

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2014

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on December 2, 2014 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

Attendance:

Don Barber, Supervisor
John Fracchia, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember-Absent
Mark Witmer, Councilmember
Tim Seely, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present: no members of the public were present

Mr. Barber started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Privilege of the Floor

No members of the public present.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

No report

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

He will report next week at the business meeting

Tim Seely, Town Board

The Joint Youth Commission

The town of Ithaca returned \$14,000 to the JYC budget for 2015. This represents a 25% reduction from the 2014 contribution.

The town of Ithaca lawyer will most likely have the revised bylaws available to the JYC for review at our December 9th meeting.

Tompkins County Recreation Partnership

Next meeting is Tuesday December 9th

Buildings and Grounds

Town Hall front door:

Superior Glass will be installing the new door closer on Monday December 8th at 9:30 am. The cost will be \$159.00 as I previously quoted to the board.

Town Hall trees:

I received the survey of the adjacent property from the current owner and with this was able to find the property line pins to the East of the town hall. With this established the three trees in question are wholly on town property. I propose the town considers receiving a Hazard Tree Assessment from Limbwalker Tree Care. They have a certified arborist and can provide the assessment and budgetary cost estimate for any work that may be required for a \$150.00 fee.

I would like to receive input from the board if this is acceptable. I have tentatively scheduled a time to have this done on Monday December 8th at 8:30 am. Risk analysis for the \$150 for the trees. The board agreed.

Mark Witmer, Town Board

Planning Board met-13 Nov, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Caroline Town Hall. Bruce Murray, Ed Wurtz, Lois Lounsbery, Chris Payne, Isaac Robb, Andy Martin, Mark Witmer

Watershed Committee

18 Nov, 7:00-9:00 pm, Carline Town Hall. Barry Goodrich, Jackie Cassaniti, Mark Witmer

- Jackie reported on I.O. meeting. Lead on RPP update is Town of Ithaca. Floating classroom, initiated by I.O., is being transferred to Cornell's Center for Transformative Action.
- Barry briefed us on Stormwater Coalition meeting tomorrow. Contract with municipalities. Wetland mapping project to be completed by next summer. Stormwater management training.
- Buffalo Road Creek Project is proceeding: Bidders' Conference was 5 Nov, 10 am. Bid Opening was 12 Nov, 2 pm. JB's Excavation was winning bid. Lengthy discussion of timing of project and application of grant funds. [note from later correspondence from Jon Negley: he has designated \$16,600 of FLOWPA funds for Buffalo Rd. Creek work to be spent for work completed by 31 Dec 2014 - transferred our 2014 USGS Stream Gauge funds to this, so Town will need to cover? Flood Hazard Mitigation grant from Tompkins County is \$10,000, to be spent on engineering only by 15 September 2015. Timing restriction on FLOWPA funds relegates them to engineering as well. Total invoiced engineering costs are \$19,261.20, leaving \$26,600 - \$19,261.20 = \$7,338.80 "uncaptured." Need to get partial invoice for work or materials from JB's Excavation before end of year!]

December meeting of Watershed Committee is canceled. Next meeting 20 January 2015. Rebecca Schneider to speak with us about ditching best practices and why it matters.

Energy Independent Caroline

24 Nov, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Caroline Town Hall. Jonathan Comstock, Mary Alyce Kobler, Julie Hansen, Dave Ritchie, Mark Witmer

Mark summarized information from NYS Climate Smart Communities workshop on municipal GHG inventories, 27 October, Richfield Springs Town Hall. Workshop provided spreadsheets for GHG accounting and conversions. Key points:

- GHG sources in Caroline are relatively simple (no landfills, water treatment facilities, large commercial operations)
- Capturing 95% of GHG emissions is threshold for compliance with CSC
- Caroline sources: 1) stationary fuel use in town facilities, 2) mobile fuel use, 3) street lights.
- Baseline year will be year prior to installation of solar PV = 2009.

Questions: What are GHG impacts of heat pumps (- efficiency, + refrigerants?)? Septic systems? How can we keep our GHG inventory up-to-date?

Action items: Read George Frantz's GHG Inventory for Caroline (everyone). Begin data gathering and input to spreadsheet: utility data, vehicle fuel use, streetlights (Mark).

Solar Tompkins update, Jonathan: 400 contracts, > 3 MW! Installations are underway. Solar Tompkins Caroline volunteer installation check team: Dave, Mary Alyce, Jonathan, Mark.

Development of website to provide continued support for solar PV. Comparison shopping? Supported by participation installers?

Planning for Solar Tompkins in 2015: Sustainable Heating with heat pump technology. Possible inclusion of pellet stoves. Need more information. Julie suggested Jerry Cherney as a resource. Overall concept is to provide homeowners an integrated plan for envelope and energy production options.

December meeting of EIC is canceled. Next meeting 19 January 2015.

John Fracchia, Town Board

Emergency Services

Volunteer Shortage Project:

- Submitted letter from Beth Harrington, Slaterville Ambulance to town listserve and wrote preamble to stress highlight the seriousness of the issue from the town's perspective.
- Working with Slaterville Ambulance to strengthen their web presence.
- Request from Doug Keefe, Speedsville Fire Department for the town to honor 50 year volunteer and former Chief, James Leigh, with a day in December.

ES/Code Enforcement - Joint Areas of Concern:

- Revised protocols following meeting with CEO and Supervisor and distributed to Fire and EMS providers for feedback.

Wellness Committee

- Met with Marilou Harrington-Lawson and started framing out the work of the wellness committee. Initial efforts will include: talking with colleagues in towns with established committees to get a better understanding of what they've been doing and its success; surveying town employees to better understand their needs related to wellness.

Emergency Preparedness

- No update

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- The Administrative Services contract with Excellus is currently under review by the board. If approved increases will be as follows: 2.5% (2015), 3% (2016), 3% (2017). This would represent a 3.88% increase over the 6 years that Excellus has provide this service to the consortium.

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Absent

Resolutions

Resolution xxx of 2014 (The resolution was not voted on)

A motion was made by Tim Seely and Seconded by Mark Witmer

Resolution Recognizing Mr. James Leigh For 50 Years of Volunteer Service To The Town Of Caroline Through The Speedsville Fire Department

WHEREAS, The Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Companies provide an invaluable service to the Town of Caroline and its residents,

AND WHEREAS, Mr. James Leigh has provided fifty years of faithful service to the Town and its residents through the Speedsville Fire Department, as both a volunteer fire fighter and as it's chief,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Council does hereby recognize and commend Mr. James Leigh for fifty years of service to the community and hereby designates in his honor, Monday, December 22, 2014 as James Leigh Day in the Town of Caroline.

Discussion: About the pros and cons of this type of resolution; inclusion of everyone who has served, where does government become involved in recognition; who follows-up to make sure others aren't missed?

Resolution xxx of 2014 (The resolution was not voted on)

Environmental Assessment of Dominion Transmission- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

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

Resolution on Scope of Issues for Environmental Assessment of Dominion Transmission, Inc. Proposed New Market Project (Docket #14-497-000): Evaluate best course for energy, global climate, and jobs.

To: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Whereas, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has solicited public input on the scope of issues that FERC should address in the Environmental Assessment for Dominion Transmission, Inc.'s proposed New Market Project,

Whereas, climate change is underway as a result of human combustion of fossil fuels (IPCC,2013),

Whereas, positive feedbacks exist in which products of atmospheric warming (water, methane, ice melt) lead to further warming,

Whereas, thresholds at which positive feedbacks would produce unavoidable global warming and climate chaos will be reached within the next several decades on our current trajectory,

Whereas, methane use as an energy source produces more greenhouse gas emissions than other fossil fuels because, in addition to carbon dioxide emissions that result from combustion, substantial methane,

a potent greenhouse gas, leaks during mining (primarily hydraulic fracturing) and distribution (Howarth 2014).

Whereas, emissions from compressor stations present risks to the health and quality of life of residents living in the vicinity of compressor stations and pipelines,

Whereas, renewable energy sources exist right now that can provide our power needs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions: solar, wind, and hydro-power are viable energy sources,

Whereas, buildout of gas transmission infrastructure will produce primarily a limited number of temporary jobs, buildout of renewable energy jobs will yield a large number of engineering and construction jobs,

Whereas, impacts of energy policy will affect energy availability, climate effects on private properties, town infrastructure, and quality of life, including job opportunities for residents of Caroline and other localities,

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Caroline calls on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carefully and comprehensively evaluate in their Environmental Assessment of the proposed New Market Project (Docket # CP14-497-000) these critical aspects:

- The ability the New Market Project to contribute to an effective national program to curb GHG emissions to levels that will avoid climate tipping points.
- The cumulative climate impacts of the New Market Project compared to viable alternatives, like renewable energy buildouts. This analysis must include a full life-cycle perspective of GHG emissions, including mining, transportation, storage, distribution, and usage.
- The job opportunities, both in tenure and skill set, that will result from the New Market Project versus alternative renewable energy initiatives.
- The quantified health risks, both local and global, associated with methane pipelines and compressor stations of the New Market Project.
- The health costs resulting from compressor station volatile emissions, methane emissions, and GHG emissions associated with the New Market Project.

Sources:

Howarth, R.W. 2014. A bridge to nowhere: methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas Energy Science & Engineering. DOI: 10.1002/ese3.35

IPCC. 2013. Climate change 2013: the physical science basis. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/> (accessed 10 January 2014).

Discussion: Councilmember Witmer explained the purpose behind the resolution and the board members asked questions. What should be included in the resolution? Who should receive the resolution? Local Senators? Assemblypersons? Etc.

Town Business

Clarity Connect- Councilmember Seely asked worst case scenario if we don't get the DASNY money the Town pays for it up front. How long could it take to get the money?

Last Abstract Meeting- Suggested meeting date Monday, December 29th 2014 pm

Organizational Meeting- Suggested meeting date Friday, January 2nd 2015 4:00 pm

Supervisor Barber announced his intention to retire as Town Supervisor at the end of this term he is serving in December 2015.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 212 of 2014

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held October 23, 2014:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Fracchia to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolution 213 of 2014

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held November 6, 2014:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Seely to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk as amended.

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

---Adjourn the meeting ---

A motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Witmer the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk