

Caroline Town FRd Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2015

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on June 2, 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: 2 ladies and Barry Goodrich

Supervisor Barber started the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Privilege of the Floor

A member of the public thanked Supervisor Don Barber for his service as Town Supervisor. She talked about Universal Health care and how important health care is.

Supervisor Barber spoke about health insurance and said the Medicare cap is \$130,000

Reports

Barry Goodrich

Modification; change order on Buffalo Creek Road. Four separate work sites. Site number 7 was a successful fix that just needs guard rails to be finished. Frontier UFPO did not lay out the cables correctly. It took 3 tries with UFPO to get them to put down where the cables should be laid down. The Town was still not happy with what they saw so the Town called Time Warner and Frontier and asked them to send down their Engineers and with UFPO marked Frontier well, but did not mark Time Warner Cable where they lay very well as those cables were laid in a totally other area. The area where those cables lay it will have it to be reinforced. Time Warner did give Barry Goodrich a verbal commitment that if any of the cable is broken then they will fix it at no charge to the Town of Caroline. There is the change cost for extra tubes underground, etc, \$17,500.00. This includes material and time. This change order covers the whole job, so there should be no additional expenses in this area. Councilmember Weiser asked will there be problems with the creek bed by moving stones back and forth; compacting the creek bed or causing any other issues. Barry Goodrich said it shouldn't. Supervisor Barber asked how long will there be changes in the creek bed? Barry answered, maybe 10 days. Everything, being done to take care of these cables (Time Warners closer to the Creek and Frontier closer to the Road), is being done so not to damage the cables. Barry may be able to recoup some funds from FLOPA or other County grants available. Resolution to approve the change order for \$17,500.00 follows under resolutions.

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Tim Seely, Town Board

Received no nominations for Community Service Award –Extend the Date?

Last month TCYC- bi-laws, voted on items, they had a quorum.

Mark Witmer, Town Board

Planning Board. 14 May (Chad, Ed, Bruce, Lois, Andy, Isaac, Mark)

* Nick Goldsmith presented information on incorporating sustainability into Comprehensive Plans. Star Community Rating System. The Planning Board is now developing survey questions to be sent to residents.

Watershed Committee. No meeting this month.

* Barry is overseeing Buffalo Road Creek work, which began on 8 May. Frontier fiber-optic cable is close to upper three work sites than anticipated; awaiting new plan.

* June 16: Finger Lakes Land Trust will present information on Conservation Easements at our June Watershed Committee meeting.

* June 17: Environmental Boot Camp. Mark, Cindy, Barry, Kevin? (awaiting word on whether this would qualify for continuing ed credits).

Energy Independent Caroline. 19 May (Mary Alyce, Jonathan, Julie, Ed, Pat, Mark)

* Committee discussed draft Climate Change Resolution. Will edit and send to town board.

John Fracchia, Town Board**Emergency Services**

- Coordinated first Caroline Emergency Services Day celebration at Brooktondale Community Center. Over 70 individuals were recognized, 4 with over 50 years of services, and feedback suggests that it was a meaningful event for the Emergency Service community.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- The Municipal Cooperation Agreement sub-committee met on May 7 and finished it's work on recommended updates to the MCA document.
- Attended Board Meeting of GTCMHIC on May 28. Presented update to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement, which was unanimously approved by the board. Document will now be distributed to participating municipalities for ratification.

- At the meeting the board voted to approve adoption of a Bronze level plan. Municipalities have the option to offer it to their employees, but it is not mandatory that they do so.

CIT

- No update

Wellness Committee

- No update

Emergency Preparedness

- No update

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Energy rating disclosure at the time of the closing when selling a house. Still looking at what direction to go to come up with an implementation plan within municipality.

Broadband- Did Chuck Bartosh originally estimate too low or has prices gone up?

TCCOG Compliance- basically risk management policy and protocols- Work place safety

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 107 of 2015

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held April 16, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Fracchia to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolution 108 of 2015

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held May 6, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Seely to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolutions

Resolution 109 of 2015

Buffalo Road Creek

A motion was made Mr. Fracchia and Seconded Ms. Weiser

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor Don Barber to sign the change order form for \$17,500.00 for the Buffalo Creek Restoration project.

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

Resolution 110 of 2015

SUPPORTING A SINGLE-PAYER APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE IN NEW YORK STATE

A motion was made Ms. Weiser and Seconded Mr. Fracchia

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes **SUPPORTING A SINGLE-PAYER APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE IN NEW YORK STATE**

WHEREAS, access to health care continues to be a major concern for all Americans and New York State residents [with over one million currently uninsured and a growing number underinsured], and

WHEREAS, a single-payer approach, as the name implies, only federalizes how health-care providers are paid, leaving the choice of doctors and hospitals completely up to each individual and the choice of treatment up to each patient and his/her doctor, and

WHEREAS, health-care costs continue to rise at rates above inflation and, under current conditions, the share of state income spent on health care and the administration of the health care system will rise to 18 percent by 2024, much faster than incomes are rising, and

WHEREAS, the Caroline Town Board believes that controlling health-care costs and ensuring health care for all residents are both of paramount importance, and

WHEREAS, the simplest approach is to move directly from the current multiple-payer approach, with its high costs of administration, marketing, and profits for shareholders of the many insurance companies, to a single-payer system, where the government is the insurer of all, a system used in other industrialized democracies, and

WHEREAS, New York Health would generate savings by replacing the complicated, costly, and often chaotic claims procedure currently employed by thousands of public and private insurance providers, with a simple, one-stop single-payer system for all claims, and

WHEREAS, Senator Perkins and Assemblyman Gottfried have introduced the New York Health Act, A.5062 (Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins), which would establish a comprehensive universal health insurance program for all New Yorkers, with access to medical services and providers of their choice, without regard to age, income, health, or employment status and would impact both individual health outcomes and public health outcomes, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will replace the current multi-payer system of employer-based insurance, individually-acquired insurance, and federally sponsored programs (e.g. Medicare and Medicaid) with a single-billing system funded by progressively-graduated assessments collected by the State and based on ability to pay, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will be publically financed by two assessments based on ability to pay (a progressively graduated state payroll tax similar to the Medicare tax on payroll and self-employment income, and a surcharge on non-employment income (e.g. interest, dividends, capital gains),

WHEREAS, New York Health will pool all health revenue sources (e.g. assessments, federally-matched public health programs, ACA subsidies, and other revenue sources) into a dedicated New York Health Trust Fund and pay Providers directly, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will reduce billing expenses, administrative waste, monopolistic pricing of drugs and medical devices, and fraud, overall health care spending would be reduced by 15 percent or \$45 billion per year by 2019, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will reduce healthcare costs for government, public schools districts, businesses, and individuals in New York State, eliminate the “local share” funding of Medicaid that has been such a financial burden for property taxpayers, and eliminate out-of-pocket expenses,

insurance premiums, insurance co-pays, and deductibles [98% of New Yorkers will pay less for their health care than they do today; and businesses, especially small businesses, will benefit from reduced costs], and

WHEREAS, the April 2015 Economic Analysis of New York Health, by Gerald Friedman, Professor and Chair of the Economics Department, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, reports savings from reduced health spending in the amount of \$71 billion [most savings are from eliminating private health insurance overhead and profits, reducing doctor and hospital billing and insurance-related expenses, eliminating uncompensated care from health providers, public hospitals and health centers, and decreasing drug and medical device costs with enhanced negotiating power], and

WHEREAS, the April 2015 Economic Analysis of New York Health reports a net savings of \$44.7 billion, after projected program improvements and expansion of \$25 billion for increased utilization due to universal coverage, expanded and more comprehensive health benefits, Medicaid and Medicare rate equity (increased provider reimbursement), unemployment insurance and job transition and retraining for lost insurance billing and claims jobs, and

WHEREAS, New York Health would expand the network of providers to ensure continuity of care, and include a more comprehensive health care benefits package that includes preventive care, primary care, specialist, hospital care, rehabilitation care, occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health care, dental care, vision and hearing care, reproductive health care,

prescription drugs, and medical supplies/devices [a requirement for the development of a long-term care financing and benefits plan is included in the proposed legislation], and

WHEREAS, New York Health would save enough in unnecessary costs to pay for the costs of universal health care coverage for all, extending coverage to all the uninsured and underinsured for basic necessary medical care, and would provide a more comprehensive benefits package at significantly less cost than the one offered through recent federal legislation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Caroline Town Board supports adoption of the New York Health Act, A.5062 Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins),

RESOLVED, further, That the Caroline Town Board urges the New York State Legislature and the Governor to recognize the widespread support for a new public approach, understand there is no stronger measure New York could take to cut our property taxes than to pass this bill into law, and take the opportunity to accomplish this major and long-needed reform,

RESOLVED, further, That the Town Clerk send copies to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senators John Flanagan, Jeffrey Klein, Kemp Hannon, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, James Seward, Michael Nozzolio, and Tom O'Mara, and Assemblyman Carl Heastie and Richard Gottfried, and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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

Town Business

Chuck Bartosh-project license for each relay is \$100,000.00. A couple of other options; do the skeleton system and look for another provider.

---Adjourn the meeting ---

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk