

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-October 21, 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
Paul Baxter - Tug Hill Commission
Michael Parker - Barton & Loguidice
Amanda Kullman - Barton & Loguidice

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil sent the following report:

I have a caucus tonight, so I apologize, if I can make it I will be late.

As I reported to Supervisor Gilkey on the day of the last meeting of the full Legislature, we approved several changes to the way the transfer stations will run. They will all remain open, but on Jan. 1 each will be closed two days a week. 4 positions will be eliminated by attrition and other staff will be reassigned elsewhere. The Hastings Transfer Station will be closed on Mondays and Wednesdays starting Jan. 2015. The other changes are: 1) Punch cards will be eliminated. 2) Additional Stickers will be raised from \$5 to \$10. 3) Hand Passes will be eliminated. And 4.) a “Minor Hauler policy will be in force that will increase the rate from \$65 to \$75 a ton.

At our last meeting we also passed a new law, based on State Law 485a, which provides a property tax exemption for improvements to mixed-use property (a mix of commercial and residential) of at least \$100,000 or more. The exemption is on a sliding scale and does not affect the Town or Village unless they adopt the same law locally. I have included a copy of the full text of the exemption. (on file in the Town Clerk's Office)

The proposed County Budget was presented to the Legislature after the meeting. It proposes an increase of approximately 6.9%, more than most Legislators are willing to allow to be passed. We’ll be working on that very hard over the next two months.

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the minutes of the September 16th town board meeting and the September 11th, 18th, 25th and October 9th budget meetings, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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 #10, Dated October 21st:

General Fund	327-358	\$ 31,452.27
Highway Fund	164-186	\$159,182.95
North Shore Water District	11	\$ 350.00

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 September 30, 2014, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Wooridge reported:

- Chips paperwork will be submitted as soon as the checks have cleared.
- Changing trucks over, one has been completed.
- Culverts have been cleaned.
- Crushing and screening will continue.
- Mowing is done, rental has been returned, they did clear out around Railroad St by the County Trail, Mr. Woolridge plans to keep this area mowed.

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

WATER:

Mr. Parker and Ms. Kullman from Barton & Loguidice were here to bring a new map with the boundaries for the proposed Bernhards Bay Water District. The new boundaries will include Johnson Rd, State Route 49 from Bernhards Bay to Cleveland and a portion of Simmons Drive. When it comes to Johnson Rd, 19 out of 24 are in favor so 80%. Ms. Wood, a property owner on Johnson Rd is in an Ag District so as long as she stays within the definition of an Ag District she would be exempt from charges except water usage.

When Mr. Parker asked about the new boundaries, the board was comfortable with them. Mr. Whitney wanted to make sure that Lower Road could not be added, no they can't the numbers are just not there for approval.

The board agreed that they will be forming this district by board resolution. Mr. Colesante requested that Mr. Parker update the numbers informally to help the board make their decision. This update will include the results from Johnson Rd.

Mr. Pond and Mr. Parker both met with the village to let them know that the town is above the funding line. The village is still planning on having a referendum. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Gilkey will contact the village to set a meeting between both the boards hopefully information can get out to the residents about the project so the referendum will pass.

Mr. Parker hopes to have the hardship application completed and submitted by November 7th.

SEWER:

The preliminary engineering report has been approved, paperwork will need to be submitted to prove that the money was spent. Mr. Parker will look into why the town has not been contacted.

TOWN CLERK:

Total receipts for the month of September were \$5,519.90. Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

ASSESSOR:

About two weeks ago, we mailed out 346 renewal notices; 105 Senior and 241 Enhanced; which are due back to our office by March 2, 2015. We will continue processing these applications as they continue to be received.

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF) will be sending out *Property Tax Freeze Credit* checks in a few weeks. According to the DTF's website, to receive the 2014 tax freeze credit; 1) the property must be the homeowner's primary residence, 2) the total household income must be \$500,000 or less, 3) the school district must have complied with the New York State Property Tax Cap. The Central Square Central School District did comply; therefore, most residents will be receiving the rebate. The rebate is figured in one of two ways:

1. The actual increase in the homeowner's tax bill, or
2. The previous year's tax bill multiplied by an inflation factor; for 2014, the inflation factor is 1.46%.

Homeowners whose tax bills go down, stay the same, or increase less than the inflation factor will receive a credit equal to the previous year's tax bill multiplied by the inflation factor. There are a few exceptions; the credit will not reimburse homeowners for increases that are the result of:

1. Improvements to the property that increase its value,
2. Changes in a property's exemption status

Confused yet? You are not alone. Property owners will be encouraged to contact DTF directly if they feel they should have received, but did not receive a property tax freeze check. Please remember, that this is a DTF sponsored program, our office has no real authority in the matter; but most likely will be fielding the majority of the questions. Again, these checks are *tentatively scheduled for mailing in early November 2014*.

We are also being reminded, that DTF may be notifying certain property owners to re-register for STAR for 2015. When and whom will be notified has yet to be determined. We will continue to monitor these issues and bring any new information to the Board and residents as it becomes available.

As always, should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Code Officer's report as received with total receipts for the month of September in the amount of \$1,714.90, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

Mr. Gilkey has the changes to the Land Devolvement Law that were discussed at the last meeting. Section 1010 number 11 was divided into 3 statements. Mr. Colesante is questioning the wording, he is not against the change, but will get with Mr. Illingworth to discuss a possible change, Mr. Bader will be there. A public hearing was set for November 18th at 7pm.

DOG CONTROL:

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Dog Control Officer's report as received, seconded by Mr. Whitney.
Carried: Moran – Yes Whitney - Yes Colesante - Yes Metzger - Yes Gilkey – Yes

PLANNING BOARD:

The August 12th meeting minutes were received.

Public Hearing for Mr. Abbass - Addition to building was approved.

BOARD OF APPEALS:

Nothing to report.

JUSTICE:

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Gilkey and other board members have been getting calls from residents on the Riccelli trucks in town. Mr. Gilkey has spoken to the owner of Riccelli, they do have a 5 year contract for 100,000 truck loads so they will be hauling for the next 2-3 years.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

- Tug Hill Commission Strategic Planning Meeting held Tuesday Sept 30th. Thank you to Supervisor Gilkey and NorCOG Chair Mr. Colesante for their attendance and participation.
- NorCOG meeting to be scheduled in November
- Town web site up to date, spoke with Legislator Reehil about adding his reports to the town web site he is in agreement.
- Presented 2014Oswego County town budget comparison.
- Hastings sold waste transfer station will be closing on Mondays in addition to Wednesdays to cut operating costs.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Phillips owner of Kirk P. Phillips Carpentry bid to do a few items at the town hall was reviewed and accepted. Two other contractors were asked with nothing submitted.

Mr. Illingworth has spoken to Mr. Charles A. Cummings PE he will be in to look at the town hall and give an overview to the board, planning for a possible small expansion.

Mr. Colesante asked about Mr. Hall and what has been happening with that property. Mr. Hall has been working with Mr. Illingworth on his properties.

Mr. Colesante would like to get a mileage policy addressed and in place for 2015. The board asked Mr. Baxter if he could see if the Tug Hill Commission has any policies available for review. After budget meetings are completed, meetings for this will be held.

Public hearing for the preliminary budget will be November 6th at 7pm in the town hall.

ADJOURN:

At 9:18 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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