

**MEETING OF THE CAROLINE TOWN BOARD**  
**September 1, 2015**

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. There was no one present for privilege of the floor.

**Public hearing**

Ms. Weiser reported that the notice of public hearing was not sent out on the town's list serve and she would feel better if it could be postponed until the notice went out. Mr. Barber noted that although the legal standard was met, the town's adopted protocol was not followed and he suggested that the public hearing be duly opened and remain open until the next meeting so the protocol can be followed. The Board agreed.

**Agenda Item -- Public Hearing regarding a proposed local law to override the tax levy limit established in GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C**

Mr. Barber opened the public hearing at 7:04 pm. There was no one present to address the board and the public hearing remains open.

**Reports of Committees – Mr. Seely**

Joint Youth Commission will be meeting next week and talking about the budget. Mr. Barber noted that the County has indicated they will be keeping their contribution whole but flat and he felt the town should do the same. The other board members agreed saying the town should keep the contribution flat at least until the level of service is back to prior years' levels.

Roof Replacement – An engineer has reviewed the roof and furnished stamped plans to use for going out to bid. The bid is expected to go out by the end of the week with a 2-week turnaround so the work can be completed before winter. The board discussed the choices in material, asphalt or metal shingles, and felt that from a longevity and maintenance aspect, the bid should be for metal roofing.

**Reports of Committees – Mr. Fracchia**

No report. Beginning of academic year rush.

**Reports of Committees – Mr. Witmer**

Stormwater – Watershed Committee – The committee continues to work on revising and updating the plan which is essentially an update on what the town has done to manage stormwater. This is a report that auditors would look for if they came but has no other deadline or legal requirement.

Buffalo Creek guard rails are installed and hydro-seeding will be done when appropriate.

Intermunicipal Watershed Organization -- Attended the IO event in Aurora where there was a speaker from the DOS and Keith Batman a legislator from Cayuga County. The energy and conversation was very, very good. The organization is working on updating the management policy and report and would like to enact regulations to protect the watershed and help farmers effectively manage their stormwater. Mr. Witmer also talked to the DOS representative about the management of ditches and she was very interested in that and stated they hope to have a model ditch maintenance law by 2016 for towns to use and they might be interested in using the town to as a pilot to evaluate ditches.

Energy Independent Caroline – The Town Hall was measured and he will send the company the square footage and they will report on the heat demands and such and then we will we will know how the geothermal is working.

Planning Board – Continue working on drafting the survey regarding the Comprehensive Plan to send out to residents. The draft is being reviewed by someone at Cornell to phrase the questions in the most useful way possible. This survey will go out electronically and via mail.

#### **Reports of Committees – Ms. Weiser**

Aquifer Protection – Continues to work on draft law. One of the difficulties is that the Town of Danby has zoning and the Town of Caroline does not so the terminology is very different but the end goal is the same. There will need to be a lot of public/community education when any regulations are proposed.

Community Education and Technology – There was a delay in the web designer starting due to a family emergency. Some residents have contacted her upset with cell service and under the impression that the town prohibits cell towers. She explained they do not and the board discussed the history and deterrents to getting companies to expand service in the town. With the topography and lack of density, it simply isn't worth it to them. Ms. Weiser has been in contact with Lee Shurtleff with County 911 and will continue to try and get the word out that the town is open to expansion of broadband and cellular services. The contract/grant with Clarity Connect was discussed and Clarity hasn't been marketing the availability of the new service. Mr. Barber will be talking to him about the service agreement again.

TCCOG – No meeting in August and the September meeting will be discussing the Residential Home Energy Score project. TCCOG hopes to have a draft ready by the end of the year. NYSERDA is very interested and the committee had spent a lot of time discussing unintended consequences for older homes and there are some programs out there already that help finance upgrades whose costs stay with the house on the tax bill to make them attractive options, again, community outreach and education will be the key and it won't be legally binding but more informational and another tool to get people to see where they save energy.

## **Reports of Committees – Mr. Barber**

The Health Consortium Wellness Program -- September is Fruits and Veggies Matter – designed to have employers encourage wellness.

Training for conducting and participating in heated meetings. October 10<sup>th</sup> This is a program developed by CDRC with Don's help and he highly recommends it; the word "heated" is a bit misleading and he thought any board member would benefit. The board approved paying for anyone that wanted to attend.

## **Agenda Items**

Medicare Supplement Plan has had a few changes that affect the cost and will have to be approved again. **Agenda Item – Approve change to Medicare Supplement.**

Proclamation re Climate Offset Week – Irene asked for the item to be on the agenda and discussion followed on what else the town board could do to encourage participation in climate offset programs. **Agenda Item – Resolution in support of Climate Offset Week**

Mr. Barber noted that they have received notification that the owner of the Quick Cemetery will be coming to address the board. Mr. Barber suggested he speak after privilege of the floor. Board agreed.

## **Budget**

Mr. Barber asked for a feel from the board on what to use in the tentative budget worksheets for pay increases for 2016; percentage or COLA which is pretty low according to the State. Discussion followed and the board would use 1% but would like to see the real bottom line cost for higher increments. Some discussion about going into executive session to discuss certain salaries and Mr. Barber reviewed the history of the evaluation of positions that happened a few years back and that executive session cannot be called for that type of discussion. The law is very clear.

Mr. Barber asked if the board would like to have department heads come in and the board would like all department heads to come to the board meeting. Mr. Barber will work out scheduling them at meetings.

TCCOG – Court Survey – Mr. Barber commented that he received a survey regarding consolidating the towns and villages systems with the county court system. This is a hot topic right now and there will be a public meeting held by the County in January. Mr. Barber will forward the survey to the full board. The board would like to make sure the public is aware of the meeting and discussion at the county level.

Approval of Minutes – postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.