

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD – August 16, 2022
7:30 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader - Town Attorney
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loguidice
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Nickerson, 255 State Route 49 and Mr. Kane 251 State Route 49 were both in to discuss their issues with the sewer charges that apply with the new sewer district. Both are currently being serviced by the Village of Cleveland, with the new district coming residents that are being serviced by the Village in the project area will now be serviced by the North Shore Sewer District. The Town Board when setting up EDU charges for the district did take these residents and the fact that they already have some of the infrastructure in place set their EDU charges at .63 instead of a full EDU that a typical single family home is being charged. When this District was formed the Board did take into consideration that the properties that are being serviced outside the Village are not in a formal district which does not afford them the same protection they would have if a proper district was formed. It was also stated that if after the infrastructure of these properties were inspected and they did not meet the requirements, the North Shore District will upgrade their system, at that point the property will be reassessed to a full EDU. Mr. Nickerson feels this is unfair as he has already paid into the system he has and is not having a problem.

Mr. Kane has a different issue, his property is currently sharing a grinder pump with his neighbor. In the new District each property will be receiving their own grinder pump, Mr. Kane added when B&L recently did the inspection he was confused as the engineer told him he was “all set”. Mr. Kane asked if he was “all set” why would he need to be included into the new District? Mr. Colesante asked if Mr. Kane will be hooked to the new District main line, Mr. Clark said he will be. Mr. Clark did tell Mr. Kane and the Board that there is a grey area when it comes to these residents, the system has yet to be designed and there are a lot of unanswered questions. Mr. Clark believes Mr. Kane will required another inspection as the goal of the North Shore Sewer District is for all properties to have their own grinder pump.

Mr. Tomaino reminded both Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Kane that now that they are in a legal district they will be fully protected if any problems occur the district will handle them. That is the biggest benefit with having a district.

Mr. Sarchioto from 83 Redfield St was at the July town board meeting to express his concerns with stumps that needed to be removed by the highway department, Mr. Sarchioto is in today to thank the highway department for removing the stumps and taking down a dead tree, he is very happy with the work that was completed.

Mr. Charlie Gibbs asked about the format of the agenda, Mr. Gibbs serves on other boards and they usually wait for public comment until the end. Mr. Metzger responded that in the past they offered public comment both at the beginning and the end, that way if people want to talk they can and leave at will. It was suggested we add public comment to the end of the agenda. Mr. Gibbs also was wondering if the Town could mow the side of the County Trail, it is hard to get into the weeds when walking and motorized vehicles come down the trail. Mr. Tomaino will speak to Mr. Woolridge.

WASTEWATER/WATER:

Mr. Clark reported there have been 300 title searches done, with 150 home inspections completed and another 19 inspections scheduled. They will be going door to door knocking on doors and using door hangers for the first group of letter that were sent with no response. As with what was said with Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Kane all properties have their own set of challenges, but each will be worked thru to get all properties a proper hook up.

Mr. Colesante asked if it is the intention that every property have their own grinder pump, Mr. Clark answered that it is.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr reported:

- As of the second week of August the summer program has served 1,793 lunches and 1,840 snacks
- Bathroom repairs have been completed
- Garden boxes were purchased using the grant funds
- Fun day went well, dodge ball, Skippy Ice Cream Truck and inflatables were a big hit
- 25-50 kids a day did swim lessons, Mrs. Zehr would like to see this number increased for next year

Mr. Colesante asked how the program worked with West Monroe, Mrs. Zehr said she believes everyone was happy there was 36 kids signed up hopefully they will do it again next year.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 19th public hearing, July 19st town board meeting and the August 1st supervisors meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #8 Dated August 16, 2022:

General	262-289	\$ 19,418.62
Highway	138-159	\$103,314.52
Sewer	32-38	\$143,135.51

Seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran noted that the second ARAP funds have been received, as noted in the supervisor’s report. Mr. Moran then made the motion to approve the supervisor’s report dated July 31, 2022, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge will not be at the meeting tonight, Mr. Avery-highway employee attended the meeting tonight.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

- a. Code Enforcement
- b. Justice Pelon and Justice Simpson
- c. Town Clerk/Tax Collector

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

*Mr. Tomaino wanted it noted that no dog report was received.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- The Tug Hill Recreation Guide has a new revised printing, and I have copies for you and for the public. Please let me know when you need more.
- The Tug Hill Commission currently has an opening for a Projects Specialist. Applications are open until September 1, 2022, and more information is available in the July 29, 2022 Tug Hill Times, and at <https://tughill.org/job-openings/> ,
- New York State has announced the NY Forward grant program, analogous to the existing Downtown Revitalization Initiative, but targeted for downtowns in New York’s smaller and rural communities. Tug Hill has sent information out to all Tug Hill Communities about this program and is offering help to our communities on how to go about applying. More information is available at <https://www.ny.gov/programs/ny-forward> .
- The Tug Hill Commission has just released a new issue paper on regulating short-term rentals, available on the Tug Hill web site, www.tughill.org , under News & Publications > Technical & Issue Papers.
- The state comptroller has announced the tax levy limit for 2023 budgets; it’s at the maximum of 2%, as it has been for four of the past five years.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Collar City Auctions Oswego County Tax Auction 7/20-8/18/2022
- b. Northshore Ambulance – ARPA request

Discussion turned to the letter that was submitted to the Town by Mr. Robbins, Operation/Business Manager for North Shore Ambulance requesting \$49,648 in ARPA Funds for the purchase of 2 powered stretcher loading system for both ambulances. After discussion, Mr. Chapman made the motion to award \$49,648.00 of the ARPA funds to North Shore Ambulance to purchase 2 powered stretcher loading systems, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – No Metzger – No* Tomaino – Yes

*Mr. Metzger when voting stated there is just not enough information, he will need to vote no.

PLANNING BOARD:

Continue work on the comprehensive plan, July 12th minutes received.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

- a. Emergency Telephone List Updated
- b. September Supervisor's Meeting Date September 6th @ 9am, following items are on the agenda:
 - c.i.1. Short Term Rentals (1st Draft handed out tonight), Mr. Tomaino will invite CEO Hamacher for his input
 - c.i.2. ARPA Funds
- c. Joint Water Board Meeting with West Monroe, September 13th @ 10:30, start Bernhards Bay @ 9am, the North Shore Sewer Meeting will follow.
- d. Sewer Use Law – Waiting on CCF
- e. Land Development Law wording – sent to CCF

20 Frederick St – CEO Hamacher has been in contact with the owners of 20 Frederick St., the owners are looking to donate the building to Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Hamacher did speak to a representative with the Disabled American Veterans and told him that all violations go with the property and will follow to the new owners. Mr. Moran believes the Town should purchase the property, the hamlet is an important part of the Town it might not be a bad idea. Mr. Metzger reminded the board members that about 10 year ago the Town did try to purchase the property but was not the winner bidder. Mr. Tomaino will speak to Mr. Hamacher about the state of the building.

Mr. Metzger has continued to work on cyber security for the Town and has had a meeting with Advanced iT. Multiple quotes have been received including new phones. Mr. Metzger would like to discuss the quotes at the Supervisor's meeting on September 6th.

ADJOURN:

At 9:09 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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