

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2015

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on July 7, 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
Tim Seely, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present:

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

Privilege of the Floor

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Roads

Bailor Road: Replaced cross pipe
Bald Hill Road: Shoulder repair
Banks Road: Surface Treated
Landon Road: Surface Treated (section)
Level Green Road: Ditching
Speed Hill Road: Ditching and Culvert installation
Vandermark Road: Stoned and Graded
White Church Road: Southern end Surface Treated

Roadwork

Minor Flood Repairs on Ekroos Road, Shindagin Hollow Road, Gulf Creek Road, Hurd Road, and Brearly Hill Road. These roads were closed for a short time
Fallen Tree & Brush Clean Up
Repairing shoulders
Mowing roadsides

Fuel Pumps

Underground electric has been installed. I anticipate installation and usage of new fuel pumps by the end of next week

Capitol Highway Projects

To finish last year's culvert project at Chestnut & Downey Road intersection, the guiderail needs to be installed, this can be taken out of Capitol Repairs.

A section of Level Green Road will also be a Capitol project but until we work out a few minor issues with landowners along with deciding which section is going to be the Capitol project I want to wait to add to the agreement. The paperwork for reimbursement process has changed this past year and every invoice and item needs to be separate.

Miscellaneous

The Highway Superintendent is requesting that Bailor & Landon Road be temporarily posted at 10 ton weight limit (Until Seventy Six is completely opened to all traffic). Seventy Six Road will be closed at house # 280, with Buffalo Road being the detoured route as in the past when this same route was a detour we had issues with tractor trailers coming down Bailor Road. Also Tompkins County will have Lounsbury Road as a detour route as they replace concrete culvert and she would prefer that trucks stay off of Landon Road. This also would be temporary.

The request for a section of Downey Road to have Minimum Maintenance removed for approximately 150' has been withdrawn.

We will be hydro seeding the Buffalo Road creek project along with various roads as soon as the hydro seeder and supplies are available.

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Report next week at Business meeting

Tim Seely, Town Board

Caroline Youth (JYC) - Program Managers from CCE are talking about hiring a new program manager in the absence of Penny Boynton who has decided to retire as the Youth Program Manager for the Town of Caroline. Without a program manager to take over there may not be a summer program in the Town of Caroline this year. If there is a summer program this summer than it will be starting later in the summer than usual.

Mark Witmer, Town Board

Planning Board. 14 May (Chad, Ed, Bruce, Lois, Andy, Isaac, Mark)
Discussion of structure and topics for mail survey to residents. Used 2006 Comp. Plan, input from Community Cafes, and City of Ithaca CP to generate focus areas:

1. *Housing*
2. *Open Space, Farming, Forestry*
3. *Infrastructure*
4. *Environmental Protection & Nat. Resources*
5. *Community Services*
6. *Land Use and Development*
7. *Climate Protection and Energy*
8. *Local Economic Vitality*

*9. Transportation**10. Sense of Community/Place*

Current survey concept: 1. ask respondents which 6? Areas of most important to them? 2. Ask About specific initiatives in each section?

Watershed Committee. 16 June (Mark, Barry, Jackie)

- Buffalo Rd Creek Project progressing. (Barry overseeing)
- Kris West of Finger Lakes Land Trust presented information on conservation easements on 16 June. Thirteen attendees. City of Ithaca is offering 1:1 match for funding easements in Six mile Creek watershed. Watershed protection, Emerald Necklace, and farmland are target lands.
- Barry and I evaluated Ekroos Rd situation. Erosion of banks downstream of culverts. Two road culverts from feeder stream have recently jumped the road and damaged the roadway.

Energy Independent Caroline. 15 June (Mary Alyce, Jonathan, Julie, Ed, Pat, Mark)

- Reworked Climate Change Resolution from input at June Town Business Mtg. Developed long and short versions for town to consider.

John Fracchia, Town Board**Emergency Services**

- Reached out to Slaterville Ambulance to follow-up on possible continuance of service into 2016, with assistance from Town in the form of funding part-time weekend staff. A final decision has not been made, but they are, in principle, agreeable to the arrangement. I am currently in the process of scheduling a meeting to talk through details such as disability insurance. Beth Harrington confirmed that they have recruited a few new drivers and are also working with some members of the Highway Department.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- The Consortium was informed by the New York State Department of Financial Services that the board ratified Municipal Cooperation Agreement required some further changes in order to comply with DFS's interpretation of New York State Insurance Law and New York State Corporation Law. A redlined version has been submitted to Town of Caroline board members for comment/ratification.
- **CIT, Wellness Committee and Emergency Preparedness** - No update

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Aquifer Protection Committee met with Steve Winkley who was finishing the Aquifer Study with Danby. He also working with Guy Krogh on a proposed local law about the Aquifer for Danby. Caroline has different geographic concerns than Danby. A question is how does Caroline enforce Aquifer protection when there is no zoning in Caroline? How to balance major aquifer or bedrock aquifer? Is having everything permitted the answer? The committee will meet again in August.

TCCOG - Is talking and working on a work place violence policy.

Broadband - Chuck Bartosh talked about broadband and that New York wants a 50-50 match and basically in a more populous area but he never addressed what everyone wanted to hear about which was what is happening with the money he already has to work in Caroline and within Tompkins County....which he conveniently time ran out so he never got to broach the subject. Councilmember Weiser spoke about a different way of accessing the internet instead of using micro-waves, based on the of a small Town in the Adirondacks, that uses UHF waves which is less expensive and can go through trees, hills, etc., Gary Reinbolt from the CIT committee will look into the UHF and see if it is something that the Town should look into pursuing. How long would it take to get the permits? What is the electrical usage, etc ?

Public Hearing July 29th on broadband telecommunications, going forward, in Binghamton. Councilmember's Weiser and Fracchia will attend the evening meeting on the 29th.

CIT is working on finding a web developer to create and maintain the website for the Town

Resolutions

Resolution 123 of 2015

Rescind Resolution #122

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board rescinds Resolution # the Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law 2 of 2015 Minimum Maintenance discontinuance of portion of Downey Road to be held on July 7, 2015 and reschedule it to be held on July 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Town Hall at the start of the Business meeting.

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

Town Business

The Town Board discussed the Solar Permitting fee and the guidelines for the charges and what they would like to amend it too to make it more feasible cost especially for larger projects. The Town has not had a specific line through the Code Officer's Office for Solar permitting fees as there has never been a line (or a need for one) for Solar Permits, so it had been charged under "Alterations". Everyone agreed there need to be a line for just Solar permits. Since there is a large number of solar installations in the past two years it has been decided that the fees needed to be addressed and changed accordingly to fit the project. Councilmember Witmer put together a spreadsheet of what area municipality's charge for Solar permits (see attachment 2). The board will review, discuss changes, with input from Kevin McMahan, Town of Caroline Code Officer at the next meeting and then based on all the information will pass a resolution to instate the new fees to be charged for Soar permits.

Walt Peck, Chair of the Sub-Division Review Committee sent a resignation letter resigning as the Chair of that committee.

Design Connect – Students from Cornell are looking for Town projects to work on.

Supervisor Barber has been talking with the Judges about ticketing unlicensed dogs. Not receiving a answer that made sense. Supervisor Barber sent the question off to the Town lawyer Guy Krogh who said the law could be changed to make it criminal offense and not just civil one.

Computing Center- The amount spent is almost over budget and Councilperson Weiser will check and see if we can figure out the itemization of the different services.

Discussion with Councilmember Witmer presenting the Resolution about Climate Change. Councilmember Weiser having not been present at the last meeting so she had some questions about what the purpose of the resolution was and what it meant for the Town of Caroline. Councilmember Witmer answered questions. Everyone agreed with the resolution and had some suggested changes in the wording like change “Town of Caroline” to “Caroline Town Board: and in the last whereas, remove the word “corporation” and in the first whereas, there needed to be some rewording to make a connection. Councilmember Witmer took everyone’s suggestions and will offer his resolution at the July 15th Business meeting.

----Adjourn the meeting ----

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk