

## **Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Caroline Town Board held in the Town Hall was called to order on October 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

### **Attendance:**

Don Barber, Supervisor  
Dominic Frongillo, Councilman  
Linda Adams, Councilwoman  
Toby McDonald, Councilman  
Pete Hoyt, Councilman

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Rebecca Phillips, Lackawana Rd: presented her attempt at maps for the board's consideration. What is now considered the proposed trail from Burns to Middaugh roads is approx 15,000 ft to the Town of Caroline line, 1400 feet within The town of Caroline: less than ten percent of the proposed trail is within the town. Purpose for submitting is to provide a visual of what Caroline has at stake in comparison to the whole trail. Wants to propose we drop lead agency. [Attachment #1: map]

Scott VanGaasbeck, 51 Middaugh Rd: spent morning at county clerk doing title research. NYSEG does not have a deed. Read his letter against the trail [Attachment #2: letter]

Bob Anderson, Blackman Hill Rd, addressing Pete Hoyt's resolution: read his letter. Basically, aside from protecting landowner rights, he cited costs under current economic conditions for creation and maintenance of trail, which might be quite high. Also liability, property disputes. [Attachment #3: letter]

Peter Brown, 190 German Cross Rd: owns 1500 feet plus or minus along trail; intrusions of cars blocking access to their fields, lots of people even sunbathers. He has target range in that field. Vehemently opposed. Very narrow road and nowhere for parking; propane gas main cutting across road.

David Carr, 922 White Church Rd: cited economic impact on every taxpayer in the town of Caroline. Believes we're in deep doo-doo. Attended trail committee and didn't get any indication of what money in funds or grants would be available for building a trail. Lots of local people opposed to the trail; environmental impact would be significant because of the logistics. He has hunted and walked every stretch of it for many years. Suggesting the board takes into deep consideration our economic conditions, or table it for a few years, or stop it at Burns road.

Kim Whetzel, Slaterville Rd: attended number of the meetings and articulated concerns. He owns land along trail. Has thefts along the informal trail along his land in Tioga county. Mr. Hilker to the north has witnessed first hand problem caused by trail. Also cost: will impact all the residents. Not time to be spending money; time to pull back and think about it. Thinks all landowners along trail have not really been consulted.

Giovanni [last name?], Coddington Road, Danby: not against proposition of having a trail. Lots of things to be worked out. Surprised by reading in the paper that along the bottom of their property line is a proposed trail since there's a large crevasse. Did not hear from the town of Caroline. Overall as a family, consider it a good thing in the future. Let's eliminate the doubt and think about the obstacles we can overcome at a later date. We did not receive communication from the town of Danby. Would like to talk to everyone else in the community to look at all the views. He uses the south hill trail regularly and is friendly with the neighbors along the trail. That type of community can be upgraded with the communities in Caroline and Danby.

Bill Hilker: kept hearing statements about his being only person opposed to the trail in the northern end, but did contact several people along the trail in the Town of Dryden section, and found that people on the other three corners, with Peter [Brown], are very opposed. Bessy Risley, Clara Stevens, Tracey Whittaker. In the section he owns in the town of Ithaca, it amounts to about 30% of trail frontage; Mr. [Orlando] Iacovelli is also opposed. Did not get a positive indication of anyone he contacted.

Orlando Iacovelli, Coddington Road: owns land adjacent to Dick Walker. Committee who contacted him said only person against was Bill Hilker. He wanted to make sure hunting was reserved. He's surprised to see how

many are opposed. Along the existing trail, was told that it would cost very little to support the trail. They said they would reserve it during the hunting season, and maybe there are small signs, but he doesn't see any.

James Burgess, 76 Road: he read a metaphor he wrote ages ago.

Mary Beth O'Connor, Middaugh Road: wants to see a vote on the resolution, read a memo from landowners adjacent to the trail [Attachment #4: letter]

## **Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports**

### **Frank Proto, County Legislator**

- 4 more meetings of the county budget; slightly over the 3% targeted. Will have to have a public hearing before final vote. Faced with a large cut in funds by the state, facing a total of 15%. Will do the best they can but can't be the bank.
- Encourages support from town board for a resolution supporting lake monitoring plan. There are 60 sites being monitored now; some of them have to be redundant. Adding two more sites that are not being monitored. The phosphorus does not appear to be coming from Lake Source Cooling.
- Saturday is the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Dr. Mary Tinker

### **Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent**

Mr. McDonald gave the report for Cindy Whittaker.

Roadwork: mowing will continue; repaired and paved intersection of Taft Rd and Buffalo Rd; Cut brush and cleaned ditches on Buffalo Rd; Graded and graveled Gulf Creek Rd; placing gravel on maintained portion of Ekroos Rd

Snow and Ice: stock piling deicing sand; attended meeting with TC Highway Superintendents and other personnel re tentative snow and ice schedules; change in snow and ice contract with county: we will no longer plow and sand Harford Rd

Buildings: Genson Doors will install overhead door on Building #3

### **Don Barber, Town Supervisor**

Correspondence of Note:

1. Notice of meeting with AG's office- Forum on Land Owner's Rights for Gas Leasing 1/23 6 PM Wm. Com. Building
2. Letter from Liberty Elm Tree Foundation – offer to donate one to Town for landscaping around Office Building

Report:

- Delivered Tentative Budget to Town Board
- Barrile II met with engineers, SWCD, and WS com- discussed design and divided tasks- will be discussing resolutions to begin funding engineering later

### **Toby McDonald, Town Board**

We advertised RFPs for the Town Hall Office Building; three packets have been distributed. Expect to have bids back to us at the meeting of November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Dominic Frongillo, Town Board**

Web site committee has a town email list to keep people apprised of town agenda; has 265 people on it.

### **Susan Barr, Planning Board**

Hear from Caroline residents that we want to work things out, be neighborly, that we should respect each other: that's what I hear when I run meetings. In August when Planning Board met, only survey that had been done was between Burns and German Cross road. Lots of misquotes. PB always strong on the fact that landowners have to

buy in. We understood that in the first section only one landowner was opposed. He suggested a change, and we're working on it; it would entail having other landowners donate land. We're working on changing the route to focus it away from people's property. Yes, we're slow. But really concerned about the numbers. Still want to finish the survey because there's misunderstanding. Lots of problems with this project; it's not clear if NYSEG owns the property; not clear that we have landowner support, and not clear that we have funding. I want a list of every landowner and where they stand.

Kathryn Seely: she came in at the very end because she was incensed about a letter in the paper about the people in the town of Caroline. She doesn't know why the third meeting was cancelled. Not a fair accusation.

Bev Liddington said it's true that she came in later on; she has been very supportive of what you guys wanted. She made a list at the committee meeting on what needs to be done.

Kathryn apologizes that all people past German Cross did not get contacted; no idea why they did not get contacted. Bill Hilker said they received bad information. Kathryn noted that the chair person became very ill, and it is very insulting to be told that they're so unorganized. They're just volunteers.; it is piecemeal. Hopefully with the help of the town board and planning board it will be less piecemeal.

Rebecca Philips: I think you got your survey.

Susan Barr: wants to finish the survey. Reiterated numbers of who was in favor, who didn't care, who was opposed. She was still looking at the first section as being viable. She would like the survey to go through because she wants to know where each person stands. Concerned about the integrity of government: poor information went out and she feels strongly on getting the record perfectly straight.

David Carr reiterated the need for numbers. What money is available? Logistics: how much gravel would it take to build that railroad bed up.

Susan Barr: that's one of the tasks that was given. Three choices from landowners: those for, those opposed, those uncommitted.

Mary Beth: if you want to know accurate info, that's fine. Since the property owners in Caroline are opposed, and you need information from people outside Caroline, then why do you care.

Bob Anderson: how much do you need to hear to be convinced that this is a bad idea? You do not have to face the voters, and it's frustrating for a non-elected official to champion a cause we're against.

Susan: I want to complete the investigation.

Robin Tilton noted that they've been asking for a deadline from the committee.

**Transfers**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

\$ 1,606.00 from General Account A 1440.407 Engineering Annex CE to General Fund Account A 1440.406 Engineering Aquifer Study CE

\$ 168.00 from General Account A1410.101 Clerk- Deputy PS to General Fund Account A 1460.4 Records Mgmt PS

\$ 1,000.00 from Highway Account DA 9050.8 Worker's Comp to Highway Fund Account DA 5130.4 Machinery CE

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Approval of Abstracts**

**General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Mr. McDonald to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 297 through 333 in the amount of \$33,175.80.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. Frongillo and seconded by Mr. McDonald to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 191 through 211 in the amount of \$25,472.72.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 16 and 17 in the amount of \$737.36.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Community Development Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Ms. Adams to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 18 in the amount of \$1304.57.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Approval of Minutes****Minutes of August 5, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the minutes of August as submitted by the deputy town clerk.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Minutes of September 2, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to accept the minutes of September 2 as submitted by the deputy town clerk.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Minutes of September 9, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to accept the minutes of September 9 as submitted by the town clerk.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Town Business****Aquifer study**

Yes, we need to do this and expend the funds. Everyone agrees. We will get reimbursed for up to \$90,000.

**Records Management**

The town clerk asked the board for approval to dispose of 19 boxes of records whose retention period has expired and that are eligible for disposal. The board agreed. [Attachment #5: list of records]

**Resolutions****Resolution 10-1 of 2008****Establish Town Board Position on Natural Areas and Trails Activity**

By Mr. Hoyt; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

*Discussion:*

Toby McDonald read the following prepared statement:

**For the better part of a year this Town Board has been struggling with how to handle the proposed extension of the South Hill Trail through the Town of Caroline on the abandoned railroad bed owned by New York State Electric & Gas.**

**In a January 30, 2008 letter NYSEG expressed a willingness to work with the Town in developing this plan. The letter identifies two important issues that need to be resolved in connection with the Towns use of NYSEG lands.**

**The first issue is that NYSEG be indemnified against any and all liability associated with public use of their lands.**

**The second states: "With respect to the issue of adjoining landowners, NYSEG is sensitive to the concerns of property owners adjoining the proposed trail, particularly farmers. NYSEG respectfully requests that the Town obtain written approval from all adjoining landowners, including farmers leasing land from NYSEG in advance of NYSEG providing the Town with the above-described easement."**

**From the beginning of this discussion, I have seen this second "important issue" brought forth in the NYSEG letter of 1/30/08 as the big qualifier of this project. Simply put- if all the adjoining landowners do not sign on, the trail should not happen. They have been given this power not by this Board or one of its committees, but by the ultimate holder of the key, NYSEG, the owner of the property.**

**This Board is currently in possession of a petition calling for the end of any furtherance of this particular trail in the Town of Caroline. It bears over 70 signatures of citizens from the proposed trail neighborhood, including many adjoining landowners.**

**This Board has been besieged by countless adjoining landowners at every Board meeting during privilege of the floor for several months, asking that this trail issue cease now.**

**These citizens are coming to the Board because the proposed trail will infringe on their privacy and their right to enjoy their own property. They are frustrated in their dealings with a *disorganized Trails Committee* and a Town Board that lacks the good judgement to know when to kill a bad idea.**

**We have been told by the owner of the property that without the approval of the adjoining landowners this project can not proceed . Their approval is not forthcoming, and we as a Board have an obligation to be wise enough to respond to that fact.**

**TOBY McDONALD**

[end of Toby McDonald statement]

Pete Hoyt read the following prepared statement:

REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION TO CANCEL TOWN OF CAROLINE SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED TRAIL ON OLD DL&W RR BED

Last January the Town Board passed a resolution allowing Caroline to assume the role of lead agency in promoting this trail. Linda Adams was assigned responsibility to conduct negotiations on behalf of the town with all interested parties, including "[neighboring] landowners in a timely manner".

The time has passed. It is now October and the neighboring landowners are nearly unanimous in their opposition to the trail. The original proposal to the Tioga County line was scaled back in August to only as far as Middaugh Rd. due to the opposition of landowners south of there.

In September, I contacted those few Caroline landowners who own property along the RR bed north of Middaugh Rd. Three of them are vehemently opposed and had not spoken sooner because they had not been contacted by anyone regarding the trail since receiving a letter in June canceling a scheduled meeting to discuss plans for it.

This past Thursday I attended a meeting of the town planning board. When asked by audience members, three of the five members expressed opposition to the trail, yet the planning board as a body was unwilling to go on record opposing the trail.

The trails proposal fails to meet its initial requirement of support from neighboring landowners. It also suffers from major problems of funding and the legal status of the RR property itself. Since no amount of investigation will ameliorate landowner opposition, sufficient reason exists to end this project now.

I have two additional observations. First, the trails subcommittee and the planning board have had plenty of time to make their recommendations to the town board. They cannot support a positive recommendation and are unwilling to make a negative one.

Second, the trail opponents have been accused of being hypocritical in opposing zoning and also opposing this proposed land usage. The town's allowing of unrestricted land use and the conflicts it might engender is not the same thing as actively promoting or supporting land use activity that works against the interests of its landowners.

The Town Board is the only elected body in this town and the only one with policy making discretion. It is time for us to show some leadership. I urge the Town Board to adopt this resolution.

[end of Pete Hoyt statement]

Linda Adams: questioned whether NYSEG made their position clear about needing landowner approval; Bob Pass said the letter was negotiable; knew they would not get 100% sign off, that the letter should have stated that all adjacent landowners had to be *contacted*. As far as the cash goes, he said there are other approaches to that; just a starting place from where to negotiate. NYSEG had never withdrawn the possibility of a trail.

Mr. McDonald: they won't; they are waiting for us.

Kathryn Seely: investigation costs no money, it doesn't matter how long it takes.

Rebecca Phillips: committee has had plenty of time to get hard copy from Mr. Pass saying that it's negotiable. Bob Pass talked to David Carr and said what Mr. McDonald said.

Dominic Frongillo: the emotion and frustration in this room is overwhelming. Toby is right that this has gone on for months and months with no resolution. I'm hearing why Town of Caroline should be the lead agency, also about the process and why everyone was not contacted. Learned that people need to be contacted up front. Liability concerns. Expense to the town is a legitimate issue. Hearing about property rights and ownership. Can't support a project I have not seen a proposal for. If we're going to design a public process, how can we make everyone feel valued in the process. Feels that Pete's resolution is one dimensional. I want answer to the question of should we be the lead agency. Concerned about wording of direct charge to the PB to quit working on it. I take my charge as not pushing things as a personal issue; it's to listen to sides and understand where people are coming from. I like the idea of not pushing the trail as a specific concept; we have a limited interest, and we should cede being lead agency, but not to direct PB to cease all investigation into any trail.

Don Barber's statement: Don addressed Bob Anderson and told him that Bob owed Susan Barr an apology. Susan is a volunteer. Our government can't operate effectively without the time and dedication of volunteers. We can't treat volunteers this way and expect our good citizens to volunteer for anything. You accused Susan of making the trail a personal issue. She is Planning Board Chair. It is her job to shepherd community discussion around planning issues.

This issue has taken us by storm. It's time to take a deep breathe. The NAT Committee has lost integrity with community because it has not clearly defined the planning process and has not communicated clearly nor forthrightly with us. The situation is going from bad to worse.

The NAT and Planning Board have not defined a step by step process. This is leading people to jump to unfounded conclusions like the TB is nearly ready to spend money... which couldn't be further from the truth.

I understand your frustration. The most salient point of tonight's discussion, for me, is that NYSEG may not own the land that is being considered for the Lackawanna Trail.

It is also clear to me that with less than 10% of the proposed trail corridor in the Town of Caroline, that we should relinquish lead agency status.

There is a process that the NAT and PB need to go through. First we need to answer a number of non-site specific questions that have been brought up during the past year before we can have a constructive discussion about a site specific corridor.

I agree with the first resolved of the proposed resolution, but cannot support the second. In its place I would like to propose the following friendly amendment.

[Note: the 2<sup>nd</sup> resolved of the original resolution was modified and the friendly amendment was incorporated as the 3<sup>rd</sup> resolved]

After discussion and input from all board members on an amendment put forward by Mr. Hoyt but not voted on, the final amendment reads:

WHEREAS, at least three persons who own property abutting the old Lackawanna RR grade north of Middaugh Road in the Town of Caroline are strongly opposed to its use as a public trail; and

WHEREAS, NYSEG as owner of the former RR grade stipulated that a necessary condition for the trail use is the support of all adjoining landowners; and

WHEREAS, all municipalities are faced with increased highway operating expenses as well as less state and federal grant money available; and

WHEREAS, any trail development in the Town of Caroline will involve the incursion of unpredictable and persistent annual expenses for maintenance; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline resigns as lead agency among the towns of Danby, Dryden, and Ithaca for furtherance of the proposed use of the Lackawanna RR grade as a public trail; and also be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board directs the Planning Board and its subcommittees to discontinue current investigation of and planning for the Lackawanna Trail; and also be it

RESOLVED that the Caroline Town Board will entertain a specific trail investigation including the Lackawanna Trail only after the attached list of concerns have been investigated and either answered or a list of potential mitigation measures created within the context of a non-site specific trail corridor and this report has had a public review.

Questions:

- What impact would a trail have on the Town's liability?
- Does a public trail adjacent to one's property or on a deeded right-of-way on ones property increase that property owner's liability?
- What impact does a trail have on the ability of an adjacent land owner to have hunting on their property?
- Is there evidence that trails invite or have more crime than other public spaces?
- What measures can be taken to discourage criminal activity on or adjacent to trails?
- What process adjustments should be made to be sure adjacent landowners to a proposed trail corridor are part of the feasibility and planning process?
- What funding sources are available for trail and trail head construction?

- What surfaces are used for trails? Are there rule of thumb costs per linear foot for each trail surface? What are the maintenance costs of each? What trail users are encouraged and discouraged from each surface type? What options other than a municipal public works crew are available for trail maintenance? What options could be considered for funding? User fee? What costs are associated with decommissioning a trail?
- Do trails increase the costs of emergency response?
- Do municipalities have a responsibility for providing special means to contact 911 for trail users?
- What will be the process for trail investigation from feasibility through trail construction?

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 10-2 of 2008**

**Support WRC Cayuga Lake Monitoring Statement and Plan**

By Mr. Hoyt; Seconded by Ms. Adams

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Water Resources Council promotes the protection of the community's water resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Water Resources Council and Cornell University entered into a partnership to collaborate on issues related to Cayuga Lake; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, this partnership has been developing a community-based monitoring program for the southern end of the lake; and

WHEREAS, the conclusions put forth in the joint statement are the result of rigorous scientific inquiry and methodology; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline is directly affected by regulations pertaining to the condition of Cayuga Lake; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline fully concurs in the recommendations made by the Tompkins County Water Resources Council, in particular the proposed lake monitoring plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline specifically concurs with the Water Resources Council in that the impact of Lake Source Cooling and any lake monitoring plan be considered together, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline supports the collaboration between the City of Ithaca, Tompkins County, and Cornell University in the monitoring of the southern tip of Cayuga Lake.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 10-3 of 2008**

**Support letters to DEC from Penningroth and Johnson**

By Ms. Adams; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline is directly affected by regulations pertaining to the condition of Cayuga Lake; and

WHEREAS, the DEC is being asked to implement a TMDL regulation for Cayuga Lake based on only the "Swimming Use" impairment of Cayuga Lake; and

WHEREAS, the "Swimming Use" impairment is based on the measurement of total phosphorus in the lake; and

WHEREAS, new studies indicate that total phosphorus is not a good indicator of water quality in Cayuga Lake; and

WHEREAS, public swimming has not been permitted in the southern tip of Cayuga Lake for half a century due to the sediment buildup and the cost of and regulations against disposing of said sediment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline asks DEC to reconsider both the reasonableness of swimming as a designated use as well as the use of total phosphorus as an indicator of water quality in Cayuga Lake; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroline asks the DEC to take the time necessary to carefully review all new data regarding impacts to the southern basin of Cayuga Lake.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 10-4 of 2008  
Agreement with County for Snow and Ice Removal**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the agreement with the county for Snow and Ice removal.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 10-5 of 2008  
Agreement with USGS for Brooktondale Gauge Station**

By Ms. Adams; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

WHEREAS the Gage Station provides valuable data for the monitoring and management of Six Mile Creek measuring the water flow and sediment load; and

WHEREAS there are currently 5 years of data recorded, this next 3 year block would get the project closer to the goal of 10 years of data which is the threshold necessary for scientific worth per the USGS; and

WHEREAS this data has been useful to Caroline gaining funding from local, State, and Federal sources for many of the past watershed projects and those pending; and

WHEREAS this is a jointly funded project between USGS, Town of Caroline, Town of Dryden, City of Ithaca Water & Sewer Division, Tompkins County Soil & Water, and IO (Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization); now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Caroline Town Board approves the next three year term 2009, 2010, 2011 Gage Station operation.

	2009	2010	2011
USGS	\$6,151	\$6,334	\$6,523
Others	\$14,350	\$14,778	\$15,219
Total	\$20,501	\$21,112	\$21,742

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 10-6 of 2008  
County-wide Evaluation of Existing Water and Sewer Infrastructure**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Ms. Adams

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy’s goals include increasing and diversifying the County’s housing supply and revitalizing the County’s unique commercial districts and town centers, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Collaborative was organized to formalize, strengthen and deepen the cooperation among the many local agencies and municipal bodies addressing economic development issues in the County to make the process more effective through common goals and approach, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) is a member of the Economic Development Collaborative, which is currently working to address the goals of the County’s Economic Development Strategy, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Collaborative has suggested the creation of an updated, County-wide evaluation of existing water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needed to support planned future growth to meet housing and economic development goals, and

WHEREAS, the last County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure was completed in 1994, and

WHEREAS, an updated evaluation would facilitate the development of housing within town and village centers, commercial revitalization of those centers and growth in the tax base, with the most efficient use of public dollars for infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the result of this evaluation will be a report that is available for all municipalities to use in their planning of infrastructure development, but that no actual investment in water or sewer facilities is included in this project, and

WHEREAS, the County of Tompkins, on behalf of TCCOG, applied for and was awarded a grant known as Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant from the State of New York, to conduct a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and develop a conceptual plan, and

WHEREAS, the TCCOG unanimously adopted this resolution on September 25, 2008 and directed that it to be forwarded to municipalities for consideration and approval by local municipal boards, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 186 of 2008 on September 16, 2008, that authorized the acceptance of this grant in the amount of \$82,245.24 for the purpose of conducting a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and to develop a conceptual plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Town of Caroline (municipality), by adoption of this resolution, declares its intent to support the development of a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needed to support planned future growth to meet housing and economic development goals,

RESOLVED, further, That the Town of Caroline pledges to work with the Economic Development Collaborative to ensure cooperation of members' planning and engineering departments with this project, providing information and documentation requested by the consultant team, led by TG Miller, including but not limited to:

- Current rated capacity of water and wastewater treatment systems from existing SPDES (State Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permits and facility plans
- Electronic files or paper copies of maps showing current water distribution and/or sanitary sewer collection systems
- Recent studies of water and sewer facilities
- Treatment processes, mechanical and other systems related data
- Scheduled or anticipated system upgrades or new construction
- Historical problems and obstacles including operational difficulties, regulatory compliance, land use restrictions, public impact and complaints, and funding
- Current population served by the utilities including number of service connections
- Anticipated population growth rate for the next ten years
- Existing or planned funding sources that may be available, and

Statement of need:

Increasing housing supply and revitalization of commercial districts are two of the Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy's three goals. Both require improvements to water and sewer infrastructure, especially in the non-urbanized areas of the county. The proposed infrastructure study is, therefore, an integral step to achieving affordable housing and revitalization goals. In particular, to provide for housing to be reasonably affordable, housing requires density. Continuing to build individual homes on 1-2 acre lots is not an affordable approach to providing housing. Dependable water and sewer infrastructure is also critical for revitalization of our town and village centers.

Preliminary scope of work:

A consultant will be hired to:

- Update the 1994 County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure working with local municipal staff.
- Prepare a conceptual plan of water and sewerage infrastructure, including potential service areas, to support future growth.
- Prepare preliminary costs to expand infrastructure to accommodate planned growth.

Work will reflect anticipated growth of the municipalities, local plans, and the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan."

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Nay

**Resolution 10-7 of 2008**

**Establish dates of special budget meetings**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

RESOLVED, the Town Board will hold three working session to work on budget meetings on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm; Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am; and Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 10-8 of 2008**

**Establish date of public hearing for 2009 budgets and dates**

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Ms. Frongillo

RESOLVED, the Town Board will hold the public hearing on the preliminary budget on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m..

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Adjourn**

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk