

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES –SUPERVISOR’S MEETING – OCTOBER 1, 2024**  
4:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino – Supervisor  
Thomas Moran, Ronald Chapman, Daniel Poné Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Warren Bader – Town Attorney  
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent  
Erin Zehr – Chair, Park and Recreation Commission  
Bill Buchan, Richard Colesante, John Mura– Sewer Committee Members  
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission  
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loguidice

Absent: Michael Donegan – Council Member  
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 4:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the supervisor’s meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance

**WASTEWATER:**

The Sewer Committee had a very productive meeting Monday morning. Mr. Bombardo who is the head of the Oswego County Strategic Planning Committee on Infrastructure along with Mr. Turner, Director of the Department of Community Development Tourism, attended via phone. Mr. Bombardo updated the board on the possibility of the County utilizing the rail trail to install distribution lines from the Town of Hastings to the City of Fulton’s WWTP which is currently underused. The town of Hastings did receive a grant to explore the possibility of using the concept of regional infrastructure. By using the rail trail that is solely owned by the County this opens the infrastructure to all the Towns that the trail travels thru.

The town of Hastings, Oswego County and the City of Fulton are currently putting together a letter of intent, once this letter is completed Mr. Buchan is hopeful Mr. Bombardo will share this letter with the sewer committee.

Mr. Buchan highlighted the following key advantages of a shared services plan:

1. Avoidance of the process for siting a new WWTP located in the Town and the very likely prospect of unhappy neighbors and litigation that any siting process will precipitate.
2. No discharge to Oneida Lake or its tributaries. Protection and preservation of the lake is a universally shared value here and the most important driving factor behind this project.
3. No need to apply for a SPDES permit to discharge treated effluent to Oneida Lake and the attendant risk of the inevitable ratcheting down of effluent limits.
4. The opportunity to include Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer (SOCRIS) as an alternative in the Town's WII Grant application in 2025. Thus, the timing of this alternative is not materially different than our current plan.
5. The prospect of working cooperatively with our neighboring local governments and the County to seek and find additional sources of grant funding for the joint project.
6. While it is difficult to know at this early stage what financial benefits may accrue to participants in this effort, we immediately see the avoided costs associated with siting, designing, constructing and operating a new WWTP in the Town of Constantia.

Mr. Buchan would encourage the town board members to welcome the opportunity to consider a document such as a Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Intent that would formally signal its interest in participating in a joint effort.

**WETLANDS:**

Mr. Colesante updated the board on the new wetland laws as they pertain to Oneida Lake. The new law not only effects wetlands, but any large body of water over 150 acres. Of major concern residents on Oneida Lake could be affected when DEC looks at the 100ft buffer zone. This could affect homeowners when they want to put in a dock or gazebo. Oneida Lake Association will be keeping an eye on this situation.

**FUEL ISLAND:**

Now that the fuel island is up and working, Mr. Bader submitted an agreement between Constantia Fire District #1 and the Town of Constantia, with no further questions the following resolution was offered.

COUNCILMAN: Chapman  
Introduced the following and moved its adoption:  
RESOLVED, that:

**The town board for the town of Constantia will approve and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Fuel Island Agreement between the town of Constantia and Constantia Fire District #1.**

Seconded by Councilman: Poné

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Frank Tomaino, Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman Jr.	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan II	Absent	
Thomas Moran	Voted	Yes
Daniel Poné	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

\* signed agreement will be at the end of these minutes.

**HISTORIAN:**

Mrs. Peck - Town Historian submitted her official resignation. Mr. Tomaino accepted with regret; as Mrs. Keffer accepted the role as Co-Historian, she will now be the official historian for the Town.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Zehr and Mr. Colesante were both in to discuss the park and recreation commission. Since the inception of the park, the commission has had the responsibility of the budget. For this season as everyone knows there was a budget overage, this is not what the commission wants or supports. Of course, we cannot backtrack but want to make sure this does not happen in the future. The commission wants to be involved in the process, this year Mrs. Zehr did not receive a budget worksheet. Mr. Tomaino was unaware that no worksheet was given to Mrs. Zehr, he will make sure to get one sent over.

Discussion on the overage for this season, there were more employees hired to cover the summer rec program. Mr. Tomaino said the program had more kids sign up this year, that was the reason for the additional employees. The County requires a certain number of counselors per child. Mrs. Zehr told the board that as long as you maintain the ratio 12:1 daily then you can run the program, this year and as in years in the past 130(ish) kids were at the park daily. There are always more kids signed up than who attends, it's a daily process to keep the ratio. Discussion turned to out of town people who pay \$50 per child to attend, this fee needs to be increased along with the idea of capping the number of out-of-town children that can attend.

Mr. Colesante believes the major issue is communication, the new park director Mr. DeRienzo needs to communicate with Mrs. Zehr and the commission. Mrs. Zehr would like Mr. DeRienzo to attend commission meetings, that would be a big help. Mr. Tomaino will tell Mr. DeRienzo to attend the monthly meetings.

Mrs. Zehr will be at the October 10<sup>th</sup> budget meeting at 6pm.

Mr. Whitney asked what Mrs. Zehr would like done with the old picnic tables, the new ones are ready to be delivered. The board decided to give away the picnic tables to residents on a first come first served basis.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Menter has requested a letter of support from the Town of Constantia to put with their application to receive the Certificate of Need (CON). After discussion, Mr. Chapman made a motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino sign the letter of support, seconded by Mr. Poné.  
Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

Ms. Butler would like to add a budget officer line to the 2025 budget, after discussion the board members present do not think this is necessary.

Mr. Tomaino told the board he received many phone and text messages Monday afternoon, apparently Mr. Abbass was picking up a piece of equipment and damaged a portion of the new pavement on Salt Rd. Mr. Tomaino did leave a message for Mr. Abbass but has not received a return call. Mr. Tomaino believes Mr. Abbass should pay for the damage, Mr. Whitney did go up and look, the road will need to be saw cut and pavement replaced. This will need to wait as there is a 2-ton minimum, the new shoulder of the road was also damaged. Once the repair is completed Mr. Whitney will notify the board.

Before the meeting Mr. Tomaino spoke with Mr. Bader in regard to the two properties that have been charged improperly for the North Shore water district edu charge on their tax bill. Mr. Bader replied it is the right thing to do, it was an error on the Town's behalf that can be corrected.

**CHURCH:**

Mr. Tomaino reached out to Mr. Collins from Expert Environmental Construction Group (EECG). Mr. Collins met with Mr. Tomaino at the new town hall property to discuss potential asbestos. Mr. Collins' estimate is for \$2,700. The major concern is with tiles on the platform in the building, this platform needs to be removed. After discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino to sign the agreement with EECG for \$2,700.00, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

Mr. Tomaino has also met with Mr. Chilson and Mr. West on the drainage issue at the church. They will both be submitting estimates, included in the estimates will be moving the septic tank that is located in the middle of the driveway at the back of the building.

**HIGHWAY:**

Mr. Whitney would like to order a wood processor for the highway department, they had a demonstration of a Timberwolf, used Pro MPXL. Mr. Whitney believes it will be much safer and save a lot of time, they currently use Mr. Woolridge's wood splitter. After discussion Mr. Chapman authorized Mr. Whitney purchase the above-mentioned Timberwolf for \$39,995.95 seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Moran, Poné, Tomaino

New overhead doors will be installed on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, these are for the small garage out by the road.

Mr. Whitney will be calling the alarm system company, there is something going on with the system they currently have. It might be time to upgrade the entire system.

**ADJOURN:**

At 5:56 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes

Town Clerk