

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES – END OF YEAR MEETING – December 31, 2020**  
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor  
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran, Frank Tomaino – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Nancy Butler- Bookkeeper  
John T. Haynes – Code Enforcement Officer

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 9:00 am Mr. Mosley called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. As per recommended procedures during COVID-19 all persons in attendance were seated 6ft apart. Mr. Metzger was joining the meeting via ZOOM, and Mr. Haynes, CEO via phone.

**VOUCHERS:**

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept general fund vouchers listed on Abstract #13 dated December 31, 2020 for \$1,500.00, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

**FEES:**

Members present discussed new fees that need to be set for then new laws that were passed in 2020. Mrs. Haynes sent out requests to other Towns for their fee schedules for Code Enforcement, seven Towns responded. First to be discussed was fees for solar farms as the Town already has a .25 per sq ft approved for residential. Mr. Haynes would like the fee for solar farms to be in line with cell tower, mainly as a deterrent. Mr. Haynes has spoken to quite a few representatives looking to install solar farms on properties within the Town, the most recent was looking to install solar panels on 15 acres next to the school. While discussing the potential for that property Mr. Haynes learned that the solar companies are used to the fees and know they have a lot of hoops to go thru in order to gain approval. The major obstacle for our area will be transmission lines, the owner of the solar farm is responsible for all the cost to install and get the proper infrastructure for the farms, this is a huge expense. Mr. Colesante is not necessarily in favor of a large fee as he would not want to discourage a property owner of this type of income from their property. These property owners will need to go thru the planning board for approval, hopefully if neighbors are not in agreement they will be able to have their concerns heard. Mr. Moran asked how many inspections are needed for the solar panels, Mr. Haynes responded there is not many, manly just for the foundations as most sit on pre cast blocks and bolt together. After further discussion as to the fee on commercial solar farms it was determined that Mr. Mosley will reach out to other Oswego County Towns that have solar farms for additional information.

Wind – Mr. Haynes told the board that he does not believe wind is feasible for Constantia. Mr. Haynes had a long discussion with Mr. David Webb about putting up a wind turbine at the highway garage, Mr. Webb investigated the option at length, going as far as getting a grant for installation. Mr. Haynes remembers the turbine would need to be 250ft in the air, Mr. Haynes does not get calls for wind turbines.

RV's – After discussion all board members agree the annual fee for RV permit will be \$35 yearly.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:**

When reviewing the employee handbook Ms. Butler realized the board members did not cover non-elected salary employees, page 14 of the handbook only covers highway employees. The board members need to review and make a policy, Ms. Butler did do research and found out that the Town can create a benefit package for this category of employee. Employees in this category would be Assessor, Code Enforcement, Bookkeeper, Justice Clerks and Park Director. Ms. Butler has not run into this scenario- a salary employee needing time off in this case surgery. After a lengthy discussion the board members determined the employee needs to apply for NYS disability. All board members agreed that this type of employee will need to be added to the handbook and proper benefit package put into place.

**MANDATORY EMERGENCY PLANNING:**

Mrs. Haynes reminded the board that NYS is mandating a policy be put into place by April 1, 2021. The Town has received two different policies that have been reviewed by Mr. Metzger, Mr. Moran and Mrs. Haynes. Costello, Cooney and Fearon sent a policy also the Tug Hill Commission. Both policies will be reviewed and sent to all board members before the required deadline of April 1, 2021.

**ADJOURN:**

At 11:25 am the meeting adjourned.