

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on June 4, 2013 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

Attendance:

Don Barber, Supervisor
Dominic Frongillo, Councilmember - Absent
Linda Adams, Councilmember
Aaron Snow, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Christine Wilbur, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: 1 member of the public

Supervisor Barber led the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

At 7:00 PM, Supervisor Barber opened the public hearing on proposed modifications to the Town of Caroline's Building Code Enforcement Administration Local Law ("Local Law Number 1 of 2006"), which will become Local #1 of 2013. Since there was a discrepancy in the time for the public hearing (7:00 PM and 7:30 PM), the Board will not close the hearing until after the 7:30 PM time.

Mr. Barber gave a brief history of the law and the basis for two previous rewrites and updates. The current update has to do with an addition of an appeals process and to ensure there is consistency of definitions and terminology. He consulted with the Town Attorney, who noted a loophole in the law, and suggested the addition of due process – the opportunity for appeal. The basic premise of the law – defining unsafe and hazardous buildings, or the process for giving a citation – has not changed from the original law. The following people provided comments on the proposed changes:

Greg Harrington addressed the Board as he has heard different stories (rumors) about the change in the law but has not had a chance to review it himself. Greg is particularly interested in the law as it pertains to fire department and ambulance response to unsafe and hazardous structures. He has spoken to the Code Officer on numerous occasions when he has noticed these properties in his travels, as well as access issues, for the fire department. He also said the fire service is re-thinking procedures for fighting fires in unsafe structures.

Ms. Weiser talked about the appeals process, which is through the Sub-Division Review Board. This allows for a procedure that was not in place previously.

Mr. Barber spoke about agricultural buildings. He checked with the Department of Agriculture and Markets and those buildings are not exempt from this law – the data is in the correspondence file.

Mr. and Mrs. Roseoff (arrived for the 7:30 PM portion of the public hearing) also spoke regarding the law. They were concerned about a specific piece of property in their neighborhood. They were advised to report their concern to the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Barber and other Board members summarized the law again and spoke about the appeals process for property owners who receive citations under this law.

Chris Fillinger engaged Board members in a lengthy discussion regarding the 3rd party inspections, referenced in the law, for electrical inspections and inquired if the Town covers their liability insurance. Supervisor Barber described the process for electrical inspections – the town is responsible for specifying electricians and companies who have appropriate certifications and insurance and are authorized by resolution at the Organizational Meeting at the beginning of each year, and are not a part of this law.

Further discussions of building systems and how they are inspected and who is responsible for them continued. The conclusion is that inspections such as plumbing and electrical are not part of this law, but are part of the building permit process.

Hearing no further comments, Ms. Weiser made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Barber. Carried unanimously.

The public hearing closed at 8:10 PM

Ms. Weiser made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Barber. Carried unanimously.

This law, as revised, will be voted on at next week's business meeting.

Privilege of the Floor

Supervisor Barber inquired of Mr. Harrington regarding the maintenance of a hydrant that is in the Speedsville area that a resident was concerned about. Mr. Harrington indicated that the fire department should maintain the hydrant, and also provided the Board with a history of how, why and where hydrants are placed and about maps of ponds and other water sources that fire department personnel put together

Chris Fillinger asked if the Brooktondale Newsletter could be combined to be a "Town" newsletter. Ms. Weiser indicated this would be something the CIT could consider pursuing, but not in the near future. The Committee's current focus is on technology issues. Ms. Weiser reported the CIT Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month if Mr. Fillinger is interested in coming to a meeting.

Ms. Adams feels the Old Mill newsletter is something the Brooktondale Community Center is proud of and they like their role in the community and she would like to avoid the politics that might enter into that suggestion.

Reports:

Don Barber, Supervisor:

Agenda items and Report:

- Mr. Barber and the Town Clerk met with the Town's Workers' Compensation carrier. He reported the Town is required to provide training in Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment. They will provide information for training and who needs to be involved, and will be discussed at next week's meeting. Ms. Weiser suggested contacting Tompkins County HR as they provide that training on a regular basis.
- The Youth Commission meets next Thursday, just prior to the Board meeting, and there may be something to report on that.
- The Town's Bookkeeper is leaving the area and Mr. Barber reported a new person has been hired as of today and will be working on the transition. He feels this would be a good time to explore the acquisition of a new or different software program for accounting and payroll needs. Mr. Barber hopes to have a proposal by next week's meeting. He also estimates the changeover will cost approximately \$6,000.
- At the last meeting, there was discussion about the outside water source. NYMIR has recommended proposed wording for a sign that should be erected to notify the public. The Board further discussed testing the town might engage in.
- The Sub-Division Review Board met at our request to review application fees. This item will be on agenda next week. If there are any questions, please get in touch with Kevin McMahan or Walt Peck. These fees fall within the Town's authority. Ms. Adams asked if this is an amendment to an existing fee structure – no, it is a stand along resolution. Mr. Barber reported because the process utilizes Town's resources and the Town bears all the cost including soil and water testing – that should not be the taxpayer's burden – should be the developer's costs. Ms. Adams described more costs that can be incurred by the applicant, and if a piece is missed for Town requirements, they would still need to comply.
- Rachel Brown, the Town Court Clerk, is retiring in September and Mr. Barber would like to have the Board recognize her in some way.
- Broadband - need to discuss what terms should be included in a Franchise Agreement with Clarity Connect. Mr. Barber will send Board members samples and get the Board's insight. He explained this will not be an amicable negotiation and gave some history of the situation.
- Agenda item for next week: Adopt Local Law #1 of 2013.

Aaron Snow, Town Board:

- Watershed Committee – report next week. Mr. Snow reported the program: “What’s in Your Watershed” will be presented tomorrow. All information about time and place is on the Town’s website.
- Board members briefly discussed the creek work on Chris Payne’s property and everyone is agreeable about the scope of the project, and that the Town does not need to be involved financially. There was good cooperation of all parties involved.
- Youth Commission - Mr. Barber and Mr. Snow reported the Youth Commission will be discussing a proposal to blend several communities together in a basic program that provides staff support and activities. The cost being proposed is about what we have in the budget, but if more programs were approved, we would have to provide additional funding. The proposal being considered would be for 2014.
- Recreation Partnership: no report.

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board: Absent

Irene Weiser, Town Board:

- Aquifer Protection Committee – meeting twice a month - 1st & 3rd Tues. 3-5 PM and are reviewing other town’s local laws, considering hazards now and in the future – how to protect.
- CIT Committee – Brightworks has been out to evaluate systems and machines – more work to do – CEO and Court. There will be more to report next week.
- Broadband – the group continues to have discussions with Clarity and there will be further discussion at next week’s meeting.

Linda Adams, Town Board: No report.

Town Business

Approval of Minutes:

Resolution 100 of 2013 – Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held on May 7, 2013:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Ms. Weiser to approve the minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Adopted: Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolution 101 of 2013 - Minutes of Business Meeting held on May 14, 2013:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Snow to approve the minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Adopted: Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Mr. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Weiser. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Wilbur, Deputy Town Clerk

