

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 7:00 pm –March 24, 2011
Cleveland Elementary School

Present: Charles Gilkey – Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
Others Present: Taylor Bottar, Michael Parker and Eric Pond – Barton & Loquidice, P.C.
Absent: Frank Tomaino – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:05 pm Mr. Gilkey called the informational session to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this meeting is to give information on the proposed Bernhards Bay Water District. Mr. Pond from Barton & Loudice will give a presentation and then answer questions, please remember nothing is cast in stone, the boundaries still have to be set.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Pond opened with a slide show, the following were major points. (full copy of the slide show available for review at the Town Clerk's office.)

Remember this is a plan, something to aim for, it has been in the works for many years. Funding is a big part of any project, must be ready for funding if it becomes available.

- Estimated Costs – from USDA Rural Development
 - \$3.7 million project cost estimate
 - 38 year, 2.875% financing at current rate
 - \$0.7 million grant funding

-The breakdown for an average town user yearly is projected to be \$685.00 (includes average water usage)

- Water connection charges:
 - standard \$1,000 - \$1,250
 - with meter pit \$1,900 - \$2,150

Next Steps:

- Approve Map Plan and Report – Circulate petition
- Public Hearing/Approve district (funding dependent)
- Pass bond resolution
- Submit Rural Development application
- Commence Environmental field work/permitting
- Design and construct facilities

FOR/AGAINST:

The following people spoke in favor of the water on their roads:

1. Rick James – 64 Salt Road
2. James Rockdashil – 280 County Route 23
3. Mark Hart – 54 Salt Road
4. Cristin Roach – 68 Railroad Street
5. Ryan Hoke – 326 County Route 23
6. Dale Mizerski – 45 Winona Park Drive

The following people spoke against including water on their roads:

1. Victor Lewis – 467 County Route 23
2. Patrick Reff – 30 Salt Road
3. Maureen Richards – 82 Salt Road
4. Roy Blowers – 86 Salt Road
5. Ronald Chapman Sr. – 514 County Route 23*
6. George Solomon – 507 County Route 23
7. Dan Dwyer – 54 Auringer Road
8. Daniel Gibbs – 73 County Route 17
9. Chris Gibbs – 73 County Route 17

10. Richard Waldau – 433 County Route 23
11. Heather Rogers – 539 County Route 23
12. Ann Fina – 337 County Route 23

*Mr. Ronald Chapman Sr. gave the board a petition of people who signed against including water on County Route 23, Salt Road and Auringer Road. (94 signatures total)

Mel Davis – Village of Cleveland – wants to remind the people how important clean water is, water is the most precious commodity and feels that this is important for the future.

Dale Mizerski – Winona Park Drive – wanted to remind the board that this is a poor community, and taxes are of course a problem. On his road 9 out of 11 residents are retired, they might want the water but will say no because of the cost.

QUESTIONS:

The following questions were asked:

1. Why just because the water goes by my house do I have to pay for it if I do not hook up?

Answer: Once a district is formed any property in that district will have to pay for the infrastructure. All those in the district benefit, you might not want it now, but the next owner may. NYS makes many of the rules.

2. Where is the water coming from?

Answer: The Metropolitan Water Board (OCWA)

3. Why was County Route 23 and Salt Road added in this district?

Answer: Once the pipes started going in for the current district, some people have been inquiring as to getting it on their roads, this was just to see what the interest would be.

4. Can you still use your well if you hook up to the water?

Answer: Yes, but it must be a separate connection as to not back feed into the water system. Many people use their wells to water gardens and wash cars.

5. When will we see the charge on our tax bill?

Answer: Once you start seeing the water lines go in, that would be a good indication you will be seeing a charge on your tax bill. The state finance laws say when the town can start charging.

6. Do you think this is a now or never opportunity?

Answer: This is an opportunity that if you do want water you must make it known. Informal positive petitions can also be given to the board. They need all the information they can get. It does take years to form and develop a district.

7. Do vacant lots pay debt service?

Answer: Yes, any parcel in the district has to pay for the infrastructure.

8. Has it been looked into having the Village of Cleveland supply the water?

Answer: That can be looked at, but the Village would need to upgrade their current system so the funding would be about the same. The lenders will look at what is best for all involved, Mr. Pond cannot say if Cleveland would be able to supply this district water in 38 years.

CONCLUSION:

Mr. Gilkey wants all to understand, the board is not here to do undue harm, he would like to have more informational sessions as the process goes forward so everyone can be heard.

There is a good chance that the district will never be formed, the current district (Toad Harbor/North Shore District) had a 70% approval rate before it was voted into existence.

The Town Board makes the decisions as to what areas will be included, they will go door to door to survey the area. If the majority of the people say they do not want it, it will not be included.

At 9:05 the session ended.