

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2015

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on April 7, 2015 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

Attendance:

Don Barber, Supervisor
John Fracchia, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember
Mark Witmer, Councilmember and Deputy Supervisor
Tim Seely, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present: Harry Dillis, Joe and Judy Wiiki

Supervisor Barber started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Public Hearing-Privilege of the Floor

The Public Hear opened at 7:07 p.m. to hear any and all comments in regards to changing a portion of Level Green road from Minimum Maintenance by extending it roughly .6 of a mile that would become maintained by the town yearly

Mr. Wiiki spoke to not wanting or needing to “have a plow coming down the hill” of Level Green road. Mrs. Wiiki wants the upper portion of Level Green to still stay minimum maintenance (past the 0.6 mile part they are looking at to have maintained yearly). They are only looking for an area that would cover the portion of road that would cover by the house they are planning on building in 2016. This area of road extends a little over ½ mile; 0.6 miles. The Wiiki’s own a triangle piece of property that abuts both Level Green road and Seventy-Six road (which Seventy-Six road is already maintained yearly by the Town), so the portion of Level Green Road they are asking to access property to build on is not the only accessible to the building area of choice, they could conceivably come up from Seventy-Six road to accesses the same building plot.

The Highway Superintendent, Cindy Whittaker, talked about upgrading the ditches on Level Green Road; a plan that has been on the agenda for the past year or so.

Supervisor Don Barber spoke about road classification, referring to Local Law 2 of 1996, “In Relation to the Classification of Low Volume Rural Town Roads the Establishment of Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for such Roads and the Procedure to be followed to Designate Particular Roads According to Classification”. Land usage for Minimum Maintenance Road: Type C- Road residential access; cars and emergency service vehicles, and Agricultural Equipment (seasonal). Tompkins County owns property 100 acres (36.-1.9); 40 acres (36.-1. 7) from and out of State resident and 36 acres (37.-1.1) owned by a Caroline resident, (this property is across from the Wikki property) on Level Green road A type C residential road has to have less than 50 cars per day as the lowest destination. The lane width of 10 feet wide; a speed of 40mph and a 2 feet shoulder on each side, at least 1 cross culvert. This road section does not have a gravel base which would be required. The base is made of soil. There will need to be a 12 inch gravel base for the .6 miles the Town will have to process or buy. The Town would need a DEC approval to take gravel from an area creek in Speedsville. The more houses on Level Green road, the more traffic, the more base to the road that has to be build up to support traffic; school buses, emergency vehicles, garbage trucks, delivery trucks, Town trucks (snow plows, etc), farm equipment, and every day traffic. The road width would have to be maintained at 10 feet (as well as the 2 foot shoulders on each side) and the ditching dug out and kept clear for drainage to keep the road dry. Culvert(s) will be

required to run water under the road.

There was a mention of hunters, snowmobilers and others parking in the turn around on the property, as they always have parked at the end of the road during snow season when the road has been impassable. The discussion was that this does not give the general public the right to park there as the turnaround will be needed for snow plow trucks. People parked there can be and ticketed towed.

The Highway Superintendent, Cindy Whittaker asked; "If we open that 0.6 mile section of the road will there be pressure to open the rest of the road?" The general consensus was that it could be a possibility.

The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Tim Seely, Town Board

The Joint Youth Commission

Meeting was 3/10/2015 at the Ithaca Town hall

The revised bylaws have been accepted by all participating municipalities. If Don has not yet signed the bylaws, please do and send them to the Ithaca town hall. The Caroline board should appoint Lisa Richards to a one year term at the April business meeting.

Penny Boyton, program manager for JYC at Dewitt Middle School, has submitted her notice of retirement effective June 26, 2015. The JYC and Shelly Lester (Penny's supervisor) will discuss the process of filling this vacancy at our April meeting.

Kris Bennet has brought to my attention that the Tompkins County Youth Services Board helps guide funding and staff efforts. The board has a seat for each municipality in the County, currently the Town of Caroline seat is vacant.

Tompkins County Recreation Partnership

Meeting was 3/25/2015 at Ithaca Youth Bureau

We reviewed the 2104 operating budget and the end of year costs exceeded the budget by roughly \$1000.00. The shortfall was covered by reserves.

Discussion has begun on municipal guidelines for 2016 budget. 0%, 1% or 2% increase over 2105 budget?

The request was repeated to get all RP municipalities to put a link on their web site to the RP programs to inform residents of this opportunity and get them to the current program offerings. Currently the Town of Caroline site does not have a link, but we should add this when redesigning the site.

Buildings and Grounds

Town Hall trees:

Soliciting for three bids to remove one tree and trim the remaining. Have bid from Limbwalker, receiving bid from Bill Case and unable to contact S and S tree service until mid april.

Town Hall Roof:

Coordinating with a roof professional to develop specifications for metal roof and gutters to obtain comparable estimates from contractors.

Mark Witmer, Town Board

Planning Board. Thurs 12 March. 6:30-8:30 pm. Chad Novelli, Ed Wurtz, Lois Lounsbery, Isaac Raab, Andy, Bruce Murray.

Next Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting will be Wed, April 8th, Slaterville Fire Hall, 7-9 pm.

Me: get Town Resolution establishing Planning Board (FYI: Planning Board)

Isaac spoke with Ed Marx about Comprehensive Plan. Ed suggested ways that Caroline's CP not overlap with TC CP.

Meeting with Cornell survey people on 26 March.

Watershed Committee. Tues 16 March. 7 - 9 pm. Barry Goodrich, Jackie Cassaniti, Sharon Anderson, Brad DeFrees.

Sharon and Brad presented information about:

- 1) Flood Resiliency event at The Space on 16 April, 8:30 am - 1 pm. And
- 2) Environmental Financing Boot Camp - information on financing infrastructure improvements for climate resiliency.

Sharon discussed opportunity for Caroline to be included in an Environmental Financing Boot Camp (green infrastructure and financing) opportunity for towns in Susquehanna watershed. We affirmed interest. Conference call with Jen Cotting (Environmental Finance Center, Univ. Maryland) on 9 April to discuss

Rebecca Schneider (Cornell Natural Resources Dept.) spoke on 19 March at BCC to 55 attendees from highway departments and the community about the hydrological consequences of ditching and best practices. This is a very big deal from what she presented. Ditching practice

needs to be included in Watershed Committee mission because of large effect on storm water runoff.

Submitted proposal list for Tompkins County Stream Corridor Program to Scott Doyle on 3 April.

Energy Independent Caroline. Mon 16 March. Julie Hansen, John Reed. 7-9 pm. Discussed Cooperstown Climate Change Resolution and drafted a plan for a Caroline Climate Change Resolution. Revision and input at our April 20 meeting.

Other Notes:

Park-n-Ride: Spoke with Nancy Oltz, Program Manager at TCAT, about proposal to establish Brooktondale Fire Station as a Park-n-Ride on 6 April. The will examine the site and she'll get back to me. Next August would be our target for getting this done as that is one of three times in year that TCAT makes adjustments to schedules and routes.

John Fracchia, Town Board

Emergency Services

* Facilitated public meeting on 3/25 to discuss future of ambulance service in Caroline and possible options. Approximately 60 people attended and there appeared to be support for maintaining ambulance service in the town. Most immediate need is drivers.

* Met with interested community members on 3/28 in follow-up to 3/25 meeting to discuss next steps. The group is working on developing an educational fact sheet and setting up forums to discuss within community. Forum is being set up for 5/3 in Boiceville.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

* Currently chairing Municipal Cooperation Agreement sub-committee, charged with reviewing change recommendations to MCA document and making final recommendation to Board. Committee met on 3/19 and began work. Next meeting scheduled for 4/7.

* Attended Consortium meeting on March 26, 2015.

CIT

* No update

Wellness Committee

* No update

Emergency Preparedness

* No update

Other

* Notified by Christine Carreiro of Better Housing Tompkins that lead paint risk and environmental inspection will be ordered for NYS Home grant applicant.

* In the process of reaching out to emergency services providers to get information about members who have achieved anniversary years. These

members will be recognized on Caroline Emergency Services Day on May 13, 2015. In the process of getting a location.

Municipal aid program

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Aquifer Protection Cmte – no update

Communication, Information, Technology

* Office 365 - conversion to Office 365 for off-site file storage and email archive complete.

* Website – we have discussed basic navigation structure for new site; plan to continue with Wordpress platform but use different hosting service.

*Crucial that current records be maintained using electronic records management system, and that over time, old records are uploaded as well. New website will be set up to access these e-records via a portal.

Committee requests 5 hrs/week clerk time to work on this project.

* Broadband TBD – meet Wednesday with committee to discuss

TCCOG

Special topic – April 23, 4pm. Solar Options for Municipalities.

Home Energy Rating Project - meets tomorrow. Will meet with Susan Brock to discuss her research into municipal authority to require home energy rating at time of listing for sale and/or municipal authority to require disclosure of that rating score at time of listing for sale (or at other times in the sales process). Technical advisory committee to begin meeting May 8th.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 81 of 2015

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held January 4, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Witmer to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

Resolution 82 of 2015**Minutes of the Budget Meeting held January 12, 2015:**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Ms. Weiser to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

Resolution 83 of 2015**Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held February 3, 2015:**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Fracchia to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

Resolution 84 of 2015**Minutes of the Budget Meeting held February 11, 2015:**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Seely to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

Resolution 85 of 2015

A motion was made Mr. Barber and Seconded Mr. Seely

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby, changes the April Business Meeting date from Wednesday April 15th at 7:00 p.m. to Thursday April 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Town Hall. Further, the Clerk with post the change in the signage board out front of the Town Hall, send it to the Ithaca Journal as a notice and let the webmaster know to post it on the website and listserv.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

Town Business

Discussed agenda items for the 4/16 meeting: Resolution to Approve 284 Agreement with Highway Department, resolution appointing Lisa Richards as Caroline representative to Joint Youth Commission, resolution to Authorize Supervisor to Sign Lawn Mowing Contract with

Scott and Crispell, resolution Amending Standard Work Day Resolution 53-2015, discussion of Emergency Service Recognition Day activities and appointment of Community Service Award Committee

The board also discussed issues about Clarity Connect and working with Chuck Bartosh. Councilmember Tim Seely mentioned a concern of investing in an infrastructure that would be antique before it was paid off.

Councilmember John Fracchia spoke about the Slaterville Ambulance and the suggested rate of \$20.30 per hour or \$65,000 year to have a paramedic on staff. The board also discussed having a Highway worker drive the ambulance during the day. There was interest in pursuing a paid staff member and a Highway worker doubling as an ambulance driver.

----Adjourn the meeting ----

A motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Fracchia the meeting adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk