

Minutes of the Constantia town board meeting held March 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall.

Present ; Ronald Sakonyi - supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Andrew Kelsey,
Daniel Buck - council members
Janet Warford - town clerk

Others present ; Warren Bader - town attorney
David Webb - highway superintendent
Paul Auringer - board of appeals chair
Charles Gilkey - planning board chair
James Bryant - county legislator

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Sakonyi called the monthly meeting to order.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 21st and March 11th meetings as presented to the board. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Mr. Sakonyi asked the board move to executive session to discuss contract negotiations that may involve legal issues.

The executive session was called to order. Board members, the town attorney, town clerk and Paul Baxter were in attendance. Mr. Metzger told those in attendance how a dollar figure was derived for the Constantia Fire Protection District contracts for 2006. Mr. Baxter explained the difference between fire districts and fire protection districts and which contracts can be negotiated before a budget is passed. The dollar amount for the Constantia Fire Protection District #1 contract in the 2006 town budget is being disputed. Discussion followed. The executive session was closed.

The monthly meeting was called back to order.

Mr. Kelsey made the motion to transfer \$800.00 from account A1620.1 Bldgs & Grounds P.S to A1110.4 Municipal Court C.E. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Vouchers submitted;

General fund claims no. 67 – 102 as set forth on Abstract no. 3, dated 3/21/06.

Highway fund claims no. 29 – 38 as set forth on Abstract no.3, dated 3/21/06.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to pay the vouchers as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Mr. Kelsey made the motion to accept the Town Clerk's Monthly Report for February 2006. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger – yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Supervisor's Report as presented through March 16, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

On March 11, 2006 eight candidates were interviewed for the position of Code Enforcement Officer.

Richard Colesante introduced proposed Local Law No.1 of the year 2006, to establish the residency requirements for the Town Code Enforcement Officer and Court Clerk, and made the following motion, which was seconded by John Metzger.

NOW THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED, that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No.1 of the year 2006 at the Town Hall, 14 Frederick Street in the Town of Constantia on April 18, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Following is proposed Local Law 1 – 2006:

A Local Law Establishing Residency Requirements for the Offices of Town Codes Enforcement Officer and Court Clerk.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Constantia, as follows:

1. Supersession Pursuant to Section 10 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

Pursuant to Section 10 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law, the Town of Constantia hereby supersedes the provision of Section 3 (1) of the New York Public Officers Law and Section 23 (1) of the New York Town Law so that the residency requirements for Town Officers is amended as follows:

“Persons appointed to the Office of Town Codes Enforcement officer and Court Clerk must reside within Oswego County or a county abutting or adjacent to Oswego County.”

2. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Supervisor Sakonyi made the motion to appoint Edward Fry to serve as Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Constantia for the remainder of 2006. This appointment is effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante -yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

The Supervisor read the Assessor’s Monthly Progress Report as follows:

As of March 21st phase one of the town wide revaluation is 85.425 complete, with around 411 parcels left to collect.

Exemptions should be completely entered by the end of the month. All Enhanced Star, Basic Star and Senior Exemptions have been entered. The office is now working on Agriculture, Disability and Veteran’s Exemptions, and waiting for a few people to provide any missing information.

Once exemptions are completed, the assessor should be free to assist with the finishing of the data collection. At this point, he is hoping to be finished by the end of May, so that we can completely update the computer files and begin printing a computer printout (data mailer) to be mailed to each property owner to verify that the information is correct.

The publication of the tentative assessment roll is quickly approaching. Between now and the time it is published, the assessor’s office will be valuing property that has managed to go unvalued. When it is completed, he will inform the board as to the assessed value of those properties.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Assessor’s Report. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

The Supervisor reported both Mr. Simpson and Mr. Pelon passed the basic and advanced tests and are now able to serve as justices in the town. The office space for town justices with phone and computer lines installed has been completed and they can begin to move into it.

The Supervisor gave the Dog Control Officers Report from January 1st through March 6th. Mrs. Ashley has answered several complaints and has also been feeding an abandoned dog left tied to a doghouse on Martin Road. Mr. Kelsey made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

A follow-up letter has been received from Development Authority of the North Country with regard to Senator James Wright designating \$20,000.00 in financing to assist the Town of Constantia with a water district study. The Development Authority of the North Country has been asked to administer these funds for our town.

A meeting was held with Barton & Loguidice, P.C and the Town’s Water Committee on January 19th and March 16th. They explained the scope of services they would provide for completing an engineering evaluation relative to the formation of a town water district to generally serve the North Shore and surrounding areas.

Mr. Sakonyi made the motion to approve Barton & Loguidice, P.C. to complete an engineering evaluation for the Town of Constantia by;

1. Assisting the Town with developing a needs survey/mailer for distribution to town residents.
2. Meet with the Town and other interested parties to evaluate general town water needs and to identify an approximate town service area. The related needs of the surrounding communities would also be identified.
3. Review available information such as prior studies, reports, maps, images, etc.
4. Conduct a windshield survey of the potential water service area(s) to identify current development and general constructability.
5. Updating the population basis for the potential service area(s). Estimate water demands storage requirements with respect to existing infrastructure.
6. Prepare preliminary layout for waterline locations, sizes and storage system. Develop preliminary hydraulic models of proposed system.
7. Prepare preliminary project, operating & maintenance cost estimates.
8. Identify estimated user costs based on potential grant funding, estimated project/O/M costs, and potential equivalent dwelling units.
9. Prepare preliminary layout for waterline locations, sizes and storage systems to serve the potential service area. Develop preliminary hydraulic models of the proposed system.
10. Prepare preliminary project, operating & maintenance cost estimates.
11. Identify estimated user costs based on potential grant funding, estimated project O&M costs, and potential equivalent dwelling units.
12. Identify the steps to proceed towards implementing the proposed water system.
13. Prepare a preliminary engineering report summarizing the above findings, estimated costs and recommendations.
14. Attend one meeting with the Town and other interested parties to review the draft report. Finalize the Preliminary engineering report based on comments received.
15. Submit a pre-application for funding assistance to USDA Rural Development and Environmental Facilities Corporation on the Town's behalf.

For the scope of services presented above, B&L will be compensated on a lump sum basis in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Mr. Sakonyi stated he is working toward obtaining an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of West Monroe and Village of Cleveland for a water project, which would help the town out in obtaining more money for such a project.

The Planning Board is still proceeding with an application for a gravel bed on Pease Drive. The DEC proposes to act as lead agency for the SEQR review of this mining application. This matter is back in the applicant's hand to complete a full mining application. The Planning Board will be meeting on Tuesday, March 28th.

Mr. Auringer reported the Board of Appeals would be meeting Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

County Legislator Bryant stated a search is on for a new director for Oswego County's Community Development, Tourism and Planning department. Donna Scanlon is now acting director.

The Central NY Regional Planning & Development Board held a meeting on March 17, 2006. What Constantia was doing for the Oneida Lake Watershed was discussed.

Mr. Colesante made the motion the Supervisor sign an agreement asking John Bartow to act as Intermediary Custodian on the town's behalf to the New York State Geographic Information System (NYSGIS) Data Sharing Cooperative. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

A letter was received from Russ Johnson, Chairman of Oswego County Legislature with regard to an "Implementation Strategy" for all of New York's first responder agencies. This strategy identifies the requirements of local governments in becoming National Incident Management compliant. Federal guidelines mandate that any jurisdiction which receives federal preparedness program funding is required to be NIMS-compliant by September 30, 2006 in order to be eligible for FY 2007 grant funds. The EMO will be scheduling a meeting for public officials to address NIMS compliance information and guidance.

Supervisor Sakonyi read the following letter he received from Richard Colesante and John Metzger, dated February 27, 2006 regarding the sewer and water committee:

John Metzger and myself are withdrawing as co-chairman of the sewer and water committee effective March 1, 2006. As you may know, this committee was formed early 2005 to address a sewer proposal from Peter Kohler, et.al. and to examine the possibility of obtaining water at needed and desired locations within the Town. The sewer proposal has been addressed and substantial headway has been made in establishing the groundwork to determine the feasibility of public water in Constantia. At the last board meeting on February 21, John and I were surprised to hear that you had formed a new municipal water committee, and we both felt that it was redundant and duplicative to have two committees working on the same project. We have contacted members of the old sewer and water committee and they are all willing to serve on your new committee. They are Eric Ames, Paul Heinz, Paul Metot, Lance Vella, Tom Moran, Mike Marr, John Metzger and Richard Colesante.

As co-chairs of this group, we can tell you that this committee was composed of hard working and dedicated people and that your new committee would benefit from their involvement. They asked this be read into the minutes of the March meeting to make this information official and the new committee was wished good luck. Mr. Sakonyi stated we are all into this together and any one interested in this project was welcome to attend the Water Committee meetings. Dates for such have not been determined and Mr. Marr will be the new committee chairman.

Mr. Metzger stated that \$72,908 was approved in the 2006 town budget for contracts for each of the Fire Protection Districts. In town law there is a distinction between a Fire District and Fire Protection District. In a fire district, the town board may not, even after the public hearing, make any change in the budget submitted by the fire district commissioners. It is not the same case with a fire protection district. After the town board has advertised the proposal for such contract, and a public hearing held, an agreement has to be reached between the fire protection district and town as to a dollar amount. Cleveland and Constantia have mutual participation in the fire protection area. Mr. Metzger explained the budget process. Constantia Fire Protection Dist.#1 requested \$2492 more than Cleveland for 2006. In an effort to keep costs down and to be consistent with both fire departments, each was allotted \$72,908. It was noted those seeking contracts with the town should attend budget workshops and hearings and negotiate their contracts. Details on their budgets should be presented to the town board. The budget has been passed and those figures are set in stone. If the higher figure is paid to Constantia the money will have to be borrowed and next year this figure will have to be added to the tax base covering such district. The board was in agreement to do this, and \$75,400 will be paid to Constantia Fire Protection District #1.

Terry LaVigne, a Constantia Fire Commissioner was in attendance. Before any payment for the contract was made he asked to be allowed time to think about this and bring the matter back to the Fire Commissioners at their next meeting to be held Monday, March 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the fire station. Attorney Bader was asked to attend such meeting. Mr. Sakonyi will be notified following the meeting of the commissioner's decision for payment amount.

Retirement fund money was questioned. There is enough money in the general and highway funds to cover such payments.

Mr. Sakonyi made a motion to pass the Town of Constantia Citizen's Notification Policy to establish standards and practices for the notification of citizens in the event of compromise in the safeguarding of private information. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - yes	Buck - yes	

Bob McNamara recommended an orientation session be held between the town board, newly appointed ceo, planning board, and board of appeals. He questioned the status of the amendments to the Land Development Law. Mr. Sakonyi stated when the 2005 year-end report was completed he would have some word on this.

A resident asked what the town's fiscal year was. It runs from January 1 to December 31.

Mr. Baxter recommended purchasing anti-virus programs for all town computers. He reminded town officials of the Local Government Conference to be held March 30th in Watertown.

Mr. Buck stated that Justice Pelon would like to thank William Buchan and Sharon Sutter for all their help in making it such a smooth transition for the new justices and their clerks.

Mr. Colesante questioned if our assessor was close to having informational meetings on the revaluation of town properties. He feels it is the town's obligation to keep the people informed. Mr. Bryant suggested at least one meeting be held when camps are opened for the season. Mr. Sakonyi will bring this matter up with Assessor Wheeler.

Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

Carried

Sakonyi - yes

Colesante - yes

Metzger - yes

Kelsey - yes

Buck - yes