

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2016

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on May 3, 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: Tee-Ann Hunter for Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present: Barbara Kone, Town Historian; Raija Bushnell, Renovus; Don Barber

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

Privilege of the Floor

Don Barber appeared to encourage the board to reach out to the community for their help and engagement in the comprehensive planning process. He told the board he was glad to support and help in bringing together volunteers for the process.

He was also present because of his interest in the discussion of internet provider.

Supervisor Witmer expressed his desire to keep meetings to around two hours and asked board members to submit their reports in writing for inclusion in the minutes.

Raija Bushnell from Renovus appeared before the board regarding a power purchase agreement to become part of a 13 member community distributed solar farm. If the town is interested, the next step is for the town to put out a request for proposals. The proposal and bid process would need to be completed by the end of May. Ms. Bushnell has given Mr. Witmer a memo detailing the particulars of the proposed contract.

In response to questions from Ms. Weiser, Ms. Bushnell stated that the town would be contractually obligated to purchase as much electricity as they are currently using over the next 20 years. There are no upfront costs.

Ms. Bushnell estimated that the town could save \$1,500 per year over the next 20 years.

Slave Burying Ground

The town has received a request from William Keokosky to memorialize the town's Slave Burying Ground. The site is on private property.

Mr. Fracchia thought it would be fascinating to know if there were graves on the property, but did not feel the town had a role in it. Ms. Kone expressed concern about the site's location on private property and felt the current property owners did not want people trespassing for purposes of this project.

The issue will be placed on the agenda for further discussion.

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

Mr. Reinbolt shared an email from Chuck Bartosch from Clarity Connect regarding Danby TP 70 and putting up a broadband pole. There are two property owners that the town will need to deal with. One is not interested and the other has not been approached. Mr. Barber felt that working with Clarity Connect may not be in the best interests of the town. He felt that the town should reach out to other providers who have expressed an interest in coming into the town. There are existing engineering plans which should be revisited and, if need be, revised. Ms. Weiser was not sure that the existing plans were still viable.

Mr. Reinbolt shared a map of Clarity Connect's current coverage.

Mr. Witmer stated that he would contact Senator Seward's offer about the effects of the "purchase of Time Warner by charter".

John Fracchia, Town Board

Building and Grounds

* Toured Highway department site on April 21st with Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin McMahon, Supervisor Witmer, Councilmember Snow and Highway Superintendent Whittaker to better understand the condition of the facilities, any associated safety risks that might exist for Highway Department staff members, and potential for liability to the Town. Read the CEOs report and it is clear that safety risks and liability exist.

* Reached out to the Association of Towns (AOT) for information related to whether the Town of Caroline can legally purchase and own property in another municipality and if so, if doing so would create a tax liability to another municipality. It is legal for us to purchase property in another municipality, but it is the opinion of AOT attorneys that the use for which we are considering doing so does not exempt us from owing taxes to the Town of Dryden.

* Began investigating the asking price for the property formerly housing Crispell's Garage.

* As reported by Supervisor Witmer, the asbestos evaluation of the historic Town Hall roof, chimney and attic area came back negative. Bids for the roof replacement project will be opened on Monday, May 2, 2016 and the result will be reported at the agenda planning meeting.

Emergency Services

* The Town of Caroline Emergency Services Advisory committee met on Thursday, April 21 to begin its work. The meeting was attended by myself, Supervisor Witmer, and six community members who had previously expressed interest in the work of the committee. I presented the results of my preliminary research into different options and there was very productive discussion. Summary notes from that meeting are attached.

* The second annual TOC Emergency Services Day is Wednesday, May 11 and we will hold a brief celebration and recognition event prior to the May Business Meeting. I have reached out to our ES departments for names of members who have attained anniversary years. Similar to last year, though likely in smaller volume, I will produce certificates of recognition and bring in a cake.

The committee is meeting again on May 19th.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

* No update to report.

CIT

* No update to report.

Meeting: Town of Caroline Emergency Services Advisory Committee Date: April 21, 2016

Attendance: John Fracchia, Kathy Mix, Bob Spaulding, Edie Spaulding, Bob Spencer, Lisa Spencer, Evie Weinstein

1. John discussed several aspects of initial research that he found and key options that may exist for the town. These included:

Town Based EMS

* Town action must proceed CON if town is applying for CON. A local law is required for the formation of an ambulance district.

Cal Snow, Town Board

Mr. Witmer will invite Kevin to the next meeting to discuss the concerns he expressed in his report to the board.

He has spoken with the highway department about work on the town hall parking lot. Cindy has some ideas of work they could do that would keep costs down. Mr. Snow thought striping might help in the parking lot.

Mr. Snow will reach out to Guy Krogh to better understand the legal private property issues surrounding the Slave Burying Ground.

Irene Wesier, Town Board

Ms. Weiser reported on a TCCOG presentation.

TC Planning Department addressed TCCOG about model codes to do with energy sustainability as an example; wind farms and large scale solar so municipalities has some basic guidelines to follow.

Karyn Scott, Committee Member

Information from the JYC, Rec Partnership, and Caroline PTA April Meetings

JYC-(Information presented during April's business meeting)

* The day after our last meeting at the town hall I spoke to Janet the secretary at Caroline Elementary School about distributing information to the students in their backpacks. As long as she receives the paperwork by Wednesday, it will be given to the students that coming Friday.

* I will also post pertinent information at the Brooktondale Community Center, The Old Mill, and keep the YMCA staff informed during my May 16th-Aug 8th internship.

Rec Partnership (Tues, April 26th from 4:30 p.m-6:00 p.m)

* Janice would like to speak to the town board during one of the monthly meetings and provide updates concerning the Rec Partnership and IYB.

* The IYB is currently working on reaching the public via concession stands, local radio, the YMCA, and both online and paper formats.

* The IYB is updating their I-play book and website.

* Spring activity enrollment is going well, particularly for soccer, but they did not provide information as to where the participants lived.

* Wage increases may lead to the reduction of staff and programs.

PTA meeting (Tuesday April 19th from 5:45 p.m-6:45 p.m)

* The school received a grant to have a salad bar in the cafeteria-local farmers are being considered.

* Updates on continuing to provide safe drinking water.

* Updates on local boy scout and girl scout troops.

Town Business

The board members talked about the bids received for the Historic Town Hall roof project and the bid opening (that took place yesterday 5/2 in the Town Hall Annex building) amounts were read into to record: Contractor Bid Amount

First General Services \$ 40,400.00

Scott Quick Construction \$ 22,000.00

A1 Construction and Painting \$ 42,400.00

Mashuska Brothers \$ 94,700.00

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

In case the municipality wants to suggest a plot of land to be used for solar installation, it is good to remember that solar projects require a confluence of critical physical factors such as proximity to appropriate grid infrastructure, absence of sources of interference with insolation, geotechnical, environmental as well as other design, operation and maintenance matters. Contact information for persons knowledgeable about the site and municipal power consumption should be provided to respond to questions and allow for dissemination of information concerning all bidders. Unlike standard competitive bidding procedure, the municipal corporation may negotiate with one or more proposers.

Mowing Contract

Mark Witmer asked for board authorization to sign a contract for mowing the lawn at town hall and 4 cemeteries. Proposed contract cost is \$3,700, up from last year. The board felt it could be lower.

Executive Session

Councilman Reinbolt moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues. Seconded by Councilwoman Weiser. Vote: All in favor. Entered at 9:40 p.m.

Resolutions

Resolution 86 of 2016

Scott and Crispell Landscaping Contract

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby gives Supervisor Mark Witmer authority to sign a contract with Scott and Crispell, Landscaping for 2016 lawn mowing services with payment in the amount of \$3,700/year to be paid in 3 equal amounts in June, August and November 2016. The services include the mowing and grass trimming of the Town of Caroline Historic Town Hall and Annex Building sites and Town owned Cemeteries.

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

----Adjourn the meeting ----

A motion by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Ms. Weiser the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tee-Ann Hunter with additions by Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk