TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES –BUDGET MEETING – October 5, 2023
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present:	Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
	Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran– Council Members
	Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
	Wayne Woolridge – Highway Superintendent
	Nancy Butler – Bookkeeper
	Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission
Absent:	Ronald Chapman – Councilman

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

2024 BUDGET:
Ms. Butler handed out the 2024 Tentative Budget to board members present, the budget was filed with the Town Clerk's office as required on September 28, 2023. The current budget is over the tax cap, but the goal of the board to make changes to stay within the tax cap.

HIGHWAY FUND:
As Mr. Woolridge is present, the board will start with the highway budget. As in the past Mr. Woolridge did not put in a wage increase for the full-time highway employees, seasonal employees will go from $19 an hour to $20. After discussion on raises the board members decided to give all full-time employees a 3% increase. Mr. Woolridge will give Ms. Butler the necessary changes.

DB5130.2 Machine Eq. was increased by $68,674., Mr. Woolridge previously received permission to order a new pickup truck, but the price increased to $47,000. and they are not taking orders for any new pickup trucks because they do not want to guarantee the price, so that is on hold. Discussion on new equipment that has been ordered or will be shortly. The chipper is set to be replaced, they are $80,000., Mr. Woolridge was asked about rental, they are too expensive to rent, Mr. Colesante pointed out that if there is a wind event the Town needs one available.

DB9010.8 State Retirement – Ms. Butler received the number from the State, it is non-negotiable.

DB9950.9 Transfer to Capital Reserve – Mr. Woolridge did double this figure. With the way the economy is it is better to have a cushion.

DB9060.8 Medical Insurance – Ms. Butler has not received this information yet as soon as it is received the necessary changes will be made.

GENERAL FUND:
A7110.2 Parks Eq. (Capital Improvement) – Mr. Woolridge increased this by $27,500 for concrete pads and new picnic tables at the park. The picnic tables are original to the park and need some repair, the concrete pads will make it easier to mow and the table won't be sitting in the grass rotting the legs.

Mr. Woolridge would like to add a line to help with cemetery issues, the three cemeteries in Town all are running smoothly but all could use some help with trees, topsoil and road work. After discussion board members present requested a line put in the budget, this line will be funded with $5,000. Mr. Moran suggested reducing the contingency line to fund the new cemetery line.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:
Discussion on the recent flooding and its effect on Cemetery Rd and other properties along Scriba Creek. The home at 31 Cemetery Rd was and is in the greatest danger of damage. There were trees on the opposite side of the creek that fell and is causing eroding of the bank. Mr. Woolridge reached out to DEC about the condition of the area, they are aware but unwilling to help. The US Geological Survey has a station at the bridge they contacted Mr. Woolridge and are aware of the problem but offered no help. Discussion on the highway employees doing work on private property, all would like to have Mr. Bader's opinion on the issue. This is a difficult area as there are many trees along the bank that have fallen that could cause a problem with an ice jam.

LOCAL LAW B-2023:
When the budget was first put together it was noted that the Town is currently exceeding the tax cap. When the final budget is ready and if the budget is still over the tax cap a local law needs to be passed to comply with State requirements. Mrs. Haynes has the proper resolution to start the local law process, this local law will keep the Town in compliance if overriding the tax cap is necessary.

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

October 5, 2023

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. B OF 2023
("A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established
in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Constantia")

Councilman Moran introduced proposed Local Law No. B-2023, relating to the ability of the Town of Constantia to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Constantia pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Constantia to adopt a Town budget for the fiscal year 2024 in excess of the "tax levy limit," if necessary, and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilman Colesante:

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 (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. B-2023 is an unlisted action, there are no other involved agencies and this Board shall act as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. B-2023 at the Town Hall located at 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, New York on October 17, 2023, at 6.45p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town of Constantia and to any affected municipalities described above.

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

Tom Moran	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
John Metzger	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Richard Colesante	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Ron Chapman	**Councilor**	**Absent**	
Frank Tomaino	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DATED: October 5, 2023

ADJOURN:

At a10:43 am the meeting adjourned.