

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – TOWN BOARD – August 15, 2023
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
Erin Zehr – Chair, Park and Recreation Commission
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission
Dustin Clark and David Powers – Barton & Loguidice

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

WASTEWATER:

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

A. WWTP Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ 60% Plans delivered to Town June 28, 2023
 - ✓ Updated treatment plant O&M costs
- Current Status:
 - Finalizing 60% Drawings and Specs for DEC submission
 - Subconsultants on pause for design phase services
- Future steps:
 - Final design, preparation of bid set contingent upon Town authorization

B. Grinder Pump Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ **643** home inspections complete to date
 - ✓ **521** easements have been fully signed and executed by the Town
 - ✓ 60% Plans delivered to Town June 28, 2023
- Current Status:
 - Finalizing 60% Drawings and Specs for DEC submission
 - Future inspections on pause
 - **No more home inspections are scheduled at this time**
 - Continue processing previously executed easements for Town signature and filing
- Future steps:
 - Schedule remaining inspections contingent upon Town authorization

C. Forcemain and Pump Station Scope:

- Recent Work Completed
 - 60% Plans delivered to Town June 28, 2023
 - Updated collection O&M costs based on neighboring similar systems
- Current Status:
 - Finalizing 60% Drawings and Specs for DEC submission
 - Subconsultants on pause for design phase services
- Future steps:
 - Final design, preparation of bid set contingent upon Town authorization

D. Funding, Permitting, and Other Items:

- Recent Work Completed
 - ✓ Addendum No. 3 to PER issued for 2024 IUP Listing on June 16, 2023
 - ✓ NBRC Grant application submitted for \$1M
 - ✓ Correspondence with USDA RD for National Pooling Grant eligibility
 - ✓ **WQIP Grant application submitted for \$10M**
 - ✓ **GIGP Grant application submitted for \$3M**
 - ✓ **Submitted Letter to EFC requesting financial assistance (BIL, Hardship Grant, WIIA)**
- Current Status:
 - Archaeological fieldwork ongoing.
 - STAG grant of \$1.75M in recent Appropriation Bill released July 14
 - Preparing joint application for submission to DEC and Army Corps of Engineers
 - **Finalizing ESD grant funding application**
- Future steps:
 - 2024 CDBG Grant application for future phased portion of project
 - Increase Bond Resolution
 - Comptroller approval process may be necessary with increased Bond Resolution

- Co-funding consultation meeting – NYSDEC, NYSEFC, USDA Rural Development, etc.

Mr. Tomaino has spoken to Congresswoman Tenney’s office, there was a meeting scheduled but unfortunately Mr. Tomaino could not attend the offered date. Hopefully a new date can be set soon.

There were numerous residents in the audience to discuss the sewer. Mr. Tomaino assured the residents that they are making as much noise as possible to get attention to the project for funding.

Mr. Cerra was wondering if there was a way to put together a timeline of events that need to be done so the public knows where the project stands. Mr. Clark will get something together to be posted on the website.

Mr. Moran asked about the proposed project Hastings has with the County, it is a proposed regional sewer main running along the recreation trail to transfer the sewage to Fulton. Mr. Clark is aware of the project, the problem being is there is still the cost for the miles of pipe that would need to be laid. The cost of the pipe to Hasting is equivalent to upgrading the Village sewer treatment plant.

The question was asked about phasing the district, it is too late at this point as the district has already been formed.

Question asked about funding, Mr. Clark responded that if it was not for COVID and the economy the project would be fully funded, but due to inflation the project is now \$18M short.

Why is the project only at the 60% completed phase? Mr. Tomaino responded that the board has put the brakes on spending at the present time, the district has already spent \$2.5M, it will cost another \$2M to get to the full design. Any monies already spent will need to be paid back by the District.

Mr. Chapman also told the residents there is a concern about the O&M charges for the district, there is some conflicting information that has been brought to the board’s attention.

With no more questions, Mr. Tomaino thanked the residents for coming and to please reach out with any additional questions.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr updated the board:

- This is the last week of the summer recreation program, the children enjoyed fun days again this year.
- The fireworks were a big success, hopefully the Town can do it again next year.
- Shineman Grant that was applied for was denied for the pickle ball court, the Town did not have the 50% match that is required.
- Ms. Zehr thanked the highway department for the delivery of sand.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 10th special meeting and the July 18th town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #8 Dated August 15, 2023 which have been approved by the Town Board and authorized for payment:

General:	271-311	\$ 16,949.41
Highway:	150-162	\$ 34,239.31
Trust and Agency:	4	\$ 16,741.97
Sewer:	42-48	\$237,628.70

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 July 31, 2023, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

- Working on storm drains and all roads are back together from the recent flooding.
- Beavers are still an issue, Mr. Woolridge is looking for a new trapper.
- Tree trimming
- Long arm has been rented
- Called to get prices on road sand, will be buying from Preston Hill cost is \$6 a yard, will be hauling that soon.

As mentioned at the July meeting, quite a few items were put on Auction's International for sale. Mr. Woolridge would like a motion to accept all bids with the exception of the stainless-steel sander, high bid for that was \$600, for that amount the Town will keep that item. With no discussion Mr. Colesante made the motion to sell all items as bid on Auction's International excluding the above-mentioned sander, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mr. Woolridge would also like to have a motion for the highway department to purchase a 2024 pickup under New York State bid. Mr. Chapman asked if there were any good used trucks instead of purchasing new, Mr. Woolridge responded that purchasing on State bid the total price including the plow will be around \$30,000, about the same as a used truck will be. Mr. Metzger made the motion to authorize Mr. Woolridge to purchase a 2024 pickup truck with a plow under State bid, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

Mr. Tomaino wanted to thank the highway employees for all their extra work with the recent flooding, installing the new gateway sign and the foundation work at the town hall.

Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept 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 June, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

Mr. Tomaino wanted it noted that no code enforcement office report was received.

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

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter read into the minutes the following report:

- The North Shore Council of Governments has the MRB Group economic resilience and recovery plan process under way, with the initial project management meeting taking place on July 25 between representatives of the MRB Group, the Tug Hill Commission, and the North Shore Council of Governments.
And a reminder – the next meeting of the North Shore Council of Governments will be held on Wednesday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe town hall
The main purpose of that meeting will be to meet with the County of Oswego Industrial Development Agency CEO Austin Wheelock, and David Turner, director of strategic initiatives for Oswego County and past director of the county Department of Community Development, Tourism, and Planning. Make sure to bring your questions for them!
The public is welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!
- The county emergency management office will be holding a community engagement workshop on Tuesday, August 22 at 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. on the second update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
It will be held in person at the Oswego County Emergency Management Office, 200 N. Second St., Fulton, in the basement, and via Zoom. Let me know if you need more information about this meeting.
- The Tug Hill Commission now owns a traffic counter for use by our member governments. If Constantia is interested in using it some time, let us know.
- Finally, do you have a municipal certificate of incorporation? I wrote an article about that recently for the Tug Hill Times:

Municipal certificates of incorporation are foundational documents for a town or village's very existence and are needed sometimes for financial matters and things like grant applications. As such, it is good practice for the municipality to be able to produce theirs when needed – and to look for it before needed. Otherwise, if the search is started when the town or village becomes aware it is needed, they may not be able to produce it in time. |

It's a good idea to look for it now and keep it safe with your most essential documents! And if the town or village doesn't have one, and can't remember ever having one, there is hope. The official

state repository of municipal certificates of incorporation is Researcher Services at New York State Archives, archref@nysed.gov, (518) 474-8955

PLANNING BOARD:

Minutes received for June 27th and July 25th.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – the Town needs to sign up for a meeting with Barton & Loguidice. Oswego County is suggesting we establish a planning team with the following positions:

- Chief Elected Official
- Deputy Chief Elected Official
- Municipality Clerk
- Board member(s)
- Highway or Department of Public Works Superintendent
- Water/Sewer Department staff, if applicable
- Code Enforcement Officer
- Fire Department representatives
- Local Police Department or Law Enforcement agency representatives
- Community members
- Anyone else interested!

Mr. Tomaino will set the date and forward it to all interested parties.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

COUNCILMAN: **Moran**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

The town board for the town of Constantia approves the 2022 Justice audits. Justice Pelon’s and Justice Simpson’s audits have been completed by Councilman Metzger and Supervisor Tomaino. It is further instructed that Ms. Butler – Bookkeeper, send copies of both to the New York State Office of Court Administration.

Seconded by Councilman: **Colesante**

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.

-Joint Water Board meeting August 29, 2023 @ 9am

-Joint Sewer Board meeting September 6, 2023 @ 9am

-September Supervisors meeting will be moved to September 11th @ 9am

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Pone, member of the planning board told residents present the Town will be creating a zoning board, any interested parties should send a letter of interest. Mr. Tomaino added that he received one letter of interest and has had no negative feedback.

ADJOURN:

At 7:57 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn the town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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