

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –BUDGET MEETING – October 10, 2024
6:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné– Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Absent: Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent
Nancy Butler – Bookkeeper

CALL TO ORDER:

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tomaino told the board members that Ms. Butler will not be attending the meeting tonight. Mr. Tomaino was hoping to discuss with Ms. Butler the reason for a budget person, as this was already discussed at the first meeting and the board members were against no need for further discussion at this point.

Mrs. Haynes wanted to tell the board that there would not be time to pass a local law allowing for the tax cap override. As it was going to be done as just a precaution it is not a concern for this year. Mrs. Haynes will make a note for 2025 that this process will need to start in August to meet the necessary deadlines.

Also, Mrs. Haynes handed out an email on the Constantia Jurisdictional Annex 2024 for the board to review. This review is for the Oswego County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update that the Town is participating in, comments need to be returned by October 18th.

GENERAL FUND:

Mrs. Zehr, Park and Recreation Commission Chair requested to be on the agenda for this meeting, unfortunately she is not able to attend.

Mr. Tomaino started to move down the tentative Budget lines for general fund and After discussion made the following changes:

A1340.1 Budget Officer decrease to \$0.00

A1355.11 Assessor PS decrease to 3% increase

A1440.4 Engineering CE questions as to what this account was for, hold for answers from Ms. Butler

A3620.11 Code Enforcement PS1 decrease to 0.00%

A5010.4 Highway & St Admin CE, believed this is for annual Highway Superintendent dues, hold for response as to the decrease from Ms. Butler

Revenues – A3005 Mortgage Tax - a question for Ms. Butler as to when the next check is due, seems strange this has decreased.

A7020.1 Parks and Recreation Administration – board questioned why there was such a big increase, Mr. Tomaino is unaware, but this is for Mr. DeRienzo's 12-month position. More discussion when Ms. Butler and Mrs. Zehr are in attendance.

The board again discussed the park and recreation hopefully Mrs. Zehr can attend the budget meeting on October 17th and answer questions about the summer program. Some of the questions are:

- Will the County allow the park to open without the right counselor vs children ratios. Mr. Poné understands that we hired counselors based on the number of participants that signed up, not the number that came every day.
- What is the average census in attendance for prior years vs counselors on the payroll. Maybe check past payroll slips to see how many hours counselors worked.
- Is the park opening up registration to too many out-of-town children? Should this charge be raised? Maybe cap the number of children that can attend. Mr. Moran is concerned that by opening to out of town children we run the risk of the Town residents being taxed for they participation.

Mr. Tomaino did state that the amount of increase in A7110.1 Parks PS will be for five less counselors in 2025.

Mr. Moran showed the board the park and recreation budget for previous years, this year the only budget received was for payroll. Hopefully Mrs. Zehr will bring the budget worksheet for the contractual account with her.

Mrs. Haynes will send the list of questions to Mrs. Zehr for the meeting on the 17th.

NORTH SHORE SEWER:

Discussion on the sewer charge for district residents, should they keep being charged? Mr. Chapman replied that he is still committed to the project, he believes as long as the project is moving forward the residents should be charged. Mr. Tomaino stated after the 2025 tax season there will be about \$1M in the sewer district. That is true

but the district owes more than that and Mr. Moran is concerned about the bond that will need to be renewed yearly. The interest due on the bond for 2024 is \$113,250, this bond will need to be re-applied for yearly.

ADJOURN:

At 7:32 pm the meeting adjourned.