

Town of Caroline Town Board Minutes, July 1, 2008

The regular meeting of the Caroline Town Board held on July 1, 2008 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Dominic Frongillo at 7:06 p.m.

Present:

Dominic Frongillo, Councilman
Linda Adams, Councilwoman
Toby McDonald, Councilman
Pete Hoyt, Councilman
Don Barber, Supervisor – arrived at 7:50

Recording Secretary: Cindy Vicedomini, Deputy Town Clerk

Public Hearing on Brooktondale Fire District Boundary Alteration Request

The deputy supervisor, Dominic Frongillo, opened the public hearing at 7:06 pm.

Peter Hoyt: Explained the handout he received from Jay Franklin at the Tompkins County Assessment Dept.. (Attached)

A question was raised: Is each contract done individually? Pete Hoyt indicated that he does not know. What is Speedsville Fire Department being paid now? Pete Hoyt: It's written in the attachment. So tax base is figured on the left? Pete Hoyt indicated yes.

Cindy Whittaker: Why is there a taxable value, there is twice as much and there is one-quarter that is written in?

Pete Hoyt: The Assessment Dept re-did the numbers which does bring them a little bit closer. Could it be because of the amount of square miles? Is it based upon what they requested from us? [Town clerk found paperwork that the numbers were requested from us.]

Rick Morgan, Speedsville Fire Chief: There is quite a discrepancy. My understanding was that what was set in place was set in place years ago. There was good discussion over the years; they said put in a justifiable budget and they would go back and forth. Under mutual aid everything went ok when we needed assistance. The contract has gone from a three year contract to a one year contract because they couldn't get the money. Brooktondale was able to get that money because some of their members were in that area. Talk was to try to get the commissioner to live in that area. That might have to do with the bylaws. Yes he thinks there is a disparity, and questionable over the years.

Mr. Hoyt: One of the options would be to re-district, we have to do more research, jockey money around.

Mr. Morgan: We could not make the department at \$20,000 per year. Is there a date this has to be done? Can we have a meeting with Speedsville?

Mr. Hoyt: Does not know if it will solve anything, and is all for pulling together. Is it dollar and cents? Thought we had good fire coverage.

Ms. Whittaker: Feels she should be able to go down and vote for a new fire truck, or Commissioner, and should be able to run for Commissioner. She wants to be able to vote for Commissioner. "I am paying for it." She does not see how each contract is individually done. If you change the district, how is money being taken away from Speedsville?

Mr. Hoyt: If this goes through you will be paying for the Brooktondale Fire District; right now you are paying for Caroline. Right now it is all being put in a big pot and pulled out for each fire protection district.

Because there is a misappropriation for the coverage areas, and is going to be manifest if the money is not merged and split up.

Ms. Whittaker: Are you going to lower taxes?

Mr. Hoyt: You are currently in the Caroline fire district, if this goes through you will be in the Brooktondale district. How did the boundaries get set?

Answer: Years ago, Brooktondale covered that district. Speedsville said, let's form our own. 1968?

Ms. Whittaker: has excellent fire coverage. As far as the lines, nothing is going to change right?

Mr. Hoyt: Called a couple guys from Speedsville about this meeting. But it was not announced to Speedsville. Called Doug Keefe twice.

Ray Watkins, Speedsville Fire Dept: If we are going on record, we should notify the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hoyt: I came out to Speedsville

Mr. Watkins: Some got notified, some didn't. Upset we were not notified properly. Should notify the Board of Directors.

Dominic Frongillo: We cannot change things that have been done in the past, let's just go forward. I am interested in what Cindy said, is it a bylaw issue? She is paying something to the town, she should be able to vote.

Brian Turk, Brooktondale Fire Chief: Laws say you have to live in the fire district. Understand talk around town as to what we are trying to do, we are not trying to do anything underhanded, we are trying to merge the protection districts. Did not think it was going to be that big of an issue. We are not here to cause any problems.

Mr. Hoyt: If it was not for the taxing problem, we would not have an issue.

Mr. Turk: If you look at the map, Brooktondale is quite small, we are running out of people to run. NYS says you have to live in a district in order to run for commissioner.

Mr. Hoyt: Would it be possible to redraw the lines and move less into Brooktondale and more into Speedsville? And it might increase Speedsville, and would give Brooktondale more geography.

Mr. Turk: You have a good company, how are you making up the money to stay alive.

Mr. Hoyt: Brooktondale has a bigger tax base. Basically they have deeper pockets.

Mr. Watkins: Does this map include parts of Dryden and Danby?

Mr. Hoyt: That is not the issue

Mr. Watkins: If we could get two subcontracts we could have our own dept.

Mr. Hoyt: Do you think this could be resolved by sliding these lines around.

Ray Watkins: What are we trying to resolve? Is it so that Brooktondale has more? – is it a Money issue? Submit it to the Board and the public

Bruce Murray: I can see your problem sliding lines, now I am covered by the other side, and it takes 20 minutes, but the dept next to me took 5 minutes.

Mr. Watkins: New dispatch system has been the communication system problem. They are now getting better and getting response quicker.

Linda Adams: We are talking about this because someone wants the opportunity to be commissioner. I am hearing that Brooktondale is a population center.

Mr. Turk: There are simply people who do not volunteer like they used to. We are not trying to cause any problems. If it is an issue, we will just back away from it.

Ms. Adams: So there is not any target?

Mr. Turk: Just broadening the area.

Mr. Hoyt: It does make sense that individuals want a direct say.

Mr. Watkins: Person who wants to be a Commissioner in a different district that is a member should be able to run. Ask the Board to take a look at the State law.

Mr. Hoyt: I will be willing to look into it. Will this satisfy folks like Cindy?

Ms. Whittaker: It would be nice, but do not care either way.

Mr. Watkins: Maybe set a meeting in Speedsville for July.

Mr. Hoyt: Will play around with the numbers with Jay at Assessment. It seems like there might be a little flexibility. When can we have a meeting in Speedsville?

Mr. Watkins: Stated he would set up the meeting.

Meeting was set for Wednesday, July 17, 7:00 pm. In Speedsville.

Mr. Turk: I will get Pete Hoyt the State law.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:58 pm by Deputy Supervisor Dominic Frongillo.

Supervisor Don Barber took over

Privilege of the Floor

Edward Myers – Is there anything on the agenda about trails?

Linda Adams – Trail group is continuing the outreach and said it would take much more time. Nothing on agenda next week

Mr. Myers – How long?

Ms. Adams – Months. We would like adjacent landowners to be part of the meetings and research and have more pairs of eyes to look at it. We are looking at Burns to Middaugh in July, August time frame – then the other sections would be followed up with.

Pete Hoyt: Mostly the town of Dryden and Ithaca.

Sara Meyers: Requested a copy of those minutes of the trails issue.

LIDAR Presentation

Craig Schutt, Tompkins County Soil and Water, presented – handout attached.

Only collects elevation data through GPS. Results in 3-D topographic model. Use for Town of Caroline: Update flood plain maps. Identified as high priority in Tompkins County Multi-jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. Stormwater Management. Cayuga, Chemung, a few more – have done this. It is available on County computers – available to everyone.

Pete Hoyt: What would the approximate cost be?

Mr. Schutt: \$15,000 – \$20,000.

Mr. Hoyt: What do you think Caroline should kick in? You must have some number in mind.

Don Barber: Based on acreage, assessment? – then ask each municipality to kick in? Do we have money? Some money for the Barrile project was not used - gets dumped back into the budget. Requested this money not used be earmarked to streams and the like

Mr. Hoyt: how much money is left over?

Barry Goodrich: \$10,000 to \$15,000

Mr. Hoyt: Could see taking some of that to put towards LIDAR?

Mr. Goodrich: The money came from stream project and should be put back into it.

Linda Adams: Flood plain.

Mr. Barber: If building in a flood plain, there are special building codes. You do have to have responsibility. We have roughly \$32,000 budgeted for stream use.

Mr. Hoyt: It was put in the budget last year, and not spent any? Would like to know a dollar amount to contribute.

Ms. Adams: Will do resolution, once she sees the numbers next week, with a dollar amount. How will the dollar amount be determined, what is our value, our usefulness?

Mr. Hoyt: The state will accept this data, over a two man surveyor team?

Mr. Barber: Pete Hoyt would like an amount, and what other municipalities will contribute. By assessment, acreage? Do proposal to the Council of Governments and what each would contribute. When do you see pulling all the funds together?

Mr. Scutt: This year, but possibly next year.

Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports

Mr. Frongillo: The web site is down. Name expired. Marty Demarest re-did it and will send us a bill. New web site will kick in this or next month. Will take out of Marty's hands and have Katy Nicholson take care of it.

Planning Board, felt there was not enough community support to move forward with zoning. Contact made with the state, can we draft something, and do we actually have to pass a law or just submit a draft to satisfy the grant?

Change is coming – think about how to prepare for those land use rules, will it be 3 years? Or 20 years? Paid out over ½ of the grant amount.

Discussion re PB and zoning issues; whether or not to draft a law the town board has no plan to pass to give to the state to satisfy the grant, instead of paying the state back. They don't want the money back.

Mr. McDonald: Town Hall office committee meets next week, will have a report. Also have been speaking with Cindy Whittaker regarding fuel usage on vehicles and natural gas for the winter months. Cindy or Toby will have the highway report next week.

Ms. Adams: The first application of the herbicide went very well at the Barrile site. A very important speaker is coming to the Watershed meeting, Mr. Nick Schipanski – Wetland expert.

Don Barber: Do we need to flush the sump pumps when not being used. It is only used when there is flooding. Need to go down more often to run water through them. Every time we have a flood, they do not work because they freeze up with rust from not being used in 1 to 2 years. Were told to flush the pumps every month.

Other town Business:

Deb DeAugustine: Dog census: The dog enumerator quit. We need dog enumeration done. Town of Ithaca sent a flyer to everyone, along with a form to license dogs, instead of a person going from house to house. Should we try the flyer method instead of a person obtaining the information? The Town is required to do dog census and rabies.

Don Barber: What do other towns do to handle this? Should the Council of Governments be looking at the collection of the dog census? Should we switch to another service?

Deb DeAugustine: A guy in Homer has this type of service.

Public Hearing: Have to have a public hearing re: can we spend public money on public employees. Deputy Town Clerk held position while accepting home repairs under a HUD grant. Have to determine there is no conflict.

Working with Brooktondale Church and TCAT to establish a park and ride.

Don Barber: Lighting district – talked to supplier, can go to a fixed rate rather than variable, and set it in the fall when air conditioners are not being used. Right number of lights and use? Budget for year: \$7,500. Dominic will draft a letter to NYSEG.

Cindy Whittaker – Asked board to ask the County Board of Elections to change the term for Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent's term from 2 year to 4 years.

Don Barber: Also, the judges, they are both due to run the same year, we need to change one to 2 years.

Cindy Whittaker: We also need to transfer funds from road repairs. Has a problem with 4-wheelers tearing up the roads after highway repairs. Also signs are being stolen. Cindy has gone to parents and made calls to parents. Newly paved roads being torn up, and homeowners ask why we give less attention to the abused roads. Check with DEC for plowing Ekroos Rd., got the permit from State of NY. Chipping brush and taking care of the state portion. Years ago there was a resolution to plow the state's portion of that road.

Resolutions

Resolution 7-1 of 2008

Public Hearing for Use of Public Funds for Housing Rehab for a Public Official

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

RESOLVED, the town board establishes a public hearing on July 8, 2008 at 7 pm at the Caroline Town Hall, 2670 Slaterville Rd., Slaterville Springs, NY to hear public input on the use of public funds for housing rehabilitation for a public official.

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

Agenda Items

- Public hearing regarding use of public funds for housing rehabilitation for a public official
- Resolution regarding speed limit on RT 79. Fix the speed limits
- Dog census

Adjourn

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy L. Vicedomini, Deputy Town Clerk