

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES - TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 31, 2019**  
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 9:10 am Mr. Moran called the budget workshop to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**HIGHWAY FUND:**

Mr. Woolridge came to explain why he wanted to put the extra \$42,750 of the Oswego County Ice and Snow Agreement into DB5110.1 PS. Mr. Woolridge has since changed his mind, Mr. Woolridge realized after the initial request that in the 2020-2021 snow season the Town will be responsible to purchase their own salt. With that in mind he would like to make the following changes:

DB5110.1 General Repairs PS decrease to \$200,000  
DB5142.4 Snow Removal CE increase to \$85,000 (\$20,000 to be used for the purchase of salt in (2020-2021)  
DB5148.1 Services Other Gov'ts PS increase to \$54,750 to be used for snow removal payroll

Ms. Butler has handed out a memo giving the estimate of payroll expense, memo reads as follows:

Estimated the actual 2020 payroll expense for the highway department including overtime and arrived at a total expense of \$46,945.

Considering the (5) Payroll PS Expense Accounts total of \$46,989, the increase in PS would be justified as without this increase highway payroll would be under budgeted.

This explains why there have been budget transfers in the highway payroll accounts in the past 2 years. Last year the payroll accounts fell short \$16,335. A transfer was needed in the highway budget from the Unappropriated Fund Balance as there were no other expense accounts with enough funds.

Ms. Butler arrived at her calculations by doing a 2 year analysis of the highway payroll and actual overtime amounts.

Note: This total for the 2020 payroll only allows for 1 seasonal man.

The only discussion on the payroll lines was Mr. Woolridge indicating that if he get close he will get reimbursed from the CHIPs monies for payroll.

The board members present agreed with Mr. Woolridge suggestion.

Members of the town board wanted to make sure they kept pretty close or even under the tax cap as last year there was a higher than normal increase. Mr. Metzger did a comparison last year, a majority of the increase came from the County's portion. If the tax bills for 2020 show an increase, Mrs. Haynes will contact Mr. Metzger for a comparison so the taxpayers will know where the increase came from.

Mr. Woolridge was asked if he thinks the County will be looking to increase the tax bill because the 2019-2020 Ice and Snow Agreement, is significantly higher than 2018-2019 where the County paid only \$5,000 per mile. Mr. Woolridge is hopeful the County will take it as a wash as the County will no longer be supplying salt of sand to the Town. Other towns in the County were not happy with this agreement as they have more overtime because of the snow they get. Constantia also has a mining permit that is active, the Town uses the County's crusher at no cost. Mr. Woolridge believes once the County's mining permit expires they will pull out all together, at this time Mr. Woolridge think the Town should try to buy the land that the County currently mines. This property is adjacent to the Town's property, Mr. Woolridge believes the permit is good for two more years.

The new plow truck will not be ready until after the first of the year, Mr. Woolridge planned on making a partial payment in 2019, this will still be necessary to stay within the budget figures.

**LIGHTING DISTRICT:**

Ms. Butler updated the board members on the lighting district. The major change is to the first page under Less Fund Balance & Appr Reserve, by adding on Lighting #1 \$4,000 and Lighting #2 \$13,000 this will not raise taxes for this district. It will use up some of the unappropriated fund balance, this is important as the board is looking into dissolving these districts and it is important to get the funds back to the residents. Using the unappropriated fund balance, the Town is now under the tax cap by \$17,000.

**SEWERS:**

Discussion on sewers and the role the highway department will play. Mr. Woolridge told the board that Mr. Avery DPW Superintendent for the village of Cleveland now has his license to operate the sewer plant. Mr. Colesante asked if a person needs to have their license to do the testing at the pump stations that will be located in Constantia. Mrs. Haynes will email Mr. Clark for an answer. Discussion continued to the fact that the highway department will need a new building to house the sewer operations, once the Town knows that funding is coming the board will want to start collecting more from the sewer district to pay for the building.

The board members present think it is a good idea to send a letter to all residents in the sewer district explaining the reasoning on charging now for the district. A major point is to let the residents know that the district was formed, so legally the district needs to pay for all steps to move forward. Mr. Mosley will not be holding a Supervisor's meeting on Monday, the rest of the board will meet to draft the letter.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Public hearing on the 2020 Constantia Town Budget will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Constantia Town Hall.

**ADJOURN:**

At 11:15 pm the meeting adjourned.