

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –BUDGET MEETING – October 8, 2026
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Ronald Chapman - Supervisor
Michael Donegan, Cory Monore, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné– Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Dillon Kinsey – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Nancy Butler – Bookkeeper
James Peck – Chair, Planning Board and Zoning Commission
Brien Connolly, Sandy Retajczyk, Sandra Touri-Bell – Members of Planning Board and Zoning Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 pm Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2027 town budget; Mr. Chapman asked Mr. Peck to come and present the proposed zoning law to the town board. Public questions will be kept to a minimum.

PROPOSED ZONING LAW:

Mr. Peck gave a 30-minute presentation to the board highlighting the four zones that are proposed. This proposed law will unify and replace several existing laws. The following is a recap of the information presented.

- The Zoning Commission was established by Town Board resolution in 2023 and has held more than 40 meetings to date.
- Professional assistance was obtained from the New York State Department of State and other resources; the Town of West Monroe’s recent zoning work was reviewed as a model.
- Current regulations are essentially “one size fits all” (residential or business). The draft creates four districts: Rural (≈90 %+ of the town, lower density), Waterfront, Residential (higher density), and Commercial/Industrial.
- Some lot requirements have been relaxed by zoning.
- Mapping of districts was guided by the 2022 Comprehensive Plan and population-density data.
- The draft is intended to protect the community while allowing orderly growth.
- There are several more steps that will need to be followed before the Town Board approves this proposed Zoning Law.

The zoning commission will be holding a public hearing on 10/13 @ 6pm. There has been a lot of discussion on social media, and a request has been sent to the Central Square School District to get permission to use A.A. Cole elementary.

With no more discussion, the board members thanked Mr. Peck and members of the zoning commission in attendance for their work in getting this completed.

GENERAL FUND:

At the October 1st meeting highway and park and recreation budget lines were reviewed. The board will now start on the general fund lines.

The first account that was questioned was A1310.12 Supervisor Clerk PS 2 that was increased by \$3,000. This line will help with training a new person when Mrs. Butler retires. This was offset by removing the funding from A3620.13 Code Enforcement Clerk which was removed from the budget.

Mr. Chapman wanted to comment on A1310.42 Payroll Service CE, this line increased \$1,000. Mr. Chapman is looking into a different payroll service, but for the time being this line does need the increase.

A1330.4 Tax Collection – this line has a requested increase of \$2,500. This increase will allow taxpayers to review and pay their tax bills online. Mrs. Haynes has requested this a few years in a row, board members in the past were not onboard with the idea, especially as it was not in the budget. A lengthy discussion followed as to how the program will work. The taxpayer will be required to pay a service fee at the time of payment. Mrs. Haynes is asking for the increase as she has heard from many taxpayers that this is something the people in the community want. The contract will be for 3 years with a yearly maintenance charge of \$1,000. The board agreed with the increase and after three years the program will be reviewed to see if it is cost effective.

A1420.1 Attorney PS the funds in this account were moved to A1420.4 Attorney CE as we no longer have an attorney present at meetings. A1420.4 increased to \$40,000.

Mr. Conover, DCO did not get his worksheet to Mrs. Butler in time, but he is requesting a 3% increase in PS and \$300 additional for his kennel fees. Mrs. Haynes told the board to take \$500 from A1410.42 Dog Licensing to help with the offset, that will leave \$1,000 in that account. A3510.1 Dog Control PS increase to \$12,020 and A3510.4 Dog Control CE increase to \$3,800.

A9055.8 Disability/Life Insurance \$3,100 Mrs. Butler needs to increase this to \$4,200.

Mrs. Cottet, Deputy Town Clerk and Mr. Gibbs, Security will both receive a 3% increase on their hourly wage. This does not have an impact on the budget lines.

When reviewing the budget, Mr. Donegan requested that Ms. Butler remove the lines that are not being used. Justice #2 and Justice Clerk #2 can both be removed along with a few others.

NEXT MEETING:

Mrs. Butler will make the changes and move the numbers to the preliminary budget line for the next meeting scheduled on October 16th at 6pm.

ADJOURN:

At 7:22 pm the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk