

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2009

The Town Board agenda meeting held on Tuesday December 1, 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: Paul Rachetta, All Mode Communications; Chris Manly, Cornell University/freelancer

Town Hall and Town Office Building Telephone System Presentations

Pete Hoyt arranged for two people to give presentations for design and implementation of a phone system for the two town buildings: Paul Rachetta from All Mode Communications and a co-worker of Pete's from Cornell, Chris Manly, who would provide a system as a freelancer.

Mr. Rachetta: presentation on phone systems provided by All Mode. Provide small systems (4 line insurance office) to very large (Cayuga Medical). New building is wired for Cat 5, where phone and data (computers) share the same wiring system (IP). Old Town Hall will need new cabling for IP so the two systems can be integrated. All Mode has two systems: Nortel and Iwatsu – both very reliable. Nortel recently bought out, and their products may not be supported by the new company, but All Mode has sizeable inventory. Even if the new company stopped making the product next year, All Mode could support it for years. All systems will have voice mail, auto attendant. Has UPS (uninterruptible power surge) so you don't lose voice mail when power outage, and lightning perspective. Wiring in Town Hall is not up to code, very unsafe. Iwatsu has two-year warranty on all parts.

Mr. Manly: works at Cornell, where he has gained expert knowledge of telecommunications systems. What he has been working with is open source software that is very compatible with installations of this size. Agrees that IP system is the way to go. Doing Fax over IP is a pain, so he would keep an analog line for that. The system he has designed can use analog trunks. He sketched it out with four phones (attachment #1).

Reports

Highway Superintendent's Report

Post Office Parking Lot: The puddle at the post office is not the highway department's doing. There is ample place to park, but people are using town property for parking. The highway fixed the drainage problem by doing a minimal amount of milling; then someone got a load of blacktop and now it will not drain. Nobody should put pavement down on town property. The post office was supposed to be temporary. They are causing a liability to the town. The only way to stop people from parking on town property is putting blocks there.

Toby feels that if it were anyone other than the Mason's building, we would have taken a harder stance by how. We need to do what is right for the town and to make it safe. The Masons can provide their own parking area and maintain it. They have plenty of parking.

Cindy noted that Fuller Lane is a problem: a road between parking lots. It can be very dangerous with people backing up into the road from the parking areas on either side. It's a problem for plowing. Toby is for putting a ditch in there and making them move their parking. Don suggested concrete blocks for the winter. Toby feels that our stance should be courteous but firm. Don will communicate this to Barry [Goodrich] and make him aware that we have evidence that other proposals will not work, and that the highway dept. will put in a more permanent solution after winter. Highway will keep an eye on it and dig deeper, if need be.

Highway Department Staffing Needs: Cindy noted that she is concerned about a rumor that the town board is downsizing the highway dept. one position, and that this effort is led by Pete Hoyt. Pete: only when someone retires. Cindy: I matched the number of people to the number of miles of road: the highway crew is 6 full time

people with 71 miles of road, or 1 employee for every 12 miles; most towns are 9 miles per employee. We already have to borrow people from other towns to get our work done. Pete: I've only said that when we lose someone by attrition, we look at not filling the position. I've never suggested we lay someone off.

Cindy: The highway dept. is pushed to the limit right now, and if one or two people get sick, or the whole crew, we have to rely on other towns. In another 6 years, our whole crew will retire -- we all turn 55 within the first 6 months.

Cindy: generator. All hooked up and runs, but when it's switching over to the building, it's not going to full power... She will try to get in touch with someone tomorrow who knows how to work on generators. It had set for awhile and had mice in it. It is now set up to start itself up every month.

Went onto Ekroos road a couple weeks ago because the ditches were non-existent near the cabin end, and there was a creek running down the road. Had a problem with the owner of the cabin regarding the turnaround.

The highway dept has handshake easements for turnarounds. We need the turnarounds to get the big trucks out of roads without backing up. Most of our turnarounds are "by use," but the problem arises when people sell and don't want the trucks turning around. By use is 10 years: if you don't work on the road for more than ten years, then town loses this right. That's why the highway dept. tries to maintain things within 10 years, so they don't lose the right to use the turnarounds. Cindy would like to start written easements that will be in effect even if the property changes hands.

Don Barber, Supervisors Report

Went to meeting with Tompkins County Soil and Water and Dave Herrick from TG Miller regarding Barrile II. Expect to have final bid docs by the end of this year. TG Miller will send out an RFP early January and want proposals in by early February in order to get a notice to proceed by the 9th of March, with construction to begin by April 1, and to be in the creek by May 1. FEMA has no intention of extending this project.

Economy paving has sent out an email that they're done, with the exception of vegetation matting. Dave Herrick will go out to inspect. Can't get back in the creek to finish until May. We'll hold back enough to finish with Economy or anyone else, if they decide not to.

Peter Hoyt, Town Board

- Pete brought up reviewing minutes at agenda meeting instead of business meeting so they could be approved and published by the business meeting. Board thought it was a good idea.
- Went to Dimick PA to follow up after the public hearing on the gas leasing: Pete felt the general consensus is that folks are uneasy to say the least. He also reported that where there are any drilling rigs at all, they're very densely placed. Roads seem to be just fine, most roads are dirt. Only takes a couple months to drill a hole, then pull up stakes.

Town Business

Phone

The board thanked Pete for arranging the two presentations and discussed the merits of both All Mode and Mr. Manly's presentations; however, All Mode's proposal was 3x more than Mr. Manly's. Don will contact to Chris Manly to set up a meeting regarding designing and installing an integrated phone system in Town Hall and the Town Office Building.

Overweight trucks

Overweight tickets on White Church: our attorney is calling the DA to state the town board's position

Archives Room

Archives room: needs a fire proof door; cannot count on grant funds from NYS. Clerk look into grant funds for shelving.

Agenda

- Change Orders for Office Building (8:15)
- Phone system for Town Hall (8:25)
- Records Storage Room Finishes (8:35)
- Contract Close out with Economy Paving (8:45)
- PILOT Agreement with Caroline Seniors (9:00)
- Contract with Thaler and Thaler for Legal Services (9:05)
- Establish Date for Year End Meeting (9:10)
- Establish date for 2010 Organizational Meeting (9:15)

Adjourn

On a motion by Don Barber and seconded by Dominic McDonald, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk