

PRESENT: Mayor Norman Youmans, Trustees Christine Schreiber, Laureen Tackman, Joe Domachowske and Scott Williams, Constantia Town Supervisor Ken Mosley and Town Councilman Rip Colesante and DPW Chief Zack Avery

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mayor Youmans at 5:00 pm.

Mayor Youmans began by discussing the steps coming up from the sidewalk to the Village Hall. He has been looking at pre-cast steps and had an estimate of about \$3,000, but you cannot salt them in the winter as it degrades the material. There is a limestone cover available, but that adds about 200.00 per step. What about just closing them off in the winter? Mayor Youmans stated the new sidewalks will be plowed this winter and there is still \$13,000 in the Village Hall reserves to utilize when the new steps are purchased. He just wanted to give the board an update on this project.

Mayor Youmans stated the board had met with our engineer, Jack Dodson previously and discussed a \$3.8 million project which he feels is way too much to burden taxpayers with. He will not support a project of this level and doesn't believe residents will either. This will double businesses costs and we want to encourage new business. He believes we can downsize the project and still have a good project. He stated that if we downsize the project, we might not be able to still get the 0% interest rate. He stated this goes back to the Health Dept. stating we have to redo the water tower and the \$1.7 million project that was voted down years ago. Barton & Loguidice and Chuck Gilkey came and offered the village \$2 million in grants and it all sounded good to get \$3.8 million worth of work and a \$2 million grant, but as we have since found out, we couldn't qualify for a grant due to the village's high MHI (median household income.) Grants are going to communities with MHI's of around \$30,000, but we kept moving ahead with this project instead of backing off. Mayor Youmans stated our rates need to be competitive with OCWA and they should be since we have had our water system for 100 years. Trustee Tackman inquired if we were in any sort of breach of contract with our engineer if we downsize the project. Clerk responded we are not, we checked with attorney and we fine. Mayor Youmans responded that we had told our engineer originally we wanted to keep the project low cost. Trustee Tackman asked how this change in project would affect the Town of Constantia? Councilman Colesante responded the town can re-apply and they likely have enough points on their own and this just set their project back by 1 year. Ms. Tackman also stated she believes we need to show residents three options: the \$3.8 million project, what it would cost to upgrade to OCWA standards and our proposed \$1.5 million project. Trustee Tackman again stated she feels that all the scenarios should be presented to the residents to let them know what the actual costs would be. Councilman Colesante believes OCWA will only take a "perfect" system, if at all. Discussion turned to the potential project and what that could look like. What if we don't do the interconnect and just do the tower, new well, meters and some lines? If we want to continue our system, we need to make a sensible plan. Supervisor Mosley asked about down the road planning? The Mayor stated that with the closure of the school and church, we need to think ahead. He believes we can have a very good system for \$1.5 million. He stated OCWA's base rate is about \$55.00 per quarter plus usage. He believes we can keep our rate the same with meters have it be a fairer system. We can re-evaluate the quarterly charge in a couple years if necessary. Mr. Colesante stated the "Constantia 12" would need to pay to hook-up into OCWA's system. Mayor Youmans proposed we go forward and tell our engineer that we do not want to go forward with a \$3.8 mil. Project and we would like to look at a \$1.5 million project and get some other lending agencies to offer a 0% interest rate as well. The village board feels OCWA is a real threat to the future of the village. Mayor Youmans suggested looking at re-evaluating many properties in the village to see how many units should be being charged. Mayor Youmans made a motion to recind the previous motion to move ahead with a \$3.8million project, second by Trustee Tackman, all in favor. He then made a motion to inform Jack Dodson of the estimated \$1.5 million project and to contact lending agencies for a new interest rate, second by Trustee Tackman, all in favor. We will also need to determine the actual cost of the engineering services for the lesser project. The Mayor re-iterated that a \$3.8 million project is a whole new water system. At 6:30pm, Mayor Youmans made a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Tackman, all in favor.