- 2 Building Permits Issued
- 2 Certificates of Occupancy Issued
- 6 Certificates of Compliance
- 3 Fire Inspection

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

No Report

DOG CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Councilman Robinson reported that the DCO had no activity in January, but she is calling owners having overdue dog registrations.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD REPORT

Councilman Pietraszek said the Environmental Board did not meet in January. The Town received a notification from the Town of East Aurora regarding their request to be lead agency in the SEQR for their comp plan. The Town of Colden has no objections.

HIGHWAY AND PARKS REPORT

Superintendent Wohlhueter read the following report:

February Highway Report

- We have continued to stay extremely busy plowing snow and making room for more. And when not plowing we've been working on the endless task of filling the barn with sand and salt.
- Mid-season oil changes and preventive maintenance are underway.
- We have used roughly 60% of our salt quota. There is another salt shortage that has taken hold with some towns being shut off for the rest of the winter for using up their allotment. Thankfully, through efficiency and rationing we are not in that situation. We should be ok even if winter continues to keep its heels dug in.
- I can't thank Mark and Mike enough for being there and putting in the extra hours that they have. They have held strong and really take pride in getting the job done daily.

Councilwoman Zurbrick thanked Superintendent Wohlhueter for his hard work in taking care of Town roads this winter.

Shipping Container Purchase

During a February 12, 2026, workshop, the Town Board and Highway Department discussed the purchase of a shipping container to temporarily hold playground equipment and then be used as Highway Department storage. Superintendent Wohlhueter asked for a motion to purchase the container for \$8,700.

MOTION made by Councilwoman Zurbrick, seconded by Councilman Hrycik and unanimously approved to purchase the shipping container at a price not to exceed \$9,000. Councilman Robinson will follow up.

Parks Report

- Sidewalk snow removal continues
- The cross-country ski trails continue to be groomed and kept in order for the public

INSURANCE REPORT

No report

LIBRARY REPORT

Councilman Hrycik gave the following library report:

Boston Free Library has Lego club, preschool story time, there is a list of items beyond books that can be checked out.

West Falls Library is hosting a Lego club, preschool story time, and having an upcoming open house in March.

Councilman Robinson said he will be explaining MOLST forms at the West Falls Fire Department at 7:00 pm on February 13th. Councilwoman Zurbrick asked if the class could be made available to the Colden Seniors.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Councilwoman Zurbrick reported that the Town's annual Comp Alliance training will be scheduled shortly.

PLANNING REPORT

Councilman Hrycik reported there was no January meeting; February meeting topics include battery storage, poultry regulation, and short-term rental regulations. Chairman Kammer thanked Parks Worker Kirby for all his help with gathering information for the Parks grant.

WATER DISTRICT REPORT

- **Usage update:** At present time consumption billed by ECWA 1,490,000 gal. cost \$ 6,117.94 + \$408.35 = \$ 6,526.29 expenditure for December water usage.
 - ECWA water cost \$4.2 / K
- Water usage for January – 35.8 G/M/30D
- ECWA price increase started with Feb bill
- Continue to replace meters and registers if broken with new NexT10,
- Turned off hydrant #8 (last in BC Rd lay), waiting on parts and weather
- hydrant on 240 near Gutekunst fixed and billed insurance company
- Have more than 10 meters not reading, Jessy working on list and emergency issues.
- January water test positive for Coliform, retest ok, filled DOH-5197 and testing rpts
- Master meter usage up from 40K to 80k, trying to find leak.

Water Billing:

- Open Accounts as of 02/02/2026 billing:

Water Charge (223 units)	\$ 22,158.31 (2,602,892 gal)
Infras + Capital Surchg	\$ 4,876.70
Arrears	<u>\$ 3,832.01</u>
Total Billed Sent	\$ 30,867.02
Current Receipts to date	\$ 0
Arrears to date	\$ 0

Councilman Pietraszek reported that Water Operator is on vacation, Pietraszek, Water Clerk and Elma Water are filling in. Pietraszek and Water Clerk will be looking for system leaks and may shut off sections of the water main. No leaks were found at the Colden Mill and a leak was repaired at the Highway garage filling station. The Water Department will continue checking unoccupied buildings.

RECREATION REPORT

Councilwoman Zurbrick read the following report:

- Soccer Registration will be held on March 7th from 9-11 at the Town Hall. Early registration is encouraged.
- Yoga is ongoing
- A Safe driving course is scheduled for March 26th at the Colden Fire Hall

RESOLUTIONS

None

BUDGET TRANSFER

None

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Town Clerk Jusiak reported that the tax bills were sent out on Thursday, February 12, 2026.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor DePasquale said the Town Board will be updating the personnel policy and advertising for a volunteer ZBA member and Town historian. There will be upcoming work sessions for the 2027 budget.

MOTION made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Hrycik and unanimously approved to advertise for the ZBA and historian positions.

PAY BILLS

MOTION made by Councilwoman Zurbrick, seconded by Councilman Pietraszek and unanimously approved to pay the following bills:

General Fund	2025 Voucher #565 – 573	\$5,496.02
Highway Fund	2025 Voucher #199 – 200	\$4,969.69
Lighting District	2025 Voucher #17	\$1,714.06
General Fund	2026 Voucher #18-58	\$130,996.03
Highway Fund	2026 Voucher #3 - 15	\$106,010.39
Lighting District	2026 Voucher # 1	\$1,846.45
Water District	2026 Voucher #2-5	\$6,901.29
Refuse District	2026 Voucher #1	\$36,457.63

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Alan Haungs and Randy Barber from United for Freedom spoke to the Town Board about errors and omissions found in the 2024 NYS election data. They stated the credentials of data research team and presented a resolution requesting clean voter rolls for a valid 2026 election.

ADJOURN

MOTION made by Councilman Pietraszek and seconded by Councilwoman Zurbrick to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Jusiak
Town Clerk