

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 4th, 2009

The Town Board agenda meeting held on Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

Attendance:

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

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: Molly Adams, Greg Harrington, Bruce Murray, Jane Stahler, and Chuck Bartosch

Reports

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board- Geothermal grant written with the help of an intern and Supervisor Barber. The website training took place with Katy, the website guru, Clm Dominic Frongillo and Marilou Harrington, Deputy Clerk.

Nominations to be made for the public service award committee.

Linda Adams, Town Board – Watershed Committee complimented the Highway Department for all their help, etc. Great Lakes discussion- who is using the water supply and to what extent will it help with other industrial uses of the water.

Toby McDonald, Town Board – Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendant wants to buy a new dump-up truck with new plow, \$181,500; she has \$200,000 in her budget. Clm Pete Hoyt feels the Town may be able to do with one less truck or possibly a smaller truck, and he is not sure we need a new truck. Toby said they need a truck of a certain size for hauling salt, rock and to use it for plowing. Toby said he also felt that it wasn't the board to make judgments about what Cyndi's needs were, we could ask questions but the board shouldn't pick trucks for her. Pete was talking about swapping trucks with other towns as the need presented itself. Pete will speak with Cindy about the truck and talk with her before it will come to resolution for next week.

Don Barber, Town Supervisor- Tompkins County Council of Governments- At July 11th Town board meeting; appointment for Town Supervisor Don Barber as a delegate for the Health Care Consortium, and ClmToby MacDonald will act as the alternate

Town Business

Subject- Public Hearing to discuss adopting a Local law to extend the terms of the Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years

Molly Adams; (regarding the change to 4 year terms) suggested the board look at other Town terms for Town Clerk and Highway Superintendant. Molly also suggested looking at making the positions "appointed" instead of elected because of the complexity of the jobs. Since the skill sets required to run these positions are at a professional level it should require someone who has the experience. Molly thinks the Town Supervisor should be a 4 year term too.

Tony Tavelli; thought the decision to change the terms was quite complicated, that there was many pros and cons, If someone voted in for 4 years is incompetent then we are stuck with them, and if we like someone, after 2 years then would re-elect them anyway. It also seemed strange that we should vote on a "regular" job, which might better be filled with a person that could be hired for the position who was

qualified.

Bruce Murray; If the person does a good job then they will be re-elected, if not, then we don't vote them back in, so having a two year term seems reasonable. He would never vote someone in if he couldn't get rid of them. Don said that there was an impeachment process that any member of the Town could enact if they felt the person in the position was doing the job inadequately.

Clm Linda Adams is for a 4 year position. Learning the positions and the record keeping is huge; it takes a long cycle of learning, over time to be good in the position. It takes a committed person who can adapt to continuous learning to maintain the position too.

Clm Toby MacDonald reminded the board members and the attendees that this discussion was for the board to only make the decision on the referendum and that the final decision will go to the public for a vote.

Greg Harrington; for the referendum, for the 4 year term. He has seen other towns where people aren't involved, and that having a Highway Superintendent in the position for 4 years, who knows the Town and knows the workings are vital to a good working system. Having the possibility of having the position replaced with someone new every two years is like starting over for everybody and that it hurts the community as well as other Town departments.

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board: Introduced Chuck Bartosch from Clarity Connect who would like the Town Board to support the use of High Speed internet in outlying areas of the Town without internet service. He discussed what his company had to offer compared to other companies. Broad band, with a 1 time government funding source with 4 billion of the 7.2 billion available. He needs the support of the board for submitting the grant by August 14th, no exceptions. The rules for the grant is 121 pages long, the actual application is 38 pages long. The service would be cost competitive. The application now includes 5 towns in Tompkins County and other counties are involved. He explained why people don't subscribe to the internet is because it is not available, or it is not cost effective. The cost for Clarity Connect would be \$29.95 (price point). He did research into why individuals benefit from the internet. He spoke with a local school and talked about the pros about having internet for homework, for teacher updates, letting parents know about problems/suspensions. They are working with the school about family outreach and teaching parents and children about the internet. Chuck said families who are eligible for the free lunch program can get 33% discount on the service he will offer.

He further explained that the fiber lines can't go through dirt so you run fiber where you can and put central radios to telephone, where other places you would use towers or silos. The grant requires you must serve 100 percent of the people in that block. Aprox 200 census block in the Town of Caroline, the blocks follow natural land contours and water/streams and then roads. If you have other internet service like time Warner Cable RoadRunner then you can't switch.

Clm Linda Adams asked what was required from the Town. Chuck said the minimum requirement is that you have to support the project. The Town can write a letter for anyone who is competing for the grant funds so the stronger the letter the endorsing the project the better chance Clarity Connect has to get the grant. The life of the grant is 10 year, or the life of the equipment. Any monies obtained have to be reinvested. Clarity Connect cannot sell without federal approval

Bruce Murray asked why take such a large undertaking with such a small area. Available stimulus money was the answer.

Clm Toby MacDonald said for him to want to endorse this he would want to know how many people would actually benefit in the Town of Caroline. Asked about how he came about doing this grant.

Jane Stahler from Light Link (was asked to join the discussion by Clm Pete Hoyt as possibly a different point of view from another internet company) - Jane's comments were that stimulus grants are the way to go. Light Link was working with Newfield but found out that Clarity Connect was way ahead with the grant so they suggested Newfield use Clarity Connect. Light Link has signed on with Clarity Connect. She spoke about people with businesses in outlying areas who would have lost their business had they not gotten hi-speed internet.

The Board can endorse the Town Supervisor to write a letter on behalf of the grant or have a town board resolution.

Linda thanked Dominic for bringing this to the board for the consideration. Dominic offered to coordinate the information for the project.

Toby is skeptical, about the timing of the project, about being exclusive to the area. He wonders how underserved we really are.

Bruce Murray- Wanted it part of the minutes that the Town Highway department was oiling Bald Hill road near his home. He spoke with the Highway Superintendent, Cindy Whittaker. She had finished one lane and Bruce asked her to stop the oil process and explained his reason and she agreed and stopped the process.

Molly Adams- in regards to Bret Oakes owner of the gravel pit in Brooktondale continued digging in new areas. She is concerned about continued digging and the amount of property they have filed/reapplied to dig which includes, 4.2 acres, of already dug areas and 4.5 acres of undisturbed land. Molly is concerned about the water issues, worried about the destruction of the cemetery and the sawmill area. See attachment- (ask Molly for a copy of her paper work as the attachment).

Resolution- 8-1 of 2009

Authorize Justice Court Assistance Program Grant Application

The Town board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the grant application for the justice court assistance program.

Don Barber; Seconded by Mr. Frongillo

Adopted Barber, Aye; Frongillo, Aye; Hoyt, Aye; MacDonald, Aye; Adams

Resolution- 8-2 of 2009

Authorize Support of Partnership for Broadband Application

WHEREAS, the development of broadband infrastructure is critically important to our community, and

WHEREAS, the Federal ARRA Stimulus Bill is offering broadband development grants to public/private partnerships

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline wishes to partner with Clarity Connect, Inc. to apply for a grant of our community.

THEREFORE as part of our in-kind contribution to the grant, the Town of Caroline will seek to fully support the project to the extent practical and allowable under law.

Dominic Frongillo: Seconded by Pete Hoyt

Adopted Barber, Aye; Frongillo, Aye; Hoyt, Aye; MacDonald, Abstained; Adams, Aye

Agenda Items

- Transfers
 - Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting
 - Approval of Minutes of 7/7/09, 7/14/09
 - Authorize purchase of 10 wheel dump truck off State bid
 - Approval of Contract with SEMO for Barille II Construction phase
 - Change Orders for Office Building
 - Transfer Section 179D Deduction for Office Building to Cayuga Country Homes
 - Adopt Local law to extend term of Clerk and Highway Supt from 2 years to 4 years
 - Appointment of Community Service Award Committee
 - Appointment of Town Representative to Health Insurance Consortium
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Adjourn

On a motion by Don Barber, 2nd Toby MacDonald, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington, Deputy Town Clerk