

## **Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2016**

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on June 7, 2016 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

### **Attendance:**

Mark Witmer, Supervisor  
John Fracchia, Councilmember  
Irene Weiser, Councilmember  
Gary Reinbolt, Councilmember  
Cal Snow, Councilmember

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

**Also present:** No members of the public were present

Mr. Witmer started the meeting at 7:07 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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### **Privilege of the Floor**

No one spoke under privilege of the floor

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### **Reports**

#### **Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent**

No report

Planning Board:

\* Comprehensive Plan Survey is now available on the Town Website and paper version has been mailed. Thanks to Planning Board members for getting this done. May 1 deadline.

Energy Independent Caroline (no April meeting):

\* Renovus has completed review of our 2014 town energy bills and is offering us a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) that is projected to save the town \$1,500 on a \$7,950 electrical energy bill (= 19% savings).

\* Opportunity for community engagement on our energy future. EIC will host Katie Borgella at 6 pm on 10 May at the Old Fire Hall, Brooktondale, for a discussion of Tompkins County's recently completed Energy Roadmap and how the community can best meet the county's car-bon reduction targets.

Caroline Watershed Committee (19 April):

- \* Discussed RPP update and the municipal ditching project under development.
- \* Stormwater violation on Six Mile Creek in Brooktondale.
- \* MS4 report to TC Soil & Water.
- \* ACOE will inspect Buffalo Rd Creek work on Wed, 11 May, in afternoon.

Other:

- \* MEGA has informed us that the PSC has authorized Community Choice Aggregation in New York. Webinar May 12th at noon. Louise Gava contact.

### **Gary Reinbolt, Town Board**

There have been significant broadband activities in the past month. Hafele TV has updated its original proposal to extend their fiber plant in and around Caroline Center/ Speedsville. A second phase, to proceed down Coddington Road is planned and anticipated, but awaits a state project bringing fiber down route 96 into Ithaca. Hafele has submitted cost estimations for this project, and is seeking approval from the town to commence the initial buildout in this construction season.

In light of new funding patterns, new technology considerations, community feedback, and time pressure, the Town took action rescinding its commitment to fund electric installation on a proposed WiMAX poll on Vandermark Road to be erected by Clarity Connect.

In discussions it was decided that it would be most useful to create a request for proposals for broadband construction projects that will encompass the entire remaining underserved and underserved area, which considering Time Warner and Clarity Connect's services essentially means from Danby Town line to the

Dryden Town line on the north-south axis, and proceeding east from the termination of Time Warner services, at approximately Slaterville Springs, to Richford. Hafele is aware of this, and has come forth with a map proposing their solution (Attached).

In order to create a request for proposal, since most funding sources for a project of this size will certainly require competitive bid, the broadband committee will convene on June 14 to hold an informational public meeting, solicit new members, and chart a course forward to prepare the RFP, and subsequently funding applications in the next grant round the broadband office and other sources.

### **John Fracchia, Town Board**

#### Building and Grounds

- In the process of scheduling a walk through of historic town hall and annex buildings with Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin McMahon.

#### Emergency Services

- The Town of Caroline Emergency Services Advisory committee met on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and identified the following areas of focus:
  1. Increase the number of offerings of basic first aid and CPR in order to increase the overall training level of community members.
  2. Work to get AED devices in public buildings (Town Hall, Highway Department). Try to assess where they exist within our community. Reviewed protocols for having devices and fundraising prospects.
  3. Developing long range advocacy strategies.

#### Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- Attended board meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Review of audit was presented by Inero and it was very positive. No material weaknesses in the consortium's procedures were found.
- Don Barber's contract was extended as Executive Director for another 2 year period.
- A consortium newsletter is being created and will be issued on a quarterly basis to all persons covered.

#### **Cal Snow, Town Board**

Councilmember Snow gave a report from the Highway Department about the Thomas Road ditching being finished

Councilmember Snow reported about Bill Keokysky and information on Slaves in Caroline  
Councilmember Snow spoke about farm vendors and the local farmers market and possibly publishing on the Town Website; supporting Tourism. He will look into the Board of Tompkins County for additional information on advertising.

#### **Irene Wesier, Town Board**

#### AQUIFER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The committee met with Steve Winkley on Thurs June 2 to finish our review of Steve's responses to our questions/comments on the draft law. We hope to finish by the end of summer – possibly sooner. I am awaiting info from the Clerk or Code Officer for the language that was

added to our local building code re: due process for unsafe buildings. We'll need the same language for this law. Once received, I will forward the draft law to Code Officer and Town Atty for review and comment. Steve will review Guy's and Kevin's comments and revise the draft law language as needed. Committee will then review revised draft and Guy and Kevin's comments and determine next steps. Once the law on protecting water quality is complete, we'll get to work on methods to protect water quantity.

## COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Corresponded with Mike Dodge – authorized him to go ahead with security upgrades that were approved in the budget.

I learned that Verizon is working with Town of Lansing to install a cell tower. I contacted their contact, John Lynch, to see if we could get a tower here. Mr Lynch's initial response was that the town was sparsely populated – but he wondered if there was a major thoroughfare nearby. I responded, informing him of State Route 79 location and major corridor to/from Cornell, also Elementary School, Celebrations with sizable populations; also that there are areas w/o highspeed internet so that G-4 or FIOS might find a market. So far I haven't heard back, but I'll keep pursuing it.

## TCCOG

I crafted a resolution to address a situation btwn NYSEDA and renewable energy projects that they had funded (knows as customer sited tier) in which, as part of REV, there is a proposal that NYSEDA would reclaim the Renewable Energy Certificates issued to municipal, non-profit, institutions and businesses and transfer those RECs to the utilities. I was alerted to this situation by Sarah Zemanick, Director of Campus Sustainability at Cornell. I was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in my family, but my understanding is that there was considerable discussion and the resolution passed unanimously with one abstention. Tonight the County Legislature will be considering a similar resolution.

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## Town Business

Renovus Solar: Town Board discussion: Solar energy-“solar farms”

Stefano Breda, from Renovus, There is a 120-day commitment to working with Renovus on the details of the project. The contract after that is for 25 years with a conservative 2.5%-3.0% increase in cost per year.

Councilmember Fracchia asked why does there have to be a 25 year commitment by the Town instead of (as an example) a 10 year commitment? Stefano Breda answered that the return offered would be less in a 10 year time period.

The board members expressed concern in signing a contract with Renovus for the 25 year model. Supervisor Witmer said he feels this is a good investment for the Town. The board members are requesting more information and having the Town Attorney Guy Krogh to review the plan Renovus is offering.

Caroline Trail- The County presented to the Town of Caroline Supervisor, Mark Witmer that they (the County and the Town of Caroline) develop a rapport with landowners whose properties abut the existing recreation way. They also wanted to address the ownership and maintenance through discussions between the current trail planning committee and negotiate maintenance and management between Ithaca, Danby, Dryden and Caroline (and NYSEG). The Town of Caroline Supervisor Mark Witmer wanting to gather information from property owners connected to the proposed trail sent a letter to those property owners and asked them to come to the next meeting to just get their opinion and hear about their property and the property (railroad bed) for the proposed trail. See attached letter

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## **Resolutions**

### **Resolution 91 of 2016**

#### **Historic Town Hall Roof Replacement Project**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and Seconded by John Fracchia

Resolved, the Town of Caroline selects First General of Southern New York, Inc for replacement of the Historic Town Hall roof and authorizes the Supervisor to engage their services in the amount of \$40,400.00.

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

### **Resolution 92 of 2016**

#### **Lounsbery Farm**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and Seconded by Ms. Weiser

Whereas, Lounsbery Farm is an important agricultural property located in the Town of Caroline; and

Whereas the Tompkins County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board has identified Lounsbery Farm as a high priority farm;

Therefore be it resolved that Caroline's Town Board supports the Tompkins County Farmland Protection Implementation Project Grant on behalf of Lounsbery Farm. If funded, it would result in Tompkins County holding an agricultural conservation easement on the property.

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye Snow: Abstain

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**Approval of Minutes****Resolution 93 of 2016****Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held March 1, 2016:**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded John Fracchia to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington-Lawson.

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

**Resolution 94 of 2016****Minutes of the Business Meeting held March 9, 2016:**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington-Lawson.

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

**---Adjourn the meeting ---**

A motion by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Mr. Fracchia the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk