

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES – TOWN BOARD – October 21, 2010**  
**BUDGET WORKSESSION**  
7:00PM – CONSTANTIA TOWN HALL

Present: Charles Gilkey – Supervisor  
Richard Colesante, John Metzger and Frank Tomaino – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Others Present: Nancy Butler – Supervisor’s Clerk  
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent  
Absent: Thomas Moran – Council Member

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 7:03 Mr. Gilkey called the budget work session of the Constantia Town Board to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**WATER:**

The owner of 7 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Constantia has not signed the easement, so condemnation procedures need to start. A public hearing needs to be held along with notification in the paper which will run for 5 weeks. Once the Town holds the public hearing, it is recommended that the Town keep the record open for a two week period to allow for the receipt of additional written statements. Because the statutory purpose of a hearing is to inform the public of the Town’s intentions, the public may comment, but there is no obligation on the part of the Town to entertain any questions. After the Town holds the public hearing and the decision has been made to proceed with condemnation, based upon the Determination and Findings, the Town Board must pass a resolution authorizing the commencement of the proceedings.

Mr. Gilkey asked if there was any questions on the tentative EDU listing for the North Shore Water District, if possible he would like to approve tonight. There was an odd lot on 51 Lower Road that was removed, which left us with 922.5 EDU’s. At a previous meeting Mr. Metzger brought up the two membership organizations in the Town that he would like to see removed from the list, those being the Constantia Volunteer Fire Department and the VFW-Trach-Auringer Post 7325. Both of these organizations are run on a volunteer basis and they either serve the community or have in the past. Mr. Tomaino would like to add the Boy Scouts to that list, they are the last wholesome organization left, most of the boys that are scouts go on to volunteer in the community or serve their nation. This year is the hardest to set the EDU’s next year for these type of properties, water usage will also come into effect. It was decided to leave the Boy Scout Camp at one because there is a residence on the property and to remove the Constantia Volunteer Fire Department (23 County Route 23) and the VFW (1560 state Route 49) from the tentative EDU listing. Mr. Colesante made the motion to formalize the tentative EDU listing as revised for the Constantia Portion of the Toad Harbor/North Shore Water District, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

Carried: Tomaino – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Gilkey – Yes

**BUDGET:**

Mr. Gilkey spoke to the department heads. Mr. Wheeler – Assessor has made a reduction his CE account, Mr. Illingworth, CEO by letter told the board that he did not feel comfortable reducing his budget.

The fund balance is the issue, for many years the Town has given back money to keep the percent to be raised by taxes low, by doing this and with revenues down it has driven down our fund balance. It is a balancing act when talking about reducing all departments to the bare bones, some of these budget lines have helped out when there has been emergency spending. Most of the budgets are close to the amount that they must spend to operate.

The Board wants all departments to watch spending for the remainder of this year and into the next. Every small step will help with the budget in years to come.

The Highway budget is doing well, Mr. Woolridge is going to give back less this year to avoid this happening to the Highway.

The next work shop will be Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 7 pm. At 9:34pm the meeting adjourned.