

Minutes of the Public Hearing held by the Constantia town board on June 19, 2007 in the town hall on the proposed Local Law No. E for the year 2007, entitled ‘ A Local Law Setting Dog License Fees in The Town of Constantia.’

Present: Ronald Sakonyi – supervisor  
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Andrew Kelsey,  
Daniel Buck - town council members  
Warren Bader – town attorney  
Janet Warford - town clerk

If enacted this local law will set dog license fees in excess of the fees mandated by the State of New York and currently charged by the Town of Constantia Supervisor Sakonyi stated. A resident questioned if a single license could be purchased for a purebred dog, rather than having to purchase a purebred license. She was told yes by the town clerk. It was also noted that licenses for spayed and neutered and unsprayed and unneutered dogs would be going up \$1.00 per license. Purebred licenses would go up \$10.00 per license.

There being no further questions or comments Mr. Metzger made the motion to adjourn the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Minutes of the Constantia town board meeting held June 19, 2007 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  
John Whitney - highway rep.  
Charles Gilkey - planning board chair  
John Dunham - ceo  
James Bryant - county legislator  
Mike Marr - water committee chair  
Paul Auringer – board of appeals chair

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 15 & 25<sup>th</sup> meetings. Seconded by Mr. Buck. Mr. Kelsey asked that a portion of the May 25<sup>th</sup> minutes regarding the executive session be removed and become separate minutes. He then made the motion to this effect, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mr. Kelsey made the motion to now accept the May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup> minutes with corrections made. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Vouchers submitted:

General fund claims No.156 – 181 as set forth on Abstract no. 6, dated 6/19/07.

Highway fund claims No. 71 – 83 as set forth on Abstract No.6, dated 6/19/07.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to pay the bills, excluding general fund voucher 161. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Supervisor Sakonyi stated the board would move to executive session to discuss personnel issues and pending litigation.

With the executive session over the monthly board meeting was called back to order.

Mr. Buck made the motion to accept the Town Clerk's Monthly Report for May 2007. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Supervisor's Reconciliation Report as submitted through May 31, 2007. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

A letter was received from Assemblyman James N. Tedisco with regard to skyrocketing property taxes. He requested the board endorse the NYS Property Taxpayer Protection Act. Mr. Colesante made the resolution that the Town Board of the Town of Constantia pause in its deliberations to acknowledge New York State's property tax crisis and urges the immediate passage and chaptering of the New York State Property Tax Payer Protection Act, which will help local governments reinvigorate New York's economy by providing for people and businesses to move and stay here. A copy of such resolution will be transmitted to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the State Assembly and each member of the New York State Legislature. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - no	Buck - yes	

The board acknowledged that the Constantia Volunteer Fireman was holding their annual field day event and that beer and wine may be served at this event. The Supervisor will sign a letter to this effect for the New York State Liquor Authority.

A petition signed by 31 residents of Gale Road has been received requesting that every other power pole on Gale Road have a streetlight placed on it, or every third pole. With lights people would feel more secure at night, cars would see children in the road and maybe there would be fewer break-ins. It was noted that one side of Gale Road is in the Village of Cleveland and a special district would have to be formed with the cost of the street lighting being borne by the people in that district. Discussion followed. Mr. Kline, representing the petitioners will talk to the Village of Cleveland about this matter and the supervisor will contact National Grid in regard to cost.

Supervisor Sakonyi stated the May 3, 2007 minutes of the Water Committee have been received and he gave a water committee report. 55% of respondents to the water petition in West Monroe are in favor. In Constantia it is 72.4% to date, with 153 residential properties and 72 vacant properties yet to be contacted. The committee is awaiting Assessor Wheeler's figures as to the assessed value of properties within the district.

A letter was received March 22, 2007 from Barton & Loguidice, P.C. regarding Engineering Service Proposal – Project Development Assistance for the proposed Constantia Water District as it is their understanding that the Town would like to continue moving the project forward by undertaking additional planning phase services. In general, these services include providing assistance to the Town with the petition process, obtaining aerial images of the proposed service area, continued public meeting participation, and DWSRF Funding Application assistance at a cost of \$40,000.

The April 10, 2007 letter received from Barton & Loguidice, P.C. addressed a Preliminary Engineering Report for the proposed Bernhards Bay Water Service Area and the scope of services provided, including a Preliminary Engineering Report for the area for submission to the Health Department and funding agencies. This report is intended to be a companion to the 2006 report for Toad Harbor/Constantia service areas. The fee for this service would be \$7000.

On May 25, 2007 a letter was sent to John Langey, Attorney working for the town on the proposed water district from Barton & Loguidice, P.C. regarding the Notice of Intent to establish the Town of Constantia as Lead Agency for the purpose of fulfilling the SEQRA requirements relative to the installation of facilities of the Constantia Water District.

A letter was received April 20, 2007 from Malchoff Davis, Mayor of Cleveland suggesting the Village of Cleveland has the capacity and pressure to supply water as far as Bernhards Bay in the town and asked if the town were interested in discussing this further to contact him.

A reimbursement of \$7911 was received from North Country Authority. Discussion followed. Mr. Kelsey questioned what Mr. Langey's Attorney's fees were? There was no answer. Mr. Colesante made the motion to fund \$7000 for the Preliminary Engineering Report on the Proposed Bernhards Bay Water Service Area. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried	Sakonyi - yes	Colesante - yes	Metzger - yes
	Kelsey - no	Buck - yes	

A notice of Intent to form a Lead Agency will be reviewed and tabled until the July meeting, as will the Engineering Service Proposal.

John Whitney reported the highway department was moving forward under trying times due to the death of David Webb. The sanders have been repainted, all trucks maintained, brush is being cut along with culvert pipes being replaced as needed. He stated the town's 1997 pickup needs replacement. He recommended purchasing at state bid a 2008 Ford F 350 with the town specifications for \$24,419.25. There is money in the highway equipment account for this purchase. The old truck would be sold through sealed bid. Mr. Metzger made the motion authorizing Mr. Whitney to write a letter of intent to purchase to the state. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the Highway Report. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

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

\$15,868.38 was received from FEMA for winter related storm work.

Supervisor Sakonyi stated John Whitney had been appointed interim Highway Superintendent following David Webb's death. He did not sign an Oath of Office for this position within thirty days. Mr. Colesante than made a motion to appoint Cynthia Webb acting Highway Superintendent for the remainder of 2007 and John Whitney, Deputy Highway Superintendent. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

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

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the CEO Report as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

One application has been received to fill the position of a part-time Code Enforcement Officer Clerk. Mr. Colesante made the motion to appoint Kathleen Newell to the position of part-time Code Enforcement Clerk at \$10.00 per hour effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by John Metzger.

Carried Sakonyi - yes Colesante - yes Metzger - yes  
Kelsey - no Buck - no

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the Assessor's Reports for May and June 2007 as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

Mr. Buck made the motion to accept the Dog Control Officer's Report as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

Mr. Colesante made the resolution to accept Local Law No.E (5) of 2007 setting Dog License Fees in the Town of Constantia, as follows;

Neutered or Spayed Dogs	\$6.00
Unneutered or Unspayed Dogs	\$14.00
Purebred Licenses	
1 - 10 Dogs	\$35.00 plus 3.00 per unsprayed, unneutered
11 - 25 Dogs	\$60.00 plus 3.00 per unneutered, unspayed
26 plus Dogs	\$ 110.00 plus 3.00 unneutered, unspayed
Animal Claim Fee	\$10.00 plus 5.00 per day
Adoption / Redemption Fee	\$15.00 plus applicable license fee

Seconded by Mr. Buck.

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

Mr. Gilkey, Chairman of the Planning Board reported the DEC was still addressing the Pease Road gravel bed issue and they were still working on the revisions to the sub-division law. Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the Planning Board Report. Seconded by Mr. Kelsey.

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

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Town Justices Report as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Supervisor Sakonyi stated the Assessor's term of office expires September 30<sup>th</sup> and an appointment will have to be made prior to this date.

Mr. Sakonyi received a letter from the State of New York Unified Court System requesting that he provide a copy of the most recent audit or examination of our local court's records and a copy the boards resolution acknowledging that the required examination or audit was conducted. He will do this.

A letter from Assemblyman David Townsend asking the Constantia Town Board to give consideration to the North Shore Public Library's request to become chartered was received. Meg Schneider, president of the Board of Trustees, North Shore Public Library and Amy Degnan, consultant for the North Country Library System addressed the board. They spoke of the achievements the library has made, the community outreach and the cooperative library system NCLS provides. How a library becomes chartered in New York State, the minimum standards required and the benefits of doing such were presented. If a charter were received the library would be eligible for state and federal library grants, state funding through NCLS, Gates Foundation grants, be eligible for purchases under discounted state contract pricing, consultation and legal services by the NYS library, Division of Library Development, county funding and the ability to join the computerized library management system.

The library trustees are hoping to have the Town Board's support in chartering the library as a public municipal library of the Town of Constantia. In doing so when the library's mortgage is paid off the town would take possession of that property. Without the Town's help now, the library will have to shut its doors and the property will be put up for sale before winter.

A survey of 125 people was done last fall and now the library trustees know the library is wanted. There are 3171 library cardholders of which approximately 805 are town residents. There are 6000 volumes in the library and 600 – 1000 volumes are taken out each month. In May 298 people visited the site and 214 to date in June. It was emphasized that the library does not only have books available, but computers that are used regularly, reading programs for children, etc. Plant sales, book sales, etc. would still be held if the charter were to be obtained.

The balance on the mortgage is \$45,000 and if the library were chartered the estimated yearly budget now would be \$55,000, with addition money coming from other sources. It is estimated the cost of this would be \$15 to \$20 per year per on an assessment of 75,000.

Discussion followed. Mr. Colesante stated the library has done some belt tightening since the board was last approached on this issue and now he is being told the town would receive title to the library property when the mortgage is paid off. He doesn't know his constituency well enough to know how they would feel about the town assisting the library to receive a charter. He would feel comfortable putting this matter up for a vote.

Mr. Kelsey suggested a meeting be scheduled between board members and the library trustees. Mr. Sakonyi will schedule this.

A letter and donation to the town park was received from the Cleveland Fire Department extending their sympathy at the loss of Highway Superintendent Webb.

Legislator Bryant requested the town board and town attorney meet with him in executive session to discuss a personnel issue and that Supervisor Sakonyi take the minutes for the remainder of the meeting.

The board moved to executive session.