

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-BUDGET WORKSHOP –7 pm –October 13, 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
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent

Others Present: Carl Avery - Chief, Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department
John Hinds - Trustee, village of Cleveland
Russell Raymond - Chairman for Fire Commissioners
E. John Whitney - Chief, Constantia Volunteer Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:00 pm Mr. Gilkey called the budget workshop to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss 2012 budget issues.

FIRE DISCUSSION:

Mr. Gilkey opened the meeting by giving the board members a copy of a letter intended for the Constantia Fire Department from the village of Cleveland. This letter will be sent back to the village for rewording, this will not be a district so the wording is incorrect.

Mr. Metzger asked why this would even be presented, Mr. Gilkey responded that the process had to start at one of the entities that receive the money so it started there. The idea would be to not divide tax parcels.

Mr. Hinds indicated that the protection area would not change, this would be done to provide financial stability for the Cleveland Fire Department, right now both Cleveland and Constantia put in their budgets, the amounts are either raised or lowered to get the same amount for both, it is a 50/50 split.

Mr. Colesante asked if there would be an elected board of fire commissioners. No, Mr. Hinds apologized for the confusion, it is only intended to be an area contracted by the town, the town board will still have final say.

Mr. Raymond responded that when 911 was started, the fire departments were told that the cut off has to be a road, before this the cut off was Brady's curve it was moved to Shacksbush Road at that time. It does not run down the center of the road, the whole road is the responsibility of the Cleveland Fire Department.

Mr. Whitney does not understand what this is all about, he only saw the map once on the front of his pick up at chiefs meeting there was no discussion on it. Neither Cleveland nor Constantia has been hurt by this arrangement. When there is a fire, both companies get called out at the same time.

Mr. Metzger stated that funding is a real issue, the proposal on the table right now would be to move the line to County Route 17, Constantia fire department would handle more territory without increasing their budget. This one area of fire protection would stay the same, but shared differently. This is to not hurt either fire departments, but to put funds to better use. This would help to save on duplication of equipment, the fire departments are not the only contracts that are being reviewed, ambulance was here last week. Between both ambulance and fire contracts the cost take up about 1/3 of the total town budget.

Mr. Colesante said there is a real concern with the 2% tax cap, yes the town board can vote to override it, but the present board is not inclined to do so. For every \$10,000.00 increase it adds about 1% to the tax levy. So you can see the position the town board is in.

Mr. Metzger the board does need a better understanding, it is good that they had this discussion. The board does have to look at how they are going to form the fire service on the north shore, without affecting taxpayers.

At 8:10pm the board thanked all for their concerns and comments, you are welcomed to stay but this is the end of discussion on contacts and boundaries.

WATER:

Mr. Colesante made the motion to approve two hydrants:

1. Hydrant #13018 - located on State Route 49, 20' west of driveway to A. A. Cole Elementary School building
2. Hydrant #13021 - located 360'+/- off state route 49 behind A. A. Cole Elementary School building

Application is hereby made to OCWA for the above installation(s), in order to provide fire hydrant service at the property locations as listed above.

It is understood and agreed that fire hydrant service shall be supplied and used only in accordance with Customer Rules of OCWA as now on file at OCWA's office and any modifications, alterations or amendments thereof, which may be hereafter adopted by OCWA.

It is understood and agreed that failure of the applicant to give prompt written notice to have the fire hydrant service discontinued will make the applicant liable for all charges until the time of written notification.

The hydrants will be per OCWA's engineer's drawings, town of Constantia will be responsible for O & M charges of \$61.60 per hydrant per annum. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

BUDGET:

Pay increases-Ms. Butler gave all the board a listing of payroll increases for the last three years as requested. The board reviewed and made a few changes. Ms. Butler will make changes to get projections for the next budget meeting.

Mr. Woolridge would like to add a contingency line for the purchase of a new gradall.

It was questioned if a new A line for sewers should be added, Barton & Loguidice gave Mr. Gilkey \$32,000.00 for a starting point to investigate sewers. The concern is how people are going to pay for it. There will be no A line addition for sewers right now.

ADJOURN:

At 9:27 pm Mr. Moran made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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