

May 4, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Corinth held a workshop on May 4, 2017 at 4:30PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Richard B. Lucia-Supervisor
Charles Brown-Councilman
Jeffrey Collura-Councilman
Edward Byrnes-Councilman
Joshua Halliday-Councilman
Shawn Eggleston-Highway Superintendent
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk
Caroline McFarlane. Deputy Town Clerk

Absent: Albert Brooks-Code Enforcement Officer

Public Kate Halliday-Bookkeeper
Ken Watkins
Tim Halliday
Matt Fogarty-Paramedic Coordinator

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

RESOLUTION #161

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 27, 2017

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

ADOPTED 5 AYES Lucia, Brown, Byrnes, Halliday and Collura
0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the meeting minutes for April 27, 2017 be approved.

Matt Fogarty

Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty presented the Town Board with the run reports for April 2017. Mr. Fogarty stated that runs were up from last month.

Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty advised the Town Board that the new ambulance is scheduled to be delivered on Friday May 12th at 10:00am. Mr. Fogarty stated that he planned

to phase out the loaner ambulance starting this Monday in order to prepare for its departure on Friday.

Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty stated that scheduling has been good, the last 2 weeks have been full and the hiring of 3 additional EMT's has helped to close that gap.

Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty presented the Town Board with a quarterly run report for Greenfield, as per their contract.

Councilman Collura asked Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty how the new ambulance would be run, in the past the ambulances were evened out on usage based on its performance. Mr. Fogarty stated he would like to run the new ambulance to get out any kinks it may have while it is still under warranty as well as give 2151 a break since it is an ideal winter rig with the onset chains. Councilman Collura suggested that less miles be put on the new four wheel drive and save it for the winter use.

Councilman Collura thanked Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty for all his hard work with the EMS and for the reports he has presented the Town Board. Mr. Collura asked if reports could break down the income that is taken in for each outside district they serve (Greenfield/Day). Bookkeeper Kate Halliday stated she would look into this.

Councilman Halliday asked Paramedic Matt Fogarty about the non-emergency transports that the Town of Corinth would be assisting. Mr. Fogarty explained that he has spoken to Glens Falls Hospital and that with our current CON, we are only covered to transport our own residents and that the hospital would contact them when our assistance is needed.

Councilman Collura asked Paramedic Coordinator Matt Fogarty if he had made a decision on the second fly car. Mr. Fogarty stated that he was no longer in need of this vehicle as it has some mechanical issues that need to be address, and there is no space for the vehicle inside during inclement weather. The Town Board had discussed at an earlier meeting the possibility of the fly car being used by the Dog Control, Town Clerk Rose Farr stated that it would have to be looked into since they are different funding accounts.

Ken Watkins

Ken Watkins, President of the Woodland Lake Property Owners Association, spoke to the Town Board regarding the entrance into Woodland Lake. Mr. Watkins stated that there was a sink hole in the pavement that was believed to be near the culvert pipe. Highway Superintendent Shawn Eggleston stated to Mr. Watkins and to the Town Board that he had looked into this matter and priced out the culvert and installation of this. Mr. Eggleston then went out to the property to further investigate and found that it wasn't the culvert pipe but rather a sink hole caused from previous road construction, burying an old concrete bridge and the ground has settled. Mr. Eggleston stated he would be willing to provide fill to fill in the holes for this. Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Eggleston for looking into this matter for them and stated that the association would take care of the matter.

Supervisor Lucia presented the Town Board and Mr. Watkins with the NYS DEC report regarding the Woodland Lake Dam. Mr. Watkins stated he had not received a copy of this report and one was provided to him.

Kronos

Supervisor Lucia asked of the Town Board what their thoughts were on the Kronos presentation that they were given at a prior board meeting. Councilman Halliday stated he was in favor of the program. Councilman Collura stated he was leaning towards the program but would like to see a new contract drawn up with the options of the Town doing some of the work themselves to save cost on the switch. Bookkeeper Kate Halliday stated she would ask for a new contract to be drawn up. Supervisor Lucia stated that this wasn't a budgeted for this year. The Town Board members stated that it would need to be found in the budget. Bookkeeper Halliday suggested selling our present time clocks.

RESOLUTION #162

MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGING TO KRONOS

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

ADOPTED 5 AYES Lucia, Brown, Byrnes, Halliday and Collura
 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town of Corinth change over to Kronos with the amendments to the contract that were discussed (Town to do some work themselves with amount being taken off the contract price).

On File with the Supervisor's Office:

- Common Ground Alliance Meeting
- Tomahawk News
- Maintenance Report (Deuel)

Supervisor Lucia presented the Town Board with the Draft Comprehensive Plan for review. Supervisor Lucia stated that Jim Martin and Town Peterson would be attending the May 18th meeting regarding this.

Supervisor Lucia informed the Town Board that the waste water grants from Laberge were not for the water infrastructure that the Town of Corinth was doing. Supervisor Lucia stated that there are other grants, such as a CDBG grant for the water meters, and that these would be looked into.

May 4, 2017

Deputy Town Clerk read the following proclamation aloud:

PROCLAMATION

Municipal Clerks Week

May 7 – May 13th 2017

Whereas, the Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

Whereas, Town Clerks are the municipal clerks in the 932 towns of New York State, and

Whereas, The Office of the Town Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

Whereas, Town Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality rendering equal service to all, and

Whereas, The Town Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community, and

Whereas, Town Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Town Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, county and professional organizations, and

Whereas, It is most appropriate that I recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Town Clerk,

Now, Therefore, I, Linda M. Gilbert, President of the New York State Town Clerks Association, do recognize the week of May 7 through May 13th 2017 as Municipal Clerks Week and further extend appreciation to all Town Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this 26th Day of April, 2017

Linda M. Gilbert

President of the New York State Town Clerks Association

RESOLUTION #163

MOTION TO ADOPT MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK

A motion was made by Councilman Collura and seconded by Councilman Halliday and the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES Lucia, Brown, Byrnes, Halliday and Collura
 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town of Corinth Proclaim the week of May 7-May 13, 2017 as Municipal Clerks Week.

Councilman Byrnes

None

Councilman Collura

Councilman Collura informed the Town Board that he had attended the Village meeting last night in regard to the cancelation of the police contract. Councilman Collura stated that the Town of Corinth was unfairly treated by the Village Mayor as the Mayor attempted to shift responsibility for the Sheriff Patrol from the Village to the Town. The reality of the situation is that if something isn't done, the contract and coverage expires June 1, 2017. Councilman Collura stated that he thought a joint meeting with the Village, School, and Town should be had to prepare for police departure. Councilman Collura stated that the Mayor suggested that the Town and Village share the cost of the contract since the police service the Town as well. Councilman Byrnes asked Tim Halliday if there had been an increase in the budget in the last few years. Mr. Halliday stated that last year the contract was \$320,000, after they negotiated it down from \$350,000 and this year the contract came in at \$368,000, which Mr. Halliday stated would be well over \$400,000 had they not negotiated prior. Councilman Collura stated that the funds saved from this contract would be to raise the reserve, keep under the tax cap, install docks at the beach and do security updates at the Village Hall, including bulletproof glass, so its employees feel safer.

Town Clerk Rose Farr

Tow Clerk Rose Farr announced the resignation of Deputy Town Clerk Caroline McFarlane effective May 12, 2017.

Councilman Brown

Councilman Brown thanked Caroline McFarlane, stating that she was an asset to the Town of Corinth.

Councilman Halliday

Councilman Halliday read the following statement:

To the residents of Corinth,

I had the opportunity to attend a Village Board meeting on 5/3/17. I was there to speak in favor of retaining the sheriff services for the village. I enjoy the peace of mind this affords me and am certainly willing to pay for the services to continue. Unfortunately, the board was unable to come to a resolution in favor of this outcome.

The mayor allowed both sides to speak their opinions on the matter. He did not fact check, but rather allowed anyone to speak their opinions as factual information. While I felt as though he should have at least challenged some of the alleged facts, I understand he wanted to give each person a voice. There was a overwhelming majority in support of the sheriff services, however once brought to vote, it was ultimately defeated 2- for, 2 – against, 1- no vote=no(the mayor).

The mayor and two of the board members did leave me feeling less than heard and at some points insulted at the glee they had whilst speaking to the public in a derogatory manner. I feel it is important that I address some of these issues as the town was included in part of the reasons for the village not continuing sheriff services.

The current issue is that the village has filed its tax cap, less the sheriff services, and is unable to alter it. This was caused from a rash decision by the mayor. During a budget adoption meeting several items were on the agenda. One of them was about the budget and another was about potentially raising the tax cap. During this meeting several village and town residents voiced their opinions about the decision to drop sheriff services. The mayor, with no reasoning, made the decision to cancel the conversation about raising the tax cap and adopt the current tax rate as proposed in the budget. This was motioned, seconded, and ultimately adopted by 3 of the 4 board members in attendance. Thus cementing the only way to pay for the services was to use general fund monies. We were all told that this was a tough decision and it has weighed heavy on the board for some time, however the decision to remove a proposal to increase the tax cap was done with no second thought.

As we move to the events that transpired last evening, it was similar in opposition to removing services. What had changed were the reasons for doing so. The mayor and two of the trustees offered up several reasons:

- The over \$20 million needed to spend on water infrastructure has a cost and we will see an increase from this project – **This was used as a reason, however when a supporter brought it up it was no longer part of the issue.**
- The town benefits from the service and does not pay for it – **A true statement and is should be addressed; however telling village residents to go to the town hall and speak with the supervisor is a poor attempt at passing blame. This action is one that the mayor or his board should have taken months.**
- Removing police from the area will not impact crime – **I am unsure how this reasoning was applied or what information led them to believe this would be factual**
- The area is safe and a person can run the streets at midnight – **Again, this is one person's opinion, I would say that it would not apply to all**
- There are over 400 law abiding citizens that can help – **Placing additional responsibility on the village, in households with multiple in the workforce. This does not solve crime, however with more times when no one is home it does create more opportunity for crime**

- Don't be afraid to knock on a person's door if you need help, regardless of the time of day – I am unsure why this was conceived as a reason.
- We can't have it all, we must sacrifice to pay for our water – Why can't we have the choice
- If taxes are too high, people won't want to live here – If there is value for taxation, money is not a deterrent.

While these reasons make sense to some, it is my opinion that perhaps the needs and wants of the people are not shared with the majority of the village board.

There was an overwhelming tone of choice in their dialogue. We can either have services or lower taxes. In an unfortunate manner, the board was not thinking of the village residents, rather they looked at their own pockets to make this decision. I am surely not alone when I say that I am willing to pay for services. That is to say, as long as there is value, then I am willing to pay more. To assume we can progress and grow while not retaining the most basic of services is a most egregious error on the part of the mayor and his board. They knowingly took our right as members of a community away by not affording us the opportunity to decide what we would be willing to pay for.

As a member of the Town Board, I want to ensure all of our voters that I will make sure that we do not take away your right to choose. That we will continue to give you a voice on matters that impact your safety, security, financial stability, and above all your right to pursue happiness. We as a united people can have what we want as long as we are willing to understand the costs of those wants. I implore the members of the town and village to challenge your boards when you feel as though we are stepping on your rights or taking away your right to choose. I can only hope that the mayor and his board come to realize their lack of due diligence on this matter has taken away the most basic of rights of a people. That they can undue this damage and bring choice back to the people who chose them.

Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Shawn Eggleston stated that Councilman Halliday's statement to the Town of Corinth residents should be published on social media, stating that paper publications are not as effective.

RESOLUTION #164

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL WITH NO DECISION MADE

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

ADOPTED 5 AYES Lucia, Brown, Byrnes, Halliday and Collura
 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that at 5:34 PM the Town Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline McFarlane
Deputy Town Clerk