

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2018

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on December 4, 2018 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Attendance:

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

Recording Secretary:

Jessica L. Townsend, First Deputy Clerk

Also present were 3 members of the public

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

Privilege of the Floor

None

Committee Reports

John Fracchia, Councilmember – Will be giving his report at next week's business meeting. He thanked Highway Superintendent, Cindy Whittaker for her work with NYSEG regarding the streetlight outages throughout the town. After months of contacting and reporting the outages to NYSEG, Ms. Whittaker filed a formal complaint to the public service commission. NYSEG was notified and has a crew coming this week for the repairs.

Irene Weiser, Councilmember – Absent

Cal Snow, Councilmember – None

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent –

Ekroos Road is now open to one lane. After months of working on the project through the heavy rain and mud, snow and ice, vehicles can now travel through.

Guide rails have been installed on Middaugh Road.

Annual hearing tests have been completed. Various other towns including Dryden, Enfield, Newfield and Ulysses also participated in the exam.

The highway crew attended a Regional Safety Training in the Town of Dryden last week.

The Highway Department will start enforcing the Town of Caroline Local Law No. 1 of 1994 entitled “Emergency Towing of Vehicles” Any vehicle parked within 25’ of the centerline of any highway located in the Town of Caroline can and will be towed. Roadside parking, especially during winter months, is hazardous to other vehicles on the road and to the highway operator who is clearing and removing snow and ice from such highway. Residents shall also be cautious while removing snow and ice from their property, or who has hired someone to remove snow and ice from their property, not to push or blow snow into the roadway. This too causes obstruction and interference with the removal of snow and ice of the public highways.

Ms. Whittaker had received a phone call from an employee at Camp McCormick concerning snow removal on Buffalo Road. She spoke to the Director at the Camp and notified him that the highway crew follows a plow route and does everything they can to clear the roads and make them passable for all those traveling and for emergency personnel. They cannot maintain a specific road that their employees travel to and from work, as requested by their employee, any more than they do now. The Director understood and apologized for the complaint.

Ms. Whittaker also wanted to again say thank you to the Tompkins County Highway Department for all their help on Ekroos Rd. She also wanted to thank the Town of Dryden for lending them a truck while one of ours was being repaired. Supervisor Mark Witmer will send a note to Dryden and the County thanking them for their help.

Would like to put notice out that the highway department will be accepting Christmas trees again this year (no artificial trees). Residents can drop them off at the highway department alongside the woodchip pile.

Received a complaint from resident Becky Dewitt regarding Asplundh, who is contracted through NYSEG. She voiced concerns about a mess left after the company did tree trimming around power lines in the area. She will be contacting Supervisor Witmer to discuss.

Megan Barber, Councilmember – The Planning Board Forum will be held next Thursday, December 13th at the Brooktondale Fire Department to discuss Protecting Caroline’s Environment and Natural Resources. The ADHOC Flag Committee Meeting Tuesday, December 11th at the Historic Town Hall at 7pm. That meeting will be facilitated by resident, Kathy Mix. The committee will be discussing what flags can fly, and when, then make a recommendation to the Town Board.

Discussion and Agenda Items for December 12 Town Business Meeting

Energy Independent Caroline met last night. Supervisor Witmer spoke last month regarding geothermal recommendation for the Historical Town Hall project. It was brought forward last night and endorsed. Supervisor Witmer will be working to pull more information together so that can be evaluated.

NYS Boiler Inspector has made a service visit to the Historic Town Hall. Unit is currently working well.

Councilmember Cal Snow requested looking into the purchase of a back-up generator for the building for emergency preparedness.

Supervisor Witmer began discussion on the big to do list for this building. Some things to address are: the basement issue, crawl area condition; insulation and sealing the building; siding and gutters. Believes it would be wise to think about composing a building committee for next year to keep this project moving along. Committed to having this completed in 2019. EIC Committee interviewed Jonathan Bates for the Brighten Up Caroline Director, LED bulb distribution. Supervisor Witmer will bring that forward next week for consideration.

Wil Lawrence – Age-Friendly Community - Passed out a survey to the board members for review and completion (if they wished to). This survey builds on surveys that were previously completed and distributed by the city and Tompkins County. Healthlinks NY will hold a workshop in Binghamton NY on January 19, 2019. The topic has yet to be announced.

Provisionally set final meeting for December 28th at 4:30pm.

Provisionally set Organizational/Agenda Meeting January 2nd at 7pm.

Resolutions

Resolution ____ of 2018

Budget Amendment

A motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2018 Budget Amendments:

\$2,372.08 Increase A3820.4 Revenues (Youth Programs)

\$2,372.08 Increase A9030.8 Expenditures (FICA)

\$262,145.00 Increase DA3061 State Aid – BridgeNY – Ekroos Culvert

\$262,145.00 Increase DA5110.412 General Repairs – BridgeNY – Ekroos Culvert

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

----Adjourn the meeting ----

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Councilmember John Fracchia at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Deputy Town Clerk