

February 15, 2018

The Town of Corinth Town Board held an informational meeting on February 15, 2018 at 6:00PM at the Emergency Squad.

Present: Richard Lucia, Town Supervisor
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Jeffrey Collura, Councilman
Joshua Halliday, Councilman
Eric Butler, Councilman
Robert Hafner, Town Counsel
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk
Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent
Cheri Sullivan, Deputy Town Clerk

Public-

Brian McKernon, Robin Ziegler, Rose Butler, Ellen Barrass, Christyn Hamel, Ruth Lee, Cindy Allen, Fred & Sigrid Koch, Marcia Marcotte, Joy LaBrake, Crystal & Fred Clothier, Tom Miller, Nicole Colson, Allen C. Rhodes Jr., Joe Spaulding, Dave & Linda Barrass, Jeanette & Keith Powell, Beatrice Sontag, Julie Clark, Louis Lueck, Stephen Sink, Amy Lynch , Loralee VanHorne

After roll call the following business was conducted:

Supervisor Lucia thanked all those that came out to the meeting and introduced Don Rhodes from LaBerge who gave the following overview of the Water District #5 water project.

-Water District #5 was created to reconcile the issue between the Town and Village water use so that they are within the laws of NYS.

Allen Rhodes Jr. wanted to know how the Village could have the water tank located in the town. Don Rhodes explained because the village owns that property and the main that comes down from it. The Village can no longer serve and maintain the mains that are outside of the Village.

Mr. Rhodes said if the overuse trend continues, the Village will have to invest in a new water tank and that will increase costs. The alternative option was to install meters, which will encourage savings. Mr. Rhodes explained that currently one pays the same cost for water whether they use 1 gallon or a 100gallons. Mr. Miller said so it is wastefulness that is causing the overuse. Mr. Rhodes said that was correct.

The LGE grant- A \$400,000.00 grant to be split evenly between the Village and Town. Don Rhodes said with the Village in charge of the operations the Town could avoid the cost of creating a water department. A function and consolidation report was done and showed what the differences in cost would be. There were two options offered up to the Town; to install meters only where there weren't any master meters and to install meters throughout all water districts. Master meters go on the water mains and service meters go on the homes. Mr. Rhodes said that there were two locations that could not be serviced with master meters and would require service meters. Mr. Rhodes said the Town Board would not be able to give the town users a consistently accurate bill because the usage off the mains

would be all over. Simply because you would not know who is conserving and who is abusing the water. The Village expects the operation of the Towns side of the water to be a revenue neutral situation. Currently everybody who has village water can call and have it shut off and they don't pay for it anymore, that is going to change; there is going to be a minimum fixed cost of usage, a minimum value charge.

Mr. Rhodes explained how meters work and showed an example of what meter looks like to residents. The system is set up with double check valves and this will not allow the water to go back and it has a blow off valve right into the hot water tank.

The following questions were asked by the public present:

Beatrice Sontag:

Mrs. Sontag asked if they have to have the meters on the house. Mr. Rhodes said if you live in the Village you don't have a choice.

Mrs. Sontag asked if the meters were on the inside or outside. Mr. Rhodes explained they are going to be radio read meters and will be attached to the line in the home. Mr. Rhodes explained the cost difference and that meters on the outside cost about \$3,000.00 and meters on the inside cost \$700.00. Mr. Rhodes said that normally meters on Mobile homes are outside the house because there is limited space. Mr. Rhodes spoke about metered pits.

Mrs. Sontag wanted to know if in her district the Little League Field would be on her meter because she doesn't want to pay for the water the Little League Field uses. Mr. Rhodes explained that if the town went with the master meters here it would include the little league field but if service meters were to be installed then the reading would come from the individual homes and you would only be paying for what you use. Mr. Rhodes said this is exactly why meters are so important.

Mrs. Sontag wanted to know who was going to pay for the individual meters on the house. Mr. Rhodes said it was what he was explained earlier in that the cost was projected to be around \$504,000.00 to install the water meters in the town and that the LGE Grant would reduce that cost by \$200,000.00 and then the rest will be bonded for about 20 years.

Mrs. Sontag asked how long is the installation process was? Mr. Rhodes said it typically takes 15-20 minutes for a standard installation where they are able to cut in and leave. Mr. Rhodes said if there was an issue with an installation then there is a report done and it comes back to them where it is assessed and then they move forward with the best option available.

Fred Clothier:

Mr. Clothier asked if there was going to be a minimum charge even if water is off. Mr. Clothier said if he puts a well in is he still going to have to pay. Mr. Rhodes said yes but you won't have a usage charge. However because there is a main on your street there is a benefit it is the same as having a paved road in front of your home.

Mr. Clothier said back in the 70's the Village had a lot of problems with water pressure and wanted to know if these issues were still existent. Mr. Rhodes said if you currently have a PRV (pressure reduction valve) then you should leave it. Mr. Rhodes said with the Village water system the higher you are the

lower your pressure is, which the areas closest to the tank. These areas will probably need pressured metered pumps.

Christyn Hamel:

Asked if the minimum charge was fixed or would it increase and decrease and if it would change between individual districts?

Mr. Rhodes said that would not change between districts because they are all looked at as a whole. Mr. Rhodes said the Village is deciding now what the future water rates will be and they are going to go up. The water bills have been going up because of the investments the Village has been forced to make. Mr. Rhodes explained the first three years the rates will be all over until it is figured out what the usage is going to be and then there will be stabilization. Mr. Rhodes said the Village is hoping to have all meter installations complete by June of 2018 and if the Town decides to go with meters then they should be completed by September of 2018.

Are the meter readings going to be quarterly? Town Clerk Farr said the billing schedule would stay the same as it currently is.

Ms. Hamel wanted to know if the samples referred to in the Village questions still had to be done. Mr. Rhodes said no the Village had already done them within the Village so they won't need to be done in the Town.

Fred Koch:

Mr. Koch wanted to know how this was going to affect the school and if those taxes will increase. Mr. Rhodes said the schools are currently being billed, one in the Town and one in the Village so he does not presume that it will affect the school tax bills. The billing for the schools is more complicated as they have service charges for individual fixtures.

Mr. Koch looked to the Town Board and wanted to know if it was going to be optional or not for meters? Town Attorney Hafner said that if the Town decides to go with service meters it will not be a choice you will have to have them.

Mr. Koch wanted to know if there schematics available so that residents were aware of where the lines were? Mr. Rhodes said that they were.

Tom Miller:

Mr. Miller directly asked the Town Board for answers to the following questions; he asked for clarification and stated that what he just heard was that the minimum value charge will still pay for water? Mr. Rhodes said yes.

Mr. Miller said that he is going to put in a well and he shouldn't have to pay for water if he is putting in a well.

He said the guy over there (referring to Mr. Lueck) is stuck with property and that is something that he had no control over and he should be grandfathered. Mr. Miller said he feels the Town should consider these issues when setting up their laws and regulations pertaining to water. Attorney Hafner said the Towns Intermunicipal agreement with the Village states that the Town is going to have the same code as the Village.

Louis Lueck:

Mr. Lueck asked if there was going to be a fire hydrant added at the end of the line by his house. Mr. Rhodes said there aren't currently any proposals for a fire hydrant. Mr. Rhodes said he is not aware of a problem where the lines can't be flushed; it is not on anyone's radar. Mr. Lueck said there is no way for the lines to be flushed currently. Mr. Lueck wanted to know at what point he takes ownership of the water line.

Mr. Rhodes said the Village owns the curb stop and the meter itself. Mr. Rhodes said at the end of Third Street the Village has put in 3 ¾ inch shut off valves on the main at Third Street and that is where the Village stops, so from those valves to the home is the responsibility of the Home owners. Mr. Rhodes said there are some pretty long lines in this area. Mr. Lueck asked if there was some sort of access to these lines without digging up the road because he lives on Wall Street and that is an awful long line if its' coming from Third Street.

Councilman Collura asked if they were under the road. Mr. Rhodes said there were not. Mr. Rhodes said they run right along the edge of the road. Mr. Rhodes said that although the village only found the three valves they believe there is another home in that area that is being serviced from the main. Mr. Rhodes said it was not the right way to do a system. Collura said that creates a hardship for the homeowner to have to dig under the road. Mr. Lueck said the reason he is asking this is because whatever is in the lines, it all settles at his house because it is not being flushed, they do not drink the water at his house. Mr. Rhodes said sometimes the laterals have to be changed; this is your plumbing between the house and the water supply. Mr. Lueck said so he will have to dig this line up and replace it himself. Mr. Rhodes said yes being careful not to catch or dig up someone else's line. Mr. Lueck said that since he doesn't have a main in front of his house, if he puts a well in, then will he still be charged? Mr. Rhodes said there is an option for permanent abandonment that is intended for this type of issue. Councilman Collura asked if Mr. Lueck should come to the Town or Village with this issue. Mr. Rhodes said he should come to the Town.

Councilman Collura asked if anyone knows what the minimum fee per year would be. Mr. Rhodes said that will be established in June, the Village is working on that , the challenge is how to set the rate, they know what their costs are to operate the system so they need to figure out what a meaningful usage charge to promote conservation would be and still be able to cover the costs of system operation.

Allen C. Rhodes Jr.:

Mr. Rhodes wanted to know if there was going to be a reduction in cost if there was a reduction in service. Mr. Rhodes said no that is the way that the code is written and home owners will be responsible for adding any necessary equipment.

Supervisor Lucia thanked Don Rhodes and everyone for coming and let them know that everyone was welcome to call, mail, email the town with any questions that they might have. Supervisor Lucia said the girls sent out 290 letters informing the water residents of this meeting and before us is all that showed so he would like to thank all for coming and voicing their concerns and opinions.

Councilman Butler said he just wanted to let people know that it is not the meters fault their water is going up and to not blame the meters because even without meters the water bills will be going up simply because of all the infrastructure and for people to remember that. Mr. Miller said that in the Village they are using the meters to charge for sewer. He said he has lived somewhere else where they used the water to charge for sewer. Supervisor Lucia said what they are talking about is district the Town has had four water districts for a long time. Supervisor Lucia said that there are only 24 homes in

Water District 5 that have village sewer. Mr. Rhodes said that those people will be paying for their sewer through the water meters. These meters are called deduct meters and there really is no benefit for these unless you have sewer. This will be a cost bore by the home owner as per Village code. The board briefly discussed some questions with Don Rhodes and the Town Attorney and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN #114 .

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

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

RESOLVED with there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Sullivan
Deputy Town Clerk