

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– August 20, 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, Pat Cerra, John Mura– Sewer Advisory Board
Dillon Kinsey-802, Zach Avery-803 - Constantia Vol. Fire Department
Dustin Clark, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Powers gave the board and members of the sewer advisory board the requested matrix for possible wastewater site selection, as this matrix is in draft form only, it was not given to the public. Mr. Powers requested the board members review the matrix for discussion at the next supervisor’s meeting. As board members review the matrix, Mr. Powers would like the members to look at the review criteria and think of issues that might come up and what is important to them. In the matrix if there are blank spaces B&L is awaiting a response back from DEC for permit requirements.

Costello, Cooney & Fearon will be researching deeds of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) sites to verify if there are any restrictions.

B&L will be talking to DEC, it is very important to get their input.

It is critical to site the plant as soon as possible, once this is done the Map Plan & Report can be completed along with SEQR, the bond resolution and associated public hearings. It will be a busy time but must hit all the deadlines to be able to apply for grants in June of 2025. The district cannot miss this funding deadline.

Discussion on the possibility of discharging into Frederick Creek as the fish hatchery already discharges there. Mr. Clark responded that Mr. Colesante was at the sewer advisory meeting he was able to give B&L some information as to what is discharged. All this information will be passed on to DEC, the organization that will be doing the permitting. A resident questioned why use Frederick Creek, that flows into Scriba Creek that ends up in the Oneida Lake. No board member wants the lake to be affected by discharging into the lake. Mr. Clark and Mr. Buchan indicated that normally the treated water that is discharged into a body of water is typically cleaner than the lake or river that it is flowing into. The treatment process is very regulated to be sure there is no potential problems.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD:

Mr. Mura thanked B&L for getting the matrix together and encouraged the process is moving forward, Mr. Buchan agreed.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Poné made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #8 Dated August 20, 2024:
Seconded by Mr. Moran.

General:	287-330	\$ 18,204.74
Highway:	111-124	\$ 204,294.04
Trust and Agency:	8	\$ 16,831.04
Sewer:	19-22	\$2,460,432.09

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran noted there are no accounts over budget at this time. Mr. Moran also wanted to make note that between both of the water districts there is approximately \$1M balance, as stated in the past the board will need to have some discussions about this at budget time. Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor’s report dated July 31, 2024, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 16th town board meeting, July 29th and 30th emergency meeting and the August 6th supervisor meeting, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following reports as received:

Justice Pelon, Justice Simpson, Town Clerk and Code Enforcement
seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr reported:

- Summer recreation is over they are already starting work on the program for next year
- The park had their first issue with blue green algae last week it has cleared up swimming is back open
- 2,205 lunches were served as part of the park program
- Concert for August 18th was rained out, rain date is this Friday the 23rd from 5pm-8pm
- Mrs. Zehr would like to speak to the board about some projects for next year. The last few years there has been some plumbing issues, there is debris in the pipelines causing the toilets to not flush properly. This could be an expensive fix but needs to be done.
- Mr. Tomaino asked about a splash pad for the park. Mrs. Zehr is looking into the possibility of grants, some require matching funds, it just depends on what is done. Mr. Tomaino was invited to Williams Park to view their equipment, Mrs. Zehr told Mr. Tomaino that the park is very nice.
- Mr. Tomaino told Mrs. Zehr that he has heard the program was well received this year, Mrs. Zehr agrees but is concerned that they went over budget. The budget needs to be reviewed for next year.

Mr. Moran asked about the music at the park; he understands that it has not been well attended, Mr. Moran would like to see maybe something right in the hamlet. Mr. Moran believes more people might attend, Mrs. Zehr understands, but the whole purpose is to get people to come and enjoy the park. The concerts have not been well attended and Mrs. Zehr is unsure if they should be held next year.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported:

- Four miles of paving has been completed
- Cutting trees
- Culvert issue on Tynan Rd
- Two new employees have been hired
- They will begin switching dump trucks over to snowplows once paving has been completed
- S&W has completed the fuel island at the highway department, they will be coming back to give the Town the keys fobs, program the equipment and train employees.

Mr. Whitney would like to sign a contract with Cintas. The highway department in the past used Unifirst, after many issues the service was discontinued. After discussion with Cintas, they will supply Carhartt uniforms, pants and shirts 11 sets for \$93.50. Unifirst at the end was charging anywhere from \$160-\$170. Mr. Whitney would like to give Cintas a try. With no more discussion, Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Mr. Whitney to contract with Cintas for employee uniforms, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- The next meeting of the **North Shore Council of Governments** has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe town hall, 46 County Route 11, West Monroe. All are welcome to attend. An agenda will be going out prior to the meeting.
- The Tug Hill Commission has a newly revised version of its paper on **Ambulance Service in Rural New York State**. Given recent events concerning North Shore Ambulance, I forwarded this to the town immediately upon its release. I have brought a couple printed copies tonight should they be useful.
- Things are moving forward on the **succession plan for the Tug Hill circuit rider position serving the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments**. The deadline to apply was July 31. Following that, the interview committee of Tug Hill executive director Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill planning director, North Shore chair Rip Colesante and Salmon Rivers chair William Potter met to receive the applications received and to decide on the pool to be interviewed. The most recent update I have received is that those interviews are being scheduled.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Katie Malinowski (katie@tughill.org) or Matt Johnson, (matt@tughill.org .)

More information is available from the news item on the Tug Hill website, <https://tughill.org>, and on the page <https://tughill.org/2024/06/27/were-hiring/>

- FYI: I understand that there will be a meeting later this month with National Grid regarding **potential new transmission lines in Oswego County**. It is further my understanding that Hastings is among the potentially impacted municipalities. Tug Hill will have a representative at that meeting, and we will report back what comes from that meeting.
- As an early “save the date”, the **Tug Hill Commission annual dinner** will be Thursday, September 19, at 5:00 p.m. in Port Leyden at the Hayloft at Moonshine Farm. I expect invitations will be going out later this month.
- There is nothing new to report about the status of **wildlife management area payment legislation**.
- I dropped off additional copies of the most recent update to **the Tug Hill Recreation Guide**.

BOARD MINUTES:

Planning Board minutes and Zoning Commission minutes received from - July 23, 2024

AMBULANCE:

Everyone knows of the situation with North Shore Ambulance closing their doors. Menter Ambulance applied for the emergency certificate of need from New York State. The Town Board met with McFee Ambulance out of Mexico, they supplied a budget and contract to the town with a yearly cost of \$330,000. This would be for one ambulance which would be temporarily located at the Cleveland Vol Fire Department. Menter Ambulance would service the Town at no charge, but the contract would be for four years. The ambulance would be in their Central Square hub. It is not profitable to have an ambulance located in the town of Constantia, it depletes their resources. Mr. Tomaino did contact Emergency Management in Oswego and was able to get a breakdown for response times, they are roughly the same when you compare North Shore vs Menter.

Mr. Kinsey, Second Assistant Chief for the Constantia Vol. Fire Department stated that if you go with McFee, it is like going back to square one, they will only be supplying one ambulance in Constantia. If they are out of service, you will be waiting for the next available ambulance which will most likely be Menter. Mr. Chapman agrees, with mutual aid agreements, “our” ambulance could be responding to another call, so we are again waiting. Menter has 19 ambulances, they move them around as they are needed.

Mr. Tomaino stated that there will be more discussions, nothing is going to be decided tonight, Mr. Tomaino was hoping a representative of the village of Cleveland would be in attendance.

A resident questioned what would happen to the additional monies from the budget, she suggested that maybe more first aid classes could be offered to empower people to help themselves. She went on to state that the fire departments who are first on scene are fantastic and our first line of help when people are in need.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

Mr. Tomaino told the board that the Town is waiting for possible dates from West Monroe for the Water Board Meeting as required by intermunicipal agreement with West Monroe.

The Town has received the first drawings for the new town hall, after some comments Mr. VanDeWater will be making some suggested changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident asked what can be done with people speeding down Lower Rd. Mr. Tomaino offered to call the sheriff's office to request patrols. It would be helpful if the resident also called.

A resident from West Rd. asked if there was a possibility of getting water on his road. There has been a petition in the past that offered water, but at the current time the projected cost per citizen was higher than acceptable.

When asked about the bridge on State Route 49 that is closed, Mr. Tomaino told the residents that he spoke to Mr. Mahar, Supervisor for West Monroe who said they were working on the temporary bridge, but there was a problem with the bidding process. Mr. Tomaino will update the public when he hears more.

ADJOURN:

At 7:17 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk

