

November 16, 2017

The Town of Corinth Town Board, Village Board of Village of Corinth, Corinth Board of Education, Sheriff's Department, Corinth Village Fire department and Jessups Landing EMS held a joint meeting on November 16, 2017 at 6:00PM at the Ronald Straight Municipal Building.

Present: Richard Lucia, Town Supervisor
Charles Brown, Councilman
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Jeffrey Collura, Councilman
Joshua Halliday, Councilman
Robert Hafner, Town Attorney
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk
Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent
Cheri Sullivan, Deputy Town Clerk
Matthew Fogarty, EMS Director

Dennis Morreale, Village Mayor
Melanie Denno, Village Trustee
Timothy Halliday, Village Trustee
Maureen Kelly, Village Trustee
Annaliese Stautner, Village Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
Andrew P. Kelley, Fire Chief

Mark Stratton, Superintendent of Schools
Meredith Jenkins, School Board Member
Cecile Lockhart, School Board Member

Richard Castle, Undersheriff
Glenn Sheehy, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Public: Kate Halliday, Tevye Valencia, Thomas Ketchum, Phyllis Morreale, Mary Nevel, Judy Howenstein, Mary M. Murphy, Timothy Murphy, Gary Randall, C. Eric Butler, Michael McKelligot, Meghan Allen, Ed Allen, Sue Foley, Michelle Mosca, Sherry Mann, Louis Carney, Donna Briner, and Joyce Granger.

After roll call from all three boards and Pledge of Allegiance the following business was transacted:

Supervisor Lucia welcomed everyone to the joint meeting and asked the public to let the boards conduct their business. If the public had any questions to write them down and during the public portion of the meeting they would be allowed to speak.

Special Police Protection

Mayor Morreale gave a brief summary of what had transpired during their budget process. He said that the Village tried many ways to keep the budget under the tax cap but in the end the only way they found was to not renew the Sheriff's contract since the Village was already paying for coverage with their County taxes. Mayor Morreale said he contacted the New York State Police and asked if they could patrol the village since the sheriff would not be there 24/7. He said the village is only 1 square mile and

is a small taxable base and the Village could not afford to renew the contract. Mayor Morreale said that the Village board looked into an extension for a short period of time but was told by the Sheriff that the County would not go along with this.

Mayor Morreale said that it has been five months since the contract was not renewed and he feels that the Sheriff and State Police are doing an excellent job. He also mentioned the fact that there is now a Neighborhood Watch; which he thanked Councilman Byrnes for his assistance in setting this up.

Trustee Denno said that she was not in favor discontinuing the Sheriff's contract and, in fact, she made two motions at Village board meetings. She asked that the contract be renewed and that a study be done with a joint meeting of the Village, Town and Police. Trustee Denno said that she even went to the Town Board and explained how she felt as well as spoke to them about having a joint meeting. She said she was glad that the joint meeting was now being held, so that matters can be discussed.

Trustee Kelly said the Village weighed several versions of the budget before adopting one. She said if the Village went over the tax cap then the citizens would not get the rebate checks they receive currently. She said the first year of the Sheriff's contract the County worked with the Village and they charged \$360,000.00 but the cost has gone up substantially since then. She said concerns that were voiced at the Village meetings were, school, traffic concerns, traffic control for church services, and securing a scene before the EMS could go in. She said that the last concern had been taken care of and now EMS could enter without the scene being secured. She asked if there was a way for the Town to help the Village pay for these services. She also stated that the Town and Village should work together as a community.

Trustee Halliday said at first glance eliminating the Sheriff protection had looked like a good idea, however he feels that there was not sufficient conversation with Village residents prior to making that decision. Trustee Halliday said that now crime is going to increase and we need to look at this situation as a whole community and we need to come together. Trustee Halliday spoke of what Saratoga County was doing on Route 50 and just parking police cars just as a deterrent because people do behave differently when they think there is police presence.

Supervisor Lucia said the Town has been fortunate enough to have a substation for the Saratoga County Sheriff's in the building. Supervisor Lucia said many town residents have spoke to him about the police protection and are not in favor of the Town helping the Village. They want it to stay the way it has always been. Supervisor Lucia said this has been the worse budget in years and the town had to cut \$300,000 out of their budget. Supervisor Lucia said that when the village patrol was here there were boundaries where they went and that they knew the village well because most of them lived in town.

Councilman Halliday agreed with Trustee Halliday and also believes that people behave differently when there is police presence and he fully supports working with the Village on the matter of police protection.

Councilman Collura thanked everyone for coming and then asked Mayor Morreale if the Village was ready to spend \$180,000 to discuss police protection?

Mayor Morreale said the Village is in the Town and the cost should be spread fairly amongst everyone. The fairest way is to have the town do it and put it in the budget for all to pay equally. Mayor Morreale said that the village is only 1 square mile and there is only so much property that can be taxed.

Councilman Collura said that the town residents are assessed higher so they would pay more.

Mr. Morreale said the Village government is there to cover the special needs that the town residents don't have. Mayor Morreale said at their meetings there were many town residents there that were concerned about losing police protection and the kids in the school.

Councilman Collura said there is higher density in the village which is 1 square mile compared to the town, which is 57 square miles. Councilman Collura said the village needs the police protection more than the town.

Councilman Halliday said that it should not be split 50/50. Councilman Halliday said the cost would put the town above the tax cap if split 50/50 and the town does not require the assistance that the village does.

Mayor Morreale said that the Village is in the same boat as the town with the tax cap. Mayor Morreale said the village residents were already subsidizing the town residents outside the village. Mayor Morreale said that the town residents have benefits of services that they aren't paying for. He said town residents come to the village and use our sidewalks for the football games, etc.

Councilman Brynes said he has spoke with many residents in the town and village and he feels the majority of the village want police protection and the majority of the town does not want to pay for police protection. Councilman Brynes said the village has a higher concentration of homes; there are alleyways and many opportunities for criminals that town residents don't deal with. Councilman Brynes said currently the neighborhood watch is working but there is some training involved. Councilman Brynes said the majority of the houses are in the village where police protection is needed. Councilman Brynes said when the sheriff patrol was here they were very visible. There was an impact on the town and village, and without it, it is going to get worse.

Mayor Morreale said the village didn't get rid of the sheriffs' department; they have the same protection as before. The sheriffs' department is still here and now the State Police are doing more patrols because we aren't paying for the extra protection from the county. Councilman Brynes asked Mayor Morreale if he thought the current police protection was sufficient. Mayor Morreale said he felt it was excellent protection.

Undersheriff Richard Castle told Mayor Morreale that his last comment was 100% inaccurate. Undersheriff Castle said that four positions had been eliminated in Corinth when the contract was terminated. There is currently only one car assigned not two. Mayor said that he misspoke because he didn't intend to say that there wasn't a reduction in services. Mayor Morreale said that he feels that the Saratoga County Sheriff coverage and the State Police coverage are doing an excellent job; it is working much the same as in Stillwater.

Councilman Brynes asked if the Village Board noticed, when doing their yearly budget two years prior, if there was an impending problem with the police contract and expenses. Mayor Morreale said yes. Councilman Brynes said his concern here was; if you saw it then why you didn't come to the town with the issue before you eliminated it so that maybe we could have been proactive in helping to keep the contract.

Mayor Morreale said over the years the Village has had a pretty stable cost of the contract with Saratoga County Sheriffs' extra service. Mayor Morreale said it was the county and their budgeting issues and the rate went up \$100,000 in one year and the Village could not afford this. Mayor Morreale said they tried several different variations of the budget in an attempt to keep the extra coverage, but were financially unable to. Mayor Morreale said there are communities all around us that don't have extra protections in their villages.

Trustee Denno said there are five Village Board members and they each have different opinions. Trustee Denno said she felt the Village does need the special protection contract. Trustee Denno said she has been on the board since 2004 and she was on the board when they disbanded the Corinth police Department and this was a hard decision to make. Trustee Denno said disbanding it saved the village residents money then, because it eliminated the cost of legal issues and pensions which saved a great deal of money. Trustee Denno said she feels that the Village does need this protection. Trustee Denno said that there still is police presence but the response time is the issue, the patrol cars could be in Edinburgh or there could be weather issues that delay response time. Trustee Denno said that the board looked at it as a math problem in order to make the budget work and to her it was to keep the people safe. Trustee Denno said this year the board voted to decrease their tax rate and she has never heard of such a thing. Trustee Denno said she knows the village needs police protection and she is not being biased because her son is a Deputy Sheriff, but she does have inside knowledge and knows that police protection is needed.

Councilman Brown said he doesn't understand how Mayor Morreale could say that we have the same police coverage when there is less cars and police staff. Councilman Brown thanked all for attending.

Supervisor Lucia asked School Superintendent Stratton if the school had any comment. Superintendent Stratton stated that he has not seen a change since the Sheriff was eliminated in the Village. He said that he has Deputy Ken Cooper at the school and whenever he needs Deputy Cooper he is there. Superintendent Stratton said he could see both sides of this issue.

School Board Member Meredith Jenkins said that Trustee Halliday said it best; we need to work as a community. She asked how much this would cost. Trustee Denno said that they have figured on property that is assessed for \$120,000.00 the cost would be \$74.00 a year to continue the police protection. School Board Member Jenkins said that she thought people should be informed about this. Trustee Kelly said that senior residents are on a fixed income and cannot afford the increase.

Councilman Collura state that there are shootings in schools all the time, some of which are covered by security but the response time would be less. He said with a \$22,000,000 school budget he would think we could afford to have police presence at each school so that the response time during the day would be less. Trustee Kelly said that Mohonasen School has this and it is the same size as Corinth.

School Board Member Celia Lockhart said she thought police presence was a good thing. She said the question is how to be fair to all taxpayers. She said that she felt the Town and Village should be finding the money together. She said she understands that some citizens are on a fixed income. She said she felt the boards should look into it and see if they can make it happen and if so what it would cost.

Undersheriff Castle told the boards that his department would be available to help with the study. He said that in the first five months of being without a sheriff contract there has been a 37% increase in report of a crime; 77% decrease in traffic arrests; and 3% decrease in criminal arrests in Corinth. He also

said that if the Sheriff's contract was signed today it would be nine months or longer before there could be Sheriff Protection in the Village due to the elimination of the jobs and the fact that new deputies would have to be trained.

Supervisor Lucia thanked all the parties for their input. He said he would like to have a sub-committee formed to look into this matter. He suggested two board members from each board and two or more citizens on the sub-committee. He asked anyone interested to be on the committee to contact him.

Youth Programs

Mayor Morreale said that last year the playground ran into problems of not having bathroom facilities and running water so the Village opted out of the program. He said that somehow the Town arranged to have this taken care of and continued this year with a playground. Supervisor Lucia told Mayor Morreale that this happened with the help of Superintendent Stratton.

Mayor Morreale said that the Village provided a program for field trips this year and it was very well attended and very successful.

Supervisor Lucia told the group that the playground got a late start but was run by two very dedicated ladies. He said that EOC also joined in with the free lunch program. He said that the State also requires medical personnel and one of the ladies has just become a nurse and would like to continue helping next year so that requirement will be met.

Supervisor Lucia told the group that Town of Greenfield has a new Program Director who would like to coordinate with the Town of Corinth.

Fire Contract

Mayor Morreale said that the budget meeting on the Fire Contract are open to everyone and he would like to see a couple of Councilmen attend.

Supervisor Lucia told the Village Board that Fire Chief Kelley comes to the Town Board and informs them of what his budget is. Supervisor Lucia told the Village Board that at the time of the Town's budget meeting it was found that the Town could not afford to put the \$50,000.00 in the Reserve.

Fire Chief Kelley asked why he was not informed when he gave his presentation. Supervisor Lucia told him that the presentation was given in May and the Town did not start working on its budget until October.

Fire Chief Kelley said that someone should have contacted him. He said that the reserve is for the purchase of a tanker that would exclusively be used in the Town. The question was asked what truck is sent first to a fire. Fire Chief Kelley said that during the day, no matter where the fire is, the tanker is first sent to the scene. Councilman Byrnes asked if there was a big fire in the Village would the tanker, that was exclusively to be used in the Town, be sent. Fire Chief Kelley said it would. Chief Kelley asked why nobody on the Town Board reached out to him when they knew they could not put the money in reserve even if it was in October.

Councilman Byrnes told Fire Chief Kelley that the board was trying to stay below the 2% cap. He said the Town even cut some positions.

Fire Chief Kelley said he felt that there was no communications between the two boards. Councilman Byrnes said that the Town Councilmen used to be invited to the fire budget meetings but have not been

in years until now. Councilman Byrnes said that the Town and Village need to treat the community as one. Fire Chief Kelley said that his budget is about what is needed to do the job correctly. Councilman Halliday said that he agreed someone should have reached out to Fire Chief Kelley when they started talking about cutting the \$50,000.00 from the reserve and he apologizes for that.

Councilman Collura told Fire Chief Kelley that it would be nice if the Town was more involved with the Fire Budget.

Trustee Denno said that prior to the current board the two boards had liaisons that kept the communications open between the boards and she thought this should be re-established.

Councilman Collura read the following letter into record and gave each Village and Town board member a copy:

TOWN OF CORINTH



600 Palmer Avenue
Corinth, New York 12822
Phone: 518-654-9232
FAX: 518-654-7751
www.townofcorinthny.com

November 16, 2017

SUPERVISOR

Richard B. Lucia
518-654-9232 ext 3
Email: RLucia@townofcorinthny.com

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Brown
Edward Byrnes
Jeffrey Collura
Joshua Halliday

TOWN COUNSEL

Robert Hafner
518-793-6611

TOWN CLERK

Rose E. Farr
518-654-9232 ext 4

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Shawn Eggleston
518-654-6962

ASSESSOR

Tina Dimitriadis
518-654-9232 ext 5

**BUILDING INSPECTOR /
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Albert Brooks Jr.
518-654-9232 ext 6

TOWN JUSTICES

Ambrose Clothier
Lane Schermerhorn
518-654-9232 ext 2

PLANNING BOARD

C. Eric Butler
518-654-9232 ext 6

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Alicia Floud
518-748-2616

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

William Clark
518-654-9232 ext 6

Honorable Mayor Morreale
and Village Trustees
244 Main Street
Corinth, N Y 12822

Dear Mayor Morreale and Village Trustees:

A joint board meeting earlier in the year enlightened the Corinth Town Board members to the inequities inherent with regard to the financing of the Village of Corinth Fire Department.

The Town of Corinth residents pay nearly two-thirds of the fire budget yet have no vote in the process of established expenditures or with the budget as a whole.

The inequities extend to the rates paid by Town residents as compare to village residents. Village residents pay \$.57 per thousand for fire protection and Town residents pay \$1.34 per thousand.

We believe with the strongest sentiment, that this rate inequity needs to be corrected. We, the Town Board of Corinth, request that these inequitable rates be equalized. The rate per thousand must be the same for all residents of Corinth.

The average rate would be \$.95 per thousand. Town residents would still pay a larger part of the fire budget, yet the equalized rate would be more in alignment with the founding principle all American governing bodies strive to achieve.



-2-

We strongly urge you to consider equalizing the rate in the spirit of continuing our harmonious relationship of governing on behalf of all citizens of Corinth.

Respectfully,

Corinth Town Board



Councilman Collura said that in 2009 the split on the fire Contract went from 50/50 to 67/33. He says the Town has no say in the budget but pays 67%. Trustee Kelley said she understood that 1/3 live in the Village and 2/3 live in the Town so this probably when this was done.

Fire Chief Kelley told the boards that only 25% of the state has an ISO rating of 4 and Corinth is one of them. He says that this is what determines the cost of a person's insurance. He also said that he is trying to get a rating of 3. Supervisor Lucia said he felt that Fire Chief Kelley does an outstanding job.

Vacant Lots in Village

Supervisor Lucia said that he thought something should be done with the vacant lots in the center of the Village. Councilman Collura said he knows there are legal methods to take care of these. Trustee Halliday told the boards that he has been working on this issue for some time. He said he spoke to Jim Martin regarding this matter. Supervisor Lucia suggested that the Village and Town work together to see if they can find a solution. Trustee Denno told the boards that the property is owned by four different owners and they don't want to work together. She says that one option is Eminent Domain. Supervisor Lucia said that this is another issue for the Town and village to work together on.

Main Street School

Mayor Morreale said he is concerned about losing the school on Main Street. He said Jim Martin recommended that the Empire State Development Cooperation Grant be put on hold. This would give the school time to make a decision. He suggests that the request be withdrawn this year and resubmit after we have a plan in place. Supervisor Lucia said a plan has to be in place when a grant is applied for. He also said it would have to be a mixed use plan to get the grant.

200th Birthday Celebration

Supervisor Lucia said that he was contacted by Denise Fay who said her Government Class will conduct a Town Board meeting from 200 years ago, 100 years ago and present. Superintendent Stratton told Supervisor Lucia that he will get some volunteers for the celebration.

Supervisor Lucia told the boards that Cate Mandigo has done two paintings for the Celebration and will be a Saratoga National on December 2nd to sell them and sign them. Also he said the originals will be raffled out.

Supervisor Lucia said that they will have shares of stock that are signed by Senator Tedisco, as well as t-shirts for sale. He said that next meeting is Monday, 7PM, at the EMS.

School Board

School Board Member Lockhart spoke about the Main Street School. She said that there was a study done May 8th. She said the liability insurance is higher due to the building being vacant. She said the inside needs a lot of work. She told the group that the matter will be on the school board agenda for next month or the month after. She said things that were discussed is bathroom access during school events and access for emergency vehicles. She said that a design was prepared and the school could be able to lease the school. Superintendent Stratton said that they were open to any and all suggestions. Councilman Byrnes asked if the school board looked into repairing the roof.

School Board Member Lockhart said that had an estimate of \$8500.00 and she said it recommends repairing the roof but repairs have not been scheduled yet. Councilman Byrnes said that he had had an opportunity to tour the Main Street School several months ago and he said that the roof was in need of repair then.

Trustee Kelley asked if the school board had approached a private donor for the money to repair the roof. Superintendent Stratton said that they had entertained asking a private donor but nothing affirmative has been proposed.

A discussion was had regarding the start date for the committees. Trustee Denno said she would like all meetings to be public. Supervisor Lucia said he needed names first.

Public

Thomas Ketchum

Thomas Ketchum said that he was the head of the Neighborhood Watch and he thanked the boards for having the joint public meeting.

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy addressed Village Comprehensive Plan stating that there is no plan if the citizen's safety is not taken care of. He said safety and security of the residents is most important. He said Corinth does not have a good reputation. Mr. Murphy said he was aggravated with both boards talking about budget issues. He said that is part of the job; do it or don't run for re-election.

Michelle Mosca

Michelle said that she has been on previous committees involved with the Main Street School and she is currently on the most recent. Mrs. Mosca said there are issues with the building, however the biggest is the roof that has been leaking for years and she has been asking for years for this issue to be resolved. She implores the school to rectify the roof issue. Mrs. Mosca said this building is one of the best examples of Architecture the town has left. Mrs. Mosca said a cost benefit analysis along with a financial and community benefit cost analysis need to be done. Mrs. Mosca said the cost of repair for the roof was approximately \$8,000.00. Mrs. Mosca said the cost to destroy the building is approximately \$400,000.00 and there is nothing but cost to taxpayers; where if it is repurposed and leased then it is a benefit to the taxpayers and the community and will have a positive effect on the community. Mrs. Mosca said that it is important to maintain a vision for the future and that everyone's opinions have value. Mrs. Mosca said the people of the community need to come together so that accurate and true information can be shared because the building is not condemned as rumored. Mrs. Mosca asked the public that if you are interested to please come to the school board meeting and advocate on behalf of this historical building. Mrs. Mosca does not want this 100 year old building to be demolished by a few school board members who have insufficiently researched the possibilities of this historical building. Mrs. Mosca said that at the last meeting the school board said that if there are people who want to save this building they are not present and are not telling the board. Mrs. Mosca implored that if you are interested in saving this historical building; for people to please come to a school board meeting or simply write letters to the board to let them know it is important to our community.

Louise Carney

Louise Carney thanked the Town for sponsoring the meeting. She spoke about working together as a single community. She spoke about there not being communication of what the Town and Village Boards are doing. She said that it is the board's obligation to be progressive and stop being stagnant. She is not in favor of the Town paying for Village police protection. She said that when the Village had a

contract for Sheriff's protection the only time the Sheriff went into the Town was if it was life threatening incident. She said she does not feel this is an excuse that the Town should start paying for the Village's police protection.

Mrs. Carney said she saw that the village budget was a decrease in taxes but they remove two of the most important things, the Police Protection and the Youth.

Mrs. Carney said that she was involved with the youth for over thirty years and she was never more disappointed with the Village Board.

Mrs. Carney said that she would like to see a 5 year or 10 year cooperative plan for both the Town and the Village.

A discussion was had regarding the next meeting. Trustee Denno said that the committee could be set up and meet before the next joint meeting. The next joint meeting was set for Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 PM.

Supervisor Lucia reminded everyone of the small dedication of the IP Building on Saturday at 11:00 AM. He told the group that the building has been placed on the National Historical Registry.

Supervisor Lucia said that there are four committees to be formed as follows:

- Police Protection
- Fire Contract
- Main Street School
- Youth Committee

Trustee Halliday thanked the Undersheriff and Chief Deputy for coming to the meeting.

Joint meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

RESOLUTION #287

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Lucia, Byrnes, Brown, Halliday, and Collura
	Nays	0	
	Absent	0	

RESOLVED that following transfers be made:

C. 1

RESOLUTIONS TO INCREASE APPROPRIATION NOVEMBER 16, 2017

A FUND AS FOLLOWS:

1. Increase A1320.4.1 GTM from \$10,308.00 to \$12,000.00
2. Increase A14302.1 Kronos from \$21,133.00 to \$23,000.00
3. Increase A14304.1 Kronos from \$1,500.00 to \$1,600.00
4. Increase A8160.1 Refuse from \$72,382.00 to \$94,000.00
5. Decrease A1990.4 Contingency from \$57,000.00 to \$30,823.00

B FUND AS FOLLOWS:

Increase 8010.4 Zoning from \$14,000.00 to \$16,000.00 from FUND BALANCE

DB FUND AS FOLLOWS:

1. Increase DB9785.6 Installment Purchase from \$0.00 to \$19,500.00 from FUND BALANCE
2. Increase 5770 Installment Bond from \$0.00 to \$90,000.00
3. Increase 5130.2 Equipment from \$115,000.00 to \$205,000.00

EF FUND AS FOLLOWS:

1. Increase 4560.4 Multimed from \$32,000.00 to \$37,000.00 from FUND BALANCE
2. Increase 9010.8 State Retirement from \$0.00 to \$92,630.00 from FUND BALANCE
3. Increase 9030.8 Social Security from \$0.00 to \$20,000.00 from FUND BALANCE

RESOLUTION #288

MOTION TO CHANGE BILL PAY MEETING

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Lucia, Byrnes, Brown, Halliday, and Collura
 Nays 0
 Absent 0

RESOLVED that bill pay meeting be changed from November 23rd to November 30th.

RESOLUTION #289

MOTION TO SET OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE TOWN'S MEDICAL INSURANCE

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Lucia, Byrnes, Brown, Halliday, and Collura
 Nays 0
 Absent 0

RESOLVED that Open Enrollment for the Town of Corinth's Medical Insurance be set for November 20th, 21st, and 23rd, as well as November 27th through November 30th, 2017.

RESOLUTION #290

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

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

RESOLVED with there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC
Town Clerk