

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2016

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on April 5, 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: 3 members of the public were present including Steve Nicholson

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

Privilege of the Floor

Kathleen Boyd- Ms.Boyd was questioning about Broadband progressing in the Town of Caroline and looking for feedback from the Board. Also, she is going to contact Time Warner Cable and see what is available for “her area” in Caroline. Councilmember Reinbolt answered her questions in detail later in the meeting under the Board Committee Reports.

Sasha Endo – There is an area on Brooktondale Rd where the property owner cut down the trees next to the creek. Ms. Endo lives close by the area and is worried about her property’s water runoff and erosion. Supervisor Witmer addressed her concerns and let her know that Jeff Smith from Tompkins County Highway Department has been notified about the tree removal. The DEC has also been notified and is involved, as well as Tompkins County Soil and Water as there is flood plain involvement. The Town Code Officer Kevin McMahanon has viewed the property and will be reviewing the property. He has issued a cease and desist order to the property owner to discontinue anymore tree removal or ground disruption on the property until further notice.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

No Report

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor

Planning Board (10 March):

- Comprehensive Plan Survey is now available on the Town Website and a paper version will be mailed.
- Chad Novelli has stepped down from the Planning Board and his role as Chair, after 9 years of steady service and hard work. Under his leadership, the Planning Board has drafted the Site Plan Review Local Law, the Local Law Banning Gas Development,... Thank you, Chad!

- Val Warke has offered his service on the Planning Board (see Communications Folder for his application). Val has extensive professional experience in the area of planning. Please review - I will offer a resolution to appoint Val to the Planning Board at the April Business Meeting.

Energy Independent Caroline (21 March):

- Steve Nicholson and Mary Alyce Kobler are now co-chairing the committee.
- Cal and I attended Renovus's Community Solar promotion for nonprofits and municipalities. The Power Purchase Agreement arrangement works for these entities because it enables the provider (Renovus) to capture incentives not available to nonprofits. There are no upfront costs and the energy is renewable and affordable. The committee resolved to submit one year of town energy bills to Renovus for a proposal. 2015 bills have been submitted and we will be getting a cost proposal.
- Katy Borgella will be visiting with EIC in either April or May to discuss the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap.
- The committee is currently working to obtain energy information for Caroline municipal operations and the community, including updating information on solar installations. Community data will be transferred from the Frantz Energy Report. We will also access Tompkins County's GHG Inventory for information.

Caroline Watershed Committee (22 March):

- Sharon Anderson and Brad DeFrees joined us to offer information and a process for planning and funding of stormwater infrastructure. They will join us again at our May 16 meeting.
- Discussed and will submit to Hilary Lambert of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Caroline's watershed issues ratings and priority projects for the update of the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan. Stormwater management is front and center.

Other:

- Met with Kris West of FLLT to discuss easement incentives in Six Mile Creek watershed from the City of Ithaca. Program is ongoing.
- Caroline Town Halls and Spring water test results: negative for coliform, E. coli, Pb, As.
- Broadband notes and update

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board

Councilmember Reinbolt spoke with Chuck Bartosh from Clarity Connect today. VandeMark Rd is not likely to have Broadband installed as there is only one place where the pole can be positioned to be useful to offer Broadband to a limited amount of residents. Councilmember Reinbolt is talking to Haeefele about what they have to offer for internet possibilities in the Town of Caroline.

John Fracchia, Town Board

Building and Grounds

- Held bidding conference on March 23. Two companies, CF Evans and First General

attended.

- Bidding conference highlighted that we do not currently possess a certificate verifying that the work area is asbestos free. This is necessary for any organization to be able to do the work. Discovering the presence of asbestos after accepting a bid puts the town at a financial disadvantage. As a result of this discovery, we will likely need to extend the bidding deadline so that we can add in information about asbestos abatement if it turns out that the project requires it.

Emergency Services

- Upcoming meeting of the working group currently being scheduled. Will put out over town announcements and on website once it is confirmed.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- Was unable to attend March GTCMHIC meeting.

CIT

Irene Weiser, Town Board

No report

Cal Snow, Town Board

The Highway Department receives yearly First Aid Training.

Town Business

Steve Nicholson gave a report from the Environmental Management Council of Tompkins County. He has been the Chair of the Committee since 2004 and the liaison to the Town of Caroline since 2000. Typically there are about 20 people that attend the meetings. There are various committees: Energy Environmental Review Committee; The Ban on Plastic Shopping Bags Committee; and Unique Natural Areas Committee (which is “on line” including Area Aerial Photography). The Energy Committee produced a “frequently asked questions” document. Cornell Solar Committee had a presentation on Solar Energy at the Cornell Sheep Farm. The presentation was given by Taitum Energy and NYSEG about energy efficiency. The Environmental Management Council of Tompkins County also hosted their Annual Conference at the Tompkins County Library; 16 Counties were represented.

Resolutions**Resolution 80 of 2016**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and Seconded by Gary Reinbolt

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby changes Local Law #1 of 2015, to Override the 2% Tax Cap for 2016 (because of late filing) and make the same Local Law, to Override the 2% Tax Cap for 2016, #1 of 2016 and directs the Town Clerk to file said Local Law with New York State.

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

----Adjourn the meeting ----

A motion by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Mr. Witmer the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk