

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2021

The Town Board Agenda Meeting was held electronically via Zoom teleconference on May 4, 2021 beginning at 7:05 p.m. hosted by Supervisor Mark Witmer

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Recording Secretary:

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

Also Present: Highway Superintendent, Bob Spencer and 4 members of the public

Supervisor Witmer acknowledged a Petition with 156 signatures that was received this week. He read the petition aloud which asked for the Board to table any nonessential resolutions or local laws until meetings resume in-person, as citizens state they are being left out of discussions and are not able to voice their concerns because of lack of broadband. Supr Witmer thanked those that submitted the Petition and clarified that the ways in which the meetings changed was due to the COVID pandemic and the necessity to keep the Board and residents safe. The Board has and will continue to follow State regulations, but they are also currently working on the AV system installation to hold hybrid in-person meetings at the old town hall when prudent. Supr Witmer further conveyed the various ways that he and board members are available to the public and that all town meetings are recorded and published on the town webpage. Each Board member thanked the public for submitting their comments and stated the best thing we can do as a community is to practice preventative measures including getting vaccinated, wear masks, practice social distancing and finally, be in-person as soon as practical.

Privilege-of-the-Floor

None

Resolutions

Resolution 94 of 2021. Lease/Purchase Financing Analysis regarding 2022 Western Star 4099SF Snow Plow

A motion made by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Snow as follows:

Capital Equipment:	2022 Western Star 4900SF Snow Plow
Price:	\$235,614
Amount to be Financed: same	
PPU, LFL § 11.00:	15 years

Financing Options:

Installment Payment Agreement (Lease/Purchase): 5 years @ 2.20%

Total Cost = \$251,390; Total Interest Payments = \$15,776

Bonding Estimate (Statutory Installment Bond, SIB): 5 years @ 1.07%
Total Cost = \$250,555; Total Interest Payments = 7,941; Legal/Financial Fees=\$7,000
Installment Purchase vs. Bonding = \$835

Bonding Estimate (Bond Anticipation Note, BAN): 5 years @ 1.75%
Total Cost = \$255,601; Total Interest Payments = \$12,987; Legal/Financial Fees = \$7,000
Installment Purchase vs. Bonding = -\$4,211

Based on the foregoing comparison showing that the costs of Lease/Purchasing at 2.20% is competitive with estimates of bonding costs (SIB from Municipal Solutions; BAN from Tompkins Trust Company) and that Lease/Purchase-financing will also enable immediate contracting to take advantage of current pricing, the Caroline Town Board hereby recommends approval of the Lease/Purchase Agreement with Key Government Bank for installment-purchase of a 2022 Western Star 4900SF snow plow.

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

Resolution 95 of 2021. Approval if 2022 Western Star 4900SF Snow Plow by Lease/Purchase Agreement with Key Government Finance.

A motion made by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Murray as follows:

Whereas, Tracey Road Equipment, Inc. has provided a quote to the Town for a 2022 Western Star 4900SF plow truck for a total cost of \$235,614; and

Whereas, the truck is offered from a county bid list (Onondaga County Contract #8996) and is therefore exempt from GML §103 competitive bidding requirements; and

Whereas, the Town has determined that short-term financing for this truck will support our capital planning process for highway equipment needs; and

Whereas, Key Government Finance, Inc. has offered a five-year Lease/Purchase Agreement with an annual interest rate of 2.2%; and

Whereas, the Town has conducted a financing analysis as per GML §109b and determined that Lease/Purchase financing at 2.2% is competitive with bonding; therefore be it

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign a five-year Lease/Purchase Agreement with Key Government Bank for a 2022 Western Star 4900SF snow plow.

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

Resolution 96 of 2021. Acknowledging gender identity in the Diversity Statement of the Comprehensive Plan

A motion made by Councilmember Goldberg and seconded by Councilmember Fracchia as follows:
Whereas the word "gender" is limited in its scope and meaning, and

Whereas the statement related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging in the Town's Comprehensive Plan aims to reflect a commitment to a broad range of identities, and

Whereas the Town wishes to remedy any missed opportunities to work in service to the aforementioned goal,

Be it resolved, that the word "gender" be changed to the words "gender identity and/or expression" in the Comprehensive Plan.

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

Introduction of Town of Caroline Solar Siting Law

Supr. Witmer introduced the Town of Caroline Solar Siting Law. A copy of the Law can be found on the Town of Caroline website under Current Topics. The Town Attorney has reviewed the Law and gave high praise to the drafting of the Law done by the Planning Board.

Resolution 97 of 2021. Set Public Hearing for Caroline Solar Siting Law

A motion made by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Snow to set a Public Hearing for the Solar Siting Law on May 19th at 7pm

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

Committee Reports

John Fracchia, Councilmember – Met with 3 firms in April regarding the highway barns project. Has asked the firms to submit both a timeline of the project as well as cost of their services. He will be putting forward a summary of those and will give their recommendation on the Firm of their choice at next week's business meeting.

Cal Snow, Councilmember – Commemorative Award for Les Dean for his 52 years of service. He will get prices together and submit to the Board. EIC – Has distributed 7,000 LED bulbs to residents.

Tim Murray, Councilmember – Zoning Commission met last Tuesday for its second meeting and they are reviewing area zoning codes. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18th at 7pm and hope to have a Planner by that meeting. Supr. Witmer, Zoning Chair, Jean McPheeters and Board Liaison, Tim Murray will be conducting the interviews with Planners scheduled for this week/next week and hope to have their recommendation to the Board by the Business Meeting next week.

Katherine Goldberg, Councilmember – None

Wil Lawrence, TCCOG – Broadband Study to be completed in approximately 4 months. Shared concerns regarding data that may be inaccurate. The study also does not include school districts in neighboring towns such as Candor or Newark Valley. Other concerns regarding proposals for how to structure service depending on your service provider. The committee will meet again next month.

Discussion on Highway Equipment

Hwy Supt Bob Spencer sent a proposal to the Board regarding the purchase of a new 2021 Volvo Loader for the Highway Department. He stated that the current Loader, a 2004, is not in good working condition and the cost of repairs are always increasing. Clm. Murray asked Bob to provide a Capital Plan to better understand the long-term plan. Further discussion to continue at next week's business meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The Business Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2021 as submitted by Town Clerk, Jessica Townsend was unanimously approved.

Agenda items for May 12 Business Meeting

Information Session with the Town Attorney and Town Court
Highway Proposal Discussion
Resolution on Planner for Zoning Commission
Loader Proposal from Bob Spencer

A motion to adjourn by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Murray and carried unanimously at 8:23 p.m.

---Adjourn the meeting ---

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk