

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2009

The Town Board agenda meeting held on Tuesday, September 1, 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: Deb DeAugustine, Town Clerk

Reports

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board

Planning Board: There are five members; nobody wants to be chair. At the last meeting, members of the Trails Committee spent an hour presenting a verbal summary of a document they spent over 9 months researching; they also answered questions from neighboring landowners. PB will think about methods of getting this information out to the public. They followed the format set up by the town board regarding answering non site-specific questions. Answers must satisfy questions brought up by neighboring landowners. Toby very concerned that any specific trail being proposed should be a site brought forward by the people living in that area; Don agrees. PB also wants to do a survey re gas drilling by sending questionnaire to property owners.

Energy Independent Caroline: Lou Albright and an intern calculated the electric load in Town Office Building. Gave that info to Finlo. Wild fluctuations don't matter because NYSEG only trues up once per year.

Sent letter out to people who previously donated to wind energy, and more checks have come in. Don is keeping track and will prepare report. Year and half ago students from Cornell did a study to find a good wind resource in Town of Caroline, and came up with Buffalo Road ridge. 20 people from that area attended meeting with EIC at Caroline Center Church. Most pretty supportive, especially if provided financial incentives. Meeting informed people of the many ways wind leases can be very valuable, not just for the property windmills are on, but also on a graduated scale for people in the vicinity.

Linda Adams, Town Board

MS4 Report has been sent to the state; copy to the clerk. Received notice from Dept. of Transportation that they're taking away a wetland along Route 17 (new 86) and are establishing another in Town of Caroline (in DR 13). They usually try to do it on public land, not private. Barry Goodrich, who was in the audience, is looking to see where DR 13 is. Pete upset that it might go on private property. Don says they're trying to stay in the Susquehanna watershed, which is partially in Town of Caroline. Have 30 days to respond.

Bruce Murray very interested that his wetland area get recorded as critical environmental area in the Town of Caroline. His property was classified a wetland in 2007. He signed a gas lease, and the state has since changed the spacing unit law regarding the number of pads on a single unit. Bruce is upset: gas lease stated it would follow state law, not a specific number of pads. Pete thinks when people sign a legal document, it's not the town board's job to bail them out of a bad deal. Don: being designated a critical environmental area does not stop drilling, only requires that drillers mitigate certain problems.

Toby McDonald, Town Board

Cindy Whittaker letter to the town board re new truck and plow equipment. Last meeting the board held off on okaying the plow package. She has since had time to gather research. See resolution 9-1 below.

Highway dept. still oiling and stoning roads: goal is 14 miles, have done 8. Valley Road culvert project: after investigation, they saw that culvert is working fine and she does not want to replace it. No word or bill from Economy Paving about unauthorized work. Work most likely had to be done. Things seem to be working now.

No bites on radio tower at Harry Zimmer's. Don had recommended Cindy talk to Steve Nicholson because people might be looking for site for wind towers.

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Letter from teamsters: Teamsters Health has lost 43 million in fund balance and are trying to make it up in higher deductibles. Steve Locey has met with head of Teamsters Health, and he said Teamsters would not stand in the way of workers going with the Healthcare Consortium. Our highway workers are upset that the Teamsters are renegeing on their agreement. The Consortium will guarantee the level of coverage they have now.

Hess, our gas supplier, has informed Don that fixing gas prices is coming to an end. MEGA suggests we go with a fixed rate because it is very low right now, and will probably be a 3-year contract.

Spoke with property owner Peter Perri regarding trees in creek. Town does not get involved; owner needs DEC permit to go into creek. Don copied county just in case they deem that their bridge is in peril.

Brooke and Don working on flooring. Two quotes. Ithaca Flooring does not have to do prevailing wage, but is the higher quote. The lower amount is \$4500; Don will give Brooke the go ahead for the change order. Also discussed integrated phone system with a company.

Pete Hoyt

Chad Novelli has done research on moisture and cold in basement and thinks the price tag will be around \$10,000. Chad will put his summary into an email to the board. Should be done in 2009 before cold weather strikes.

Barry got quote for \$475 for taking down ironwood tree before building arrives. It's around 85% diseased. Price is high because of streetlight at Fountain Manor. Board agreed that Barry should make the contact and they will pay the bill when it comes. Biggest ironwood tree Barry has seen. Landscape committee has asked Barry to get an estimate on two trees that have to be cut down on the other side of the building. These are not healthy trees. Board agrees that they'd need to see a whole landscaping plan before agreeing to take down trees, but they're not opposed to anyone getting estimates. It's at least a year out that this would come into play.

Resolutions

Resolution 9-1 of 2009

Authorize Highway Superintendent to Purchase Plow Package

By Mr. McDonald; Seconded by Mr. Barber

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the highway superintendent to purchase the plow package for the new dump truck.

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

Resolution- 9-2 of 2009

Authorize Highway Superintendent to Put One-ton Up for auction

By Mr. McDonald; Seconded by Mr. Barber

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the highway superintendent to sell the one-ton at auction.

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

Agenda Items

- Change Orders for Office Building

Adjourn

On a motion by Don Barber, seconded Dominic Frongillo, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk