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NOVEMBER 7, 2007

A Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2008 was held by the Town Board of the Town of Corinth on November 7, 2007 at 4:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Richard Lucia, Supervisor
Charles Brown, Councilman
John Major, Councilman
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Mitchell Saunders, Councilman
Cheri Sullivan, Deputy Town Clerk

Public Present: Joyce Day, Mary Murphy

The Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2008 was opened at 4:00 PM with the reading of the Legal Ad published in the Post Star on October 27, 2007.

Supervisor Lucia read the following:

Town of Corinth Budget for 2008

This year's budget process has been a tedious procedure, but because of the whole board's better understanding of the budget and the process and all the telephone conversations and suggestions, one on one, it gave a better insight to the process and everyone being able to get their points across.

Presented in this budget is additional spending from 2007, of \$306,949. Most of this is rising insurance costs, Medicare and retirement costs, and fuel related items.

This budget shows a 3.5% pay raise for employee's across the board except for two part time employees that were raised to \$9.50 per hour because they are not able to get any of the benefits that are offered full time employees.

With some reserve monies being freed up we have built in capital reserve funds into this years budget as follows: \$15,000 in new ambulance fund, \$50,000 to the Town Hall expansion reserve, \$15,000 in the Landfill Upgrade Project, and \$2,500 in the Fly car reserve, \$10,000 in a youth needs project reserve, and 10,000 establishing a Senior Housing Capital Project fund.

There was enough left in landfill reserve to build a new salt shed this year.

This is all being accomplished with \$306,949 less to be raised in taxes than last year.

In 2006 our tax rate was \$2.861509 per thousand and in 2007 it was \$2.371301 per thousand and in 2008 it is \$2.109 per thousand for general town tax.

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We have NO tax in our Town wide Highway DA because we closed this out and moved the balances to Highway DB and NO tax in our General Fund outside the Village.

As for the Special District taxes, because of new water rates from the Village on our districts, there are some slight increases in the Water Districts, or they are staying the same. The lighting districts also remain the same.

Our outside the Village Fire District rate has gone up from .784770 per thousand to .8565739 per thousand. This rate comes from our fire contract with the village for fire protection in the town. We pay half of all operating expenses, half of benefits, half of the new fire house payments and half of all fire truck reserves.

Because the Town & County Tax Bills come combined, the county tax rate remains the same as last year. The Town of Corinth should have a very healthy tax bill this year.

Thank You,

Corinth Town Board

Richard B. Lucia, Supervisor

Supervisor Lucia asked the public present and the board members if there were any questions pertaining to the proposed budget or any items within the budget.

Supervisor Lucia said there is a little money left in the Elections because the County now takes care of the expenses of the election process. Supervisor Lucia said there were a few one time increases for necessary equipment updates.

Councilman Byrnes said the Ambulance people did a very good job on their budget. Supervisor Lucia said everyone has been very conscientious about this process. Supervisor Lucia mentioned that the Paramedics had saved three peoples lives last week and Councilman Byrnes said this community is very lucky to have them.

Supervisor Lucia said \$1,000 was added to the Veterans Services. Supervisor Lucia said these people work phenomenally for us. Now they are doing the flags for our bridge and the costs should not be coming out of their funds. Supervisor Lucia said they are a lot like the Auxiliary and that they need to thank these people for what they do. Supervisor Lucia spoke about health insurance and about how much it increases. Councilman Saunders wanted to know if the presentation had been scheduled. Supervisor Lucia said it had and there were going to be two presentations one on a new programs for retirees, retirees' will have to have Medicare parts A & B to participate in it but it is like an Empire program and if they opt for this it is less expensive for the town but it is better insurance than what they have presently.

Supervisor Lucia said that in reference to the Machinery in the DB fund, that the Town Board has already passed a resolution to work with the Village on one piece of machinery, to apply for a special grant in which we would each have to pay 10%, which is a lot better than both of us

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going out and purchasing another roller. Supervisor Lucia said the Town of Corinth is also working on this with the Town of Greenfield to obtain another piece of equipment of which we would only have to pay 10%.

Supervisor Lucia said that they hope the revenues stay the same or increase along with the sales tax, mortgage tax and real property. Supervisor Lucia said that because our assessment is going up, we are worth more and that enables us to pay less tax. Councilman Byrnes wanted to know what happens to the tax monies that are not paid by individuals, because we are counting them as revenue. Supervisor Lucia said the County buys them and pays the Town and Villages for those taxes. The County will then attempt to collect them with interest and the County gets to keep the interest. Supervisor Lucia said that after three years of non- payment the properties will go up for public auction. Supervisor Lucia said that these taxes had to be paid by December 31, 2007 after that date the delinquent taxes get turned over to the County.

Supervisor Lucia again asked the public present if they had any questions. Joyce Day wanted to know what was going to happen to Philmet if they did not pay their taxes. Supervisor Lucia said that the County will pay Town and Village taxes for a three year time period at that point the property would go up for auction.

Councilman Byrnes asked if the Celebrations were for all volunteers in the community or if it was just sports. Supervisor Lucia said it was for all volunteers in the community. Councilman Byrnes said the town is losing the Captain Youth Program and he wanted to take a moment to thank the Town Board for setting aside funds for this program. Councilman Byrnes said this would only be a temporary solution and that he would like the Town Board to look at finding a permanent solution for a location where the youth can meet in Corinth. Councilman Byrnes said that while the Town Board is looking at a Town Hall expansion, that possibly the board could consider having a section of the new town Hall that would be designated for youth needs. Councilman Byrnes wanted to thank Supervisor Lucia for his leadership with the budget. Supervisor Lucia said he noticed a huge difference in the Town Board members from last year and he wanted the Town Board members to know that he could not do this alone. Councilman Brown said he didn't think that people realize how much of a project it is to do a Town budget, until one sits on a Town Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Major and seconded by Councilman Byrnes that the public hearing be closed.

RESOLUTION # 258 **ADOPTION OF BUDGET**

A motion made by Councilman Byrnes and seconded by Councilman Brown and the following resolution was

ADOPTED ROLL CALL:	Richard Lucia	Yes
	Charles Brown	Yes
	John Major	Yes
	Edward Byrnes	Yes
	Mitchell Saunders	Yes

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Resolved that the Preliminary Budget as presented be adopted as the budget for 2008.

At 4:30 PM a motion was made by Councilman Major and seconded by Councilman Saunders to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Sullivan
Deputy Town Clerk