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March 19, 2008

A Joint meeting between the Town Board, Village Board and School Board of the Town Of Corinth held on March 19, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Corinth Fire House.

Present: Richard Lucia, Supervisor
Charles Brown, Councilman
John Major, Councilman
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Mitchell Saunders, Councilman
Shawn Eggleston, Town Highway Superintendent
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk

Bradley Winslow, Village Mayor
Melanie Denno, Village Deputy Mayor/Trustee
Pauline Densmore, Village Trustee
Julius Enekes, Village Trustee

Excused: Leigh Lescault, Village Trustee
Arthur Lozier, III, Village Highway Superintendent
William Fuller, Village Treasurer
Nicole Colson, Village Clerk

Dr. Daniel Starr, Corinth Central School District Superintendent
Celia Lockhart, Corinth Central School Board President
Michelle Mosca, Corinth Central School Board Member
Yvette Baudoux, Corinth Central School Board Member
Meredith Jenkins, Corinth Central School Board Member
Lisa Kiselica-Rumpf, Corinth Central School Board Member

Excused: Robert Hernandez, First Vice President
Timothy Halliday, 2nd Vice President

After roll call by each board and pledge of allegiance the following business was conducted: Mayor Winslow opened the meeting up with a discussion of shared services. Dr. Starr said that the school receives many shared services from the Village and Town. He names only a few and they were as follows:

From the Village: Salt and Sand; street sweeper; snow removal; assistance with drainage problems and gasoline.

He said from the Town some of the shared serviced are: plowing and salting Center Street school; snow removal from roof and around the windows; and loan of a compressor.

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Dr. Starr said that the school in turn allows the Town and Village to use the school building and fields without charge. He also said that the school offers the use of buses when the Town and Village need them.

Supervisor Lucia said that he felt the Town and Village have been sharing services for a long time, especially the Highway Departments.

Town Highway Superintendent Eggleston said his department and the Village Department of Public Works have shared services for a long time. He said they share men, equipment, parts and they assist each other in any other areas such as blacktopping, plowing, snow removal.

Mayor Winslow said that the Fire Department is another shared service. He said that both the Village and Town pay for the Fire Department.

Village Highway Superintendent Lozier said that his department shares equipment and labor with the Town, as well as repairing the water districts.

Mayor Winslow told the boards that another way the Town and Village share services is with the Emergency Management Committee which is comprised of both Village and Town people.

Dr. Starr spoke about the strategic planning process that the school district is in the middle of at this time. He also said that the school has a system called the Connect Ed and the Emergency Management has a Reverse 911. He suggested that the two systems might be made so that only one system is used.

Fire Chief Andrew P. Kelley spoke about mutual aid whereby all his equipment and men are at the disposal of other fire companies and vice versa.

Councilman Saunders spoke about the Town Comprehensive Committee survey, the old surveys done in the Village regarding consolidation. He said that the old surveys regarding consolidation said that a majority of the Town and Village citizens were for consolidation. He said the public needs to know if there would be a cost savings if they did consolidate. Councilman Saunders said that he agreed that the Town, Village and School are doing a great job with shared services but he felt it was time to set up a committee to look into the feasibility of consolidation.

Mayor Winslow said that he has read up on this and checked with numerous sources. He said that perhaps the Town and Village should hire a professional firm to conduct the feasibility study. Mayor Winslow said that he understands that there are grant moneys available but the grant must be applied for by at least two municipalities.

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Councilman Saunders said he spoke to the former Supervisor in the Ticonderoga, where a consolidation was done, and it was his opinion that professional firms not be hired. He said that he was told that he suggested a committee do a study before the grant for a professional firm is applied for.

Mayor Winslow said that he thinks there will be up coming growth within the Village. He said if Philmet and their plans for an Industrial Park materialize it would mean big growth for the Village.

Supervisor Lucia told the boards that if a study is done on consolidation it should not be done in a hurry and all elements should be taken into account.

Trustee Densmore said that she knew of three studies that had been done regarding consolidation and nothing happened as a result of any of those studies. She said she thinks hiring a professional firm is the right way to go.

Deputy Mayor/Trustee Denno said that the school used professionals in their strategic planning that is now being done and it seems to have gone good. She said that she thought contacting a professional firm to do the study would be the best way to go since there would be no misinformation given out.

Celia Lockhart, School Board President, said that the professionals they hired gave the citizen action group guidance only and the group used their own thoughts. Meredith Jenkins, School Board Member, said that she was a team leader for one of the action teams and she is sure that the professional only gave assistance they did not give the groups their opinions.

Mayor Winslow said that there needs to be a full audit of the Town and Village Budget to go along with the feasibility study.

Dr. Starr told the boards that the professionals that the school had only guided the groups' process not the groups' thinking. He said that seem to work out exceptionally well. Dr. Starr told the group one of the things that came out of the survey was possibly a community calendar that all activities throughout the community could be placed on. He said this would enable a person to know everything that was going throughout the whole community.

Mayor Winslow told the boards that the Village already has a committee that is comprised of himself, Trustee Lescault, Treasurer William Fuller, Nicholas Matino and Wallace Estill.

Town Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that they now buy things such as road salt in bulk. He said that he buys everything he can off the State Contract or through the County. Village Highway Superintendent Lozier said that his department does the same.

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Town Highway Superintendent Eggleston, Village Highway Superintendent Lozier and Fire Chief Andrew P. Kelley all said that they would like to be on the consolidation committee if one was formed.

Councilman Byrnes said that he thought the boards owed it to the taxpayers to look into this. He said he thought the application for the grant should be started right away. He commended the share services that are being done at the present time. He said he thought that a professional firm should do the feasibility study so that the information that is given to the public is not misinformation. Councilman Byrnes also said that he felt all the meetings of the committee or meetings on consolidation should be made public meetings so that the people are kept apprised of what is going on.

Councilman Major said that he has experienced a large consolidation and he said that both an internal and external audits are common. He said that the first thing that should be looked at is the definition of "Consolidation".

Councilman Saunders said that there is \$400,00.00 out there for a feasibility grant. Celia Lockhart told the board that the school has a distance learning classroom and it was available to them if they found a use for same.

Dr. Starr said that the school hopes to be replacing the bus garage on the property they purchase on Route 9N. He said he hopes that maybe the school could contract with the Town for snow removal. Dr. Starr also mentioned the possibility of sharing space and a mechanic.

Councilman Brown said that he has seen cases where money can be saved with consolidation and he has seen case where no money can be saved.

Mayor Winslow proposed that the committee that the Village now has add a couple members of the school board, District Superintendent Starr, Town and Village Highway Superintendents, and Fire Chief Andrew Kelley.

PUBLIC INPUT

Wally Estill asked if there was a deadline on the grant. Councilman Saunders said that the grant was an annual grant. Mayor Winslow said that he would look into if there was a definite deadline for the grant.

Stanley Hoffman told the boards that if there was only one government then we wouldn't have to have shared services.

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James Rivette asked if there was a time line for the grant. Supervisor Lucia said that he would find that out and get back to Mr. Rivette.

The Public asked about whether the grant was a matching grant or not. Councilman Saunders said it was a 90/10 grant.

Peter Morreale told the boards that he was on one of the committees that did a study into consolidation. He said that the committee had many professional people on it. Mr. Morreale told the boards that the answers that his committee came back with were not what the board at that time wanted to hear and therefore nothing was done.

Joseph Duguay said he understood this study could take years. He asked that the three boards conserve and not spend money unnecessarily.

Jim Murray, Sr. spoke about the action group that he was on for the Strategic Planning done by the school. He reiterated the fact that the professionals guided the group but did not sway their thoughts. Mr. Murray also said that he felt the grant should be applied for now.

Councilman Saunders thanked the board for discussing this matter.

A motion of Councilman Major and seconded by Councilman Byrnes the joint meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC
Town Clerk