

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– November 19, 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 Commission Chair
Bill Buchan – Sewer Advisory Board
Dustin Clark, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
Heidi Tompkins – 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. Clark updated the board about the various meetings they have had on the new treatment concept for the Constantia wastewater project, which will be working with the County and the City of Fulton to handle Constantia's wastewater. (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer (SOCRIS)) Both Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers are encouraged with the level of interest they are receiving from various funding agencies in reference to the County's proposed transmission line. The most frustrating part is the time that it takes to get projects going, there is hope that the Town can get onboard with this project with a letter of intent.

To move forward the Town must include two alternatives in the Map, Plan and Report which is part of the funding application due May 30, 2025. Alternative one is for the Town to build their own treatment plant, the alternative two would be to partner with the County\City of Fulton on the proposed Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer (SOCRIS).

At the November 7th supervisors meeting the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 -Project Setting was reviewed and approved. At the December town board meeting, Part 2 will be brought to the board for review and approval.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD:

Mr. Buchan will be putting together an article for the Towns website to keep the residents informed. A resident asked if Mr. Buchan will include people at the County level that residents could contact, Mr. Buchan is glad to include that information.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr told the board that the trunk-n-treat was a success, lots of kids attended. The next event at the park is the tree lighting on December 7th at 6:30pm. Mrs. Zehr has been getting interest from people to put more names on the Veterans Monument at the park, Mrs. Zehr would like to put something on the Facebook page if possible. Mrs. Haynes will reach out to Mr. Mura for permission to use his contact information. Lastly, Mrs. Zehr has been applying for grants for a splash pad, she has a meeting with Will Barclay next week, hopefully he will have some avenue for additional funding.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported:

- The leaf vac is broken, hope to have it fixed by next week.
- Park is closed for the winter; water is off and tables have been put up.
- Foundation work at 1667 St t 49
- General repairs on equipment

Mr. Whitney would like to review the leaf vac agreement, both times the Village has borrowed the vehicle they have returned it broken. This time it needs a new clutch, Mr. Whitney and Mrs. Haynes will look for the agreement but are unsure there is anything in writing as the vehicle was purchased around 2010.

Mr. Whitney will also try to keep the park plowed better than years in the past, apparently Central Square School District is using the parking lot as a pickup point. This might become a problem with snow and the ice fisherman.

Mr. Tomaino would like to thank the highway employees for their work at the new town hall building, it saved the taxpayer's additional expense.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Ms. Tompkins gave Paul Baxter’s report:

- The North Shore Council of Governments met on Wednesday, October 30 at the West Monroe town hall. One major agenda item was a presentation by Krista Spohr 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. Background material on changes in wetland regulation, and a copy of Krista’s presentation, have been posted to the NorCOG website, www.norcog.org, and a recording of the meeting will be posted this week. The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Governments will most likely take place in January 2025.
- 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: Heidi (heidi@tughill.org) began full-time service with the Tug Hill Commission on Thursday, November 7, and both she and I will continue to support the North Shore Council of Governments and member municipalities until my planned retirement in early 2025. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Katie Malinowski (katie@tughill.org) or Matt Johnson, (matt@tughill.org .)
- It’s that time of year – I have a copy of the bill for North Shore Council of Governments membership for calendar year 2024 to present to you, for approval for payment at an upcoming meeting.
- Last week I assisted the bookkeeper with moving the 2025 town budget from the preliminary to the final version.
- 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 today.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #11 Dated November 19, 2024:

• General:	403-446	\$60,782.70
• Highway:	162-180	\$76,451.12
• Trust and Agency:	11	\$17,154.18
• Sewer:	28-29	\$20,255.00
• American Rescue Plan:	6-8	\$19,615.00

Seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran read the following into the minutes, referring to General Fund Budget Transfer Sheet #2 for October 2024, the following accounts are over budget:

A9030.81 Emp Ben Soc Sec	\$ 999.75
A9030.82 Emp Ben Medicare	\$ 384.28
Total Over Budget	\$1,384.03

I therefore make a motion to address this over budget condition by transferring \$1,384.03 from Contingency Account A1990.4 to the aforementioned accounts, leaving \$15,803.63 balance in Contingency. Seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor’s report dated October 31, 2024, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

MINUTES:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 10th, 17th Budget meetings, October 15th Town Board meeting and the November 7th Public Hearing/Supervisor meeting, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

Justice Pelon, Justice Simpson, Town Clerk

seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Central NY Regional Emergency Medical Services Council Public Hearing 11/19 @5pm, this is the next step for Mentor Ambulance to receive the CON for Constantia.

BOARD MINUTES RECEIVED:

Board of Appeals – minutes October 30th

BIDS FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL:

Five bids were received as follows:

Elite Excavation & Demolition Inc.	\$15,000.00
SUN Environmental Corp.	\$16,750.00
DSA Services	\$ 9,500.00
Neoplanta Restorations, Inc.	\$36,000.00
Two Brothers Contracting, Inc.	\$19,200.00

After discussion Mr. Donegan made the motion to award the asbestos removal bid to the lowest bidder, DSA Services for \$9,500.00, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

2025 Constantia Town Budget:

Justice Stephen T. Pelon submitted his resignation effective December 31, 2024. After discussion the Town Board believes it will be in the best interest of the Town to go to one Judge. Mr. Tomaino reached out to Justice Simpson who has agreed to the increase workload but will hold court on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Mrs. Simpson will continue to be his clerk. Because of this change the budget as submitted at the public hearing will need to be changed to the following:

A1110.11 Justice PS #1	\$11,400 increase to \$17,190
A1110.13 Justice Clerk PS #1	\$ 9,160 increase to \$13,740

Additionally, the Town was notified that ARPA monies the Town received must be spent or under contract by December 31, 2024. The Town was notified after the public hearing on the 2025 budget, the following was changed to reflect the necessary changes:

DB2770 Misc Revenue	\$ 0 increase to \$167,476
A1620.2 Building Eq	\$ 713,785 increase to \$878,261

After agreement with the above-mentioned changes,

COUNCILMAN: Chapman

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

WHEREAS the town of Constantia has completed its preliminary budget for the fiscal year of 2025; and

WHEREAS the town has properly advertised and made said preliminary budget available; and

WHEREAS the town has held a public hearing on the preliminary budget on November 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS the town has completed and filed its tax levy limit information with the New York State Comptroller; and

WHEREAS the town is in compliance with the applicable tax levy limit; and

WHEREAS the town board, having made any such necessary and permissible amendments to the preliminary budget subsequent to said public hearing;

THEREFORE be it declared that the town board of the town of Constantia does hereby adopt the same as the final budget for the fiscal year of 2025.

Seconded by Councilman: Donegan

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	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan	Voted	Yes
Thomas Moran	Voted	Yes
Daniel Poné	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURN:

At 7:14 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes

