

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –EMERGENCY MEETING – July 29, 2024
9:00 Am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino – Supervisor
Thomas Moran, Ronald Chapman – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Chad Whitney – Chief, Constantia Vol Fire Department
Dr, Joeseph Markham – Medical Director, North Shore Ambulance

Absent: Michael Donegan, Daniel Poné – Council Members
Warren Bader – Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Tomaino called the emergency meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the emergency meeting is to discuss notification that North Shore Volunteer Ambulance will be shutting down operations immediately.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tomaino received a phone call on Thursday, July 25th at 9:45 pm from Mr. Denny, President & CEO of North Shore Ambulance informing him that North Shore Ambulance will be shutting down operations immediately. As of the date of this meeting, no official letter has been received by the Town.

Mr. Tomaino did receive a call from Mr. Menter – President & CEO of Menter Ambulance. Mr. Menter has requested a temporary emergency Certificate of Need (CON) from NYS DOH. Mr. Menter and Mr. Saluzzo, Director of Operations of McFee Ambulance service, has requested a meeting on Tuesday July 30th at 6pm to discuss and answer any questions the Town may have.

Mr. Whitney assured the board that ambulance service is still available to residents of the town of Constantia. Anytime there is a need for an ambulance, if North Shore Ambulance was either not available or did not have an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance available, Menter is dispatched as mutual aid from Oswego County 911.

General discussion on:

- Where an ambulance could be located, central NY weather is an issue as some of the required medications need to be in a controlled environment.
- Is there room at the Constantia Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Whitney said their bays are full and the buildings are owned by the Fire Commissioners, that is really a question for them.
- Should a building be built to house an ambulance.
- Use of fly car to alleviate the need for an ambulance parked in Constantia. Fly car would have a Paramedic or EMT to give advanced treatment until an ambulance could arrive.
- What will North Shore do with their equipment and building?
- Why did this happen so fast, they just recently purchased a fly car to help with their operations?
- Mr. Tomaino was told that they were not awarded a few grants they applied for, they also lost the contracts for the towns of Amboy and Vienna.
- Mr. Moran asked about a Municipal CON, unsure if it is worth it with the liability.

Mr. Tomaino received a bill from North Shore Ambulance for \$18,399.69, this will be for the balance that was not paid for the second half of the year.

Mr. Tomaino will craft a statement to get on the website and on social media. Most importantly people need to know that an ambulance will respond if they need to call 911.

ADJOURN:

At 10:18 am the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk