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SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

The Town Of Corinth Town Board held a workshop meeting on September 16, 2010 at 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Richard Lucia, Supervisor
Charles Brown, Councilman
John Major, Councilman
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Mitchell Saunders, Councilman
Fred Mann, Code Enforcement Officer
Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent
Cathi Radner, Town Attorney
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk

Public: Jim Murray, Bob Eggleston, Dan Butler; Saratoga County Animal Shelter, Delbert Clothier; Town of Corinth Animal Control Officer

After Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance and there was a moment of Prayer for former Town Assessor Donald Rosenbrock.

TOWN CLERK:

Supervisor Lucia asked Attorney Radner if she would briefly overview the issues of discussion this afternoon. Attorney Radner said that New York State has always issues licenses within the state and kept track of dangerous dogs all under the NYS Ag. & Markets law. Attorney Radner said due to monetary cuts the state has decided to move these functions from the state level to the municipal level. Attorney Radner said that many of the provision under state law are still in place and there are some things that municipalities have no choice on, however the minimums have been set in relation to fees and such. Attorney Radner discussed many options that are available to the Town Clerk and the Town Board in relation to the New Dog Licensing Laws, which must be created by the Town of Corinth. Attorney Radner said that these news laws are supposed to be passed and in place prior to January 01, 2011.

Town Clerk Rose E. Farr said she attended a meeting yesterday with other Saratoga County Town Clerks and it was a consensus of the clerks present that the Saratoga County Animal Shelter be the only other organization beside the Town Clerks in Saratoga County that can issue licenses for the town. Town Clerk Rose E. Farr said that this would be written into the local laws of the towns. Town Clerk Rose E. Farr said in relation to the Fess that Attorney Radner had mention; there had to be a \$5.00 fee difference between the cost of neutered/spayed animals and those that are not. Town Clerk Farr said the current charges are \$2.50 for spay/neuter and \$10.50 for those not. Town Clerk Farr said that there still must be the \$1.00 and \$3.00 fee that the state is requiring; which will be sent to the State Comptrollers Office instead of to Ag & Markets and from what the Town Clerks have been told is this money will be used for “an Animal Control Fund”. Mr. Butler from the Saratoga County Animal Shelter wanted to know who was going to be administering this aspect t of it. Town Clerk Farr said it would be the State Comptrollers

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Office and they have said that individual municipalities will be able to apply for those grants in order to hold spay/neuter clinics and such. Town Clerk Farr said that the Town of Corinth Currently has dog control laws that will need to be updated to reflect these pending changes. Attorney Radner said it would probably be the quickest to amend the current dog laws than to totally revamp the whole section and start over. Supervisor Lucia asked Mr. Butler if he had any input up to this point. Mr. Butler said he was looking for clarification as to whether the animal shelter was going to be allowed to have their own tags. Town Clerk Farr said that what was discussed at the Town Clerks County meeting was that the county would still have their own tags to issue licensees and the county would still forward the paperwork to the Town Clerks as they do now, and then the following year at renewal, the dogs would be licensed with their respective Town Clerks. Mr. Butler also questioned if there was going to be a central database. Town Clerk Farr said there has been some discussion but nothing has been established at this point. Attorney Radner questioned this central database because this was how the state kept track of dangerous dogs so that they weren't moved from one county to another. Town Clerk Farr said the state has told the town clerks that they would not be changing anything to do with the dangerous dogs. Attorney Radner asked what the percentage was of dogs that were picked up with the chips. Mr. Butler said only about 5%-10% of the dogs have chips, but it doesn't do any good if the chips aren't registered and many aren't. Town Clerk Farr said he and Mr. Butler were discussing that if a dog is picked up now the county has a data base that they can go into to find the owner and if the dog is licensed; once this is all switched over the county will not have access to the individual towns databases and this is going to be an increase in cost to the pet owners because if the animal is picked up on a Friday afternoon then it will not be able to be identified until the following Monday after 8am. Mr. Butler said that the county will not be able to issue license renewals either and before someone could pick their pet up from the shelter they would have to wait for the Town Clerks office to open. Mr. Butler said that between here and Jefferson County that Saratoga County Animal shelter is the only municipal run animal shelter. Town Clerk Rose E. Farr said she was looking for input from the Town Board as to what they would like to see in the new local law as this has to have a public by November in order to have it filed in the Secretary of states office by January First. Supervisor Lucia asked if this was going to bring back mandatory enumeration. Town Clerk Farr said that it would not be mandatory but would suggest that it be part of the new law because even the towns that do it once every five years notice an increase of unlicensed animals. Town Clerk Farr said that the Town of Greenfield does their enumeration during the winter months because it is easier to see paw prints in the snow. Town Clerk Farr said they would need to give notice prior to doing the enumeration to allow individuals to come in and license their unlicensed animals for a specific time period prior to the enumeration, and for those who don't then there will be an additional charge of \$5.00 to \$10.00 plus the regular licensing fees. Town Clerk Farr said there needs to be a decision as to whether the Town is going to issue purebred licenses and it is in her opinion is to do away with them as there are not enough to continue as the Town of Corinth has about four. They also discussed the types of dogs that are exempt from the licensing fees. Town Clerk Farr said in regards to the licensing fees it was discussed at the Saratoga County clerks meeting yesterday and most Saratoga County municipalities are going to a fee of \$6.00 and \$14.00 in order to cover the costs of the tags and forms all of which the state used to supply. Town Clerk Farr said it would be a \$3.50 increase for spayed/ neutered dogs from \$2.50 to \$6.00 and a \$3.50 increase to \$14.00 for unspayed/unneutered dogs. There was discussion as to when the tags issued by the state are going to expire. Town Clerk Farr said that currently the license renewal schedule is renewed on a

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staggered basis and would like to keep it that way. Councilman Byrnes asked who maintains the records of rabies and spayed or unspayed. Town Clerk Farr said that her office has been scanning in copies of this information over the last year. Town Clerk Farr said they also needed to discuss the option of multiple years licensing, she would prefer that it stays the way it is now on a yearly basis. There was also some discussion as to whether or not the town should exempt senior citizens. Town Clerk Farr said that currently the town does not have this.

Councilman Major asked if the exemptions that were previously discussed were complete exemptions or just from the Town's fees. Attorney Radner told him that the State honors the exemptions the Town honors so it would be complete exemptions.

The consensus of the board was not to exempt Senior Citizens at the present time but to look at it again down the line.

Attorney Radner said she would take the examples that the Town Clerk gave her, the Town of Corinth Code and the items agreed upon at this meeting to form a new law. She said that she will get the proposed law to the Town as soon as possible.

Dan Butler spoke about Dog Damages. He said that if a stray dog does damage the County would take care of that but since the county is not holding any of the money how does that work. Attorney Radner said that she would look into this matter and get back to the board.

Attorney Radner asked if we could touch on penalties. She said the state set the following fees: 1st offense - \$25.00, 2nd offense - \$50.00 and 3rd offense - \$100.00. Attorney Radner said that she suggested that these be across the board for dog barking, dog running at large, unlicensed, etc. She said that these are fairly low amounts. She said that the fees would cover if Animal Control could take care of the matter but if the Town Attorney was needed these fees would not cover that charge. Dan Butler said that making the second and third offense more expensive makes more sense. It was the consensus of the board that the penalty fees be set at \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00 and they be reviewed again at a later date.

Delbert Clothier discussed enumeration. Supervisor Lucia said that he and Town Clerk Farr had discussed this and they decided if an enumeration was to be done then the Town would have to hire an individual to do same because the Animal Control Officer was way too busy.

SCHOOL – CASTLE PARK

Supervisor Lucia gave the board members a copy of a letter from Jeff Collura and a letter from Dr. Pitkin regarding dangers from arsenic in the wood on Castle Park. Councilman Byrnes told the board what transpired at the recent School Board Meeting he attended. He said that the school has already done tests. Councilman Major asked what the Town's role was in this. Councilman Byrnes told the Town Board that Jeff Collura just wanted the Town and Village to be aware of the dangers and what was happening. Councilman Saunders said that if the school deemed that Castle Park must be removed then they would have to make that call. Councilman Byrnes said the school was looking for some help removing Castle Park. He said the Village has already volunteered some equipment.

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Supervisor Lucia asked Highway Superintendent Eggleston if he had any comments. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that he did not have any equipment needed to truck the material in since it would have to be a sealed HazMat vehicle. Councilman Saunders said that if the soil is contaminated then the soil will also have to be removed. Councilman Major said that as far as removing Castle Park it may have to be done in a systematic manner and not just by individual trucks. Supervisor Lucia said that DEC will probably have to be involved. Councilman Major said that they would have to have an abatement plan and then the Town could see how they could support it.

Councilman Byrnes said that he just wanted to bring this matter to the Town Board and Highway Superintendent's attention. Supervisor Lucia said that he was sure the Town would offer its assistance when a protocol was established.

Councilman Saunders asked if the school board made a determination of what they wanted to do. Councilman Byrnes said that they are looking into what can and can't be done. Highway Superintendent Eggleston said that he was speaking to Ted Bridges at the school and he said they plan to place a fence around Castle Park until a plan can be put in place.

Councilman Major told the Town Board that not only do they have to follow Environmental Conservation guidelines they must follow State Department of Education guidelines that are very, very strict.

Supervisor Lucia said that Councilman Byrnes should continue to monitor this and the Town will help in anyway they can.

LETTER

Supervisor Lucia gave each board member a copy of a letter from the Department of Interior stating that the case with Louise Reed is officially closed.

TOWN BOARD

Councilman Major

Nothing

Councilman Brown

Councilman Brown said that there is a class in Saratoga on Preparedness and he will be attending same.

Councilman Saunders

Councilman Saunders said he just wanted to clarify the AIM money. He said he has a copy of the Options Report for the Village of Corinth dated September 2010. He said Aim is Aid and Incentives to Municipalities. Councilman Saunders said that what happens is if the Town and Village decide to consolidate they take the prior year's tax levy for the Village and the prior year's tax levy for the Town and combine them, then multiply it by 15%. He said the actual figure is \$401,219.00. Councilman Saunders said that is the figure that the Town would receive. He also stated that it was for five years and he said that is no longer the case it is forever. He

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said that this could be changed at any time. However he also said that this figure should not be the determining thing for consolidation.

Councilman Saunders said he just wanted to make sure that people knew that this money is available. He said the State of New York is in the business of providing communities with incentives to grow. He said it is important that all facts are given there. Councilman Saunders said that the new report from CGR has this explained very well.

Councilman Byrnes said he questioned where the State sees the savings so that they can give a little community like ours \$400,000.00 a year.

Councilman Saunders said that he would encourage everybody to go to this website that CGR used regarding the consolidation law.

Councilman Byrnes

Councilman Byrnes asked what happened at the railroad meeting last night. Supervisor Lucia said the meeting was great. He said they gave the total of all the runs. Everyone gave a list of good things and bad. Supervisor Lucia said that there is more interest now from people in Corinth regarding what they can do.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Mann told the Town Board that they finally finished the census. He said that the board might want to thank Bev Jacon because she did a lot of work on this. Supervisor Lucia said that he knows that Bev does a lot of things that the board is not aware that she does.

Code Enforcement Officer Mann said that on September 9th he spoke with the county regarding Ajax Winslow and they have found nothing.

With no further business on a motion of Councilman Saunders and seconded by Councilman Byrnes the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr
Town Clerk