

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-FEBRUARY 16, 2016
7:30 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Kenneth Mosley – 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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Boyea along with her son Shawn were in to discuss the Run of the Rare race that she is holding on March 20th in Constantia. Ms. Boyea and Shawn gave a little more information on his disease and information on the race. As part of the permit to hold the race, NYSDOT is requesting a letter from the Town acknowledging that the race is going to be held within Town limits. After discussion the board is in agreement that Supervisor Mosley supply the letter. The board thanked both Ms. Boyea and Shawn for coming in.

WATER/SEWER:

Paperwork has been received for reimbursement of sewer grant money. Mr. Colesante requested a meeting be set up with West Monroe to speak about EDU's for the water district, March 1, 2016 at 9:30am will be the meeting.

MINUTES:

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 19th public hearing and town board meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #2, dated February 16, 2016:

General Fund	42-78	\$ 24,310.69
Highway Fund	21-36	\$182,457.82
NorthShore Water District	2-3	\$326,850.27

Seconded by Mr. Moran.

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

SUPERVISOR:

The Annual Financial Report for 2015 was filed on February 10, 2016

Real Property Tax Freeze was filed on January 13, 2016

Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice audits need to be completed, Mr. Moran and Mr. Metzger will contact the offices so they can get started. Mr. Moran mentioned that the Supervisor's Office has not been audited in quite some time, good idea to put it in the budget for 2017. Mr. Moran then made the motion to accept the Supervisor's report as presented dated January 31, 2016, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported they have been cutting trees, plowing snow and grading dirt road.

-Mr. Woolridge gave the board members a letter he would like to send out to residents on a section of Center St, please review for the special meeting February 17th, would like approval before he sends it out. Mr. Woolridge is aware some of the residents will not be happy, but the road is not in good shape and is tough on equipment. Would like to get this area oil and stoned or blacktop if the budget allows. This will be a three year project.

-Mr. Woolridge has received bids for culvert pipes for the Holly Hole Rd project. He waiting on another bid before asking for approval, should have the third bid for February 17th meeting. The prices are good Mr. Woolridge would like to get them ordered by the end of month.

-Highway Superintendents would like to have a clam bake at David C. Webb Memorial Park at Taft Bay. Mr. Colesante sees no problem with the Highway Superintendents using the park at no fee, the pavilion rental form still needs to be submitted.

-Advocacy Day is March 9th, Mr. Woolridge will be attending.

-Mr. Wayne Hall, CEO is a CPR/First Aid instructor Mr. Woolridge would like permission to have Mr. Hall run a class for the highway department employees, employees of the West Monroe highway and some fireman to attend. Mr. Hall will do during his scheduled hours, this will be a cost savings for the Town. The board approved Mr. Hall running the training sessions.

-Mr. Metzger asked about the speed limit for County Route 17. Mr. Woolridge has not heard anything as it will take a while, should be putting out counters in the spring

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

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

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR:

Mrs. Haynes reported that the total receipts and disbursements for the month of January were \$1,366.00.

-Tax collection is in full swing, on February 10, 2016 \$1,923,588.80 was turned over to Town Supervisor, this amount satisfied the total warrant to the town.

-April 19th is the Presidential Primary 11am to 9:30pm, if this primary is not cancelled then the town board meeting will need to be rescheduled.

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

ASSESSOR:

On February 2, 2016, I received our official Pre-Decisional Collaboration (PDC) from Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF) and it appears as though, the 2016 assessment roll will be our last year at 100% without implementing some changes to our assessment roll. The real estate market, based on our very own Town of Constantia sales (both water and non-water front) have indicated approximately a 4% increase from the previous year period.

What that means, is that our market has finally started to show signs of growth, while our assessments have basically remained unchanged since our initial revaluation. This will then come into play with our equalization rate, as if we do not make adjustments for the 2017 roll, we will no longer be able to claim 100%.

At some point after Grievance Day, we should get together and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of allowing our equalization rate to drop below 100%. I propose we do this, sometime this summer, when I can attend a board meeting and address any of your questions and concerns. I would like to have some sort of plan in action by August of 2016 so that it can be implemented in time for the 2017 roll.

The tax freeze checks are still being processed. At last count, DTF still have almost one million checks yet to be printed. Again, let me reiterate, they have no indication as to how the checks were processed (area, name, social security number, etc.) just that they should all be completely mailed out by the end of this month. There will be a hotline set up for those tax payers that did not receive a check and should have.

One last reminder, the exemption filing deadline is March 1, 2016. Our office has started contacting those residents that have yet to reapply for the 2016 roll.

Should you have any further questions, do not hesitate to ask.

The board agreed to pick a night when Mr. Wheeler can attend to discuss his concerns in early June.

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

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Wayne Hall gave the board a letter outlining what has been going on with the three properties he has been focusing on. Mr. Colesante and other members of the board are not happy with the progress Mr. Gordon Hall has made. The board needs to see more progress as it comes to his property.

-Mr. Bader will be in court on Monday, February 22, 2016 with the case against Ms. Confer – 756 State Route 49, property still has not been cleaned up.

-Mr. Colesante would like a more systemic approach to the way problem properties are handled. Mr. Mosley responded that at the present time he is having the CEO handle complaints as they come in, that way nobody can say they were targeted. Mr. Colesante wants to make progress but wants a fair and best approach. Mr. Mosley suggested that the board members take different areas of the town and report their findings back to the CEO for him to address. No decision was made using this approach.

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Code Officer's report as presented with total receipts for the month of January in the amount of \$150.00, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

JUSTICE:

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

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

DOG CONTROL:

Mr. Mosley spoke to Ms. Ashley with the inclement weather, Mr. Mosley excused her from tonight's meeting. Ms. Ashley told Mr. Mosley she has 11 tickets in process. Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the Dog Control Officer's report, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

PLANNING BOARD:

Received approved minutes from November 24, 2015 and unapproved minutes from January 16, 2016.

BOARD OF APPEALS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

BOARD COMMENT:

-Mr. Moran asked if the board members were supporting the planning board with issues at 11 Frederick St. Mr. Mosley after learning what happened at the planning board meeting spoke to Mr. Bader, Mr. Bader suggested that Mr. Mosley let there be a cooling off period and then contact Mr. Abbass to see if Ms. Petkash, Planning Board Chair could come in and discuss his plans before the next planning board meeting. Ms. Petkash could not make the scheduled meeting, Mr. Mosley has spoken to Mr. Abbass he is willing to come back before the planning board.

-Mr. Colesante would like to reach out to Mrs. Susan LaVigne about the Revitalization Committee, get an agenda for 2016. Still would like to find out how they can receive donations, this is a difficult area. How to budget and were to put the money. In the past when the benches were purchased, the people/organizations buying the bench gave the full amount needed to the town to purchase. The problem comes in if there is a small amount of money donated how does the town handle that money. Mr. Baxter offered to get the paper that the Tug Hill Commission has on Municipal Fundraising and Gifting. Sometimes there will be a not-for-profit corporation set up, (ie: Friends of Constantia) they can collect the donations and in turn donate them to the town as a bench or tree.

-Discussion on the sidewalks, the board suggested that Mr. Mosley contact the gentleman from NYS to ask what the likelihood that there will be funding for sidewalks along State Route 49 and if yes how long will it take.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

Mr. Mosley has contracted with QPK Design to develop a D Size drawing of a possible municipal building, \$4,500.00 will be the cost. The town will have a PDF file to work with. Mr. Colesante would like to have a discussion with the Ambulance to get their opinion on relocating to this building. After discussion, the board asked Mr. Bader to look at how the funding will work.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-North Shore Ambulance Report

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Paul Baxter reported:

- Local Government Conference March 31; early registration deadline March 9th. Any board member can attend.
- Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor Commission meeting Wed, Jan 27th – Mr. Baxter and Mr. Mosley attended – possible future grant funding source.
- Red Flags for Fraud workshop Thursday, March 3rd, RSVP is requested
- Meeting Monday, February 29th at 6pm on former Harden (now TIR) forest lands up for sale in Tug Hill regions: municipal impacts and options.
- Possible increased parks funding available in the next year – town may want to consider its wants and needs and how much possible projects would cost.

ADJOURN:

At 9:31 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moran.

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