

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– January 20, 2026
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Ronald Chapman Jr. - Supervisor
Michael Donegan, Cory Monroe, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné, – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
E. John Whitney –Highway Superintendent
Dillon Kinsey – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Christene Kieffer – Historian
Roy Rehill – County Legislator
Rod Campbell – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Powers from Barton & Loguidice will not be in attendance due to weather, below is the report sent via email.

CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT

A. Constantia Sewer Project Progress:

- ✓ 2025 WQIP Grant Application submitted. Project will be ineligible until SOCRIS is funded
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia's project will be eligible for funding.
- ✓ Project Score on the NYSEFC 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP) – 126 points.
- \$1.75M STAG Grant – Procurement Flexibility Request sent 11/14/25
 - Approx. \$300k spent to-date appears to be eligible for reimbursement by the grant
 - Remainder of grant can go towards finishing out design
- Income Surveys mailed to district residents. Door-to-door ongoing.

Upcoming items:

- Significant SOCRIS Funding Push ongoing
- Once Procurement Flexibility Request is approved, execute grant agreement with EPA.

B. SOCRIS Progress:

- ✓ IMA approved
- ✓ Application to NYSEFC for IMG Grant submitted September 12th - \$30M Max. Project scored 121 points!
- ✓ County developing the Treatment Agreement with the City of Fulton
- ✓ Meetings with ESD, Governor's office, Senator Ryan, Assemblyman Barclay, DEC and EFC. SOCRIS creates a significant opportunity for Economic Development in the region.

Upcoming items:

- Continue progress on County / City of Fulton Treatment Agreement
- Ongoing project promotion

C. Target Funding Opportunities:

- NYSEFC Base WIIA:
 - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
 - Applications due late summer/ early fall 2026 (Date TBD)
- NYSEFC Base Additional Subsidy:
 - Eligible communities can receive up to 25% of net project costs up to an additional \$2M
- NYSDEC WQIP Grant:
 - Project is eligible for grant up to \$10M
 - Applications due summer 2026 (Date TBD)
- Other Grant Opportunities:
 - USDA RD Grant
 - NBRC Grant
 - ESD Grant
 - CDBG Grant
 - STAG/CPF Grant
 - Micron

D. NEXT STEPS:

- Continue Income Survey door-to-door efforts
- Close Grant Agreement with EPA, determine use of grant funds

People from G&G Fiscal Advisors will be going door to door to talk to the residents that did not respond to the income survey. The income survey is very important for the residents of the sewer district. All funding agencies need to see an updated income survey, if there is not an updated survey the funding agencies use the latest census.

In the latest census the Towns median income was approximately \$68,000, in 2019 when the last income survey was done the median income was approximately \$40,000, a big difference the lower the number the more opportunity for hardship grants.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr sent the following report: There's not a ton to report, lots of beginning of the year planning. One cool thing though is the Holiday Decorating Contest was successful. I looked at the analytics, and the page views were up 58%, with 23,034 people viewing, voting and sharing the contest posts, which is our highest number to date. It's a fun contest and the community really gets into it, and the analytics we can gather from it after are really helpful to see if we are extending our reach.

We have some fun events this summer that we're still in the early planning stages for, and I'll be able to report more on them after our next park meeting.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- Busy with plowing.
- Tree truck not in good shape, the truck was purchased from the County for \$30,000 five years ago. After inspection there needs to be \$20,000-\$30,000 worth of repairs. Right now the truck is tagged out of service. Mr. Poné asked if this is a truck that gets a lot of use. Mr. Whitney responded that it is essential to tree removal and he is looking for a possible replacement..
- The 2012 MAC has a bad turbo, the turbo kit is \$4,247.05 the repairs will be done in house. Mr. Donegan asked if this truck is one that is scheduled to be replaced. Mr. Whitney replied that it is but it will be kept as a summer truck.

With no more discussion Mr. Poné made the motion to authorize Mr. Whitney to purchase the turbo kit for the 2012 MAC for \$4,247.05, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil told the board that at in December the County was able to bring in their budget with no increase to taxpayers. This is the seventh year in a row.

There continues to be lots of positivity around the SOCRIS initiative, the Chairman of the Legislature believes this could be transformative for the County. The County will keep pushing forward until completion.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Campbell gave his monthly report for the North Shore & Salmon Rivers Council of Governments report, please go to www.norcog.org for more information.

HISTORIAN:

Mrs. Kieffer hosted a local author Lee Ellen Hickey, who wrote, The Murder of Cora Sweet on Saturday the 17th, it was well attended.

The County would like all towns to participate in the County Fair this year. Mrs. Kieffer will be displaying items on the Macari/Dunham Farm that helped shape Constantia.

On February 12th Mrs. Kieffer will be giving a presentation to AARP at the VFW in Constantia.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #1 Dated January 20,2026:

▪ General	1-36	\$17,489.06	NS Water	1	\$13,330.06
▪ Highway	1-14	\$15,608.90	Trust & Agency	1	\$19,257.00
▪ B-Bay Water	1	\$ 5,712.84			

Seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Moran read the following motion into the minutes:

Referring to general fund budget transfer #2 for December 2025, account A5182.4 Street Lighting CE is over budget \$1,194.70. Therefore I move that this amount be transferred from A1990.4 contingency account leaving \$48,419.76 balance in contingency account.

Continuing my motion and referring to highway fund budget transfer #2 for December 2025, the following accounts are over budget:

DB5110.4 Gen Repair PS	\$10,320.00
DB5110.4 Gen Repair CE	\$10,986.16
DB5142.1 Snow Removal PS	\$13,803.47
Total over budget:	\$35,085.63

Address this deficiency by transferring \$35,085.63 from capital reserve account DB9950.9 leaving \$201,572,84 balance in capital reserve.

Seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the December 31st supervisor’s report as received, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 16th town board meeting and the January 6th organizational meeting, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

Justice Simpson, Town Clerk, Tax Collector

seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:

Attorney Bader read the following into the minutes:

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. A OF 2026

(“A Local Law To Permit and Regulate All Terrain Vehicles Operating on Certain Public Roads in the Town”)

Councilor Donegan introduced proposed Local Law No. A-2026, A Local Law To Permit and Regulate All-Terrain Vehicles Operating on Certain Public Roads in the Town, and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Donegan:

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Constantia, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. A-2026 is an unlisted action, there are no other involved agencies and this Board shall act as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. A-2026 at the Town Hall located at 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, New York on February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town of Constantia and to any affected municipalities described above.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Thomas Moran	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Cory Monroe	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Daniel Pone	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

-Mr. Chapman received a letter from Hon. Mark Simpson saying that the justice books are ready for audit, Mr. Chapman and Mr. Moran will be performing the audit on February 11th at noon.

-The board needs to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Rockwell as chair and member of the board of appeals. Mr. Poné made the motion to accept the resignation, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

-With the resignation of Mr. Rockwell, Mr. Chapman reached out to Mr. Retajczyk who has been a member of the board of appeals for quite some time, Mr. Retajczyk has agreed to accept the position of chair, also Mr. Macari has agreed to be appointed as a member of the board of appeals. Mr. Moran has worked with Mr. Macari, and it will be a privilege to make the above appointments, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

-Mr. Chapman is requesting authorization to sign the engagement agreement with Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC as our law firm. This agreement is an extension of the current agreement. With no discussion Mr. Moran made the motion to allow Supervisor Chapman to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident asked for an update on the new town hall. Mr. Chapman responded, long story short, the Town just does not have enough money. The original bid process was not done correctly, it will be going back out to bid, but Mr. Chapman believes the bids will still be too much. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Moran met with the attorneys; they encouraged us to speak to bond counsel for information on bonding the project. Mr. Chapman still feels it is a solid investment. Mr. Tomaino before he left office did reach out to Senator Ryan's office in hopes of receiving a grant, the Town has not heard back from the office. There will be more information in the coming months.

Discussion on solar farms and their long-term effect on the Town, not only visually but the infrastructure is only good for 20 years, the town should make sure that the company installing must also remove all items related to the panels when the life span ends. Mr. Chapman would like to review our law, if a solar farm does get approved the town needs to be able to receive tax benefits from the farm yearly.

ADJOURN:

At 7:09 pm Mr. Monroe made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk