

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-END OF YEAR MEETING –DECEMBER 28, 2011
7:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Charles Gilkey – Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader - Town Attorney

Absent: Frank Tomaino - Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:00 pm Mr. Gilkey called the end of the year meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

VOUCHERS:

No additional vouchers were turned in. Budget transfers for accounts that are over will be done in January.

WATER:

Letter dated December 28, 2011 given to the board from Barton and Loguidice. This is a draft of the proposal to Amendment No. 4 to Engineering Services - Additional Engineering Services related to In-District Extensions for the Constantia and Toad Harbor Water Districts. The board should review for decision at the January 3rd meeting.

The proposed extensions are:

Town of Constantia:

1. Simmons Drive - 800 LF
2. Johnson Road (NYS Route 49) - 1,400 LF
3. Johnson Road (Nicholsville Road) - 1,100 LF

Town of West Monroe:

1. County Route 11 - 1,300 LF
2. Depot Road - 700 LF
3. Luther Road - 900LF
4. Omara Drive - 1,800 LF

With this listing, West Monroe is at \$258,600 with the 80/20 split they should be at \$207,000. Mr. Parker reviewed and if they cut Luther Road or cut 1/2 of Omara Drive that will bring them down to where they should be. With this additional spending all of the grant money will be spent along with part of the loan money that was left over. Mr. Gilkey and/or Mr. Parker will e-mail Mr. Messere to tell him how much he has to spend so he can make the decision as to which area will be eliminated.

FIRE CONTRACTS:

Mr. Bader has reviewed the proposed changes to the fire contract given to him by Mr. Metzger. Fire contracts can be amended, but boundaries can't be done without a public hearing. Mr. Moran asked where are the boundaries, he knows it splits at Shacksbush Road but where does it split to the north. Mr. Hinds showed the board a map. Mr. Metzger questioned where he got that map, it is an insurance underwriter map. The boundaries have been set historically by a gentleman's agreement between both fire departments.

Mr. Hinds has submitted to the board a letter dated December 20, 2011 where he again is requesting the board to legally define the boundaries so each fire department can request their own budget numbers. Currently each department submits their budget to the board, they compare either increasing or decreasing one to come up with a figure that is then divided in half per department. For this year's contract discussion definition of boundaries is not critical.

Mr. Bader responded to Mr. Metzger's second question about command and control, yes this also can be put into a contract, but he is not a fireman so he does not know what the standard is. Mr. Baxter was asked his opinion, he does not know the answer, has never heard of any contract that is so specific. Town Law Section 184 says how to enter into the contract, establish expectations on who does what. Members from the Cleveland Fire Department were in attendance and would have a problem with this. Mr. Carl Avery, Chief for the Cleveland Fire Department feels like this is a hostile takeover. Mr. Metzger made the point that this whole conversation is heading down the road to consolidation, towards one fire department. Stop the separate entities, more of an idea of establishing continuity. Discussion does need to take place. Right now the plan is to meet with the village of Cleveland bi-monthly this is where the discussion can continue. The village board does act as the fire commissioners for the village fire department.

Mr. Whitney, Chief for the Constantia Fire Department said there is a lot of misleading information out there. Too many closed door meetings. None of this came from the Constantia Fire Department, he was asked some questions and he answered them. They do not want Cleveland to go out of business, but

communications do need to improve. An example where this could be better is when Cleveland calls West Amboy to help with a call in Panther Lake, Constantia is closer and could help with the same taxpayer money. Sometime down the road something has to change, we have 66 miles of roads in this town that are falling apart and there is only so much money.

Mr. Avery suggested hiring a consultant to look at the issues, Mr. Baxter thinks there is some matching grant money out there to help with this. Mr. Mike Davis from Cleveland has experience writing grants and would be happy to volunteer his time.

Mr. Colesante wanted to make sure that both fire companies know they were not singled out. Ambulance is being looked into also. With the passing of the 2% cap it puts a lot of pressure on the board to look at every area of spending. He for one does not want to go above the 2% cap. For our budget that means one single problem that is over \$30,000 would put us over, they would have to take the money from somewhere else. Mr. Colesante had no intention to change anything this year, hopefully after discussion an agreement can be made and changes can occur for 2013.

Communication is the biggest thing, the board would like Mr. Avery and Mr. Whitney to meet and discuss ideas that could help both companies.

At this time, no changes to the contract.

ADJOURN:

At 8:25 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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