

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2009

The Town Board agenda meeting held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:30 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: Chris and Cynthia Smalt, Brian Turk, Rick and Leana Morgan, Bob Spaulding, Chris Fillinger and Barry Goodrich

Privilege of the Floor

Chris Smalt, Brain Turk, Rick Morgan, Molly Adams, Bob Spaulding

Public Hearing on Town of Caroline Budget

General and Highway Budget

Supervisor Barber opened the public hearing on the Town budget at 7:34 p.m

The supervisor presented a comparison of the 2009 and 2010 budgets.

Bob Spaulding asked about the total revenues being decreased. Supr. Barber explained about the grant the Town received and discussed the cost of the new Town Office building. Don also talked about the Tax levy reduction from \$6.10 per thousand to \$5.99 per thousand-which is lower than the previous year.

There was also a discussion of the Highway Capital fund having excess funds.

Bob Spaulding asked about the need for additional hours in the Town clerk's office and Molly Adams also asked about increase in hours and what the hours might be and when the town clerk office would be open.

Marilou Harrington, current Deputy clerk and minute taker addressed the questions, noting that the current Town Clerk, Deb DeAugustine had addressed the Town board for the need of additional hours to be able to complete the office work and records management.

There was a discussion of the Slaterville ambulance increase.

Highway Department health insurance- The Town is under agreement with Teamsters through 2010. Discussed changing insurance to the Tompkins County Healthcare Consortium; comparable but less expensive for 2011.

Hearing all public comments, the supervisor closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Caroline Fire Protection Budget

The supervisor opened the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Caroline Fire Protection-Pete Hoyt said he tried to work with Brooktondale but they will not lower the rate. He suggested a multi-year contract, speculating that Speedsville is not getting as good of a deal.

Brian Turk from Brooktondale: When asked about current contracts with other Towns he said the Town of Dryden will not sign a multi-year contract, that they have a 4 year contract with Town of Danby.

Rick Morgan: When questioned about the cost to run the department he replied Speedsville may not get as many calls, but the gear and trucks cost the same as any other fire department. The board agreed that whether it is a big or small department that you still need the same protective fire gear and transportation to operate effectively.

Brian Turk from the Brooktondale Fire Station stated that they would prefer the multi-year contract. He said the

Town has experience with multi-year contracts.

Pete Hoyt also prefers a multi-year, signed contract. Don Barber said we do sign a multi-year contract with Slaterville Ambulance. The rate per 1000 of assessed valuation is comparable to the Brooktondale and Caroline Fire Protection Districts. It is only off by 10 percent.

Molly Adams stated she prefers a commitment of 1 year at a time.

There is 1 year contract proposal from Speedsville and possible 3 year contract with Brooktondale

Don will put together a preliminary 3 year contract and Pete will negotiate with Brooktondale. Pete wants everyone in on the discussion.

Rick Morgan reported that Speedsville will have a new truck by Thanksgiving and they have done so without raising the tax rate in Speedsville.

The supervisor closed the public hearing at 8:14pm

Caroline Lighting District Budget

The supervisor opened the public hearing on the Lighting District budget at 8:15 p.m.

The supervisor explained the budget.

Hearing no comment, the supervisor closed the public hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Agenda Meeting of the Town Board

The agenda meeting opened at 8:25.

Reports

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board

Planning board used a survey to gauge areas of critical environmental of concern in the Town of Caroline. Toby said what's important to some people may not be important to others. Don- there might be a unique natural area that no one is aware of – but CEA designation does not stop the gas companies from drilling. Toby pleased with the survey- but remaining neutral.

Planning Board –no chair- no one on the board will offer to take the position.

Energy Independent Caroline- Caroline Youth Group as requested that the \$1000 grant money for wind power be redirected so the money goes for Web-based electronic readout of solar panels. The information would be collected and the data would be used for educational purposes. The bulk of the \$1000 would be to set up the system.

Taitem contract- signed

Peter Hoyt, Town Board

Pete wants to talk with Beth Harrington about the ambulance.

Pete talked about posting the town minutes on his own website, independent from the Town of Caroline website

Toby McDonald, Town Board

Highway Dept.- The wiring for Town barns generator to be done by Dick Westbrook. The Town's highway tower rights will go to Harry Zimmer, whose property the tower is on. The Highway Superintendent will sign an agreement to give Zimmer possession.

Don Barber, Town Board Supervisor

Water puddle at the Caroline Post Office – The Caroline Masons paved the parking lot, and may have changed the flow of the water. A suggestion to fix the problem is to dig a pit, down to the course gravel (to drain water) and then fill in with gravel. Then a cistern would be put in place to continuously drain the water. The gravel won't cost anything (coming from Town gravel pit) to put on the driveway. When will the Town Highway Supt. fix the

problem? Toby will ask Cindy Whittaker to work with Barry Goodrich to see what can be done to rectify the situation.

Budget- A 10 year bond at 3.75 % on a semi-annual basis- \$14,500 added to the budget. An estimated \$40,000 in interest with the principal \$250,000 (at 4%) The budget adjustment keeps the levy the same. Toby- concerned 2011 the Town will need to come up with \$18,000, and probably the same in 2012. Re-access next year.

Next year a goal is to decrease the amount of the Highway medical insurance, as long as the Town can provide comparable insurance. Renegotiate -hopefully through the TC Health Care Consortium.

Dog control contract- we are working with other municipalities, but contract not signed yet.

New phone system- 8 phones lines/ 12 phones- paging systems. Town board members and deputy clerk to look at possible ideas for the most manageable, least expensive system.

Town Business

Fire Protection Contract

Pete Hoyt says Brooktondale spends more money and that Speedsville is on a shoe string budget. Pete said, Rick Morgan/ Doug Keefe from Speedsville would crunch numbers- to try and get the coverage w/o Brooktondale. He said Brooktondale runs their company different than the other companies and if the residents are happy so be it. NYS fire law works better when companies are more than the same size. Toby agrees with Don about trying the \$15,000 a year for 3 years. Don will meet with their fire commissioners on Thursday.

Brooktondale- First aid claim by firefighter, (an injured foot). There is an automatic assessment fee of \$3000 by Worker's Comp if it is turned in for a claim. We are the only Town that covers Worker's Comp for fire districts. The Town has a first aid policy whereby the Town pays the medical provider (for smaller injuries) instead of creating a Worker's Compensation claim. If we have to pay for the bills through Worker's Compensation then the Fire Companies may have to pay for their own claims. Pete suggested the Brooktondale Fire district may raise their taxes to cover the cost.

State Controller Office has allowed the Town to cover Worker's Compensation for the Caroline Fire District, which is not normal practice.

Toby reminded the board to keep in mind that we get a very good deal from all of the firefighters; they are volunteers and not paid employees of the Town.

Toby suggested that it be written in the contract that the Fire District is responsible for medical payments up to a certain dollar amount. Then all of the bills get turned in to Worker's Compensation., we pay the bill, called a first aid claim, then Worker's Compensation pays. Then the claim is filed in case there is a problem in the future the injured party is still covered by Worker's Compensation insurance. A clear explanation would be written in the contract.

Trucks on town roads

Don discussed the Lansing Law: any construction in a Town roadway requires a permit. Sullivan County is evaluating their roads- through sensors/radars. There are several ways to evaluate road usage and then weight limits can be set. This will require extra work because the State does provide technical support for local roads..

Resolution 11-1 of 2009: Approve Town Clerk as Signatory on Town Clerk's Accounts

Moved: Mr. Barber; Seconded: Mr. Frongillo

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk's checking account #02 201-002019 and Tax Receiver's checking account # 08 201-002019 are located at Tompkins Trust Company; and

WHEREAS, Marilou Harrington holds the position of Deputy Town Clerk in the Town of Caroline; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Caroline does hereby approve, authorize, and direct that the name of the Deputy Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington, be added as signatory to these accounts, and that the name of Mary Clark Walls, the former Deputy Town Clerk, be removed from these accounts, and that a certified copy of this resolution be delivered to Tompkins Trust Company.

Vote: Barber, Aye; Frongillo, Aye; Hoyt, Aye; MacDonald, Aye; Adams; Absent

Agenda Items

- Contract with Brooktondale
 - SPCA contract
 - Phone system
 - Road Access agreement
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Adjourn

On a motion by Dominic Frongillo, and seconded by Pete Hoyt, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington, Deputy Town Clerk