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FEBRUARY 24, 2011

The Town Of Corinth Town Board held a regular meeting on February 24, 2011 at 4:30 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, Code Enforcement Officer
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk

Public: Ray Bush, Jim Murray, Joseph Hickey, Ronda Bergquist, Ciara Winslow, Peter Winslow, III, Joel Jenkins, Jeffrey Fedor, Dennis Morreale, Marc Rich, Sigrid Koch, Toni Hall, Christine Morreale, Lucy Pistoia, Brian Lucia, Carol Lucia, Brad Armstrong, Brian Martineau, Vernon Brownell, Randy Tubbs, Cody Mabb, Tracy McIntyre, June Tubbs, Tammy Martineau, Ruth H. Tooker, Ernest Tooker, Bernard Gille, and Bob Bump, Jr.

After roll call and Pledge of Allegiance the following business was transacted:

Supervisor Lucia told the public that the Town Board was going to skip around on their agenda and have Public Comment first.

Supervisor Lucia called on Bernard Gille to give a report on where they stand at the present time.

Bernard Gille

Bernard Gille told the Town Board and the public that there is now paramedic coverage 24 hours a day 7 days a week. He said yesterday they were notified by Department of Health that they could operate at Basic Life Support level and today REMO approved them at paramedic level at noon. He said that there are 2 paramedics on duty now and there will be a full time paramedic and volunteers tomorrow. Councilman Major asked if the paramedics needed anything. Mr. Gille said that he was working on a list and would have it to the town tomorrow.

Supervisor Lucia read the rules for public speaking.

Brad Armstrong

Brad Armstrong told the board that he was from Captain Youth and Family Services and Corinth EMS has given them a place to operate for approximately one year. He told the board that they have been operating in the EMS building for youth Grade 6 and above. He said they also assist students that are out of school with their GED. He said that Captain works with the school on a school based program after school. Mr. Armstrong said that they are running the Supportive Place Outreach to Teens (SPOT) out of the EMS building. He said that they are serving a lot of youth including homeless youth and youths that are in need of an escape by providing them a safe place they can call home.

Councilman Byrnes said he wanted to thank Mr. Armstrong and the Captain Youth for everything they do for the youth of the community. He also said he wanted to thank the EMS for allowing the Captain Youth and Family Services to use their building.

Brian Martineau

Brian Martineau read the following letter into record:



CORINTH EMERGENCY SQUAD, INC.
101 SHERMAN AVE
CORINTH, NY 12822

February 24, 2011

I would like to thank the Town Board for this opportunity to address them today. For those of you who don't know me, I am Brian Martineau and I am here to speak on behalf of the Corinth Emergency Squad.

In recent weeks many unfortunate and inaccurate things have been said about the Squad, some of which has been stated by Town officials and employees. It is unfortunate that we are in the situation that we are in given that the Corinth Emergency Squad has served this community exceptionally well for over 65 years. This all VOLUNTEER organization takes its commitments and responsibilities very seriously. It is important to note, that despite the current dispute the Corinth Emergency Squad continues to respond to the emergency medical needs of the community. They can rest assured that we will be at their doorstep whether it is 3 o'clock in the afternoon or 3 o'clock in the morning.

It is also important for the community and the media to understand three basic facts as we move to resolve this dispute:

- (1) The current situation is the result of the Town's actions. The fact that the New York State Department of Health will not allow the Town's paramedics to ride with the Squad came about as the result of the Town drafting an inadequate agreement governing the use of those paramedics;

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- (2) The Town could have put the interests of the residents first and avoided this situation by simply offering a paramedic lease agreement to the Squad. This agreement could have even been for a limited time so that the parties could work out their difference and ultimately secure a permanent agreement. And finally,
- (3) Putting aside all the contract and legal issue, the continuity of care to our community could have been preserved if the paramedics put their sense of professional duty ahead of other issues. All the paramedics had to do was become members of the Squad, even temporarily, to potentially be able to ride with the Squad and provide the same level of care to the community

It is also important for the taxpayers of this community to understand the implications of forming a new emergency Squad controlled by the Town. In this time of financial strain governments, including the Town and Village of Corinth, are being force to cut back services in every area. At the same time the Town of Corinth is willing to further burden the taxpayers by creating a new Squad to ultimately replace the Squad that has served the community so well for 65 years. In effect, they want to create a new wheel that they control to replace a perfectly good wheel that they don't.

The desire of the Town Board to set up an identical service provider is illogical, inefficient, costly and could ultimately result in a lower level of care At the end of the day, our primary concern must be the needs of people who live in this community, PERIOD. I suggest that that Town's efforts and resources would be better used, and the interests of the community would be better served, if Town officials make a commitment here tonight to repair the relationship with the Corinth Emergency Squad and work with us to develop a mutually acceptable agreement. Towards this end, on behalf of the Corinth Emergency Squad I commit to the Town Board they we are willing to meet with them at any time and in any place to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. Further, we are willing to produce any documents relating to the our operation of our organization as long as the Town is willing to give us the same courtesy regarding its paramedic operation.

The volunteers of the Corinth Emergency Squad, your friends, neighbors and even some of your relatives, have dedicated themselves to this community for over six decades. We plan on providing the same exceptional level of response and care for a long time to come.

Lucy Pistoia

Lucy Pistoia told the board that she came to remind them that as of March 16, 2011 the Corinth Emergency Squad, Inc. has been in operation 65 years, 55 years without paramedics. She said the last few years it seems everything has been going downhill. She said paramedics are well trained and she respects that. Mrs. Pistoia told the board that as volunteers the member of the squad pay for their own gas and respond from home. She said that countless benefits for cancer patients, etc, families in need of food, Christmas gifts for the kids, raffles prizes and the squad is greatly appreciated. Mrs. Pistoia said when her husband was sick the squad came right away. Mrs. Pistoia told about a time when her husband was a squad member and his crew had three calls one right after the other. She said the squad handled a lot of calls, some of the patients they did not think would make it but they did. She said this is satisfaction. She said when they come up to squad members and say thank you this is gratification.

Mrs. Pistoia told the board that as of March 13, 2011 she will have 48 years with the squad all volunteer and she is proud.

Bruce Straight

Bruce Straight said he was here not to judge anybody. He said he is a former squad member. He said his father served greatly for both the Town and the squad. Mr. Straight said it is not right that the two sides cannot get together and make some kind of an agreement. He said that these people saved his life 4 years ago. He said their quick response saved his life and tried to save his father's life. Mr. Straight said he did not know why the two sides could not sit down and iron these things out sparing the community the agony or suffering is way beyond his scope. He said he is sure that the legality could work themselves out. Mr. Straight said he understands that it will cost the Town anywhere from \$500,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 to start up another squad. He asked why when there already is an active squad. He said he does not understand this.

Mr. Straight said the squad has been very open to him. They opened their books and they opened their hearts. He said he feels that we have a beautiful community

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and we have lost the hospital, we lost an answering service, we lost a police department and now they are trying to squash out the squad. Mr. Straight said we don't have International Paper Company anymore and we don't have the tax base but we certainly have good people. He said he thinks we have a good community that could just sit down and work through this.

Mr. Straight said that the town board needs to either sit down with the squad or tell the public why they refuse to sit down with the squad. He said that the taxpayers elected and trust the Town Board and they have the right to know why.

Ciara Winslow

Ciara Winslow told the Town Board that in March of 2009 her husband was in a terrible car accident and the squad members supported her family. She said Randy Tubbs was there and stayed with her husband. She said they had a benefit for her family. She said Connie Tubbs gave her support. She told the Town Board that the squad helped her moved and gave Easter to her children. She said she knows that there is nothing the squad would not do for anybody. She said the squad was there again in September 2010 when her husband suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Mrs. Winslow told the Town Board that her son, Peter, has had seizures and Randy Tubbs was there in minutes. She said two weeks ago she found her grandmother unconscious and Connie Tubbs was there within five minutes even though she had to wait forty-five minutes for an ambulance to come from Wilton.

Mrs. Winslow said she felt the Corinth Emergency Squad should stay right where they are and that they are a huge asset to our community.

Peter Winslow, III

Peter Winslow, III thanked Randy Tubbs for all he did.

Town Board Comments

Councilmen Saunders, Brown and Major

Nothing

Councilman Byrnes

Councilman Byrnes said he appreciated everyone that came to the meeting. He said he wanted to make sure that the public knows that the Town Board does not take lightly what the volunteers do for this community. He said he knows there is a lot of time committed to volunteering, a lot of time being dedicated to it, a lot of

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family time being missed, and a lot of hearts going into to this. He said that this is a tough situation for everybody. Councilman Byrnes said nobody wanted to put anyone at risk in this community. He said whatever happened between the Town and the squad it needed to be look at again. Councilman Byrnes said that there were a lot of inaccurate statements made here tonight. He said that he feels there are a number of questions on both sides.

Councilman Byrnes said at this point he feels we need ALS coverage and he understand we now do have. He said he does not think the door is closed to the Corinth Emergency Squad and if someone thinks it is closed we need to open it up and sit down to discuss this matter. Councilman Byrnes said that we needed to get ALS service and that has been done but he felt the Town Board and the squad should sit down and discuss the problems.

Supervisor

Supervisor Lucia said that he doesn't think there is anyone on the Town Board that has said anything against the volunteers. He said he has always admired and respected the volunteerism and the work that the Corinth Emergency Squad has done. Supervisor Lucia said the board thought things were working out, the negotiations were going along with the attorneys and agreements were being drawn up. Supervisor Lucia said that things that happened ten years ago that nobody knew about were not done maliciously or intentionally. He said they have been working on those and the Town Board thought up until January 31st that everything was moving along. He said the Town had a letter from the squad's attorney in Syracuse on the Thursday before all this took place that things were working well, they knew that on the January 31st the Town would no longer be able to pay the squad because the Comptroller's officer said the Town was paying the squad too long without a contract. He said they knew that after the 31st they would continue working on the contract and the squad would continue to support the community the way they had while negotiations were going on. Supervisor Lucia said he told the Town Attorney that this was great but he just needed to have it put in writing.

Supervisor Lucia said that the Town Attorney said that the squad attorney said that they would put it in writing but they wanted to add that the Town would not get rid of the paramedics because the squad needed the paramedics. Supervisor Lucia told the Town Attorney that this was fine since the Town had no desire to get rid of the paramedics. He said he got the letter from the squad's Syracuse attorney stating all that they agreed on. He said then later everything came down.

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Supervisor Lucia said that there have been misconceptions of what happened and what did not happen and who said what. He said as a town they had to step up and do something. Supervisor Lucia said the State gave the Town some options and they needed to get ALS services back in this community as soon as possible. Supervisor Lucia said that this is why the Town has taken the steps it has.

Supervisor Lucia assured everybody that the door is not completely closed but it is going to take more than a 10 minute meeting to work everything out because we are right back to the same issues that started this and the Town Board has been working with the squad since August to resolve these issues such as contracts, etc. He said they have never been answered or negotiated so once all these new things get taken care of we are right back to the same place. Supervisor Lucia said he wanted to make sure the public knew that the Town was not a part of or did not want to get rid of anybody.

Road Stripping

Highway Superintendent Eggleston said he would finish up the forms he had and get them in to the County next week.

RESOLUTION #110
VEHICLE LEASE AGREEMENT

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 Town of Corinth enter into a Lease Agreement with Specialty Sales Corporation for the one year lease of a 1997 Ford Ambulance for the sum of \$1.00, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is authorized to sign all necessary documents for said lease.

Intermunicipal Agreement

Supervisor Lucia said that he has a Draft Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town and the Village of Corinth. He asked Village Attorney Auffredou if he had received the draft from Attorney Hafner. Attorney Auffredou said that he had

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received it this morning, reviewed it and had sent his comments back to the Town Attorney.

Attorney Auffredou said that the Town has the Intermunicipal Agreement regarding the use of the old DPW building. He said that the Town Attorney had reviewed it and gave his comments and Attorney Auffredou has made that change. Attorney Auffredou said that he felt the Town and Village was making some significant progress over the last couple of days. Attorney Auffredou said he thought everything might be in order tomorrow. Supervisor Lucia thanked him for his assistance in this matter.

Mayor Bradley Winslow

Mayor Winslow said that he had a couple of telephone calls from members of the public who have had the misconception that the Village has been holding things up for the new squad to be up and running. He said he wanted to point out that the application process that the Village had to go through took some time and the Memorandum of Understanding the state requires before they issue the Village a CON was not delivered to the Village until this morning. He said that the Town and Village are working together on this. Supervisor Lucia said he appreciated the work that the Village has been doing and getting everything ironed out.

Attorney Auffredou said that as far as the Certificate of Need goes he spoke to the Town Attorney and they decided what they need to do there to keep that moving forward, the form is not applicable to the Village and everyone agrees to that. He said that the Village could take the information that the Town has already submitted and modify that for the purposes of the Village, have the Mayor sign that and then have the Supervisor also sign that. He said that he and the Town Attorney have agreed that will work.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Farr said that the board needs to pass the resolution authorizing submission of Smart Growth Application with the Town of Hadley, Town of Lake Luzerne and Village of Corinth. Supervisor Lucia asked Mayor Winslow and Attorney Auffredou if the Village had yet passed their resolution. Neither Mayor Winslow nor Attorney Auffredou remembered. The Town Board tabled the matter until their next meeting.

RESOLUTION #110

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO BILL PAYING

On a motion made by Councilman Byrnes 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 #111

MOTION TO PAY BILLS AS AUDITED WITH NO EXCEPTION

On a motion of Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Major 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:

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Abstracts For 2/24/2011

General Fund/Town Wide – A:

\$36,061.90

General Fund/Outside Village – B:

\$2,585.16

Community Development Grant – CD:

\$0

Highway/Town Wide – DA:

\$0

Highway/Part Town – DB:

\$22,244.63

Capital Project/Landfill Upgrades – H1:

\$2,836.00

Fire Protection – SF:

\$0

Street Lighting – SL:

\$0

Sewer/Water – SW:

\$0

Trust & Agency – TA:

\$68,944.81

Scenic Train –

\$0

Town of Corinth Railroad –

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RESOLUTION #112

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Lucia, Brown, Major, and Byrnes
Nays 0

RESOLVED that at 5:10 PM the Town Board adjourn to Executive Session on a particular person with no decisions being made.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC
Town Clerk