

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES –PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD MEETING– September 16, 2025**  
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor  
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné, – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Warren Bader-Town Attorney  
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent  
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission Chair  
Christene Kieffer – Town Historian  
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loguidice  
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 6:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the public hearing and town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any questions or concerns on Local Law A-2025, A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

With no public comment, Mr. Tomaino will continue the public hearing along with the regular meeting.

**WASTEWATER:**

Mr. Clark gave the following report:

A. Constantia Sewer Project Progress:

- ✓ May 2025 Amendment to PER complete
- ✓ SEQR Review complete
- ✓ Increase to Project Authorization (Maximum amount to be expended) complete
- ✓ PER submitted to NYSEFC for inclusion on the 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP)
- ✓ 2025 WQIP Grant Application submitted
- ✓ CCF and B&L discussed the project with the NYS Comptroller's office. Funding must be received before the Comptroller's office will review the project.
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia's project will be eligible for funding.
- ✓ **IMA approved by Town and County**
- ✓ **Application to NYSEFC for WIIA Grant submitted September 12th - \$25M Max**

Upcoming items:

- \$1.75M STAG Grant – EPA wants money spent. It can be spent towards design. Going back on money already spent is likely not an allowable expense.
- Income Survey has expired. A new income survey must be completed. Estimate \$20k - \$30k

B. SOCRIS Study Progress:

- ✓ SOCRIS PER complete – revised May 2025 to include a portion of the Constantia and Hastings Sewer Projects within the SOCRIS project.
- ✓ SOCRIS PER submitted to NYSEFC for inclusion on the 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP)
- ✓ SEQR Review complete
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia's project will be eligible for funding.
- ✓ Applied to Consolidated Funding Application:
  - Empire State Development Grant
  - Water Quality Improvement Program Grant - \$10M Max
- ✓ **IMA approved at September Leg meeting**
- ✓ **Application to NYSEFC for IMG Grant submitted September 12<sup>th</sup> - \$30M Max**

Upcoming items:

- Meeting with City of Fulton, begin discussions on Treatment IMA
- Meeting with ESD
- Meeting with Governor's Office

C. TARGET FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- NYSEFC Base WIIA:
  - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
  - Applications due September 12<sup>th</sup>
- NYSEFC Base Additional Subsidy:
  - Eligible communities<sup>1</sup> can receive up to 25% of net project costs up to an additional \$2M
- IIA Grant (formerly BIL):
  - Eligible projects can qualify for grant equal to 50% of project cost up to \$25M

- NYSDEC WQIP Grant:
  - Project is eligible for grant up to \$10M
  - Applications due July 31st
- Other Grant Opportunities:
  - USDA RD Grant
  - NBRC Grant
  - ESD Grant
  - CDBG Grant
  - STAG/CPF Grant
  - Micron

**D. NEXT STEPS:**

- **NEPA / Environmental Review Record for USDA and EPA**
- **Close Grant Agreement with EPA**
- **Perform New Income Survey**

Discussion on the last income survey that was done in 2019, income surveys are good for 5 years. Mr. Clark will reach out to G&G Municipal Contracting for a quote, the Town has used G&G in the past. Mr. Clark does suggest the Town start this process before the end of the year as the report will be needed by May 2026.

Mr. Tomaino and Mr. Clark had a conference call with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) on the STAG grant (State and Tribal Assistance Grant) that was awarded in 2024. The award was for \$1.75M, it was an encouraging call as the agency that holds the funding does not see a problem that there has been a change in the transmission of the sewage. With any federal funding a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) needs to be completed before discussions on what the grant can be used for. Mr. Clark will get the NEPA form updated, more information will be coming. Mr. Donegan asked if it could be used to pay down the bond, Mr. Clark responded that it is a possibility.

**PARK AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Zehr told the board that they will be holding trunk n treat again at the park on October 26<sup>th</sup>. As requested, the park summer applications have been reformatted to include the hold harmless statement from Mr. Moran. A big thank you to the highway department for fixing the sign at the park.

**HIGHWAY:**

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- Paving in Town has been completed; paperwork has been submitted for CHIPs funding.
- Working on shoulders for the roads that were paved.
- Buildings have been painted.
- Firewood is almost completed.
- Two trucks have been switched over for winter.
- Paint has been ordered to repaint the historical signs.
- Working a plan for Mill St.
- Part time guys will be done next week.
- National Grid is taking down some dangerous trees on Kibbie Lake Rd.
- The new grapple has been delivered.

Discussion on updating the wood boiler at the highway garage. The boiler is not working correctly; some areas are hot while other areas are extremely cold. Mr. Whitney reached out to Handy Charlie out of Mexico to give a quote to upgrade the boiler. As the quote is over the procurement policy, it was decided the upgrade will need to be advertised for additional quotes.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:**

As there were no questions and required time has elapsed at 6:32pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

**TUG HILL COMMISSION:**

Mrs. Thompsons gave the following report:

- **Planning for Solar Energy Projects** issue paper. This is the third version of the paper, which is done in collaboration with several organizations across the four counties. The paper describes the different scales of solar energy systems, where they are often sited, and land use considerations. Planning tools and financial impacts on municipalities are also discussed. Language and document examples and templates are provided for use in Tug Hill and other rural communities. The paper is available to read on our [website](#).
- **NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner – October 9**  
The New York State Tug Hill Commission will host its annual dinner on Thursday, October 9, at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome. The evening begins with a social hour and cash bar at 5:30 PM, followed by welcome remarks and an Italian buffet dinner. This year's program will feature a

panel of speakers from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Chobani, the Northeast Dairy Producers Association, and Cornell Pro-Dairy, focusing on Agricultural Economic Development and Dairy Expansion Projects in Upstate New York. Tickets are \$35 per person, and RSVPs are required by Tuesday, September 30. Reservations by mail with a check or online [here](#).

- **NYSAOTSOH 96th Annual Conference, Education Symposium & EXPO – September 23–26, 2025, Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY** – Hosted by the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, this year’s theme is “*Navigating the Rapids: Guiding Roads and Overcoming Obstacles*.” The conference features timely education sessions, networking opportunities with highway superintendents.
- **NYS Town Clerks Association Regional Training – September 22**  
Join the New York State Town Clerks Association on Sunday, September 22, at the Riveredge Resort Hotel, 17 Holland Street, Alexandria Bay, in the heart of the 1000 Islands, for their Fall Regional Education Session. Katie Hodgdon and Lori Mithen-Demasi from the Association of Towns will present on “Understanding the Budget Process”—a highly requested topic among clerks. Registration begins at 8:30 AM, with the session running from 9:00 AM to noon, followed by lunch. The cost, including lunch, is \$40.00. These regional sessions are a great opportunity to expand your knowledge, connect with fellow clerks, and build your professional network. □ For more information, visit [here](#).
- **EDA FY25 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program** – The U.S. Economic Development Administration is making approximately \$1.45 billion available to support economic recovery in areas with major disaster declarations from 2023–2024 events, including hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes. Eligible projects must be located in, primarily serve, or benefit affected communities. Funding supports both construction and non-construction projects through three pathways: **Readiness** (capacity building and strategic planning), **Implementation** (standalone recovery projects), and **Industry Transformation** (coalition-led, multi-project regional economic development). Applications for Readiness and Implementation grants are accepted on a rolling basis; Industry Transformation applications are due **March 3, 2026**.
- **Oswego County Comprehensive Plan Committee Update**  
Oswego County invites residents to attend upcoming public meetings to share their vision for the county’s future. Meetings will be held on Thursday, September 11, at CiTi BOCES (179 County Route 64, Mexico, NY 13114) and Thursday, September 25, at the Hastings Fire Department (1994 US-11, Hastings, NY 13076). Both sessions will run from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Community members are also encouraged to provide input by completing the online survey, available [here](#).
- **SOCRIS Update:** The Northern Borders Grant application for SOCRIS has been submitted. IMA with the Town of Constantia has been signed by the town and is scheduled for county approval on 9/11 with the IMA Grant application—worth up to \$30 million—to be submitted the following day, September 12. In addition, efforts are underway to schedule a preliminary meeting with the City of Fulton to discuss the framework of an IMA for the treatment of effluent.

#### **NorCOG Business:**

- **CiTi BOCES:** Tug Hill Commission Staff Meet with CiTi BOCES Superintendents: On August 6, Tug Hill Commission staff Jillian Lee, Patrick Brady, and Heidi Tompkins met with CiTi BOCES superintendents from nine Oswego County districts. Representatives from NorCOG and SRCG raised concerns about declining participation on town and village boards and the need to engage students earlier in local government. The discussion focused on building civic awareness, developing leadership skills, and creating a pipeline of future local leaders. Superintendents also learned about programs like the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness and the Civic Service Student Activity Program (CSSAP), which provide students with real-world government experience and strengthen ties between schools and communities. Meetings are underway in September to discuss further details.
- **NorCOG & SRCG Joint Meeting & Annual Dinner**  
The date for the annual joint meeting and dinner has been changed due to a conflict with Oswego County events. Please join us on **Wednesday, October 30, at the North Riding Barn in Cleveland, NY** for an evening of collaboration. The night will begin with a social hour at **5:30 PM**, followed by opening remarks, a buffet dinner from Oneida Lake Brew Haus, and presentations including an update on the Oswego County Comprehensive Plan from EDR, updates from Operation Oswego County, and a Tug Hill Commission presentation on the Tug Hill Reserve Act.
  - Dinner is \$40 per person with a cash bar. Please make checks payable to North Shore Council of Governments, 391 County Route 26, West Monroe, NY 13167. Representatives of

NorCOG and SRCG will have their meals covered by their respective COGs. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Heidi.

Mr. Moran thanked Mrs. Thompkins for the ATV Recreation: Considerations for Municipalities paper from Tug Hill.

**VOUCHERS:**

Mr. Poné made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #9 Dated September 16, 2025:

▪ General	298-346	\$20,799.24	Sewer	26-27	\$ 3,606.91
▪ Highway	155-169	\$34,592.90	Trust & Agency	9	\$17,947.00
▪ B-Bay	6-7	\$16,022.61	Northshore Water	4	\$ 8,238.14

Seconded by Mr. Chapman.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

**SUPERVISOR:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the August 31st supervisor’s report as received, seconded by Mr. Chapman.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

Mr. Moran wanted to add that both the water district accounts have a substantial balance that is not being invested in anyway. Mr. Moran would like to look at the balance in these accounts to see if there is a way to reduce the amount that is being collected annually on tax bills.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 19th town board and the August 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mr. Donegan made a motion to accept the following reports as received:  
Justice Simpson, Town Clerk  
seconded by Mr. Poné.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Package from Starusnak possible Article 78, documents sent to attorney and insurance for review

**MINUTES RECEIVED:**

August 26<sup>th</sup> planning and zoning board meeting.

**BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. Petrie, Municipal Consultant at the request of the town board completed an audit for 2024 for the Town Supervisor and the Town Clerk. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Moran had a chance to have a dialog with Mr. Petrie. Audits are available for review, with no questions, Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept the audits as completed, seconded by Mr. Moran.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

2026 budget meetings will be starting September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm running every Thursday until November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bader read the following into the minutes:

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. A OF 2025**  
("A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Moran, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Chapman, to wit:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. A-2025, “A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Constantia,” was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Constantia held on August 19, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on September 16, 2025, by the Town Board of the Town of Constantia and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Constantia in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Volume 6 N.Y.C.R.R., Section 617 of the Regulations relating to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law of New York (SEQRA), requires that as early as possible in the consideration of a proposed action, an involved agency shall make a determination whether a given action is subject to the aforementioned law; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 19, 2025, the Town Board declared itself lead agency and determined that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. A-2025 is an unlisted action and will have no significant effect on the environment, issuing a negative declaration, thus concluding environmental review under State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to enact said proposed Local Law No. A-2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Constantia, Oswego County, New York, does hereby enact Proposed Local Law No. A-2025 as Local Law No. 1-2025 as follows:

**“TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2025**

**A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED  
IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C IN THE TOWN OF CONSTANTIA”**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Constantia as follows:

**Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Constantia, County of Oswego pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Constantia to adopt a Town budget for (a) Town purposes; (b) fire protection districts; and (c) any other special or improvement district governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year 2026, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by the General Municipal Law §3-c.

**Section 2. AUTHORITY**

This local law is adopted pursuant to Subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

**Section 3. TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE**

The Town Board of the Town of Constantia, County of Oswego, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law §3-c.

**Section 4. SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operations to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

**Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.”

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

<b>Thomas Moran</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Michael Donegan</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ronald Chapman</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Daniel Pone	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Frank Tomaino	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Mr. Moran asked Mr. Tomaino if he has received any information from the County on their short-term rental law. Mr. Moran is interested in how many rentals there are in Constantia. The board has discussed creating our own law in the past but never had the time. Mr. Tomaino will reach out to the County.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURN:**

At 7:03pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan, Tomaino

Respectfully submitted:

*Clare Haynes*  
*Town Clerk*