

## Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2022

The Town Board Meeting was held hybrid at the Caroline Town Hall and was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supr. Witmer. *This meeting was recorded and posted to the town website.*

**Attendance:**

Supervisor Mark Witmer  
Councilmember Cal Snow  
Councilmember Tim Murray  
Councilmember Katherine Goldberg (via zoom)  
Councilmember Kate Kelley-Mackenzie

**Absent:**

None

**Recording Secretary:**

Jessie Townsend, Town Clerk

**Also present in-person:** Hwy Supt Bob Spencer; 3 members of the public.

**Present via zoom:** 8 members of the public

Supr. Witmer opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Privilege-of-the-Floor**

None

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**Committee Reports**

**Clm. Murray** – ZC – Met last night and plan to continue to meet on Tuesday each week.

**Clm. Kelley-Mackenzie** – *Ithaca Transportation Council* – Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> policy committee meeting. *JYC* – did not meet last month. Plans to meet with committee members regarding grant opportunities to support youth programs in the town.

**Clm. Goldberg** – *Ag Committee* - Ag Committee meeting tomorrow evening. She is ill and will not be in attendance.

**Clm. Snow** – *Old Town Hall Project* - Mark and Cal will be meeting with Susan Holland (Historic Ithaca) and Steve Gibian (Architect) to plan for the restoration work set for the spring 2023. Interior work includes air sealing and insulating the building, as well as exterior water management. *Hwy* – contacting Pleasant Valley to look at the needed electrical work.

**Supr. Witmer** – *New Highway Barns* - Town Attorney is reviewing the draft RFP for the new highway building. *Brighten up Caroline project* – Replace lights in fire department with LED lights. Received a proposal from Pleasant Valley to install at Slaterville and Brooktondale Fire Depts (Speedsville has LED already). It will exceed grant funds, but he proposes covering the cost, approximately \$10,000. Brief discussion regarding scaling back the project some or asking the fire depts to cost share the project.

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**Proposal from Hwy. Supt. Bob Spencer for use of CHIPS funds for excavator purchase**

This year's recovery money was to be used for the Buffalo Rd stabilization project. Because of several factors, including scheduling delays and permitting deadlines, the project was scaled back, and other projects scheduled were postponed. That is what has made this possible. The Town has rented one this summer and were able to confront several problem areas where flooding often occurs. There are still countless projects on list for next year. Using CHIPS funds allows them to gain this equipment while

getting reimbursed 100%. This piece of equipment also comes with a forestry head, another piece of equipment that is on his capital plan. Further discussion regarding using the funds for equipment and not road restoration this year, and Bob feels confident that this will not impact road maintenance.

***Resolution 105 of 2022. Excavator Purchase***

**Motion by: Witmer                      Second: Kelley-Mackenzie**

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board supports the Highway Superintendent in purchasing an excavator using CHIPS funding.

**Motion carried.**

**Ayes: Witmer, Snow, Murray, Goldberg, Kelley-Mackenzie**

**Nays: None**

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**Introduction of 2023 Tentative Budget; set Budget Workshop**

Supr. Witmer introduced the 2023 Tentative Budget and briefly highlighted his proposals. Employee wage rate increase of 3%. The Town Hall (General A Fund) generally stays the same and noted an addition of \$4,000 for the purchase of a security system for town buildings. For Highway (DA Fund) – added an account line for gas and fuel, rather than taking it out of road repair and/or snow & ice lines. Also noted, a 40% decrease in Retirement Benefits. This number is generated and provided by New York State. Finally, as it stands, we are currently .11% below tax cap.

The first Budget Workshop was set for the end of the Business Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The second Budget Workshop was tentative set for Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7pm.

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**Discussion of Tompkins County Community Recovery Fund**

County has offered ARPA funds to communities. Clm. Murray states it's an incredible opportunity for the Town to extend our funds for a complete broadband buildout. Brief discussion regarding other broadband initiatives and funding. Supr. Witmer will get proposal from Haefele for a complete buildout.

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**Approval of Minutes**

The Town Board reviewed and approved the Business Minutes of September 14, 2022, as submitted by Town Clerk, Jessie Townsend.

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**Agenda Items for October 12 Business Meeting**

Review RFP for new highway barns  
Discussion with Judge Reinbolt (tentative)  
Pay Town Bills  
DA Budget Workshop to follow

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

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Murray at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk