

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD – January 17, 2023
7:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

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

Absent: Ronald Chapman – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. and Mrs. Foster were in to speak about the possible sewer charge on one of their properties. After speaking to Mr. Haines from Barton & Loguidice, Mr. Haines is suggesting three grinder pumps. Mr. Foster told the board currently the property has 2 septic tanks using a grinder pump from 2 of the buildings to one on the septic tanks. Two of the buildings only have a restroom, one is a store the other is a garage, Mr. Foster does not believe that three grinder pumps are necessary. The board members listened to their concerns, this is a topic that will need to be discussed with Barton & Loguidice at a later date. Mr. Colesante stated that the District will need a sewer board which has not been created yet, the sewer board will need to help with these decisions.

Mr. Foster also brought up bonding issues and the way the project will be put to bid. Mr. Foster would suggest downsizing the project so smaller companies can bid on the project. If the project is too big there might not be enough companies that can get the proper bonding to even bid on the project. At this point the board does not know how the project will be bid, but good information for discussion.

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Powers sent the following report, new items are in bold.

Constantia North Shore Sewer Project

A. WWTP Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ Additional survey completed for DEC Climate Risk & Resiliency Act (CRRRA) requirements.
 - ✓ Negotiated subconsultant design proposal fees.
 - ✓ Submitted response to DEC regarding NY-2A application on December 16, 2022.
 - ✓ Value Engineering Efforts to reduce WWTP Construction Cost
- Current Status:
 - Continue developing 50% plans and specifications.
 - **Further Investigating Value Engineering Efforts to reduce WWTP Construction Cost**
- Future steps:
 - Execute agreements with subconsultants.
 - Review 50% plans and value engineering with Village of Cleveland.
 - Submit 50% plans to DEC and funding agencies for review
 - Review plans with Contractors for feedback and pricing

B. Grinder Pump Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ Inspection letters have been sent to a total of 491 properties.
 - ✓ 364/491 home inspections complete to date.
 - ✓ 282 easements have been fully signed and executed by the Town.
 - ✓ **120 title searches received since January 1, 2023**
- Current Status:
 - Home inspections are on pause until March, weather dependent.
 - Continue sending easements in batches of 15 to Town for signature and filing
 - Developing plans and specifications

○ Future steps:

- **Consider standardization and pre-purchase Agreement for Grinder Pumps.**
- **Review plans with Contractors for feedback and pricing**

C. Forcemain and Pump Station Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ Contacted DOT for feedback on preliminary layout.
 - ✓ Meeting with E-One regarding forcemain sizing for new alignment.

- Current Status:
 - Progressing force main alignment and profiles for agency review set.
- Future steps:
 - Submit agency review set to formally begin review process.
 - **Review plans with Contractors for feedback and pricing.**
- D. Funding and Other Items:
 - Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ CDBG Awarded on November 16, 2022 for max \$1,250,000.
 - ✓ **CDBG Grant Agreement Executed on January 12, 2023**
 - Current Status:
 - Coordinating visit to Environment One grinder pump manufacturing facility for Town.
 - Review of DEC Model Sewer Use Law is ongoing.
 - **Reviewing subconsultant proposals and value engineering.**
 - Future steps:
 - CFA Funding announcements tentatively expected December 2022.
 - **Coordination with Bond counsel for increase bond resolution.**
 - **CDBG Grant Agreement (Fiscal Advisors).**
 - **WQIP Grant Announcements still pending.**
 - **EFC Coordination for BIL eligibility (grant and additional 0% loan).**
 - **USDA Rural Development request.**
 - **Claudia Tenney support for funding efforts and possible 2023 CPF.**

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr told the board that the park is still looking for lifeguards for the upcoming season. Mrs. Zehr has been contacted by a resident that would like to hold either yoga or zumba classes at the park. If the Town allows this type a program can the instructor charge people to attend. Mr. Colesante does not believe that would be a problem. Of course, the instructor would need to have the proper insurance. If obtaining the insurance is an issue maybe the Town could sponsor the program and run it under our insurance policy. Mr. Tomaino would like to see something like this at the park, the more programs the better. Mrs. Zehr will reach back out to the instructor and have them attend a park meeting.

Mr. Sundet, Town Supervisor for West Monroe has indicated that West Monroe is interested in having the joint summer rec program again. Mrs. Zehr will reach out to Mr. Sundet.

Mr. Colesante asked about the soccer program, Mrs. Zehr has not heard anything from them, it looks like the program will not be running this year.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil told the board the general tax rate for 2023 had decreased and the repeal of the gas tax has ended.

Mr. Tomaino requested Mr. Rehill look for funding opportunities for homes that have sewer connection issues in the new sewer district. Mr. Rehill does not yet have an answer, he is still looking into the situation.

Mr. Colesante told Mr. Rehill NORCOG will be looking for grant opportunities for economic development. This grant will include Constantia, Village of Cleveland, West Monroe and the Village of Central Square.

MINUTES:

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the minutes of the December 20th Public Hearing and Town Board Meeting, December 28th End of Year Meeting and January 3rd Organizational Meeting, seconded by Mr. Moran
Carried: Moran – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Tomaino - Yes

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #1 Dated January 17, 2023:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|---------------|
| General | 1-34 | \$ 58,852.93* |
| Highway | 1-11 | \$ 22,849.08 |
| Bernhards Bay Water | 1 | \$ 2,920.92 |
| Northshore Water | 1 | \$ 6,707.26 |
| Sewer | 1-7 | \$118,874.19 |

*Voucher #33 for \$39,305.41 payable to Woodford Brothers is authorized to be paid, but the account code and fund is subject to change after further discussion.

Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the following motion: Referring to general fund budget transfer #5 for December 2022, the following accounts are over budget:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| A3620.4 Code Enforcement CE | \$ 702.53 |
| A9030.81 FICA Social Security | \$ 527.63 |
| A9030.82 Medicare | \$ 353.31 |
| A9060.8 Medical Insurance | \$ 972.32 |
| B8020.4 Planning CE | <u>\$1,364.48</u> |
| December Budget Transfer | \$3,920.27 |

I therefore motion to transfer \$3,920.27 from A1990.4 Contingency to replenish the over budget account leaving \$79,861.15 balance in Contingency.

Also, referring to highway budget transfer #2 for December 2022, the following accounts are over budget:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| DB5110.4 General Repair CE | \$12,748.73 |
| DB5130.1 Machinery PS | \$ 3,628.00 |
| DB9030.81 FICA Social Security | \$ 1,936.67 |
| DB9030.82 Medicare | \$ 349.04 |
| DB9060.8 Health Insurance | <u>\$ 2,942.22</u> |
| December Budget Transfer | \$21,604.66 |

I continue my motion that we address this deficiency of \$21,604.66 and the \$2,511.91 we deferred in November 2022 (total \$24,116.57) by removing it from the unrestricted fund balance carryover, leaving \$17,662.43 final unrestricted fund balance carryover into 2023, this concludes my motion. Motion was seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor's report dated December 31, 2022, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge told the board that with the weather they have been cleaning up down trees, doing general maintenance around the garage. The Hot Box has been put to use and the crew is very happy with the results, Mr. Tomaino has received positive comments on how it works better on the potholes.

The vac truck on Auctions International went for \$38,000., the Town bid \$35,000. Mr. Woolridge reached out to the party that had it listed, there was no call back. Mr. Woolridge will keep looking.

The new truck is behind schedule, should be delivered in 4-6 weeks.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to approve the highway superintendent report as given, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

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

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

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- The North Shore Council of Governments met last Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at the Constantia Town Hall, Frederick Street, Constantia. Topics of discussion included North Shore economic development work, the North Shore traffic study, impacts of Micron on North Shore communities, North Shore concerns and priorities for the Tug Hill – COG Chairs meeting at the end of January, and election of officers. Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 8, 2023
- Registration materials for the April 2023 Tug Hill Local Government Conference, at Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center have been mailed. I have additional copies for anyone who needs one, and there is also conference session and registration information on the Tug Hill web site, <https://tughill.org/lgc2023>
- The Tug Hill Commission has established its 2023 meeting schedule, and a couple key dates to keep in mind:

This year's meeting in the North Shore portion of the Tug Hill region will be Monday, May 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Constantia. Location of meeting will be shared when it is established.

The Tug Hill annual dinner will be Thursday, October 19, 2023 starting at 5:00 p.m. at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. This one will be notable as we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Tug Hill Commission.

The entire 2023 Tug Hill Commission meeting schedule is posted at <https://tughill.org/commission-meeting-schedule/> The most immediate is a meeting next Monday in Trenton.

- One thing that's always true of local governments: officials change, over time. With this in mind, Tug Hill has been working on a document to aid towns and villages in documenting information key to transitions. Tug Hill plans on doing a webinar on the subject in February, and will be doing a session at April's Local Government Conference. Between now and then, I have some copies of the draft document for anyone interested to review and comment on.
- Finally, there will be a Oneida Lake Watershed stakeholders public meeting next Tuesday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This meeting will be held via Zoom, and there is a clickable link to preregister in the January 13, 2023 edition of the Tug Hill Times (p.5)

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Kellar Consulting
- Tax Delinquent Properties for 2023

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

Mr. Tomaino received a complaint from Ms. Walch, Co Rt 23 about the old Corliss mine, now owned by Syracuse Sand and Gravel, Ms. Walch has reached out to DEC but the mine does have operating hours from 6am to 6pm six days a week.

The VFW dropped off to Mr. Tomaino a request for ARPA Funding for a new generator. Mr. Tomaino would like to schedule a meeting, the Town must get a plan in place for this program. January 25th at 4:30 will be the time and date of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:42 pm Mr. Metzger made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a contract issue, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

ADJOURN:

At 8:15 pm with no decisions made, Mr. Metzger made the motion to reopen and adjourn the town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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