

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2018

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on October 2, 2018 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Attendance:

Mark Witmer, Supervisor
John Fracchia, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember
Cal Snow, Councilmember
Megan Barber, Councilmember

Recording Secretary:

Jessica L. Townsend, First Deputy Clerk

Also present were 4 members of the public

Mr. Witmer started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor

Rob Swansborough – Asked about the Code Office hours. Mr. Witmer responded that the Code Office has changed his hours and will now be open from 9:30 – 12:30 Wednesdays and Thursdays and by appointment. Mr. Swansborough asked about afternoon/after work hours. Mr. Witmer suggested he call and speak to the Code Officer and make an appointment.

Kathryn Goldberg – Broadband issue was brought up at the Planning Board Meeting. Has no service with Frontier and has spent countless hours on the phone with representatives. Was given a telephone number for residents to use to call and speak to someone directly to discuss their service, or lack thereof. Call Trayvon at the President's Office from Frontier at (1-888-567-4739). "Simply broadband light" is the plan that our area should have but have now learned a lot of residents are paying for highspeed internet, which is not offered in our area. since majority of residents are not offered the high-speed internet, they should call and request the simply broadband light service. Also reported on the Aging Community Program Transportation Voucher Program. Free transportation for Medicaid citizens. Not for routine grocery shopping but practically everything else. Anyone can train and become part of the Agency.

Introduction of 2019 Tentative Budget

Personnel wages will increase 2% across the board. Updated workers comp insurance numbers, estimates will be exact numbers closer to finalized budget in November.

Clean energy communities grant. LED Streetlight conversion estimates about \$70,000. \$20,000 will be coming from the Town of Caroline. Exact numbers will ultimately depend on what we get from NYSEG. Caroline Streetlighting increased 202%.

Highway Superintendent Cindy Whittaker is working on finding a rotation on purchasing new trucks/equipment for Highway. Going on 20 years on several of the trucks. The newest truck is a 2010. She will be working with Councilmember Megan Barber on Capital Planning. Cindy will also be looking into renting vs. owning vehicles/equipment.

We are well below the tax cap. The tax levy amount is down this year, with the one exception of the lighting district, everything is down this year, so residents should see a decrease in taxes.

Ms. Whittaker asked about the money to fix Ekroos Road, as it is a hazard at this point and has to get fixed this year. Mr. Witmer believes there is money there to fix it this year. Ekroos Road is Closed until work gets done.

Councilmember Weiser wondered if some of the decrease to set money aside for new trucks for highway. Still give a small decrease but reserve more. Again, Cindy will meet with Megan to discuss Capital Planning

Discussion of 2019 Tentative Budget and Schedule Budget Workshops

Mr. Witmer proposed that there will be two budget meetings for October. It is due November 20th but sees no reason why to wait that long. First Budget Meeting will be held on Oct 10 during the start of the Business Meeting. Informational ATV Meeting on the 24th at 7pm Brooktondale Fire Co. The Second Budget Meeting will be held Tuesday the 23rd at 7pm.

Committee Reports

John Fracchia, Councilmember – See Attachment 1 - We do not have a contract with The Computing Center. Users should also be backing files up to the One Drive. Is asking for a record of what we have, what's being used and what security we have for it both from Computing Center and Comm-Core. Discussed pulling old bills to see what work has been done. John and Irene will work together on some of the IT stuff and collect information on The Computing Center.

Cal Snow, Councilmember – Tree Work on Central Chapel Cemetery. Ekroos Road is really bad. The situation is dire. We have an active grant in with bridge NY, not feeling optimistic. Road needs to be reconstructed. Asking TG Miller for a culvert size and having the highway guys and perhaps the Tompkins County highway crew come help rebuild the road.

Megan Barber, Councilmember – Planning Board met on the 13th of September. Through reviewing Comprehensive Plan and Survey was done on what the Top 3 Town Priorities to focus

on going forward: preserving world character, environment/natural resources, and community activities. Also, identified priorities such as public transportation, emergency services, high speed internet service. Discussion followed regarding the broadband issues in the area.

Irene Weiser, Councilmember – Needs to Follow up with Guy on AQUIFER and did not make it to TCCOG Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution _____ of 2018

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held September 4, 2018:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Megan Barber to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2018 Agenda Meeting as submitted by First Deputy Clerk, Jessica L. Townsend

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

Resolution _____ of 2018

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held September 12, 2018:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Megan Barber to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2018 Agenda Meeting as submitted by First Deputy Clerk, Jessica L. Townsend

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

Discussion and Agenda Items for October 10 Town Business Meeting

Councilmember Megan Barber will bring forward the NY Health Care Act Resolution at next week's Business Meeting.

Deputy Town Supervisor Don Barber – Provided explanatory information and walked through the Town Budget and Trail Balances with the Town Board and few members of the public. Gave explanations and directions on how to read the reports.

Supervisor Mark Witmer – Met with Donald Harner, Cindy Whittaker and John Anderson regarding parking lot. Made some shifts in design. Parking spots on Midline to be paved. Sidewalk will be extended from Midline parking spaces and join into the sidewalk at the Town Hall. Bioretention area to follow. Councilmember Weiser suggested whatever plants/vegetation gets planted that it is low, not to obstruct visibility.

Trail Update - Posted Guy Krogh's trail document to the website. Sent a notice to NYSEG, asked for an update on the licensing agreement. They emailed back that they are ready to produce it

right away. The License Agreement is between the County and NYSEG that the railroad bed can be used for recreational use. No recent communication with any property owners. Mr. Fracchia states that in the current comprehensive plan it is noted as recreational. His only other question is who will maintain it but that will come together during the planning process. 2009 trail committee submitted a report which was asked of by previous Town Board members, Mr. Witmer would like to acknowledge by passing a resolution, their outstanding work in completing all that work. Councilmember Weiser thinks some of that info might need to be updated for reliable information purposes.

Flag Policy - The Town Board still desires to develop a flag policy. Councilmember Megan Barber will reach out to residents who previously asked to volunteer, to help develop our town's flag policy. Would like to have the policy in place by January 1, 2019.

The Watershed Committee voted unanimously to adopt the revised 2018 Caroline Stormwater Management Plan and Supervisor Witmer will bring forward a Resolution to adopt that Plan. He will also offer another Resolution recommending Barry Goodrich to another 3-year term on the Water Resources Council.

----Adjourn the meeting ----

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Councilmember John Fracchia at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Deputy Town Clerk