

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD – March 15, 2022
7:30 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Richard Colesante, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader - Town Attorney
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission
Roy Reehil – County Legislator
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: John Metzger – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Schwartz from Doris Park Dr, asked about the request to lower the speed limit for Doris Park Drive. The Town sent the required paperwork to the State, no word back as of yet. Mr. Tomaino will reach out to the State to see how much longer it will be. Mr. Schwartz also thought it would be a good idea to ask for a cross walk in the area of Circle K, with the new sidewalks it might be a good idea.

WASTEWATER/WATER:

With nothing new to report, Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers will not be at the meeting tonight.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil was in to update the board on what is happening with the County:

- The County should be debt free by the end of summer
- ARPA Funds – The County was given \$22M – The County is creating a proposal form for Towns to use to request a portion of the funding. The idea is to give to projects that are results driven, for example broadband is a high priority for the County. Mr. Reehil will get information to Mr. Tomaino as it comes available. Mr. Tomaino asked how the other Towns are spending their funds, Mr. Rehill is unsure.
- The County added a new Family Court Judge, because of this the Justice Court Fund will require additional space, it could cost several million dollars to upgrade the space. More news in the coming months.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr reported:

- Mrs. Zehr, Ms. Butler and Mr. Tomaino have met to iron out some of the details of having West Monroe send some of their kids to our summer park program. Mr. Sundet, Supervisor for West Monroe, Mr. Tomaino and Ms. Butler, Bookkeeper for Constantia will be coming to the next park and recreation meeting to discuss more of the details.
- The Town will be participating in the Canal Clean Up program again this year, it is in April, no firm date yet.
- The Commission has applied for a min grant from the Oswego County Youth Bureau, they are looking to install raised beds to grow some vegetables.
- There are a few boy scouts looking to do Eagle Scout projects, they will be coming before the Commission for discussion.
- Mrs. Zehr asked if the board has discussed a dog law for the park, with the number of dogs running Mrs. Zehr is concerned it is only a matter of time before something happens. Mr. Bader indicated there was already an ordinance that can be used. Mr. Tomaino will reach out to Mrs. Ashley, Dog Control Officer as she will need to be on hand to write tickets.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 7th supervisor meeting, February 15th town board meeting and the March 7th supervisor meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino - Yes

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #3 Dated March 15, 2022:

General	74-109	\$489,099.95
Highway	34-46	\$ 54,414.68
Sewer	4-5	\$ 2,924.50
Bernhards Bay Water	2-4	\$ 38,010.39
Northshore Water	3	\$ 6,871.55

Seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor’s report dated February 28, 2022, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

- The Town was high bid for the tree truck the County was selling, hoping to take possession this week
- Sweeping sand
- Measuring culverts for summer replacement
- Concerns for price of blacktop, the price might be double what it was last year. Mr. Woolridge will be looking at the price of a hot box for millings. This hot box does a much better job on pot holes than cold patch. This piece of equipment can be reimbursed thru CHIPs. Mr. Woolridge is unsure if the Town will pave this year, it might be good to hold over the CHIPs money, will have to wait to see how much blacktop is.
- Repairs have started on the salt shed
- Summer hours starting March 21st

Mr. Woolridge believes the town board needs to approve closing the roads by approving the following legal notice. Mr. Woolridge in the past has issued the legal notice, he now believes it should come from the board. After discussion it was decided to include a resolution on this matter at the yearly Organizational Meeting which will authorize the highway superintendent to close the roads when he/she feels it is warranted. Mr. Colesante read the following into the minutes seconded by Mr. Moran.

LEGAL NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Article 41, Section 1660, Paragraph 11, of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law:

All Town roads in the Town of Constantia, County of Oswego, will be temporarily closed to any vehicle with a gross load in excess of four tons per axle.

Under this restriction, no vehicle with gross vehicle weight in excess of four tons per axle will be permitted to operate on Town roads in the Town of Constantia, NY.

This order will take effect upon posting of the roads and will remain in effect until all signs have been removed.

By Order of the Town Board

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

*This legal will be published in the official newspaper of the Town.

Mr. Moran asked if Mr. Woolridge was still going to sell the bucket truck we currently own. Mr. Woolridge already has someone interested, will have more to report next month.

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the highway superintendent's report as given, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

- a. Code Enforcement - \$533.50
- b. Justice Pelon and Justice Simpson
- c. Town Clerk - \$1,053.50
- d. Tax Collector - \$4,533,960.71
- e. Dog Control

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- The early registration deadline (of March 18) for the 2022 Tug Hill Local Government Conference, scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at Turning Stone Casino is close.
- The Tug Hill Commission's next meeting – this one, in the North Shore area -- is scheduled for next Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Cleveland at the Cleveland Village Hall. It will be extended via Zoom in addition to in-person attendance:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84600743849> , or dial in:
929.205.6099, meeting ID 84600743849 . The public is welcome to attend.
More information is on the Tug Hill website – www.tughill.org and more specifically, <https://tughill.org/2022/03/01/tug-hill-commission-meeting-march-21/>
- I have a case of COVID test kits for you, for use by the municipality and for distribution to the public.
- Distribution has started on the annual report of the Tug Hill Commission, *Headwaters*. It has been mailed to chief elected and emailed to everyone we have an e-mail address on file for, and is available on the Tug Hill web site at <https://tughill.org/headwaters-annual-report/> (or just go to tughill.org and you'll find *Headwaters* under News and Publications.) I should have additional printed copies by your regular April meeting.
- I met with town clerk Clare Haynes on procedures to use in posting material to the current web site. I know you plan on transitioning to a new web site design in the future, but I'm dedicated to keeping it up-to-date between now and then.

PLANNING BOARD:

Mr. Tomaino would like to give guidance to the planning board as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan. The latest

plan is dated 2003, a survey was done in 2013 copies of which are in storage at the Town Hall. Mr. Colesante does not want to resurvey the residents, as it was done with no change to the Plan in 2013. There was a meeting held at AA Cole with the results of the survey, it is unsure why at that point the Plan was not updated. The board members agree at this time the planning board should update the Plan with current data which will give the Town an updated Comprehensive Plan. The planning board members can at a later date can do a page by page update.

BOARD OF APPEALS:

None

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

1. Annual Audit Report for the year 2021 was filed on March 1, 2022
2. Dumpster Days – Mr. Woolridge will contact vendors first weekend in May.
3. Fort Brewerton Chamber of Commerce sent a letter asking if the Town would like to be in their directory, \$175 is the lowest level. Mr. Moran made the motion to purchase a spot in the directory for \$175, seconded by Mr. Chapman.
Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:35 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee issue, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

At 8:50 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to reopen the town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

After discussion during executive session, Mr. Colesante made the motion to reinstate the MEO from pay rate of \$19.00 an hour to the current pay rate of \$25.25 an hour, this increase will take effect for the payroll starting April 4, 2022, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes

ADJOURN:

At 8:51 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Absent Tomaino – Yes