

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD – May 19, 2020
7:30 pm Town of Constantia – Constantia Town Hall and via Zoom

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

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 pm Mr. Mosley called the town board meeting to order. As per recommended procedures during COVID-19 using Zoom - Mr. Mosley asked Mr. Metzger the only board member attending via Zoom if he was at his house of record in the Town of Constantia, he responded he was. All other board members and the town supervisor were in attendance at the town hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

SEWER:

The Town received an amended median household income letter from NYSEFC, this letter is important to the Town as it will help with hardship funding. The new accepted MHI is \$46,750., Mr. Powers is hopeful the Town will receive a hardship funding letter shortly.

Mr. Powers has followed up with USDA RD with the additional grant paperwork requested. 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. If the sanitary survey shows that a percentage of parcels have a difficult time installing septic it will increase the amount of grant money the project can receive. All portions of the funding process is important when looking at a project of this size.

WATER:

Mr. Clark asked the board members if there had been any more thought on extending the current water districts to the areas of Town in need. Mr. Colesante is aware that residents on Auringer Rd were interested in both water and sewer. Understanding the sewer cannot be added to the current district, but working on water extensions might be a good idea. Mr. Clark brings this up because the cut off for the WIIA Grant is only once a year and there is quite a bit that needs to be done to get the application ready. The board will discuss the possibility at the Supervisor's meeting.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr told the board the park and recreation commission will be meeting at the park on Wednesday night to discuss opening plans for the park. There will be no swimming at the park for Memorial Day weekend, as there is just not enough information as to what would be required by NYS and the COVID rules. It is unsure how the 50% capacity rule would work, so many questions are still unanswered. Mr. Colesante believes the Oswego County Health Department will have guidance as they issue the Town the necessary permits. The Town will need to set a date to make sure there is enough staff. At this point it is best to wait and see, the board does not want to cancel the summer program.

Mr. Mosley asked what is to stop people from accessing the park, Mr. Colesante responded that we have never controlled access and does not think the Town should now.

Mrs. Haynes told the board members that the park is rented for June 6th, this reservation will need to be cancelled. The next rental is for June 20th, Mrs. Haynes will reach out to let the renter know that it is uncertain if the park will be open.

Ms. Zehr has spoken to Mr. Stone the contractor that was awarded the bid to replace the roof on the bathhouse, he will be starting the roof either Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Mr. Tomaino requested Ms. Zehr reach out to Kapper Landscaping in Brewerton, they are interested in giving a quote for the installation of the playground, Ms. Zehr will reach out.

At 8:00pm Ms. Zehr left the meeting.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 6th supervisor meeting, April 21st town board meeting and May 4th supervisor meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

VOUCHERS:

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

General Fund	131-153	\$ 9,668.45
Highway Fund	78-98	\$27,935.20
Bernhards Bay Water	4-5	\$37,561.00
Sewer	5-6	\$22,075.35

Seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran read the following into the minutes:

Referring to budget transfer sheet #1 for April 2020, General Fund account A1910.4 Spec. Item Unall (Insurance) is over budget \$2,580.36, I therefore make a motion to transfer \$2,580.36 from A1990.4 Contingency account to replenish the aforementioned over budget insurance account. This will leave \$84,691.64 balance in the contingency account. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Mr. Moran commented on the sales tax monies received from the County at \$85,538., it is much higher than normal. Mr. Woolridge has spoken to Ms. Butler, Bookkeeper as this amount is way too high there must be a problem somewhere. Ms. Butler will look into the issue as it should be closer to \$30,000 to \$40,0000.

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the Supervisor’s report dated April 30, 2020, seconded by Mr. Tomaino.

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

Mr. Moran also told the board that it has been a full year since changing the street lighting to LED, total savings in a year was \$5,125., this is much greater than expected.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

- The new truck that was the wrong color is back from being painted.
- Some blacktop was completed, Willard Dr, will go up and finish Sunfish and Wind Jammer that was started last year. That will finish paving the rest of the roads will be topped with oil and stone. CHIPS funding is not guaranteed, Mr. Woolridge believes it is best for the Town wait until 2021 and do two years’ worth of paving then.
- With budget constraints in mind, Mr. Woolridge will not be renting the long arm mower this year, will be putting money into the one the Town owns.
- Water will be turned on at the park on Thursday.
- Mr. Woolridge will need help from Mr. Bader as there is a water issue on Doris Park Drive. There used to be a drainage ditch between two houses, at some point this ditch was filled in by the homeowner. The homeowner claims Mr. Webb, previous Highway Superintendent gave permission to put in the drainage pipe and fill in the ditch. Mr. Woolridge has no documentation or a right of way for this area. There is a problem with the pipe, it appears to be plugged and it is causing issues and needs to be replaced but without an easement the Town has no right to go onto the property or spend the money to fix the issue. Mr. Bader will meet Mr. Woolridge at the location tomorrow.
- Dumpster Days are on hold at the present time.

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Highway Superintendent’s report seconded by Mr. Tomaino.

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

TOWN CLERK – TAX COLLECTOR:

Mrs. Haynes reported that the total receipts and disbursements for the Town Clerk’s Office for the month of April were \$1,866.25.

Mrs. Haynes told the board that \$10,729.15 was turned over to the town supervisor to finish the 2020 tax collection season on May 7th. Mr. Tomaino 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

ASSESSOR:

Mr. Wheeler submitted the following report:

It is that time of year when we hold hearings for complaints on property owner’s assessments. No one ever would have thought that our current situation would dictate that the face to face meetings will not be allowed.

I wanted to give the Board an update as to how we are going to proceed with hearing those complaints, without putting anyone involved at risk. I have been reaching out to the members of the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) to work out the logistics of Grievance Day. The Executive Order from April 20, 2020 allows municipalities to hold remote hearings. The plan is for anyone that wished to file a complaint, will do so with me prior to grievance day. I will then forward that information to all BAR members and they will have the opportunity to deliberate each complaint via telephone.

I will be in the building on Grievance Day to gather any complaints that should come in during the day and evening times; but will inform the property owner’s that a face to face meeting is not an option.

No one will be denied their right to challenge their assessment, it will just be handled slightly different this year, and hopefully only for this year.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Assessor's report as received, seconded by Mr. Tomaino.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Haynes continues to work remotely, issuing permits via drop box and mail. Total receipts for the Code Enforcement Office for the month of April were \$1,420.75, which balances with the Town Clerk. Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's report as given, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

JUSTICE:

Justice Simpson put in a voucher requesting reimbursement for his trips to CAP (Centralized Arraignment Part) the board is not sure if the Town should be responsible as the Justice is being paid for their time. Mr. Colesante would like to know what the intent of the payment is, is the money for both time on the bench and travel. This is a direct result of the bail reform law another unfunded mandate. The board members do not want to penalize Justice Simpson, but would like to have an answer as to the above question. Mr. Mosley will reach out to the 5th Judicial District to see if they have an answer.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept Justice Pelon's report for March, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

DOG CONTROL:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Dog Control Officer's report as submitted, seconded by Mr. Tomaino.

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

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter submitted the following report:

As we're still under NY PAUSE, to assist you in keeping your meeting size under the limit of ten, I'm submitting this report in advance of tonight's meeting, and will not be attending. Please let me know if anything comes out of tonight's meeting that I can help you with.

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. If you are not currently receiving the Tug Hill Times and would like to receive it, please let me know.

The Tug Hill Commission has a list of municipal resources, references, and other useful information at: <https://www.tughill.org/covid-19/>. This page and the documents on it are being regularly updated as new information becomes available.

1. All refunds for **Tug Hill Local Government Conference 2020** registration have been issued. We have worked to make as much information intended for the conference available via our web site. You can get to it by going to www.tughill.org/services/training/local-government-conference/2020-conference-presentations/, or just go to www.tughill.org, go to the Training menu, and select Local Government Conference > 2020 Conference Publications.
2. A webinar that may be of interest is being held by the Office of the State Comptroller tomorrow, on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m., on **Policies and Procedures for Managing Your Municipality**. You can register for that one at www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/academy/webinarstraining.htm
3. As Constantia is one of the communities conducting municipal meetings by teleconference, it's pertinent that the Governor issued Executive Order 202.28 on Thursday, May 7, **extending the alternate provisions for the state Open Meetings Law until June 6, 2020**.
4. The **tentative tax roll** has been posted to the town web site, in compliance with state law. I also posted a notice that went out from the county detailing changes in New York State law that affects taxpayers and Basic STAR benefits.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

-Letter received from BCA Architects & Engineers on the Village of Cleveland Water System Improvements NEPA consultation. The letter is requesting that any comments from the Town be sent within 30 days of May 13, 2020. Mr. Moran has an issue and is afraid that Mr. Woolridge will be burdened with a portion of the project as it is coming right down Center St a section that is located within the Town. Mr. Woolridge is checking out the progress as he does not want any issues with culverts, they will be working within the Town's right of way. Mr. Moran is also wondering about the OCWA interconnect, as the Village is now doing a second well. Mr. Moran was under the impression the interconnect would replace the need for the second well. Mr. Woolridge responded the interconnect is still happening and is going right down the Oswego County ATV Trail with no Village involvement. Mr. Moran requested Mr. Mosley reach out to the Village to get the paperwork mentioned for review.

Mr. Colesante spoke to Mr. Haynes – CEO today, Mr. Haynes is wondering when the planning board and the board of appeals will be meeting again. Mr. Haynes has a number of issues waiting for each board to review.

After discussion it was decided Mr. Mosley will contact Ms. Petkash, Planning Board Chair and Mr. Macri, Board of Appeals Chair to discuss their plans for meeting.

A sewer meeting scheduled for tomorrow May 20th, because of meeting limitations and with no new information it was decided to cancel the meeting. Mr. Mosley will reach out to Mayor Tackman to let her know that the Town is waiting on funding before there will be movement on the sewer district.

ADJOURN:

At 8:49 pm Mr. Tomaino made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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