

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD – April 21, 2020
7:30 pm Town of Constantia – via Zoom

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran, Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commissioner
Roy Reehil – County Legislator
David Powers – Barton & Loquidice

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:34 pm Mr. Mosley called the town board meeting to order. As per recommended procedures during COVID-19 using Zoom - Mr. Mosley asked each board member if they were at their house of record in the Town of Constantia, all board members responded they were.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Lovell 103 Doris Park Drive, was at the March town board meeting to ask the board to approve a resolution that was reviewed by Mr. Bader and Mr. Langley attorneys for the Town. Board members at the March meeting had questions as to the wording of the resolution and asked Ms. Lovell to contact her attorney again to review the resolution. The reason for the resolution is a portion of Ms. Lovell's home and shed are located in 2nd Avenue which is considered a paper road. Doris Park has many paper roads, these roads have not been accepted by the Town. Mr. Bader told the board members that he approved the resolution as submitted at the March meeting and is happy with the wording. Mr. Moran is concerned with covenants that go with other properties as to access to this paper road. Mr. Colesante noted there was no change in the resolution and asked if Ms. Lovell contacted her attorney, she said she did and was under the impression that he reached out to the Town. Mr. Bader told the board that the resolution states that the encroachment can stay, but if anything were to happen to the structure then it cannot be put back. Mr. Bader told the board that there are many encroachments in the Doris Park area and they must be taken case by case to make a decision. The major concern would be for the upcoming sewer project and the possibility of running lines down the road, Mr. Bader indicated when the design and draw stage is completed they will need to either go under or around the structure, this in no way allows Ms. Lovell to cut off the paper road completely. Mr. Mosley requested Mr. Bader reach out to Ms. Lovell's attorney Mr. Grasso to discuss the resolution. The matter will be on the docket for the May 4th Supervisor's meeting at 9 am, hopefully this matter can be resolved at that time.

SEWER:

Mr. Powers reported there is not a lot to update, still moving forward with grant paperwork. WQIP a new application and hopefully an offer from USDA Rural Development sometime in the next few weeks.

The door to door income survey was completed before the COVID-19 quarantine started, the numbers look good for the Town to receive the hardship loan rate of 1.375%. Looking for the final numbers in the coming weeks to be submitted with the application.

Barton & Logudice is still waiting on the required sanitary survey from Oswego County Health Department. With the quarantine some departments are working from home and with limited hours hopefully the survey to be completed soon.

Mr. Powers earlier today sent a resolution for the board to review and if acceptable approve. The resolution is standard language from Agriculture and Markets that must be submitted with the RD application. The resolution deals with lateral restrictions as it pertains to agricultural districts within the sewer district. Agriculture and Markets is concerned with suburban sprawl, they do not want large developments to spring up after a district is completed. This resolution will restrict future development of the parcels, as indicated as Ag, to be divided into 4 parcels, subdivision over 4 will need approval by the Town, County and the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Mr. Moran is uncomfortable with the resolution as he just received it earlier and would like to be able to read it before approval, all board members agreed this resolution will be on the agenda for the May 4th Supervisor's meeting.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Metzger asked Mr. Reehil if we are a part of the regional decision-making with Onondaga County. Mr. Reehil responded that we are not part of the 5 Counties as discussed in the press conference but Onondaga County and Oswego County are working closely as our counties are adjacent with a lot of traffic flow between the two. Onondaga County will be the lead, but both Counties will be working together to re-open, hopefully that will be soon.

County services are still up and running, Office of the Aging and Veterans Services are willing to help where they can.

Mr. Metzger asked about revenue sharing, any indication as to how much less will be brought in by sales tax, Mr. Reehil stated that the last quarter sales tax was higher than last year. There have been no new number since the COVID-19 outbreak.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2020 town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley - Yes

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #3 Dated March 17, 2020:

General Fund	110-130	\$36,385.23
Highway Fund	53-77	\$38,191.84
Sewer	4	\$ 758.00

Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley - Yes

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the Supervisor’s report dated March 31, 2020, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley - Yes

-Annual Financial Report was submitted on March 18, 2020

TOWN CLERK – TAX COLLECTOR:

Mrs. Haynes reported to the board that tax collection has been completed in the Town for 2020. A total of \$2,256,082.64 was turned over to the County on April 13th. The board members approved as part of tonight’s vouchers the franchise fee that the County will no longer be reimbursing the Town, this is the final payment the County is waiting for to completely settle with the Town. During the 2021 budget meetings there will need to be a line included within the budget to offset this expense.

Mrs. Haynes reported that the total receipts and disbursements for the Town Clerk’s Office for the month of March were \$1,793.00. Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Town Clerk, Tax Collector reports as given, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley – Yes

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Haynes - CEO stepped into the meeting to voice his concerns about issuing building permits. Currently Mr. Haynes is using the court drop box and USPS to issue permits, the concern is the Governor’s protocol prohibits work unless it is an emergency. ie: roof is leaking, must be fixed. Mr. Bader has reviewed the protocol it does not mention issuing building permits. Mr. Bader believes it is okay to issue the permit, but suggests giving a letter stating that the Governor’s order is that only necessary work is to be completed at this time. After discussion, Mr. Mosley requested Mr. Bader compose a letter to include with the building permits.

Total receipts for the Code Enforcement Office for the month of March were \$1,528.00, which balances with the Town Clerk. Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer’s report as given, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley – Yes

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr is concerned how COVID-19 will affect the park and recreation program, it is too early to cancel of course the Town will follow the Governor’s protocol. Mr. Colesante does not believe we should do anything until June 1st, the Town will be in a better position to make a decision then. Mrs. Haynes brought up the pavilions at the park, people that have already paid. Will the Town be reimbursing residents, yes or the resident can move their date if the park does open. Mrs. Haynes told the board that no new reservations will be taken until more is known if the park will open.

Ms. Zehr asked about the roof on the bath house, municipal projects are exempt from the protocol. Ms. Zehr will reach out to Mr. Stone to see when he believes he will start.

There are two Eagle projects scheduled to be completed at the park.

- Ball Pit
- Benches by the playground, these benches were pre purchased for the Eagle project to be completed at Vandercamp. With Vandercamp scheduled to be closed they moved the project to the Town Park.

Ms. Zehr asked for permission to get quotes for installation of the playground equipment that was donated. Site work will be quite extensive, Mr. Woolridge does not have the time or the manpower to commit at the present time. Ms. Zehr will get a few quotes, Mr. Moran asked if Mr. Woolridge will review spec for site preparation, in quote. Mr. Woolridge will verify the specs.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge asked about dumpsters, residents have been calling. The board told Mr. Woolridge to let people know that the Town might do them in the fall, it is unknown at this point.

-Employees are working and keeping social distancing, 2 men have been working at the shop on vehicles and 3 out on the road. They were instructed to not bunch together. Mr. Whitney is working all by himself and is using his own vehicle to do culvert inspections.

-Mr. Metzger asked if they are wearing protection, yes masks, gloves and there is hand sanitizer available. Mr. Woolridge did purchase a thermometer which is being used, if anyone is feeling sick they can go home.

-There are still 2 trucks with plows and sanders, they will be changed over these soon.

-Leaves have been picked up, ditching and driveways are being done

-Mr. Ronald Cottet is back working he is hauling stone, Mr. Woolridge will be using oil and stone on 2.5 miles of roads this year. The Town will be receiving PAVENY and the Winter Recovery money, Mr. Woolridge will use these programs for the oil and stone. As for CHIPS the monies are uncertain so Mr. Woolridge will roll over the money until 2021, they will be busy paving but will do a lot of paving then.

-Waiting on FCC to get licensing for the 2 way radio system, Mr. Woolridge is hopeful he will hear something soon.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the highway superintendents report, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley - Yes

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter submitted the following report:

What a month it's been since the March town board meeting...

The **Tug Hill Times** issues of **March 27, 2020** and **April 10, 2020** both have extensive resources about the **COVID-19 pandemic**. If you are not currently receiving the Tug Hill Times and would like to receive it, please let me know.

Please note that the Tug Hill Times is currently available only by e-mail or on the Tug Hill web site at: www.tughill.org/publications/tug-hill-times/, as mailing of copies is not possible due to work-at-home restrictions. Commission employees are still at work full-time, but we do not have access to the full range of resources we have when working out of the Commission offices.

The Tug Hill Commission has a list of municipal resources, references, and other useful information at: www.tughill.org/community-resources-concerning-covid-19/

1. As you know, the **Tug Hill Local Government Conference on Thursday, March 26, 2020** was cancelled due to meeting restrictions established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement about cancellation is available on the Tug Hill web site at: www.tughill.org/2020/03/12/in-person-local-government-conference-cancelled-on-line-webinars-under-development/
We have posted as much information intended for the 2020 conference on the Tug Hill web site at: www.tughill.org/services/training/local-government-conference/2020-conference-presentations/
The Commission is in the process of processing payments for refund to registrants for the conference.
2. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the associated restrictions on meeting size, and the Executive Order relaxing provisions of the state Open Meetings law, the **Tug Hill Commission** has established a **Zoom account** which we have offered to our municipalities; we can host those meetings a town or village may need to conduct in this way.
The **Tug Hill Commission** used it at their meeting on **Monday, April 20, 2020**.
3. **Headwaters**, the Tug Hill Commission's annual report, is now out in the mail. If you did not receive a copy, let me know; we may need to update your contact information. I will have extra copies once current work and travel restrictions return closer to normal. In between, Headwaters is also available at: www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Headwaters-2019-20-FINAL.pdf or at <https://tinyurl.com/headwaters2019>
4. Laird Petrie, from the New York Office of the State Comptroller, will host a **webinar to discuss reserve funds and long-term municipal financial planning** on April 28, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. This training was originally scheduled for the March 26 Local Government Conference. To join this webinar, please follow the link below and enter the password when prompted.
<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m7f0e4ce6a7d5883382f00fd8876b936d>,
or <https://tinyurl.com/reserve0428>
Password: **Reserve1**
Or you may join by phone: 1-844-633-8697 (U.S., toll free), or 1-518-549-0500 (local)
Access code: **610 453 024**
5. There's another **teleconference** tomorrow, on Wednesday, April 22 on **siting large scale (utility-scale) solar projects**. It'll be from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., and will be conducted by people from Barton & Loguidice, and the law firm of Costello, Cooney, & Fearon. More details can be found in last Friday's Tug Hill Times. Preregistration is required for this seminar; you can pre-register at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P7or5bm5SZO_sXPj1EEUKg or at <https://tinyurl.com/apr22solar>
6. There's yet *another* webinar by the **Cornell Local Roads Program** on Wednesday, April 22, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on "Essential Work for Highway Departments" Preregistration is required; you can pre-register at https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lfmHmkdiSM68bxa2aO5Fjg or <https://tinyurl.com/clressentials>
Cornell Local Roads also has a paper on "COVID-19: Essential Highway Work" at

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

-Ms. Petkash, Chairman for the Planning Board has reached out to Mr. Colesante about holding Planning Board meetings, also Mr. Haynes has a few applications for the Board of Appeals. At this time the town board members are requesting Chairman of all boards to hold off until May 15th as noted in the latest order as received by the Governor. On this topic, Mr. Mosley questioned if the town hall can be used to hold meetings instead of ZOOM, there is enough space to sit 6ft apart. Mr. Metzger is concerned about the lack of two entrances, there is no way to social distance in the hallways, best to just wait for clarification.

Mr. Colesante discussed the Recreational Vehicle law that the board has been working on, Mrs. Haynes will send out the final draft for review at the May 12th meeting. Mr. Metzger and Mr. Colesante have also created the next amendment to the Land Development Law that deals with storage containers, Mrs. Haynes will also send that to all parties.

-First interest payment is due for the Bernhards Bay Water District, it will be \$37,000.00 payable next month.

-Mr. Moran wanted the board members to know that Mr. Todd Solomon has contacted him about the antenna that is being proposed on West St. in the Village. Mr. Solomon believes he has an open file for one on Martin Rd which would cover this area. Mrs. Haynes told the board that Mr. Solomon has notified her that he will be submitting a FOIL request for the file. Mr. Moran asked if the Town Law on telecommunication towers would cover the Village, no it would not the Village has its own laws as they are a separate entity. As the board members might remember Mr. Solomon was turned down by the planning board and denied the permit. Mr. Solomon ended up suing the Town.

ADJOURN:

At 9:39 pm Mr. Moran made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino– Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Mosley - Yes