

## **Caroline Town Board Minutes, June 10, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on June 10, 2008 at the Town Hall was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Dominic Frongillo at 7:05 p.m.

### **Present:**

Don Barber, Supervisor (arrived 7:30)  
Toby McDonald, Councilman  
Pete Hoyt, Councilman  
Dominic Frongillo, Councilman

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk

### **Presentation by Brooktondale Fire District**

Brian Turk, commissioner: Passed resolution re proposed boundary alteration for Brooktondale protection district merging with Brooktondale fire district. Would like to take over the portion that they cover. 1) They have members in community who would like to run for office, but have to live in fire district to do that. 2) One less contract they would have to sign with town. 3) It will be cheaper for those who live in area now covered if it's merged with the fire district. Mr. McDonald: You already cover the area you want to assimilate? Answer: Yes. Caroline fire district residents pay \$1.69 per thousand for taxes; Brooktondale pays \$1.49 per thousand. Mr. Hoyt: how many households would be affected? Answer: would have to get that number from the town clerk. Cindy Whittaker: I live in the Brooktondale fire protection district. Right now we don't have the privilege of voting; have no direct address. We have to go through the town board, not through the Brooktondale fire district. Mr. Turk: Also not enough people to serve, and people in that area have shown willingness to serve. This does not affect ambulance. Chris Fillinger, commissioner: would like to have it done before budget cycle. Ms. Whittaker: this will take budgeting process off town board. Mr. Hoyt: doesn't want anyone's toes to be stepped on. Mr. Turk: Town Board would have to hold a public hearing. Ms. Whittaker: Caroline protection district is not a stakeholder in this. The only thing affected is that residents get a stake in voting. Mr. Frongillo: this is first step in the process. Next is to have a public hearing, so we don't have to take action tonight.

### **Resolution 6-1 of 2008**

#### **Public Hearing for Brooktondale Fire District Boundary Alteration**

By Mr. Hoyt; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

RESOLVED, the Caroline Town Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall, 2670 Slaterville Road, Slaterville Springs, to hear any and all comments regarding the proposed fire district boundary alteration, in which the portion of the Caroline Fire Protection district that is covered by the Brooktondale Fire District would be merged into the Brooktondale Fire District.

**Passed** Barber: Absent; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Renate Ferro: wanted to let town board know how they feel about taking down the midnight sun. Exposes the architectural exterior of the building. Commend Town Board on their work. Please make new building historically compatible and of good construction so it will be still standing in another 200 years. Also please make safety entrance for voting, place for parking, place for children to play. Mr. McDonald invited her to attend their meetings of the town hall office building committee.

Tim Murray: Town Board asked state to decrease speed limit between Landon and Besemer roads. It was turned down. Encourages board to revisit the issue. There was a major accident there early this week. It's becoming more and more problematic.

Greg Harrington: Slaterville ambulance. Beth Harrington served on the Tompkins County fire advisory committee, but now needs to be reappointed by resolution of the town board. Term expired and needs to be reappointed in order to be able to conduct official business.

**Resolution 6-2 of 2008**  
**Appoint Beth Harrington to TC Fire Advisory Board**

By Mr. Hoyt; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

RESOLVED, the Caroline Town Board appoints Beth Harrington to the Tompkins County Fire, EMS, and Disaster Advisory Board.

**Passed** Barber: Absent; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

Robin Tilton: sent in letter to set everyone's mind at ease that their concerns and voice matters. Doesn't want to fight this for the next year.; would like the town board to support their concerns.

Joe Scaglione: has owned property on Belle School Road since 1961. He is also against the trail; it would go within 15 feet of his equipment barn.

Sara Meyers: lives on Caroline Depot Road; wants to voice opposition to the trail.

Amy Woodin: Coddington Road, her property doesn't border proposed trail, but wants to voice opposition

Bridget Foster: wrote letter to board. Backing up what Joe said, people on the trail would literally be able to look into her bedroom window. Has very great concern about this. Also feels it's very invasive of a beautiful area filled with wildlife. It's a migratory bird route.

Mary Arsenault: wrote to board members recently listing all of her concerns. Wants to reiterate what all people have said. Personal objection is her horses who live on edge of where trail would be. Horses might be injured by well-meaning people on trail and vice versa. At trail meeting last week, she mentioned to Kathleen Quinlan that it is not mentioned that people would be able to do horseback riding, snowmobiling, etc. She re-read the letter and it does not mention those activities; refers to activities like hiking and biking. The other users would be eliminated by this trail: we are not included in this letter.

Joe Scaglione: could we purchase the land from NYSEG?

Robin Tilton: NYSEG is going through merger and they can't sell, but they want a resolution from the town board saying they'll support landowners and not the trail, then the homeowners will not have to fight it. What do we have to do to get that support from the town board?

Mr. Hoyt: item on the agenda tonight for a resolution in support of going forward with the trail. He says to offer up the resolution and vote it down. This would stop the thing in its tracks.

Mr. McDonald: this board agreed to investigate the trail. The committee was tasked to get support from property owners, and if they weren't going to go along with it, the board would also not go along with it. He read the parts in the letter that talk about the adjacent landowner support as being necessary for the success of the trail.

Renate Ferro: just listening to people here, and only 9 represented here in opposition. (Showed her the petition) She agrees with Toby that if the landowners don't want this, it won't go forward, but there will be a need for our town to address the need for public transportation, re bicycle travel. As a community, how do we solve the problem of access, and also have a beautiful trail.

Amy Woodin: not one member of the committee lives on the land adjacent to the trail. Also there is already access.

Mr. McDonald: I don't want to entirely can it. I want the trails committee to come back with a petition with signatures of consent.

Cindy Whittaker: like Amy says, there is already access. All this is going to do is eliminate us. The moment it becomes a trail, we are eliminated. I snowmobile in the area. I would not want a bunch of people walking through my backyard.

Chris Fillinger: once the consolidation happens, can NYSEG sell it then? Right now if it's open to anyone's use?

Greg Harrington: recently lots of people have switched phone providers, but they need to make sure 911 has the correct information. There was an accident on Slaterville road this week, and their 911 call went to

Amsterdam. Has happened to 10 people in this area. This happens when you move to a new city and keep your phone number. A lady moved to NYC, called 911, and the local cops responded by knocking on the door where she previously lived locally. She had not updated the 911.

**Resolution 6-3 of 2008  
Coddington Trail Initiative Letter of Access**

By Mr. Hoyt; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

RESOLVED, the town board authorizes the supervisor to sign the Letter of Access received from NYSEG, allowing access to the former DL&W railroad bed, for the purpose of an initial feasibility investigation of the proposed Coddington Trail Concept.

**Failed** Barber: Abstain; Frongillo: Abstain; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Nay; Hoyt: Nay

Discussion: McDonald: until there's consent from the landowners, I don't think we should continue. Frongillo: I'd like to see if the committee can address the people's concerns; up to the committee to get the support. Let it take its course to see if there can be a dialog to address them. Barber: we have a process with the planning board to have a the trails committee. It's not the town board's place to jump over the committee. I'd like to table it until the committee can come back to us with support. Mary Arsenault offered a recording of the committee meeting. Barber says he'd like one. Hoyt: why go forward with this if there is such opposition? Barber: Why do we have committees if we're going to override them? McDonald sees no reason to go forward if the landowners are not buying in to the project.

Bridget Foster: what is the loss to you if this doesn't go through?

Don Barber: the trails committee is meeting again before our next meeting, and I'd like to hear from the committee also.

Mr. McDonald: please note that this resolution did not pass.

Mr. Barber: process is that the committee will meet and then they will present next month at this meeting. The agenda will be on the web site.

**Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports**

**Highway Superintendent**

- paved that section of road on Level Green with the new technology, and it seems the same at a lower temp and with a less obnoxious smell
- drainage work on Ogden road
- started mowing
- with price of oil, we have to cut back on services, like less plowing
- have to get our capital projects done on Level Green and Ridgeway because we get reimbursed by the state, then start ditching, and work on gravel roads.
- people need to be aware that times are tough and its tough for the highway dept too.
- we plow Ekroos Road except the hill. About 2 miles is state road. Met with DEC, and guy was upset that we plow it. She's working on the permit process and will work together with DEC and try to get the road brought up to a better standard.
- South Road is posted for 10 tons; Owego Contracting is now hauling logs over South Road. They get there over Downey Road extension, so by the time they get to South Road, there's no turning around and going back. Wants to post Downey Road extension.

**Supervisor's Report**

Correspondence of Note:

1. Letter from SEMO denying grant application for Barille II due to assumptions in Cost Benefit Analysis with 30 day window to respond
2. Letter from SEMO confirming FEMA will fund Valley Rd stream bank stabilization project

## Report

1. Valley Road stream bank stabilization project – TG Miller is meeting with both DEC and Army Corps to begin permitting process. Unless stars align – project will most likely happen in 2009
2. Council of Gov'ts – Health Care Consortium: settled on a consultant to complete phase 2& 3 of our grant funded project hope to begin accepting applicants in 2009
3. TG Miller did complete survey in April of Barille II, data has been sent to Integrated River Systems meeting on Friday at SWCD office
4. TCCOG dealing with Dog Control contract – not settled with some wanting to seal a deal with SPCA and others wanting an RFP. Meeting 6/26 @3 PM for dog control main topic on agenda
5. TCAT – began conversations with B-dale Baptist about park & ride site
6. Gas Drilling land men and contracts again. Much concern about process and lack of oversight by DEC

## Transfers

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

\$ 145.75	from General Account A1990.4 Contingency to General Fund Account A 8510.4 Community Beautification CE
\$ 2,550.00	from Highway Fund Account DA 5110.1 Repairs CE to Highway Fund Account DA 5142.4 Snow and Ice CE
\$ 12,972.11	from Community Development Fund CD 909 Fund Balance Reserves to Community Development Fund CD 8668.400 Construction
<b>Passed</b>	Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

## Abstracts

### Approval of General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 173 through 213 in the amount of \$19,643.01.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Approval of Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. McDonald to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 125 through 147 in the amount of \$15,816.84.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Approval of Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 10 and 11 in the amount of \$507.85.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Approval of Community Development Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. McDonald to approve payment for the Community Development Fund voucher numbers 10 through 13 in the amount of \$13,652.40.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

## Minutes

### Minutes of May 6, 2008

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the minutes of May 6 as submitted by the town clerk.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Minutes of May 13, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. Frongillo and seconded by Mr. McDonald to accept the minutes of May 13 as submitted by the town clerk.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolutions**

**Resolution 6-4 of 2008  
Weight limit on Downey Road extension**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Hoyt

RESOLVED, the highway superintendent is authorized to post a 10-ton weight limit on the full length of Downey Road Extension.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 6-5 of 2008  
Authorize contract with SEMO for Valley Road Streambank Stabilization Project**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract with the State Emergency Management Office for streambank stabilization.

**Passed** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Absent; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Adjourn**

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk