

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2021

The Town Board Public Hearing and Agenda Meeting of November 3, 2021, was held electronically via zoom teleconference and was called to order by Supervisor Witmer at 7:02 p.m.

Attendance:

Supervisor Mark Witmer
Councilmember John Fracchia
Councilmember Cal Snow
Councilmember Tim Murray
Councilmember Katherine Goldberg

Recording Secretary:

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

Also Present: Hwy. Supt. Bob Spencer; and 1 member of the public via zoom

Public Hearing on the 2022 Caroline Town General and Highway Budgets

The Public Hearing opened at 7:04 p.m.

Supr. Witmer began by summarizing the budget lines for the General Fund and the Highway Fund. He has reassessed Fund Balance and finds it to be significantly more robust than previously estimated. He previously had recommended using \$25,000 of the Fund Balance to offset the levy. He now recommends increasing that amount of Fund Balance to \$75,000 to keep the levy increase at zero. This still leaves ample unassigned reserves for anticipated and unanticipated town needs and eases the burden for taxpayers.

Cm. Snow concerned with price increases to come for highway expenses. He would like to see the budget lines as accurate as possible and eliminate the necessity of transfers. Supr. Witmer believes the lines are responsible and funds are available, if needed. Board discussion regarding the necessity to allocate funds from fund balance for a specific reserve account. It was agreed that there is flexibility with Fund Balance and money can be transferred when there is an urgent need.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:36 p.m.

Public Hearing on the 2022 Caroline Fire District Budget

The Public Hearing opened at 7:36 p.m.

Speedsville Fire has a small increase from last year, about 1.11%. Brooktondale Fire stayed flat - no increase from last year's budget. Brief discussion regarding the Fire Protection Fund Balance and if that can be drawn on if needed for fuel cost increases, etc. Supr. Witmer to follow-up on this.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:41 p.m.

Public Hearing on the 2022 Caroline Lighting District Budget

The Public Hearing opened at 7:42 p.m.

Lighting is down 50%. This is the result of owning the streetlights that were purchased last year.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.

Privilege-of-the-Floor

None

Resolution 144 of 2021. Adopt the 2022 Caroline Town Budget

A motion made by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Fracchia

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby agrees to adopt the 2022 Caroline Town Preliminary Budget as adjusted, with the amendment of a \$75,000 Fund Balance to offset the levy.

PASSED: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye; Murray: Aye; Goldberg: Aye

Resolution 145 of 2021. Shared Services Agreement

A motion made by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Snow

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby approves to authorize Town Supervisor to sign a 5-year Intermunicipal Shared Services Agreement with Tompkins County.

PASSED: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye; Murray: Aye; Goldberg: Aye

Committee Reports

Councilmember Fracchia – Has invited Jim Clarke with Laberge to attend the Business Meeting and has asked him to give a preliminary report. It has not been confirmed but asks that it be on the agenda. He wishes to have something finalized before stepping down as a board member the end of next month.

Councilmember Snow – Finalizing some research, along with Mike Moran, and will likely give a Community Service Award presentation at the December Business Meeting.

Councilmember Murray – ZC – Meeting on Tuesday Nov 9th at 7:15 p.m., then again on Tuesday Nov 16th at 7:15 p.m. They will be announcing a Presentation for the public on Thursday, December 2nd to be held via Zoom. On Sunday, Dec. 5th they will hold the same Presentation, in-person, at the Brooktondale Fire Hall. *The in-person meeting will need to follow the same protocols as for other in-person town meetings (masking and vaccination).* This meeting is for public input and no recommendations will be made at that time. There will be time for questions, and there will be comment boxes fixed around different locations in the town. A Public Hearing will follow sometime after that, and they will make revisions (if necessary). They are hoping to have the recommendation to the town board before the end of the Moratorium. Clm. Murray recommended discussing further guideline requirements to attend in-person next week. Clm. Goldberg suggested perhaps registering to attend. Whatever is decided will be included in a public mailing and signage will be in place well in advance of the meeting.

Court update – Clm. Murray asked for an update to the September meeting regarding the keys and the securing of records in the small conference room. Supr. Witmer answered no and has written to the Court and asked them for an update on when they can expect these to be resolved.

Supr. Witmer – Trail – Clm. Goldberg asked if there was anything new with the trail. Supr. Witmer had nothing new to report, they are still waiting on NYSEG. The group is still meeting every two weeks.

Approval of Minutes

The Business Meeting Minutes of October 13 Business Meeting and October 19 Budget Meeting #3, as submitted by Town Clerk, Jessica Townsend was unanimously approved.

Agenda Items for November 10 Business Meeting

Discussion on Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act

Resolution Urging the Honorable Governor Hochul to sign Senate Bill S3503C establishing the New York State Rural Ambulance Task Force

Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign 2022 Caroline Fire Protection District contracts with Speedsville Volunteer Fire Co. and Brooktondale Fire District

Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign 2022 Agreements with Brooktondale and Slaterville Fire Districts for Cooperative Purchasing of Workers' Compensation Insurance

Resolution authorizing Supervisor to sign 2022 Agreement for the Town's Legal Representation by Guy K. Krogh, Esq. of Thaler & Thaler

Presentation from Larberge (Tentative)

Supervisor Witmer called for a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. and was seconded by Clm. Murray to discuss personnel issues and ended at 9:51 p.m.

Approved: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye; Murray: Aye; Goldberg: Aye

A motion to adjourn made by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Snow at 9:51 p.m. and carried unanimously.

----**Adjourn the meeting**----

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk