

## **Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2016**

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on October 4, 2016 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  
Gary Reinbolt, Councilmember  
Cal Snow, Councilmember

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

**Also present:** 6 members of the public were present

Mr. Witmer started the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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### **Public Hearing to override the 2 percent tax cap opened at 7:04 p.m.**

Tony Tavelli asked about the supervisors plan to stay under the tax cap.

Mark replied, plan to try to stay below

Gvozden Doscik

Bill Rusinko - Is the 2 % tax cap a State law? Is the 2% tax cap override a board vote or resident voter?

John fracchia - We used fund balance in previous years so we have

Motion made to Adjourn at 7:45 p.m. by Irene Weiser and seconded by John Fracchia

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### **Privilege of the Floor**

Kathleen Boyd CIT - Received TW map via email showing under and above ground lines. Inconsistencies. [45]

Wil Lawrence - People who are not on the town board who are willing to put time in. There were 17 different town resident responses to TW service areas per road. [47]

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### **Reports**

**Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent** – No report

**Gary Reinbolt, Town Board** – No report

**John Fracchia, Town Board** –

## Building and Grounds

\* In process of trying to get quotes for repainting Historic Town Hall. Code Enforcement Inspector has indicated that the building is vulnerable due to exposed wood. Possibility of a lead abatement issue.

## Emergency Services

\* No Report

## Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

\* Consortium met on September 22, which was the budget meeting.

\* The FY 2017 budget was adopted as were adjustments to the medal level plans in line with the target actuarial values approved at the July meeting. This keeps the consortium in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. The premium increase for non-metal plans will be 5% over 2016 rates.

\* Passed a resolution admitting the towns of Moravia, Preble, Scipio, Springport, Union Springs, and Cincinnatus.

\* The consortium officially adopted a new logo (below).

## **Cal Snow, Town Board** – No report

## **Irene Weiser, Town Board** –

CIT met Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Broadband updated maps showing Caroline as not having any unserved areas therefore not eligible for grants. Vendor Conference

## Communication Information and Technology Cmte (CIT)

VOIP Phones – phone server is at least 7 yrs. old. Problems changing phone tree and voice messages; also occasional dropped calls and busy signals for incoming callers. Have met with All-Mode and Verizon. Meeting with Brightworks Oct 12th, 9am. All-Mode offers both hosted and in house (owned) services. Verizon hosted only. Hosted system will avoid costs for current Frontier landline service. But if internet is down, phones will be as well... Awaiting proposals and technical specs from All Mode and Verizon.

Broadband - Committee met on Sept 26th we were notified by Haeefele that NYS Broadband office had updated their maps and now Caroline was ineligible for Phase 2 funding. MAPS HERE: <http://nysbroadband.ny.gov/new-ny-broadband-program/phase-2>

Haefele speculated that changes were because of conditions in TWC- Charter merger that required them to provide access to an additional 145,000 households in NY State. On Thurs Sept 29, CIT Committee member Wilma Lawrence and I attended NYS Broadband Office bidder's conference to learn more. It seems Haefele's speculation is correct. According to BPO presentation, maps were adjusted to reflect areas that Charter would build out.

We have several concerns about this proposed buildout – I have contacted BB office to see if we can get answers to the following: (awaiting reply)

1. Tompkins County was not listed in the Year 1 priority areas. Is there any info about WHEN this buildout would occur in Caroline? (Charter has 4 years to build out, vs Phase 2 grant recipients 2 years)
2. There remain isolated areas w/in the proposed Charter coverage areas that apparently Charter does not propose to cover. Yet these areas will be impenetrable by any other provider as they would have to run their wires for miles to access just a few households. How can we be assured that all existing households will be served?
3. A related problem - Currently TWC indicates it covers areas which are in fact NOT covered. How can we be assured these uncovered areas will be covered in the subsequent Charter buildout? And what if they're not? What recourse do we have?
4. TWC has been notorious for asking sometimes many thousands if not tens of thousands to run a drop line to households that are set back from the road. What will be the required distance for no-cost drop lines for Charter's buildout? Will there be a maximum per foot charge for running drop lines beyond this distance?
5. We have some residents and businesses with literally no option other than dial-up or satellite, so we're anxious to receive service soon. Further, I'm concerned that once Charter builds out and we find that there are households left unserved, that there will be no BB monies left to provide coverage to these areas. Any chance a local vendor could preempt Charter and get funded to do the work timely (and likely more fully too)?

Budget proposals - Upgrade network security in Old Town hall comparable to upgrades this past year in Annex. New desktop for Kevin? One for Becky? Trying to get on cycle so that we have 2 of 8 machines replaced each year rather than several all at once. Continue monthly maintenance or scale back to every 6 – 8 weeks? Upgrade website to Wordpress or stick w/what we've got? Need to discuss...

#### AQUIFER PROTECTION

No report. Steve is back from surgery. I need to contact Guy and get things moving again.

#### TCCOG

Revised Bylaws approved.

Emergency Medical Services Task Force – slate of committee members approved. Meetings will begin in October when common meeting date/time is determined.

Community Choice Aggregation - excellent Skype meeting with Paul Fenn – the “father” of CCA. Advises issuing RFQ for CCA Administrator as this is the most important/impactful position. Committee meets 4th Friday of each month, 12 - 1:30pm at Town of Ithaca Town Hall.

State Constitutional Convention in 2017? TCCOG will sponsor forum. Date TBD.

Meanwhile – good article on pros and cons in Ithaca Times

[http://www.ithaca.com/news/time-for-concon/article\\_28e930be-8019-11e6-840c-](http://www.ithaca.com/news/time-for-concon/article_28e930be-8019-11e6-840c-)

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### **Town Business**

Discussion of tentative budget

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### **Resolutions**

#### **Resolution 137 of 2016**

#### **Shared Services Agreement**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and Seconded by John Fracchia

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor Mark Witmer to sign the Intermunicipal Shared-Services Agreement with Tompkins County and participating area municipalities for 5 years starting December 1, 2016.

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

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

A motion by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt the meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk