

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– October 15, 2024
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader-Town Attorney
David Hinds – President of Cleveland Vol Fire Dept
William James – EMS Chief of Cleveland Vol Fire Dept
Bill Buchan, Pat Cerra – Sewer Advisory Board
Dustin Clark, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Daniel Poné – Councilman
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:

Mr. Hinds submitted a letter to the board on October 12th on behalf of the Cleveland Vol Fire Department. The letter states their concerns with Mentor Ambulance, when Mentor Ambulance is in service, they have seen response times around 20-25 mins. When Mentor is unable to respond Oswego 911 sends the next available ambulance Brewerton, McFee and NOCA ambulances have responded lately with varied response times of 25-45 minutes. Mr. Hinds has reached out to Vineall Ambulance to see if they will be the second call if Mentor is unable if they agree Mr. Hinds will contact Oswego County 911 to change the call order for the Village. Mr. Hinds has also contacted Camden Ambulance to cover their northern territory the Panther Lake area, but Camden has one ambulance if they are covering for Cleveland then they don't have an ambulance for their area. There is not an easy solution.

WASTEWATER:

CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT

A. STUDY PROGRESS:

- ✓ Call with DEC to discuss preliminary effluent limits to various receiving bodies
- Updating estimates, procuring WWTP equipment proposals, collection system modeling
- Revising SEQR and environmental review documents

B. TARGET FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- NYSEFC Base WIIA:
 - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
 - Applications due May 30, 2025
- NYSEFC Enhanced WIIA:
 - Eligible communities¹ can receive up to 50% of net project costs up to \$25M
 - Applications due May 30, 2025
- BIL Grant:
 - Eligible projects can qualify for grant equal to 50% of project cost up to \$25M
 - Applications due May 30, 2025
- NYSDEC WQIP Grant:
 - Project is eligible for grant up to \$10M
 - Applications due summer 2025 (not yet announced)
- Other Grant Opportunities:
 - USDA RD Grant
 - NBRC Grant
 - ESD Grant
 - CDBG Grant
 - STAG/CPF Grant

C. STEPS TO MEET FUNDING DEADLINES:

- 10/15/2024 – SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING:
 - Identify PER Alternatives
- 11/5/2024 – SUPERVISORS MEETING:
 - Review Part 1 SEQR Revisions
- 11/19/2024 – SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING:
 - Review PER Alternatives and Costs
- 12/17/2024 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

¹Eligibility for enhanced WIIA is <3,500 population, and either hardship criteria is met or user charge exceeds 1.5% of Median Household Income. Per 2019 Income Survey, the service area Median Household Income (MHI) is \$46,750. 1.5% of MHI is \$701.25.

- Review Part 2&3 SEQR Revisions
- Pass Negative Declaration
- 1/21/2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING:
 - Schedule Public Hearing for February
- 2/18/2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING:
 - Approve Revised PER/ File with Town Clerk
 - Hold Public Hearing
 - Pass District Formation Amendment subject to comptroller approval
- 3/18/2025 – *REGULAR BOARD MEETING:*
 - *No action required*
- 4/15/2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING:
 - Final Order Establishing Revised District
 - Pass ersatz bond resolution with borrowing subject to comptroller approval, and by default secure grant (no approval will be given from OSC without WIIA grant secured)
- 5/8/2025 – Bond Resolution Estoppel period expires
- **5/30/2025 – WIIA/BIL/IUP Listing is due!!**

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD:

PARK AND RECREATION:

There will be trunk or treat at the David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay on October 27th from 2-4.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported:

- Firewood is in.
- Constantia Vol Fire Department has been given fobs for the fuel island, the Chiefs have keys for the gate.
- Rented long arm mower for a month, will be using this 6-7 days a week to get as much done as possible.
- Installed 310 ft of drainage on the north line of the highway property to enlarge the parking lot.
- Removed shrubs and sidewalk to get ready for drainage project at the new town hall property.
- Switching trucks from dumps to snowplows.
- Leaf pickup will be starting soon, would like to wait a bit longer before they start.

A resident thanked the highway department for cleaning up Cook Rd., the hill on that road has been graded it is a lot easier for the snowmobile groomer to go up it and pushing back the trees has made a big difference.

The snow and ice agreement with the County has been received, it is the same as last year. With no questions, Mr. Chapman made the motion on authorize Mr. Woolridge and Mr. Tomaino to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Tomaino

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Ms. Tompkins gave Paul Baxter's report:

- The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe town hall. One major agenda item will be a presentation by a representative of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on upcoming changes to regulation of freshwater wetlands, changes which will substantially increase the amount of wetlands affected. The minutes of the August 21, 2024 NorCOG are now available; I have a printed set for you, and they are also available on the NorCOG website at: <https://norcog.org/index.php/minutes/minutes-2024/>
- Things continue to move forward with the succession plan for the Tug Hill circuit rider position serving the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments: Paperwork has made its way through Albany, and Heidi is scheduled to start service with the Tug Hill Commission on Thursday, November 7. To assist in the transition process, Tug Hill has set up Heidi's new e-mail address: heidi@tughill.org , which you can start using immediately. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Katie Malinowski (katie@tughill.org) or Matt Johnson, (matt@tughill.org .)
- In case you haven't heard – last week, a New York State Supreme Court judge ruled last week that the new state law which would align local elections (such as town board elections) with state and federal elections violates the state Constitution. The state is expected to appeal the decision. I have a copy of the news item for you which provides further detail.

Ms. Tompkins wanted to add that they expect David Turner, Tim Stahl and Austin Wheelock all to be at the October 30th meeting at 7pm.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #10 Dated October 15, 2024:

- General: 368-402 \$22,232.51
- Highway: 142-161 \$65,916.65
- Trust and Agency: 10 \$17,154.18
- Sewer: 25-27 \$16,077.15
- American Rescue Plan: 5 \$ 1,350.00
- North Shore Water: 5-6 \$ 2,940.28

Seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Tomaino

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor’s report dated September 30, 2024, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Tomaino

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 17th town board meeting, October 1st joint water board and supervisor meeting and the October 3rd budget meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, 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. Chapman.

Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Tomaino

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Oswego County Hazard Mitigation Plan update, responses needed by Thursday, Mr. Moran and Mr. Tomaino submitted their responses. Mr. Moran included the fact that Town of Constantia is bordered by the Towns of Amboy and Camden on the North and by the Towns of Cicer and Sullivan on the South. North Shore Ambulance needs to be replaced with Mentor Ambulance and the Highway Department in conjunction with USGS did extensive clearing of Scriba Creeks obstructions and bank restoration at Cemetery Rd bridge and gage station location. Lastly a back up generator will be installed at the new town hall.
- b. Central Square Little League – Mr. Tomaino will contact for more information
- c. Letter from Cleveland Vol Fire Department - Ambulance

BOARD MINUTES RECEIVED:

Planning Board minutes and Zoning Commission minutes received for – September 24, 2024

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENT:

- No Supervisor’s Meeting 11/5 – Due to election
- November 7th public hearing on 2025 budget at 6pm

After discussion it was decided to hold the supervisors meeting on November 7th along with the public hearing to review Part 2 SEQR Revisions for the sewer district.

- Update on 1667 St Rt 49 – Award Drainage Bids

Mr. Tomaino told the board that the highway department has started working on the outside of the new town hall, it is coming along. Expert Environmental & Construction Group (EECG) came this past week to take samples for asbestos removal. As the property has drainage issues along with the septic tank that needs to be moved Mr. Tomaino reached out to Chilson’s Construction and Carl West for estimates which are as follows:

Chilson’s Construction \$12,500.00

Carl West \$10,000.00

After discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept the bid from Carl West for \$10,000 to re-locate the septic tank and install drainage around the building for \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Moran.
Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Tomaino

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Whitney asked if anyone from the County came to the meeting, Mr. Whitney has been to a few meetings and has not seen anyone, might be helpful to have the County Legislator up to date on the possibility of the trunk line for the sewer district. Mr. Reehil, County Legislator used to attend, but has not come in a while, Mr. Chapman will reach out to him.

ADJOURN:

At 6:57 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Donegan.
Carried: Ayes: Chapman, Donegan, Moran, Tomaino

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk