

## **Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2020**

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on January 7, 2020 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

**Attendance:**

Supervisor Mark Witmer  
Councilmember Cal Snow  
Councilmember Tim Murray

**Absent:**

Councilmember John Fracchia  
Councilmember Irene Weiser

**Recording Secretary:**

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

**Also present:** 5 members of the public

Mr. Witmer started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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### **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO EXPAND RESIDENCY ALLOWANCE OF APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICERS**

Supervisor Witmer opened the Public Hearing on the proposed local law to expand residency allowance of appointed public officers (Attached).

Resident Pete Hoyt spoke in favor of the proposed local law and offered his recommendation that the law be open residency without the limitation of adjoining towns.

After a brief discussion between the town board and residents present at the hearing, Councilmember Tim Murray agreed that opening it to all towns would expand the eligibility for candidates and should be considered. Lastly, Supervisor Witmer read a letter from Mary Terwilliger who offered her suggestion that residents are considered for the job opening before the hire of others. In closing, Supervisor Witmer stated that the Public Hearing will stay open for one week while the law is being considered.

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#### **Privilege-of-the-Floor**

None

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#### **Organizational Meeting Discussion**

Privilege-of-the-Floor - Councilmember Snow is in opposition of the new language in the privilege-of-the-floor policy. He stated that the public reserves the right to come before the Town Board and speak of any matter that involves a Public Officer. He does agree that it shouldn't be done with malicious intent.

Supervisor Witmer responded that it should be done private and including such language is an important provision that should be adopted. He states that yes; he and the Board want feedback from the public but there are avenues we can take to ensure the privacy of the employee. Mr. Snow added that he is feeling "uneasy" that the board would be squashing the idea of someone from the

public coming to a Town Board meeting and speaking during Privilege-of-the-Floor and not being able to address a public officer. Councilmember Tim Murray– Understands the concern that Mr. Snow has - but unless someone is an Elected Official, the town should protect the rights of its employee and instruct the resident to follow the guidelines that are in place to protect the town employee's rights and have the conversation privately.

Further discussion on the topic.

**Resolution 46 of 2020**

Resolved, a motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow, it is hereby agreed that Privilege-of-the-Floor (Resolution #2 of the Organizational Meeting) be held back and Resolution 1-45 were passed as a consent agenda.

ADOPTED: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Weiser: Absent; Snow: Aye Murray: Aye

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**Committee Reports**

**Irene Weiser, Councilmember – None**

**John Fracchia, Councilmember – None**

**Cal Snow, Councilmember – None**

**Tim Murray, Councilmember – None**

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**Discussion and agenda items for January Town Business Meeting**

Councilmembers will give Committee Reports.

Resolution to Allow County Forests to Grow to Old-Growth forests without commercial Logging or other intervention.

Further discussion on the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2020 on residency requirements.

Further discussion on Privilege-of-the Floor

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

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Cal Snow at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk