

Town of Corning  
Regular Board Meeting  
July 17, 2018  
7:00 PM

Supervisor Feehan called the meeting to order.

Roll call of members present:

Councilman Dave Shafer  
Councilman Stuart Sammis  
Councilwoman Mullen  
Councilman Mike Brenning  
Supervisor Kim Feehan

Others Present:

Highway Superintendent Dylan DeWert  
Code Enforcer Chuck Coons  
Various other members of the community

Planning Chair Wayne Bennett  
County Legislator Carol Ferratella

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**June Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk's report for June was approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

**Abstract Approval**

Councilman Shafer made the motion to approve the Abstract for July. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor. The motion was carried.

**Minute Approval**

The motion to approve the corrected minutes from the June meeting was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Brenning. All in favor, motion carried. Councilwoman Mullen will add them to the website.

**Supervisor's Report for June**

On a motion made by Councilman Brenning, the Supervisor's June Report was approved. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

**Budget Transfer**

Councilman Sammis made the motion to approve a budget transfer from A 1990.4 to A 8989.4 in the amount of \$3,000.00. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor of the motion. Carried. Councilman Shafer asked if the transfer was for the mower for Hope Cemetery. Supervisor Feehan reassured him that it was for the donation to purchase the mower.

**Building & Grounds Report**

The Building & Grounds report was approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

**June Highway Report**

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the June Highway report. Councilman Brenning seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

**Building Permit Report**

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen, the Building Permits report was approved. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Empire Quote Approval**

Councilman Sammis made the motion to approve, with discussion, the quote for cable services from Empire Access. Councilman Shafer seconded, also with discussion. Empire quoted broadband, VOIP and cable services for the town hall for 36 months for \$619.00 per month. The service will begin as soon as cable can be added for the highway garage, as much of the fiber is already in place. Councilwoman Mullen asked if Spectrum had submitted a competitive quote. Supervisor Feehan explained the Town Hall has been using Finger Lakes Technologies for cable services. All in favor, motion carried.

**Citizens Committee for Zoning**

The motion to discuss those interested in serving on a committee to re-vamp the Zoning Ordinance was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Shafer. All were in favor to discuss. Motion carried. Councilman Brenning suggested 1 member from each board (Planning & Zoning) along with the Code Officer, interview each individual before making a decision. Councilwoman Mullen will post on the website and facebook for those who may be interested. Code Enforcer Coons explained that many of the laws will need to be edited to include items that need to be enforced. As they are written now, there are few enforceable issues. He will check other municipalities laws to "borrow" from.

**Planning/Zoning Board**

Councilman Sammis made the motion to discuss the need for additional members for the Planning and Zoning Boards. Councilman Brenning seconded. All were in favor to discuss. Motion carried. If the Board should increase to a seven-member board, there is a need for two members. Councilman Brenning again suggested that members of each board vet those who are interested. Councilman Brenning made the

motion to allow the Planning and Zoning Boards to each decide who is the best fit for their board. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor. Carried.

### **Brush Access Discussion**

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen the board agreed to discuss the options for the brush area located in the highway yard. Councilman Sammis seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. Councilman Sammis asked Highway Superintendent DeWert what the major concerns are with the brush drop off area. His biggest concern is keeping contractors and non-residents from dumping their brush there. Councilman Shafer did some research and found that nearly half of the towns he checked had no brush dump sites. Others that had brush drop off sites and used decals for identification, and some just had signs designating drop off information. Councilwoman Mullen said she checked with a neighboring town and they suggested merging services with the county or villages to cut costs for each. She is concerned that ending the brush drop off would force residents to burn their clippings and could potentially cause fires. Councilman Sammis stated there are only three choices, end it, restrict it, or let it continue as is. Superintendent DeWert explained that the cost for grinding has increased each year and he has only designated \$1500.00 in the budget for grinding. Whatever the amount over that must come from wherever the Board decides. Ultimately the decision lies with the Town Board as to how to proceed. Councilman Shafer asked Councilwoman Mullen to put the information on the web site for residents to voice their opinions on the matter. Councilwoman Mullen made a motion for a policy to be drafted by Councilman Shafer and to add to the web-site. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Item #16 on the agenda was tabled until the next Board Meeting.

### **Web-Site Access**

Councilman Sammis made the motion to discuss giving administrative permissions to department heads to add to the Town calendar. Councilman Shafer seconded. All in favor to discuss. Councilwoman Mullen feels strongly that it may lead to mistakes. Councilman Sammis agrees that it may also lead to security issues. Councilman Brenning asked at the last meeting if the department heads needed to have access and all agreed it was fine the way it was., except for Water Superintendent Fields that may need to add advisories and water reports to the site. Councilwoman Mullen is the only one who currently has permission to add to the web-site.

### **STC Strategic Grant**

The motion approving the support of the Town for the STC grant application was made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Brenning. All in favor, motion carried. There will be no cost to the town.

### **Paws and Purrs**

On a motion made by Councilman Brenning, Paws & Purrs were approved as back-up for DCO Jerry Aldrich. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All were in favor, motion carried. There will be no additional cost, except for mileage.

**Water Policy**

Water Superintendent Fields has had a few residents who feel their water bills are higher than normal and wish to have their meters checked. Mr. Fields believes that in some cases, water usage has increased due to watering flowers and filling pools. There has been one meter found to be faulty which needed to be replaced. Replacing meters is time consuming and costly to the Town. He would like a policy in place for handling future issues when they arise. The Water department needs to know how to handle a resident with an increased water usage issue. Some residents are chronic complainers who question an increase of a dollar on their bill. Councilman Brenning made a motion to establish a policy stating that if a resident has a 25% increase in billing over a 12-month average, a one-time meter check at no charge if the meter is found to be defective. After that, however, the resident will incur a \$150.00 charge for the meter to be checked. Councilwoman Mullen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Visitor's Comments**

Supervisor Feehan acknowledged the Scout in the audience who was in attendance working on two badges. Carol Ferratella informed the Board about the work the Drug Task Force has accomplished recently within the County. Many arrests have been made, with legislation being organized to prosecute those who sell drugs when a death occurs.

**Adjourn**

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to adjourn at 8:13 PM. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

These minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Edwards  
Town Clerk

