

Town of Corning  
Special Meeting  
April 12, 2018  
7:00 PM

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to open the meeting regarding the status of the Gibson Fire Protection District. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Roll call of members present:

Councilwoman Jen Mullen	Councilman Stuart Sammis	Commissioner Pam Miller
Councilman Dave Shafer	Councilman Mike Brenning	Attorney T. Hannigan
Supervisor Kim Feehan	Commissioner Oscar Dixon	

Various residents and members of the Gibson Fire Department.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Attorney Terry Hannigan began by reviewing what was discussed at the prior meeting and the documents required. Mr. Giardina submitted an entire folder of training certificates. The certificates were out dated, as were the proof of physicals. Commissioner Dixon reminded him that the physicals were not completed due to an error made by the scheduler. Those have since been re-scheduled. The outdated training certificates are not valid and can't be counted, as none of the fire fighters ever completed the "bridge" course that would allow them to be maintained and built on. This was not due to an error of the present Fire Chief. The prior Chief should have notified each member and made the requirements available to them. He did not. He told them that their training would be grandfathered in. At the present time, there are no members able to answer a call since all of their training will have to be re-done and brought up to specification. Mr. Hannigan informed the Commissioners that it is up to them to follow up with the chief to make sure the trainings are completed and that physicals are done yearly to assure the safety of the fire fighters as well as the residents. He is concerned that even if Gibson Fire turns out for only mutual aid that it is still a liability to the town as well as the department.

Commissioner Dixon explained that since only two of the four Commissioners were present no final decisions could be made tonight. He admitted that he had no idea the training was lacking. He was told years ago that as a Commissioner he was to keep his hands off and that the Chief was to take care of keeping everyone up to date with the requirements. He was told that the Commissioners were required to make sure the equipment was up to date and safe, and to maintain the budget.

Tim Marshall, from the Office of Emergency Services, was present to further explain the requirements for each fire fighter. He explained that each of the fire fighters listed on the Gibson roster will have to begin with Fire Fighter I before responding to any situation. This class will be offered periodically at the Fire Academy in Montour. New OSHA training standards were new about 4 years ago and must be adhered to as well. He explained that there are other departments within the County in the same situation. He has not seen any of them recover from this, but he will help in any way he can.

Attorney Hannigan explained that Mr. Giardina must not be allowed to sign off on any training documents as he is not a qualified trainer. He understands that it will take some time to bring everyone up to the required standards, but it must be done to avoid any injuries or losses of any kind. Since the Town Board honored the contract, contingent on all requirements being met, it must be dealt with. They had hoped everything would be current, but it appears that's not the case. Therefore, he recommends the Department return the portion of the contract monies since they cannot honor the commitment to their residents.

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to revoke the contract with the Gibson Fire Protection District due to failure to perform their duties. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Shafer made the motion to request the District pay back \$41,215.58 within 15 days. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to place a temporary motion of 60 days for East Corning, North Corning, and South Corning Departments for the all call MOU covering the Gibson Fire Protection District. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The motion authorizing Supervisor Feehan to send a letter to 9-1-1 and all three departments stating the change in coverage for the Gibson Fire Protection District was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion authorizing Supervisor Feehan to send a letter to the residents of the Gibson Fire Protection District informing them of the change in their fire protection. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor, motion carried. This information will also be posted on the Town web site.

In the case a call should come to Chief Miller, he will relay to dispatch to send other departments to an area they are no longer covering.

Councilman Sammis made the motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

These minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan A. Edwards  
Town Clerk