

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD, SPECIAL SEWER MEETING – February 20, 2024
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Daniel Poné, Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk

Others Present: Lauren Tackman – Mayor, Village of Cleveland
Robin Wilson – Trustee, Village of Cleveland
Julie Simpson – Clerk, Village of Cleveland
Shawn House – DPW Superintendent Village of Cleveland
John Langey and Rich Andino – Town Attorneys, CC&F
Dustin Clark and David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
William Buchan – Concerned Citizen

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Tomaino called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Tomaino explained that this meeting was called to discuss the operation and maintenance costs of the upgraded sewer treatment plant. This meeting was called prior to the notification that the North Shore Sewer District was not awarded grants during this last cycle.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Buchan is a 30-year resident of the Town and lives in the district. Mr. Buchan comes to the table with vast knowledge and experience of operation and maintaining sewer treatment plants and is an environmental attorney. Mr. Buchan has been the attorney for multiple Towns and Villages. Mr. Buchan currently owns Operations and Maintenance Inc. This is a wastewater company that operates treatment plants for mainly pharmaceutical companies. Mr. Buchan knew about the project but has not been paying close attention, as with many projects the massive inflation has caused project total costs to skyrocket. Mr. Buchan has offered his expertise in helping with the district, Mr. Buchan has worked with Barton & Loguidice in the past and believes he can be an asset. Mr. Buchan does not want to see the district fail. Mr. Buchan's idea is to look at what has been done and brainstorm at how this might be re-imagined. A few ideas that were discussed were the possibility of phasing in the system or splitting the distribution of material to two different facilities. Mr. Buchan will be offering his services at no charge. Mr. Tomaino asked if it will be a hurdle to adjust the grant monies already received, this is something that will need to be explored. After lengthy discussion, it was suggested the best way forward would be to create an advisory board. This board would not have many members but must consist of a member of the Constantia Town Board and either the Mayor or a Trustee from the Village of Cleveland.

Mr. Chapman made the motion to establish the Sewer Advisory Board with Mr. Buchan as lead member, this board is on a voluntary basis and uncompensated, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Poné – Yes Donegan – Yes Tomaino - Yes

ADJOURN:

At 10:26 am Mr. Tomaino closed the meeting.