

Town of Caroline Town Board Minutes
December 11, 2007

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on December 11, 2007, at the Town Hall was called to order by Supervisor Don Barber at 7:05 pm.

Present: Don Barber, Supervisor
Ed Cope, Councilman
Tim Seely, Councilman
Linda Adams, Councilwoman

Absent: Dominic Frongillo

Privilege of the Floor:

Kathleen Quinlan, representing the Natural Areas and Trails Committee, spoke about the committee's interest in developing the old railroad bed near Coddington Road as an extension of the South Hill Recreation Area. This railroad bed is owned by NYSEG and touches on 4 Towns: Ithaca, Dryden, Danby and Caroline. Most of the railroad bed is in Caroline, so it would be logical for Caroline to take the lead in developing a recreational trail there. The Committee is willing to do work, but is asking the Town of Caroline to assist in dealing with Tompkins County. For one thing, the County has a trails map which does not include this suggested trail. Being "on the map" would make our trail eligible for a grant to do a feasibility study. The County could also help in dealing with NYSEG.

The Committee has walked the area. The railroad bed from Burns Road to Banks Road is in very good condition and is actually used by walkers now. The bed from Banks to Middaugh has several washout areas that would require bridging. The Committee hopes to work with the Town of Ithaca for information on maintenance and on dealing with landowners who abut the trail area.

Clw. Adams asked about funding. The South Hill Trail is 10 feet wide. The Committee is willing to do work, but currently seeks political support. A resolution in January might get the trail on the map. Then the other Towns could be contacted for support. That would have us ready for the June funding deadlines.

Toby MacDonald asked whether NYSEG uses this property currently. It does not seem to be used. Frank Proto reminded Kathleen that security, maintenance, policing and future plans need to be considered.

Kathleen pointed out that Fernando D'Aragon was quite interested in the long term possibility of a connection to Tioga County.

Len Pogorzala: asked that Councilman Adams be introduced to the public. He also asked why the Trail issue was not on the agenda. The answer was that the issue came from the Planning Board meeting and there was not time to put it on the agenda.

Frank Proto: asked to thank Cindy Whittaker (not present) for good work on the roads and to thank Ed Cope for directing the money from wreaths at Brookton's Market to the Brooktondale Community Center.

Highway Superintendent's Report:

Cindy Whittaker was not present. She did buy more road salt.

Supervisor's Report:

Correspondence of note:

1. Tompkins County Finance Dept notes that mortgage tax revenue has increased by 10% over 2006. Sales tax revenue is down but Caroline does not use that as revenue.
2. A letter from the US Postal Service announces that a representative will be at the January 8 meeting of the Town Board to talk about the process of getting a new building for the Slaterville Post Office. They

express a desire to stay in the hamlet.

3. Application for grant monies for Flood Hazard Mitigation should be filed by December 14, 2007.
(Caroline will access for Barrile II.)

Report: The Small Cities Grant: The last project was assigned. We will wait to see whether there is money for another small project.

The Council of Governments is working on draft language for the Healthcare Consortium. There are many opinions about Dog Control. County Gov hopes a better arrangement for dog control can be worked out by June.

The Town Clerk received petitions concerning bonding for the Midnight Sun property. The Board of Elections does not govern this process but can make data accessible for checking the petitions. The petitions received request a permissive referendum.

The Tompkins County Assessors office will re-assess in 2008; it anticipates the overall assessed value to go up by 15 %.

County Representative's Report:

Rep. Proto explained about the TCAT transit contract. The contract was awarded to Tioga Transit of Elmira, who won over Tioga Transport which had been doing the routes for 25 years. At the last minute, TTransit balked at an issue amounting to \$172,000 and backed out. Now TTransport has been given a 3 year contract. It was an exciting day, but service was maintained as usual.

Landowners have until April 1 to file for Ag Assessment. Soil maps need to be updated in some cases.

TC SWCD is the lead agency on the Barrile II project. Barry Goodrich will show the Barrile I video at the Water Resources Council on Monday, December 17 at 4 pm at the Transit Building.

The Stream Corridor study, a Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, will take \$50,000 but will not impact currently planned projects. Proto is suggesting work be done on Ekroos Road where a pipe is eroding the road.

The Board of Health will do 1 more flu clinic. There are 500 doses left. The Board of Health has asked the County to back off using the Brown Road building as a new location for the Board of Health.

Customers who use NYSEG, not the alternatives, must "Voice their Choice." Gov. Spitzer is interested in high speed broadband service; Proto is raising the issue (again) of accessing money in the Universal Connectivity fund.

Rep Proto has arranged a contract process by which each of the Towns with Reading Rooms can access \$1000. Supv. Barber can get this money for Caroline.

Committee Reports

Clm. Cope reported that the Planning Board is tired of trying to work with the Leberge group which was supposed to provide advice on the Comprehensive Plan. They ask Supervisor Barber to cancel the contract. The Planning Board will move ahead on its own.

They are looking at a grant program from Ag and Markets. If they identify good farmland and want to protect it, a 1/4 match from the Town could bring dollars for protection. The match does not need to be cash, so it seems like a good investment.

Clm. Seely will check with Lucy Gagliardo about the Youth Commission self assessment which needs to be done.

Transfers

At this time of year, transfers mostly deal with highway funds. In 2007 the Highway Dept concentrated on

road work and spent a lot of money. This fall has also had more bad weather and more need for salt than usual. Highway has \$30,000 left which is enough to make payroll.

A motion was made by Supv. Barber, seconded by Clm. Seely, to authorize the following transfers:

- \$ 2000.00 From General Fund Account A 1420.415 Legal Contract to General Fund Account A 1420.4 Attorney CE
- \$ 1,200.00 From General Fund Account A 1220.4 Supervisor CE to General Fund Account 1420.4 Attorney CE
- \$ 734.70 From Highway Fund Account DA 9030.8 Social Security to Highway Fund Account DA9060.8 Medical Insurance
- \$ 7,218.40 From Highway Fund Account DA 5112.1 Improvement PS to Highway Fund Account DA 5110.1 Repairs PS
- \$ 475.76 From Highway Fund Account DA 5112.11 Improvement PS(OT) to Highway Fund Account DA 5142.1 Snow and Ice PS
- \$ 16,000.00 From Highway Fund Account DA 5130.1 Machinery PS to Highway Fund Account DA 5142.4 Snow and Ice CE
- \$ 2,000.00 From Highway Fund Account DA 5130.4 Machinery CE to Highway Fund Account DA 5142.4 Snow and Ice CE
- \$1,000.00 From Highway Fund Account DA 5140.4 Misc. CE to Highway Fund Account DA 5142.4 Snow and Ice CE

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Approval of Abstracts

Approval of General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Clm. Seely and seconded by Clm. Cope to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 387 to 418 in the amount of 17,771.40.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Approval of Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Clm. Cope and seconded by Clm. Seely to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 218 to 240 in the amount of 41,608.66.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Approval of Community Development Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Clm. Seely and seconded by Supv. Barber to approve payment for the Community

Development Fund voucher numbers 41 and 42 in the amount of 32,998.90.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Approval of Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Clm. Cope and seconded by Clw. Adams to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers voucher numbers 22 and 23 in the amount of 508.50.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2007

A motion was made by Clm. Seely and seconded by Supv. Barber to accept the minutes of November 8, 2007, with the following corrections on page 2:

"General Budget etc" should read Town Budget Public Hearing. The Public Hearing to approve the 2008 Town Budget: Supervisor Barber read the General Budget lines. This hearing was not closed.

"Town Highway Budget, etc" should read The Highway part of the Budget was read. Supervisor Barber asked that the 2008 Town Budget Public Hearing be closed at 7:42 pm.

"The Caroline Fire, etc" should correct Supv. Barber's statement to read "there are three separate Budgets for Fire Protection in the Town of Caroline" etc.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2007

A motion was made by Clm. Cope and seconded by Clw. Adams to accept the minutes of November 13, 2007.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Minutes of November 27, 2007

A motion was made by Supv. Barber and seconded by Clm. Seely to accept the minutes of November 27, 2007, with the following correction:

Under Town business, in consideration of replacing Nelly Farnum, the name "Bert XX" should be changed to "Bert Cooley."

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye

Linda Adams: Aye

Resolutions

Resolution 12-1 of 2007

Collective Bargaining Agreement with Highway Employees

By Clm. Cope, seconded by Supv. Barber

The negotiation for a three year contract has been completed and the highway employees have agreed. They will receive a 2% increase in wages--a \$.30 per hour increase in 2008; a \$.35 per hour increase in 2009; and a \$.40 increase per hour in 2010. There will be no change in health care; it will continue at 100%. The health care issue was more important than the hourly wage in the negotiations.

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-2 of 2007

Health Care Participation Agreement

By Supv. Barber; Seconded by Clm. Cope

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the Highway Employee Health Care Participation Agreement as negotiated.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-3 of 2007

Approve the Stormwater Officer Advisor Contract with TCSWCD

By Supv. Barber; Seconded by Clm. Seely

Under this contract, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District will provide technical advice, as needed, about stormwater plans presented to the Town of Caroline Code Enforcement Officer. The CEO will then inspect and enforce the plans as they are put into effect.

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract with TCSWCD.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-4 of 2007

Approve the SEQRA Lead Agency Finding

By Clm. Cope; Seconded by Clm. Seely

Resolved, the town board approves the SEQRA Lead Agency Finding for Local Law Regulating Illicit Discharge to Storm Water System.

The resolution of intent as well as the full SEQRA assessment form should be sent to all Interested Agencies, as listed. Page 7, under "local funding," check no. 24 "NO."

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-5 of 2007

Health Insurance Policy for Retirees and Clerk

By Clw. Adams; Seconded by Clm. Seely

A new plan from First Niagara would save the Town \$15,000. Looking at prescription rates, the new plan with fixed co-pay looks preferable to the current Blue Cross percentage co-pay plan.

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the supervisor to negotiate a contract with First Niagara for EPO option II.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-6 of 2007

Rescind Dog Control Resolution 11-8 of 2007 and replace with Res. 12-5

By Supv. Barber, seconded by Clm. Cope

Resolved, The Caroline Town Board hereby rescinds Resolution 11-8 of 2007 and authorizes the supervisor to sign the new contract with the SPCA, to be effective from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. The Town will aim to negotiate a 2009 contract by June 2008.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Comment for Council of Governments: "mail contact rather than appearance" is a process being offered, but which is already managed by the Town Clerk. Maybe "enumerator service" could be substituted. Citizens should be able to call to have dogs picked up. Do the Ag & Markets people check the dog control facility? What time response can they commit to?

Resolution 12-7 of 2007

Town of Harford Code Enforcement

By Supv. Barber; Seconded by Clm. Deely

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract with the Town of Harford to provide Code Enforcement services for \$7850.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-8 of 2007

Brooktondale Fire District

By Supv. Barber; Seconded by Clw. Adams

Resolved, the Town of Caroline authorizes the supervisor to sign the agreement for cooperative procurement

and reimbursement of Workers Comp insurance premiums.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-9 of 2007

Caroline Fire Protection District

By Supv. Barber; Seconded by Clm. Cope

Resolved: The Caroline Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract for the Caroline Fire Protection District with the Brooktondale Fire District.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Resolution 12-10 of 2007

Environmental Management Council Representative

By Supv. Barber; Seconded by Clm. Cope

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board appoints Steve Nicholson, residing at 220 Yapple Road, Berkshire, NY, to be the Town of Caroline Representative to the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, and be it further

Resolved, that the Caroline Town Board expects its representative to report either in person or by written report the activities of the Environmental Management Council, and be it further

Resolved, that the Caroline Town Board's opinion about issues before the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council will be solicited by our representative, who will provide necessary background information about those issues to the Town Board to facilitate their careful deliberation.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Clm. Seely, having looked at the petitions which had been delivered to the Town Clerk, noted some irregularity and asked whether he should have the Town attorney check their validity. The wording at the top requests a permissive referendum, where it would seem to intend to request a public referendum. He was asked to check with the attorney. He will take copies and leave the original with the Clerk.

Establish 2007 Year-End Meeting

A motion was made by Supv. Barber and seconded by Clw. Adams to hold the Year-End Meeting at 6 pm on Friday, December 28, 2007, at the Town Hall.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
Ed Cope: Aye
Tim Seely: Aye
Linda Adams: Aye

Establish Organizational Meeting

A motion was made by Supv. Barber and seconded by Clw. Adams to establish the 2008 Organizational Meeting for Wednesday, January 2, at 7 pm at the Town Hall. The agenda for the January business meeting, to be held on January 8 at 7 pm, will be discussed on January 2.

Adopted: Don Barber : Aye
 Ed Cope: Aye
 Tim Seely: Aye
 Linda Adams: Aye

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Adams, Deputy Town Clerk