

Town of Corning Regular Board Meeting
November 17, 2020 7:00 PM
20 S. Maple St. Corning, NY 14830

Supervisor Feehan called the meeting to order.

Roll call of members present:

Supervisor Kim Feehan

Councilman Stuart Sammis

Councilwoman Jenn Mullen

Councilman Mike Morrongiello

Councilman Mike Brenning

Others Present:

County Legislator Carol Ferratella, New Councilman Lon Fiscus, Highway Superintendent Dylan DeWert, Water Superintendent Ken Fields, Ty Basille from Clean Choice Energy, and Village Trustee Jamie Cooney. Various other members of the community.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the 2021 budget was made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All in favor to hear public comment. Motion carried. Supervisor Feehan began by explaining the increase from last year to this year was due in part to the health insurance premiums going up as well as the response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Board members didn't feel there should be any raises given as residents are struggling because of the pandemic. With no raises (except for the highway employees) the amount of tax per thousand is \$4.27. With a raise of 1% and 2% the amount is \$4.29 per thousand. The budget is still well below the mandated 2% tax cap.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to discuss the 2021 budget with Councilman Morrongiello seconding. All in favor to discuss. Motion carried. Some Board members don't feel there should be any raises given as residents are struggling because of the pandemic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to leave the Public Hearing and enter into an executive session to discuss the salaries of the employees and elected officials. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor and the Board left the room at 7:05 to discuss the matter further.

RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION

The Board returned at 7:15. Councilman Morrongiello made a motion to re-enter regular session. Councilman Sammis seconded, and all were in favor. The motion carried.

BUDGET APPROVAL

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the 2021 budget with a 1% raise across the board excluding the town board members and the highway employees, (who receive 3% per their union contract).

CLEAN CHOICE ENERGY PRESENTATION

Mr. Ty Bacille from Clean Choice Energy was present to discuss solar options. Councilman Sammis informed those present that he casually knows Mr. Bacille but has no financial ties to him. Solar Farms are already popular in other local counties but not yet in Steuben County. He explained that residents or municipalities lease parcels of land to Clean Choice Energy. They are required to follow all local zoning laws and regulations. Local contractors are used for the construction process which can take up to a year or a bit more. The farms are generally located near a power grid for ease of connectivity. Land leases can be negotiated. Restoration after the life of the solar farm is completed by the energy company. Unlike gas leases, the income to the landowner does not come in the form of royalties, but rather from the yearly lease amount agreed upon in the beginning. The energy company pays all taxes so there are no costs accrued by the landowner.

OCTOBER ABSTRACT

The October abstract was approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Sammis. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

General Fund	\$25,586.54
General Outside	\$528.03
Highway Outside Village	\$17,584.12
Gibson Light	\$602.60
Elmhurst Light	\$230.62
Cng. Manor Light	\$146.67
Birch Dr. Light	\$165.75
Pine Shad. Light	\$141.05
Pinewood Water	\$11,648.53
Hornby Rd. Water	\$15.00
EC Consolid. Water	\$461.58
TOTAL	\$57,110.49

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Brenning the minutes for October 20th and 29th were approved. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the October Supervisors Report. Councilman Brenning seconded. All in favor. Carried.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mullen and seconded by Councilman Brenning the Town Clerks Report for October was approved. All in favor. The motion was carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT

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

OCTOBER HIGHWAY REPORT

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to approve the October Highway Report. It was seconded on a motion made by Councilman Sammis. All in favor, carried.

WATER RELEVIES

The motion to approve the water re-levies was made by Councilwoman Mullen and Seconded by Councilman Brenning. All in favor. Motion carried. The final numbers will be available at the December meeting.

VISITORS COMMENTS

Brad Jacobus asked why there is no longer an attorney present at the meetings. Supervisor Feehan stated that it wasn't cost effective to pay an attorney who would defer any decision to the next meeting. Jamie Cooney asked if there were any upcoming capital projects for next year. Supervisor Feehan told him there are none expected.

County Representative Ferratella explained that the Counties resources are overwhelmed due to the Covid pandemic. Many people will be retiring from their County positions which is a cost savings.

ADJOURN

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Councilman Sammis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

These minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Edwards
Town Clerk