

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –TOWN BOARD MEETING– October 21, 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
Roy Reehil – County Legislator
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission Chair
Christine Kieffer - Historian
Dustin Clark, David Powers – Barton & Loguidice
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 pm Mr. Tomaino called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jay Bergin, President of the Central Oswego County Riders came tonight to see if there has been any discussion on their request that the Town open Center St., Cook Rd and Roosevelt Rd to off road vehicles. Mr. Chapman replied that there has been no discussion, Mr. Bader has a copy of the certificate of liability insurance for review. Mr. Chapman would like to speak to the people that live in the area to discuss their concerns. Mr. Moran asked if the County trail is now open for these vehicles, Mr. Bergin replied that it is and the County is looking into opening the trail all the way to Fulton. Mr. Tomaino requested the policy via email for review.

A resident asked about the new town hall location how the renovations are going, still waiting for the information from the architects, once that is completed our attorney will need to look at the bid documents. When asked how it will be paid for, Mr. Tomaino responded that currently there is \$1M in the budget the Town will have to get a short-term loan for the rest.

HISTORIAN:

Mrs. Kieffer came and read the following statement into the minutes:

The town of Constantia has a poor track record of preserving history.

Our town has never had office space for the historian, has had very little monetary support, and past historians' work is just about nonexistent. My goal is to change this. There should be pride in this town's history and why people came to the area.

I have brought ideas and suggestions to the town supervisor, Frank Tomaino, who has always been supportive. We have accomplished a lot this past year. I had hoped to accomplish more next year but with the historian expense budget decreasing from \$1,000 to \$500 so the town can pay the historian a stipend of \$500, I don't see how accomplishing more is possible.

As I have previously discussed at prior board meetings, a designated office and locked storage area would help ensure the town's history has a home and isn't located at a historian's house. It would be beneficial to have a minimum expense budget of \$1,000 with a stipend or salary of \$2,500 to ensure any historian in the future understands the work they do is for the town and its people, not for themselves.

Legislation to appoint local historians in NYS State passed in the year 1919 (April 11) and was the first law of its kind in the United States.

I will continue to preserve, research, write, present, and commemorate historic anniversaries. I will even promote tourism to the historic areas of our town per the state legislation and guidelines for historians. I will do this all to the best of my ability with the hopes to gain even more support from our town. I do all this for the people of our town from the past, to the current, and even the future generations.

If anyone has any questions on any of the work I do, please do not hesitate to ask or reach out.
-Christene Kieffer

Sunday October 26th at 9am in the Constantia Town Hall Mrs. Kieffer will do a presentation on Frenchman's Island followed at 10am the historical marker will be placed in its new location at the end of Mill St.

Mr. Tomaino thanked Mrs. Kieffer for all her work, the budget has not been settled yet.

WASTEWATER:

CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT

A. Constantia Sewer Project Progress:

- ✓ 2025 WQIP Grant Application submitted. Project will be ineligible until SOCRIS is funded
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia's project will be eligible for funding.
- **Project Score on the NYSEFC 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP) – 126 points. # 6 project on the list!**
- **\$1.75M STAG Grant – EPA wants money spent! We are seeking clarification on what existing costs can be reimbursed vs. reimbursing additional costs moving forward**

Upcoming items:

- **Significant SOCRIS Funding Push ongoing**
 - **Anticipate STAG Grant information for November Board meeting**
 - **Income Survey to be conducted later this year – November/December**
- B. SOCRIS Progress:
- ✓ IMA approved at September Leg meeting
 - ✓ Application to NYSEFC for IMG Grant submitted September 12th - \$30M Max
 - ✓ County developing the Treatment Agreement with the City of Fulton
 - ✓ Initial meeting with NYSED went well. SOCRIS creates a significant opportunity for Economic Development in the region.
- **Project Scored 121 Points on the NYSEFC Intended Use Plan (IUP)!**
- Upcoming items:
- **Continue progress on County / City of Fulton Treatment Agreement**
 - **Meeting with Governor's Office, Senator Ryan, ESD and DEC this week.**
- C. TARGET FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:
- NYSEFC Base WIIA:
 - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
 - Applications submitted September 12th
 - NYSEFC Base Additional Subsidy:
 - Eligible communities¹ 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 submitted July 31st
 - Other Grant Opportunities:
 - USDA 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**

As anticipated, this project scored very high on the NYSEFC 2026 Intended Use Plan – 126 points #6 project on the list. It is important to remember that until the County has received funding for SOCRIS, this project is not expected to be awarded any funding. B&L will continue to apply for grants to keep the project active with the possibility of funding.

The income survey will be conducted later this year, November/December time frame. Mr. Clark will be putting an informational sheet together to go with the survey; it is a good time to update people on the project. It is important for people to do the income survey as the results could allow for additional grants.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr reported:

- Trunk N Treat is on Sunday, all are welcome. Working on the Christmas tree lighting, this is their slow time of year.
- Mrs. Zehr received three bids for the new lawn mower which will be sent to the board for review.

Mr. Moran wanted to thank Mrs. Zehr for her work at the park, the park and recreation commission is truly a volunteer position, thank you for what you do.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- Heating upgrades will start tomorrow, it will be nice to get that done
- Two more trucks need to be turned over for winter
- Big road projects have been completed for the year
- Leaf cleanup started today, will do one to two days a week until snow
- Will shut off water at the David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay after this weekend's event

Mr. Tomaino has received positive feedback about the end of Mill St, Mr. Whitney was hoping the new flagpole would have been installed by Sunday, but it will not be delivered in time. Mr. Moran is concerned about trash; Mr. Whitney does not want to put a trash can down there as it will be used for more than just a bit of trash, they will just have to keep an eye on it.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Rehill reported the following:

- Secondary Auction is being held, only 12 properties nothing in Constantia or Cleveland.
- The County is trying to keep their tax rate the same as last year or lower, they are working on it now.
- Ride Oswego County has a new app to book and track the bus. The buses have been updated with new signage. These buses are 90% federally funded with the new app they seem to be working for the residents.
- Oswego County looks good for the next generation nuke plant, hopefully one will be built in the near future.
- The new snow plowing contract is almost ready to be sent to the Towns. Mr. Whitney has not seen the new proposal, hopefully it will be out soon. Mrs. Tompkins, the Tug Hill Commission, has not seen it yet either. Mr. Reehil believes it will be something along the lines of if the Town has 60 roads, 30 of them are the Town plows for the County, the County will pay approximately ½ of the total snow plowing budget. This is different from last few years' contracts. More information as it is received.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Ms. Thompkins gave her monthly report for the North Shore & Salmon Rivers Council of Governments report, please go to www.norcog.org for more information.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #10 Dated October 21, 2025:

- General 347-383 \$18,122.17 Sewer 28 \$ 4,500.00
- Highway 170-185 \$16,657.51 Trust & Agency 10 \$17,947.00

Seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the September 30th supervisor's report as received, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

MINUTES:

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 16th town board, September 25th and October 3rd budget meeting, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Chapman made a motion to accept the following reports as received:

Justice Simpson, Town Clerk, Code Enforcement

seconded by Mr. Donegan.

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

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:

Next budget meeting Thursday 10/23 at 6pm

Public hearing on the 2026 preliminary town budget is on Thursday November 6th at 6pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURN:

At 7:03 pm Mr. Donegan made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk