

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –SUPERVISOR’S MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD – March 5, 2024
4:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino – Supervisor
Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission
Dustin Clark and David Powers – Barton & Loguidice

Absent: Ronald Chapman and Daniel Poné, – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 4:10 pm Mr. Tomaino called the supervisor’s meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Moran was reviewing the Town of Constantia Comprehensive Plan dated 6/2023 in reference to zoning. The last time Mr. Moran went to a meeting the members were discussing a survey of residents, discussions with high school seniors and people who do not live in our Town. Apparently, this was a suggested course to follow when Mrs. Connolly contacted Albany for advice for a community survey. Mr. Murra a resident of our Town has attended many of the zoning committee meetings, he has some concerns about how they are going about the formation of zoning for the Town. At the last meeting they were already discussing the actual zones, Mr. Murra believes the starting point should be definitions of each zone, and what they are trying to govern. Answer questions like: What do you want to achieve? Where do you want certain things? Mr. Moran believes the committee is using West Monroe as a template. Key discussions need to be on lakefront vs residential, it was discussed having every property that has water be considered as waterfront. There are so many smaller lakes and ponds this idea will be hard to control. As zoning will eventually need to have many public hearings and then approved by the town board it is best to get it right the first time, it would be a mistake to put something together that would not eventually be accepted. This process needs to be thoughtful and accept ideas from the public, the more involvement the better. After continued discussion, Mr. Tomaino will take these concerns to the zoning committee chair.

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Clark stated that he has good news and bad news, to update all in attendance, the district was not awarded any additional grants during the last round of funding. Mr. Tomaino was on a conference call with Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), EFC is the agency that has the most funding available. The call was to discuss a path forward for this district. While on the call it was suggested that the district retract all grants already received, once that is done then the district can reapply for new grants. The new grants have increased their funding limits significantly. The district will need to apply for short term funding to pay back what has been spent around \$2.5M, but this amount can be transferred to the new grants when received. Ms. Ricci from EFC is going to speak to their legal team to verify that this path is available. Time is of the essence, as the new funding applications are due by June 14th. Mr. Donegan asked if it will hurt the project by retracting the grants, does that make it look bad for the district? Mr. Clark indicated that this idea was given to the Town by EFC, and that is why they will be waiting for the return call from Ms. Ricci. Mr. Powers will follow up with Ms. Ricci later in the week.

At the February 20th special meeting of the town board, a new sewer advisory committee was established. This committee is chaired by a local resident, Mr. Buchan. Mr. Buchan has extensive experience with sewer treatment and is willing to help. Mr. Murra was also appointed to the committee; this committee is looking to brainstorm additional funding and thoughts on how this district will be handling O&M charges.

ADJOURN:

At 5:09 pm the meeting was adjourned.