

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD- October 18, 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
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Warren Bader - Town Attorney

Others Present: Roy Reehil – County Legislator
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Beverly Kelley and Mrs. Judith Kelly were in attendance on behalf of the Constantia Rural Cemetery Association. There were trees in the town right away that were removed last year, the cemetery association would like to put up a fence in the same location. The association would like permission from the town to put this fence up, the fence will most likely again be in the town's right of way. Mr. Metzger made the motion to give permission for the Constantia Rural Cemetery Association to put a fence in the town's right of way on Cemetery Road, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

WATER:

Residents were in to get an update on the Bernhards Bay Water District, Mr. Colesante gave the update that all paperwork has been submitted and hopefully residents will be seeing surveyors out and people getting soil samples etc. Hopefully if all goes well, some residents will be able to hook up to water late next year but there are no guarantees. Mr. Bader also included that easements will take some time that has to be added into the timeline. Mr. Mosley will contact Barton & Loguidice for a possible time line to be given to residents that inquire.

SEWER:

The village of Cleveland sent a copy of the letter they received from NYSDEC on the proposed upgrade to the waste water treatment plant and the proposed Constantia Sewer District. The letter indicated some questions that need to be answered before going forward with any improvement and possible district. Two of the major issues are, A.A. Cole Elementary was not included in the district and the EDU's are more than originally proposed. These are all questions that the Village and Barton & Loguidice will need to respond to.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Legislator Reehil reported the following:

- Budget process is going along hoping for a zero percent increase
- Oswego County Bicentennial book is being worked on, every town will have its own chapter. Mr. Reehil is spearheading this project
- Worked on and settled various contracts with County unions

MINUTES:

Mr. Colesante made the motion to accept the minutes of the September 20th town board meeting, September 27th and October 4th budget meetings, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Whitney made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #10 dated October 18, 2016:

General Fund	333-367	\$ 16,300.36*
Highway Fund	178-198	\$ 24,673.05
NorthShore Water District	11-12	\$ 1,398.00

All vouchers have been reviewed and approved by the town board members, Seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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

*Voucher #338 deleted duplicate voucher and voucher #367 was left off in error but approved during meeting.

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran asked Mr. Mosley to speak to Ms. Butler about two accounts that are over budget, might be time to do a budget transfer. Mr. Moran then made the motion to accept the Supervisor's report as presented dated September 30, 2016, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Woolridge reported:

- Changing over trucks for winter 2 ready, one might need additional work
- Rented long arm mower, will be here for one more week
- Cleaning catch basins

- Road culvert inspections being done
- Trees being cut when time is available
- Leaf pickup starting October 31st, every Monday and Tuesday until the weather changes

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

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 September were \$8,045.00. Mr. Metzger 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:

I am pleased to inform you, that Lynn has returned to work in our office, and our new office hours are now Monday and Wednesday, from 9:00 – 1:30, and Tuesday, 9:00 – 4:00.

With Lynn's return, we sent out over 350 Senior and Enhanced STAR renewal forms. These forms are due back in our office no later than March 1, 2017, and to date, we have already received 75 of them. I will be sending out the Agricultural and Disability Renewals, sometime in November.

There seems to be more confusion coming from Albany than first was anticipated. STAR Checks, not be confused with Tax Freeze Checks or Tax Relief Checks (both which have not been processed yet) have gone out, however, there were many mistakes with them; incorrect amounts and incorrect types of exemption. There have been many documented cases across the State; and several in Oswego County and even our Town as well, where people were given the Enhanced when they registered for the Basic and vice versa. Both the public and the New York State Assessors' Association (NYSAA) are being told, that Tax and Finance is aware of the problem, and will be sending out even more checks for the differences really soon. The exact amount of the erroneous checks are currently not being shared with NYSAA and there has been no conversation as to how the State will recoup the money given in error, for those people that received the Enhanced STAR, but were only supposed to receive the Basic. Since the Basic STAR savings is \$568.49, and the Enhanced STAR savings is \$1,192, that is over a \$600 mistake that Tax and Finance needs to recover. I will be attending the Real Property Tax Administration Committee (RPTAC) meeting in Vernon tomorrow, where I am sure there will be more discussion on this topic and the future mailings of the other checks mentioned above.

Lastly, I have been asked to explain the changes in EDU charges for Water District from 2015 to 2016. For the 2015 assessment roll, the water district was comprised of 851 parcels, for a total of 913.50 units, subsequently, for the 2016 assessment roll, there were 843 parcels, for a total of 909.50 units. Each and every year, tax payers will merge adjoining properties to eliminate additional water district charges. For example, someone that owns a home and the adjacent 10 acre piece of vacant land, would pay for 2 EDU's. When they merge that property, it becomes a house with 10 acres, but only 1 EDU, thereby eliminated the extra charge and lowering our overall EDU charges for the district.

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

Mr. Moran questioned the process as to EDU's for the North Shore Water District, Mr. Moran is uncomfortable with the way EDU's are handled when merging properties. Mr. Moran thinks the assessor should let the water board know and get approval when this happens. The town board acts as the water board for the North Shore Water District. The board needs to have another meeting to address additional questions.

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the Assessor's report for August, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

In the month of September Code Enforcement has issued 16 building permits to a total of \$4,309.40 and this total cross checks with Clare's figures.

The Nice and Easy is in full swing with the placement of the fuel tanks today and the footers poured yesterday. The retention pond is in and working up to par. There is no run off from the job entering the lake.

The quonset hut has sold in Cleveland. I talked to the new owner and he plans to open a new business, gas parts for different styles of burners. He is going to bring his proposition in to the planning board when he gets all his information ready for the planning board.

As far as violators Vonnie Confer was in court yesterday. She is making progress in her cleanup efforts and should be caught up in a couple more weeks. I am to keep Judge Simpson informed.

Also I am going to be starting certification classes on the 25th of this month. The first of 6 classes and I will have my first 3 sessions done by the end of this year and the next 3 in the spring when classes start up again.

Mr. Metzger made the motion to accept the Code Officer's report for August, seconded by Mr. Whitney.

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

JUSTICE:

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

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

DOG CONTROL:

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

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

PLANNING BOARD:

Minutes received for September 27, 2016.

BOARD OF APPEALS:

Nothing to report

REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE:

Minutes received for October 5, 2016

MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

Nothing to report.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Baxter reported:

-The Councils of Government in the Tug Hill region will be holding a SuperCOG meeting next Thursday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Boonville Municipal Building, and Constantia has been invited to attend and participate as a member of the North Shore Council of Governments. The Tug Hill Commission is facilitating the meeting and is requesting attendees to RSVP by this Friday, October 21 to help with preparations.

-The Tug Hill Commission will be holding its annual meeting and dinner on Thursday, November 10, 2017 at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. RSVPs and payment for dinner are requested for anyone planning on attending.

-Since your last meeting, I have assisted town bookkeeper Nancy Butler with various aspects of 2017 town budget preparation, including adding a new fund to the budget spreadsheet, updating formulas in the rest of the sheet, and assisting with the move from the tentative to the preliminary budget round. Since your last meeting, I set the town supervisor's computer up to change from a web-based to a desktop-based version of supervisor e-mail retrieval and storage. This will increase the supervisor's ability to retain pertinent correspondence for future reference.

-The town web site is up to date with all material submitted

-I have provided the town with a copy of my annual compilation of 2016 Oswego County towns budget elements, and ran copies of the document for the supervisor, town board, town clerk, town superintendent of highways, and town bookkeeper. Feel free to make additional copies of this for whoever you think might find this useful as you go through the budget preparation process.

-At the September planning board meeting, which I attended, a question arose about a fee associated with a particular activity. In looking at the town web site for the answer on this, I noted that the posted fee schedule dates back to 2011. Assuming that the town has reviewed and updated the fee schedule for permits and other activities since then, I'd be happy to post an updated version when one is available.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-Costello, Cooney, Fearon - Fulton Savings Bank (Estate of Joseph L. Schiff) Article 7

-Costello, Cooney, Fearon – Updates to State Fire Prevention and Building Code/State Energy Conservation Construction Code and Impact on Local Laws

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Kline thanked Ms. Ashley for her help with some problem dogs in her area.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Moran would like Mrs. Haynes to advertise for the open positions on the Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Board of Assessment Review and Park and Recreation Commission.

ADJOURN:

At 8:30 pm Mr. Colesante made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Metzger.

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