

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD MEETING– February 17, 2026
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Ronald Chapman Jr. - Supervisor
Cory Monroe, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné, – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
E. John Whitney –Highway Superintendent
Dillon Kinsey – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Christene Kieffer – Historian
Roy Rehill – County Legislator
Heidi Thompkins – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Michael Donegan – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 pm Mr. Chapman called the public hearing and town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. The public hearing is to hear all interested parties on LOCAL LAW NO. A OF 2026 (“A Local Law To Permit and Regulate All Terrain Vehicles Operating on Certain Public Roads in the Town”)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bergin, a member of the Oswego County Riders, came to answer any questions regarding opening roads in the town of Constantia. The roads that will be open are, Cook Rd, Roosevelt Rd and a section to Center St. This will allow riders to access the Oswego County Recreational trail from trail head to trail head. The main objective is to keep people on the trail. Mr. Reehil told the residents present that the County has opened 10 miles of the recreational trail from Central Square to Volney in hopes of more tourism dollars. A resident asked why not open all of Center St to send people to the village of Cleveland, at the current time the Trail Riders are starting slow trying to open the roads that run as indicated above, trail head to trail head.

With no more discussion, At 6:15pm Mr. Monroe made the motion to close the public hearing seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Powers from Barton & Loguidice gave the following report.

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.
- ✓ **Income Surveys door-to-door complete. G&G tabulating results.**
- \$1.75M STAG Grant – Procurement Flexibility Request sent 11/14/25
 - Approx. \$300k spent to-date appears to be eligible for reimbursement by the grant
 - Remainder of grant can go towards finishing out design

Upcoming items:

- Significant SOCRIS Funding Push ongoing
- **EPA Procurement Flexibility Request went to review 2/12. Town will execute agreement once approved to begin and draw on \$1.75M STAG grant previously awarded.**
- **Send letter to DEC to request extension of 2022 WQIP grant award of \$4.6M.**

B. SOCRIS Progress:

- ✓ IMA approved
- ✓ Application to NYSEFC for IMG Grant submitted September 12, 2025 - \$30M Max. Project scored 121 points! No awards were made to SOCRIS project in 2025 round.
- ✓ County developing the Treatment Agreement with the City of Fulton.
- ✓ Meetings with ESD, Governor’s office, Senator Ryan, Assemblyman Barclay, DEC and EFC. SOCRIS creates a significant opportunity for Economic Development in the region.

Upcoming items:

- **Continue progress on County / City of Fulton Treatment Agreement**
- **Ongoing project promotion**

C. Target Funding Opportunities:

- NYSEFC Base WIIA:
 - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
 - Applications due late summer/ early fall 2026 (Date TBD)
- NYSEFC Base Additional Subsidy:
 - Eligible communities can receive up to 25% of net project costs up to an additional \$2M
- NYSDEC WQIP Grant:
 - Project is eligible for grant up to \$10M
 - Applications due summer 2026 (Date TBD)

- Other Grant Opportunities:
 - USDA RD Grant
 - NBRC Grant
 - ESD Grant
 - CDBG Grant
 - STAG/CPF Grant
 - Micron

D. NEXT STEPS:

Close Grant Agreement with EPA, determine use of grant funds

Update PER with results of 2026 income survey. Complete EFC PLUS update for 2026 IUP

Mr. Moran wanted to note that in the PER/MP&R (Preliminary Engineering Report and the Map Plan and Report) dated January 2025 the mention of a \$1M building at the highway garage for storage of and repair of grinder pumps was left out. This is an important building as currently there is no room at our highway facility for any additional equipment. Mr. Powers will make sure there is mention of the building when the PER/MP&R are updated.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reminded the board that the tree truck that the Town owns has failed the OSHA inspection and has been tagged out of service. As this is a truck that they used quite frequently Mr. Whitney would like to replace it. Mr. Whitney sent Mr. Kinsey and Mr. Avery to New Jersey to look at the equipment that Hook Equipment has on their lot. Mr. Kinsey told the board that they looked at 10 different options, this truck is the one that made the most sense for the Town. When negotiating the terms of the purchase, it was determined that CHIPs money could not be used to pay for a portion of the truck as it is too old. The Town does own a 2016 excavator that is not used and just deteriorating sitting in the yard, Mr. Whitney offered this as a trade to Hook Equipment. The following terms were discussed; Mr. Whitney would like to get board approval to move forward with the purchase.

With no more discussion, Mr. Poné made the motion to authorize Mr. Whitney to purchase from Hook Equipment Sales LLC a 2018 Freightliner M2 Forestry Bucket Truck VIN #3ALACXFC8JDJK2365 with 75' of working height with a Cummings 6.7L Diesel 6 speed Eaton Fuller Manual Transmission with 77,402 miles for \$95,000. Hook Equipment Sales LLC will be taking our 2016 Hyundai HX220 Excavator as a trade in for \$60,000. Total remaining balance will be \$35,000. This is contingent upon the truck passing the OSHA and Dielectric test. Hook Equipment Sales LLC will be delivering the bucket truck and will pick up the 2016 Hyundai excavator as trade in. Seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

COUNTY LEGISLATOR:

Mr. Reehil told the board that he does have a copy of the resolution passed by the County Legislator for the opening of the 10 miles of the County Recreation trail for ATV use. County Tourism believes this will be a benefit for the County.

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

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

HISTORIAN:

Mrs. Kieffer is looking to purchase some little metal signs with QR (quick response) codes to attach to the historical markers located in Town. This is an easy way for people to get additional information on the background for the marker. Mrs. Kieffer will contact our website administrator before purchasing any signs.

This summer Mrs. Kieffer will host local author Jack Henkie who has written numerous books on our region, more information to follow.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #2 Dated February 17, 2026:

- **General** **37-72** **\$ 16,534.96** **NS Water** **2** **\$378,388.00**
- **Highway** **15-30** **\$247,682.67** **Trust & Agency** **2** **\$ 11,397.00**

Seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran told the board this is a good time of the year, all accounts are fully funded as Mrs. Haynes has turned over all tax monies due to the Town. Mr. Moran then made the motion to accept the January 31, 2026 supervisor's report as received, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND MINUTES:

Mr. Monroe made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 20th town board meeting, and the reports received from Code Enforcement, Justice Simpson, Town Clerk and Tax Collector, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Chapman has reached out to Advanced iT for a quote for a Lenovo ThinkStation that will allow both Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Chapman access to QuickBooks with their own dedicated password on their respective computers. The quote is for purchase and installation, \$1,337.93 with an increase of \$125 monthly on our invoice. With no discussion Mr. Monroe made the motion to authorize the above purchase seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

Attorney Bader read the following into the minutes:

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION**

February 17, 2026

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. A OF 2026
("A Local Law To Permit and Regulate All Terrain Vehicles Operating
on Certain Public Roads in the Town")**

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. A-2026, "A Local Law To Permit and Regulate All-Terrain Vehicles Operating on Certain Public Roads in the Town," was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Constantia held on January 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on February 17, 2026, 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 January 20, 2026, the Town Board declared itself lead agency and determined that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. A-2026 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-2026.

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-2026 as Local Law No. 1-2026 as follows:

**"A LOCAL LAW TO PERMIT AND REGULATE ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES OPERATING ON
CERTAIN PUBLIC ROADS IN THE TOWN**

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

Section 1. Legislative Purpose and Intent.

It is the purpose of this Local Law to designate certain highways or portions thereof within the Town of Constantia highway system as being open for travel by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) pursuant to authority granted in §2405 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York.

Section 2. Authority.

This local law is enacted pursuant to the New York State Constitution, New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10 and §2405 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York.

Section 3. Definitions.

The terms, words or phrases herein used shall have the same meaning as such terms, words and phrases defined in §2401 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York.

Town: The Town of Constantia, New York.

Section 4. Findings.

The Town Board hereby finds that the opening of the designated roads and portions thereof to ATV use and travel is necessary in order for ATVs to gain access to areas and/or trails adjacent thereto which would otherwise be impossible to access without the use of such Town highways.

Section 5. Designated Roads.

A. The following Town roads or the indicated portions thereof are hereby designated as open to travel by all-terrain vehicles as it is otherwise impossible for all-terrain vehicles to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to said designated roads other than by the use of such designated roads. Only the following Town roads are hereby designated for the operation of all-terrain vehicles as authorized by Section 2405 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, Article 48-C:

- (1) Cook Rd.;
- (2) Roosevelt Rd.; and
- (3) A portion of Center St. from trail head to trail head.

Section 6. Conditions and Restrictions.

A. The following rules, conditions and restrictions shall be applicable to all Town roads opened to ATV use pursuant to this Local Law:

- (1) The use of the designated roads by ATVs shall be only and solely for the purpose of traveling directly from one public ATV trail or area to another.
- (2) No person shall operate an ATV on any designated road at any time from October 1st to April 1st of the following year.
- (3) ATVs may only be operated on the designated roads between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- (4) All persons operating an ATV on a designated road shall keep as far right as practicable, except as necessary to gain access to or egress from such areas.
- (5) No person shall operate an ATV more than one (1) abreast in a single lane on any portion of a designated road.
- (6) A maximum speed limit of twenty-five (25) miles per hour shall be observed. Operators shall strictly observe and obey all traffic signs, as well as any and all rules and regulations applicable to vehicular traffic.
- (7) It shall be unlawful for any person without a valid state driver's license to operate an ATV on designated Town roads unless, if under the age of sixteen, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and must possess a New York State ATV safety certificate issued by the Commissioner. If over the age of sixteen without a valid state driver's license, must have said New York State ATV safety certificate. Anyone with a suspended driver's license may not operate an ATV on the designated roads.
- (8) No person shall operate an ATV on a designated road or segment in such a manner as to create loud, unnecessary, or unusual noise, so as to disturb or interfere with the peace and quiet of the Town's people.
- (9) No ATV shall be operated on any designated road or segment open for ATV use except in accordance with the provisions of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, Article 48-C.
- (10) No ATV shall be operated on any designated road or segment open for ATV use unless properly equipped, registered and insured as required by the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, Article 48-C.
- (11) ATVs shall not be allowed to operate, unless and until such time as proper signs and markers are installed, which clearly identify the road and areas designated in this Local Law.

Section 7. Violations.

Failure to comply with any provision of this Local Law shall be deemed a violation, and in the case of the first offense, the violator shall be liable for a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350.00); a second offense within eighteen months of first offense shall carry a fine of not

less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00); and a third offense within eighteen months of the first offense shall carry a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

Section 8. Posting of Designations and Regulations.

In accordance with Section 2405 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, the Town Superintendent of Highways shall install signs and markers identifying the designated roads.

Section 9. Severability.

If the provisions of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall be effective upon filing with the office of 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:

Thomas Moran	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan	Councilor	Absent	
Cory Monroe	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Daniel Pone	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Supervisor Chapman read the following into the minutes:

COUNCILMAN: Poné

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

The town board for the town of Constantia approves the 2025 Justice audit. Justice Simpson’s audit has been completed by Supervisor Chapman and Councilman Moran. It is further instructed that Ms. Butler – Bookkeeper, send a copy to the New York State Office of Court Administration.

Seconded by Councilman: Monroe

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

Ronald Chapman Jr.	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan	Absent	
Thomas Moran	Voted	Yes
Cory Monroe	Voted	Yes
Daniel Poné	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Attorney Bader read the following into the minutes:

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION**

February 17, 2026

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. B-2026
("A Local Law Imposing a Nine (9) Month Moratorium on Commercial Free-Standing Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems within the Town of Constantia")

Councilor Poné introduced proposed Local Law No. B-2026, titled "A Local Law Imposing a Nine (9) Month Moratorium on Commercial Free-Standing Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems within the Town of Constantia," and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Monroe:

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law No. B-2026 has been introduced and will be considered for enactment pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Constantia has recently seen an increase in applications for commercial sized solar farm uses within the Town; and

WHEREAS, such proliferation has caused the Town to determine to assess the state of its laws and regulations concerning such uses; and

WHEREAS, this moratorium will enable the Town of Constantia to undertake a review to

comprehensively address the issues involved with commercial free-standing solar photovoltaic (PV) systems within the Town of Constantia; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the potential benefits and desirability of renewable forms of energy, including commercial free-standing solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, but has determined that time and research are necessary to determine how to properly regulate such systems; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has deemed this moratorium urgent and immediately necessary in order to preserve the status quo while this issue is examined by the Town; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Constantia, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Local Law is a Type II action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA thus concluding the environmental review process.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. B-2026 at the Town Hall located at 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, New York on March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that pending action of this Local Law, the Town of Constantia will neither accept nor process any application pertaining to commercial free-standing solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

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

Thomas Moran	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan	Councilor	Absent	
Cory Monroe	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Daniel Pone	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURN:

At 7:22 pm Mr. Moran made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Monroe.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Chapman

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk