

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– December 17, 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  
Warren Bader-Town Attorney  
Roy Reehil – County Legislator  
Bill Buchan, John Mura – Sewer Advisory Board  
Dustin Clark– Barton & Loguidice  
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent  
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission Chair

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Mura commented on the new Christmas lights they are very nice.

**WASTEWATER:**

Mr. Clark was in to present part 2 and 3 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form. As the board members had the documents in their possession, there was a quick review of the documents. With no questions the following resolution was offered.

**Proposed Action: Town of Constantia North Shore Sewer Project**

**RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE PROPOSED TOWN OF CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT IS A TYPE 1 ACTION AND WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

COUNCILMAN: Poné

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Constantia (Town) is proposing the North Shore Sewer Project (Project), located in the Town of Constantia, Oswego County, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project has been classified as a “Type I Action” as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Constantia Town Board sent a letter and Part 1 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) to other potentially “Interested Agencies” and “Involved Agencies” (as these terms are defined in the SEQRA Regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617.2), indicating the Town’s desire to serve as the “Lead Agency” (as this quoted term is defined in the SEQRA Regulations) and to complete a coordinated review of the Project (in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.6); and

**WHEREAS**, responses from Interested and Involved Agencies were requested, and each of the potentially Interested and Involved Agencies has agreed to, or raised no objections to, the Town of Constantia Town Board serving as Lead Agency for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the SEQRA Regulations, the Town of Constantia Town Board has considered the significance of the potential environmental impacts of the Project by (a) using the criteria specified in Section 617.7 of the SEQRA Regulations, and (b) examining the FEAF for the Project, including the facts and conclusions in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the FEAF, together with other available supporting information, to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Constantia Town Board hereby establishes itself as Lead Agency for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that based upon an examination of the FEAF and other available supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each relevant area of environmental concern, and based further upon the Town’s knowledge of the area surrounding the Project, the Town of Constantia Town Board makes the determination that the Project will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and that the Project will not require the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that as a consequence of such findings and declaration, and in compliance with the requirements of SEQRA/SERP, the Town of Constantia Town Board, as Lead Agency, hereby directs the Town of Constantia Supervisor to sign the FEAF Part 3 – Determination of Significance indicating that a Negative Declaration has been issued for the Project; this Resolution shall take effect immediately and will be properly noticed.

Seconded by: Chapman

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, Town Supervisor	Yes
Daniel Pone, Councilman	Yes
Ron Chapman, Councilman	Yes
Michael Donegan II, Councilman	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Mr. Clark to the board there will be more resolutions to consider in the upcoming months before the May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The good news is the County is moving forward by hiring Barton & Loguidice for engineering their project, which is called SOCRIS (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer). The County and Town have the same timeline for funding applications. Mr. Donegan asked what project will be presented first in our paperwork, the sewer treatment plant or using SOCRIS? Both will be presented in the Map Plan & Report, but the Town will need to decide which option they want to use as Plan A. Mr. Donegan also asked about rates and potential cost estimates, Mr. Clark answered that estimates will be figured out along the way with information from the Fulton plant and other sewer districts. Mr. Tomaino asked if the Fulton plant can handle the additional affluent, Mr. Clark answered that they can comfortably accept 10,000 homes. The Fulton plant also can be updated easily. The question was asked if the County will help to protect the Town in negotiations going forward, a good contract will need to be agreed upon. Mr. Mura would like to see a board created with stakeholders to represent all municipalities, which will help to insulate costs. This board will agree upon the structure of a budget, capital reserves etc. This joint board will be critical for long-term success. Mr. Buchan is familiar with county wide sewer districts they are not a new concept. The next sewer board meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**SEWER ADVISORY BOARD:**

Mr. Buchan has put together the article on the new sewer opportunity for the Towns website, Ms. Tompkins will review the article. Ms. Tompkins believes there is some information that the Tug Hill has that might benefit the document.

**PARK AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Zehr sent the following report:

\*Our Holiday Decorating Contest post on Facebook is in full swing and voting is coming in like crazy. There were four submissions this year. There were 8 the last time we did it, but we took a year off so it's not a surprise to have less.

- I'm working on getting wireless at the park to see if they have any new ideas because the last time it was very expensive but there might be better options now. It would make it much easier to access the cameras. Meeting with them again between Christmas and New Year's.
- The Rec Commission has picked our tentative wish list for a splash pad and we're working on some tentative plans/prices with a few companies. Lots of grant opportunities but I need to firm things up and bring the options to the board to see which option you'd like me to pursue before I go in one direction and it's not the one the board likes - I'll try to set something up very soon!
- Christmas Tree Lighting was very nice and successful. Rec commission mentioned maybe starting a little earlier next year and there were a few other ideas we received from attendees that we'll discuss at our next meeting.
- Starting to think about new things to offer the community at the park next season. Thinking about things like CPR class, etc., and planning on holding the fireworks/military band community night on July 19. Going to run some polls on Facebook to ask the community their preferences for summer concerts so we can make some plans. It'll be good to get input and also to keep the community engaged on the socials during our quiet season.

I'm sure there's a bunch more but that's all I can think of right now!

**HIGHWAY:**

No highway report.

**TUG HILL COMMISSION:**

Ms. Tompkin gave the following report:

- The Tug Hill Commission's Geographic Information System (GIS) offers complimentary mapping and data analysis support to our municipalities. This services supports the Commissions's three core program areas-natural resources, planning, and community development-as well as the Tug Hill communities and councils of governments.
- No news on OSHA fire brigade standard update
- The Oswego County Rail Trail trunk line is an ongoing topic of sidcussion, with various options being considered for its potential development and ownership. This trunk sewer line, connecting Hasting and Fulton could create signifaant opportunities for comminties along the route, offering a more cost-effective alternative to constructions new wastewater treatment facilities. A feasibility analysis is currently underway.

**VOUCHERS:**

Mr. Poné made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #12 Dated December 17, 2024:

- General: 447-502 \$39,494.08
- Highway: 181-199 \$19,919.65
- Trust and Agency: 12-13 \$17,386.32

- Sewer: 31-32 \$10,253.92

Seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

**SUPERVISOR:**

Mr. Moran read the following into the minutes: Referring to General Fund budget transfer sheet #3 for November 2024, the following accounts are over budget:

A9030.81 Emp. Ben. Soc. Sec.	\$1,501.82
A9030.82 Emp. Ben. Medicare	<u>\$ 351.22</u>
Total over Budget	\$1,853.04

I therefore make a motion to address this over budget condition by transferring \$1,853.04 from Contingency Account A1990.4 to the aforementioned accounts, leaving \$13950.59 balance in Contingency.

Continuing my motion and referring to Highway Fund budget transfer sheet #1 for November 2024, account DB9950.9 State Retirement is over budget \$1,915.55, I move that we address this deficiency by transferring \$1,915.55 from account DB9950.9 Cap Reserve, to account DB9010.8 State Retirement, leaving \$68,084.45 in Cap Reserve. Seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

Mr. Moran pointed out that Ms. Butler made the move to invest funds at Pathfinder Bank earlier this year. This move has shown a significant increase in interest in past years. Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the supervisor’s report dated November 30, 2024, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

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

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 17<sup>th</sup> town board 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, Code Enforcement, Park and Recreation

seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

**BOARD MINUTES RECEIVED:**

Board of Appeals – minutes November 26th

**2025 CONSTANTIA TOWN BUDGET:**

At the November town board meeting when announcing changes made after the public hearing, two additional changes were made and not announced. They did not affect the budget but for clarity the following accounts were increased:

A9030.81 Social Security	increased by \$1,000.00
A9030.82 Medicare	increased by \$2,000.00

Mr. Moran would like to start the budget process earlier next year, although his situation was brought to light because New York State made changes to the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) which made these changes necessary. Mr. Moran believes to really review the budget the board needs more time.

**JUSTICE RESOLUTION:**

COUNCILMAN: Poné

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Town Law 60-a(2); and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Pelon has submitted his resignation as Town Justice for the Town of Constantia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has accepted Justice Pelon’s resignation effective December 31, 2024, and Justice Simpson has agreed to handle all of the caseload of the Town of Constantia Justice Court and has agreed to act as sole Town Justice for the Town of Constantia effective January 1, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED** that effective January 1, 2025, Town Justice Simpson will be the sole Town Justice for the Town of Constantia subject to permissive referendum.

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

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Monroe sent a letter of interest for the Board of Appeals, if acceptable he will appointed at the organizational meeting Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Organizational Meeting set for Thursday, January 2, 2025@ 6pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR:**

Mr. Reehil apologized for not attending meeting lately, he is hopeful that in 2025 he will be able to attend more meetings. The County did pass their 2025 budget under the tax cap with a \$0.45 per thousand decrease, unfortunately Mr. Reehil is unsure how much it will help as the Towns equalization rate is at 60%. The Town might want to consider a revaluation. Mr. Tomaino has spoken to Mr. Wheeler in the past, he has not encouraged the Town to undertake the reevaluation. Mr. Tomaino will speak to Mr. Wheeler again to get more information.

**ADJOURN:**

Before adjournment Mr. Chapman would like it noted that Mr. Woolridge has not attended the last few meetings, Mr. Chapman understands he has some health issues, but as an elected official Mr. Chapman thinks he should be in attendance.

At 7:18 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

Respectfully submitted:

*Clare Haynes*  
*Town Clerk*