

## **Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2020**

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on February 4, 2020 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

### **Attendance:**

Supervisor Mark Witmer  
Councilmember John Fracchia  
Councilmember Irene Weiser  
Councilmember Cal Snow  
Councilmember Tim Murray

### **Recording Secretary:**

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

**Also present:** Robert Spencer, Highway Superintendent, Velvet Lyke, Bookkeeper/Assistant to the Supervisor and 2 members of the public.

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

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

None

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### **Discussion**

Supervisor Witmer introduced newly hired Richard Brooks, a town resident, as the town's building maintenance person.

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### **Resolutions**

#### **Resolution 60 of 2020**

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby agrees on a motion made by Mr. Witmer and Seconded by Councilmember John Fracchia to appoint Richard Brooks as the Town's Building Maintenance person @ \$15.66/hr, not to exceed 100 hours/yr.

**ADOPTED:** Witmer: Aye Fracchia: Aye Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye Murray: Aye

Discussion: Clarification regarding who the point person will be to notify Mr. Brooks of needs/issues as they arise at the town offices.

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### **Committee Reports**

**Irene Weiser, Councilmember** – She has been playing phone tag with Charter/Spectrum regarding the number of residents in the town that have no broadband service and the cost to extend service to those residents.

**Bob Spencer, Highway Superintendent** – Two new trucks have been ordered and should arrive in the fall. The town pick-up needs to be traded in this year as well and he is planning to do so. Auctions International has taken inventory of old (not in use) equipment around the highway property. Useable items have been listed for sale on the auction's website. Routine snow and ice removal as needed.

**John Fracchia, Councilmember** – Has been in touch with a representative from Google maps regarding seasonal/minimum maintenance roads that Google Maps direct drivers to use that has caused hazardous conditions throughout this winter and the possibility to remove these roads. The representative was given Highway Superintendent, Bob Spencer's contact information.

**Cal Snow, Councilmember** – None

**Tim Murray, Councilmember** – None

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## **2020 Town Committee Assignments**

Board of Directors (Health Care Consortium) and Watershed Committee – Mark Witmer

Buildings/Grounds and JYC (Joint Youth Commission) – John Fracchia

CIT (Communications Information Technology), Emergency Services, CCA (Community Choice ....) and Court Office – Irene Weiser

Planning Board and Code Office – Tim Murray

EIC (Energy Independent Caroline), Highway Department and Cemeteries – Cal Snow

Age-Friendly Caroline - Wil Lawrence

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## **Discussion of 2020 Goals**

Handout of itemized list of 2020 projects provided (Attachment #1). Supervisor Witmer gave a summary of those items.

Supervisor Witmer to meet with the ATV Rider's Club Meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> to look over the maps and discuss specific road use. The goal of the town board is to have a proposed Local Law drafted in April.

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**Discussion on Policy to Promote Old-Growth Forests on County Lands**

Councilmember Tim Murray offered a draft resolution Recommendation of Hands-off Policy to Promote Old-Growth Forests on County Lands (Attachment #2). He explained that he incorporated proforestation language and his decision for doing so came after privilege-of-the-floor comments were offered from resident, Jonathan Bates at the last board meeting. Supervisor Witmer is in favor of the language of the resolution. Councilmember Irene Weiser recommended changing the language or removing the last paragraph. Councilmember Cal Snow offered his recommendation of removing the word “negative” in the sixth paragraph of the Resolution. The Town Board will vote on the revised resolution at next week’s Business Meeting. The Town Board will reconsider and vote on the revised resolution at next week’s Business Meeting.

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**Agenda items for February 12 Business Meeting**

- AOT Resolutions
- Approval of minutes and monthly billing
- Forest Resolution
- Resolution to appoint the Code Enforcement Officer, Brook Greenhouse, to Permanent Probationary status.
- Steve Nicholson to provide update on 2019 Tompkins County Environmental Management Council work
- Brighten-up Caroline
- Boiler work at the town hall to be done by Halco

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

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Councilmember John Fracchia at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

## Agenda Meeting February 4, 2020

*(ATTACHMENT #1)*

### CAROLINE TOWN BOARD 2020 PROJECTS

#### **GENERAL TOWN**

- Trail
- ATV
- 5 year budget
- Traffic control issues – Coddington, White Church, B'dale Rd
- Personnel – performance evaluation process, wages review

#### **BLDG/GROUNDS**

- Front lawn and rock pile
- Rain Garden, Parking lot, Midline Rd
- Signage
- Old Town Hall
  - air seal, insulate, paint or siding, basement wet
  - Fix shades.
  - Cushions for benches?
  - Sound system (see also court below)
  - Ceiling mounted projector

#### **COURT**

- Document storage
- Security measures
- Sound system (grant?)

#### **HIGHWAY**

- Hwy Barn Planning
- New Trucks – lease, finance, buy
- Repairs to existing structure

#### **PLANNING**

- Comp Plan
- Wind/Solar Siting Law
- Cell Tower siting

#### **FARMING/AG**

- Meet in February – plan next steps.

#### **ENERGY INDEPENDENT CAROLINE**

- Wind/Solar Siting Law
- Stretch Code/Heat Pumps

#### **COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- Broadband – finish buildout
- IT Policies – acceptable use, ransomware, security breach, etc
- Review operations – backup, software licenses, etc. BAS →WLB?
- Website improvements
- Swift911 and Town Listserv enrollment

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- Dry Hydrants
- Emergency Preparedness Planning – w/County, also local
- EMT services – what else can be done

#### **TCCOG**

- CCA
- Streetlights

#### **YOUTH**

- Members to JYC

#### **SENIORS**

- Wil's project

#### **OTHER**

- Parking law?
- Aquifer Protection law?

*(ATTACHMENT #2)*

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ of 2020. Recommendation of Hands-off Policy to Promote Old-Growth Forests on County Lands.

~~Whereas, Tompkins County owns forest lands in the Towns of Caroline and Newfield, and~~

Whereas, forests provide many benefits to our residents and the environment, and old-growth forests (those that are undisturbed by human intervention for centuries) are among the rarest habitats and pieces of biodiversity, and

Whereas, forests are in a natural state of flux where trees get sick and die, insects kill trees, wind blows trees over, and fire sometimes burns forests, and

Whereas, none of these natural phenomena need automatically trigger human intervention, and

Whereas, strategies of proforestation, the practice of purposefully growing an existing forest intact, benefit nature-based biological carbon sequestration and ecosystem services such as biodiversity enhancement, water and air quality, soil health, flood and erosion control, public health benefits, low impact recreation, and scenic beauty, and

Whereas, a proforestation policy is a low-cost/low-effort approach that avoids the negative impacts of logging on the landscape and the related erosion and costs to the County and Town of Caroline, and

Whereas, Tompkins County's Environmental Management Council has produced a draft report with different management options, noting, among them, that the forests will naturally develop to an old-growth state, and

And whereas proforestation will sequester quantitatively more carbon over the critical next few decades than cutting and regrowing forests,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Caroline Town Council requests that Tompkins County allow the land it owns in Caroline and Newfield it owns to grow intact toward its full ecological potential without commercial logging, and with minimal human intervention, and

~~Be it further resolved that Tompkins County clearly identify potential human interventions with the goals of protecting our forests, enhancing public enjoyment, and protecting the public.~~