

Town of Corning Special Meeting
November 3, 2020 7:00 PM
20 S. Maple Street Corning NY 14830

Supervisor Feehan called the meeting to order.'

Roll call of members present:

Supervisor Kim Feehan
Councilman Stuart Sammis
Councilwoman Jen Mullen
Councilman Mike Brenning
Councilman Mike Morrongiello

Others present:

Highway Superintendent Dylan DeWert, Bookkeeper John Savash

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Supervisor Feehan began by discussing the water contract with the Village of South Corning. Although the board is happy to see a 1-year contract there seems to be no basis for the dollar amount. Councilman Morrongiello made the motion to approve the contract, Councilman Sammis seconded. Those in favor: Reluctantly, Councilmen Sammis, Brenning and Morrongiello, Supervisor Feehan. Opposed: Councilwoman Mullen (very unhappy with this contract). Motion carried.

Supervisor Feehan opened the floor for discussion with department heads. Town Clerk Edwards spoke regarding the budget amounts left over in the contractual fund. She asked for a security door for her office. The temporary plastic wrap that is currently hanging as mandated by NYS because of Covid-19, needs to be replaced with something more permanent and secure, and a door would certainly do that. A motion was made not to exceed \$5,000.00 for a more secure solution for the Town Clerk's Office by Councilman Brenning and seconded by Councilwoman Mullen. All in favor, motion carried.

She also compared the revenue received in her office during the time the Town was closed due to Covid-19 to the same time frame in 2019. Amazingly the difference was much less than what she thought. In 2019 during those months the amount received in her office was \$15,153.23, and in 2020 during shut-down the amount was \$14,843.58. The difference was only \$308.75 less during the Covid shut down.

Highway Superintendent DeWert spoke next regarding his budget. He is keeping the same budget as last year except for the 3% raise he would like his guys to receive. He knows he has between \$50,000.00 and \$60,000.00 left over this year and would like to use that for their raises as well as his own that was discussed last year at budget time. He believes that since he has been down one employee most of this year he has saved that payroll amount and would like to use it toward the raises. They were considered essential workers during the Covid-19 shut down and they deserve the raise. The raise he is asking for was discussed last year along with the plan of how it will be covered without raising taxes. He wishes to

boost his salary for his retirement. He handed the Board his plan which is spelled out (attached). Supervisor Feehan said that a local law would have to be done when the time comes in order to reduce the salary to fund the rest of his plan (for insurance etc.). Superintendent DeWert disagreed and has attached the law supporting his claim. He is proposing to take a lesser salary his last 2 years of service, at which time the Board could pass a local law to increase the salary the following year for the incoming highway superintendent.

Bookkeeper Savash weighed in to let the Board know there are places to find the increases Mr. DeWert is requesting. There is money in DA and unspent funds in the DB5110 as well. He reminded them that the State Aid will arrive in December which can be used as well. He also wished to inform the Board of the reserve account that was created in the Hornby Road water district so the residents will see a decline on their taxes reflecting the debt being paid off.

Highway Superintendent DeWert asked the Board to consider the employees that worked all during the shut down due to the pandemic. He feels they should be rewarded for showing up while others still collected a pay-check and were able to stay at home. Supervisor Feehan believes everyone should receive a raise or no one should. The board agreed that the two new hires (court clerk and code enforcer) will continue at their present pay rate as they have only been here a few weeks and are on probation, and Katherine is receiving the extra pay for the re-val. The rest of the employees should get a 2% raise. Avonne will be paid \$1,000.00 from the increase in registrar proceeds and Susan will receive \$2,000.00 as there has been a large increase in that area. This increase will not affect the tax cap as the registrars generated more income than what was budgeted.

Councilwoman Mullen would like to discuss the raise issue further before agreeing.

Bookkeeper Savash will figure the new salaries and let the Board know by tomorrow.

Councilman Sammis and Councilwoman Mullen agree that raises should be the same across the board for all employees.

Councilman Sammis made the motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM. Councilman Morrongiello seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

These minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Edwards
Town Clerk