

**Meeting of the Town of Caroline Town Board
August, 4, 2015**

Board Members Present: Don Barber, Supervisor; Irene Weiser, John Fracchia and Mark Witmer Absent: Tim Seely Acting Clerk: Paulette Terwilliger

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. There was no one present for privilege of the floor. There is no audio recording of this meeting due to an equipment failure.

Reports

Emergency Services

Mr. Fracchia reported that he met with Beth Harrington to talk about next phase of the emergency squad/ambulance coverage issue and ways to help. Ms. Harrington told him they do have a number of folks in training for driving but have not had any interest in EMS from people. There is some interest in looking at a hybrid paid/volunteer program and how would that work. Ms. Harrington had thought the scenario would be having the paid personnel has town employees but counsel has stated that would not be a good idea for insurance reasons and she is going to look at other municipalities and how they handle it.

Ms. Weiser asked by why they couldn't be town employees and Mr. Barber responded that it is an insurance issue and the way it is now, the town covers workers comp for volunteers but as employees they do not come under the waiver allowed and they would have to be covered by full insurance and liability. Mr. Fracchia reported that the company appreciated the board's willingness to help and to be open to other options. He will be touching base with her in the next couple of weeks and added that Ms. Harrington was going to put together a luncheon with key stake holders such as school officials, Bruno Schickel etc. to increase awareness of the issue and brainstorm and she wanted to extend the invitation to the board.

Health Consortium

Mr. Fracchia reported that he attended the health consortium meeting where they formally passed the Municipal Agreement which addressed the concerns the NYS Department of Finance had.

He added that some of the work that is happening is the Joint Committee is going to continue to evaluate other medal-level plans that mimic the affordable act plans. The idea being that in 2017 the Cadillac tax will be in place. Mr. Barber explained the Cadillac plan which basically is any plan that pays more than 90% of the premium and most in the county pay 90%-96% and this will come up in negotiations.

CIT Committee

Irene Weiser reported that there are several things in motion; the town website is down and an advertisement/announcement went out for a web designer and two look promising. She hopes to have a recommendation by next week.

Ms. Weiser reported on the broadband issue and Mr. Barber responded that we need to jump start a meeting with Chuck (Clarity Connect) and he will push for that.

Ms. Weiser reported on the Computing Center contract and the various invoices which didn't have a lot of detail on them but there have been some bumps and it has cost more than estimated. There continues to be some network and router down issues that they want to work out and they are going to give her a budget for what they think needs to happen. It is important that staff knows to call the general number for minor fixes so we are not charged the premium price for the main person.

Ms. Weiser noted that she saw something troubling in the comptroller's weekly email; there was a town in Herkimer County that was hacked by an email and literally locked everything up until the town paid a ransom. She sent it to the computing center and they said they would work something up for a fix that could be used by other municipalities. They have found malware and it is suspected that people are visiting websites that may have little germs. Mr. Barber noted that NYMIR has a plan for internet insurance and he can give her a contact to see if this has already been done before.

Ms. Weiser asked about online payment systems for things like taxes and dog licenses and whether the town would be able to do that. She looked into BAS and it would be about \$1,500 for the initial then a small yearly fee. The user is charged a small fee for an electronic check and a percentage for credit card payments.

Mark Witmer submitted and reviewed his written report

Planning Board. 9 July, 7-9 pm. Brookton Market community feedback meeting.

Watershed Committee. 28 July, 7-9 pm (Mark, Barry, Jackie, Chris)

- Buffalo Rd Creek work nearly complete; awaiting 3 guard rails. Project at original cost.
- Mark, Barry, and Angel H. met with Sarah Jane and Jim Blake and Lane Chambliss on 28 July to evaluate creek stabilization at 20 Middaugh Rd. Stacked rock wall - concern that it is being undercut. Barry will seek further input from Jeff Benthin and George Fowler.
- Mark and Barry will update Caroline Stormwater Management Plan for Aug meeting.
- Don submitted letter-of-intent for WQIP - Sewershed (culverts, ditches, connections) mapping grant proposal by TC Soil & Water.
- Chris Payne reported on condition of creek work at his home. Stable, but some adjustments need to be made. Barry will coordinate with contractor.

Energy Independent Caroline. July meeting canceled because of HeatSmart rollout. Next meeting will be August 17, 7 pm, Caroline Town Hall: Melissa Kemp and Brice Smith will lead us through an energy audit (blower door and thermal measurements) on both town hall buildings.

Our goal is to determine heat loads of these buildings that will enable calculation of each building's heating efficiency.

Mr. Barber asked for agenda items

Ms. Weiser stated she might have a revised resolution regarding the repowering of the Cayuga Power Plant

Mr. Witmer stated he would like to present info on developing a permitting structure for solar installations and discuss the fee structure. Mr. Witmer had a chart of averages for the area he recommended a flat fee of \$100 for the permit that would probably cover staff time and \$500 or \$600 for Commercial arrays. Some discussion followed on whether the code officer is considering the estimated time for strictly inspecting or more of the planning and working through issues which is really the developers' job. Commercial permits Board seemed in favor of a flat fee and he will bring a proposal to the board. Mr. Witmer asked to include a resolution to establish solar array permit fees on the Business meeting Agenda

Mr. Barber introduce a local law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C

Mr. Barber stated he would like to include in the business meeting agenda:

- a. appoint an additional electrical inspector. There is no cost to the town but allows the inspector to provide the service to the residents
- b. set a public hearing to adopt a local law to override the tax cap
- c. discuss adopting the Platinum Plan for non-teamster employees and enrollment in the Medicare Plan program as a requirement for retirees.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12p.m. upon motion and a second

Submitted by



Paulette Terwilliger

