

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 3, 2019
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger*, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Nancy Butler - Bookkeeper
Absent: Frank Tomaino – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Mosley called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2020 budget for the town. Ms. Butler told the board that due to computer issues, the budget is not ready. Budget packages were handed to out which contained the budget worksheets from each department.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge gave the board members present a copy of his budget for the highway fund. Mr. Colesante asked if there are any surprises in this budget outline, Mr. Woolridge answered no. Mr. Woolridge did not cover raise increases. Mr. Moran asked what the highway employees are thinking, Mr. Woolridge thinks 3%, Mr. Moran asked if 3% will cover the increase in health insurance, as this has been a problem in the past. Ms. Butler has not gotten the estimate from the insurance company but it has historically come in at 6%. Ms. Butler reminded the board that the highway employees get the benefit that the Town pays for their portion of disability and life insurance, this year the Town picked up family leave insurance at no cost to the employee.

Discussion turned to the difficulties of the cost of medical insurance and the fact the Town does not cover insurance once an employees retires. The board members present discussed at length the possibility of bridging coverage for the employee. The Town currently pays for 75% of the cost of insurance, it is a possibility that the Town could either continue this once an employee retires until they can pick up medicare at 65 years of age. There of course will need to be rules, number of years and retirement age, employee would have to meet both for the Town to consider the gap coverage. With the small number of employees that would qualify, this is something the board members need to consider, it could be budgeted now for future use.

The big items in the Highway Budget will be to pay off the balance of the new plow truck that was purchased along with the purchase of a new pickup truck.

*Mr. Metzger joined the meeting at 10:30am

Mr. Mosley brought up the situation that is once again happening on Center St. Mr. Woolridge is working on improving the road. This portion of the road is dirt, Mr. Woolridge is making improvements to be able to lay grinding down and put a topper of asphalt down either this year or next. Mr. Woolridge was doing some work to correct a drainage issue out of the right of way, a resident on the road believes Mr. Woolridge is working illegally and called the New York State Troopers to complain. Mr. Mosley also received a call about the issue.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Mr. Moran has been working on the paperwork to apply for a grant for backup generators for both the town hall and the highway garage. To complete the application the following resolution needs to be approved.

COUNCILMAN: **Colesante**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

The Town Board for the Town of Constantia authorizes Thomas J. Moran Town Councilman and Deputy Supervisor to apply for a \$15,000 grant for emergency backup generators for the Highway Department located at 60 Railroad St., Bernhards Bay and for the Town Hall at 14 Frederick St., Constantia. This grant is from NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), 75% grant with remainder from federal cost share, or if not, from local revenue.

Seconded by Councilman: **Metzger**

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Kenneth Mosley	Voted	Yes
Richard Colesante	Voted	Yes
John Metzger	Voted	Yes
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Frank Tomaino	Absent	

OTHER TOPICS:

Mr. Mosley has submitted the Shared Services paperwork, hopefully the Town will be reimbursed some money from the joint purchase of the paver and the lowboy trailer with West Monroe.

The revitalization committee would like to purchase two planters at a cost of \$279.98, all board members present authorized the purchase of the planters.

Mrs. Zehr, Park and Recreation Committee Chair discussed purchasing an AED for the David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay. Mr. Haynes, Chief of the CVFD suggested the park purchase the same AED as the FD uses for consistency, price for the unit is \$2,236.45. Mr. Metzger agrees with the consistency, also believes that one should be ordered for the town hall. Mr. Metzger requested Mrs. Haynes apply for a JCap Grant to cover the charge, Mrs. Haynes will check to see if the JCap Grant is still open.

Mr. Moran would like to address the lighting districts in the Town, there are currently two districts, both districts are being charged on ad valorem basis. Each year the Town over budgets for these districts, as they are currently being treated the funds are co-mingled with the General Fund. Mr. Moran would like to see the two districts dissolved and one new district created to encompass the entire town. A major stumbling block is the original paperwork creating the districts cannot be located. Mrs. Haynes has contacted the Department of State and the Oswego County Clerk's Office with no success. This will need more discussion, but Mr. Moran will like to take the over budgeting into consideration this year.

ADJOURN:

At 11:40 am the meeting adjourned.