

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES –BUDGET MEETING – October 6, 2022**  
4:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor  
Ronald Chapman Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran– Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent  
Nancy Butler - Bookkeeper

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 4:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**2023 BUDGET:**

All board members received a copy of the 2023 Tentative Budget along with department requests. The tentative budget as given is over the tax cap allowed for 2023. The overage is due to the sewer project, as discussed last year it was the intention of the board to increase the edu charge by \$150 each year for the next 3 years. Increasing the district caused the overage. Mr. Metzger and Mr. Colesante remembers this happening with the water district but does not feel a district should effect the tax cap. Mr. Metzger asked Ms. Butler to reach out to the Comptroller's office to see if the sewer fund balance can be used to offset the increase. Ms. Butler let the board know that the general fund has a large fund balance, more than what is allowed to be carried over, the general fund has enough to offset this increase. Ms. Butler will reach out to the Comptroller to see if the sewer fund can be used as the board does not want to go over the tax cap.

Postcard- Discussion turned to mailing a post card to properties in the sewer district informing them of the yearly increase to get them to the target service charge. Mr. Colesante asked what happened to the public informational session that was discussed earlier. Mr. Tomaino believes Mr. Clark wanted to wait until the spring. Mr. Tomaino will reach out to Barton & Loguidice, they should be able to handle the mailing,

Highway – Mr. Woolridge handed out his 2023 budget outline. Mr. Woolridge did not include raises for the highway employees as he would like the board to make that decision. Mr. Woolridge has been told by a few of the employees that they heard insurance is going up 25-30%, Ms. Butler does not believe that is going to happen. Ms. Butler has already been given the rates for the Town of Amboy, they went up 3%. Historically the rate increase is about the same, but the NYS website for health insurance has not been updated with the new rate. Mr. Tomaino did have a discussion with two of the employees about the cost of health insurance. In the conversation it was stated that it seems like their rate increase gets eaten up by the cost of insurance. After discussion the board asked Ms. Butler to run the numbers to see what will happen if the Town increases their reimbursement from 75% to 80% and then 85%. Mr. Woolridge told Ms. Butler she will also need to increase his insurance line as another employee just notified him that he will need health insurance.

Wage Increases – The tentative budget has raise increases for most departments at 5%, after discussion Ms. Butler was told to change all wages to 3%, and to increase the highway employees by 3% seasonal help will stay the same. The exception will be for park employees, minimum wage has the possibility to increasing by \$1, Ms. Butler already made the necessary changes to the park personal services line.

Park Improvements– Mr. Woolridge spoke about black topping the driveway at the park along with sealing the walkway. Mr. Moran asked if he was going to use CHIPs monies, yes he can but he also included it in the budget. Mr. Chapman asked about the basketball and tennis courts, Mr. Woolridge believes just for material alone that would cost \$9,000. ARPA money could be used for that project.

Snow and Ice Agreement – The County will pay \$9,000 per mile with the new contract, for the last contract it was \$8,000 per mile. The Town has 21.39 miles of County roads, the contract needed to increase as he ran out of fuel in June. The first payment of 25% will be received in November.

Highway Fund – Mr. Woolridge went over additional budget lines, there were no comments from the board.

**GENERAL FUND:**

Dumpster Days – Mr. Tomaino would like to see this program run every other year, Mr. Chapman agrees, after discussion it was decided to decrease by 50% the following:

A1620.11 Bldgs & Grounds Dumpster PS1 from \$ 6,000 to \$3,000

A8160.4 Refuse & Garbage (Clean Up Days) from \$15,000 to \$7,500

Town Hall – Another line that could be decreased is A1620.2 Buildings Eq. (Cap Improvement) this line has been funded for the last few years, after the 2022 budget transfer there will be \$379,464 in this special reserve. After discussion this line will be reduced to \$24,000.

A3310.4 Traffic Control CE Mr. Woolridge uses this line, he has requested this be increased from \$3,200 to \$4,200.

State Revenue Sharing (AIM) – A3001 has been left out of the budget for the last few years because the State notified the Town that this program was no longer going to be funded. For some reason they have continued to

fund this program for \$36,713 yearly. After discussion it was decided to add this back into the budget, if the State is going to stop this program they will once again notify the Town of their intention.

Ambulance – has asked for a 2% raise, Mr. Brandon Morris new Director of Operations would like to come and speak to the board about this increase. Mr. Tomaino will invite him to come on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

Mr. Butler will roll the budget to preliminary, this way the suggested changes can be made and a new budget printed.

**LOCAL LAW F-2022:**

When the budget was first put together it was noted that the Town is currently exceeding the tax cap. When the final budget is ready and the budget is still over the tax cap a local law needs to be passed to comply with State requirements. Mrs. Haynes has the proper resolution to start the local law process, this local law will keep the Town in compliance if overriding the tax cap is necessary.

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. F OF 2022** (“A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Constantia”)

Councilman Chapman introduced proposed Local Law No. F-2022, relating to the ability of the Town of Constantia to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Constantia pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Constantia to adopt a Town budget for the fiscal year 2023 in excess of the “tax levy limit,” if necessary, and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilman Moran:

**WHEREAS**, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Constantia, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

**WHEREAS**, the said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. F-2022 is an unlisted action, there are no other involved agencies and this Board shall act as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. F-2022 at the Town Hall located at 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, New York on October 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town of Constantia and to any affected municipalities described above.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

<b>Tom Moran</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>John Metzger</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Richard Colesante</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ron Chapman</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Frank Tomaino</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**ADJOURN:**

At 6 pm the meeting adjourned.