

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES –EMERGENCY MEETING – July 30, 2024**  
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

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

Others Present: Michael Davis, Supervisor, Vienna  
Laureen Tackman – Mayor, Village of Cleveland

Constantia Vol. Fire Department: Dillon Kinsey-802, Zach Avery-803, Curtis Rouse-Captain, Max Yonkers-Lieutenant

Cleveland Vol. Fire Department: David Hinds-President

McFee Ambulance: Michael Solazzo, Director of Operations

Menter Ambulance: Zachary Menter – President, Michael Zukovsky, Director of Finance, John Medico, System Director, Steve Saint, Director of Administration

Vineall Ambulance: Bill Vineall, Owner/President, Matt Wiediger, Director of Operations

North Shore Ambulance: Dr. Joeseeph Markham – Medical Director, North Shore

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 6:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the emergency meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance

**PURPOSE:**

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

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Tomaino stated that he called this meeting with neighboring ambulance services to have an open discussion on how to move forward. The town of Constantia has now been left without ambulance service. Mr. Menter assured the board and people present that Menter will continue to respond as needed as mutual aid and will continue until the end of the year without any agreement with the Town. Menter Ambulance will be responding out of their Central Square location. Mr. Menter knew North Shore Ambulance was having struggles as he had been having conversations with Mr. Morris Director of Operations for North Shore but was shocked by the sudden closing. Dr. Markham stated that he too was surprised, he was not notified either. Mr. Menter did apply for a Temporary Emergency Certificate of Need from NYS Health Department. Mr. Menter wished that North Shore Ambulance would have reached out to any of the other agencies as it would have been easier to handle a transfer of the CON (Certificate of Need) instead of applying for a temporary emergency certificate.

Mr. Poné asked about mutual aid and who determines which ambulance will be called, Oswego County 911 dispatch sends the closest ambulance that is available at the time of the call. Mr. Menter replied that their average response time for the town of Constantia is 17 minutes. Mr. Tomaino and Mr. Poné voiced that this is the question that needs to be answered, is this acceptable to the residents of the Town.

Mr. Solazzo, Director of operations for McFee Ambulance, is also here to support the Town. McFee Ambulance in 2025 will be servicing the town of Amboy as they recently won their lawsuit against the State regarding the CON for the town of Amboy. They are also willing to discuss ambulance services for the town of Constantia. Mr. Menter and Mr. Solazzo will work together, if it is in the best interest of the town of Constantia to contract with McFee vs Menter that is fine, both agencies will supply mutual aid for each other.

Mr. Vineall, President of Vineall Ambulance who covers part of the town of Vienna was in to listen to the conversation and let the Town know they will be interested with contracting with the Town for ambulance services. Mr. Tomaino asked Mr. Vineall about issues with crossing county lines with radio communication etc., Mr. Vineall responded that he does all the time as he covers towns in two other counties.

Discussion turned to having an ambulance housed in Constantia, it was stated that a single ambulance can't support itself. To have a successful ambulance you need to have a minimum of 1,000 calls a year, other than that it is not sustainable. Mr. Saint, Director of Administration for Menter Ambulance, responded that for an ambulance to be housed in any town it would cost \$600,000 a year with support and billing to make it sustainable.

Dr. Markham brought up the idea of a fly car model with either an EMT or Paramedic, the Fire Department will respond first, but if there is a fly car available the next level medic could be on scene before an ambulance arrives. As this is a new concept it will need to be investigated first.

Another issue is where would an ambulance in the Town be located, Mr. Kinsey told the board members that they do not currently have room in the Constantia Vol Fire Station, that would also be a conversation with the Fire Commissioners as they own the building. Mr. Hinds, President for the Cleveland Vol Fire Department offered up their location. Mr. Hinds discussed the situation with their Board of Directors, and they agreed to offer their building. There would need to be discussion with the ambulance service if it would turn out to be a permanent location.

Ms. Tackman asked if there had been any communication from North Shore, Mr. Tomaino responded that other than the original phone notification there has been none.

Mr. Tomaino thanked everyone that attended tonight, there will be more discussions on this topic and hopefully a resolution that will benefit the residents.

**ADJOURN:**

At 6:53 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

Respectfully submitted:

*Clare Haynes*  
*Town Clerk*