

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-SPECIAL MEETING –September 28, 2011**  
8:00am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Charles Gilkey – Supervisor  
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran– Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent  
Nancy Butler - Supervisor's Clerk

Absent: Frank Tomaino - Council Member

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 8:10 am Mr. Gilkey called the special meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**BUDGET:**

All board members have been given a copy of the Tentative Town Budget for 2012, which was filed with the town clerk on September 22, 2011.

Mr. Metzger worked with Ms. Butler to do the calculations required for the Real Property Tax Levy Limit ("Tax Cap") Law. Discussion followed at how the form was filled out, the pension portion of the form is still in question. Mr. Metzger will verify that correct numbers were used, but he is confident that if there are any changes they will not make a significant impact on the final numbers. Looking at the Tentative Town Budget as it stands for a starting point it looks good.

Another place the town can look for income would be to increase user fees. Of course this can be a double edge sword, sometimes this makes people do things on their own to avoid a fee, which then can cause a bigger problem.

With the new budget rules, the town must look forward and get a good 5 to 10 year outlook. One of the concerns should be with infrastructure. Highway paved 2.6 miles of road this year of 60 miles total highway, this is not enough. One way to save would be to oil and stone roads that are less traveled which Mr. Woolridge is going to do. Doris Park was repaved this year, that road is estimated to last 15 years, Knapp Road was resurfaced, that road estimate is 10 years. Equipment, plow trucks after the new one this year the town will be in good shape for 3 - 4 years, two new pickups are needed with should be replaced this coming year. By 2013 we should be budgeting at least \$300,000. for road improvements. Employees, right now we are working with two men short, we should be looking at hiring someone soon.

9:15am Ms. Butler came into the meeting.

The second concern is our contractual obligations. The fire protection contract needs to be looked at with the possibility of changing the boundaries that are covered. The 50/50 split does not fit the model that is around the county. The protective area is under the control of the town board. The contract needs to be looked at and boundaries, command and control and cost should all be included. It was decided that two members of the town board, the chairman for the fire district and the fire chief for the Constantia Volunteer Fire Department should sit down to discuss the district lines to make changes that Constantia could cover without increasing their portion of the budget and then make the necessary budget changes to the Cleveland Fire Department. North Shore Ambulance is also a contractual item that needs to be looked at, this could be handled the same way, two town board members and their president/treasurer. Nothing that needs to be done will be easy, but with budget constraints, everything needs to be looked at not just how it affects the budget today, but also five to ten years from now.

**PAY INCREASES:**

Only a few departments asked for pay increases, these will be looked at on a later date.

**ADJOURN:**

At 10:33pm the meeting adjourned.