

February 01 2018

The Town of Corinth Town Board held a meeting on February 01, 2018 at 4:30PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Richard Lucia, Town Supervisor
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Jeffrey Collura, Councilman
Joshua Halliday, Councilman
Eric Butler, Councilman
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk
Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent
Cheri Sullivan, Deputy Town Clerk
Albert Brooks, Code Enforcement-excused

Public: Kate Halliday, Steve Torrico, Tim Halliday, Matt Fogarty, Tina Demetrius

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

Supervisor Lucia had a moment of silence for the victims of the car accident yesterday.

RESOLUTION #100

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 18, 2018 @ 4:30 AND FOR JANUARY 18TH @6:00PM

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

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

RESOLVED that meeting minutes from January 18th for both the 4:30 and 6:00 pm meetings be approved.

Councilman Collura said he just wanted to clarify a comment made from the January 18th 6:00pm meeting. Councilman Collura said he was looking for clarification and stated the Village wanted a total of \$150,000.00 total for their reserve fund. Supervisor Lucia said yes \$100,000.00 from the Village and \$50,000.00 from the Town. Councilman Collura said and by what the Village said; the Town paid \$64,000.00 of the \$100,000.00 that the Village put in, and the Town paid the \$50,000.00. So if out of the \$150,000.00 the town was paying \$114,000.00 and the Village would pay \$36,000.00, ultimately after one does the math. Supervisor Lucia said that was the way it was read to the board. Councilman Collura said he just wanted to clarify this so that it is all understood by all. Councilman Collura said next time they should just ask for the \$114,000.00 straight up instead. Councilman Byrnes said it would be more transparent that way.

Supervisor Lucia spoke about the following:

Railroad-

Supervisor Lucia introduced Steve Torrico to speak on behalf of the railroad. Mr. Torrico said currently

the railroad is down to just north of Thurman due to ice. It is scheduled to resume services on Saturday but just up to Thurman as they have shortened the run. Mr. Torrico said by shortening the run and lowering prices it has greatly improved the number of riders. He said by lowering the price it is now less than \$50.00 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children to ride. He said the snow train is scheduled to run through March.

Mr. Torrico said the Stony Creek Ranch folks created a great atmosphere for the Christmas train stop with the lights, the lodge and fire places. Mr. Torrico said this atmosphere could not be created in Saratoga stations and there were no limitations on the number of trips allowed. He said this was a win win situation. Mr. Torrico said next year they should advertise earlier, give better directions to Stony Creek ranch and also pointed out there were no parking issues at the Stony Creek Ranch as there were in Saratoga. Mr. Torrico said this was the first time in 8 years that a private business has been involved with the train and they are currently discussing options such as dinner trains.

Supervisor Lucia said they had more people this year who attended the Christmas train ride and the Christmas town theme was greatly appreciated. Mr. Torrico said he was confident about the locations but he was certain that power was needed at the train depot in Corinth. Supervisor Lucia said the Town still has the grant money and they still have someone to do the job and he anticipates that it will start in spring. Mr. Torrico said maybe building permanent sets at the Depot would be a good idea. There was other discussion by the board about trains with music. Mr. Torrico said it was a great idea but often difficult to implement because of spacing issues on trains. Supervisor Lucia said the Town is working on developing hiking trails that lead to and from the Depot.

Discussion of EMS payroll-

Bookkeeper Halliday said this was the third payroll since switching to Kronos. Bookkeeper Halliday said this past week Mr. Fogarty started sending emails. She thought she had it all resolved but she does not. Mrs. Halliday said Mr. Fogarty and Kronos are not in agreement pertaining to payroll, nor is Attorney Peterson who has put a hold on all EMS pay until he can review. Supervisor Lucia said he has a copy of the county rules in their folders and explained that the Attorney said anything the Town does not have in their rules, the rules automatically default back to the County rules.

Councilman Collura asked for clarification. Bookkeeper Halliday said even though she has had this talk before; it is that if you are a 40 hour employee and you take a vacation, you put in for 40 hours, well when there is a holiday in there they are expecting to get paid time and a half for that holiday and that is one of the issues. Mrs. Halliday said the EMS is also doing the same with sick time. Mrs. Halliday said with the Highway department, they put in for 32 hours vacation time 8 hours Holiday and it comes to 40hours and according to the County that is their procedure too.

Mr. Fogarty said it has been done this way all along and he doesn't understand why that until this last payroll it has never been an issue. Bookkeeper Halliday said Mr. Fogarty was aware of this in December when he sat with Supervisor Lucia and herself and it was discussed. Mr. Fogarty said the problem with the EMS is that they work 24/7 365 days a year. The problem is if you look at the resolution minutes and the employee handbook and they are not the same. Mr. Fogarty said essentially a decision needs to be made on how to handle paramedic employees. Mr. Fogarty explained that they can't do 32 hour weeks because they work 12 and 24 hour shifts. He said he is currently scheduling employees for 36 hour shifts of which they have to make up the remaining 4 hours either at the beginning or end of one of their

shifts. Mr. Fogarty said the issue is the schedule. Councilman Halliday said he was okay if when they work a 40 hour week getting paid for the Holiday if they worked the holiday.

Councilman Collura said for instance if an employee works Monday and Tue and Christmas falls on Thursday then the employee is expecting to receive pay for 48 hours. Mr. Fogarty said they are not expecting that is what they have been receiving for at least the last four years. Mr. Fogarty said this took him by surprise also, but they said that is what they have been getting.

Councilman Butler said if you work 32 out of 40 straight, plus a holiday that is straight time but it is time and a half if you work it. Councilman Butler said that holiday pay is already being given whether it is calculated at the beginning or the end of the week. Mr. Fogarty said the resolutions state that an employee must work the day before and after in order to receive holiday pay. Councilman Brynes said as long as the employee works their regularly scheduled days it is not an issue. Councilman Butler said the Towns employee handbook states that holidays are counted as time worked.

There was further discussion about scheduling, deductions, time punches and other smaller issues with the payroll. It was stated that there are only three full time employees in the EMS. Councilman Halliday said he felt that a general statement should go out across the board to all employees to check and see if all their data is correct and this will give the Town something to fall back on so if at the end of the year an employee comes back and states that there is an issue that the board can say it sent out a letter requesting that employees review their pay stubs.

It was explained that we are in a time of transition between payroll companies and the issues are being addressed. It may take some time, but if people are due monies that the town will make sure that they will get the money owed to them. Bookkeeper Halliday said that Kronos has offered to retrain Mr. Fogarty. It was recommended to Mr. Fogarty that if an employee has issues in the future with payroll that they come to the bookkeeper directly.

Presentation by Town Assessor-

Assessor Dimitriadis spoke about the following with the board.

1. That on March 01, 2018 all exemptions are due in her office. She said there are many seniors who have not yet been in to submit the paperwork. She said that Beverly is making calls but maybe more can be done because there are many who have not yet come in.
2. NYS is trying to pass legislation to make all State lands in section 3 wholly exempt. The Assessors communities are reaching out to all Supervisors, Mayors, Town Boards and Village Boards and urging them to go to the County legislatures. Councilman Brynes said they should get more information on this from the Association of Towns. Assessor Dimitriadis said this is such an issue because everyone knows the tax rolls are going down.
3. NYS is also proposing that instead of having exemptions for seniors that they should not have to pay at all. Councilman Collura said he knows many seniors over the age of 65 that are making more money now than ever made working and they do not mind paying their taxes. It sounds like the state is pushing until it is only essential services left at the town. It was stated it certainly looks like things are pending to be moved to the county, all part of consolidation.

4. How the assessors are preaching that they have nothing to do with taxation. The Assessors do the assessment, evaluations and exemptions. Mrs. Dimitriadis said they intend on making it so that people will be able to come in and grieve their tax bills to a grievance board. So instead of people coming in and saying that their house is not worth \$100,000.00, they will come in and grieve the amount of tax they are being charged.
5. In regards to property sales she just wants to state that Tops was sold to CVS for 1.2 million dollars and she wants alert the board to the shape of that building compared to other newer buildings in the community.

Letter to Curtis Palmer-

Supervisor Lucia said Town Clerk Farr has sent out the Letter to Curtis Palmer Hydro Electric for the balance due to the Town of \$148,862.49 per the agreement.

Town Clerk Farr explained under the terms of the stipulation agreement of 2013 there were additional taxes owed. Mrs. Farr explained there is only one more year of this stipulation that the Town, County, School and Village all agreed upon. Councilman Collura wanted to know what was going to happen in 2020 and if they would still pay taxes. Town Clerk Farr said they would pay tax but not as much as they are now, again losing more revenue. It was questioned if the Town has received taxes from Indeck. Deputy Clerk Sullivan said she believed they had. Town Clerk Farr said they would double check and get back to the board.

-Supervisor Lucia asked the board if they wanted to still have the meeting at 4:30 on the 15th or if they are just going to have the 6:00 pm meeting at the squad.

RESOLUTION #101

MOTION TO CANCEL THE 4:30 MEETING ON THE 15TH AND ONLY HAVE THE 6:00 PM MEETING AT THE EMERGENCY SQUAD

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

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

RESOLVED that meeting at 4:30 be cancelled for the 15th of February and only have the 6:00 pm meeting at the Emergency squad.

Town Clerk Farr said the letters have gone out to all the water district people.

Planning Board Alternate-

Supervisor Lucia said he has received a letter from Dave Barrass expressing interest as a Planning Board alternate. He said in his opinion he is a great candidate and the board agreed. However there is still another week of accepting letters of interest.

Lyme timber letter-On file

County EMS Minutes- On File
Veterans Float Days-

National Grid lighting survey- Supervisor Lucia said Dean Seelow came to see him in regards to a program that National Grid has about changing our lighting to LED. Supervisor Lucia said there is such a savings. National Grid comes in, does the survey, gives you an estimate, and then gives you a grant towards the cost of material. Supervisor Lucia said Mr. Seelow has done this project for other businesses in town. Supervisor Lucia said he has scheduled for them to come next week and give us an estimate.

Custodian Worksheet-On file

2018 Updates- Supervisor Lucia said things are picking up in some areas of the celebrations. Supervisor Lucia said Dr. Stratton and the school are going overboard in what they are planning to do for the Bi-Centennial and read the following letter into record from the school.
CCSD Joins the Corinth Bicentennial Committee Planning

Corinth is 200 years old in 2018 and our town is celebrating. CCSD is proud to participate and contribute to the planning and events.
Our elementary school is planning to make the annual Flag Day Celebration a special 2018 version, honoring our town's bicentennial. Principal Steimle and community member/CCSD retiree, Mrs. Pam DeJoseph, and their committee promise to make it a day to remember.
Our middle school student council will be making special favors for the Bicentennial Founders Dinner on March 24th. Our National Junior Honor Society students have pledged service to the Community Spaghetti Dinner that is in the planning stage for April 20th! Grade 8 is exploring how to make curricular connections/contributions to the 1960s dance planned this summer.
In our high school, Mrs. Denise Fay's law students will be conducting a reenactment of town hall meetings throughout Corinth history on Friday, April 20th, honoring the founding of Corinth. Student representative on the Bicentennial Committee, Hannah Millis, is collaborating with Choral director, Mrs. Barbro Aldridge, to perform patriotic selections to commemorate the event. In addition, the Bicentennial Committee will crown a King and Queen of Corinth at the March 24th Founders Dinner based on essays written about Corinth history. The CHS band, under the direction of Band Director, Mrs. Carol Cutler, has committed to play in the Bicentennial Parade in August and is exploring contributing to other special events this year!
Finally, our own Kendra Shieber has designed the official logo for the Corinth Bicentennial Celebrations to be unveiled soon!
We thank Corinth Supervisor Dick Lucia and the Bicentennial Planning Committee for their leadership! The next meeting is on February 12th at 7 PM at EMS building. New members and ideas are welcome!!

Supervisor Lucia said people have been purchasing shares. Town Clerk Farr asked if Councilman Collura could put an order in for shirts because people are coming in and asking to purchase them.

Planning/Zoning Conference-

Supervisor Lucia said he went to the conference and they honored Sigrid Koch and Philipp Giordano and one other person for their time served on the board. Supervisor Lucia said many good things were being discussed. Supervisor Lucia said at the meeting on the 22nd he would like to invite the members of the Zoning and Planning Boards as it is part of their annual obligation.

Town Board:

Councilman Byrnes-

Councilman Byrnes said he wanted to take a moment and squash the rumor that is going around town that the Town can't account for \$35,000.00 of the \$50,000.00. He said he would like to make it clear that the money has not been misappropriated nor was it stolen; it is simply a matter of budget that the money is just not there. Supervisor Lucia said he heard of another one that said the money was missing from the audit that had taken place at the town.

Councilman Collura- Councilman Collura said he was not at the last meeting and wanted an update of where they were on the comprehensive plan. Supervisor Lucia said to look in the minutes from last week. Supervisor Lucia said inviting Jim Martin back to the meeting on the 22nd may be a good idea as we will have the members of the planning and zoning board present.

Councilman Halliday- No Comment

Councilman Butler- No Comment

Highway Superintendent-

Highway Superintendent Eggleston requested that if the board decides to make corrections pertaining to payroll that they leave his alone. Supervisor Lucia said that Shawn has no problems with his payroll and the only problems with payroll are with the EMS.

Town Clerk-

Town Clerk Farr said she did not feel that it was right for anybody to yell at another employee in the Town Hall and she felt that issue needs to be addressed because it is getting out of hand at the Town hall. Supervisor Lucia said this topic needs to be addressed in executive session.

Bookkeeper Halliday thanked the board for their support this evening.

RESOLUTION #102

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

A motion was made by Councilman Halliday and seconded by Councilman Collura 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 6:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Sullivan
Deputy Town Clerk