

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES – TOWN BOARD MEETING– June 17, 2025**  
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Thomas Moran – Deputy Town Supervisor  
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Daniel Poné, – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Warren Bader – Town Attorney  
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent  
Roy Reehil – County Legislator  
Dustin Clark, Marisa Clark – Barton & Lougidice  
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 6:00 pm Mr. Moran called the town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Moran explained that Mr. Tomaino had to leave due to a family issue.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**WASTEWATER:**

Mr. Clark submitted the following report:

**CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT**

A. Constantia Sewer Project Progress:

- ✓ 2025 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) complete
- ✓ May 2025 Amendment to PER complete
- ✓ SEQR Review complete
- ✓ Increase to Project Authorization (Maximum amount to be expended) complete
- ✓ PER submitted to NYSEFC for inclusion on the 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP)
- ✓ **NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia’s project will be eligible for funding.**

Upcoming items:

- CCF contacting NYS Comptroller’s office for guidance on application
- IMA Development (County leading) – targeting execution by September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Application to Consolidated Funding Application by July 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Water Quality Improvement Program Grant - \$10M Max
- Application to NYSEFC for WIIA Grant by September 12<sup>th</sup> - \$25M Max anticipated
- Submit other funding applications later this summer (not yet announced)

B. SOCRIS Study Progress:

- ✓ SOCRIS PER complete – revised May 2025 to include a portion of the Constantia and Hastings Sewer Projects within the SOCRIS project.
- ✓ SOCRIS PER submitted to NYSEFC for inclusion on the 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP)
- ✓ SEQR Review complete
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia’s project will be eligible for funding.

Upcoming items:

- County meeting with NYS Empire State Development for potential grant opportunities
- IMA Development – targeting execution by September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Application to Consolidated Funding Application by July 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Empire State Development Grant
  - Water Quality Improvement Program Grant - \$10M Max
- Application to NYSEFC for IMG Grant by September 12<sup>th</sup> - \$30M Max anticipated
- Submit various other funding applications later this summer (not yet announced)

C. TARGET FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- NYSEFC Base WIIA (programs not yet announced, based off of 2024 round):
  - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
  - Applications have not yet been announced. Likely to be announced any day and due in 60 days from announcement.
- NYSEFC Enhanced WIIA (programs not yet announced, based off of 2024 round):
  - Eligible communities<sup>1</sup> can receive up to 50% of net project costs up to \$25M
  - Applications have not yet been announced. Likely to be announced any day and due in 60 days from announcement.
- BIL Grant (programs not yet announced, based off of 2024 round):
  - Eligible projects can qualify for grant equal to 50% of project cost up to \$25M
  - Recent communication with NYSEFC is that only BIL bypass money may be available. We will still be applying.

- Applications have not yet been announced. Likely to be announced any day and due in 60 days from announcement.
- NYSDEC WQIP Grant:
  - Project is eligible for grant up to \$10M
  - Applications due July 31st
- Other Grant Opportunities:
  - USDA RD Grant
  - NBRC Grant
  - ESD Grant
  - CDBG Grant
  - STAG/CPF Grant
  - Micron
- D. NEXT STEPS:
  - **7/31/2025 – CFA Applications due – WQIP and other CFA grant opportunities**
  - **9/12/2025 – Submit WIIA and IMG grant applications**
  - **Summer 2025 - B&L and Oswego County will be arranging a meeting with Constantia to discuss development of an Intermunicipal Agreement before applications are due for a NYSEFC “Intermunicipal Grant” (IMG). The County’s SOCRIS project would be the initial target for the \$30M opportunity. Note – A project can receive either a WIIA or IMG.**

Mr. Clark stated that this is a busy time of year, the first rounds of grant applications have been submitted but there are more to come. Mr. Poné inquired if the County would be getting grants for their project before the Town will receive them. Mr. Clark responded that since the Village backed out and this new opportunity came to light, it was projected that the Town would need two funding cycles to receive the necessary funding. Remember no project can start until it is fully funded that includes the County’s project.

The Town has signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the County, the next step will be to sign an intermunicipal agreement (IMA) with the County. By signing the IMA it opens other grant possibilities that are geared towards projects that are intermunicipal.

Mr. Donegan asked how long it will take to lay the 22 miles of pipeline. Mr. Clark estimates it will take 18 months; there will be some boring and trenching.

#### **COUNTY LEGISLATOR:**

Mr. Reehil:

- County yearly tax auction is underway; 6 properties were redeemed before the required date. The County does prefer this as the Supreme Court has ruled that any monies received over and above what is owed including any fees must be held by the County.
- Local Law 2 of 2025 was passed, Establishing A Registration System for Short-Term Rentals Units in and For the County of Oswego. The owners will need to register their rental with a \$50 fee to the County, the websites that offers the rental will then collect the 4% bed tax. More information can be found on [www.oswegocounty.com](http://www.oswegocounty.com).

#### **PARK AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Zehr:

- The recreation program sign up is June 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am-2pm at David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay, the program starts June 30<sup>th</sup>. There has been some push back from out-of-town people about not being able to attend the program. Hopefully, all goes well this year.
- The Commission has met and after discussion it was decided that the park will pay for two swimsuits for the lifeguards. This will provide uniformity, the suits will be red and with lifeguard wording. The Commission did veto the smaller type of bikini bathing suits.
- Fireworks will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm the military band will start playing and will play until the fireworks are over.

Mr. Moran mentioned an email received by Mr. Tomaino, Ms. Hamilton would like to open the park for dogs, on the walking trail only. The board has adopted a local law against dogs at the park, this is a safety issue, and the board is not interested in making a change.

#### **HIGHWAY:**

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- ✓ Johnson Road – taking down trees and working on shoulders
- ✓ 4.5 miles of road has been oiled and stoned, Whipple, Holly Hole and Lewis Rd. This application is much different from how it worked in the past; this will help the road stay in good shape for less.
- ✓ Hope to finish paving by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August, 4 miles in total will be completed.
- ✓ New pickup truck is in service

Mr. Whitney has spoken to the last house on Coleman Drive; this is a short drive the Town is responsible for plowing a portion of this road. When they plow, they turn around and have damaged the driveway of this property. Mr. Whitney would like permission to make the repair of approximately 60ft of the roadway/driveway, it should not cost more than \$1,000. After discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize the highway

department to fix this portion of the roadway/driveway, seconded by Mr. Moran.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

Mr. Cook from Saunders Drive also has the same issue, they have put in gravel to fix the hole at the end of his driveway, after the winter the gravel is gone. Mr. Whitney knows they have fixed this road before but will make sure the hole at the end of his driveway is taken care of.

Mr. Upham a part-time employee at the highway department, has recently graduated from high school, he has his CDL permit, and is taking the course at BOCES to obtain his CDL License. Mr. Upham came to the highway department as part of an internship with the school, Mr. Whitney believes he is a good fit and would like to hire him as a full-time employee. Mr. Donegan asked if it is in the budget to bring him on full-time. Yes, actually the highway department is down 2 full-time employees. With no more discussion, Mr. Chapman made the motion to bring Mr. Upham on as a full-time employee with a hourly wage of \$20 an hour, seconded by Mr. Moran.  
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

Crosswalk at the location of State Route 49 and County Route 23. The State will come and mark the crosswalk, but the Town will need to install the 5'x5' landing with detectable warnings before they make the intersection. Mr. Whitney would like to discuss this further with Mr. Tomaino before proceeding.

### **TUG HILL COMMISSION:**

Mrs. Thompkins gave the following report:

- **2025 Consolidated Funding Application Now Open.** The 2025 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) is open, streamlining access to multiple state grant programs through a single application, due **Thursday, July 31 at 4:00 p.m.** Resources and the application manual are available online. Key opportunities for Tug Hill communities include:
  - Community Development Block Grant – Up to \$25M for planning, infrastructure, and facilities.
  - EPF Parks, Preservation & Heritage Grants – Up to \$26M for parks and historic site improvements.
  - Recreational Trails Program – Funding for trail maintenance, facilities, and equipment.
  - NY Main Street Program – Up to \$4.2M for economic development in mixed-use districts.
  - Smart Growth Planning – Up to \$2M for comprehensive plans and zoning updates.
  - Climate Smart Communities – Up to \$22M for local climate action projects.
  - Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) – At least \$75M for water quality and habitat projects.
- **MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook** are offering a free annual training program to assist local governments, municipal officials, and planning and zoning boards. The next session will be on **Zoning Board Basics: Roles of the Zoning Board in Community Development** June 26, 2025 | 6pm-7pm. Zoning Boards play an important role in local decision-making. From area and use variances to public hearings, members are involved in many parts of the development process. This session will cover the key responsibilities of Zoning Board members and what to expect during your time on the board.
- **2026 Adopted State Budget Summary:** Governor Kathy Hochul signed the 2026 State Budget on May 9, 2025, with several key provisions directly impacting towns and local governments. AIM (Aid and Incentives for Municipalities) funding remains steady at \$714.7 million, and Temporary Municipal Assistance was renewed at \$50 million. CHIPS funding received a \$50 million boost, totaling \$648.1 million, to support local road and highway improvements. Water and sewer infrastructure also benefit from a \$500 million investment through the Clean Water Infrastructure Act. The budget introduces a \$100 million Pro-Housing Supply Fund for municipalities designated as Pro-Housing Communities, intended to support critical infrastructure. Additional community development programs include \$225 million for REDC projects, \$100 million each for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward, and \$90 million for NYSWIMS to improve swimming facilities. The Environmental Protection Fund increases to \$425 million, with expanded funding for parks, open space, and climate resilience. New legislation limits institutional investors from purchasing homes unless listed for 90 days and imposes restrictions on STAR benefit reinstatements. The maximum hiring age for police officers is raised to 43, and municipalities now have increased authority over abandoned vehicles. Several grant programs were extended, including the Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle Program and civil service exam fee waivers. **A ban on intentionally added PFAS in firefighter PPE takes effect in 2026.**
- **Oswego County Hyper-Reach Notification System:** Oswego County's 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Department now utilizes the Hyper-Reach Broadcast Notification Service to rapidly alert residents during emergencies. Capable of delivering messages to 10,000 phone numbers per hour, Hyper-Reach ensures critical information reaches the public quickly. The system leaves voicemail messages if no one answers and will continue to redial busy numbers until contact is made. This tool may be used during incidents such as AMBER alerts, hazardous material events, or when evacuations are necessary. While landline numbers are automatically included, residents can register mobile phones, receive text alerts, or request communication by visiting the county's website. Hyper-Reach is a valuable resource in helping keep Oswego County residents informed and safe.

- **NYS Tug Hill Commission** releases new grant assistance video. The video explains the benefits of grants and walks through how to get started, beginning with your regional circuit rider. It emphasizes the importance of understanding your municipality’s goals to identify the best grant opportunities. It also highlights key funding sources, including New York State’s Consolidated Funding Application and the Northern Border Regional Commission. Municipalities will need an account with the Statewide Financial System (SFS) if applying for a state grant. The video wraps up with contact info for each circuit rider by region. Check out the video here or on our website to learn more and get started. Help us help you!
- **SOCRIS Update:** The Preliminary Engineering Report has been completed, and the project has successfully undergone SEQRA environmental review. The first of several funding applications was submitted on May 30 to the NYSEFC Intended Use Plan. Preparation is underway for additional applications through the Consolidated Funding Application, due July 31. NYSDEC has published a [Negative declaration](#) for SOCRIS.
- **Oswego County Comprehensive Plan Committee Update:** Meetings were held in May with many representatives and local leaders from NorCOG. There is another meeting for the committee this month that Heidi will attend. Community Visioning Workshops are planned for June and October. With hopes for completion by March 2026. Visit the [Oswego County](#) website for updates.
- **NorCOG Business:**
  - **Next NorCOG Meeting:** Join us at the next NorCOG meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Will be held at the Constantia Town Hall.
  - **NorCOG & SRCG Joint Meeting & Annual Dinner:** Will be held on September 25th at the North Riding Barn in Cleveland. Invitations will be sent out in August; please contact Heidi if you would like to be added to the invite list.

**HISTORIAN:**

Mrs. Kieffer has been reaching out to our local cemetery associations to volunteer to help with a possible fundraiser by conducting cemetery tours. Also, Mrs. Kieffer would like to have a Facebook scavenger hunt with a donated prize. People would have to go to all public locations, take a picture of what she is looking for and submit to the Facebook page. Discussion turned to Towns accepting donations, the topic was tabled until Mrs. Thompkins could do a bit of research.

**VOUCHERS:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the following vouchers listed on Abstract #6 Dated June 17, 2025:

▪ General	178-214	\$28,498.86	Sewer	17-21	\$2,625,852.90
▪ Highway	90-116	\$42,188.22	B-Bay Water	5	\$ 1,880.00
▪ Trust & Agency	6	\$17,947.00			

Seconded by Mr. Chapman

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**SUPERVISOR:**

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

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

COUNCILMAN: **Moran**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

**Due to an increase of revenue from New York State Department of Transportation Highway Improvement Program the following is a budget modification. Revenue DB3501 CHIPS will be increased from \$300,777 to \$467,983.70, the following is the revenue breakdown:**

<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>CHIPS</b>	<b>\$304,897.30</b>
<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>Pave NY</b>	<b>\$ 48,361.12</b>
<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>Winter Recovery</b>	<b>\$ 82,484.54</b>
<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>Pave our Potholes</b>	<b>\$ 32,240.74</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$467,983.70</b>

**Increase the following budget lines:**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>DB3501</b>	<b>from: \$300,777.00 to \$467,983.70</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>DB5112.2</b>	<b>from: \$400,777.00 to \$567,983.70</b>

**The additional CHIPS Revenue of \$167,206.70 is used to increase revenue and expenditure beyond what the Town budgeted.**

Seconded by Councilman: **Chapman**

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

Frank Tomaino	Absent	
Daniel Poné	Voted	<b>Yes</b>
Michael Donegan	Voted	<b>Yes</b>
Tom Moran	Voted	<b>Yes</b>
Ronald Chapman	Voted	<b>Yes</b>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Poné made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13th special meeting and the May 20<sup>th</sup> town board, seconded by Mr. Doengan.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

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

Justice Simpson, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, has received a letter from the County that the 2025 Tax Warrant has been fully paid in full.

seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:**

RAV Architect PC is requesting an amendment to the original agreement dated March 13, 2024. The amendment amount will be an increase of \$4,000 making the grand total \$16,900. With no discussion Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino to sign the amendment dated June 9, 2025, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

As the project is moving forward, at 1667 State Route 49 it is necessary to bring in a consulting engineering firm. RAV suggested Fortune Engineering Group, P.C. The proposal received from Mr. Fortune will be for time and material not to exceed \$12,600. With no questions, Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize Supervisor Tomaino to sign the Proposal for Consulting Services dated June 12, 2025, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Walker from Vanderbilt snowmobile club was in attendance and told the board that Mr. Winn will no longer be renting his pole barn to the club. If anyone knows of any land that is on the trail and has access to a roadway please reach out to a member, they are looking to purchase land to build a pole barn.

**ADJOURN:**

At 7:13 pm Mr. Chapman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

Respectfully submitted:

*Clare Haynes*  
*Town Clerk*