

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-August 19, 2014**  
7:30 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Charles Gilkey – Supervisor  
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran, Chad Whitney – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Others Present: Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent  
Warren Bader - Town Attorney  
Absent: Roy Reehil - County Legislator

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 7:30 pm Mr. Gilkey called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**WATER/SEWER:**

Should hear on the EFC funding around the second week of October, usually comes out earlier but has been delayed. Looks like Johnson Road wants water while Saunders is not interested, still waiting for information on the other roads.

The DEC has approved the PER for the sewer study, will be getting the balance of the grant shortly. Cleveland's grant is moving along.

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR:**

-The Legislature accepted a \$40,000 law enforcement grant designated to help police the Canal and Canalway Trail. In the spring we spoke about using targeted Sherriff's patrols if there continued to be abuses of property originating from people using ATVs on the trail. I am not aware that there are any new problems, but if there are this would be a good time to ask for some targeted policing from the County if warranted.

-I met with Don Forbes (County Fire Coordinator) Mike Allen (E-911 Emergency Communications Director) and Linda Lockwood (our Public Safety Committee Chairperson) on July 29, concerning emergency radio communications on the North Shore. Mike reported that a new FCC license is in progress and new equipment will be installed in Cleveland that should help alleviate problems that had been occurring in the past. Once that new equipment is installed, it will be important for Constantia and Cleveland VFD personnel to continue to document any further lapses in communications. This way we can work with Don and Mike to further improve service going forward and to more quickly be aware of problems that might occur with equipment at the Constantia tower due to lightning strikes, etc. It was a very constructive meeting and I will continue to monitor our progress and report to the VFDs and Town Board.

-The next (and probably last) meeting of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee will be tomorrow, Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. I cannot attend, but I will be getting a report on the meeting from the Chairman of the Legislature on Thursday. I will have an opportunity to add our voice if there is an opinion you would like me to share. I can be reached by email or phone and I will reply if you don't reach me. We have a caucus Thursday evening so reaching me before that is best so I can speak to Chairman Gardner if necessary. Clare has my email.

-I wanted to share my congratulations to the Constantia Volunteer Fire Department for 100 years of outstanding service to our region. Thanks so much to John Metzger and all the men who have served over the past 100 years! Sorry I can't be there Saturday.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 15th town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

**VOUCHERS:**

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #8, Dated August 19th:

General Fund	252-285,287-291	\$ 29,713.65
Highway Fund	106-127	\$ 28,830.58

Voucher 286 was removed as it was a duplicate.

Seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

**SUPERVISOR:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Supervisor's report as presented dated July 31, 2014, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

**HIGHWAY:**

-Storm drain project on Redfield St. is almost finished, the County will come in to grid the road to get ready for paving. They will then continue to pave the other roads that are scheduled to be done this year, around the second week of September they will oil and stone roads.

- Second round of mowing has started, the long arm is being used in some areas.
- A citizen has requested a stop sign on Marsden Rd, Mr. Woolridge has an obligation to bring the request in front of the board. If it is done, a three way stop should be put in, but under highway law it is illegal to use stop signs to control traffic. It actually causes more liability to the town, Mr. Woolridge would not suggest installing the signs, the board agreed.
- The highway department has been broken into, cut the lock on the gate stole 6 storm drains. State Police and Sheriff's Department have been notified. Mr. Woolridge will call Time Warner to get an estimate to add cameras to the system that is currently in place.
- New lifts that were purchased last year were used to replace kingpins on one of the trucks, saved about \$2,500.

Mr. Whitney made the motion to accept the Highway Superintendent's report, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

**TOWN CLERK:**

Total receipts for the month of July were \$4,640.41. Hunting license sales have started, as many know the State is experiencing many problems. Ms. Haynes wants to let hunters know that the original valeron paper that was sent by the DEC which has hunting scene background is causing problems with the printers. DEC has instructed selling agents to use the yellow valeron stock which was used for 2013/2014 hunting season. Please be careful which license you are carrying. Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

**ASSESSOR:**

With the end of summer quickly approaching, we are getting so close to the new school year; and with that, a potential STAR explosion. You all remember my various reports that the Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF) has strong armed their position into the STAR administration process under the guise of ending fraud? Well, we will be seeing DTF's handy work as early as the first week of September when the school bills go out. Over the past several weeks, DTF has been changing, updating, adding and removing Basic STAR exemptions from Assessor's rolls all across the state; including the Town of Constantia; in fact, all towns in Oswego County. By my estimation, DTF has removed more than 100 Basic STAR exemptions in Constantia alone. What does this mean? There could be an influx of residents contacting our offices with concerns over why their school bills have increased by more than \$600. While we were informed that this would not impact local Assessor's; we all know better. Even though local municipalities will be in the 'front lines'; we do not have the authority to correct those exemptions that were removed by DTF. Property owners will need to contact DTF directly, to begin an 'appeals' process. Should any property owner voice concern about their increased school bill, please direct them to my office, so that we can assist them in this process.

We have also been told that there will be two separate mailings of 'rebate' checks this fall. The first, a rebate check to families in the amount of \$350; if the family had a child under the age of 17 in 2012, and the household income was between \$40,000 and \$300,000. The second will be known as the 'tax freeze' check, and these checks will be mailed to those school districts that stayed under the 'tax cap' and will result in the difference between 2013 school and 2014 school tax. The actual amount of the rebate checks has yet to be determined; and the estimates range from as little as \$5.00 to as high as \$800.00 in Nassau County. I guess we will just have to wait and see how it all plays out. Again, although our office has nothing to do with the administration of these programs; we will undoubtedly be inundated with inquiries as to when and why; so again, should anyone pose questions to you with regard to these refunds, please have them contact our office so that we may direct them to the appropriate department within DTF.

If you thought that DTF would be done with STAR at the conclusion of this year, think again. We have been notified by DTF that they will begin mailing out the New STAR Registration letters in November. Exactly who gets the letters is unknown; whether they are expecting everyone to re-register again; or if it is some condensed version of 'new' property owners remains to be seen.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Assessor's report as read, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Mr. Illingworth gave a list of property violations and complaints that are being worked on, full list on file at the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Code Officer's report as received with total receipts for the month of July in the amount of \$2,114.06, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

**DOG CONTROL:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Dog Control Officer's report as received, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

**PLANNING BOARD:**

- Approved minutes were received for the June 26th and July 22nd planning board meetings.
- Site plan review for Abbass-site plan drawing was requested
- Reviewed survey responses

### **BOARD OF APPEALS:**

- Approved minutes were received for the January 14th board of appeals meeting.
- August 12th meeting for side yard setback - Kimmel, approved

### **JUSTICE:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept Justice Pelon's and Justice Simpson's report for July, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal has done an inspection, report given to all board members. Mr. Gilkey will respond to their report as requested.
- E-mail to Mr. Illingworth about the conditions of various places in town, Mr. Illingworth has spoken to citizen. Many of places listed are on the Code Officer's complaint/violations list.
- On August 18th Mr. Gilkey received a letter from Mr. Leemann, Amboy's Town Supervisor in reference to a petition from the Panther Lake Association. The town of Constantia received the petition on August 14th. The town of Constantia has contacted the Health Department along with the DEC to help with some of the issues contained in the petition. Mr. Gilkey will respond with a letter to Mr. Walters, President of the Panther Lake Association and the board when he gets reports back from both the Health Dept and DEC.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Richard Woods, Vice President from the Panther Lake Association was in attendance to hear what was said about their petition.

### **TUG HILL COMMISSION:**

Mr. Baxter could not attend, submitted the following:

Three dates I wanted to make sure you knew about:

- Monday, September 8: The Tug Hill Commission will be meeting in Altmar, at the former Altmar Elementary School, now converted into Tailwater Lodge. The Commission meeting is at 4:00 p.m., and is open to the public. The Commissioners will be touring Tailwater Lodge at 3:30 p.m., prior to the Commission meeting. Supervisor Gilkey will be receiving an invitation to the Commission meeting, as will NorCOG chairman Rip Colesante, if you have not already received one.
- The following Monday, September 15, the North Shore Council of Governments and the Tug Hill Commission will be co-sponsoring a presentation by the New York State Comptroller's office on the town budget process. This meeting is scheduled for 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Albion-Altmar Municipal Building. Supervisor Gilkey has been sent information about this workshop and should have a copy of the flyer. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and we request you RSVP to make sure we have enough copies of presentation materials and refreshments.
- Finally, Tuesday, September 30, the Tug Hill Commission will hold the SuperCOG meeting rescheduled from the earlier May date. It looks like the location will be in Redfield. More information should be out on this soon.

As the budget process workshop indicates, we are getting into that town budget time of year. I anticipate having the 2014 towns budget comparison prepared between now and your September meeting. I would be happy to come over to Constantia at the supervisor and bookkeeper's convenience to assist in preparing the 2015 Constantia town budget template as you wish.

### **BOARD COMMENT:**

-Letter received from Mr. Chuck Williams, Chair of the Planning Board proposing committee formation to update Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Law and to study zoning.

-Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department reports for May, June and July

-Two letters of interest to be on the Board of Appeals:

Mr. Moran made the motion to appoint Ms. Sandy Retajczyk to the Constantia Board of Appeals, term to expire on December 31, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mr. Moran made the motion to appoint Ms. Susan Kimmel to the Constantia Board of Appeals, term to expire on December 31, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

-Mr. Gilkey has received complaints about Riccelli's trucks speeding. Today the State Police were clocking vehicles, none of the trucks were going more than 5 miles over the speed limit. Mr. Gilkey has also spoken to Riccelli's and they were going to have a safety meeting.

-Budget meeting dates will be September 11th, 18th, 25th and October 2nd all at 7pm in the Constantia Town Hall.

-Mr. Donovan a representative of the North Shore Youth Soccer League was in attendance to answer any questions the board might have in regards to the soccer program's use of the park. Mr. Colesante, Chair for the Park and Recreation Commission stated that the Commission has agreed to have the league use the park, but part of the property that will be used is owned by the town. After discussion Mr. Colesante made the motion to support the North Shore Youth Soccer League by giving them authorization to utilize both the town and park property at the David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay for their youth soccer program, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 8:50pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to go into executive session, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

Mrs. Haynes did not go into executive session, Mr. Illingworth went into executive session at the start and left at 9:58pm.

At 10:13pm Mr. Moran made the motion to return from executive session and reopen the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Mr. Colesante made the motion for the town board to develop a new mileage reporting form and policy for employees that travel for the town and an attendance log for non-elective salaried employees, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

**ADJOURN:**

At 10:15 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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