

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – SUPERVISOR MEETING - TOWN BOARD – November 7, 2022
9:00 am 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
Warren Bader - Town Attorney
Dustin Clark, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
Patrick Dolan – Code Enforcement Officer
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Tomaino called the supervisor’s meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

BOARD ITEMS:

Public hearing for the 2023 Budget is Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6pm.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge told the board that the Ice and Snow Agreement with the County has been signed by all parties. This year agreement is for \$9,000 per mile, the Town has 21 1/3 miles of County roads, this agreement is for one year. The last agreement was for three years Constantia was part of a pilot program, that agreement was for \$8,000 per mile. After the first year the rest of the towns wanted to be involved, mainly because there is less paperwork. This year the County wanted to run for one year, because of the cost of diesel. Mr. Tomaino asked if 21 1/3 was in one direction, Mr. Woolridge answered it was so really 42 miles of County roads.

Mr. Woolridge was asked how the Veteran Banner Program was going, Mr. Woolridge responded that it was going really well. Mr. Woolridge believes they might have enough to place their first order. Mr. Woolridge will be having a meeting later today to finalize the process so everyone is on the same page.

BUDGET:

Mrs. Haynes asked if it was the intention of the board to include general fund employees with the new reimbursement rate of 80% for medical insurance. This would include Mrs. Haynes and Mr. Woolridge. Mr. Chapman said no, it was only intended for non-elected employees. Mr. Tomaino agreed, two of the highway employees came to him with their concerns with the price of insurance that is how this all was started. Mr. Metzger and Mr. Moran thought when they were having this discussion they were speaking about all employees eligible for insurance. Mr. Woolridge assumed he also would be included as all eligible employees have been treated the same, never excluded. After discussion, as the entire board is not in attendance, it was decided to wait until the public hearing on Thursday, changes can be made after the public hearing.

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Clark wanted to tell the board that in the generic email address for B&L an email was received from jayjonnyrayjohnson@proton.me –

We are a group of family's (about 30 and I know there's a lot more) that will not be giving any rights to come on our property or home for any reason. We are lower income family's that can't afford the higher taxes and some of us have 2 years of the extra tax money then we can not pay it anymore we just don't have the extra money and we are not going to starve to death and we are not giving up our homes no matter what! We had been lied to about a survey to find out how many wanted this to happen because only 10% where surveyed and it was only the wealthy people on the lake front (the ones that want it and can afford it) a lot of us have been here for many generations and are not leaving no matter what! The town don't care what happens to us but we do.

Mr. Clark wanted to be sure the board knew about this, not sure where the people live as there was no contact information included.

Mr. Clark handed out a possible Amendment #1 to the scope of services agreement for the North Shore Sewer District. There are a few budget issues that need to be discussed. As everyone knows with the current economic climate some of the original agreement budget lines have increased making it necessary to request an amendment to the original agreement. There are seven areas that are falling short as listed below:

	Original	Amendment	Basic of Payment
Basic Services:			
2.1 Wastewater Treatment Plant			
a. Preliminary Design Phase	\$342,000.00	\$412,000.00	Lump Sum
b. Final Design Phase	\$368,000.00	\$438,000.00	Lump Sum
2.2 Grinder Pump			
a. Preliminary Design Phase	\$350,000.00	\$470,000.00	Lump Sum
b. Final Design Phase	\$324,000.00	\$470,000.00	Lump Sum
3.0 Additional Services			

b. Subcontracted Services	\$720,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	Hourly
c Verification of Existing Conditions	\$212,000.00	\$361,000.00	Hourly
d. ROW Assistance	\$298,000.00	\$370,000.00	Hourly
Total Estimated Contract Amount	\$6,380,000.00	\$7,687,000.00	

*At 9:42 Mr. Colesante came into the meeting.

As listed above 3(b) has the biggest shortfall, not sure why the original estimate was so far off the mark on this category. Some of the categories use sub-contractors that are MWBE, the project is required to use MWBE for a percentage of the work. B&L has been checking with other sub-contractors to verify the amounts given.

Mr. Tomaino asked if the district can afford the changes, Mr. Clark said yes. Part of the reason to increase the total project amount by \$10M is to apply for more grants to help with shortfalls. The \$10M increase is a 25% change, this \$1.3M amendment is 15% of the 25% total increase. 70% of the increase is at the hourly rate, this has the potential of coming in under budget.

Mr. Tomaino asked how so we move forward, B&L will bring to the board the official Amendment No. 1 to be approved at a town board meeting. Mr. Metzger asked is there a point in time that we won't get additional grants and the project will be in trouble? Mr. Clark told the board that as long as there is work being done on the project they can continue to apply for grants. Right now they are waiting to hear about the \$5M WQIP and \$1.2M CDBG grants, the funding lists should be out shortly. Unfortunately, it could be the same for construction bids, just have to wait and see it is unprecedented times. The District does have \$5.4M in contingency but that can disappear quickly.

Mr. Tomaino asked if the user costs will be increasing, Mr. Clark said not at this point. The reason to increase the total project cost will be to increase the amount of grants the project can apply for to bring the total cost down. Mr. Colesante said the worst-case scenario would be to move forward, if the money dries up the loan portion would be the only amount that would need to be paid back. If the user cost goes beyond the \$975 the board might want to stop the project go back to the residents in the district maybe go to a referendum at that point to make sure the residents still want to move forward.

It is hard to answer some of the questions, we are in uncharted territory. Originally B&L was going to bid the project in stages, now they are not comfortable doing that. Once 750 of the approximately 900 inspections are done and easements signed, they can move forward with the drawings. Once the drawings are complete they will be putting out all the contracts at once so they can get a total price for the project.

Discussion turned to the edu charge for the 6 residents and the town house complex that are in the new district but currently being serviced by the Village of Cleveland for sewer. In the map plan and report these residents were given .63 edu for consideration for the fact they already have their infrastructure in place. The .63 is what the Village is paying towards the treatment of sewage. After discussion at this meeting and previous meetings Mr. Moran made the motion to increase the 6 properties along with the town house property to one edu per residence. This increase will take effect when the residence is hooked to the new sewer system, seconded by Mr. Chapman. Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Tomaino – Yes

Mr. Metzger would like a letter to go to the owners of the above noted affected properties so a proper easement inspection can be completed. The letter should come from Mr. Tomaino, Supervisor. Mr. Powers will get a package together from B&L to be sent with the letter notifying the residents of the boards' decision.

Mr. Powers was asked about the postcard that the Town asked to be created to let the residents in the district know that their tax bill for the sewer district will be increasing by \$150 a year for the next few years until they reach the target service charge. Mr. Powers indicated the post card should be ready for review and sent to the Town today.

INSURANCE:

As Mr. Colesante is now at the meeting Mr. Moran would like the board to decide the benefit question that was asked earlier in the meeting. After bringing Mr. Colesante up to date, Mr. Moran made the motion to include Mr. Woolridge, Highway Superintendent and Mrs. Haynes, Town Clerk with the increased health insurance premium re-imburement. The Town will increase the re-imburement from 75% to 80%, seconded by Mr. Colesante. Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – No Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Tomaino – No

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

At 11:03 am Mr. Dolan, CEO came into the meeting and gave the board handouts of use variance and area variance definations. Mr. Peck, Chairman of the planning board questioned if variances should go before the planning board. Typically, Mr. Dolan told the board a building permit comes into his office, if the office can not issue the permit it goes in front of the board of appeals. Site plans should go to code enforcement then turned over to the planning board for review and approval. Mr. Dolan believes all business should go before the planning board for a site plan review. After discussion the board members believe Mr. Dolan should look to see if the State has a document that will help get a procedure together.

ADJOURN:

At 11:32 am Mr. Chapman made to the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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