COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
October 5th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Cory Cucchiara, Sam Keller, Scott Miller, Dot Sharp, Ken Darby, Steve Bremer, Art Schultheis and Jenni Straughan.

Minutes: Scott Miller motioned to approve the minutes and Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Treasurer's Report:
The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Vendor Checks: Checks, as follows, were approved, with a motion by Dot Sharp and a second by Scott Miller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Payroll Checks: Checks, as follows, with a motion by Sam Keller and a second by Scott Miller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all except Ken Darby who abstained.

Payroll Checks:	$15,612.52
Vendor Checks:	$9,610.24
Grand Total:	$25,222.76

New Business:
Steve:
Dump Truck:
Steve told the council that he ordered a new primer pump for the dump truck. It was not the correct size so he will return that one. He found the correct one in Spokane. It should be here in five days.

Discharging:
Steve told the council that he will start discharging when the weather gets colder.

Art Schultheis:
Art asked why Summit Street has so many cuts and noted that it has been in that condition for 15 years. Steve explained that the cuts had previously been repaired with funding from a TIB grant, but the repairs did not last long. Jenni stated that Summit Street is the top priority on the town's Six-Year Street Plan. The town can look at applying for TIB funding next year.

Art also asked about installing a sidewalk on Broadway Street, noting that several children use the street to walk to school. He was informed that funding for the sidewalk would require WSDOT involvement.

Lastly, Art stated that the town has sufficient funds in the water budget to complete the water study, estimated at $20,000 or its current cost. He said the town has received more than $600,000 from his subdivision and suggested that a portion of those funds be used for the study to determine whether additional water connections are available. He expressed concern that Schweitzer Engineering is expanding and that more housing is needed. With only three additional water connections available, he said, the town cannot grow and may risk losing the school. Mayor Weber explained that the council is currently focused on the wastewater system, which is expected to cost more than $7 million, and that the project must be completed before the council can consider the water connection

shortage. The council stated that it is not opposed to the water study, but that the sewer system remains the town's priority.

Ongoing Business:

Wastewater Funding Options:

Mayor Weber reported that the town was awarded $2.9 million in loan and $514K grant from Public Works. The town has 3 months to accept this loan/grant. Jenni submitted the Ecology Grant application last week and everyone is hopeful that Ecology will award the town this grant .

Kids on Motorcycles/Go Carts:

Ken Darby explained that there is still serious concern about kids speeding around town on motorcycles and go carts. He is so worried that someone is going to get seriously hurt. Jenni said that a newsletter about this issue has been sent out. Mayor Weber asked if she could contact Whitman County Sheriff's office to see if maybe they can come talk to the families involved.

Ferro's Water Overage:

Steve explained that when he finally read the meter for Ferro's there was water usage of 51K gallons. The water meter has been turned off for over three years. Steve told the council that he is assuming that the pipes may have melted during the fire and caused the water consumption. The council told Jenni that due to the circumstances that she should adjust their bill and remove the $49 charge.

Insuring the Water Tank:

Jenni told the council that the insurance premium for covering the $2,000,000 water tank would be $13,300 annually. The council felt that since it was the town's only water source and that it should be insured. They suggested calling Keller Associates to determine the replacement cost of the tank and then insure it for that cost. Jenni will do this tomorrow.

Town Hall Furnace:
The council reviewed the bill to fix the leak in the Town Hall's furnace. The furnace is 14 years old. The cost to fix is $1,400 the cost to replace was $6400. The council decided to just fix it.

Town's Zoning Ordinance:
Jenni and Steve told the council that the town's zoning ordinance should be reviewed by the town's attorney. There are obscure sections that need to be revised and clearer. The council told her to contact Eric Hansen to review.

2027 Preliminary Budget:
Jenni reviewed the preliminary 2027 budget. Cory motioned to approve a 4% raise to employees and Sam Keller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all except Ken Darby who abstained.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Cory Cucchiara and seconded by Sam Keller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all. The meeting ended at 9:02 p.m.

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Approved By Mayor Attested By Clerk