

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2009

The Town Board agenda meeting held on Tuesday October 6, 2009 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:02 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

Also present: Kathy Mix, Beth Harrington from the Slaterville Ambulance

Slaterville Ambulance

Beth Harrington presented ambulance budget, and rationale behind increase. They have been eating into reserve fund in the last several years. Increase in volume; increase in equipment costs, supplies, fuel, and oxygen. Mandates from state included equipment (one piece cost \$25,000), and other supplies. Large fixed expenses: fuel and maintenance, insurance, rent. Slaterville is the only all-volunteer ambulance in the county. Have actively looked for other sources of money, such as grants. They don't have many active members, who have made the commitment to keep this going. If they had any other resources, they would not be asking now. They received the national award in 2007. If uninsured people have to call a paid service, the patient has to pay. Started a patient satisfaction survey, mostly targeting people who come through who do not live here. It was a subtle request for a donation.

Toby: what are issues about charging?

Answer: You have a bad debt of 40-60%. The time commitment is way over what Slaterville could handle. Don't have a high enough volume. Would have to set up an ambulance district to charge. They would have to bill, and if they did it through insurance, they would have to bill all the insurance codes. If they go to billing, the hospital won't let them have free supplies. Majority of the calls are ALS (advanced life support). Because of trauma, they are judicious of using helicopter, which can cost someone \$13,000 – \$15,000 to transport, so they are transporting to trauma centers themselves.

Don: the uptick you're asking is insignificant as compared to a paid person.

Beth and Kathy fielded questions.

Response time: they never get a second tone. If the town contracted with Bangs, they would charge a retainer, a per call charge, and they would have to come from Ithaca. Because of our low level of calls, they would not leave an ambulance here.

Slaterville Ambulance keeps their ambulances for 15 years, whereas most are turned over in 4 or 5. They get the heavier chassis because they travel on rougher terrain often. They're very prudent.

Dominic asked if they could use work-study students. He will see if any of them have an interest.

Reports

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board

- Planning Board has an active subcommittee working on critical environmental assets for the town. PB will send letter asking residents what resources in agriculture, wetlands, streams, etc., they have, and what the depth of their wells are. Will collect the data and recommend to the town board which are critical environmental assets. SEQR requires mitigating negative impacts to critical areas.
- EIC: Ground mount photovoltaic system payback calculation came back to 27 years. Committee has no recommendation to town for that, so they submitted for the roof mount system only. Also was awarded \$21,000 to do energy analysis for the town. Tatem engineering will contract to do work. Toby commented that he had no problem contracting with Tatem, but wanted to know if there was any way town can end up on the hook paying the bill. Answer: No, contingent on funds from NYSERDA, no liability to town.
- Toby commented on the article in The Old Mill re fundraising drive for photovoltaic and geothermal system;

wording gives the impression that the town is underfunded. Does not remember discussion of putting the names of donors on a plaque in town hall. Would have preferred to discuss with the town board before the article got published. Pete thinks it sounds like we're under budget \$3000 for the building. Thinks language should have been cleared with board before publication. Agrees with Toby about plaques. Don: It is correct that the project was budgeted without these donations. The donations lower the payback. He had no problem with the plaque since we have plaques around town hall with names, but he'll have to think about it. Dominic apologized.

Linda Adams, Town Board

- Watershed committee: did the annual review of MS4 report and had stormwater education, specifically the value of rain gardens and rain barrels.
- Natural gas meeting in Tioga County last night. There were 1000 people at the meeting.

Town Business

Budget discussions: highway

Total levy 2009: \$1,181,184; increase of 2.12% in 2010 budget to \$1,206,276

Cindy will provide road chart of work that needs to be done and purchase of equipment over the last few years to help board make a decision

Other business

Don discussed two local laws in the pipe to regulate large trucks on roads, which is being looked over by lawyers. He will introduce the laws when there's one ready to put before the board.

Brooke Greenhouse wants to sponsor a plaque dedicated to the town of Caroline, the building committee, and the town board (members names). He got the idea from the Town of Dryden's building. This would be the cornerstone of the building.

Resolution 10-1 of 2009

Set special budget meeting

By Mr. Barber; Seconded by Mr. McDonald

RESOLVED, the Caroline Town Board will hold a special meeting to discuss the preliminary budget on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 6 p.m. at the Caroline Town Hall, 2670 Slaterville Road, Slaterville Springs, New York.

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

Agenda Items

Reappoint rep to EMC

NYSERDA and Tatem contract

Budget deliberations

Set public hearing prelim budget

Adjourn

On a motion by Don Barber and seconded by Dominic Frongillo, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk