

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – SUPERVISOR MEETING - TOWN BOARD – December 5, 2022
9:00 am 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
Laureen Tackman – Mayor, Village of Cleveland
Shawn House – DPW Superintendent, Village of Cleveland
Dustin Clark, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: John Metzger – Town Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

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

TOWN BOARD:

Mr. Tomaino told the board:

- Organizational meeting is scheduled for January 3rd at 6 pm
- Installation of new computers will start tomorrow
- Ms. Ashley has received the letter advising her she will not be reappointed, Mr. Conover would like to make a few changes to the kennel agreement. Mr. Tomaino will drop off a copy to Mr. Bader this week for approval.
- Mr. Tomaino would like to move the monthly meeting from 7:30pm to 7:00pm if everyone is in agreement; the change will be approved at the organizational meeting on the January 3rd.

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers were at the meeting to speak to the board, the good news is the district was awarded the CDBG Grant for \$1.25M. The district is still waiting to hear on 2 other grants the \$5.4M WQIP and the Federal BIL – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. They usually announce awards by the end of the year, hopefully there will be more good news soon. B&L will be applying for another CDBG grant in the next round for \$1.25M for laterals, ideally directly to purchase grinder pumps.

Mr. Tomaino asked, when the grants are received will the project edu cost be back to the original \$825, Mr. Clark believes it will be \$960. but depending on the amount of grants received. The hope is to be at \$825. It might be worth a trip to speak to Claudia Tenney as she has access to some other funding possibilities.

The major issue is fighting project costs, inflation is the problem, there is not enough grants at the present time to offset the project. Mr. Colesante asked what happens if the edu charge goes above the Comptrollers accepted amount, Mr. Clark responded that would be up to the board.

Mr. House asked if there is an anticipated time the treatment plant will be up and running. It is important for Mr. House to know for planning purposes, right now the blower needs to be repaired, does he ask for a new one or rebuild what is there. After discussion, it was decided that 2025 hopefully is the year that the plant will be up and running.

Mr. Moran asked if B&L could take the 245 easements that have been completed, get some contractors to look at them to see what the current cost would be. Mr. Moran thinks this would be a good indicator as to what the cost will be in 2022. Mr. Clark cautioned that the problem is the final bid is more than a year away.

Mr. Tomaino asked when the treatment plant will be going out to bid, Mr. Clark said they are shooting for the end of summer. B&L is waiting for comments from DEC, in the past that would take two months, that is not the case any longer. Before the design can go out to bid, it must have approval from DEC.

Mr. Colesante asked how much the cost of the treatment plant has increased, Mr. Clark responded by 50%. Original cost was \$6M it is now \$12M. Mr. Colesante asked what is driving the increase, Mr. Clark said it is everything from equipment to construction. Mr. Colesante questioned about the demand for sewer treatment, Mr. Clark said believe it or not the demand is high. There are also some scope changes that have increased the cost, for example the original thought was to use the existing drying beds. Now that drawings are underway it has been determined that a separate building is a better way to go. Also, there was a problem with the outfall, there was an issue with the way it flows into the lake, there is a currently diffuser at the end of the pipe that will need to be removed.

The total cost of the project has increased from \$39M to \$49.8M. Mr. Tomaino along with the board is concerned with the bottom line, what is the edu charge going to be. Mr. Clark is hopeful that with additional grants the edu charge will be at the \$960 mark.

Mr. Chapman asked if people are still going house to house, as of Friday December 9th they will be halting the inspections as snow is expected soon and it will be difficult to do the entire inspection. Mr. Tomaino hates to see them stop with the good weather, would outstanding inspections delay the project? Mr. Clark said it would not,

they will not have all the required easements when the project goes to bid. Easements are and will be an ongoing issue, they will be getting easements when construction is going by people's homes.

Mr. Powers emailed a letter that the board wanted B&L to mail to residents in the sewer district. This letter is explaining where the project stands and the fact that the sewer line will be increasing on their tax bill for the next few years to start paying for work that is being done. After discussion it was decided to send the letter as soon as possible.

@10:10 Mr. Bader, Mr. House, Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers left the meeting.

Ms. Tackman asked if the board might halt the project if the cost gets too high. Mr. Colesante voiced the same concern, if grants are not awarded this round he believes the board will need to make a decision if the district should move forward. The district will still need to pay for what has been spent. Mr. Tomaino will ask Ms. Butler to get the total amount spent on the district up to this point. *Ms. Tackman left the meeting

TOWN HALL:

Mr. Tomaino told the board he has reached out to an additional two more companies about encapsulating the crawl space under the town hall. One company did not return his call the other company said because of the space limitations they will not do the work. Mr. Colesante believes Mr. Metzger has an idea of where and what account to use to pay for this project, with Mr. Metzger not in attendance and after discussion on what account should be charged for the billing. Although no decision was made on what account to use, Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Mr. Tomaino to hire Woodford Brothers to encapsulate the crawl space at the town hall for \$38,581.64, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

BOARD ITEMS:

Mr. Mura – VFW request for ARPA funds for a new generator. Mr. Tomaino will get more information from Oswego County on the Emergency Management Plan.

Banners – Mr. Woolridge told the board that they have had a good response. Next meeting is December 17th.

Mileage – Mr. Tomaino would like to increase the mileage rate at the organizational meeting, the current rate is \$.50. After discussion Mr. Tomaino would be happy increasing to \$.55, if needed the board can discuss at the meeting.

Supervisor's Meeting – Mr. Tomaino asked if everyone was happy with the time and date of the supervisor's monthly meeting, all agreed to keep the same.

Mr. Moran asked what the Town will be using the ARPA funds for, Mr. Tomaino is going to call a meeting soon to get ideas in writing. The project for Mill St. was brought up, Mr. Colesante has the contact number for the State, he will reach out to the State for the required forms, for the Town to lease any state-owned land to renovate the point. Once a lease is obtained a survey will be done to identify boundaries of renovation.

ADJOURN:

At 11:15 am the meeting adjourned.