

Town of Corning
Regular Board Meeting
June 19, 2018
7:00 PM

Supervisor Feehan called the meeting to order.

Roll call of members present:

Present

Absent

Councilman Stuart Sammis

Councilman Mike Brenning

Councilman Dave Shafer

Supervisor Kim Feehan

Councilwoman Jen Mullen

Representatives from Empire Access, Jody Allen from LaBella Group, Water Superintendent Ken Fields.

Also present were Board members from Caton, from the Village of South Corning, and various other members of the community.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Empire Public Hearing

Councilwoman Mullen made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 7:03. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor, carried. The gentlemen from Empire were welcomed by Supervisor Feehan and they began by explaining that the programming from Empire was very similar to that of Spectrum. Residents will still receive local channels and there are bundling packages available. The prices are similar to that of Spectrum, however, the internet speeds are faster and wont lag due to sharing, because it is all fiber. They are in the area and will take some time to get the entire Town laid out. After that, the municipality must enter into a franchise agreement, and then the Public Service Commission must approve it. Residents will be required to sign a contract. The Triple Play (tv, phone & internet) will require an 18month contract, while the contract for just internet & tv will be a 12-month contract. The cost for the first six months of the triple play contract will be \$65.00 and after the 6 months the cost will go up to \$130.00. Each tv will require a box of its own at a cost of \$5.00, which is included in the quoted price above. They stated that unlike Spectrum, they have raised the rates only once in the past 7 years. On demand programs will be available soon. Service will be local, from the Prattsburg area and usually at no cost to the homeowner unless they have done something to the fiber. Empire will not carry YES TV or MSG TV as those cost \$10-\$12 each per month. Those wanting buried service will have to wait unless there is an existing conduit. Battery back-up will be available to those who wish for an additional charge.

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:30. Councilman Shafer seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

Empire Resolution

Councilman Sammis made the motion to approve the Resolution for the Franchise Agreement to provide Television Cable Service for the Town of Corning. All actions by this resolution authorize the Supervisor to execute the documents as signatory. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town/Village Water Discussion

At the request of Councilwoman Mullen the following agenda item was added. The motion to approve the discussion between the Village of South Corning Board members and the Town of Corning Board regarding water issues was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Shafer. All were in favor to discuss. Mr. Thomas from the Village explained that they are still in transition and have recently updated their information that goes to the state which has changed the amount of their median income for residents. This will make them eligible for grants for infrastructure upgrades. They would like to have a dialog with the City of Corning as well as the Town of Corning to find a solution as their district is not sustainable and they have already increased their rates. Supervisor Feehan stated that she is not opposed to a discussion with both the City and the Village, but has offered before and was turned down by the Village. The updating of the tank and infrastructure will come at a cost, and she would then have to pass the increase on to the Pinewood residents that have already had substantial rate increases in the recent past. Jody Allen, from LaBella, has agreed to do a feasibility study for the Town to hook up to the City of Corning Water. She will include looking at the Village options as well.

LaBella Water Study

Councilman Sammis made the motion to discuss using Jody Allen, at LaBella Engineers, to do a feasibility study for the Town of Corning to aid the Pinewood Water District supply. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor, motion carried. She will investigate connecting to the City of Corning's water supply to improve the quality of water and to keep costs from continually increasing. Jody will get information from Water Superintendent Fields and get back to the Board when she has had time to compile the data and form a plan. Councilman Shafer made a motion to set up a workshop with the Village of South Corning to discuss water issues. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

LaBella Contract

The motion approving the contract for Jody Allen and LaBella to do a feasibility study was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Shafer. All in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Sammis asked if including options for the Village would increase the amount of the contract. Ms. Allen assured him it would not.

Town Clerk's Report

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen, the May Town Clerk's report was approved. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minute Approval

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the May 15th minutes. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Abstract Approval

The motion to approve Abstract #6 was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor’s Report

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the May 2018 Supervisor’s Report, with Councilman Shafer seconding. All were in favor, motion carried.

Budget Transfers

The motion to approve the following budget transfers was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilwoman Mullen. All in favor. Motion carried.

FUND	FROM	TO	AMOUNT
B	B9030.8	B8020.45	\$701.00
DB	DB9730.6	DB5130.4	\$4,134.00
DB	DB2680	DB5130.4	\$1248.00
A	A2680	A5132.2	\$8,413.00
DB	DB5031	DB9730.6	\$4,134.00
A	A1990.4	A1420.4	\$5,000.00

May Highway Report

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen, the highway Report for May was approved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shafer. All in favor. The motion was carried.

Re-Visit Tabled Motion for Boiler

Councilwoman Mullen made a motion to discuss the Highway Garage boiler issue. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor to discuss. Motion carried. The boiler agenda item from prior months meeting was tabled as only one quote for replacement was received. Since then a second quote has been submitted. A quote was received from Ambient in the amount of \$6,800.00, leaving the quote from CAC the lower bid at \$6,216.00.

Boiler Approval

The motion approving the CAC bid for the highway boiler was made by Councilwoman Mullen. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Card Swipe Gate for Highway

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen, the Board discussed the installation of a card swipe gate system for the highway brush dump site. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shafer. All were in favor and the motion carried. Since the dump site has been abused by contractors and non-town residents, the volume of brush and debris has become a burden. The fee for the debris to be shredded and taken away has increased astronomically. Therefore, to control the area a card swipe system seems to be the only answer. There are many details that must be ironed out before this can be approved, so Councilman Shafer made a motion to table this item until more information can be gathered. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. Again, all in favor. Motion carried.

Policy for Card Swipe System

Councilman Shafer made the motion to discuss the policy details for the gate system at the highway garage. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Water Superintendent Fields suggested before a policy is approved for the gate system, Highway Superintendent DeWert should have input as to the hours of operation and voice any other concerns he may have. Councilman Sammis made a motion to table this item until a workshop could be scheduled to decide what parameters to put in place. Councilman Shafer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilwoman Mullen made a motion to set up a workshop for the 10th day of July at 6:30 PM and to place it on the web-site. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Inter-municipal Agreement for Assessor services

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis, with all in favor, it was carried that Assessor Gabriel will cover in Catlin every other Wednesday from 12:30-4:30 for assessor services. She will begin on July 2nd, 2018. The Town of Catlin will reimburse a portion of her health insurance to the Town of Corning and will pay FICA as well.

Building Permits

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the May Building Permits Report. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Assessor's Summer Hours

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve summer hours for Assessor Katherine Gabriel from June 19th thru September 30th. Councilman Sammis seconded, all in favor. Motion carried. She will be available in the office half of a day Wednesday Tuesday & Thursday 7am till 4:30 pm the first and third week of the month for a total of 5 days per month. Councilman Shafer would like it added to the website that the Town is now at 100% equalization rate.

Old School Purchase

Mr. Gonta has informed the Supervisor that he is interested in selling the building next to the Town Hall. Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to discuss the purchase, Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor. The assessed value of the building with property is \$51,000.00. The value of just the property is \$21,000.00. Councilman Sammis suggested the code enforcer and water superintendent look the building over and decide if it should be razed or if it can be refurbished. Supervisor Feehan will talk with Mr. Gonta and ask for a month to decide but will certainly understand if he needs to list it with a realtor before.

Budget Modifications

The motion to approve budget amendments was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Shafer. All in favor, motion carried. \$50,000.00 from appropriated fund A to A1990.4 contingency for legal and engineering fees. At present time there is a \$5,000.00 deficit for legal fees, and anticipated engineering fees of \$10,000.00. Monies that are not needed will go back into appropriated fund balance. Councilman Shafer made a motion to move \$25,000.00 to the contingency fund instead.

Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor, motion carried. He recommends moving additional amount if the purchase of the neighboring building goes through.

Mower Donation

The motion to discuss a donation to the Hope Cemetery Association was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All were in favor to discuss. Motion carried. The mower owned by the cemetery has been out of service a lot of late and is unreliable. The association asked if the Town would consider a donation toward the purchase of a new one.

Approve Donation

Councilman Shafer made the motion to approve a donation of \$3,000.00 to the hope Cemetery Association to purchase a new zero turn mower for the cemetery. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor. The motion was carried.

Kniffin Survey

The discussion regarding the Town of Corning paying for a new survey for the Kniffin property on Hornby Road was approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Kniffin believes the survey pin was moved during the water project that was initiated by him on Hornby Road. Since the project was done almost 8 years ago the Board wonders why it took so long for them to come forward. The Supervisor will check with the Assessor to see if there is a prior survey on file. Water Superintendent Fields will take a metal detector to check to see where the pin is.

Building & Grounds Report

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the Building and Grounds Report. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

USGS Monitor

The U S. Department of Interior would like to install a monitoring system at the Pinewood Well to record the level of the well once every hour. The monitoring system will be housed in the shelter and will be run on a battery. An official will visit the location about every 12 weeks to retrieve the data. This installation will all depend on state and federal funding. Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the installation, with Councilman Sammis seconding. All were in favor. Carried.

S-10 Replacement

The motion authorizing Ken Fields to obtain quotes for a small truck for B & G, Water, and Cemetery use was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Shafer. All in favor, motion carried. This will be built into the BAN next year.

Re-Levy Fee

Councilman Sammis made the motion to approve adding a \$25.00 charge to all water bills that are relieved onto the taxes in November. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Redner Resignation

The motion to accept Marianna Redner's resignation from the Planning Board was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Shafer. Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve sending flowers, not to exceed \$35.00, to Ms. Redner. Councilman Shafer seconded. Her resignation will be effective July 1st 2018. All in favor, motions carried.

Castellana for Planning Board

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve Steven Castellana as a member of the Planning Board. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor, motion carried. This will fill the position until 12/31/2021.

Seeking Planning Board Members

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen, a notice will be put out seeking interested residents to become Planning Board members. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. This will fill the Huff position, that his resignation left vacant, until 12/31. 2022.

Prentice Ethics Complaint

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the report from the Ethics Board regarding the Prentice complaint. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Bly/Lott Barrier Discussion

The motion to discuss the buffer barrier between the Lott residence and the Bly property was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Shafer. All in favor to discuss. The motion was then carried. Supervisor Feehan reminded the Board that Mr. Bly was told many months ago that he was to plant trees as soon as possible. He and the Lott's agreed on 7 hybrid willow trees be planted between the two properties. At this time, Mr. Bly has still not complied. Mr Bly now would like to plant 17 arborvitae. Councilman Shafer recommended the Lott's go back to the Planning Board for them to review, and he also believes that they should stick with the willow trees that they agreed on first. Councilman Shafer then made a motion to order Mr. Bly to plant the willow trees he agreed to prior unless a unanimous decision is reached between the Planning Board, Lotts, and Mr. Bly. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Supervisor Feehan suggested to the Lott's they ask the Zoning Board for clarification. The Town has already spent \$8,000.00 on legal fees dealing with this issue.

Record Retention

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve discussion on the status of the record retention issue. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. If the Board wishes to have a records retention clerk on staff a position duty statement must be filed with the county. Also, it must be determined if the position would be a full time or part time position. If it will be a full-time position, it will be testable. Therefore, a resolution must be accepted to request a test. Councilman Shafer made a motion to send a duty statement to the county. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Visitor's Comments

Mrs. Senkiw, a resident from River Road, wished to express her opinion on the ability of the Planning Board. She is unhappy and feels they have disregarded many on the facts presented to them concerning the Bly issue. She wishes to have a copy of e-mails and photos be added to the minutes as public record. Her submission will be found at the end of these minutes. John Savash, Town bookkeeper, explained that the IRS will soon rule on charitable trusts and how it can affect tax payments. Carol Ferratella informed the Board that the county has added two deputies to the Sheriff's Office. She also asked that residents take some time to fill out surveys from the DOH. They can be located on the County web-site. Councilman Shafer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 PM. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

These minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Edwards

Town Clerk

