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FEBRUARY 10, 2011

The Town Board of the Town of Corinth held a regular meeting on February 10, 2011 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Richard B. Lucia, Supervisor
 Charles Brown, Councilman
 John Major, Councilman
 Ed Byrnes, Councilman
 Mitchell Saunders, Councilman
 Rose E. Farr Town Clerk
 Robert Hafner, Town Counsel
 Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent
 Fred Mann, Jr., Code Enforcement Officer

Public: Brian Lucia, Carol Lucia, Linda Hamm, Kate Halliday, Sigrid Koch , Lynn Walker, Judy Walker, Joel Jenkins, Ray Bush, Beverly Nichols, Fran Nichols, Michele Eggleston, Sue Winslow, Karen Saunders, Michelle Wyman, Beverly Jacon, Travis Flint, Lisa Flint, Peg Carter, Ken Carter, Dennis Morreale, Cari McFarlane, Josie Miner, Shelly DeLong, Stephanie Madison, Janet Briner, Don Briner, Donna Briner Mike Briner, Linda Walsh, Rose Butler, Bernard Gille, Tracy McIntyre, Bill Carlton, Janine Denton, Michelle Roberts, Sherry Mann, Linda Byrnes, Jim Murray, Sr., Connie tubs, David Ordway, Karen Bordeaux, Randy Tubbs, Rebecca Woodcock, Cory Nichols, Toni Hall, Shari Jensen, Marc Rich, Chris Stranahan, Shawn Wickham, Liz White, Cecil Mosher, Mike Drolette, Daniell Kruger, James Trainor, Tammy Martineau, Brian Martineau and John Moyer.

After Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance the following business was conducted:

RESOLUTION #100

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

Resolved that the minutes for January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, 2011 be approved.

RESOLUTION # 101

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS

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

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

Resolved that the abstracts of December 2nd and 30th be approved as follows:

<u>January 6, 2011</u>			<u>January 27, 2011</u>		
A	-	\$ 31,310.42	A	-	\$101,836.36
B	-	\$ 2,159.71	B	-	\$ 16,582.52
DB	-	\$ 12,497.24	DB	-	\$ 50,520.62
SL	-	\$ 644.11	T&A	-	\$ 77,730.95
T&A	-	\$ 38,450.35			

SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Lucia stated that the following are on file in his office:

- Senior Sentinel
- Mortgage Tax for January - \$4,871.50
- Movie Ticket – Free at Wilton Regal Cinema on February 22nd for Gnomeo and Juliet
- Red Cross Newsletter
- Tax Collector’s Tax Warrant – Town has been paid in full and now working on paying County
- CCSD Elementary Newsletter
- Saratoga County Emergency Services Letter - Re: Reverse 911 meeting postponed without a date
- Deceased Veteran – February 15th at 2:30 PM – honoring William and James Carey from the Town of Saratoga
- Saratoga County Rabies Clinic Schedule for 2011

RESOLUTION #102

APPOINTMENT AS TOWN OF CORINTH’S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SARATOGA COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Corinth appoint Pamela Marro to act as their representative at the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council.

RESOLUTION #103

APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Corinth hereby appoints Dr. Al Jagoda as the Medical Director for the Jessup's Landing EMS, and be it further resolved

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is authorized to sign any and all documents necessary for this appointment.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 1 of 2011 relating to alternate members for the Town of Corinth Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals was opened at 7:10 with the Town Clerk reading the Legal Ad published in the Post Star on January 26, 2011. There being no people wishing to speak either in favor or in opposition to the proposed law at 7:12PM a motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Byrnes to close the public hearing.

RESOLUTION # 104
ADOPT LOCAL LAW 1-2011

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Lucia, Brown, Major, Byrnes, Saunders

RESOLVED that the following be adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Corinth:

A LOCAL LAW
AMENDING THE CORINTH TOWN CODE
TO CREATE ALTERNATE MEMBER POSITIONS FOR THE
PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CORINTH TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1. Purpose, Intent – The Town Board wishes the ability to appoint alternate members to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to be available to substitute for regular Members who are unable to participate in review of a matter before the Board because of conflict of interest, illness, scheduling conflicts or any other reason.

ARTICLE 2. Amendment of Town Code

A. Alternate Planning Board Members – Section 36-1 of the Town Code is amended to read as follows:

§36-1. Board established; membership; alternate members.

A. There shall be a Board for the Town of Corinth, Saratoga County, New York, to be known as the "Planning Board", consisting of five members appointed according to the requirements of Article 16 of the Town Law with one member to be appointed Chairman of said Planning Board.

B. The Town Board shall appoint one (1) alternate member(s) of the Planning Board to substitute for any regular member in the event of a conflict of interest or other factor such as illness, vacation or other absences. The alternate member(s) shall be appointed by Resolution of the Town Board for a term of five (5) years. The chairperson of the Planning Board may designate an alternate member to substitute for a regular member when such regular member is unable to participate in an application or matter before the Board. When so designated, the alternate member shall possess all of the powers and responsibilities of such regular member. Such designation shall be entered into the minutes of the initial Planning Board meeting at which the substitution is made. All provisions relating to Planning Board member training and continuing education, attendance, conflict of interest, compensation, eligibility, vacancy in office, removal and service on other Boards shall also apply to alternate members.

B. Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals Members - Section 89-47 of the Town Code is amended to read as follows:

§89-47. Creation, Appointment, Organization and Removal

A. The Town Board shall appoint a Zoning Board of Appeals pursuant to §267 of Town Law. Said Board shall consist of five members, to serve for staggered five-year terms. The Chairperson of the Board shall be one of the five members and shall be designated as such annually by the Town Board. Vacancies shall be filled for such unexpired term only. The Board shall elect a Vice-Chairman from its membership, and

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shall establish rules for the conduct of the officers. The Town Board shall appoint a Secretary, and be in charge of any/all personnel and employment decisions.

B. The Town Board shall appoint one (1) alternate member(s) of the Board of Appeals to substitute for any regular member in the event of a conflict of interest or other factor such as illness, vacation or other absences. The alternate member(s) shall be appointed by Resolution of the Town Board for a term of five (5) years. The chairperson of the Board of Appeals may designate an alternate member to substitute for a regular member when such regular member is unable to participate in an application or matter before the Board of Appeals. When so designated, the alternate member shall possess all of the powers and responsibilities of such regular member. Such designation shall be entered into the minutes of the initial Board of Appeals meeting at which the substitution is made. All provisions relating to Board of Appeals member training and continuing education, attendance, conflict of interest, compensation, eligibility, vacancy in office, removal and service on other Boards shall also apply to alternate members.

C. The following actions are cause for removal of any member by the Town Board:

1. Three consecutive unexcused absences;
2. Violation of the code of ethics;
3. Misconduct; or
4. Failure to satisfy the training requirements of New York Town Law §271.

ARTICLE 3. Authority; Supersedence - This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10 and is specifically intended to supersede the provisions of Town Law Sections 267(11) and 271(15) that restrict substitution of alternate members of zoning boards of appeal and planning boards, respectively, to instances of conflict of interest.

ARTICLE 4. Severability - The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof.

ARTICLE 5. Repealer - All Local Laws or ordinances or parts of Local Laws or ordinances in conflict with any part of this Local law are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE 6. Effective Date - This Local Law shall take effect upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION #105

**APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES TO THE TOWN OF CORINTH
PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

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

RESOLVED that Daniel Willis be appointed as alternate member to the Town of Corinth Planning Board, and be it further

RESOLVED that Christopher Rudolph be appointed as alternate member of the Town of Corinth Zoning Board of Appeals.

RESOLUTION #106

TRANSFERS

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

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

RESOLVED that the following transfers be made:

Increase Appropriations 73104.02 (Youth Contractual) and Revenue 3820.02 (State Aid Youth Program) in the amount of \$4,000.00 for SPAF Youth Grant.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Supervisor Lucia made the following statement:

The Ambulance billing money has been in question, with some believing the Town was getting rich from it. Our paramedics cost the Town about \$300,000 per year, and if we get back in revenue between \$150,000 and \$200,000 to offset this from billing, we are doing well; that leaves \$100,000 for the taxpayers to pay through Town taxes. Plus, taxpayers are paying the cost of the money given to the Squad: \$94, 000 for operating expenses, \$10 to \$20 thousand each year towards an ambulance capital Fund, \$3 to \$10 thousand in Fly Car Capital Fund, building security payments, and payments to the Billing person or company.

We need our paramedics back now, and on the road to your house when the 911 call goes out, not 30 to 40 minutes later.

Town Board Meetings

February 10, 2011

Statement for R. Lucia Town Supervisor

I have just a few comments to make before we begin tonight's comments.

We as a Board start our budget process for the next year every year during the last of July and first Part of August. We send budget worksheets to every Department and Agency included in the Town Budget. The Corinth Emergency Squad is one of these Agencies.

The last signed Contract with the Squad was in 2008. We discovered that the Squad never signed Contracts for 2009 and 2010. We continued paying the vouchers as they were turned in because the services had been provided and we expected the Contracts to be signed. There arose more and more questions from the Town's end on some things included on the vouchers and the lack of details on some vouchers. As we began workshops concerning the Squad's proposed 2011 Contract, we stressed that we absolutely needed detailed invoices for any bills to be paid, just like we require from any Department in the Town Government or other Agency we pay.

We were told that the Squad wanted the \$94,000 as a lump sum payment and to have no vouchers. At that time they did not agree to an audit. These things alone raised concerns with the Town Board and Town Counsel and we made sure that these items were addressed in our current Contract, while keeping it simple and short.

We continued to meet with the Squad, but they would not agree to what the Town Board saw as reasonable minimum requirements. The Town Board felt that the meetings were becoming abrasive, but continued to focus on the important goal of providing life-saving services to Town residents.

In speaking with the State Comptroller's Office, they said we should not pay any more vouchers after December 31st without a signed Contract. As December 31st got close, the Squad's attorney's proposal to Town Counsel was could it have a 3-month extension. After much dialogue, the Town Board agreed to extend the Contract and payments until January 31st. After that, we could no longer pay any more taxpayer dollars to the Squad without an acceptable Contract.

The attorneys worked through the month of January on the issues and, on the Thursday before the 31st, we received a letter stating that normal squad coverage would be maintained after the 31st, even though there would be no monies from us until a contract was signed. We agreed to continue providing the paramedics because they needed them to give the level of coverage the Town Board feels we need for Town residents. We answered that we had no intentions of getting rid of the paramedics and if they put it in writing we would continue to work on contract language.

On January 31st, the Town learned that the paramedics were removed from the Squad's premises and told they no longer were able to save lives with the Squad. The Squad's attorney informed Town Counsel that the paramedics needed to be either (1) employees of the Squad, (2) leased employees of the Squad or (3) members of the Squad. We had previously been told, and always understood, that the paramedics, while employees of the Town, were also members of the Squad. They now inform us that this is no longer the case. The bottom-line is that we learned on January 31st that starting immediately the Town would no longer have the level of emergency care we feel is necessary.

I fully understand the legal things that came up from their side and am glad they surfaced after all this time. Now we can address them correctly. But with all the fanfare and media coverage, the original issues have gotten swept away, but they are still there. The Squad now apparently says we can do an audit, but the audit would be part of the Contract for services, and we still have no ALS service.

I in no way minimize the dedication and support to the Town that the Corinth Emergency Squad Volunteers have given of themselves for public safety. I have made it know to them on many occasions how much I support them and their commitment. However, now that they only can give BLS coverage, it is not fair to the citizens of Corinth to no longer have the immediate care they have grown accustomed to in the past 11 years.

This is why we have chosen to go the route of a municipal-owned ambulance and paramedic squad.

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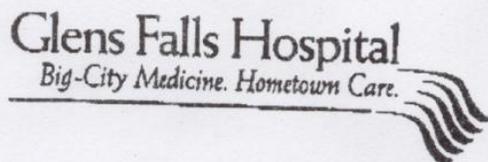
Supervisor Lucia said that he had been sent two letters that were asked be read into the record and they are as follows:

Richard Lucia

From: Mary Ann Johnson [ma.johnson@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:17 PM
To: rlucaia@townofcorinthny.com
Subject: Emergency services

Dick

I could say "hope you are having a good day" but reading the news lately about Corinth emergency services I am sure you are not having any good days lately. The Town of Day is greatly concerned about the events in Corinth ambulance squad as we have a contract with them. At least I thought we did but as of today I have not heard a word from them about the situation. No coverage between 6 AM and 6 PM, no ALS services, nothing has been told to us. I find this quite unacceptable when I have to read the newspaper to find out what is happening. We would like to be kept up to date with what is happening in the Town/Village in regards to the emergency services situation if you could do that for us. We will be reviewing the contract we have with the ambulance squad on Monday night to see if it is now a valid contract. We are also talking with Rockwell Falls emergency squad about a possible contract. I have been made aware by the Sara. Co. Emer. Svcs. Dir. that we are covered under mutual aid from Rockwell Falls, Saratoga, Moreau, etc. which is good to know, but with the exception of Rockwell Falls, they are some distance away from us. This was a good situation that somehow turned bad and I wonder if there is any help for it other than to start over. I would hope that this was not a turf war of paid versus not-paid that has destroyed your community, my community and also part of Greenfield's in feeling comfortable and safe with the reliable emergency services care that we have depended on for so long. Feel free to call me if there is anything I can assist with.
Mary Ann Johnson, Supervisor



Evergreen Health Center
13 Palmer Avenue
Corinth, NY 12822
(518) 654-6499
Fax: (518) 654-7303
www.glensfallshospital.org

February 9, 2011

Dick Lucia
Corinth Town Board
600 Palmer Avenue
Corinth, NY 12822

Dear Dick and Town Board Members:

I received a telephone call today from Corinth Elementary School nurse, Donna Briner, R.N. She briefly updated me regarding the progress that has been made by the town board, in their efforts to start up a new community municipal ambulance service, with 24/7 paramedic staffing. I am well aware of the situation with the current Corinth Rescue Squad.

As you know, I have practiced in Corinth at Evergreen Health Center for the past 10-1/2 years. I have grown accustomed to the excellent care that has been provided to our clinic previously by the paramedics, when they were working with the Corinth Rescue Squad. I understand that there are ongoing political and/or legal issues that have prevented the paramedics from riding with the Corinth Rescue Squad Ambulance. I also understand that currently in Corinth, we have no local advanced life support staff on duty at this time.

I have been very impressed with the professionalism of the paramedics who previously worked with the Corinth Rescue Squad. Their presence is always very welcomed by my partners and me here at Evergreen Health Center. Our patients here at Evergreen have been well served by their staff (the paramedics).

I am in support of the current efforts of the town board, aimed at establishing a community municipal ambulance service with paramedic coverage here in Corinth. I understand a petition is currently being circulated to prove the support for creating a community municipal ambulance in Corinth.

If I can be of any further help with this endeavor, please feel free to call me either at Evergreen Health Center or at my home evenings.

Sincerely,

Michael Bell, M.D.

MB/nek

cc: Donna Briner, R.N. (654-6233 fax)

Supervisor Lucia told the public that before the public speaking started he was going to read into the record the Town of Corinth's Public Input Rules and they are as follows:

Public Input Rules

Public input speakers will be limited to 5 minutes, and one time only.

The Speaker will go to the podium to speak and identify themselves for the record

You must be as polite to the person speaking as you would like them to be when you are speaking.

There will no longer be allowed personal attacks on any board member at a meeting, no reference to a board members personal life, or staged theatrics, Stick to the issue or do not ask to speak.

If there is idle chatter or noises made while someone is speaking you will be asked to leave and removed from the building.

If all else fails, the public speaking will be stopped for the day!

Thank you for your cooperation

Councilman Saunders asked that the public also be aware that any comment about a Town Employee could not be discussed in the public and the rules of the Employees Handbook must be

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followed and it should be done in Executive Session. Attorney Hafner said that this has always been handled in an Executive Session.

Jim Murray, Sr., 411 Center Street, Corinth

Mr. Murray said he wanted to congratulate the board on dealing with this emergency and the positive actions that have been taken. He said he knew the decisions made have been very difficult ones. Mr. Murray said that it is time for a change and with the Municipal Emergency Squad it will insure a more transparent organization. He said that may more volunteers or old volunteers will come forward and join the squad. Mr. Murray told the board that in the future he hopes to see the emergency squad and the fire department become one as it is in some surrounding communities.

Toni Hall

Mrs. Hall said that some of the questions that she has were research by her speaking with a paramedic that is not affiliated with this district. She said accordingly to them a narcotic count is to be done every day with a team that does this. She said that is supposed to be more than one person when they open and count them. Mrs. Hall told the board that the squad President has to sign off on the narcotics. She asked the board how they could expect the President to sign off on the count when they were not witnessing the count. She said she wouldn't do that. Mrs. Hall said she would like to know why the Town Attorney did not research and find out that paramedics cannot be a volunteer and be paid by the same squad. She said the paramedic could be leased by the squad which would have saved a lot of headaches. She said she felt the Town tried to do a good thing for its residents but because of a lack of judgment have ultimately caused a serious upheaval.

Mrs. Hall told the Town Board that they have not been billing Medicaid. She said she works for one of the state homes and she has not seen a bill for ambulance for under \$400.00. Mrs. Hall said that she figured it out that the squad is called to her state home at least three times a month and that is \$24,000.00 just from the state home she works at. Mrs. Hall said what has happened is that the Town took the billing away from Baldwinsville and since they did not have the Medicaid billing they have thrown away hundreds of thousands of dollars that the taxpayers will be expected to compensate.

Mrs. Hall said that she thought the paramedics were taking over too much. She said she felt there should be a committee formed to have monthly meetings with whoever is running the paramedics and oversee the documentation that is to be submitted.

She said that she feels best thing that could happen is for the Corinth Emergency Squad, the paramedics and the Town get together and iron out this problem. She said the squad was told to obtain a lawyer, they did and now they are wrong for obtaining a lawyer. She said she feels that on both sides there are a lot of underlying things that are not being told. She told the board that the paramedic she spoke with said that there was one paramedic that the Town has that he feels is behind all of this.

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Jim Trainor

Jim Trainor said that he is the attorney representing the Corinth Emergency Squad. He said the squad has a very proud history and many people have volunteered for the squad over the years. He said that the squad members are all volunteers and are not paid. Mr. Trainor said that they understand why the Town and Village did what they did by pursuing its own Certificate of Need. He said that he hopes that plan is a back-up. Mr. Trainor said that he proposes the following:

1. The Town could lease the paramedics to the squad. He said that everything is in place, the insurance and equipment is there. He said that they have a proposed agreement to do that and it could be signed and ALS service could be restored tomorrow.
2. The paramedics could become volunteers to the squad and sign on as members. He said that they are paid just like before. He said again everything is in place.

Mr. Trainor said that this would be the most cost effective solution and it would give the Town and squad the time to put together the type of agreement that should be in place. He said it is the squad's job in what they do and the Town Board's job in what they do as public servants to serve everyone in the Town. Mr. Trainor said that he would ask the board to treat the squad as it does anyone else. Mr. Trainor said that he would urge the board to take advantage of one of the two viable solutions that he has mentioned.

Tracy McIntyre

Tracy McIntyre told the board that she is a proud life time member of the Emergency Squad, past president Chair of the Board of Directors. She said that she feels horrible that the Town feels necessary to go for a municipal ambulance service..She said that she has reached out to Supervisor Lucia and they have been unable to talk. She told the board perhaps she thinks if all parties could get in the same room and start talking they might be able to hash things out. Ms. McIntyre said that it will be 65 years that the Corinth Emergency Squad has been in service and it would be a shame to see that come to an end. She told the board that as Chair of the Board she is willing to sit down and discuss anything the Town Board wants changed and see if it can be worked out. Ms. McIntyre said that since she has come on as Chair of the Board she knows of no time when an audit had been refused. She said that both she and the attorneys have asked what kind of audit is requested with no answer back. Ms. McIntyre said that there is nothing to hide. She said the squad turns in vouchers every month and they can be looked at. She said if someone wants to see a voucher she will go to the squad rooms and personally pull the voucher out for that person.

Ms. McIntyre talked about the dog that was purchase with squad fundraising money. She told the board that she would answer any questions to the best of her knowledge and if she did not have the answer she would try to find the answer. She said that she thought it was terrible to put an end to a 65 year old squad when she feels that things could be worked out.

Sherry Mann

Sherry Mann said that she could not say some of what she wanted to because it referred to some of the town employee's conduct. Mrs. Mann said that as public officials she would expect the board to be level headed and use common sense. She said she expected the board to work with people of the community especially volunteers. Mrs. Mann stated that at the meeting on

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February 8th the questions was asked if the current squad stepped down would the Town be willing to work with them and the board seemed almost giddy about that. She said that she does not feel that the Town Board is being remotely fair. Mrs. Mann pointed out that the squad works with the Fire Department and Sheriff's Department, are there for accidents and fires. Mrs. Mann told the board that the squad works Mock Accidents for our prom. She said the squad is always there for fund raising events, community, for our area residents that are sick and in need. Mrs. Mann said that the squad also works with the area youth, squad tots and Junior squad.

Mrs. Mann said that if the problem is with the paid paramedics she hopes that they don't pressure the board to make the wrong decision to close down the squad.

She told the board that as a village resident she also pays Town taxes and cannot afford any more taxes. Mrs. Mann said that we have the building and people ready to work there. She said all the board has to do is sign the paperwork and the Village, Town and squad work together.

Joel Jenkins

Joel Jenkins said that he is a member of the Corinth Fire Department and thought he was an honorary member of the Corinth Emergency Squad until he checked the roster at the squad today he found his name had been removed. He said he volunteers with the fire Company and has tried to assist with the squad. He said he has covered weekends when no squad member would come forward to get an ambulance out. Mr. Jenkins asked where the Emergency Management people from the Village and Town were when all this came down. He said at the meeting with the Village Board the other night he was upset to find out that Village board members did not know what was going on. Mr. Jenkins asked if it wasn't the job of the Emergency Management to get together and let people know what is going on.

Mr. Jenkins said that he was upset that the Village and Town boards would not communicate with each other at a very serious time. He said that we have lost our ALS and must wait for mutual aid from another town to assist us and he feels that is very serious. Mr. Jenkins said that somebody must have called the state and he is sure it wasn't the paramedic. He said that if it was the squad's lawyer why didn't the lawyer and the squad get together with the Town and notify them of the problem instead of going to the state and leaving us in the mess we are in now. Mr. Jenkins said he felt that if this had been done before going to the state things could have been settled.

Donna Briner

Donna Briner said she is a resident of the Village of Corinth and has been for most of her life. She told the board that she has been a Registered Nurse for 27 years, first at Adirondack Regional Hospital Emergency Room, Saratoga Hospital Emergency Room and Corinth Elementary School. She said she has had much experience working with the Corinth Emergency Squad, the paramedics and numerous other agencies. She told the board that she has the upmost respect for all EMS personnel especially those that volunteer. Mrs. Briner told the board that 21 years ago Corinth residents fought long and hard to keep our hospital to no avail thus loosing in patient care and the emergency room. Mr. Briner said that 11 years ago the town agreed to hire paramedics to provide the community with 24 hour a day 7 days a week advanced emergency care. She said the paramedics worked with the volunteer basic life support squad, were housed

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at building, shared equipment and shared patient care. She told the board what the paramedics could do that the volunteer squad and in a rural town such as Corinth ultimately save a life. She said that the paramedics are the next best thing to having an Emergency Room.

Mrs. Briner told the board that the paramedics have provided training to the squad members, have assisted in securing new advanced equipment including a new ambulance, they have decreased the squad's response time by being on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Mrs. Briner said in her opinion the paramedics have been a valuable asset to the squad and the squad district they serve. She said over the last few years she has watched the volunteer squad struggle with enrollment, response time and even physical challenges such as embezzlement. Mrs. Briner said that the Town officials responded to this by providing two full time paramedics every day from 6:00AM to 6:00PM so that every day time call was covered even if the volunteers were not available.

Mrs. Briner told the Town Board that last Monday the volunteer squad leaders of the squad became aware of the Department of Health violation which requires paramedics that carry and dispense medicine to also be members of the squad with which they reside and apparently for 11 years our paramedics were not formally members of the Corinth Emergency Squad and were notified that they could no longer provide patient care with the Emergency Squad and were escorted off the premises that day. She said that no telephone call was made to our Town or Village governments notifying them of this problem or asking for assistance in solving this problem. Mrs. Briner said the Town was notified after the paramedics were let go. She said this decision left the town and surrounding areas immediately without ALS coverage.

Mrs. Briner went on to explain that with low enrollment in the Corinth Emergency Squad this left the time from 6:00AM to 6:00 PM as automatic mutual aid to outside agencies and all emergency calls basic or advanced life support calls during that time the residents would have to wait for Luzerne, Wilton, West Glens Falls, Moreau or Saratoga to respond.

Mrs. Briner said that she felt this decision was not made in the best interest of the health and well being of the residents of Corinth and she hopes that it was not made in retaliation for an unsettled contract with the Town, because of money, because of power or because of personality conflicts. Mrs. Briner said that these actions do not reflect the caring concern of those that should have the health and safety of the residents at heart.

Mrs. Briner said that she applauds our town and village boards for recognizing the crisis and pursuing way to reinstate the services that Corinth had 11 days ago. Mrs. Briner said that a municipal ambulance service would be accountable both physically and professionally to town officials. Mrs. Briner said that this could occur without added burden to the taxpayers and would immediately restore 24 hour paramedic coverage and a fully staffed volunteered squad.

Mrs. Briner said she feels that the time to settle difference has passed, the squad has chosen not to present their internal problems to the Town and ask for help, they have chosen not to sign a contract with the Town despite numerous attempts and liaisons from the town. Mrs. Briner said she felt the time is now and she thinks the time is for a change.

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Lisa Flint

Lisa Flint said she knows that the squad is an organization that has served the community for many years but she feels what has been happening within the squad for the last few years is a disgrace to this organization. Mrs. Flint said that the leadership of this organization in the last few years has been anything but healthy for the squad. She asked why does the squad feel that is correct policy to ask that their budget be handed over in its entirety without providing any type of documentation supporting this. She asked why by-laws and rules were changed to fit the situations. Shouldn't all members abide by the same rules and by laws. Mrs. Flint asked what the reserved fund was that the squad is working off from at the present time. She asked if it was from a donation from an estate that said the money was to be used for upgrading equipment.

Mrs. Flint asked for what reason the dog was purchased for the squad when we have access to trained dogs from the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department. She asked about vet bills and how the dog's training was paid for.

Mrs. Flint asked about the training of the volunteers and if all volunteers are CPR certified. Mrs. Flint said that times are changing and when we look at the calendar it is not 1946 it is 2011. She said the way she understands it the ambulance service offered by the Town and Village will be a volunteered service with paid paramedics offering LAS. She said that there are already a large number of trained volunteers signed up ready to serve the Town and Village of Corinth. Mrs. Flint said that is a time for a change and a time for check and balances that has been needed for years. Mrs. Flint said that she thought the mission statement of the squad should be reviewed by all members.

Janine Denton

Janine Denton told the public that when she took over as President of the squad in June of 2010 she started reviewing contracts and records at the Corinth Emergency Squad. She said she found several illegalities in these contracts and called and scheduled a meeting with Supervisor Lucia. She said she brought these illegalities to Supervisor Lucia's attention but they were not reconciled. She said she is also an EMT with the squad and as such is there for this community. Mrs. Denton said that she is on squad runs when she can but she has a job, a family and goes to school. She said that they have never said the paramedics aren't the best care.

Mrs. Denton said that the squad was told by the Department of Health, at the same time that the Town Board was notified, that because of lacks of licensing on the paramedics' part the squad could not have them in their building. Mrs. Denton said that if they kept the paramedics the state would have shut the squad down completely and there would be absolutely no care for this community at all. She said they chose to keep the BLS so at least the community has Basic Life Support.

Mrs. Denton said that she has been with the squad for five (5) years and has missed only about three (3) calls that she was scheduled for. She says it bothers her to read in the newspaper that she is not a dedicated EMT. She said that she is dedicated and has been there for the community. She said to hear this wants her not to be a volunteer or do this anymore. Mrs. Denton said that is affecting the other volunteers the same way. She said she does not get a paycheck for this, doesn't get a pension and is not a paid officer but she does this absolutely free in her free time.

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She said she is being told that the community does not want to support what she and the squad are doing.

Mrs. Denton said that as for the audits, the squad opened their doors and no one came down. She said they are provided every single time the squad asks for reimbursement. She said copies of every single receipt that the squad pays are given to the Town. She said if someone wants an audit there is their audit. Mrs. Denton said she had no problem opening her books for anything. She said that if anyone wanted to see any of this she would open the doors and file cabinets. She said her filing cabinets are open to anyone that wants to see them. Mrs. Denton said there is no staling going on and there is no embezzling go on.

Mrs. Denton said that this is their community and they volunteer for their community. She said they do not receive a paycheck. She said she is a dedicated volunteer.

Dennis Morreale

Dennis Morreale said he did not think he heard anyone say that the members of the squad not dedicated and do a wonderful job. He said he thought the situation was that times have changed. Mr. Morreale said that he works for the Fire Department and has assisted driving for the squad at times. Mr. Morreale said when his family moved to town, the squad and fire department were the center of the town. He said there were carnivals on the firemen's field and bingo at the squad, etc. Mr. Morreale said unfortunately over the years he has seen it become more and more difficult for the squad. He said he knows that the squad members that are present are very dedicated and have given a lot to the squad. Mr. Morreale said that we are in a situation now that things can't go on as they are and they can't be left that this may happen again. Mr. Morreale said he felt that going to a municipal squad is the best way to go. He said he felt the Town Board has a duty to protect the citizens' safety and to protect the citizens' finances.

Mr. Morreale said he thought that in having the Town Board and Village Board involved in doing that it does not take away from the volunteers. He said he felt that there was no reason that the present squad could not be working with the squad under the Town and Village boards. Mr. Morreale said he thought that would be the best result for the present squad to come over to the municipal squad, bring their people, their equipment, etc. and come over and have more support than there is now. He said the squad is needed but the community also needs the security of knowing that the medical services are going to be there next year and the year after.

Supervisor

Supervisor Lucia stated that the following reports are on file in the Supervisor's office:

Town Clerk
Highway
Building Department
Zoning Department – No Meeting
Justice Court
Animal Control
Fire Department
Senior Citizens

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RESOLUTION #107

APPROVAL OF SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AS PRESENTED

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

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

Resolved that the Town of Corinth Town Board accepts as presented the Supervisor's monthly financial report for January 2011.

Town Board

Councilman Major

Councilman Major thanked everyone fore their comments. He said he appreciated hearing the comments and will take them in consideration.

RESOLUTION #108

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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 with no further business the board adjourn at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC
Town Clerk