

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD MEETING–September 15, 2026
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Ronald Chapman Jr. - Supervisor
Michael Donegan, Cory Monroe, Thomas Moran, Daniel Poné, – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
E. John Whitney –Highway Superintendent
Dillon Kinsey – Deputy Highway Superintendent
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commission, Chair
Heidi Tompkins, Nathan Snavlin – Tug Hill Commission
Dustin Clark – Barton & Loguidice

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 pm Mr. Chapman public hearing and town board meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

The public hearing is to answer questions on proposed local law E-2026 - A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Constantia. With no questions at this time Mr. Chapman moved forward with the regular town board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Clark give the following report and answer any questions:

CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT

A. Constantia Sewer Project Progress:

- ✓ Funding agencies have 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 Complete. District MHI reported as \$60,000.
- ✓ EFC PLUS Listing Update submitted on 5/29.
- ✓ \$1.75M STAG Grant – Procurement Flexibility Request approved 7/1/2026
- ✓ **Grants.gov account is in place to prepare grant agreement application**
- ✓ Sanitary Survey is complete!
- ✓ WQIP Application submitted for \$10M!
- ✓ Enhanced WIIA Application submitted for \$25M!

Upcoming items:

- **Complete and assist Town submit STAG grant agreement application on grants.gov**

B. SOCRIS Progress:

- ✓ IMA approved with Constantia and most recently Hastings
- ✓ County developing 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.
- ✓ Oswego County Water Agency has been formed and holds monthly meetings.
- ✓ SOCRIS Bond Resolution authorized by the County Legislature
- ✓ Oswego County Sewer District No. 1 Sewer District in the process of being formed.
- ✓ \$12M included in the FY26-27 NYS budget resolution for SOCRIS project!
- ✓ SOCRIS design underway! This shows progress and will help support Constantia funding applications!
- ✓ Several funding applications submitted including WQIP, IMG, ESD!
- ✓ Oswego County met with City of Fulton to develop IMA which is needed to form County SOCRIS sewer district.

Upcoming items:

- **Develop and execute IMA with City of Fulton. County to then form SOCRIS Sewer District**
- Ongoing project promotion

C. Constantia Sewer Project Target Funding Opportunities:

- NYSEFC Enhanced WIIA:
 - Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
 - Applications submitted on July 31 for \$25M!
- 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 submitted on July 31 for full \$10M!
- Other Grant Opportunities:
 - USDA RD Grant
 - NBRC Grant
 - ESD Grant

- CDBG Grant
- STAG/CPF Grant
- Micron

D. NEXT STEPS:

- **Submit Grant Agreement with EPA through grants.gov, determine use of grant funds.**
- Ongoing project promotion.

Question was asked about the \$12M SOCRIS received from the New York State budget, the money was awarded but it is held up right now at the state level. This funding will be used for planning, design, and attorney fees along with permitting. This will get the project bid ready, which is important. Once SOCRIS is fully funded the next step is to get Constantia funded, Constantia is the next municipal project that is 60% ready.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Zehr reported the following:

- Commission has been working on the 2027 budget
- October 25th Trunk N Treat will be held at the park from 2pm-4pm
- December 5th will be the tree lighting

TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Mr. Snavlin gave his monthly report for the North Shore & Salmon Rivers Council of Governments report, please go to www.norcog.org for more information.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Whitney reported:

- Shoulder work, stump grinding and crack sealing have been completed,
- 400,000 yards of sand has been hauled for the winter
- Wood boiler has been installed; a slight modification was made to the woodshed as needed
- Last day for part-time workers was 8/27
- CAT loader has been repaired, looking at pricing to replace
- Tree truck is back, will be working on removing trees and brush as time allows
- Working on the 2027 budget

A resident asked if the highway was still looking to auction equipment, Mr. Whitney replied they were as soon as they can get the equipment together. The excess will be auctioned on Auction International.

HISTORIAN:

Mrs. Kieffer could not be in attendance tonight, she emailed the following report:

"I dedicated three historical markers for our revolutionary war veterans on the north shore. Each one had a full military salute. The Cleveland American Legion, The Central Square American Legion, The Constantia VFW, our county historian Deb Allen, and a representative from the Sons of the American Revolution were all a part of the event. I had local children lead us in the pledge of allegiance at each dedication ceremony. I would like to thank all of these people along with the Cleveland DPW, Constantia Highway, and West Monroe Highway for setting up and covering these markers, so they were ready for the day's events.

I could not make this evening's meeting because I was invited to the Mexico Historical Society to give a presentation on George Scriba which starts at 7:00. I have a few more presentations scheduled for the year. On October 20th, the Cicero Historical Society has asked me to return to do another presentation at the South Bay Fire Hall. Then on December 21, the Daughters of the American Revolution organization have asked me to come to one of their meetings to present on Constantia. Our local Constantia AARP members have also asked me to present but we have not settled on a date. I look forward to spreading the history of Constantia to these groups!"

Thanks for reading this! Hope to make the next meeting.

VOUCHERS:

Mr. Poné made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #9 Dated September 16, 2026:

▪ General	310-345	\$161,922.25	Trust & Agency	9	\$18,627.73
▪ Highway	145-160	\$ 55,297.81	NS Water	4	\$ 8,716.33
▪ B-Bay Water	7	\$ 4,030.13			

Seconded by Mr. Moran.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Donegan, Chapman

SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Moran made the motion to accept the August 31st supervisor's report as received, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Donegan, Chapman

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND BOARD MINUTES:

Mr. Monroe made a motion to accept the following reports and minutes as received:

- Code Enforcement, Justice Simpson, Town Clerk
- August 18th town board meeting

seconded by Mr. Donegan.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Donegan, Chapman

PUBLIC HEARING:

With no questions about the proposed local law E-2026 Mr. Donegan made the motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Donegan, Chapman

NEW TOWN HALL:

Mr. Chapman updated the residents on the progress of the new town hall. Framing has started the wing closest to the elementary school is 85% complete. Starting next week Mr. Chapman will attend weekly meetings as to the progress.

A resident asked about possible grants from Senator Ryan, it was noted that Hastings received a grant to update their town hall. Mr. Chapman has reached out to the Senator in the past, Mr. Chapman will make a note to contact him again.

BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION**

September 15, 2026

**TOWN OF CONSTANTIA LOCAL LAW NO. E OF 2026
("A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established
in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Constantia")**

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. E-2026, "A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Constantia," was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Constantia held on August 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on September 15, 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 August 18, 2026, the Town Board declared itself lead agency and determined that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. E-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. E-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. E-2026 as Local Law No. 5-2026 as follows:

**"TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2026**

**A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED
IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C IN THE TOWN OF CONSTANTIA**

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

Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Constantia, County of Oswego pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Constantia to adopt a Town budget for (a) Town purposes; (b) fire protection districts; and (c) any other special or improvement district governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year 2027, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by the General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. AUTHORITY

This local law is adopted pursuant to Subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

Section 3. TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE

The Town Board of the Town of Constantia, County of Oswego, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operations to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with 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	Voted	Yes
Corey Monroe	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Daniel Pone	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Ronald Chapman	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

COUNCILMAN: **Poné**

Introduced the following and moved its adoption:

The Board of the Town of Constantia authorizes the Town of Constantia Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2026-27 grant cycle for up to \$10,000.00.

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	Voted	Yes
Michael Donegan	Voted	Yes
Cory Monroe	Voted	Yes
Tom Moran	Voted	Yes
Daniel Poné	Voted	Yes

The forgoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Budget meetings will be held on Thursdays, starting October 1st at 6pm, meetings are open to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident went to the County Legislative meeting; the topic of discussion was the snowplow contract and the fact that some town’s requesting additional funds. Mr. Whitney is aware of the situation; Constantia did not request additional funding. The difference between Constantia and other municipalities is that Constantia still runs with one person in their trucks where others hire a wingman which makes their payroll budget increase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:32pm Mr. Chapman told the board that an executive session will be needed for discussion on a legal issue.

Mr. Donegan made the motion to go into executive session, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Donegan, Chapman

ADJOURN:

At 6:52 pm Mr. Donegan made the motion to re-open the town board meeting and with no decisions made during executive session made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.
Carried: Ayes: Moran, Monroe, Poné, Donegan, Chapman

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Haynes
Town Clerk