

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– March 18, 2025
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné, – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Wendy Loughnot – Representing the Town in Mr. Bader-Town Attorney’s absence
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission Chair
Bill Buchan, John Mura – Sewer Advisory Board
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loughdice
Heidi Tompkins, Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

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 told the board that all the steps to this point have been completed, passed the resolution and held the public hearing. In April the final order establishing the revised district and the board will need to pass the ersata bond resolution with borrowing subject to comptroller approval.

The board also signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County to move forward with the Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer (SOCRIS). West Monroe has also signed the MOU, so it appears that all municipalities along the route are interested in the project.

Mr. Tomaino asked Mr. Buchan and Mr. Mura if they had anything additional to add, they both thanked the board for their work on moving the project forward. Mr. Tomaino thanked the sewer committee for their help, they had the knowledge to help with the details.

Mr. Reehil told the board that Oswego County has also passed three resolutions to move the project forward and created a project administrator position, the County does not like to create new positions, this shows how invested they are in the project.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr reported that they are gearing up for the summer program, West Monroe is on board with sending their children to our program again this summer. Mr. DeRienzo was not at the last meeting, but it is anticipated that the re-hire letters will go out shortly. Mrs. Kieffer, Town Historian was at the last park and recreation meeting, she will be doing a presentation at the summer program this year. July 19th is the day for the fireworks and military band at David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay. Next year if the Town is going to sponsor fireworks, we might be able to do something with the County as it is their 200-year anniversary, more news to follow on that. Mrs. Zehr will be ordering new buoys for the swimming area this year.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- Crews taking a rest from snowplowing
- Cleaning equipment
- Cleaning up tree damage from the storms
- Hot patching
- Replacing mailboxes
- Slowing getting ready for spring

Mr. Tomaino wanted to pass along the many comments he had received on how well the roads were taken care of during the storms. Many residents agreed and expressed their appreciation.

Mr. Tomaino asked if the highway guys were onboard with dumpsters again this year. Mr. Whitney said they were, May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Mr. Whitney will talk to the highway employees; it might be better to have the dumpsters in one location. Mr. Whitney will get back to the board.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Ms. Thompkins gave the following report:

- **Oswego County Emergency Management:** If you had damage from the Feb. 14-19 snowstorm, New York State needs your help to determine if the residents and businesses of Oswego County qualify for low-interest loans through a **Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster declaration**. This survey is a way of assessing the damage but is NOT an application for assistance. If assistance becomes available, more information will be shared. LINK to damage assessment survey: <https://on.ny.gov/3xLeNbY>.

- **MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook** are offering a free annual training program to assist local governments, municipal officials, and planning and zoning boards. The program will include 10 hours of remote training designed to provide a comprehensive education that encompasses all aspects of municipal governance. Each program in the series will be provided remotely on the fourth Thursday of each month with subject matter experts from MRB Group and knowledgeable attorneys from Hancock Estabrook, LLP. Topics will be lively, useful and – potentially as important – can qualify for the education requirements for members of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals. To sign up for **Session 3: Under the Tent – Open meetings, record keeping, and engaging the public in community development** held on March 27th, 2025.
- **Tug Hill Commission, Winter Wildlife Webinar Series Part 3: The American Chestnut.** Once a keystone species in Appalachian forests, the American chestnut was nearly wiped out by a fungal blight in the early 1900s. However, hope is on the horizon! Join David Matthews from SUNY ESF's American Chestnut Research & Restoration Project to learn about groundbreaking efforts to restore this iconic tree.

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 12, at 6 PM

Register: [Here](#) (Zoom link sent upon registration)

Help spread the word and check out past webinar recordings at tughill.org/services/training.

- **Public Work Contractor and Subcontractor Registry:** All contractors and subcontractors submitting bids or performing construction work on public work projects or private projects covered by [Article 8 of the Labor Law](#) are required to register with the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) under [Labor Law Section 220-i](#). Contractors need to register before submitting any new bids or commencing new work on a covered project on or after December 30, 2024. Subcontractors need to register before commencing new work on a covered project on or after December 30, 2024. NYSDOL encourages all contractors and subcontractors to register as soon as possible to obtain a Certificate of Registration to avoid negatively impacting a bidding period or project schedule. For more information visit the NYSDOL website, [here](#).
- **Proposed Executive Budget:** The 2025-26 Proposed Executive Budget maintains key funding levels for Tug Hill communities, including \$715M for AIM, \$50M for municipal aid, and steady transportation funding for CHIPS, PAVE-NY, and BRIDGE-NY. It adds \$500M for water and sewer infrastructure and \$100M each for Downtown Revitalization and NY Forward, requiring Pro-Housing certification. Other highlights include DASNY support for local projects, recognition of EMS as an essential service, \$25M for volunteer fire grants, and a \$100M Pro-Housing Supply Fund. Proposals address cybersecurity reporting, abandoned property acquisition, environmental funding, recreational grants, and vital records fee adjustments. The Tug Hill Commission would see increased funding for salary adjustments. For more details you can visit the [Association of Towns \(AOT\)](#).
- **Congressionally Directed Spending Applications:** The CDS process is an opportunity for Federal Representatives to place requests to direct federal funding to local projects, programs, or initiatives that advance community priorities across New York. State, local. Starting now, eligible applicants can apply for federal funds to be set aside for specific projects that would benefit from a one-time allocation. Before applying for CDS funding, please carefully [review this list](#) of potential funding accounts, which is unchanged from FY25, pending further updates from the Senate Appropriations Committee. Applications are due by Monday, March 31.
- **DEC Releases Draft General Permits for Certain Activities in Wetland Areas: Public Comments Accepted Until March 14, 2025.** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar announced the release of five new draft general permits and two updated general permits for various activities in State-regulated freshwater wetlands and wetland adjacent areas, protected waterbodies, and navigable waters. These draft permits were developed to help streamline the application process and provide consistency and direction to support implementation of recently adopted updated regulations to protect freshwater wetlands across New York State. The five new draft statewide general permits (GP) and two updated statewide GPs released cover various activities in State-regulated freshwater wetlands and wetland adjacent areas, protected waterbodies, and navigable waters. The general permits would be issued for five years and for locations statewide with excluded jurisdictions, if applicable, identified in each GP. Specific application requirements and procedures are identified in each general permit. The full description of proposed authorized activities, terms, and conditions are available for review on [DEC's website](#).
- **5 Million Trees Tracker is Now Live:** Have you planted a tree in New York since January 1, 2024? Record it in DEC's new Tree Tracker and help reach the goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033! Every tree planted contributes to a greener, healthier New York. Whether planting one or many, make sure yours count by adding them to the Tree Tracker. Visit [DEC's website](#) to learn more and record your trees!
- **NorCOG Business:**
 - **Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA):** Please review with your board, sign and return to Heidi.
 - **Next NorCOG Meeting:** Join us at the next NorCOG meeting on June 26th at 7:00pm. Will be held at West Monroe Town Building

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #3 Dated March 18, 2025:

▪ General	73-105	\$360,006.08	Sewer	6-9	\$ 4,547.30
▪ Highway	28-43	\$ 90,587.97	NS Water	3	\$ 8,103.82
▪ Trust & Agency	3	\$ 17,154.18	B-Bay Water	2-4	\$103,118.51

Seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

SUPERVISOR:
Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the February 28th supervisor’s report as received, seconded by Mr. Donegan.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

MINUTES:
Mr. Poné asked Mr. Clark for clarification on the minutes received for March 6th, it was noted that the upgrade to the village of Cleveland sewer treatment plant was \$44M, Mr. Clark responded the minutes need to be changed to \$11M. Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 18th town board and March 6th public hearing as corrected, seconded by Mr. Poné.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
Mr. Chapman made a motion to accept the following reports as received:
Justice Simpson, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Code Enforcement
seconded by Mr. Poné.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:
Mrs. Mosher has submitted a letter of interest to be the secretary of the board of appeal, planning board and zoning board. With no questions for Mrs. Mosher, Mr. Chapman made the motion to appoint Mrs. Mosher to the mentioned boards, with her term expiring December 31, 2025, seconded by Mr. Poné.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

Mr. Tomaino gave the board a copy of the revised Menter Ambulance Agreement with changes as suggested by Mr. Bader, town attorney, with no discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Poné.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

Mr. Tomaino brought up the idea of purchasing video cameras for the town hall. Mrs. Haynes received a quote back in July, this quote is not exactly what is needed but anything that is purchased can be moved to the new building. After discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Mr. Tomaino purchase and have installed security cameras for not more than \$5,000.00, seconded by Mr. Donegan.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Mr. Reehil told the board that the County might be willing to help with tipping fees with the buildings that have come down during the recent storms. Mr. Reehil encouraged people to take pictures to document when they came down, this reduction is for new collapses only.

Ms. Thompkins added that NYS has mandated all municipalities with over 1,500 residents to have websites utilizing .gov, Mrs. Haynes said she is aware and has started the process.

ADJOURN:

At 6:40pm Mr. Donegan made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk