

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD – May 16, 2023
6:45 & 7:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino – Town Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
Roy Reehil – County Legislator
James Peck – Planning Board Chair
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loguidice
Paul Baxter and Matt Johnson – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:45 pm Mr. Tomaino called the public hearing to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The purpose of this public hearing is to hear any comments on the updated Town of Constantia Comprehensive Plan.

As there were no questions, Mr. Metzger read the proposed resolution into the minutes, this resolution will be offered during the regular meeting of the town board.

At 7:00 pm with no public comment, Mr. Metzger made the motion to close the public hearing and open the monthly town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Clark updated the Board with the following report, new items are in bold.

Constantia North Shore Sewer Project

A. WWTP Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ Submitted response to DEC regarding NY-2A application on December 16, 2022.
 - ✓ Coordination with vendors for alternate treatment technologies.
 - ✓ Compressed footprint of sludge handling building to reduce construction cost.
 - ✓ Drafted combined headworks and ATB to reduce construction cost.
 - ✓ Execute agreements with subconsultants.
 - ✓ Compared plans to recent bid results to update cost estimate.
- Current Status:
 - Finalizing 60% design plans and basis of design report.
 - Continue developing specifications.
- Future steps:
 - **Submit 60% plans to Town, DEC, and Village for review end of May.**

B. Grinder Pump Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ **471/871 home inspections complete to date.**
 - ✓ 282 easements have been fully signed and executed by the Town.
 - ✓ Developed preliminary layouts for large uses (marinas, trailer parks, etc.)
 - ✓ All title searches received to date.
 - ✓ Alternative layouts for large users (marinas, trailer parks, etc.)
 - ✓ Letter sent to “Constantia 13” regarding grinder pump replacement.
- Current Status:
 - **Home inspections have resumed 6 days/week.**
 - Finalizing 60% design plans and specifications
 - Continue sending easements in batches of 15 to Town for signature and filing.
 - Updating cost estimate based on recent bid numbers and quantities identified to date.
- Future steps:
 - **Submit 60% plans to Town and DEC for review end of May.**
 - Standardization and pre-purchase Agreement for Grinder Pumps.

C. Forcemain and Pump Station Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ Preliminary DOT feedback incorporated into plan set.
 - ✓ Meeting with E-One regarding forcemain sizing for new alignment.
 - ✓ Revised Drawings with DOT feedback submitted for further DOT review.
 - ✓ Wetlands and DEC 100 ft. adjacent areas incorporated into environmental review set.
 - ✓ Stream crossing profiles incorporated into plan set.

- Current Status:
 - Finalizing 60% plans and specifications
 - Waiting for additional DOT comments on revised plan set.
 - Updating quantity takeoff and estimate based on recent bid results.
 - Future steps:
 - **Submit 60% plans to Town and DOT for review end of May.**
- D. Funding, Permitting, and Other Items:
- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ NYSDEC WQIP Grant Application submitted July, 2022
 - ✓ CDBG Awarded on November 16, 2022 for max \$1,250,000.
 - ✓ CDBG Grant Agreement Executed on January 12, 2023
 - ✓ NYSDAM (NYS Department of Ag & Markets) coordination for OCR sign off.
 - ✓ Mercury exclusion and WTC coordination with DEC for NY-2A.
 - ✓ Amendment No. 1 authorized.
 - ✓ Submitted funding application for Schumer and Gillibrand FY23
 - ✓ B&L attended E-One Factory training with Town Highway at E-One Factory.
 - ✓ Submitted funding application for Claudia Tenney’s FY23 CFP appropriations list for \$4M.
 - ✓ Preliminary discussion with legal and bond counsel for increase bond resolution.
 - ✓ Debrief call with DEC confirmed project is eligible for another \$10M in grant!
 - ✓ Project was endorsed through CPF by Claudia Tenney for \$4M in grant!
 - Current Status:
 - Review of DEC Model Sewer Use Law is ongoing.
 - Archaeological fieldwork ongoing.
 - Working with UDSA RD on National Pooling availability.
 - CFA Grants – due July 28
 - Future steps:
 - Follow up call with Bond counsel for increase bond resolution.
 - Comptroller approval process may be necessary with increased bond resolution.
 - Letters of Support for upcoming Grant Applications
 - Attendance at CNY Regional Economic Development Council meetings
 - Meeting with Albany stakeholders – NYSDEC, NYSEFC, etc.
 - Meeting with USDA Rural Development

Mr. Clark told the board a letter of interest was to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) they responded that the sewer project does qualify for their grant, the following resolution is required as part of the application. Application deadline is June 2nd this grant request is for \$1M.

There is a new grant possibility under the Green Initiative Grant Program, as with the other grant opportunities one application will be filed through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). B&L are applying for 7 grants through CFA, typically, awards are announced by the end of the year but awards for 2022 were not announced until 2023.

Mr. Tomaino added if letters of support are needed board members will be able to help with that as many residents are eager for this project to start.

COUNCILMAN: **Metzger**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION
(NBRC) GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE TOWN OF CONSTANTIA NORTHSORE
SEWER PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Constantia duly caused to be prepared a map and plan and estimate of the cost for the proposed construction of facilities for the Town of Constantia Northshore Sewer Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed construction of such improvements includes the addition of a new Northshore Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, the plan shows the estimated costs of these improvements to be \$62,950,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town, as a local agency pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), ECL Section 8-0101, *et seq.*, and implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”), having reviewed the impact of the acquisition and construction of the new sewer district comprising the Project upon the environment has determined by resolution adopted April 1, 2019 that the Project is a “Type I Action” that will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after conducting the required public hearing on May 16, 2019, determined by resolution adopted June 4, 2019, that the construction of the new Sewer District is in the public interest, and approved the project pursuant to Article 12-A of Town Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board now desires to pursue grant funding for the project under the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Constantia, Oswego County, New York, authorizes the submission of a Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst program grant application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to submit an application on behalf of the Town for grant funding under the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program, and to execute any agreements, instruments or other documents in connection with the Town's acceptance of any such grants and/or the funding thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor may authorize any required local match required with respect to financing or grants awarded to the Town for the Project through the use of cash and/or in-kind services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Councilman: **Chapman**

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

Frank Tomaino	Voted	Yes
Richard Colesante	Voted	Yes
John Metzger	Voted	Yes
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr sent the following report:

- As far as a park report, we are working away on getting our open positions filled for the rec program, things are going well. Things are looking positive for filling all the counselor/lifeguard positions.
- We will be putting in the lines for the swimming area sometime in early June (I can't remember the exact date) as soon as our lifeguard certification course is done.
- This week I will be putting together a flyer for the band/fireworks program at the park in July. Once it's complete, I'll send it to the entire park commission and I'll send it to you approve and once it's set, we can get it out in front of the community. It will definitely be ready this week now that I'm done with my work deadline. We had a productive meeting planning for it at our last park meeting. I can share the details with you if you'd like.
- The paving/spruce up at the park is going really well and we are very thankful to all of the highway guys for their excellent work. They're doing great. We are so appreciative.
- I'm working on a grant that I'll be submitting in a week or so for the pickleball courts at the park. Working out some details so I can finish the application.
- I'll have the final proof ready to go for the comprehensive plan, will email it to Jim as soon as I can today.

Again, I'm so sorry I can't make it tonight. If you need me for anything, please let me know.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 18th public hearing and town board meeting, May 1st supervisor's meeting, and the May 10th special 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 #5 Dated May 16, 2023 which have been approved by the Town Board and authorized for payment:

General:	145-180	\$39,777.47	Sewer:	35-36	\$93,975.77
Highway:	80-103	\$77,546.50	ARPA:	4-5	\$50,318.13

Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor's report dated April 30, 2023, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

- 4 guys and 1 machine went to help the Village of Cleveland with their recent flooding issue on Bridge St.
- Cutting trees on Saunders Dr and dealing with diseased ash trees.
- NYS passed their budget – CHIPs increased by \$23,000. With rollover from last year and all the additional programs the total is \$441,754.00 add the \$100,000 budgeted by the Town the total that can be spent on qualified expenditures is \$541,754.64. Mr. Chapman asked if this will be all for blacktop, yes but will be spending some at the park.
- Lewis Rd - reached out to three vendors for guardrail, only one responded. Total cost is \$90,000., Mr. Woolridge will need to budget for this expense. The guardrail must be installed the same year Lewis Rd is paved.

- Beavers continue to be a problem, the new trapper is expensive. \$500 to set traps and \$125 per beaver. Mr. Woolridge believes it could be upwards of \$1,000, that does not include \$1,500 to take down the dam as our permit does not allow us to remove the dam. Dam removal must be done by hand. Mr. Woolridge will update the board as information comes in.
- Banners – will start putting them up next week they have 37 to hang. VFW has 5 towards their next order.
- Tennis courts and a shim coat of black top was done today at the park, should finish tomorrow. Fence company will be back to re-install the fence.
- Total of 29 dumpsters were filled for Dumpster Days.
- Mr. Tomaino told Mr. Woolridge that Mrs. LaVigne talked to him about the driveway up to the basketball court at the church has many potholes. Mrs. LaVigne was in attendance, Mr. Woolridge told her the issue will be taken care of shortly.

Mr. Woolridge wanted to update the board on the purchase of the new plow truck that was approved at the April Town Board meeting. Mr. Woolridge originally asked for authorization of \$208,000, when he went to order the truck the total price is \$234,519.71. Mr. Woolridge would like to amend his original authorization to include the price increase. Mr. Metzger made the motion to increase the authorization for Mr. Woolridge to order a 2024 International truck for \$234,519.71, this truck is on State Bid and includes the Viking-Cives plow/body, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

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

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

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil reported:

- The Winn family reached out to Mr. Reehil to help name a waterfall on their property after their father. Mr. Tomaino received the request from US Board on Geographic Names. Mr. Colesante asked if you can see it from County Route 17, Mr. Tomaino does not believe you can. Mr. Tomaino will go look at the falls and speak to the family.
- County auction is underway, it is a totally online auction.
- The County did pass a Local Law to benefit volunteers for local firefighters and ambulance members, unfortunately their law has a 5 year volunteer membership to qualify. Mr. Reehil was unable to lower the requirement to 2 years to match the Town of Constantia.
- State Budget - The biggest impact on the County budget was the changes the State made to Medicare, this is a federal government program that should directly help the County. In this budget the State is hijacking a majority of the funds, this will have a direct impact on next year's County budget.
- Mr. Reehil wanted to thank Mr. Woolridge and his crew for their help with the beaver dam that broke and caused the flood in the Village of Cleveland. This problem was right next to his home, unbelievable the amount of water that came down the road.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- The Tug Hill Commission met at the Constantia town hall on Monday, May 15, which is the meeting held in the North Shore Council of Governments area this year. The Commission would like to thank Constantia for allowing us to meet here.
- The North Shore Council of Governments met on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 with a follow-up meeting on Thursday, May 11, and plans are underway for doing a four-municipality economic development study.
- It's that time again! Every five years, the Tug Hill Commission conducts a survey of our municipal local leaders, including chief elected, clerks, and public works chiefs. Your participation is essential to provide the feedback and direction Tug Hill needs to continue serving your needs to the highest degree possible. Our program is driven by direction provided by *you*.
At this point, the surveys should have been mailed out. And new this year – local officials will be able to respond on a paper copy, which will be mailed, *or* online, on a web link the letter will provide. Thank you in advance for your participation!

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Email received from T. Hopkins: appreciates dumpsters helps the community look better.
2. Letter received from NYSHIP – insurance is terminated, now with Brown & Brown of NY Inc.

PLANNING BOARD:

Mr. Tomaino spoke to Mr. Joseph Markham this week, Mr. Markham is interested in becoming a member of the planning board. Mr. Chapman knows Mr. Markham and believes he would be a good fit. With no further discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to appoint Mr. Markham to the vacant alternate position on the planning board, term expires 12/31/2023, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mr. Tomaino would like to task the planning board with researching and developing zoning for the Town. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Johnson from the Tug Hill Commission can help with the process. Mr. Peck would like to have members of the community help in the process. The first step would be to investigate and look to see what other towns have in place. Mr. Reehil added the County has \$120,000 in infrastructure funding, this funding can help with the planning and mapping. The County would like consistency with zoning. Mr. Reehil will forward the information to Mr. Peck.

Mr. Tomaino and board members wanted to thank the planning board and Mr. Johnson for all their work on the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Peck wanted to include Mrs. Zehr for her work on the graphic designs.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

- o Mr. Tomaino gave the board an update on what has been spent out of the ARPA funds.
- o The Village of Cleveland is using Safe Glass of CNY LLC to install a new window for their clerk along with security film on all their windows. Mr. Tomaino asked for a quote for the Town Hall. More information to follow.
- o On May 26th at 9am Mr. Tomaino is going to meet with the County Forester Mr. Chevroletti to walk the Towns property, all are welcome to attend. The intent is not to sell the timber just to get a management plan together.
- o June 5th supervisors meeting has been cancelled.
- o Comprehensive Plan Resolution:

COUNCILMAN: **Chapman**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Constantia Town Board charged the Constantia Planning Board with the development of a comprehensive plan (to be known as the Town of Constantia Comprehensive Plan); and the Constantia Planning Board developed such plan; held a public hearing on such plan May 2, 2023; and recommended such plan to the Town Board,

WHEREAS, the Constantia Town Board submitted the Comprehensive Plan to the Oswego County Planning Board for review under General Municipal Law Section 239-m and the Oswego County Planning Board approved the Comprehensive Plan,

WHEREAS, the Constantia Town Board held a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan May 16, 2023,

WHEREAS, the Constantia Town Board established itself as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and declared that the Comprehensive Plan will not have a significant negative effect on the environment,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Town Law Section 272-a, the Constantia Town Board hereby adopts the Town of Constantia Comprehensive Plan.

Seconded by Councilman: **Moran**

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

Frank Tomaino	Voted	Yes
Richard Colesante	Voted	Yes
John Metzger	Voted	Yes
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:11 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

*Mrs. Haynes did not go into executive session.

ADJOURN:

At 9:18 pm with no decisions made during executive session, Mr. Colesante made the motion to reopen and adjourn the town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

