

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

The Town of Corinth held a meeting on November 21, 2019 at 4:30PM at the Town Hall.

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

Public: John Major, James Mastrianni, Jon Kelley and James Murray

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

RESOLUTION #291
APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 7TH AND TO TABLE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Lucia, Byrnes, Collura, and Butler
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Halliday

RESOLVED that the minutes from November 7th be approved and the minutes from November 14th, 2019 be tabled.

Public Hearing- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

A motion was made by Councilman Byrnes and seconded by Councilman Collura to open the public hearing at 4:35PM. Deputy Clerk Sullivan read the following legal ad into record:

Town of Corinth Public Hearing

PHA Plan for 2020

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

November 21, 2019

The board of the Town of Corinth will hold a public hearing on November 21, 2019 /@ at 4:35pm at 600 Palmer Avenue, Corinth, NY for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the proposed PHA Plan for 2020 for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Copies of the PHA Plan and all supporting documentation are available for review by the public at the following locations:

Town of Corinth

600 Palmer Avenue

Corinth, NY 12822

or

Joseph E. Mastrianni, Inc.

11 Federal Street

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

PUB: SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

James Mastrianni gave the board a quick update on what the program is and how it operates.

There being no comments against the program a motion was made by Councilman Byrnes and seconded by Councilman Butler to close the public hearing at 4:40PM.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Co-Coordinator John Major gave the board an update on what he has been doing this last year as far as Emergency Management. He recognized Charles Brown for all the work he had done prior to Mr. Major taking over the program for the Town of Corinth.

Jon Kelley

Jon Kelly appeared before the board and gave each board member a 62 page Asset Purchase Agreement from United Rail, Inc. for the Railroad. He told the board that the Town Attorney had already received an electronic copy. He spoke to the board about the Asset Purchase Agreement and the board members asked several questions.

After the presentation Supervisor Lucia told Mr. Kelley that the board members would look over the agreement and contact Mr. Kelley directly, Supervisor Lucia told Mr. Kelley that he would contact him and let him know when the matter would be placed on the agenda.

Steve Smead

Supervisor Lucia said that Steve Smead had submitted a price list for computer updates as follows:

RESOLUTION #293

MOTION TO PAY BILLS AS AUDITED WITH EXCEPTIONS

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

ADOPTED Ayes: 4 Lucia, Byrnes, Collura and Butler
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Halliday

RESOLVED that the bills be approved as audited with exceptions.

2019 ABSTRACT

Abstracts For 11/21/19

Voucher A - #190612-1906631 (#190611 Void); B - #192462 - #192469; DB #193401-#193407; CM #197267 - #197275; and SW Consolidated - #199926

<u>General Fund A</u>	\$ 17,948.13
<u>General Fund/Outside Village - B</u>	\$ 999.17
<u>Community Development Grant - CDBG</u>	\$
<u>Highway/Part Town - DB</u>	\$ 5,207.54
<u>Medical – CM</u>	\$ 5,117.31
<u>Home Improvement</u>	\$
<u>Fire - SF</u>	\$
<u>SW Consolidated Water</u>	\$ 84.00
<u>Sewer/Water</u>	
Eastern Avenue	\$
Tranquility	\$
Passarelli	\$
Dorset	\$
Corinth #5	\$
<u>Lighting</u>	
Eastern Avenue	\$
Eggleston Street	\$
South Corinth	\$

Public

James Murray said that after listening to Jon Kelley he was of the opinion that the Town should convert the railroad into snowmobile, biking, hiking and cross country skiing trails which would add to the economically development of the Town.

Town Board

Councilman Collura

Councilman Collura said he thought the Town Board should give the Village a counteroffer. Deputy Clerk Sullivan read the following letter from the Village into record:

Village of Corinth

*Julius Enekes
Timothy Halliday
Maureen G. Kelly
Charles Pasquarell
Trustees*

244 Main Street, Corinth, New York 12822
Phone (518) 654-2012 FAX (518) 654-6202
www.villageofcorinthny.com

*Dennis Morreale
Mayor*

*Nicole M. Colson
Clerk / Treasurer
Annaliese Stautner
Deputy Clerk / Treasurer*

November 21, 2019

Supervisor Dick Lucia & Town Board
600 Palmer Avenue
Corinth, NY 12822

Dear Supervisor Lucia and Councilmen,

As the Town Board is undoubtedly aware, the current fire protection contract with the Village Fire Department expires on December 31, 2019. Although provided with a new contract in March 2019, the Town has not executed said contract nor provided any fruitful or constructive language in an attempt at negotiations. The last correspondence from the Town, outside of numerous FOIL requests, is dated April 25, 2019. In your letter you say "this is a very complicated subject with many different points of view and opinions and for the sake of our residents we should take our time and gather more factual information and come to the fairest conclusion for everyone."

From reading that letter, it appears there is still confusion on the part of the Town Board regarding the costs of the Village's Fire Department in providing fire protection to the Town and its residents.

Over the last several years, the Village Board has made a serious attempt to inform the Town Board of the true costs of providing fire and rescue protection to the Town. One of our main concerns has been and continues to be that the town residents who reside within the Village shoulder the bulk of the burden of fire protection while the residents outside the village reap the benefits. This is not a fair burden. Rather, it should be divided proportionately among the village and town.

It cannot be disputed that over the years the Village residents have shouldered the burden of the Fire Department without the full and proportionate involvement of the Town. In fact, as recently as the 2019 contract, the Village Board voluntarily reduced the Town's obligation to fully pay for fire protection by \$50,000 due to the Town's stated serious town budget problems.

Although well beyond its obligation in a contract situation, in order to foster a sense of community between the Town and Village, the Village Board has worked tirelessly over the past several years to provide data and information demonstrating that it costs significantly more to provide fire service outside the Village. In addition, the Village Board has reached out time and again, requesting that the Town memorialize in writing its concerns with the language of the proposed contract prior to finalizing the Village budget, but to no end. The Village Board has been open about all aspects of developing our budget at our meetings and Councilmembers have always been encouraged to attend the public meetings, budget workshops and public hearing to express any concerns. Other than Councilman Butler, not a single Councilmember or the Supervisor attended.

The Town has not provided any constructive feedback on the contract or the fire protection amount contained in the draft budget, and so the Village has been forced to pass its budget with the hope that the Town will abide by the contract and amount stated therein. This places an undue burden on the Village Board and the Village residents, who may be forced to shoulder the entire burden of providing fire protection to the Town, and the Town enjoys the benefit free and clear. This is unacceptable. The Village Board made clear to you, the easily accessible facts and figures that showed the town was under paying their fair share of providing fire protection for years. This past year the Village Clerk/Treasurer worked tirelessly with the Town's independent auditor for several days going over the various records and books relating to the Fire Department. As you are aware, the Town's auditor found that the Village's books and records were in order and that the Fire Department's budget was proper.

For ease of reference, here is a gentle reminder of the facts which demonstrate the significantly higher cost of providing fire protection to the town outside village: The town outside the village is 50 times larger than the village.

- The town outside the village has 1000 more dwellings than the village
- The town outside the village has 1450 more people, than the village, living in it.
- The town outside the village needs many more pieces of equipment that are not necessary for the village.
- The average ratio of costs for surrounding similar Fire Departments is Towns 75% Villages 25%
- Most of the town outside the village is not covered by a water hydrant system.

In closing, the Village Board and the Fire Department continue to work diligently to provide the best fire protection to village and town residents at the most efficient cost. We will continue to do so, and will continue, as we have done in the past, to offer members of the town board to the opportunity to come visit the fire department, to listen to the chief explain the operations and what is necessary to cover town residents outside the village. Although none of the Town Board members has accepted this offer, nor have any of the Town Board fire department liaisons attended a fire department meeting, the invitation remains open.

The Village Board has provided the Town with a contract. The Town has yet to respond, in writing, stating its concerns and offering different language or proportions. The Village Board understands the importance of fire protection for Town residents. You as a Board know the difficulty in amending a budget after it has been passed, and especially after it has been in use for eight months. We understand that the Town is now working on its 2020 budget, and we presume this will include fire protection. The Town has had the amount for fire protection since March, and as such that amount should automatically be plugged into the budget. As such, and in order to make certain there is no gap in fire protection coverage coming January 1, 2020, the Village looks forward to receiving a fully-executed contract within the next week. In the event there is no contract in place by December 31, 2019, the Village will not be obligated to provide fire protection to the Town, and the Town will have to contract with a different entity.

Sincerely,



Dennis Morreale
Mayor

Supervisor Lucia told the board that it wasn't December 31st yet and they needed to wait until they have the opinion of their consultant before anything is done.

Councilman Collura said that the letter was incorrect because he and Councilman Halliday had met with the Village and the FOILs were a result of that meeting.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Brooks spoke on the following:

- Route 9N property cleaned up
- One property in court
- Tickets issued to Main Street property Councilman Halliday was asking about
- Office very busy

Councilman Byrnes

Councilman Byrnes said that he will stop in Clerk's office Monday to discuss the November 14th minutes.

Deputy Clerk Sullivan

Deputy Clerk Sullivan discussed the following:

- Need to amend Resolution #285 of November 14th

RESOLUTION # 294

MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION #285 OF NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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

ADOPTED Ayes: 4 Lucia, Byrnes, Collura and Butler
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Halliday

RESOLVED to amend Resolution #285 of November 14, 2019 to correct the rate of pay from \$12.92 to \$12.41.

Deputy Clerk Sullivan (continued)

- Said she wanted to make sure the minimum value charge for our residents was \$124.80. All board members agreed.
- Told the board that the Town Clerk's office will be closed the following dates and times:

1. December 3rd – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in order for the clerk and her deputy to attend BAS tax training and Town Clerks Christmas Luncheon
2. December 9th – 7:30 AM to 2:00PM in order for the clerk and her deputy to attend Regional Training in Saratoga

Councilman Butler

Councilman Butler said he wanted to thank Dick and Beverly Jacon for all the hard work that went into the Veterans Ceremony.

Highway Superintendent

Nothing

Supervisor Lucia reminded Highway Superintendent that they have a meeting Tuesday morning on Morgans Way.

Supervisor Lucia also asked Highway Superintendent if everything was a go for Petruzzo. He said Mr. Petruzzo told him that everything was set with the Highway Superintendent. Highway Superintendent Eggleston told the board that if Mr. Petruzzo does surface drains everything is ok with him.

RESOLUTION #295

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL WITH NO DECISION

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

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Lucia, Byrnes, Collura and Butler
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Halliday

RESOLVED to adjourn to executive session for contract information with no decision at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC
Town Clerk

