

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2015

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on May 5, 2015 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
Mark Witmer, Councilmember and Deputy Supervisor-absent
Tim Seely, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present:

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

Privilege of the Floor

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Tim Seely, Town Board

The Joint Youth Commission

Meeting was 3/10/2015 at the Ithaca Town hall

Travis Judd reviewed the Coddington Road CIT program for this summer and his current efforts to increase enrollment from the JYC participating municipalities

Discuss the process of filing the program manager position after June of 2015.

CCE will be advertising for this position soon.

Tompkins County Recreation Partnership

Meeting was 4/28/2015 at Ithaca Youth Bureau

Reviewed the proposed 0% and 3% budget scenarios for 2016. The town of Caroline will see an increase with both over 2015 levels. The numbers are as follows:

2015 2016 No Change +/- 2016 3% +/-

Caroline	\$7,982	\$ 8,314	\$ 332	\$ 8,563	\$ 581
Danby	\$ 11,445	\$ 11,780	\$ 335	\$ 12,133	\$ 688
Dryden	\$ 13,431	\$13,544	\$ 113	\$13,950	\$519
Enfield	\$5,229	\$5,350	\$121	\$5,511	\$282
Groton	\$654	\$633	\$ (21)	\$652	\$ (2)
Ulysses	\$7,970	\$6,896	\$ (1,074)	\$7,103	\$ (867)
Newfield	\$1,884	\$1,957	\$ 73	\$ 2,016	\$132
V. Lansing	\$14,507	\$14,697	\$190	\$15,138	\$631
TOTAL	\$63,171	\$ 63,171	-	\$ 65,066	\$ 1,895
T Ithaca	\$ 63,171	\$ 63,171	-	\$ 65,066	\$ 1,895
C Ithaca	\$ 63,171	\$ 63,171	-	\$ 65,066	\$ 1,895
County	\$ 63,171	\$ 63,171	-	\$ 65,066	\$ 1,895
TOTAL ALL	\$ 252,684	\$ 252,684	-		

Buildings and Grounds

Town Hall trees: Trees were removed on April 26th. The sidewalk was damaged in the process but was repaired by Bill Case and crew.

Town Hall Roof: Currently requested a quote from a local roofing contractor to establish if our current reserves can cover the project costs.

Mark Witmer, Town Board-Absent

Planning Board. (Chad, Ed, Bruce, Lois, Andy, Isaac, Mark)

* Community Meeting on Comprehensive Plan Update was held Wed, April 8th, Slaterville Fire Hall, 7-9 pm. Small group (2 new) with good discussion.

* We've invited Nick Goldsmith to our May 14 meeting to tell us about incorporating sustainability into CPs.

Watershed Committee. (Jackie, Mark)

- * Irene and Mark attended Flood Resiliency event at The Space on 16 April.
- * Planning for one-day environmental boot camp from the Environmental Financing Center on 17 June.
- * Mark and Jackie Cassaniti attended the IO meeting at Wells College on 22 May. Update of Restoration and Protection Plan for Cayuga Lake is beginning.
- * MS4 information reported to Soil and Water.
- * With approval from DEC, Buffalo Road Creek work will start on Thursday, 7 May. Pre-construction meeting will be at 9 am.

Energy Independent Caroline. (Mary Alyce, Jonathan, Julie, Ed, Pat, Mark, Dave Ritchie)

- * Committee discussed first draft of Climate Change Resolution. In progress.

John Fracchia, Town Board

Emergency Services

- * Met with Board of Slaterville Ambulance to continue discussion of continuing operations beyond 2015. They are interested in further discussing some of the topics discussed by the board at the April meeting. Drivers indicated that weekend driving relief is also a big need, perhaps at the moment, the equivalent of the need for medic relief on the weekends.
- * Reserved Brooktondale Community Center for Caroline Emergency Services Day celebration and, so far, have gathered names of honorees from Brooktondale and Speedsville. Am awaiting Slaterville, which I should receive soon. We will be recognizing a large number of people this year (likely over 70!). Publicity has been put out in public locations, on Facebook, through the squads, the churches and the school. Will be going on Town's website and Brooktondale listserve. Cake and punch will be provided.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- * The Municipal Cooperation Agreement sub-committee met on April 7 to continue its review of feedback from the state and recommendations for changes to the agreement. Excellent progress was made and the sub-committee will be meeting on May 7 to finalize recommendation to the full board.

CIT

- * Participated in several meetings pertaining to the Broadband project as well as a webinar on the state's broadband initiative.

Wellness Committee

* No update

Emergency Preparedness

* No update

Other

* Notified by Christine Carreiro of Better Housing Tompkins that the applicant for the rehabilitation grant is progressing. Two bids for the work have been received and the contract between the homeowner and winning bidder is being drawn up this week.

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Aquifer Committee –

Steve anticipates finishing with Danby soon and beginning work again with us by end of summer, if not sooner. He has forwarded latest comments by Guy Krogh on Danby's proposed local law – resolution of which will be helpful to us too.

TCCOG –

* Shared services resolution (Don sent earlier)

* Municipal opportunities for Solar - presentation by RER Energy and atty from Madison County. The closing window of opportunity is for Towns with larger electrical usage than we have. As a result of this information I did not send out request to listserv seeking usable plots before deadline. Madison Attorney raised many interesting options for the future – most of which make more sense at County level. I will coordinate with Joe Mareane and Melissa Kemp to explore more..

* Solar Tompkins – resolution to engage ST services for their new HeatSmart program.

Communication Information and Technology Cmte

Email: Staff continues to have some problems with email. Mike from Computing Center recommends installing the Outlook desktop client, rather than webmail for those having problems. Desktop client more robust and easier. Approx 30 min per person. Can be done remotely. Please advise.

Broadband: meetings to discuss next steps. Clarity will present to TCCOG in May June – many municipalities have questions about what is happening, additional charges, etc.

Webinar today by NYS Broadband re: New NY Broadband initiative. Coming this summer. \$500 million funding. 50% match required overall, but State recognizes some communities may not be able to provide 50% whereas others may be able to provide

more. New Federal standard = at least 25 Mbps download/ 10 Mbps upload by 2019; goal – 100 Mbps down, tho this may not be possible in remote locations or by 2019, but State believes 25 Mbps standard is doable using Fixed Wireless (WiMax) technologies. They say they will do better and disbursing funds in timely fashion.

Related – Smart Schools bond fund – can help with broadband to schools, anchor institutions AND in some instances communities. Watch for this funding too.

Website: have identified one wordpress designer; looking for others. Learned that Town is able to use Laserfish for public files, but no files have been added. Request clerk time (Becky?) to work on this.

Residential Energy Score Project

Moving forward. Technical advisory committee 1st meeting May 15. Legal review of authority for towns to make energy score rating and disclosure mandatory at time of sale determined that Towns do not have this authority. One possible avenue = benchmarking, but need to explore this idea more for legal and practical feasibility. Seems like many hurdles. For now, pursuing idea of rating and disclosure as optional.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 94 of 2015

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held March 3, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Fracchia to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolution 95 of 2015

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held March 11, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Seely to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolution 96 of 2015

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held April 7, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Ms. Weiser to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolutions

Resolution 97 of 2015

2007 GMC Truck with Plow

A motion was made Mr. Barber and Seconded Mr. Seely

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent Cindy Whittaker to sell at auction the 2007 GMC truck with plow.

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

Resolution 98 of 2015

New LED Lights- Annex and Historic Town Hall

A motion was made Mr. Fracchia and Seconded Mr. Seely

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to a contract with NYSEG to replace the lights in the annex building and historic building with energy efficient LED lights.

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

Town Business

Councilmember Weiser introduced HeatSmart, a new program that will be modeled after last year's Solar Tompkins Solar PV program, which was effective across the County and the Town of Caroline. The HeatSmart program will have community outreach, education and they will hold at least two public meetings in the Town of Caroline in the summer and fall of this year. Councilmember Weiser is asking for an investment in the program by the Town of Caroline of \$1000, if okayed by board resolution. Discussion- In general the board liked the idea based on the success of the Tompkins Solar PV program and the people who took advantage of it in the Town of Caroline last year, but where does the \$1,000 in funds come from for the HeatSmart program? The discussion is to continue at next board meeting.

FEMA when they pay for Town projects do so over time usually in varying amounts instead of paying in one lump payment. They did so when the Beaver Creek project was done a few years ago. At this time FEMA is showing that the Town has been over paid the amount of \$177,000. Which their accounting shows and looking back, Supervisor Barber agrees with the amount. Since this will largely affect the highway fund balance Don will work with FEMA to do a payback over time; a percentage per year?

There was a discussion of the cost of health insurance for the Town Clerk and going forward if there are other full time employees in the upcoming years and the cost with the percentage of

increase. There is different plans offered through the Health Care Consortium. One discussion was with the clerk and her feeling about the difference in the plans; the one she has for example with a \$15.00 co-pay verses the other with a \$25.00 co-pay and would the plan with the higher co-pays and deductibles be doable. Obviously the lower co-pay, lower deductible plan would always be preferable but the Town Supervisor, Don Barber had given the Town Clerk the plans to look at and to discuss with the board at a later date. The Town Clerk, took the plans and had discussed them with her husband. Based on the fact of income and cost of out of pocket copays and deductibles for the year and that the higher deductible/copay plan would save the Town in excess of \$2,000 a year, she offered to take the plan with the higher deductibles but asked that the board did not request a 15% percent contribution from her pay toward the premium. The offer and request was agreeable with the board. See attachment of the different plans.

Supervisor Barber talked about Chuck Bartosh and his continuous changes (increases in the amounts required) from the original proposed agreement with the Broad band for the Town of Caroline. One increase which was eluded to as completely out of the scope of rationale was \$3,500 to run electricity to each set pole. The board was stunned and dismayed at the amount that was being requested by Mr. Bartosh as totally absurd.

----Adjourn the meeting ----

A motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Seely the meeting adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk