

**Joint Meeting of the Boards of Fire Commissioners
for the
Corning Joint Fire District and Gibson Fire District
Wednesday, October 18th, 2023
Corning Town Hall, 20 S. Maple St., Corning, NY**

6:30 pm

Minutes

1. Joint Meeting Called to Order at 1830 pm
2. CJFD Roll Call of Commissioners present: Commissioner Clarkson, Commissioner Eccleston, Commissioner Shafer, Commissioner Shafer.
3. GFD Roll Call of Commissioners present: Commissioner Cliff Miller, Commissioner Holly Stickler, Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli, Commissioner Jeremy Vitulli
4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Shafer
5. Motion by CJFD Commissioner Eccleston to leave regular session and enter a Public Hearing regarding a Governing Body Initiated Proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement of the Corning Joint Fire District (FD385) and the Gibson Fire District#1 (FD381) in the Town of Corning pursuant to General Municipal Law Article 17-A was seconded by Commissioner Clarkson. Motion was carried by CJFD Board of Commissioners with none opposed. The same motion was made by Gibson Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli and seconded by Commissioner Holly Stickler. Motion carried by Gibson Board of Commissioners with none opposed.
 - Commissioner Shafer reported that the Proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement was approved by the Gibson Fire District#1 Board of Fire Commissioners on September 5th, 2023 and by the Corning Joint Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners on September 13th, 2023. Subsequently, legal notices about this Public Hearing were published in The Leader for 4 consecutive weeks on September 17th and 24th and on October 1st and 8th in accordance with NYS requirements. Notices were also posted in Corning Town Hall, all 3 fire departments that comprise the Corning Joint Fire District and on electronic signboards at Station 16 ECFD and Station 34 SCFD.
 - It was also noted the Corning Joint Fire District has been providing emergency response services for residents in the Gibson Fire District since mid-December 2022 when the Gibson Fire District ceased to operate.
 - Details of the proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement drafted by Attorney Hannigan were presented to those in attendance. Cash assets and real property owned by the Gibson Fire District (e.g., the parking lot beside the main fire house), fleet vehicles, and other equipment items summarized in the agreement will be transferred to the Corning Joint Fire District under the terms of the proposed agreement on/about January 1, 2024. The NYS Comptroller's office will then decertify the Gibson Fire District. It was noted that the proposed merger does not include assets or property owned by the Gibson Fire Department. Per Gibson Fire District Secretary Oscar Dixon, the only the officer remaining in the Gibson Fire Department is the treasurer. While it is presumed that assets of the Gibson Fire Department will eventually transfer to the Corning Joint Fire District, the path to that end remains uncertain at this time.
 - It was also noted that under the terms of the Proposed JCA, the 2023 tax levy issued by the Gibson Fire District and currently held in escrow by the Town of Corning will be paid by the Town of Corning to the Gibson Fire District before the end of 2023. In turn, Gibson Fire District will pay the proceeds of that levy to the Corning Joint Fire District for providing emergency response services to taxpayers in the Gibson Fire District for all of 2023.
 - After review, no comments were received from community residents who attended the public hearing.
6. Motion to close this Public Hearing and return to regular session was made by CJFD Commissioner Eccleston and seconded by Commissioner Gridley. Motion carried by CJFD Commissioners with none opposed. GFD Commissioner Cliff Miller then made a motion to close the Public Hearing and return to regular session that was seconded by Commissioner Holly Stickler. GFD motion carried with none opposed.

7. Motion to leave regular session and enter a Public Hearing regarding the Proposed 2024 Budget of the Corning Joint Fire District was made CJFD Commissioner Clarkson and seconded by Commissioner Eccleston. CJFD motion carried with none opposed. Motion to leave this regular session and enter a Public Hearing regarding the Proposed 2024 Budget of the Gibson Fire District was made by GFD Commissioner Cliff Miller and seconded by Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli. GFD motion carried with none opposed.

- Commissioner Shafer reported that the CJFD Board of Fire Commissioners adopted its Proposed 2024 Budget on September 13, 2023. In accordance with NYS requirements, a Legal Notice about this Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 Budget was posted in The Leader on October 6th, 2023. Notices were also posted at Corning Town Hall and on electronic signboards at Station 16 ECFD and Station 34 SCFD. The Proposed 2024 Budget was reviewed by Commissioner Shafer including the 2024 proposed tax levy in the amount of \$561,412.
- Proposed 2024 Budget for Gibson Fire District was reviewed by Secretary Dixon including the 2024 proposed tax levy of \$15,289. He noted that once collected, GFD's 2024 tax levy would be paid over to the Corning Joint Fire District for providing emergency response services in 2024 for residents in the area formerly covered by the Gibson Fire District.
- After review, no comments were received from community residents who attended the public hearing about the Proposed 2024 Budgets for the CJFD and GFD.

8. Motion to close this Public Hearing and return to regular session made by CJFD Commissioner Clarkson with a second by Commissioner Eccleston. CJFD motion carried with none opposed. Motion to close the Public Hearing was then made by GFD Commissioner Holly Stickler and seconded by Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli. GFD motion carried with none opposed.

9. Motion to enter a Special Meeting to act on the following items by CJFD Commissioner Gridley with a second by Commissioner Clarkson. CJFD motion carried with none opposed. GFD motion to enter a Special Meeting to act on the following items was then made by Commissioner Cliff Miller and seconded by Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli. Motion carried with none opposed.

- Motion was made by GFD Commissioner Holly Stickler to approve a Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the **Gibson Fire District#1 (FD381)** to hereby approve the Proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement as the final version of the Joint Consolidation Agreement as authorized by GML Sections 750(12), 752, and 754: and

Authorize the Fire District Secretary and Fire District Treasurer to take whatever further and additional actions as may be necessary to facilitate and effect the consolidation of the Gibson Fire District#1 with Corning Joint fire District in furtherance of the Joint Consolidation Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli. Voice vote: Commissioner Cliff Miller: Aye. Commissioner Jeremy Vitulli: Aye. Commissioner Holly Sticker: Aye. Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli: Aye. The motion was carried with none opposed.

- Motion was made by GFD Commissioner Holly Stickler to approve a Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the **Gibson Fire District#1 (FD381)** to approve the Determination of Consolidation of the Gibson Fire District#1 into the Corning Joint Fire District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli. Voice vote: Commissioner Cliff Miller: Aye. Commissioner Jeremy Vitulli: Aye. Commissioner Holly Sticker: Aye. Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli: Aye. The motion was carried with none opposed.

- Motion was made by CJFD Commissioner David Shafer to approve a Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the **Corning Joint Fire District (FD385)** FD381) to hereby approve the Proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement as the final version of the Joint Consolidation Agreement as authorized by GML Sections 750(12), 752, and 754: and

Authorize the Fire District Secretary and Fire District Treasurer to take whatever further and additional actions as may be necessary to facilitate and effect the consolidation of the Gibson Fire District#1 with Corning Joint fire District in furtherance of the Joint Consolidation Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Clarkson. Voice vote: Commissioner Clarkson: Aye. Commissioner Eccleston: Aye. Commissioner Gridley: Aye. Commissioner Shafer: Aye. The motion was carried with none opposed.

- Motion was made by CJFD Commissioner David Shafer to approve a Resolution of the **Corning Joint Fire District (FD385)** to approve the Determination of Consolidation of the Gibson Fire District#1 into the Corning Joint Fire District. It was seconded by Commissioner John Clarkson. Voice vote: Commissioner Clarkson: Aye. Commissioner Eccleston: Aye. Commissioner Gridley: Aye. Commissioner Shafer: Aye. The motion was carried with none opposed.

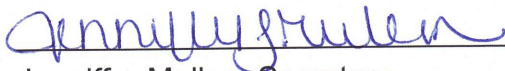
- Motion made by GFD Commissioner Heidi Jo Vitulli to adopt GFD's **Proposed 2024 Budget** with a tax levy of \$15,289. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeremy Vitulli and carried with none opposed.
- Motion made by CJFD Commissioner Larry Eccleston to adopt CJFD's **Proposed 2024 Budget** with a tax levy of \$561,412. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gridley and carried with none opposed.

10. Motion by CJFD Commissioner Gridley to close this Special Meeting and return to regular session was seconded by Commissioner Eccleston and carried with none opposed. Motion by GFD Commissioner H. Vitulli to close this Special Meeting and return to regular session was seconded by Commissioner Sticker and carried with none opposed.

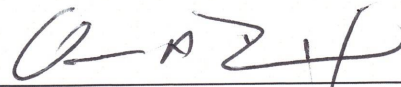
11. Visitor's Comments: None noted.

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1849 hrs was made by CJFD Commissioner Gridley, seconded by GFD Commissioner Stickler and carried by both Boards with none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenniffer Mullen, Secretary
Corning Joint Fire District



Oscar Dixon, Secretary
Gibson Fire District