

# Town of Caroline Town Board Minutes

March 10, 2005

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on March 10, 2005 at the Town Hall was called to order by Supervisor Don Barber at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Don Barber, Supervisor  
Ed Cope, Councilman  
Barry Goodrich, Councilman  
Tim Seely, Councilman  
Todd Schmit, Councilman

## Recording

**Secretary:** Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk

**Visitors:** Stacey Crawford, Better Housing of Tompkins County; Guy Krogh and Lorraine Moynahan Schmitt of Thayler and Thayler

## Public Hearing

Stacey Crawford presented the “windshield” survey of the residential properties in Caroline, which identified the condition of these properties (from “standard” to “dilapidated”). They hope to secure funding from the Governor’s Office for Small Cities to assist 17 to 19 qualifying families (including 2 landlords) with housing rehabilitation. Ms. Crawford assured the board that they could set up the program to assist rental properties only if both the landlord and renter qualified.

The public hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m. by Supervisor Barber.

## Monthly Reports

### Supervisor’s Report

#### Correspondence of Note:

1. Letter from the Association of Towns regarding property tax is in the correspondence file
2. USDA Rural Development Grant Programs that might be of interest to people in the town starting small businesses, etc.

IPO Transportation Commission: Planning committee needs an appointment from the town (was Kate Kelley-MacKenzie). Also, the Policy committee has non-voting seat (supervisor fills it now) for the town.

Deferred compensation rep will be available to answer questions March 31 at 10 a.m. at Highway Barns.

Need to develop Equal Opportunity Employment Policy and add to Personnel Manual. Councilman Seely volunteered to look at it.

Councilman Cope volunteered to establish wording for senior’s transportation contract and the Food Pantry contract to comply with OSC.

Health insurance for employees and retirees. Both the steady increase in costs (3 to 4 times the rate of inflation) and what that translates into for future liability to the town taxpayers makes this an immediate issue. Our contract advisor has made the case that this matter needs to be included in the contract. This adds more urgency to the matter. The supervisor learned at the AoT annual conference that NYSHIP, which carries health insurance for NYS plus over 800 political entities in NYS and has over 1 MM members, is available to our town and would result in a potential savings of \$1000/month for our current group over the BCBS that we currently have. The supervisor asked for a quote and is looking for someone to work with him on gathering information and preparing it for the board.

**County Representative’s Report**

- Board of Health Tuesday asked to move ahead with developing language for a complete ban on open burning for all but agricultural items (brush, leaves). This constitutes “household waste.” This will require rewriting sanitary code, which allows burning paper and cardboard right now, but might change. If it were a local law, the sheriff would be required to enforce it; with sanitary code, it will require the board of health to enforce.
- Anyone wishing to challenge their initial assessments must get in touch with assessment office.
- County is proceeding with strategic plan. One key issue is diversity. Trying to get 4 or 5 key issues out at the top level to focus on in the future.
- Library move to add additional tax to the school budget (ICSD and Lansing) that will go straight to the library. The state allows libraries to do this without permission from the towns. Once the measure is approved, they do not have to go back and reaffirm unless they want an increase. The county could reduce their funding by the equivalent amount if this passes through the school. The key item they’re pushing is staying open on Sundays, which they now have through private donations. They must use union employees who get time and a half to work on Sundays.
- TCAT new manager started. Need to work on making sure the routes are secure with gas prices rising. Caroline ridership went up and seems to be stable.
- Farm service agency office closed. Affects 900 people between Tompkins and Schuyler counties.

**Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports**

**Councilman Schmit**

Councilman Schmit circulated the 2004 report of the Six Mile Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program and will leave in the courtroom with stormwater info. He also passed around the monitoring program’s proposal for 2005. Bring questions to next month’s meeting. He’s requested a \$3500 dollar grant.

Barrille Project: will have updated drafts for bid documents and hopes to get bids out by the end of the month for materials and equipment.

Supervisor Barber suggested that Councilman Schmit have a meeting in April about the rec partnership.

**Councilman Goodrich**

Commented about the Town of Dryden putting up a light at the corner of Brooktondale Rd. and route 79.

Requested that Councilman Cope take wording to the Planning Board about stormwater to include in the Comprehensive Plan.

**Action Topics**

**Transfers**

**Motion to Authorize Transfer of Funds**

A motion was made by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Goodrich to authorize the following transfer:

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
\$1473.00	Highway Fund Account DA 9060.8 Medical & Hospital Insurance	Highway Fund Account DA 9040.8 Workers Comp

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Abstracts**

**Approval of General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Councilman Cope and seconded by Councilman Goodrich to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 076 through 115 in the amount of \$50,218.42.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Councilman Goodrich and seconded by Councilman Seely to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 068 through 084 in the amount of \$25,959.76.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Seely to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 005 through 006 in the amount of \$473.52.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Minutes**

**Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2004**

A motion was made by Councilman Schmit and seconded by Councilman Seely to accept the minutes of December 16, amended as follows:

Amendments:

Seely: page 5, Resolution that was tabled. Route 79 Snyder Hill should be \$154.38, making the total \$1759.69. Change Langdon Rd to Landon Rd.

Schmit: page 7. Resolution 12-4. The term of Lou Albright (not Kathleen Quinlan) is expiring.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Minutes from December 30, 2004**

A motion was made by Councilman Seely and seconded by Councilman Goodrich to accept the minutes of December 30, as submitted by the town clerk.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Abstain
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2005**

A motion was made by Councilman Goodrich and seconded by Councilman Seely to accept the minutes of January 13, amended as follows:

Amendments:

Goodrich: page 6, Change to read that the board came out of exec session at 10:29 and adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Abstain
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2005**

A motion was made by Councilman Goodrich and seconded by Supervisor Barber to accept the minutes of February 1, as submitted by the deputy town clerk.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Town Business**

**Selection of Attorney for Town**

Guy Krogh of Thayler and Thayler addressed the board. He provides legal counsel for the Town of Lansing. He prefers to be present at all meetings; this is negotiable. Duties: giving advice on drafting and enforcing local laws, zoning, highway department, advising judges, negotiating contract with employees (non-unionized). Scope of business for Caroline would not be as large. He advises about liabilities, costs, risks, and what other towns have done in similar situations. The town would have a primary contact with the firm, but have access to other attorneys in their office. They do not charge the same for legal work as for nonlegal work. For contracts, he does not charge for his learning curve; he does charge for making material change. He does not charge for looking over a contract that ultimately does not change. He has experience with eminent domain, but uses it only at a last resort. He doesn't talk to townspeople who call without town board authority. He would encourage the town to use the lawyers at the Association of Towns for certain issues because they've dealt with the issue with many towns already.

**Law Enforcement Needs**

Monday, March 14 at 9 p.m., the supervisor will attend a meeting at the county public safety building with representatives from several towns, the county, and the state controller's office. Municipalities will define what their needs are in terms of road patrol. Several reps from the county board are from Ithaca and Cayuga Heights, both of which have their own police force. They also pay taxes to support the sheriff's office. The group will learn what the sheriff department does that is county-wide, and try to come up with a plan detailing the level of road patrol the towns need and how to fund it.

**Resolutions**

**Resolution 3-1 of 2005  
Approve Contract with EBE Officesource**

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Councilman Cope

RESOLVED, the Town Clerk is authorized to sign the 2005 maintenance agreement for the Sharp copier.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Resolution 3-2 of 2005  
Agreement with Thayler and Thayler for Legal Services**

By Councilman Goodrich; Seconded by Councilman Seely

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline enter into agreement for legal counsel with the firm of Thayler and Thayler for the year 2005.

<b>Defeated</b>	Don Barber	Nay
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Nay
	Ed Cope	Nay
	Todd Schmit	Nay

After the vote, the board agreed to revisit the issue in October, in order to have two months to work on the transition and start out the year with a new firm if the resolution passes.

**Resolution 3-3 of 2005  
Agreement with Mahlon Perkins for Legal Services**

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Councilman Schmit

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline enter into agreement with Mahlon Perkins for legal services for the year 2005.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Nay
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Resolution 3-4 of 2005  
Approval of Capital Assistance Fund Application**

By Councilman Schmit; Seconded by Supervisor Barber

RESOLVED, that the supervisor is authorized to sign the Community Capital Assistance Program application for the Barrille Project funding for \$70,000.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Resolution 3-5 of 2005  
NYS Collateral Source Legislation Endorsement**

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Councilman Cope

RESOLVED, that the town board will write a letter of support to our assemblywoman and senator endorsing collateral source legislation.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Resolution No. 3-6 of 2005  
Contract with CCETC Youth Services**

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Councilman Seely

RESOLVED, that the supervisor is authorized to sign a contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County for Youth Services for 2005 in the amount of \$9,524.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Resolution No. 3-7 of 2005  
Approval of Quality Community Grant Application**

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Cope

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State administers a grant program to enhance the opportunities and incentives for innovative community planning and development of implementation tools and strategies that link environmental protection, economic prosperity, and community well-being, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and the Towns of Danby, Caroline, and Dryden are proposing to develop a detailed management and protection plan for the 40,000-acre Forest Lands Focus Area, and

WHEREAS, preparation of a Forest Lands Focus Area plan is consistent with the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, which calls for establishing an open-space program to preserve natural resources and recreational amenities in the focus areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, this project proposal was initiated by the Towns of Danby, Caroline, and Dryden as an inter-municipal project to address environmental, recreational, and resource management issues that cross municipal boundaries, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan calls for Tompkins County to work proactively with towns to cooperatively address regional issues such as natural resources, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County will be the lead applicant and the Towns of Danby, Caroline, and Dryden will be co-applicants for this grant program, and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible for this grant program, the applicant must submit a formal resolution of the governing bodies designating, by title the representatives authorized to act on behalf of that body in all matters related to this financial assistance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board supports the application for 2005 Quality Communities Program Grant funds to prepare the Forest Land Focus Area conservation and protection plan.

<b>Adopted</b>	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Barry Goodrich	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Todd Schmit	Aye

**Executive Session**

On a motion by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Goodrich, the meeting went into executive session at 9:29 p.m. to discuss the collective bargaining agreement.

On a motion, the executive session adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

**Adjourn**

On a motion, the regular board meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk