

Minutes of the Constantia Town Board meeting held February 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall

Present: Supervisor – Andrew Kelsey
Council Members – Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Daniel Buck
Town Clerk – Clare Haynes
Others Present: Highway Superintendent – Wayne Woolridge
Planning Board Chair – Charles Gilkey
Board of Appeals Chair – Ken Macari
Water Committee Chair – Michael Marr
Supervisor’s Clerk – Nancy Butler
Tug Hill Commission – Paul Baxter

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the town board meeting minutes dated January 15th 2008. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Motion made by Mr. Metzger to approve highway vouchers numbered 10 thru 20 and general fund vouchers 27 thru 57. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Mr. Buck made the motion to accept the Town Clerk’s report. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mr. Kelsey made the board aware that we received a credit back from our health insurance carrier, we will not be receiving a bill for the town clerk or the highway superintendent for the next two months.

Mr. Kelsey told the board that the contracts have arrived for the North Shore Ambulance, Constantia Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Dept. Would like authorization to sign contracts so payment could be approved at the March meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Metzger to authorize Mr. Kelsey to sign the contracts for North Shore Ambulance, Constantia Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Dept. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Motion to accept the Supervisor’s report made by Mr. Metzger. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

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

The highway department would like to purchase a used bucket truck from Ariel Lift out of Conn. The bucket truck is selling for \$50,000.00, Ariel Lift does supply most of the trucks in this area. The highway fund does have the money in the budget. Mr. Woolridge says the truck will be used for limb work that the town now contracts out to the county, would like to be able to do more trees, county does not allot enough time for all that needs to be done.

Mr. Colesante made the motion to approve the purchase of the bucket truck for the highway department in the amount of \$50,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mr. Woolridge has appointed Mr. Edward John Whitney as Deputy Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Mr. Colesante to approve of Mr. Edward John Whitney as Deputy Highway Superintendent. Seconded by Mr. Buck.

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

Mr. Kelsey spoke to Mr. Pond, all is moving forward with the water, the town is about 1 month behind, but Mr. Pond does not feel this is a problem. The DWSRF Application must be in by the 3rd, he is gathering all needed documents and reviewing. We are still waiting for the Inter-municipal agreement with West Monroe, they are sending that directly to Mr. Pond. Mr. Metzger asked what was new with the income survey, Mr. Sakonyi is waiting on a list of people that need to be contacted, until that they are at a standstill. Mr. Marr indicated that there is a 2 year window for the study.

Mr. Kelsey and Mr. Colesante interviewed all the candidates for the Code Enforcement position. Mr. Illingworth has his NYS Code Enforcement Certificate and Mr. Kelsey and Mr. Colesante both feel he his the best candidate for the position. Mr. Colesante made the motion to hire Mr. Illingworth as the Code Enforcement Officer. Seconded by Mr. Buck.
Carried - Buck – yes Colesante – yes Metzger – yes
Kelsey – yes

Mr. Gilkey reported there are no new applications at this time for the planning board. Mr. Gilkey questioned if Mr. Schwalbe could be temporally appointed to the planning board, Mr. Kelsey explained that by not re-appointing Mr. Schwalbe, he is considered a holdover member of the board, he still has all rights as a board member. The town board is waiting to make any appointment until they have a full board.

Mr. Macri of the Board of Appeals told the board they issued two variances to Ms. Chabot, one variance has restrictions. Mr. Kelsey questioned if Mr. Bader looked over the variance, he was told Mr. Bader was at the meeting and was part of the discussion, he also received a copy of the variance. Mr. Kelsey has some questions as to the wording of the variance and will follow up with Mr. Bader. The board anticipates their next meeting will be in early April.

Mr. Kelsey reminded everyone that there is a Tug Hill Local Government Conference on March 27th, if anyone is interested, the information is on the bulletin board.

Mr. Wheeler’s monthly progress report stated that his valuation analysis is almost complete. Next month he will be able to give the board the final numbers and the areas that will be affected. All notices will go out during the first part of May as required by the state. All property owners will have some time to go over any questions that they have before grievance day.

A letter was received from the NYS Real Property Services in response to a letter written by Mr. Sakonyi. Mr. Sakonyi was stating his concerns that the towns that are at 100% assessment are being penalized with unfair taxing. Mr. Kyriacou in his letter is agreeing that this is a problem, and he is committed to improving the property tax system as it stands now. Hopefully there will be changes in the future.

There were many questions in the public comment section regarding the increase in the highway budget. Mr. Kelsey is going to put together a spreadsheet so he can better explain to the public the problem that occurred and why it was necessary to raise the taxes.

Ms. Hines asked if there were any plans for our bi-centennial. Mr. Kelsey told her at this time there is not he would like something like an old time fair. Mr. Kelsey is hoping she would be interested in being on the committee when it is formed.

At 8:35 p.m. Mr. Buck to made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the salary of the Code Enforcement officer. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.
Carried - Buck – yes Colesante – yes Metzger – yes
Kelsey – yes

Motion to reopen the general meeting was made at 8:52 p.m. by Mr. Buck. Seconded by Mr. Colesante.
Carried - Buck – yes Colesante – yes Metzger – yes
Kelsey – yes

Motion to put the Code Enforcement Officer's pay at \$17.00 per hour made by Mr. Metzger.

Seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Buck

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