

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – TOWN BOARD – October 28, 2010
BUDGET WORKSESSION
7:00PM – CONSTANTIA TOWN HALL

Present: Charles Gilkey – Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran and Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk

Others Present: Nancy Butler – Supervisor’s Clerk
Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent
Mark Demma – North Shore Ambulance

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:00 Mr. Gilkey called the budget work session of the Constantia Town Board to order with the pledge of allegiance.

WATER:

Mr. Colesante made the motion to have a public hearing for the Eminent Domain Proceedings on the Dillard property at 7 28th Street, Constantia. The hearing will be November 16, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Constantia Town Hall, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

Mr. Colesante made the motion to have the Citizen Outlet be the official newspaper for the Constantia portion of the Toad Harbor/North Shore Water District, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

BUDGET:

Mrs. Haynes reminded the Board that the budget at this point can be discussed, but no changes can be made until the November 4th meeting, at that time it can be announced that they have been working on the budget and here are the changes.

Mr. Demma from North Shore Ambulance was in attendance to answer questions from the board in regards to the budget. Mr. Metzger asked if the Town needed to decrease the amount it gives to the ambulance, what would be the impact. The Town is looking at a healthy tax increase and is looking at any place where money can be cut. What is the possibility of going to one ambulance, how much would that save? How quickly would that transform itself in a lower cost? The Board understands that Mr. Demma will not have all the answers tonight, but with the cost of everything going up, items might have to be cut. Our cost per citizen is much higher than other towns in Oswego County, and this is the biggest part of the Town’s budget that they have any influence over. Unfunded mandates is the problem, it takes a big chunk out of their budget. Mr. Demma feels he can cut \$10,000, and will once again look at the budget to see if there is any more.

The Board again reviewed the budget to look to see why there is such a increase, the major factor is that the General Fund cannot afford to carryover money this year, last year they carried over \$60,000 this transforms into a big tax increase. Revenue for 2010 is lower so that must also be considered for the 2011 budget. The Board also discussed austerity measures if needed.

Ms. Butler brought to the Board that the retirement bill right now is divided in half, this has been since she has worked here, this does not seem to be the right way to do this. The general fund is only about 31% of the bill, the other 69% should be charged to the highway. All agreed to make the change.

At 9:05pm the meeting adjourned.