

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –BUDGET MEETING – September 25, 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
Nancy Butler – Bookkeeper
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Tomaino noted that rules for decorum will be enforced for this meeting, people can get passionate during the budget process.

WASTEWATER:

As discussed at the September town board meeting Mr. Clark was going to get a proposal from G&G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing for an income survey for the sewer district. G&G did the previous income survey; the survey is good for five years. The proposal was received as \$24,990 plus postage; this will be for approximately 1,000 occupied residences. With no discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino to sign the proposal from G&G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing for the income survey, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

2026 BUDGET:

Ms. Butler handed out the 2026 Tentative Budget to board members present, the budget was filed with the Town Clerk's office as required on September 25, 2025. The current budget is under the tax cap as is the goal of the board.

PERSONAL SERVICE (PS) ACCOUNTS:

Mr. Tomaino would like to start with all PS (personal service) accounts in the general fund. Below are lines that were changed from what was requested.

A1010.1 Legislative Board PS – This line is for four town board members who are paid annually \$4,000. Mr. Moran believes that this should be increased to \$5,000 per board member per year. Mr. Moran does not necessarily want an increase for himself, but he does feel the extra work warrants the pay. After discussion it was decided to increase this budget to \$18,000, \$4,500 for each council member.

A1340.1 Budget Officer PS – This line has not been budgeted in the past, this is for the person that creates the budget. After discussion it was agreed to increase this line to \$500.

A1410.12 Clerk Deputy PS - this line will not be increased but Mrs. Cottet hourly wage will increase by 5%.

A3620.11 Code Enforcement PS 1 – Dolan \$35,000

A3620.12 Code Enforcement PS 2 – Hamacher \$20,600

The above numbers indicate what is requested for 2026, Mr. Dolan asked for a 10% increase while Mr. Hamacher stayed the same. Discussion turned into moving to one code enforcement officer, Mr. Tomaino has had a few discussions with Mr. Hamacher about the possibility of being the single code enforcement officer for Constantia. Mr. Hamacher will need \$50,000. to accept the position. As Mr. Hamacher works for several Towns, Mr. Tomaino will follow up with Mr. Hamacher to see what Towns he will continue to work for and to verify he will accept the offer.

A7510.4 CE Historian - Mrs. Kieffer requested an increase of \$4,500, Mr. Tomaino would like to cover this now as the reason for the increase is for a stipend. Mrs. Kieffer has consulted with other historians who indicated they are being paid. After discussion the board members want to keep this as a voluntary position, they are willing to have Mrs. Kieffer put in a voucher for \$500 of the \$1,000 on her budget line for a stipend. This line will decrease to \$1,000.

A1620.2 – Building Eq (Cap Improvement) This line will be used for the renovations for the new town hall. Mr. Moran is concerned there will not be enough money to complete all that needs to be done. Mr. Moran suggests that the board should reach out to the Constantia Volunteer Fire Department as to their interest in purchasing the current Frederick St town hall. A1620.2 has \$1M for renovations, while having discussions with the architects they are estimating \$1.3M-\$1.5M, the board will know more when the bids come back.

Mr. Moran noted that the ambulance line has not been funded again this year; Mr. Moran asked Mr. Tomaino to reach out to Mr. Menter of Menter Ambulance to be sure there is no change.

REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

After reviewing the revenue accounts the following were changed:

A2401 Interest & Earnings decrease to \$35,000

A2610 Fines and Forfeited Bail decrease to \$5,000

NEXT MEETING:

As Mr. Poné cannot attend the October 2nd meeting, reviewing the highway fund will wait until October 9th. Mr. Tomaino will contact both Cleveland and Constantia Volunteer Departments and Mrs. Zehr for park and recreation.

ADJOURN:

At 7:39 pm the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk