

Town of Caroline Special Budget Meeting

October 26, 2010

The adjourned meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on October 26, 2010 at the Town Hall commenced at 7:03 p.m.

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

Recording Secretary: Jo Ann Reinhardt, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Penny Boynton, Karen Coleman, Members of the Youth Commission, several community residents and students.

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Barber asked on the behalf of the town board to have Penny Boynton give details about the Caroline Youth Program.

Penny Boynton reported that there was 91 students who participated in program in the year of 2010 and 82 students participated in 2009. One of the questions to Penny was how does the numbers relate to the population of numbers she is working with right now? Penny replied to the town board that the history of this program are residents of the town of Caroline, and friends of kids who attend Caroline Elementary School can also be part of the program. Penny gave the total number of grade 6 who attend Caroline School is 21 (who are in the program) and the total number of kids who are residence in the Town of Caroline is 26. Grades 7-9 there is 60 kids from the school who attend the program and the total kids who have residence in the Town of Caroline is 62. Also, grades 10-12 there is 60 kids from the school who attend the program and the total kids who have residence in the Town of Caroline is 62. There is a total of 141 kids who attend Caroline school that are not town residence that participate in the recreation programs and a 148 who do live in the Town of Caroline. In the summer the program runs 21 days, for the rest of year 111 days which includes lunch, brunch, food pantry, horse club, many numerous programs in addition to Friday & Saturday programs; 132 days a year the program is active. Penny works with 54% of the Caroline School population of students who are residents and non-residents.

Members of the town board expressed concern about the funding for the program going to the non-residents. It was stated that Caroline tax dollars should support the needs of the kids from the Town of Caroline and not non-residents. Penny was asked how many of the population of the 54% she served were actual residents. She didn't have the percentage available.

Karen Coleman from the County Youth Bureau explained the funding of the Tompkins County monies covered all students in any of the surrounding township and it is classified as "other". School district & municipalities have agreed to this over the past 14 years that the bounty lines between the township overlap and all agree to allow the kids to participate in their youth programs. Tompkins County has made cuts in youth centers funding to all the towns. Karen explained the partnership with youth services & the county involvement as far of the financial support to the board members.

Penny responded to the board in explaining the building of relationships with all the town's program coordinators for the best of the student in wherever they live. The portion of our funding is paying for other kids who do not reside in the Town of Caroline. Comments were made about the value of the programs for the community & the kids learning from all the programs available to them. It was suggested that the parents pay a fee for the summer program.

A detailed discussion continued between the board, Penny, and Karen regarding the funding from all the past sources. Karen Coleman passed out the information – explained in detail of how much monies were distributed as of 10/21/10. They did not have an exact figure from the Tompkins County of what is going to be available for 2011 year. County legislative is voting on the funding for the 2011. Karen presented to the Town to Caroline Board; informing them of possible funds to be given to each town. (attachment #1)

Penny shared with board a letter from a former student who participated in our recreation programs in her childhood and a newspaper article about the Youth Group. (attachment #2 & 3). The letter is a positive testimony of how she learned from the activities of giving back to her community and the experiences of skills & life's lessons that are carrying through her life. She is very thankful for the leaders involved and the opportunity to participate in the Town of Caroliner recreation programs.

#1 Parent Speaker – Gina Austin's kids gave back to the communities by participating in the programs for 6 years. This did this full time during their years of grades 6-12. The program ran all year for the kids to participate. There were many service projects that the kids completed that gave them the opportunities to give back to the community because of being in the program.

#2 Parent Speaker -Lynn Tordella's daughter is participating in the program at the farmer's market , water wizard, and many more programs. She is learning valuable lessons, in decision-making that impact the community proposed projects being offered to the students to participate. It has grounded her and has given her opportunities to be mentored, and also learning be a mentor herself. She works with children her age and younger kids through programs offered in the Youth Program. She is using problem solving skills , development of social skills, and there has been many other positive influences she has received by being involved in the programs. As a teenager is a difficult time and these skills she has learned lessons that are helpful with her life.

#3 Parent Speaker - Charolette Davis is a parent and she is a part of the community. Her her daughter helped with painting the book shelves for the library. The simple task of gardening that help at the Brooktondale Community Center are some of the programs she has participated in. It is a great program for the community and the kids are learning to give back to the community wherever they live.

#4 Parent Speaker - Susan Larken, lives on Bailey Road and she is concerned "What will the kids do if there is no program available for them in our community?" She supports the money as a taxpayer for the Caroline Youth Program.

#5 Parent Speaker - Robin Carman's daughter participated in the fruit basket program this past year. She has lived here all her life and she likes to participate in the program and also supports the program. She also agrees with all the other parents in keeping the Caroline's Youth Program.

#6 Speaker - Holly - She has observed the kids working at the food pantry, doing the planting of plants and keeping them growing. They also use many of their decision-making skills when doing things with other people of the Caroline Community.

The board suggested funding raising and grant writing. They suggested doing research for grants available for the youth commission and trying in the future for funds to support the Youth Programs. The Program Coordinator agreed that was a possibility to look into for future funding. Karen also agreed with the Youth Committee members.

Penny commented that working with kids is very important. There is no price she can put down to support all the programs.

Karen addressed that the portion of the funds contributed to the towns by the County will possibly be cut 7%. She does not know the 2011 proposed funding for all of Caroline's needs for the Youth Program. The fees contributed to participate can be changed, and the committee can do research in grant writing for funding.

Toby McDonald wants to know the number of kids who live in the town of caroline.

Don Barber commented also on Penny's idea that the value of this program for at-risk-kids has no price.

Linda Adams commented that she would like to see the empowering of the people of Caroline to donate to help continue the program. She also commented that the board should meet with the youth commission in the spring of 2011 to see how the programs are doing.

Don Barber commented that the Tompkins County cuts are from the New York State cuts and it affects the towns. He commented that we will all need to work together to help the program proceed.

The youth committee meets on the 4th Tuesday at 7p.m. at the Caroline School.

After the privilege of the floor, most of the public left and the board discussed the pros & cons and increases and decreases of the proposed budget. After a lengthy discussion the board decided to give the Caroline Youth Program \$18,436.00. See Resolution # 10-17 of 2010.

Privilege of Floor continued after the resolutions were made by the board. Susan Larkin, who is a volunteer for the Brooktondale Community Center food pantry spoke about the positive aspects of the pantry. She agrees the support the board gives the food pantry is very helpful. The pantry has received a one time grant of \$5,000. She stated that she thought they could work harder to raise money and perhaps receive donations from the community of items to stock.

Toby commented on the fact that the food pantry needs to look for other places to fund them and not have the funds included in the town budget. Toby made some suggestions of ways to raise the monies. He questioned how much of the taxpayers money should go to fund this program. Is it the purpose of the town to be involved with its funding. Toby also made positive comments about the work the food pantry does.. Peter agreed with Toby's comments that there is a lot of the need from the public.

Budget Amendments

Resolution: 10-17 of 2010

Motion by Peter Hoyt; seconded by Linda Adams

The discussion tabled from 10/14/2010 meeting, Resolution 10-12 of 2010 decrease line A7310.4 to \$0 (cutting the Caroline Youth Programs out of the town budget.)

Ayes:

Nays: 5

Resolution: 10-18 of 2010

Motion by Tody McDonald; seconded by Don Barber

The Town Board voted to decrease the fund A7310.4 to \$18,436.00 for the Caroline Youth Programs.

Ayes: 5

Nays:

Resolution 10-19 of 2010

Motion by Don Barber seconded by Peter Hoyt

Increase line V9730.7 by \$12,500

Increase unexpended Fund balance by \$12,500

Ayes: 5

Nays:

Resolution 10-20 of 2010

Motion by Don Barber seconded by Toby McDonald

Increase line A3510.4 to \$12,700

Increase line A2544 to \$ 5,200

Ayes: 5

Nays:

Adjourn

On a motion by Dominic Frongillo and seconded by Don Barber, the town board adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Ann Reinhardt, Deputy Clerk