

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2016

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on February 2, 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

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present: 18 members of the public were present

Mr. Witmer started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Privilege of the Floor

Val Warky- Interview for Planning Board- Helped design the Cornell University Plantations and the City of Ithaca Development of College Town, and on Cornell campus He is an Associate Professor of Architect and Urban Design and teaches at Cornell University, and holds multiple degrees. He has done school design and worked in Italy and also in Western China. He has experience in ecotourism plans. He spoke on how densification planning enables protection of green space. He spoke about his love of the back roads of Caroline and the rural area. He wants to work to strike a balance between small traditional upstate villages, independent houses, agricultural landscapes, moderately sized businesses and vast areas of State forests.

Evie Weinstein- Evie has been involved in administrative work and has been a volunteer EMTon Slaterville Ambulance. She is a Social Worker (MSW) and has worked 23 years in wildlife and nature. Her masters in social work, science and medicine has given her the opportunity to work with the needs of the community, and on the Slaterville Ambulance. She is interested in watershed management, to preserve the natural resources and maintain the safety needs.

Emily Adams Talked about working for minimum wage in Belgium and being very involved in working for the Bernie Sanders campaign. She has a degree in Geology and Natural History. She grew up in Caroline and cares deeply about the environment. She does organic and sustainable farming and cares for a local elderly gentleman. Being from the area and having parents that were very involved in the community gave her a foundation of involvement in areas like the Brooktondale Apple Festival. .

Cal Snow- Democracy is not spectators sport; you need to get involved. He is interested in working with the Highway Department on the roads in Caroline. He said he never runs under labels; democratic or republican. He is dairy farmer and has been for years in the Town of Caroline. He served before on the Caroline Town Board in 1998-2002. He served before during budget season and he knows what a challenge the budget is with the push back from mandates from the State. He doesn't mind going to Albany or meeting with Barbara Lifton. He has worked with the Highway department in the past and is willing to look at where we can save

money on the budget. It is not easy keeping the taxes down. He doesn't mind serving on committees, being involved and listening to the to the people's concerns.

Karyn Scott- She is interested in Community Health among other things of interest is working with environmental renewable energy. She served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sargent. She would like to help with community grass roots organizations, and help give power to the "voice of people". She has 5 children and volunteers at Caroline Elementary School and would very much like to be involved in the Youth Recreation program. She spoke to positively shaping the community for generations to come and putting her energy into worthy causes. She has degrees in Community Health, Criminal Justice, and Liberal Arts.

Adam Hilker-Adam has a degree in Business Management. He owns apartments and built houses. He has 5 young children and would like to work on the board to work toward his children's future. He is interested in budgets; keeping taxes and budgets down. He would look at the Highway department as a possible place to make cuts. He also feels since he ran for the open vacancy on the board and received the third highest votes that he should naturally take the open seat because he would be elected by the conservative side. He is open minded and a good listener. He doesn't draw an opinion until he has all the facts.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board

John Fracchia, Town Board

Building and Grounds

- Have recommended to Supervisor Witmer that the town engage a building inspector to go through all of our properties so that the board can have a comprehensive understanding of what are current and future needs will be. This will allow us to better plan our budget in order to address capital improvement needs.
- Reached out to former Councilmember Seely to get updated on the state of the Town Hall roof project and other building and grounds issues. He is finishing up preparations on an RFP that we will be able to use for the project. I will be meeting with him to discuss the current state of the project and make recommendations to the board about next steps.

Emergency Services

- Reached out to Atty. Krough regarding sequence for establishing an ambulance district and obtaining a Certificate of Need. He indicated that establishing the district is the first step and provided me some resources that other communities have used.

- Will be presenting a resolution at the February Business Meeting to form an Emergency Medical Services advisory committee.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- Attended a meeting of the Board of Directors on Thursday, January 28, 2016.
- Have agreed to join the consortium's Appeals Committee.
- Consortium is developing a newsletter with the intention of quarterly distribution to all service recipients.
- Final FY2015 financial results were reported and the consortium came in 12.7% under budget. This equates to a surplus of \$7M, which will help to offset future increases in rates.
- The board approved a new mission and vision statement (Attachment A).

CIT

- Have been continued to work with Councilmember Weiser on the website redesign, which in spite of a few technical setbacks, is ready to launch.

Attachment A

Belief, Mission and Vision Statements of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

Belief:

Individually and collectively we invest in realizing high quality, affordable, dependable Health Insurance

Mission Statement:

The Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium is an efficient inter-municipal cooperative that provides high-quality, cost-stable health insurance for members and their employees and retirees.

Vision Statement:

The Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium provides its municipal partners in Tompkins County and the six contiguous counties, a menu of health insurance plans to the benefit of the employees, retirees, and their families.

- The Consortium administers operations by collaborating with claims administrators, providers, and employee representatives in an effort to manage its costs, efficiencies, and success.
- The Consortium strives to provide a trust-worthy, responsive, and efficient vehicle that enables access to its quality products, models a new health insurance paradigm, and educates its members to become more directly involved in their own personal health.

The Consortium promotes a culture of preventative health care for the well-being of its members.

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Resolution next week Supporting living wage in Tompkins County

Resolution next week for Chris Valenti to join the CIT committee

Still working on Town of Caroline website

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Witmer to enter into executive session and was seconded by Mr. Fracchia.

The Town Board entered into executive session to discuss the candidates for the Town Board position at 9:15 p.m.

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

The Town Board left executive session at 10:20 p.m.

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

---Adjourn the meeting ---

A motion by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Mr. Fracchia the meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

