

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
MINUTES – SUPERVISOR MEETING - TOWN BOARD – May 1, 2023  
1:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor  
Ronald Chapman, Richard Colesante, Thomas Moran – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Warren Bader – Town Attorney  
Laureen Tackman – Mayor, Village of Cleveland  
Shawn House – DPW Superintendent, Village of Cleveland  
Dustin Clark, Jason Denno, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice  
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission  
Absent: John Metzger – Council Member

**CALL TO ORDER:**  
At 1:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the supervisor’s meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**WASTEWATER:**  
Mr. Clark introduced Mr. Denno who recently joined Barton & Loguidice. Mr. Denno was employed by NYSDEC and EFC for 25 years, he worked with small communities helping to navigate the funding process. EFC used to have a Community Assistance Unit to help with the process, but this is no longer available. Mr. Tomaino asked if there is a conflict of interest with Mr. Denno now in the private sector, Mr. Denno responded he has not been told no as of yet. If that is ever the case, he can work in the background to give support. At this point the project will be applying for grants in this next funding cycle. It is very competitive, so it is important to get this project out there and start talking to people in Albany as they also have discretionary funding. Mr. Tomaino is willing to go, but unsure about what to say, Mr. Denno and Mr. Clark will be there to help. This project needs to be made a priority, as the funding agencies have already awarded \$4M - the question is, what more can be done.

Right now, the project has a \$18M shortfall, this does include \$5M contingency, because of this there is an affordability gap, it is important to think of co-funding. This project will have an economic benefit to the community, looking at the big picture this project needs to be brought to the Empire State Economic Council for possible co-funding. Mr. Tomaino brought up Micron and how it will impact the Town, Mr. Denno asked about the Regional Economic Council, that would be another place for funding as there will be federal funds available. Mr. Denno also believes there should be some funding out there with the District being a shared service project, that was a big selling point in the last few years.

The District was awarded \$1.25M through CDBG but had to decline because the project will not be done within the time frame.

After further discussion Mr. Tomaino asked if it is possible to be awarded all three grants to achieve the \$18M needed, Mr. Clark and Mr. Denno are hopeful.

Board members think it would be a good idea to start a sewer board, Mr. Marr has expressed interest. Members of the community might have ideas on how to push the project forward. Mr. Brill and Mr. Mura both in attendance would be interested to sit on the board.

Ms. Tackman asked if any of the “Constantia 13” have called about the letter that was sent notifying them they will be charged 1 edu once the project goes past their property. Neither the Town or the Village have received any calls.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Denno, Mr. Powers, Ms. Tackman and Mr. House left the meeting.

Mr. Colesante asked how the edu charges were set in place, how was that service charge established. Mrs. Haynes believes it was within the IMA.

Board Members think it might be wise to re-examine the charge to the residents, maybe don’t increase the charge on their tax bill this year. A decision will need to be made during the budget process.

**ARPA:**  
COUNCILMAN: Chapman  
Introduced the following and moved its adoption:  
**To authorize a one-time payment to each hired highway employee of \$2,500.00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred) utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The following employees qualify for the payment:**  
**Mr. Avery, Mr. R. Cottet, Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Krause, Mr. Swstak and Mr. E. Whitney**  
**For a total of \$15,000.00**  
Seconded by Councilman: Moran  
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Frank Tomaino	Voted	Yes
Richard Colesante	Voted	Yes

John Metzger	Absent	
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Voted	Yes

The forgoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

COUNCILMAN:       **Colesante**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

**The Town Board is authorizing an expenditure of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) dollars of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to VFW Post #7325 towards the purchase of a propane generator.**

Seconded by Councilman:       **Chapman**

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Frank Tomaino	Voted	Yes
Richard Colesante	Voted	Yes
John Metzger	Absent	
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Voted	Yes

The forgoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino to sign the fireworks contract with American Fireworks for \$4,000, the fireworks will be on Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at The David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried:   Moran – Yes   Colesante – Yes   Chapman – Yes   Tomaino – Yes

COUNCILMAN:       **Colesante**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

**The Town Board authorizes Supervisor Tomaino to sign all necessary documentation to cancel the current medical insurance, NYSHIP - The Empire Plan effective 5/31/2023 and contract with Brown & Brown of New York, Inc. for medical insurance with Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield starting June 1, 2023.**

Seconded by Councilman:       **Chapman**

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Frank Tomaino	Voted	Yes
Richard Colesante	Voted	Yes
John Metzger	Absent	
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Mr. Woolridge spoke to Mr. Tomaino about the beaver problem in the Town, specifically between Salt Rd and County Route 23. Mr. Woolridge would like to hire a trapper to deal with the problem, the new trapper charges are significantly higher than the last contractor, Mr. Woolridge would like permission to spend an extra \$1,000 on this issue. All board members agree this is necessary.

Ms. Hogan was at the meeting; she is wondering if it is possible to have a crosswalk from Lower Rd across State Route 49. Mr. Tomaino will reach out to NYSDOT to see if it is possible.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 2:48 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee issue, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried:   Moran – Yes   Colesante – Yes   Chapman – Yes   Tomaino – Yes

\*Mrs. Haynes did not go into executive session

**ADJOURN:**

At 3:16 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to reopen the supervisors’ meeting and with no decisions made to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried:   Moran – Yes   Colesante – Yes   Chapman – Yes   Tomaino – Yes