

March 13, 2007

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on March 13, 2007, at the Town Hall was called to order by Supervisor Don Barber at 7:00 pm.

Present:

Supervisor Don Barber
Cm. Ed Cope
Cm. Nelly Farnum
Cm. Dominic Frongillo
Cm. Tim Seely

Privilege of the Floor:

Aaron Goldweber of Ridgway Road explained that he has been asked to officiate at the wedding of friends in August and has investigated the process of being named a "marriage officer" by the Town Board. He turned over information about the process to the Board. The Board will let him know next month what the specific action will be.

Frank Proto of Slaterville Road asked that minutes of February 6, under Cm. Frongillo's Watershed Committee report, be amended to say that Todd Miller's report on his investigation into loss of water at Mr. Proto's property was that the USGS test wells at the Town gravel pit were unlikely to be the source of the problem.

Secondly, Mr. Proto inquired about the rumor that the Town Board was supporting a parade in the Town of Caroline in connection with an anti-war rally in Ithaca on March 17. The rumor is not true.

Supt. Whittaker: The highway crew has been plowing, sanding, cleaning machinery and getting ready to replace missing signs and signposts. Sometimes snow plows take down a sign, but often people just steal them.

Cm. Farnum inquired about driveway culverts. The new policy of having the homeowner install his own culvert is not in place yet. The Emergency Planning committee would like to distribute a flyer about the role of culverts in flooding situations.

A building-wide fire alarm system is needed at the Town Barns. Cm. Seely will investigate.

John Confer of Hammond Hill Road was present to discuss his "Amphibian Migration Initiative." Working with students at Ithaca College, he is concerned about the salamanders that are killed when they try to cross Thomas Road at spawning time in April. The salamanders are 5 to 9 inches long and there are hundreds of them. They have a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years. If this crossing kills 75% of them annually, they may disappear. But solving the problem is certainly complex. There has been some consideration of supplying a culvert so that the salamanders can go under the road, but John has only just made contact with a herpetologist to gain technological information. He had thought of asking that the road be closed for a few days, but that would just send traffic to another crossing area. So for this year, he may just try to place signs to protect students while they try to protect some of the salamanders.

Then later he will come back to the Town with more information about a culvert and a guide rail. A salamander culvert is placed higher than a water drainage culvert. A guide rail would be placed on each side of the road for 200 meters. Many people who live along the road are interested in helping to protect the salamanders.

Mr. Confer has been invited to see an installation near Albany. Supt. Whittaker may join him. The two of them will inspect the roadside on Thomas Road. She also offered to put out a couple of flashing barrels if he will let her know when.

Supervisor's Report:

Correspondence of Note:

1. Draft Unified Planning Work Program from Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Committee.
2. There will be a supervisor's training on communication style.
3. The Health Department requests comments by March 30 on their proposed "Alterations to Water Supply" section of the Sanitary Code.
4. Letters from the State Emergency Management Office inviting detailed applications from the Town for Barrile II and the Valley Road streambank stabilization projects. This may be a source of funding for the projects.

Supv. Barber thinks that having the Public Sector Human Resource consultants revise the Town's personnel manual at a cost of \$3000 would be a good idea. The Town's current manual was put together in 1997 and was not professionally done.

Small Cities rehabilitation projects has committed \$212,000 of the \$336,000 total. Only \$28,000 has been spent so far, but 12 projects are ready to begin. The grant needs to be spent by July 2008. The supervisor has filed the application for the Quality Communities Grant to pay for a consultant to the Planning Board. The Council of Governments would like to share information with the Town, via the Planning Board, about affordable housing and an innovative project to lease land.

The City and County are purchasing 5% bio-diesel fuel. Does Energy Independent Caroline have anyone studying price differential, handling and performance differences between bio-diesel and non-bio-diesel?

Representative Proto:

He can provide information about biodiesel to Councilmen Frongillo and Cope. Towns could join the purchasing group.

The proposed change in the Sanitary Code is for new wells only. This change is meant to be a help to homeowners in that it will provide information for siting wells with respect to septic systems. It is an amendment to the Sanitary Code.

It is OK for local firemen to have chicken barbecues if they do one per week or less. A vender like Butch Partridge does need a permit from the Health Department and also from Ag and Markets.

TC SWCD (Soil and Water) was successful in getting funding totalling \$900,000 -- some for Barrile II, some for Enfield. There is money for buying MS4 equipment, including vacuums for road drains.

Rep Proto would like to receive nominations for the County Distinguished Youth Award. He will be working with Clm. Frongillo on the Rec Partnership working agreement. Some County reps do not want to support the RP. Grants are available from the Strategic Tourism Planning Board. There will be another meeting about the impact on farmers of the oil and gas leases. Don't rush into deals, is the advice.

Clm. Seely: DOT had forgotten to send its letter, but will do so. Clm. Seely has put an ad in The Shopper about the noise meeting. He has called NYSEG about the light at the water pipe in front of the Town Hall.

Clm. Frongillo: He has talked to Craig Schutt and to the Community Science Institute. Steve Penningroth said CSI already has a Board of Directors. They do not understand our concerns. He will try to explain further at the March 26 CSI Board of Directors meeting, that the Town needs to defend this expenditure to the taxpayer.

The voluntary monitoring has provided a summary of results (visit communityscience.org). There is a huge amount of sediment in Six Mile Creek. Science may help with our work on illicit discharge.

Clm. Cope will discuss Planning Board consultant later in meeting.

Approval of Abstracts:

Approval of Community Development Fund Abstract: A motion was made by Clm. Farnum and seconded by Clm. Frongillo to approve payment for the Community Development Fund voucher numbers 4 through 6 in the amount of \$7915.13.

Adopted Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Approval of Streetlight Fund Abstract: A motion was made by Clm. Farnum and seconded by Clm. Seely to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 4 and 5 in the amount of \$800.71.

Adopted Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Approval of Highway Fund Abstract: A motion was made by Clm. Farnum and seconded by Clm. Cope to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 34 through 59 in the amount of \$64,252.93.

Adopted Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Approval of General Fund Abstract: A motion was made by Clm. Cope and seconded by Clm. Seely to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 85 through 119 in the amount of \$27,513.39

Adopted Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Approval of minutes from February 6, 2007: A motion was made by Supv. Barber and seconded by Clm. Farnum to accept the minutes of February 6 as submitted by the deputy town clerk. Discussion and correction: Change creatures to salamanders. p. 5, paragraph 6. Change end of paragraph 9, p. 5, to read "the test wells at the gravel pit are likely not the cause" of Frank Proto's water problem. Passed as amended.

Adopted Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Approval of minutes from February 13, 2007: A motion was made by Supv. Barber and seconded by Clm. Farnum to accept the minutes of February 13 as submitted by the town clerk.

Adopted

Don Barber
Ed Cope
Tim Seely
Nelly Farnum
Dominic Frongillo

Res. #3-2 of 2007: By Clm Seely, seconded by Clm. Farnum

Whereas the Caroline Town Board advertised in December 2006 an RFP for architectural and engineering services for the renovation of the Town Hall annex, and whereas the Town Board received three proposals for such services, and having identified one proposal from Schickel Architecture as the lowest bid and having established the firm's ability to perform the services requested, therefore: Be it resolved that the Caroline Town Board will hereby negotiate and sign a contract with Schickel Architecture to provide the design services set forth in the RFP to renovate the Town Hall annex, and be it further resolved that the Caroline Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign a contract with Schickel Architecture after review and approval from the town attorney and the town supervisor.

Discussion: Clm. Seely does not have the contract yet. He will get it, give it to Supv.

Barber, who will check it out with Attorney Krogh. Clm. Frongillo suggested that the Town look into using volunteers in renovating the annex. That would depend on the Wickes Law and other considerations. Perhaps some specific tasks would be suitable.

Adopted

Don Barber
Ed Cope
Tim Seely
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Dominic Frongillo

Stormwater Law. Clm. Frongillo reported that he had been unable to find a model EAF for the Stormwater Law. (Clm. Cope can provide one.) He contacted Attorney Krogh about who gets notified of the EAF. Those notified will have 30 days to respond. A public hearing is advised. The notice should be published by Thursday (March 15) to have the hearing next month.

Discussion of Wetlands:

Clm. Frongillo has received comment from Attorney Krogh. "Wetland" is a term to use carefully. Are we referring to any wetland, wet land in general, or any state-designated wetland, which has a special purpose as a wetland ecosystem. Local code should not tinker with "wetland," but should defer to the DEC. The Town has a right to investigate and declare if an area is a wetland and why it should be protected. Either the DEC regulates or it needs protection. Change this wording before the public hearing on the final draft. This is a significant change.

The Stormwater Law could be passed the same night as the hearing.

Clm. Seely asked what had happened to the idea of "distance from water?" He thought the law in early stages had specified no building within 100' of water. Now we see 50' in section 104. The draft of June 14 shows watered down language. He will contact Barry Goodrich.

Street Light in Speedsville: The Board agreed that the requested light is not about traffic safety. Supv. Barber will talk to store owners and suggest they contact NYSEG to discuss what can be done.

Contract for Planning Consultant Services: No contract has arrived although a person has been selected by the Planning Board. Supv. Barber will request a contract from LaBerge Engineering Firm. He will sign

it so that work can move ahead. The Law needs to be passed by 1 year from now -- the grant runs to March 2008.

Res. #3-3 of 2007: Authorizing the Supervisor to sign, after consulting the Town attorney, a contract with LaBerge Engineering for consulting services for the Planning Board's work on the Comprehensive Plan. Moved by Clm. Cope, seconded by Clm. Farnum.

Adopted Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Community Service Award: This award is already a tradition, but Clm. Farnum thinks it needs to be better organized. It should be awarded regularly, at a certain time of year, with a bit of fanfare and celebration, and not to a currently elected official. It should be flexible – i.e., it could be awarded to a group. The committee that decides on the award should have 1 board member and 2 local citizens. Clm. Farnum will revise her proposal on the basis of discussion and bring the revision back to the Board.

Res. #3-4 of 2007: Assessment Review Advisory Committee.

Resolved that the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Calvin Snow residing at 665 Buffalo Road, Brooktondale, NY, and Len Pogorzala residing at Yapple Road, Berkshire, NY, to the Town of Caroline Assessment Review Advisory Board; and Be It Further Resolved that the Town of Caroline Assessment Review Advisory Board will convene on May 16, 2007, from 3 pm to 6 pm to hear any and all property owners of the Town of Caroline testify about their 2007 Tentative Assessment valuation.

Motion by Supv. Barber, seconded by Clm. Farnum

Adopted

Don Barber
 Ed Cope
 Tim Seely
 Nelly Farnum
 Dominic Frongillo

Res. #3-5 of 2007: Resolution offered by Supv. Barber at 10:35 pm, to adjourn to an Adjourned Meeting to be held on March 15, 2007, at the conclusion of a working session on the Noise Ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Adams
 Deputy Town Clerk.