

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES — TOWN BOARD MEETING— July 15, 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
Waren Bader -Town Attorney
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission Chair
Richard Colesante – Park and Recreation Commission member
Christene Kieffer - Historian
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission
Roy Reeil – County Legislator

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:

Nothing new to report from Barton and Loguidice.

Mr. Mura emailed a letter of resignation from the sewer advisory committee. With no discussion, Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept Mr. Mura's resignation, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr gave the following report:

- 153 Children have signed up for the park program this year, 26 from West Monroe. An average of 75 children attending daily. 80 Children are taking swimming lessons.
- There has been Blue Green Algae, but so far it has stayed out of the swimming area.
- Still experiencing plumbing issues, the line has been flushed, it does seem better. It has been suggested that a new 2" line be installed to replace the ¾" line that is currently there. Mr. Whitney said there is not the volume of water supplied with the ¾" pipe that the toilets need to flush properly. Hopefully after the program has finished and before winter arraignments can be made to correct this issue.
- Band and fireworks are all set for Saturday.

Mrs. Zehr handed out a sheet clarifying the role of the park and recreation commission, recently the commission's role has been mistaken as a committee, this is not the case. Mr. Colesante has been on the commission for 50+ years he is encouraging the board to look at the supplied sheet. Changes can be made of course, please contact either Mrs. Zehr or Mr. Colesante for further discussion. Mrs. Zehr and Mr. Colesante believe having their roles clarified will be a great benefit. Mr. Tomaino asked Mr. Bader to review for possible approval at the August town board meeting.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- 176 blacktop loads have been hauled since Monday, 1.4 miles on Martin, 1 mile on Salt, .7 on both Tanner and Avery. Hope to finish up paving this week. If you live on any of these roads, please be patient, they will be coming around to fix driveways as soon as possible.
- Cutting trees
- As soon as the paving is done, they will be hauling sand
- Starting ditch work shortly

Mr. Whitney was contacted by Mr. Brigandi the sales rep. from Allegiance Truck. Mr. Brigandi asked if the town would be willing to prepay for the truck that was ordered in October 2024, then the remaining balance of \$89,632.60 would be invoiced when the plow equipment and dump box are installed. This would be a savings of \$5,000. The board members will need to discuss this option; they will have a decision at the August town board meeting.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Ms. Tompkins gave the following report:

- Micron Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released- The Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Commerce, has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Micron project. This document is part of both the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review processes. The full DEIS is available online [here](#). Three public hearings will be held on Thursday, July 24 at Liverpool High School, and written public comments will be accepted through August 11. Following the comment period, agencies will review and respond to all submissions before publishing the Final

Environmental Impact Statement, expected in October. The Micron project proposes the development of up to four chip fabrication facilities at Route 31 and Caughdenoy Road in the Town of Clay. With an estimated cost of \$100 billion and the potential to create 9,000 jobs, it represents the largest private investment in New York State history.

- **American Farmland Trust** and the **NYS Tug Hill Commission** invite you to a wrap-up webinar for the Advancing Agrivoltaics in New York project. The session will begin with a brief overview of agrivoltaics, followed by a summary of input gathered during regional roundtables held this past February and March in Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and Oswego counties, as well as additional one-on-one interviews. The webinar will explore key themes such as challenges facing farmers, opportunities for integrating solar energy with agricultural production, and barriers and gaps to advancing agrivoltaics in New York. Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook** are offering a free annual training program to assist local governments, municipal officials, and planning and zoning boards. The next session will be on **Soaking up the Sun: Solar and Battery Storage and the Local Review Process** July 24, 2025 | 6pm-7pm. New York State's regulations, and specifically those that allocate local authority are constantly evolving. How can planning boards, zoning boards, and local development staff address the growing popularity of solar energy solutions, while protecting the quality of life of your community? This session focuses on best practices for local regulations regarding solar and battery storage projects, and how to navigate the state's regulations on large scale alternative energy developments.
- **NY BRICKS Capital Grant Program Opens July 14**

The *New York Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids, and Seniors (BRICKS)* program is a new state initiative supporting the creation and renovation of community centers that promote physical health, mental well-being, and social connection—especially for youth and older adults. Grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$15 million will be available to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for land acquisition, design, construction, major renovations, and facility improvements. Priority will be given to projects in underserved communities and those offering affordable services such as childcare, eldercare, and mental health counseling. Applicants must provide a 20% match toward the total project cost. The application period opens July 14, 2025 and closes August 15, 2025.

- **Free Webinar Series on Large-Scale Solar Development – Cornell Cooperative Extension** is offering a free four-part webinar series throughout July focused on what municipal officials and planners need to know about large-scale solar development. Each session will take place on a Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

July 9 – *Working Effectively with the Community, Municipality, and Developer*

July 16 – *Environmental Concerns*

July 23 – *First Responder Concerns*

July 30 – *Community Benefit Agreements*

- **REMINDER: The New York Planning Federation (NYPF)** has announced its upcoming “One Day Training Schools” on the following dates:

July 11 – Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua.

September 25 – Wallace Center, Hyde Park

October 15 – Cambria Hotel, Lake Placid

Registration is \$100 for NYPF members and \$120 for non-members.

- **SOCRIS Update:** The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the SOCRIS sewer project has been completed, and a grant application has been submitted to the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). In recent weeks, project representatives met with Empire State Development (ESD), and the meeting was described as very positive. Following ESD's recommendation, coordination is now underway with ESD and the Oswego County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to bring together all potential funding partners, including representatives from the State Senate, State Assembly, and Governor's Office. That meeting is expected to take place early July.

A sanitary sewer survey will be mailed the first week of July to residents within the proposed SOCRIS service area. Project leaders also plan to submit applications for additional funding through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) program by the July 31, 2025, deadline.

- **Oswego County Comprehensive Plan Committee Update:** No meetings have been scheduled yet for
- **NorCOG Business:**
 - **NorCOG & SRCG Joint Meeting & Annual Dinner:** Will be held on September 25th at the North Riding Barn in Cleveland. Invitations will be sent out in August; please contact Heidi if you would like to be added to the invite list.

- Paul Baxter’s Retirement Celebration - On Friday, June 27, a large group of colleagues, local officials, friends, and family came together to celebrate Paul Baxter’s retirement and recognize his 45 years of service to the NYS Tug Hill Commission. Thank you to all who attended and helped make the event so special. A special thank-you goes to Buckingham Markets for their food donation and to Jim Peck for capturing a wonderful group photo featuring past and present local leaders, friends, and family from throughout Paul’s career.

HISTORIAN:

Mrs. Kieffer spoke to Mr. Tomaino recently about her concerns that the previous historian has not turned over any of the files she has in her possession. Mrs. Kieffer knows this is a touchy subject but is frustrated that many times she is researching topics that have already been done. Mr. Tomaino told Mrs. Kieffer that he would reach out to Mrs. Peck to share her concerns.

On a positive note, the missing historical markers have been located, they have yet to be turned over to the highway department but happy to know where they are.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Poné made the motion to accept the following vouchers listed on Abstract #7 Dated July 15, 2025:

▪ General	215-254	\$15,913.42	Sewer	22-23	\$ 8,683.00
▪ Highway	117-134	\$80,556.65	Trust & Agency	7	\$17,947.00

Seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the supervisor’s report dated June 30, 2025, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

MINUTES:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 17th town board, 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

seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:

It is time to re-appoint Mr. Wheeler as sole assessor, with no discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to appoint Mr. Wheeler as sole assessor with his term ending 9/30/2032 seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

Mr. Tomaino asked Mr. Moran about the possibility of doing the justice audit. Mr. Moran responded that it is difficult to answer some of the questions on the audit sheet supplied by the Office of the State Comptroller. Mr. Tomaino did speak to Mrs. Cottet she is willing to help with the process. Mr. Moran and Mr. Chapman would be willing to sit with Mrs. Cottet to complete the audit.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil reported that:

- ✓ Received a letter on the poor condition of the County Recreation Trail, Mr. Reehil reached out to the highway department, once their summer work has been completed, they will start work on the trail.
- ✓ Oswego County Soil and Water will be teaming up with Oneida Lake Association (OLA) to do a weed pull on Thursday June 17th from 8am-noon at Metzger’s Pond volunteers are welcome.

- ✓ MICRON has completed their environmental impact study; the County has been reviewing the large document. Of major concern is the impact of MICRON on Oswego County, the document minimizes the impact on Oswego County. The County will be putting together a response to the document.

Mr. Moran questioned Mr. Rehill on Hastings Transfer Station; when Mr. Moran went this past week there was a long line, took 45 minutes to drop his garbage. When Mr. Moran called County Solid Waste, they said they had to shut it down for major repairs that will take 6 months. Mr. Reehil is aware, but it is a safety issue that had to be fixed. Please remember you can go to any landfill in the County.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURN:

At 7:01 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk