

York State, county, town, city and village governments to mutually decide upon beneficial highway, bridge and other transportation projects in a highly cooperative manner and

WHEREAS it has been proposed that MPOs smaller than 200,000 in population be required to justify their status as MPOs or their eligibility be eliminated and

WHEREAS over half of the MPOs in New York State would be affected

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Caroline Town Board hereby strongly recommends that municipalities of 50,000 or more be permitted to retain their MPO status and

Further Resolved that our elected federal representatives and the ITCTC be sent copies of this resolution.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Discussion: Councilmember Linda Adams asked in regards to this portion of the resolution

WHEREAS it has been proposed that MPOs smaller than 200,000 in population be required to justify their status as MPOs or their eligibility be eliminated and..... Who proposed that MPOs small that 200,000 in population had to justify their status? Supervisor Don Barber answered that it comes from New York State but he believes it is coming down from the federal government. There are some State funds but the funds typically come from the federal government. The DOT is part of the Town MPO committee which works as the liaison for the Town. If we (the Town of Caroline) don't have a MPO then someone who doesn't live in our county but does live in our State can make the decision about our highway projects in our area. Supervisor Barber said he has more faith in our local people to know what is best for the Town highway projects. In answer to a question posed by Councilmember Snow about the role of the MPO, Supervisor Barber answered, The MPO is a planning organization that makes recommendations to the State and then the State decides which projects they are going to fund. They don't actually control any money.

Resolution 47 of 2012

Motion made by Ms. Weiser: Seconded by Mr. Snow to un-table resolution 47 of 2012 Climate Smart Communities from 1/10/2012

So moved: Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolution 47 of 2012

Motion made by Mr. Barber: Seconded by Ms. Weiser

Climate Smart Communities Resolution (1st proposed resolution)

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline has emerged as a leader in local efforts for energy independence and was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor for being the 2nd municipality in New York State to procure 100% wind power; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, the town advisory committee Energy Independent Caroline has worked to reduce energy use by town government, study potential for renewable energy in the community, and engaged the public in energy efficiency, conservation, and renewables; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Communities program is a voluntary program of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Department of State, the Public Service Commission and the Department of Transportation to support local communities in reducing emissions and adapting to our changing climate,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Caroline, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, seeks to:

1. Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community
2. Set Goals, Inventory GHG Emissions, and Move to Action
3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations
4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations
5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices
6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land Use Planning, as consistent with the Caroline Comprehensive Plan
7. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

8. Support a Green Innovation Economy

9. Inform and Inspire the Public

10. Commit to an Evolving Process

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Caroline charges Energy Independent Caroline with coordinating implementation of these voluntary goals and incorporating them into current efforts, as appropriate.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Nay; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Discussion:

Councilmember Snow: said he didn't care for the name of the resolution. He felt that the resolution should be called "Climate Dumb Communities", instead of "Climate Smart Communities." After talking with constituents, he felt if the community was "climate smart" then the Town would already be on the right track and there wouldn't be a need for the resolution. People he spoke with were for the recycling but a question he was asked was what could the town give back to the people for being more energy efficient?

Councilmember Frongillo: Climate Smart Community is a voluntary program. The resolution promotes communities who take leadership already or who want to take leadership in being energy independent. In answer to Councilmember Snow's question he told about in 2008 there was a pamphlet put together by the Energy Independent Caroline profiling six people who put in renewable energy systems on their houses. The pamphlet gave the stories of "how it came to be" as a way of celebrating "your neighbors" in the town have renewable energy and you can talk with them about the process.

Supervisor Barber: Also in answer to Councilmember Snow's question, Supervisor Barber said having energy conservation for Town resident's will be doing more for the people themselves than anything the Town could offer. The town is not in a position to give any reduction in property tax for people making their houses more energy efficient because the rules are set by the State, but the State could be lobbied to change that rule. He also said he believes that at this time residents can get credit on their income tax for various property upgrades in energy efficiency, so this would be a benefit to them through State and Federal tax reduction.

Councilmember Adams: said a portion of our Town sits atop the Marcellus natural gas formation. She said it is an abundant and versatile energy source which speaks to an independent energy option and that it would be premature to discard natural gas via this resolution. She referred to the part of the resolution **WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and** she said she does not believe that all fossil fuels are to be blamed for the climate changes. She also spoke to part of the resolutionCouncilmember Adams said natural gas is distinctly cleaner versus coal usage and that it is **WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and** a fact that not all fossil fuels are bad for Greenhouse Warming Potential (GWP). She also referred to the part of the resolutions "voluntary program" which she said there is no accountability toward the goals put forth. She also said wind turbines, biomass digesters, and

solar arrays do not meet the standards of the Caroline Comprehensive Plan (see number 6. in the resolution). She said regarding a “commit to an evolving process” (see number 10. in the resolution) that this is a conflict for the resolution as it is written-one can not take options off the table and have an evolving process; this resolution is not in the best interest of Caroline.

Supervisor Barber: Responded to Councilmember Adams, saying the accountability is within our town and the only accountability would be the Town’s commitment to these goals. Energy Independent Caroline would be working on these goals and that is where the accountability would come from.

Councilmember Frongillo: This is an inspirational program that helps municipalities move forward with energy independence or climate goals.

Resolution 59 of 2012 for discussion

Motion made by Ms. Weiser; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

(See discussion below following first version of the resolution [with version 2 and 3 of the resolution following])

(A motion was made to amend the amendment: see below 2nd and 3rd version [Resolution 59 of 2012])

Resolution on Improving Public Notification of Town Government Activities (Version 1 of resolution)

WHEREAS democracy is strengthened when residents are informed about and engaged in local government, and

WHEREAS Town residents should be informed of who their public servants are and how to contact them, and have a right to know when public meetings are taking place, and should have the ability, within reasonable limitations, to see the records scheduled to be discussed during open meetings prior to the meetings; and

WHEREAS the Town of Caroline desires to encourage participation of residents and recognizes the importance of making available accurate, timely and widely accessible information on the activities of local government to all interested residents,

Therefore be it resolved that:

This year as soon as is practicable, and in subsequent years within 2 weeks of passage of the administrative resolutions that designate elected and appointed public servants, the town board meetings schedule, and official locations for posting public notices, the Town shall send to all residents of the town, a letter that includes the following:

- A note to residents indicating the Town’s responsibility in informing the public and the public’s opportunities to keep themselves informed.
- A list of all elected and appointed public servants, their contact information and if relevant, their office hours and committee appointments