

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2009

The Town Board meeting held on February 10, 2009 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:10 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

Public Hearing

Proposed Local Law Providing for a Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property Owned by Persons with Disabilities whose Incomes Are Limited by Reason of Such Disability

Supervisor Don Barber opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. No one offered comments.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:11 pm by the supervisor.

Town Business

Privilege of the Floor

Nobody came forward.

Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

1. Equipment: Trucks have continued to need extensive repairs. On more than one occasion, we have had several trucks broken down at the same time. All are up and running as of today.
2. Misc: The Highway Improvement Program "CHIPS" proposal that Gov. Patterson has proposed will decrease the Town of Caroline from \$132,171 in 2008 to \$74,874 making a 43.35% decrease for 2009.
3. Salamander crossing: Cindy will coordinate with Dryden highway folks once John Confer gets the okay from them for the crossing. Toby will be the liaison.

Frank Proto, County Legislator

1. TCAT route revision. TCAT has started 6 public meetings. None of the changes affect routes in Caroline. There's one time change in B'dale. Won't take effect until fall. They have put together stimulus package. They need 16 new buses; have three now. Mostly using old city buses. They get a percentage of operating cash from the state and cuts are looking substantial. Trying to avoid cutting routes, esp. since ridership is up. Want to encourage more people to ride the bus, so this is a bad time for cuts.
2. Other big hit: health and human services agencies (DSS, COFA, and & health dept). DSS is okay. Hits in COFA,, affecting many programs. Don't know what will happen to the insurance piece even though our fastest growing segment of population is seniors. Health dept could get hit with \$300,000 to \$400,000. State wants to cut funding for the coroner, even though we're required to have one. Biggest hit is home health aides. We contract with Family and Children's Services for 400,000 per year. Gov's proposal is to cut all those contracts out. It would mean employing 25-30 people, which will be over \$1 million. The new health dept was not designed to accommodate that number of people. Disposition of Biggs property: we may need that to accommodate these people.
3. Setting salaries for the next 4 years for the legislature. Frank suggested to table the discussion. Will bring it up at governmental affairs committee meeting.
4. Ag districts: paperwork needs to be in soon.
5. State forests. Areas that will get hurt mostly are the Adirondacks and Catskills. Don: they want to cap forever tax amount they paid in 2008. Association of towns will be lobbying.

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Correspondence of Note:

1. Letter from NYS Attorney General: Landowners Rights Regarding Oil and Gas Leasing 2/18 @11 AM CCE
2. TC Board of Elections annual report
3. Community & Arts Partnership- grant to BCC for Folk Concert
4. SEQR response from NYS OPRHP
5. 30 day application period to add active farmland to Ag District
6. Dangerous Dog report from SPCA
7. Letter from and Response to Bailey Homes after January 13th meeting
8. Caroline Library and Historian Annual Report

Report:

1. Meeting with technical team regarding boring info from Barrile II, meeting on site with DEC 2/25 @ 10 AM
2. Received preliminary drawings for Valley Road Stream bank Stabilization project, sent them to DEC and Army Corps, meeting with neighbors 2/11@ 7 PM- BCC
3. Developed bid documents and answered questions- bids received for Office Building.
4. Elected chair of TCCOG

Budget Adjustment

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

Increase Revenue Line A2770 Unclassified Revenues by \$1000 to \$21,500 and increase General Gov't Appropriation Line A 8989.4 Other Community Services by \$1,000

Discussion: Money from WalMart for Speedsville community center. They won't make check out directly to center.

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

Dominic Frongillo

Got four bids for photovoltaics. Energy committee wants to prepare a real analysis and recommendation to the board. Still looking at geothermal.

Approval of Abstracts**General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 30 through 70 in the amount of \$79,280.56.

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

Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 19 through 38 in the amount of \$74,306.82.

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

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Frongillo and seconded by Ms. Adams to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 3 and 4 in the amount of \$693.43.

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

Caroline Fire Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund

voucher number 2 and 3 in the amount of \$59,750.00.

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 6, 2009

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. McDonald to accept the minutes as submitted by the town clerk.

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

Minutes of January 13, 2009

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo to accept the minutes as submitted by the deputy town clerk.

Amendment: Transfer should say 2008, not 2009

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

Topics of Discussion

Open Town Hall Bids

CW Fink and Associates: \$271,384

Bellisario Excavating and Drainage: \$247,377

Cayuga Country Homes: \$253,000

Bailey Homes: \$349,000

Barber: since we did not receive a petition, we can start working on the bond. Barry Goodrich, Don Barber, and Toby McDonald will work through the bids.

Planning Board

Robin Tilton has an interest in filling planning board seat. She grew up here and thinks it's time to be more involved in community and taking more of a hands-on approach. She doesn't want to just wait until something happens to speak up.

When asked about experiences that might qualify her to serve, Robin answered that she's a paralegal and does zoning ordinances in Ithaca. Does Supreme Court and Family Court. She has two children. Very active in schools. She and her husband were very involved in building new Caroline school playground and getting volunteers to help. Instrumental in getting school sign put in. Also worked on making sure safety issues were addressed with redesign of new school parking lot. Started cheerleading squad at Caroline. Volunteered as yearbook coordinator for four years. Her job involves working in family court, and she's capable of dealing with hostile situations in a respectful manner. Used to being under pressure at work. Does not shy away from a challenge. Pays attention when someone speaks to her. Took leadership role with poorly written and outdated deed restrictions at her Elm Tree development.

Asked how she feels about the planning process, she responded that she'd be learning. She has not read the Comprehensive Plan. Feels there's a lot of things in our community that need updating and moving forward, and would like to facilitate that process. Asked about specific areas of concern, Robin noted safety issues. Flashing lights at school are a good thing. Mostly concerned with safety for children. Lighting. But doesn't really have a personal agenda.

Association of Towns Resolutions

Resolution 1. Pete: I think we have plenty of peace officers in this state. Don: right now, peace officers cannot enter a court. Toby: I think the issue addresses the peace officer being the court bailiff. Don's understanding that every court is required to have a bailiff, and we never do, so this gives the opportunity to have a larger pool.

Resolution 2. Pete opposed.

Resolution 6: Pete opposed.

Resolutions

Resolution 2-1 of 2009

2009 Fire Protection Contract with Brooktondale Fire District

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Hoyt

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract with Brooktondale Fire District.

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

Resolution 2-2 of 2009

Contract with Cooperative Extension for Youth Services

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Hoyt

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract with Cooperative Extension for Youth Service programming.

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

Resolution 2-3 of 2009

Adopt Local Law #1 Establishing Income Limits for Property Tax Exemption for Persons with Disabilities

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

WHEREAS, the Caroline Town Board has discussed and deliberated on a local law to provide a partial tax exemption to persons with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Caroline Town Board received public comments on the proposed local law entitled, "A Local Law of the Town of Caroline, State of New York, Providing for a Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property Owned by Persons with Disabilities Whose Incomes Are Limited by Reason of Such Disability" on February 10, 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Caroline Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 1 of 2009, A Local Law of the Town of Caroline, State of New York, Providing for a Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property Owned by Persons with Disabilities Whose Incomes Are Limited by Reason of Such Disability, and directs the town clerk to immediately file this local law with the NYS Department of State.

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

Resolution 2-4 of 2009

Establish Income Limits for Property Tax Exemption for Seniors

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline is currently granting that exemption to its seniors, and

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law Section 467 has been amended by NYS to have higher income limits than are currently allowed by the Town of Caroline, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this resolution supersedes any previous resolution establishing income limits for citizens 65 years of age and older as follows:

Annual Income	Percentage assessed valuation exempt from taxation
Less than or equal to \$28,000	50%
Equal to or more than 28,001 but less than 29,000	45%
Equal to or more than \$29,000 but less than \$30,000	40%

Equal to or more than \$30,000 but less than \$31,000	35%
Equal to or more than \$31,000 but less than \$31,900	30%
Equal to or more than \$31,900 but less than \$32,800	25%
Equal to or more than \$32,800 but less than \$33,700	20%
Equal to or more than \$33,700 but less than \$34,600	15%
Equal to or more than \$34,600 but less than \$35,500	10%
Equal to or more than \$35,500 but less than \$36,400	5%
Equal to or more than \$36,400	0%

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

Resolution 2-6 of 2009

Appoint 2009 Community Service Award Committee

By Mr. Dominic; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

RESOLVED, the Caroline Town Board appoints the following members to the Community Service Award committee: Lezlie Kennedy, Cal Snow, and Dominic Frongillo.

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

Resolution 2-7 of 2009

Appoint 2009 Energy Committee

By Mr. Frongillo; Seconded by Mr. Barber

RESOLVED, The Caroline Town Board appoints the following members to the Energy Independent Caroline advisory committee:

- Steve Nicholson (co chair and liaison to TREEA)
- Jonathon Comstock (co-chair)
- John Reed (treasurer and liaison to Cayuga Sustainability Council)
- Dominic Frongillo (secretary and liaison to Town Board)
- Katy Nicholson (website team)
- Mike Brown (website team)
- Mary Alyce Kobler (liaison to Caroline Elementary Green Team)
- Lou Albright (liaison to Planning Board)
- Karl-Heinz Russ (liaison to Dryden Renewable Energy Working group)

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

Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo, the board entered executive session to talk about potential litigation at 9:30. On a motion, the board adjourned the executive session at 9:45

Adjourn

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk