

Minutes of the Town Board Public Hearing and Agenda Meeting Held on October 2, 2007 at 7:15 pm at the Town Hall in Slaterville Springs, NY

Board Members Present: Supervisor Don Barber  
Councilman Ed Cope  
Councilman Tim Seely  
Councilwoman Nelly Farnum  
Council man Dominic Frongillo

Board Members Absent: None

Visitors: 12

### **Public Hearing for an Extension of Lighting District**

The Town Board has been petitioned to put in one light this pole is at the Speedsville Grocery. The cost for this one light is \$91.30/yearly or per tax base is .06 cents per thousand.

Hearing no comments the Public Hearing is closed at 7:16 pm.

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Tim Baker- What is the current status of the Noise Law is, as of now?

Supv. Barber- He stated that the Town Board to his knowledge does not have any desire to talk about the Noise Law any further. They are working on community dispute resolution and community building.

Clm. Seely-He is not interested in revising the draft. He is looking at something different. The Law was not formally introduced. What he came from the public information sessions was that many people did not want legislation. Another option is community dispute resolution.

Clm. Frongillo- He found the more that is worked on in the Draft, the more people will still have problems. This is what he is interested in.

Clm. Cope- He feels the same.

### **Community Reports**

#### **Cope**

- Clm. Cope received a lease from Mason Dixon Gas Company for two Town properties; town Highway Barns and Yates Cemetery. What his recommendation is is not to sign the lease. However, if the Board wants to sign, the Town Attorney should draw up and change the wording. This discussion will continue next week.
- New York State passed a Violence Prevention Policy. Clm. Cope stated this policy is required and needs to be placed in the Employee Handbook, but Clm. Cope doesn't know by what date. This will be discussed further.
- The next Planning Board Meeting will be on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Clm. Cope said the Town Board Members should attend and discuss the Laberge Group issue with the PB and decide what direction to go with them. The contract with Laberge is half way through and it seems that

Laberge has come to the end of their recommendations for developing an innovative land use regulations and incentives to implement the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Caroline.

## **Frongillo**

### Watershed Committee

- Floating Classroom- Penny Boynton and Mandy (student from Caroline Elementary) presented to the Committee on the Floating classroom for kids to do hands-on learning about the Cayuga Lake ecosystem. The Committee recommended through its budget request that the Town include \$200 to support the educational program.

### Barrile Phase I

- Jeff Benthem has been on the scene. Found covered up structures. Added layer of rock to 8<sup>th</sup> cross vein. Redid plunge pool. Still need vegetation. Used 95% of rocks. Work was scheduled to be done by September 20<sup>th</sup>. TCSWD will invoice the Town.

### Barrile Phase II

- TG Miller is waiting on property access permission forms from Buffalo Road to Barrile I. watershed Committee will do. Jon at Soil & Water will organize next workplan meeting.

### Shared Stormwater Officer

- Tompkins County Soil and water has agreed in principle to provide Stormwater services as required by the EPA Stormwater law. Job description details are being drafted.

### Illicit Discharge Law

- Watershed Committee looked over the template of the EPA-mandated Illicit Discharge and Detection Law. The Committee recommends not including the optional Town inspections of septic systems. The Town Board is required to adopt the law by January 8, 2008.

### Recreation Partnership Board

- Budget- There was a small error in the calculated contribution amount provided to the Town. The correct amount is \$6626(a decrease of \$31).
- Workplan- As municipal partners finish signing the 5-year Agreement, the RP Board is turning its attention to many of the goals identified this year. There will be a meeting later in October to begin building a workplan.

### Website Advisory Committee

- Website Committee-The Website Advisory Committee will be mailing an invitation to Town committees and community organizations, requesting they identify one person in their organization who the Webmaster and Committee can work with to create their pages.
- Developer contract- Katy Nicholson has prepared a contract for website development for the Town Board's review.

### Energy Independent Caroline

- Energy Independent Caroline will be tabling at the Brooktondale Apple Festival.
- Energy Independent Caroline is requested citizen help in fundraising for the Town to purchase 100% wind energy. Last year it cost roughly \$1,200. citizens can contribute by sending a check to: Energy Independent Caroline, PO Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

There was a discussion about information on wind power and donations. The Board will spend more time on this subject.

### Planning Board

- A group of students from a class at Cornell are volunteering to look into four topics:
  1. neighboring town's land use rules
  2. innovative systems for development guidance
  3. incentives for preservation and desired development
  4. community education and outreach

Clm. Frongillo has stated that residents have spoken to him about the lack of information getting out to the public on what is happening in the Town. Clm. Frongillo stated that it would be a good thing that the Town Board would establish a citizen team to create and manage a reliable system for distribution of information to other citizens of the Town. How to select members for this advisory committee will be discussed further. Supv. Barber feels this discussion should include community input before moving ahead. This was a long discussion.

### **Farnum**

- The McCormick Center has appointed a liaison to coordinate volunteers to volunteer at the Center in various ways. They also are trying to go beyond that by having the Caroline Community better understand the Center.
- Sue Beemers from Danby wants to see our Emergency Preparedness Plan. Danby would like Caroline to help them put together a coordinated effort with their Plan. Beth Harrington is willing to help.
- WHCU Radio station asked for information about the Community Service Awards.

### **Seely**

- Town Hall Annex- Cornell engineering students came to look at the annex. They are studying Sustainable Energy Systems. Clm. Seely met with them two weeks ago and they wanted to know if they could do a project can they do a project to design passive solar systems for the annex. What these systems would do i.e. provide hot water, electricity and heat. They would also provide a cost analysis i.e. what it would cost to build and expected savings would be in the future. They would also investigate opportunities in granting and what money sharing is out there. The time frame would be this semester.
- Clm. Seely and Supv. Barber met with Tompkins Trust Company about Bonding and Banding. They are interested. The Municipal Bonding rate in September was 4.5%.
- The Town Hall has two new steel doors in the auditorium.
- Clm. Seely will have a tree professional to look at the tree on the left of the Building to see if it can be saved, trimmed or should be cut down.

## **Supervisors Report**

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Illicit Discharge Update
- 2) Resolution Approving Extension of Lighting District
- 3) Code Enforcement Contract with Town of Richford
- 4) Resolution Establishing Public Information Advisory Committee
- 5) Website Development Contract
- 6) Gas Lease agreement
- 7) Set Public Hearing for 2008 Budgets
- 8) Establish Plan to Continue Review of Personnel Policy including Work Place Violence Policy
- 9) Begin 2008 Budget Discussions
- 10) Speedsville Fire District Meeting Date

The work dates for the 2008 Budget are Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Both of these meetings will be held at the Town Hall. Supt. Whittaker will be asked to come on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion on the Budget**

- The average salary growth is 3% except for some elected officials found to be underpaid in salary committee report.
- The SPCA contract amount will be \$14,000 compared to \$7,000 last year. Clm. Cope will look into other options.
- Supv. Barber stated the Town should consider setting aside a reserve fund to dampen the burden in future years for retiree health insurance. One current highway retiree's health insurance costs the taxpayers over \$20K/yr. Funding this reserve was not included in the Tentative budget.
- The 2008 budget has a decrease in spending of 2% over 2007 which was a 4% decrease over 2006 and a 10% decrease from 2005. This shows a concerted effort to control spending in spite of inflation.
- The total taxable property assessment has only increase 1.8% which doesn't give much help to spreading out the tax levy. The non-property tax revenues have decreased by 1%. He has proposed using \$150K of the Fund Balance compared to \$210K last year. When all of this is totaled, the 2008 Tentative Budget Tax rate is \$7.423/\$1000 of assessed valuation. This 1% is above last year's rate.

There was a long discussion on the 2008 Budget.

The Town Board went into Executive session at 9:35 pm to discuss a Personnel Issue.

**Resolution # 10-1 NYSEG Solutions**

A Motion was Made by Clm. Cope to Direct Supervisor to Sign Contract with NYSEG Solutions for a Renewable Energy Electric Source.

Seconded by: Clm. Frongillo

Passed as Follows:

Ayes: Supv. Barber, Clm. Cope, Clm. Seely, Clm. Farnum, Clm. Frongillo

Nays: None

The Executive Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Clark Walls  
Deputy Town Clerk



