

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD – May 21, 2024
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader-Town Attorney
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commissioner
Bill Buchan– Sewer Advisory Board
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 5:45 pm Mr. Tomaino called the public hearing to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PURPOSE:

The original purpose of the public hearing was to discuss an increase in the maximum amount to be expended for the Town of Constantia Sewer District. This hearing was scheduled before the Village of Cleveland sent a letter notifying the board that they will be terminating the IMA (Intermunicipal Agreement) for Construction, Financing and Sewer Service between the Town of Constantia and the Village.

DISCUSSION:

A lengthy discussion followed on the next steps to take for the sewer district. The biggest hurdle right now is finding a place for a treatment plant. Once a few locations are identified, Barton & Loguidice will be in contact with NYSDEC, they will have to approve the location of the plant with a SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) 2A permit. It is important to remember that NYSDEC stipulated that the Town use the Cleveland plant.

Since the Village terminated the IMA, the district cannot apply for funding in the 2024 cycle, this puts the district at least another year behind. A resident asked why pipes can't be purchased now, as inflation will only go higher. Mr. Tomaino responded that grants come with strings, districts can't start construction until all funding is secured.

Another resident asked if there will be a re-vote when the new numbers come in, yes that is exactly what was happening tonight, the district was increasing the maximum amount to be spent.

A significant amount of the drawings that have been completed along with easements will be able to be salvaged, of course the biggest hurdle is to find a suitable location for a treatment plant.

At 6:00 pm Mr. Tomaino closed the public hearing and open the monthly town board meeting.

WASTEWATER:

The town board will be reconfiguring the sewer advisory board to a sewer board, this board will be appointed at the June town board meeting.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #5 Dated May 21, 2024:

General:	155-202	\$55,795.49	Sewer:	10-11	\$2,542.50
Highway:	60-83	\$85,967.57	ARPA:	3	\$ 329.34

Trust and Agency:	5	\$15,902.05
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Seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor's report dated April 30, 2024, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 3rd supervisor meeting and the April 16th town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following reports as received, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

- a. Justice Pelon and Justice Simpson
- b. Town Clerk

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr reported:

- Beach will be open June 1st, the Town was able to hire plenty of lifeguards this year, this is a big relief.
- Having a few plumbing and electrical issues, hopefully they will be resolved soon.
- Vandals broke one of the cameras, ADT will be coming to fix or replace.
- Working on having music in the park this summer, more information to follow.
- New Park Director Mr. DeRienzo has been painting and getting the park ready.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported:

- Crew has been ditching, getting ready for paving.
- Work continues on the fuel island.
- Park has been too wet to do work there, hope to be able to deliver sand soon.

Mr. Tomaino asked about the purchase of the trailer, is that just for the new lawn mower, yes, it is a tilt trailer. Mr. Tomaino questioned why it cost more than the mower. The old mower was turned in which gave a substantial credit towards the new mower.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- The **2024 Tug Hill Local Government Conference** went well. As many slide presentations and handouts as are available are on the Tug Hill website at <https://tughill.org>, under Training > Past LGC Presentations, and pictures of the conference are up on Tug Hill's Facebook page.
- As we are now in the first quarter of state fiscal year 2024-25, the **Route 49 corridor study** should be underway by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC).
- The SMTC is also currently in the process of creating a new **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**! This plan (also referred to as a "long range transportation plan" or LRTP) describes the current state of the surface transportation system, examines anticipated trends, and lays out a vision for the future of the region's transportation system. The SMTC is required to update this plan every 5 years, with the next MTP due in September 2025. They are currently looking for public input through a survey available at <https://smtcmpo.org/mtp2050/>
- The Tug Hill Commission met on **Monday, May 20** at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Square village offices. This was the commission's meeting in the North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) area in 2024, and one of two scheduled for the Oswego County portion of the Tug Hill region.
- The **North Shore Council of Governments** met **Wednesday, May 15**, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe town hall. Minutes will be available soon. No next meeting date has been set yet.
- The Tug Hill Commission's annual report, **Headwaters**, is now out. If Tug Hill has an e-mail address on file for you, you should have received a copy. If you did not, make sure to verify the e-mail address we have for you. I have a limited number of paper copies available now. Copies are also available on the Tug Hill website at <https://tughill.org/headwaters-annual-report/> .
- I have additional copies of the **Tug Hill Recreation Guide** for you, and as was announced in the Tug Hill Times, I have a preview of the next edition of the Guide, which will be distributed to your community in the future. Note that a digital version of the Guide is available at <https://visittughill.com> .
- There is nothing new to report about the status of **wildlife management area payment legislation**.

Mr. Colesante spoke about the economic development study that NORCOG did in conjunction with the Town. There is one item to tackle which is to identify 3-4 properties that can be developed consistent with the comprehensive plan, these properties can be residential or commercial. If the board could brainstorm, get the property locations to Mr. Baxter for review by the Tug Hill Commission to be included in the study.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Tomaino has not heard back from NYSDOT on a possible crosswalk across State Route 49 to the Circle K. Mr. Tomaino will give it another few weeks if no response he will reach back out.

BOARD MINUTES:

April 23rd Planning and Zoning minutes received.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

- ✓ Mr. Metzger and Mr. Tomaino completed 2023 audits for Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

- ✓ The supervisor's meeting for June 4th is cancelled, Mr. Tomaino will reschedule if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-A resident asked for an update on 34th St., there has been no progress in the clean-up. Dumpster Days would have helped. Mr. Tomaino will follow up with codes.

-Update on the new town hall, waiting on drawings.

-Burned out house on St. Rt. 49, demolition permit issued hopefully it will be coming down soon.

-The Memorial Day parade will be in Constantia this year, starts at 11am.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There was an error in the legal notice on the public hearing, which listed both times, 5:45pm and 6:45pm, with this in mind Mr. Tomaino opened the public hearing. As noted above, this public hearing is not necessary as the Village of Cleveland pulled out of the project after the hearing was set.

ADJOURN:

At 6:47 pm Mr. Donegan made the motion to close the public hearing and adjourn the town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk