

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD – June 16, 2020
7:30 pm Town of Constantia – Constantia Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Thomas Moran – Council Member - via Zoom
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commissioner
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

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. Moran 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:

Residents were in from Doris Park Drive that are requesting a speed limit change for their road. They were told they need to submit a petition of the residents, return the petition to the Town Clerk. The board will then instruct Mr. Woolridge to send to Oswego County Highway who will forward the information to NYSDOT, it is a long process the last request took almost a year as it is NYS who sets speed limits.

Christine Johnson – 297-99 N. Auringer Rd came to speak to the board about an issue with the neighbors. At issue is the neighbor brought in a camper and is staying in it on the weekends, that might have been acceptable but at times another one or two have been brought in. Ms. Johnson did call Mr. Haynes – CEO who came and had one camper removed as it is against the current Land Development Law to occupy more than one camper on a parcel of land. Mr. Haynes also had the owner put in a septic system as a holding tank was put in the ground and they are illegal in Oswego County. The board is aware that there are many issues with people living in campers in the Town, because of this the board is working on updating the Land Development Law to tighten the rules. Of major concern is sewage, where is it going, and campers are not made to live in year round. The next meeting on campers will be June 30th at 9am the public is welcome to attend. The changes to the law are pretty close to being accepted by the board, a public hearing will need to be set for final approval.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr told the board members that after the last park and recreation committee meeting it was decided that the summer rec program will need to be cancelled, there are just too many rules that will need to be followed. The park will still be offering breakfast and lunch pickup for families that qualify. The food distribution program will be July 6th to August 20th 11am to 1pm. Also, there will be a virtual craft event which will be put on the park's Face Book page.

Ms. Zehr was hopeful that quotes would be back for the playground installation, but still waiting six companies have the information. Quotes were asked for with and without site work as it is unsure if the highway department will have enough time to put site work into their schedule.

There are currently 3 Boy Scouts projects ongoing at the park, a Gaga ball pit, benches and painting of the lifeguard chairs.

Mr. Tomaino commented that the roof on the bath house at the park looks great, E. S. Stone Contracting did an excellent job.

SEWER:

The Town received a letter from the EFC dated June 15, 2020 informing the Town that the sewer district qualifies for the interest-free financing for a term up to 30 years. This is great news, the Town Board was hoping to qualify.

WATER:

Mr. Mosley asked Mr. Colesante if he has reached out to the resident on Auringer Rd about the water petition, he has not but will.

MINUTES:

Mr. Tomaino made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 12th special meeting, May 19th town board meeting and June 1st supervisor's meeting, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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 #6 Dated June 16, 2020:

General Fund	154-186	\$27,429.72
Highway Fund	99-122	\$71,553.09
Sewer	7	\$ 1,057.26

Seconded by Mr. Tomaino.

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

SUPERVISOR:

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

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

-The loop has been completely paved, hopefully paving will be done in a week or so, chip sealing has been completed.

-Last Friday Mr. Woolridge received confirmation of CHIPS money authorizing payment from the State with a 20% reduction. Mr. Woolridge will still be holding off paving additional roads until 2021, as the highway department is short on help and believes it will be better for the Town to hold off.

-Working on fixing long arm mower – parts are expensive but still cheaper to fix what we have.

-Bridge on Cemetery Rd has been red flagged. Mr. Woolridge was surprised it went right to red flag as usually it is yellow flagged allowing time to repair. The center beam is the issue, the County will fix the bridge and then remove the grate deck and replace with asphalt. The bridge will be posted reducing the load to 19,000 and reducing to one lane.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Highway Superintendent’s report seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Mosley brought up approving department reports were there is no action to be taken as a group. Mr. Colesante is mainly concerned with code enforcement, after discussion it was agreed that Mr. Haynes, CEO will continue to attend the supervisor’s meeting to give the board updates and answer questions. Mr. Tomaino made the motion to accept the following reports as received, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

- a. Code Enforcement received \$1,785.00 for May
- b. Justice Pelon for **May** and Justice Simpson for **March, April and May**
- c. Town Clerk received \$2,521.00 for May and Tax Collector received notice that 2020 tax levy has been fully paid.

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

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

As Phase I reopening following NY PAUSE has started for our region, I can now travel for work, and we are now under Phase III. And, good news: the Governor announced that the meeting size limits for Phase III communities has been relaxed, with a new not-to-exceed number of 25.

The Governor’s executive order allowing non-in-person meetings (via means such as Zoom) has been extended until July 7. Should that be useful, I can offer Zoom hosting service for the town.

The Tug Hill Commission offices have re-opened consistent with the 50% staffing level under the current phase of regional re-opening. We’re on a schedule with Watertown-based staff where at any given time, half of the staff is in the Watertown office is in the office, and the rest are still working from home. There’s a rotation of who is working from the Watertown office. Our re-opening approach includes physical distancing and masks and sanitizing and everything else we’re seeing in other contexts. Since we are now free to travel for work, Tug Hill staff is once again available for any meetings of 25 or less total attending.

The Tug Hill Commission met via teleconference yesterday. A video of the meeting is available at <https://tughill.org/minutes/>

The Tug Hill Commission will hold a teleconference on Justice Court Solutions for Small Towns and Villages on Thursday, June 18, from 10:30 a.m. until noon. We’re requesting preregistration at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BHgunBP3RAqC5M4x6kpvhQ or <https://tinyurl.com/tughilljustice>.

There are multiple options available to municipalities for shared services in the justice courts, some of which require home rule legislation and action by the State Legislature and some which require no home rule legislation and local action only. This session will provide details on these options and share several real-life Tug Hill examples. The commission’s issue paper on the topic is good background material, available at the Tug Hill web site (www.tughill.org) under Publications: Technical & Issue Papers.

There will be another teleconference on June 23 about How to Enhance Transparency in Planning Procedures, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Preregistration is requested, and the information on how to do so is on the Tug Hill web site, www.tughill.org.

Finally, I have a limited number of copies of the new Tug Hill region recreation guide. You’ll remember that earlier I’d mentioned we would be distributing them starting at the Local Government Conference. I will have additional copies to distribute to Constantia, and I’ll drop them off to the town clerk as available.

PLANNING BOARD:

Next meeting June 30th

BOARD OF APPEALS:

Next meeting June 25th

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

Mr. Mosley received a letter from Ms. Darracq, Johnson Rd, Mr. Wheeler responded today, copy of both letters sent to the board members.

Mrs. Haynes talked to the board about offering online dog payments, it is quite costly but wanted to let the board know it is available, \$1,610.00 is the cost for the first year with initial set up charges. There is a yearly fee to the Town of \$360.00. After discussion, it was decided to wait as there is no real benefit to the Town, just another expense with no better compliance. The board members are interested in having another enumeration done, Mr. Mosley will reach out to Ms. Ashley.

Mr. Moran received a call from Mrs. MacDowell with concerns of the damage that is being done to Scriba Park. Apparently Ms. MacDowell indicated that 4-wheelers from the County trail are accessing the park and doing quite a bit of damage. This is a problem that was discussed a few years ago, Mr. Colesante does know that it is a big problem and with no exaggeration the damage is in the \$100,000 range. In the past residents have been told that Conservation Officers will not write tickets as the park is not properly posted. Mr. Moran is wondering if there is a way to block the entrance, there are two trees at the top of the hill, maybe put boulders up there. Mr. Woolridge would be concerned at where to block, as the 4-wheelers will just go around, also will need to be careful of placement as if there is an accident would not want someone hitting them and causing the Town to be liable. Definitely more signs need to be installed, Mr. Mosley and Mr. Woolridge will visit the site.

Mr. Mosley told the board of a situation about a camper placed on Town property, Mr. Mosley believes the camper should be moved. The camper is on what is known as the fire department access to Oneida Lake at the end of Kibbie Lake Rd. One property owner that adjourns the property put his camper on the property, after discussion it was decided the camper will need to be moved, Mr. Haynes will contact the owner.

ADJOURN:

At 9:12 pm Mr. Tomaino made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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