

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES - TOWN BOARD –10:00 am –March 9, 2011**  
Constantia Town Hall

Present: Charles Gilkey - Supervisor  
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran and Frank Tomaino - Council Members  
Clare Haynes - Town Clerk  
Nancy Butler - Supervisor's Clerk  
E. John Whitney - Deputy Highway Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 10:00 am Mr. Gilkey called the work session to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**BUDGET/HIGHWAY:**

Mr. Colesante would like work to establish estimates and maybe the board could come to some kind of consensus as to what they think a reasonable tax increase would be, last years increase was is just too high. There are factors that cannot be controlled, retirement/health insurance/revenues, but the areas that can be the board needs to keep a good watch on. Ms. Butler has been asked to set up the budget for 2012 and input the figures that we have now and then work forward, this would give the board an educated guess at where the town stands.

The highway department would like to purchase a new plow truck this year. Ms. Butler has been working with Mr. Woolridge to crunch the numbers, they feel there is enough money to pay cash for the truck. Mr. Whitney said the high end price for the truck will be under \$200,000 that will be for everything, including the underbelly that the county pays extra for the town to use.

Ms. Butler will contact Mr. Baxter, every year he sets up the budget on the town's computer then she can start plugging in the numbers. At 10:27am Ms. Butler left the meeting.

Mr. Tomaino brought up the subject of leasing equipment. Mr. Whitney thinks that would be for if we were in a bind and did not have the money. That is when a lease would be the way to go. The town board will need to approve the purchase by the April Town Board meeting for the truck to be ready for the 2011 winter plowing. At 10:45am Mr. Whitney left the meeting.

**TUG HILL COMMISSION:**

With the possible deletion of the Tug Hill Commission from the New York State Budget the board discussed what the town's options might be.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

At 11:00am Mr. Illingworth – Code Enforcement Officer came into the meeting. Mr. Illingworth is here to help answer some questions on the changes to fees that he has proposed. Mr. Illingworth is requesting the fees to increase to help offset the inspections that need to be done. Mr. Metzger asked if West Monroe is considering raising their fees, he thinks that Constantia and West Monroe should be in line with each other. Mr. Metzger would rather the fees be lower so people are willing to come in not just do the work and hope they do not get caught. The board went line by line removing some fees and adjusting others. The board asked Mr. Illingworth to make changes for review at the March 15<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. Full copy of proposed fee schedule is available at the Town Clerks Office.

**WATER:**

Mr. Colesante would like to know how the town is going to deal with the money from the water district. Mr. Gilkey will be getting information from the bank.

Mr. Metzger asked if the contractors for the water system are going to repair the roads, some have taken a real beating with all the work being done. All roads will be documented and the contractors will either have to fix or we will fix and bill them. Some of the reconstruction was not completed on roads before the bad weather hit, they will returning to them in the spring.

12:37pm Mr. Tomaino left the meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

At 12:39pm Mr. Metzger made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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