

October 22, 2009

The Town Board of the Town Of Corinth held a workshop meeting on October 22, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall.

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

Public Present: Jim Murray, Sigrid Koch, and John C. Riegel

After roll call and pledge of allegiance by the Supervisor the following business was conducted:

**John Riegel**

John Riegel talked to the Town Board regarding the agreement proposed between the Town of Corinth and W.J. Riegel Rail Solutions, LLC. Mr. Riegel told the Town Board that his company is awaiting the Town signing the agreement with his company and then they would be starting rehab on the railroad until December 19<sup>th</sup> and then shut down until the first or second week in April or sooner if weather permitted. Councilman Saunders asked Mr. Riegel about Warren County having some problem with his company. Councilman Saunders also asked Mr. Riegel about the old Depot property and the run around. Mr. Riegel said that it is extremely important to have the run around and yard so that rail cars could be moved or stored there, etc. Mr. Riegel said that he is the President of Upper Hudson Railroad and that they hope to get some passenger service to this area as secondary. Councilman Major said that no matter what happens to the rail line the turn around is very necessary. Mr. Riegel confirmed that.

**RESOLUTION #**

**AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN TOWN OF CORINTH AND W.J. RIEGEL RAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC**

On a motion of Councilman Saunders and seconded by Councilman Byrnes the following resolution was

ADOPTED    Ayes    5            Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes and Saunders  
                 Nays    0

RESOLVED that Supervisor Lucia is authorized to sign the Agreement Between The Town of Corinth and W.J. Riegel Rail Solutions, LLC as presented.

**RESOLUTION #**  
**TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS**

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

ADOPTED    Ayes 5            Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes, and Saunders  
                 Nays 0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the transfer of the following funds:

Transfer \$880.00 from 51421.04 (Snow Removal – Personal Services) to 51101.04 (General Repairs – Personal Services) for 10/14/09 highway payroll.

Transfer \$331.91 from 51104.04 (General Repairs) to 51122.04 (CHIPS) for shortage.

Transfer \$400 from 13302.01 (Tax Collector Equipment) to 13304.01 (Tax Collector Contractual) to cover software costs.

Increase appropriation account 73104.02 (youth Program Contractual) and revenue account 3820.02 (Youth Program) in the amount of \$152 for Youth Soccer Registrations received in September 2009

**TRI COUNTY SENIORS**

Supervisor Lucia told the Town Board that he had received a letter from the Tri County Senior thanking the Town for their donation last year and requesting the same donation this year. Supervisor Lucia said he spoke to Laurie Crossman about this and she agreed that the money be taken from the Senior Center budget since a great number of the Town seniors go on the Tri County trips.

**RESOLUTION #**  
**AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO TRI COUNTY SENIORS FROM THE**  
**TOWN OF CORINTH SENIOR CENTER ACCOUNT**

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

ADOPTED    Ayes 5            Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes, and Saunders  
                 Nays 0

RESOLVED that the amount of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00) be paid to the Tri County Seniors for trips from the Senior Center (67724.02) budget.

**ASSESSMENT**

Supervisor Lucia stated that the Town Board has copies of letters from Mary Ellen, etc. regarding tri-annual and annual assessments. Councilman Byrnes asked Supervisor Lucia if most towns were going with annual assessment as opposed to tri-annual assessments. Supervisor Lucia told Councilman Byrnes that he thought they were because of the market. Councilman

Saunders said that he thought Mary Ellen had done a remarkable job in light of the Town being at 97%. Councilman Saunders said he would support the annual to confirm the data and he said he did not think that there was going to be a substantial change with the annual assessment. He said he did see from Mary Ellen's letter that there would be a cost of \$2000-\$3000 for postage. Supervisor Lucia said that he felt it would be fairer to the citizens if the town went back to annual assessments. Councilman Byrnes said he thought the town should go to annual and they could change it if they wished next year or at a late date. Councilman Major said that what the town is actually doing is moving up the assessment change since the tri annual that they now have would end in 2011.

**RESOLUTION #**  
**CONDUCT ANNUAL REVALUATION**

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Lucia, Brown, Byrnes, Saunders
	Nays	1	Major

RESOLVED that the Town of Corinth conduct an annual revaluation.

**TICKETS**

Supervisor Lucia told the Town Board that he received a letter from the Town Attorney's office offering tickets for the new Adirondack Phantoms hockey team games at Glens Falls Civic Center available to their clients and colleagues. He said if any one was interested they could contact the Town attorney's office directly.

**SUPERVISOR – BUDGET**

Supervisor Lucia read the following document regarding the budget into record:

**We have prepared a very hard line budget, one with no frills, and dealing with needs not wants.**

**We trimmed 8 % from last years spending in every line item where we could, in all departments.**

**Taking into consideration the reduction of our major revenues, including Sales Tax, Mortgage Tax and Interest. After we went through the budget we found out that the Medical Insurance no longer offered the plan we had last year, and to find the same comparable plan we could plan on a 23 % increase in premiums, and with that the State Retirement system raised our retirement premiums, 58%.**

**We tried to look at keeping the same spending as last year, and not have any lay offs or service cuts, but after all the unfunded mandates were thrown at us, this budget to go to Preliminary Budget is as bare bones as in actuality, the overall we can go.**

**It offers no salary increase of any Town Employees, Hourly, Salary or Elected. No NYC Association of Towns Schooling, and no extra schooling this year only what is needed for mandatory positions. We had several letters from employees offering no salary increase this year if the present 80 / 20 insurance payments could remain the same, and that is what we have offered in this budget.**

**It is not the budget we would like to present, but we are looking at curbing spending for the rest of the 09 budget, and also have to look at what might or might not happen in the 2011 budget process.**

**The Town General Tax rate stays exactly the same as last year, \$1.49 per thousand, everything else is in**

special districts. The DB Highway budget has gone down 2 cents a thousand,

The last 2 or 3 years have offered to the taxpayers, no Tax in the General Town outside B account, because of enough revenue and fund balance to offset it and eliminate the tax. Even though the spending is down over \$13,000 from last year, The Fire Budget Special district is up, and the Water District Rents are up due to the anticipated water projects the village expects to do.

This year the revenue stream in the B special district account is almost nil and not enough unexpended balance to eat the tax. So therefore that special district will have a .29 cent per thousand tax that was not seen in the last couple years.

In actuality, the overall spending is down \$105,098 from last year, BUT Revenues are down about 90,000 and there is about 100,000 less unexpended balance available.

We have also enjoyed no town wide highway tax for the last couple of years.

**RESOLUTION #**

**MEDICAL INSURANCE**

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

ADOPTED    Ayes 5  
                  Nays 0

Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes, and Saunders

RESOLVED that the Town of Corinth offer MVP medical insurance to their employees with the Town paying 80% of the premiums and the employee pays 20%. This will be effective December 1, 2009.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Supervisor Lucia said in the budget it is a four column budget. First is the Appropriations; Less the Estimated Revenues, Less the Unexpended Balance and that equals the Amount To Be Raised by Taxes. He said that in the A Fund this year the Town is down \$57,235.00 in spending from last year; in the B Fund we are \$29,092.00 in spending and in the DB Fund we are down \$18,771.00. Supervisor Lucia said that this is \$105,000 less spending than what we had last year. Supervisor Lucia said that the Fire District is up and the Water Rents are going up from \$245.00 to \$395.00 a household which is what we are going to be charged so we have no choice. Supervisor Lucia stated that Revenues in the A Fund are down \$38200.00; in the B Fund they are down \$13,300.00 and the DB fund they are down \$35,781.00 from last year. Supervisor Lucia told the board that the Unexpended Balances are down as follows: A Fund \$19,000.00; B Funds down \$103,000.00 and DB Fund went up \$22,000.00 Supervisor Lucia told the board that the amount to raise by taxes is down, which is the amount you figure your taxes by in the A Fund is down, B Fund is up and DB is down but there is \$136,000.00 more is due to the B fund that we didn't have last year and the Fire District.

Councilman Saunders said that Supervisor Lucia and the board have done a remarkable job on this budget. Councilman Saunders said the Village found where they could give their employees 1% raise and the elected officials took no raise but the Town found it a little more difficult and none of the employees will be given a raise if this budget passes. Councilman Saunders when you look at Emergency Services (squad, fire, paramedic, sheriff and emergency management) it comes in around \$1.2 million that the taxpayers in Town/Village of Corinth pay. He said none of that has been cut this year. Councilman Saunders said that in the long run something has to be reinvented to support these services. Councilman Saunders said he did not believe that they could not continue to ask the employees not to take pay increases or the emergency services to take cuts or no increases. Councilman Saunders further discussed what a good school system Corinth has and how that is something that draws people to Corinth. He said the school district would find it very hard to continue to be that good with all the state mandated cuts that are being made.

Supervisor Lucia told the Town Board that he felt they did a great job. Councilman Byrnes said that it was done under the Supervisor's direction and leadership. Councilman Byrnes said he appreciated the guidance and hard work that the Supervisor puts into to this.

**RESOLUTION #**

**MOVE TENTATIVE BUDGET TO PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

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

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Lucia, Brown, Major, and Byrnes
	Nays 0	
	Abstained 1	Saunders

**RESOLUTION #**

**SET DATE FOR PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING**

Supervisor Lucia stated that the Town Board that it was now necessary to set the Hearing date for the Preliminary Budget. A motion was made by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Major, and the following resolution was

ADOPTED   Ayes   5           Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes and Saunders  
              Nays   0

RESOLVED that the Public Hearing for the 2010 Preliminary Budget of the Town of Corinth be scheduled for November 4, 2009 at 4:30 PM, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk publish a Legal Notice in the Post Star advising the public of this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Murray

James Murray asked the Town Board if they would again place an ad in the Pennysaver for two weeks stating that no snowmobiles or ATVs are allowed on the railroad tracks.

Councilman Byrnes also stated that he thought the ad should include no hunting even though it is a federal law that hunting cannot be done on railroad tracks a person was hunting on the racks and said that the tracks are state land and therefore he could hunt on them.

The Board asked the Town Clerk to contact the Town Attorney and place an ad in the Pennysaver reflecting the fact that snowmobiles, ATVs, hunting and trespassing is not allowed on the railroad owned by the Town of Corinth.

Supervisor Lucia asked if the Town should place an ad about no parking on Town roads in the paper at this time. Highway Superintendent asked the Town Clerk to place an ad in the newspaper for no parking on from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**TOWN BOARD**

Councilman Saunders

Councilman Saunders thanked Supervisor Lucia for all his hard work on the budget.

Councilman Brown

Councilman Brown told the board that just before he came to the board meeting he received material from \_\_\_\_\_ and include in that was a mentioned of siren for Sacandaga.

Councilman Major

Councilman Major also thanked the Suprevisor for his work on the budget.

Councilman Byrnes

Councilman Byrnes told Supervisor Lucia that he might want to check the No Trespassing Signs by the old Depot and on Freight House Road. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that he would take care of that. Councilman Byrnes said that the meeting with Captain had been rescheduled for next Wednesday and he will report to the board after that meeting. Councilman Byrnes also thanked Supervisor Lucia for all the long hours and hard work he put in on the budget.

**HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Eggleston spoke to the Town Board about the brush brought in to the Landfill. He said he had contacted area towns to see what they are doing about it and he said some don't accept brush at all or they charge by the truck load. Highway Superintendent recommended that the Town of Corinth do the same as the Town of Moreau. He said the fees charged are as follows:

Minimum	\$ 5.00
Level Pick-up load	\$15.00
Rounded Pick-up load	\$25.00
<u>Utility Trailers</u>	
6 feet to 8 feet	\$15.00
10 feet to 12 feet	\$25.00
14 feet to 16 feet	\$35.00
Small Dump or Rack Truck	\$50.00
Large Trucks or Trailers	\$15.00 per yard

Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that we would then have to hire a chipper for \$2200.00 per day to get rid of the brush. He said it would probably need to have the chipper approximately three times a year. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that he would suggest that this be done immediately.

**RESOLUTION #**

**LANDFILL CHARGES FOR BRUSH**

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

ADOPTED    Ayes 5            Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes, and Saunders  
                 Nays 0

RESOLVED that effective October 23, 2009 the following fees will be charged at the Corinth Transfer Station for brush brought into the Transfer Station:

Minimum	\$ 5.00
Level Pick-up load	\$15.00
Rounded Pick-up load	\$25.00

Utility Trailers

6 feet to 8 feet	\$15.00
10 feet to 12 feet	\$25.00
14 feet to 16 feet	\$35.00
Small Dump or Rack Truck	\$50.00
Large Trucks or Trailers	\$15.00 per yard

Highway Superintendent Eggleston told the Town Board that the generator on the Sand Screen and therefore he had to rent one to finish this year’s sand. He said the cost would be approximately \$2,300.00 for one week and he would need it for one week.

Highway Superintendent Eggleston told the Town Board that he had been contacted by the Emergency Squad about maintaining their vehicles. He said he didn’t know if he could since the Emergency Squad is a private entity. Supervisor Lucia said that he would check with the Town Attorney to see if this could be done. The Town Board told Highway Superintendent Eggleston that during the squad’s budget interview they were told that everyone had to cut and this is just a way they thought they might be able to cut. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said it would not be a cost saving for his department. He said he does not have a mechanic that could only work on the Emergency Squad vehicles. He also said that there is serious liability issued that he is concerned with.

Councilman Saunders asked Town Highway Superintendent Eggleston how much we paid for salt per year. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that he averages about 11,000 ton per year. He said that he now has about 300 ton on hand and he goes through the County bid. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that is was approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year for salt. He said right now he has \$18,000.00 left out of \$88,000.00. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said he only has enough for another 300 ton before the end of the year.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Code Enforcement Officer Mann told the Town Board that Mr. Paquin did come in to obtain his demolition permit. Code Enforcement Mann said that Mr. Paquin has not returned the permit. Code Enforcement Officer Mann said he went by the property today and all the trailer out front are down. Code Enforcement Officer Mann told the board that once the trailers are all down in front he will get after Mr. Paquin to turn in his Demolition Permit so that Code Enforcement Officer Mann can go on the property to inspect it. Supervisor Lucia said that Mr. Paquin did contact him after the last meeting he attended and apologized for what happened at the meeting.

**RESOLUTION #**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN TO BILL PAYING**

On a motion made by Councilman Major and seconded by Councilman Brown and the following resolution was

ADOPTED    Ayes 5                    Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes and Saunders  
                  Nays 0

RESOLVED that the board adjourns to bill paying.

**RESOLUTION #**

**MOTION TO PAY BILLS AS AUDITED WITH NO EXCEPTION**

On a motion of Councilman Major and seconded by Councilman Saunders the following resolution was

ADOPTED   Ayes   5           Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes and Saunders  
              Nays   0

RESOLVED that the board pays bills as audited with any exceptions as follows

Abstracts For 10/22/09

General Fund/Town Wide – A:

\$48,556.37

General Fund/Outside Village – B:

\$5,137.80

Community Development Grant – CD:

\$0

Highway/Town Wide – DA:

\$0

Highway/Part Town – DB:

\$10,831.14

Capital Project/Landfill Upgrades – H1:

\$0

Fire Protection – SF:

\$0

Street Lighting – SL:

\$423.28

Sewer/Water – SW:

\$0

Trust & Agency – TA:

\$54,824.48

Scenic Train –

\$0

Town of Corinth Railroad –

\$0

**RESOLUTION #**  
**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

On a motion of Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Byrnes the following resolution was

ADOPTED   Ayes   5       Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes and Saunders  
              Nays   0

RESOLVED that the board adjourn at 5:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC  
Town Clerk