

## CAROLINE TOWN BOARD AGENDA MEETING

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 7:00 pm

The April 5, 2023, Agenda Meeting will be held at the Caroline Town Hall by Zoom videoconference. Members of the public may attend in-person or by Zoom. Masks are strongly advised. Minutes and video recordings will be posted on the [Town of Caroline website](#). Comments may be provided at Privilege of the Floor during the meeting, by email ([clerk@townofcaroline.org](mailto:clerk@townofcaroline.org)), or by mail (P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881).

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND THE ZOOM MEETING (<https://zoom.us>)**

You do not need to have a Zoom account to join. Options 2 and 3 are easiest without an account. You may need the Meeting ID for any of these methods.

Direct: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>

Meeting ID: 714 258 0644

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,7142580644#

Phone dial-in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

*by phone press \*6 to mute/unmute, \*9 to raise hand*

### **AGENDA**

*Privilege of the Floor: Opportunity for citizens to bring forward matters of concern*

*Please be prepared to make one statement not to exceed 3 minutes in length*

- **Presentation of the Final Report from the Zoning Commission to the Town Board**
- **Resolution Accepting the Final Report on Recommendations for a Town Zoning Law from the Zoning Commission<sup>1</sup>**
- **Highway Superintendent's Report, County Legislator's Report, Committee Reports**
- **Resolution authorizing Expenditure of Highway Funds under §284 of Highway Law<sup>2</sup>**
- **Introduction of Local Law to Extend the Land Use Moratorium**
- **Resolution to set Public Hearing**
- **Resolution Supporting Assembly Bill A01091 and companion Senate Bill S01852 proposing a novel State funding model to support EMS services<sup>3</sup>**
- **Approval of minutes of March 15**
- **Agenda items for April 19 Business Meeting**

#### **\*Privilege of the Floor Policy at Caroline Town Board Meetings**

- Privilege-of-the-Floor is offered at the beginning of town meetings as an opportunity for individuals to provide input to the town board. Speakers have up to three minutes, subject to modification depending upon time constraints of a particular meeting. Each speaker is provided one speaking opportunity per meeting; written input is also welcome.
- Comments should be directed to the town board. The Supervisor or Councilpersons may answer questions brought forward or defer to allow for further research and thought.
- Personnel matters should be directed to the appropriate Supervisor or Department Head.
- Respectful discourse is required.

**<sup>1</sup>Resolution \_\_\_\_ of 2023 Accepting the Final Report on Recommendations for a Town Zoning Law from the Zoning Commission.**

**WHEREAS**, the Caroline Town Board by Resolution 64 of 2021 formed a Zoning Commission with a specific charge to:

- a) examine existing conditions in the Town,
- b) through a process which encourages and accommodates public input, recommend the boundaries of the zoning districts and appropriate regulations to be enforced therein,
- c) make a preliminary report of this information,
- d) hold public hearings on the preliminary report, and
- e) submit a final report to the Town Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's Zoning Commission has worked steadily from March 2021 through March 2023 towards these goals, with the advice and expertise of our planning consultant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoning Commission has considered public input at Privilege of the Floor at Commission meetings, written comments by mail and email, comments at six informational meetings and two Public Hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoning Commission has worked in earnest to gather and consider information and recommendations to create zoning regulations that protect and promote the interests and values of the Town of Caroline; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoning Commission has voted to forward their Final Report to the Caroline Town Board for consideration; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Caroline Town Board hereby gratefully accepts the Final Report on Zoning Regulations for the Town by the Zoning Commission.

**<sup>2</sup>Resolution \_\_\_\_ of 2023 Authorizing §284 Agreement for 2023 Expenditure of Hwy. Funds**

**WHEREAS**, Highway Superintendent Spencer has presented a Highway Law §284 Agreement for the expenditure of funds on highways for 1) General Repairs on 70 miles of town highways and 2) Permanent Improvements for 1704 ft. on Weber Rd. - Whipper Will Ln. and approximately 1.0 mile on White Church Rd. from Caroline Depot Rd. to Belle School Rd.; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes this 2023 §284 Agreement with the Town's Highway Superintendent for expenditure of funds on Town highways.

**<sup>3</sup>Resolution \_\_\_\_ of 2023 Supporting Assembly Bill A01091 and companion Senate Bill S01852 proposing a novel State funding model to support EMS services.**

**WHEREAS**, volunteer Fire and EMS services in rural New York State have been under pressure for many years - ongoing declining volunteerism rates which leads to the closure of departments, which leads to the expansion of coverage areas for nearby agencies, which themselves struggle with staffing – in an environment of ever-increasing costs; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts to increase volunteerism, particularly in EMS, while noble, are neither sustainable nor effective enough to make a meaningful long-term impact; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these circumstances, many municipalities have been forced to implement paid EMS Departments, contract for services with other paid departments, or do without timely EMS coverage for their residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the critical nature of EMS services, particularly in rural areas where EMS response is the primary source of frontline emergency healthcare to millions of NY residents; and

**WHEREAS**, as a subset of the healthcare field, annual EMS cost increases strain the budgets of rural towns and villages who are nevertheless morally and ethically obligated to provide these services to their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, Article XVII §3 of the New York State Constitution states that,

*“The protection and promotion of the health of the inhabitants of the state are matters of public concern and provision therefor **shall be made by the state** and by such of its subdivisions and in such manner, and **by such means as the legislature shall from time to time determine.**” (emphasis added); therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroline Town Board fully supports Assembly Bill A01091 and companion Senate Bill S01852, which would establish a “CHIPS-style” state funding subsidy for municipalities who operate or contract with public and not-for-profit EMS Agencies; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Tompkins County Legislature, Assemblymember Kelles, Senator Webb, Assembly Speaker Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Governor Hochul.