

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – JOINT SEWER AND SUPERVISOR MEETING - TOWN BOARD – October 2, 2023
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Frank Tomaino – Town Supervisor
Ronald Chapman, Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Warren Bader – Town Attorney
Laureen Tackman – Mayor, Village of Cleveland
John Scatena – Village Trustee
Shawn House – DPW Superintendent
Dustin Clark and David Powers – Barton & Loguidice (B&L)
Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Tomaino called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

JOINT SEWER MEETING:

This meeting is being held as per the IMA between the North Shore Sewer District and the Village of Cleveland.

As the District is not up and running this meeting is to answer any questions as it refers to the project. Ms. Tackman asked about the Comptroller allowed allowance for sewers for 2024 is \$694 as the district at the present time is above that threshold what happens? Mr. Clark said the initial action is where the Comptrollers get involved, but if the district is changed at all then they might take another look, this is a question for bond council.

Mr. Scatena asked what the public opinion is, what is bothering them about the project. Mr. Tomaino responded mostly with positive comments, people want to know when they will be hooking up.

Mr. Scatena then asked if there will be public meetings, Mr. Tomaino responded that, there will be but not until there are more concrete numbers. There are residents that want the project no matter what and others that if the cost is \$1,300 much higher than what was first anticipated then they will be hurt financially.

The question was asked if the district can be changed either the boundaries or the type of service individual residents receive. Mr. Clark responded that all parcels in the district have to be treated the same. It is important to remember that when the district was formed with Board approval after multiple surveys 70% were in favor with a 50% response rate.

After further discussion at 9:42am Mayor Tackman, Trustee Scatena and Mr. House left the meeting closing the annual Joint Sewer meeting.

BOARD SEWER DISCUSSION:

Mr. Chapman asked Mr. Clark what happens when the door to door or petition process is completed and the results come back negative, what is the next step? What do we do with the money that has been borrowed and the bonds? What do we do to start over? That is a question to bring to EFC as they are a big funder of sewer projects, they are a revolving fund so they have an interest in having this project succeed. Mr. Power put together a letter that was sent the Director of EFC, Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers will be looking to have a meeting/conference call with EFC soon, hopefully a majority of the board members can attend.

Mr. Murra asked Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers if they were to design the project again would they design the same system. Mr. Clark stated that they have discussed this and yes, they would. There is no place in Constantia to put a treatment plant, it is financially beneficial to both the Town and Village to upgrade the Village's plant. A gravity system is much harder to maintain. With a gravity system there would be 15-20 pump stations along with manholes to maintain.

Mr. Tomaino after speaking to Mr. Clark stated that by putting a pause on the project it has pushed the project back by at least 9 months, so starting time in 2025. Mr. Colesante believes it is well worth the extra time, the Town has been discussing sewers for decades a few more years to be sure the district is done right is worth the extra time.

With no more questions, Mr. Clark and Mr. Powers left the meeting at 10:34am.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tomaino told the board that the purchase agreement for 1667 State Route 49 has been reviewed by Mr. Bader who authorized Mr. Tomaino to sign and submit the agreement.

Mr. Chapman asked about a topic from the last meeting regarding codes charging for roof and siding permits. Has the decision been made to charge a flat fee, Mr. Tomaino did speak to Mr. Dolan, and told him a flat \$50 fee is what the board wanted. Mr. Dolan indicated that with approving the NYS Building Code it comes with sq ft fees. Mr. Colesante stated that the Town can set its own fees. At the January meeting a new fee schedule will be approved.

Discussion on Cemetery Road and Scriba Creek, who is responsible for the trees that have fallen in the creek since the last rainstorm. It was agreed that the residents are responsible for trees on their property, it would be a never-ending task to try to take care of all the trees on this or any creek in the Town.

Culverts – Mr. Tomaino asked if there is a written policy on culverts, board members are unaware of one. Mr. Tomaino is aware of a few that have been installed but have not been paid for, just want to make sure everyone is being treated fairly. Mr. Tomaino will follow up with Mr. Woolridge, but all agree a policy should be written.

Thursday, October 5th at 9am is the first scheduled budget meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 11:03am Mr. Chapman made the motion to go into executive session to have an attorney client discussion with Town Attorney Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Colesante.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Tomaino – Yes

*Mrs. Haynes did not attend the executive session

ADJOURN:

At 11:53am with no decision made during executive session, Mr. Metzger made the motion to reopen and adjourn the supervisor meeting, seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Moran – Yes Chapman – Yes Colesante – Yes Metzger – Yes Tomaino – Yes