

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD – October 19, 2021
7:30 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Richard Colesante, Thomas Moran, Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader - Town Attorney
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Chair
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loguidice

Absent: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
John Metzger – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 pm with Mr. Mosley absence, Councilman Tomaino called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

SEWER:

Mr. Clark was asked how much should the edu charge be raised for the 2022 budget. Mr. Clark expects closing on the short term funding to happen before the end of this year, no firm date yet but it looks like November or December. Rules for this funding is a principal payment must be made 2 years after the closing date. The district will need to make that payment in December of 2023. With that being said, the district will have cash flow from the financing. With the most optimistic outlook they would like to start on the treatment plant next year, if not working on the actual plant there might be some equipment purchased. Mr. Clark believes that first payment might be in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range. It is a good idea to sequence into full billing, to get a reserve built up, it will be needed. Of course the final decision on what to put into the budget is up to the board.

After the last supervisor’s meeting the board sent Mr. Clark a few questions, he is not prepared to answer all tonight. Mr. Clark is going to reach out to DEC to get an answer from them on how to handle a few of the questions. One question - can new builds install a new septic system in the district, the answer to this one is no. The other questions that mainly deal with residents that do not want to or refuse to sign an easement. These are questions that must be asked to DEC and their attorneys to get a firm answer. This is why it is important to get the sewer use law started, the Town must follow and enforce the law. Mr. Baders gut feeling is that district will need 100% compliance, ultimately they will have to hook up. Mr. Clark will send to the board a boilerplate sewer use law from the DEC for review. Hopefully Mr. Clark will have more information at the November 1st supervisor meeting.

WATER:

Mr. Moran asked Mr. Clark if he agreed that the two Water Districts, which have between 7 and 8 hundred thousand dollars combined fund balances, have no expectation of billings to expend the fund balances because both Districts are leased to OCWA - Mr. Clark agreed.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mr. Zehr does not have much to report, the park will be winterized later this week.

At the last commission meeting, it was noted that people are bringing their dogs to the park. Sometimes they are running free other times they are leashed. The park has signs that say no dogs, Mrs. Zehr is wondering if maybe Ms. Ashley, DCO could write tickets. Mr. Bader believes she could, Mrs. Haynes will look to see what is listed under park ordinances.

MINUTES:

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the minutes of the September 21st public hearing, September 21st town board meeting and the October 5th supervisor and budget meeting, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #10 Dated October 19, 2021:

General	323-346	\$ 11,824.06
Highway	183-200	\$ 95,925.18
Bernhards Bay	10	\$ 285.25
North Shore Water	5	\$ 2,810.00
Sewer	12-13	\$ 5,050.00

Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

- Trucks are being turned over for winter
- Sealed the seams on the new roads
- Woodshed is full for the boiler
- Mowing bill is being sent to the County
- CHIPs is being put together and sent
- Monday and Tuesday until the snow falls they will be picking up leaves

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Highway Superintendents report, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino– Yes Colesante – Yes

SUPERVISOR:

Of note for the Supervisor's report Ms. Butler has opened a new account for the American Recovery Program, \$210,819.88 is now in its own account until the Town is confident on how it can be spent. Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the Supervisor's report dated September 30, 2021, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following reports as received for September, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

- a. Code Enforcement - \$2,597.00
- b. Justice Pelon and Justice Simpson
- c. Town Clerk - \$5,648.00
- d. Dog Control

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino– Yes Colesante – Yes

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter submitted the following report:

- The Tug Hill Commission is still in the process of working out details, but it is looking more likely that there will be an in-person Local Government Conference in 2022, and Turning Stone is looking more likely as a location for the conference.
- Tug Hill sponsored a workshop on the American Rescue Plan Act, an environment which continues to change as we all learn more about it and its implementation. It was conducted today, and should be available soon on the Tug Hill Commission YouTube channel.
- The Tug Hill Commission has announced there will be online training on the state Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code on Thursday, October 21, from 6 – 8 p.m. To get meeting details, call John Healt at 315-941-2818, or e-mail him at jhealt@tughill.org.
- Of possible interest to the town board and planning board: Matt Johnson, Tug Hill's planning director, will be holding a webinar on rural comprehensive planning on Thursday, October 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This workshop is good for training hours credit for planning board members who need those.
- The Tug Hill Commission is hiring! We're able to move forward in filling some staff vacancies of long standing, further complicated by COVID issues of recent time. We are looking for an Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects, an entry level Projects Specialist, and an entry level planner. Full job descriptions can be found on our website at <https://tughill.org/job-openings/>. Letters of interest and resumes are due no later than October 22, 2021.
- I assisted the town bookkeeper with setting up the preliminary round of the 2022 town budget, and made some changes to improve its appearance.
- At the annual dinner of the Tug Hill Commission last Thursday, the commission announced the availability in print of the new edition of the Tug Hill regional map. I have a copy to present to you, and additional copies for anyone who would like one.
- The Tug Hill Commission held workshops featuring Laird Petrie on the town budget process. I have a copy of Laird's PowerPoint presentation for you.
- I assisted the town clerk with updating the town web site with minutes which had not yet been posted.
- Today the governor signed legislation which amends Open Meetings Law to require posting of town board meeting materials under discussion to the town web site 24 hours in advance. Previously it was an option to make copies available at the meeting. A town can still do this, but they are required to post them as well. Look for more information about that in this Friday's Tug Hill Times. I have for you a copy of the legislation signed into law today, and the legislative summary.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-Letter received from K. Skoczen thanking the highway for paving part of 34th Street

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:

-Next budget meeting set for October 21st at 5pm, an additional meeting can be held on the 28th if necessary

-Public hearing on the 2022 Budget will be November 4th at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:12pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino– Yes Colesante – Yes

ADJOURN:

At 8:40pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to re-open the regular meeting and with no decisions made in executive session make the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Moran – Yes Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes