

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2019

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on September 3, 2018 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

In Attendance: Supervisor Witmer, Councilmembers Fracchia, Weiser, Snow, Murray

Recording Secretary: Becky Jordan, Deputy Clerk

Also present: 7 members of the public

Mr. Witmer started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:05 p.m.

Privilege-of-the-Floor:

Peter Hoyt - Late May/early June I did a FOIL request for the draft audit for the town clerks office. My request was rejected with a draft ... When will the final report be available? Is there a timeline on the current audit? I would like definite information when the audit by Insero will be available as well as the state audit on the town currently taking place.

Mr. Witmer responded that the final report by Insero has not been received yet. The NYS audit being performed ..

Wil Lawrence - County office for the aging may try to schedule an annual public hearing event and is interested in venue locations.

I really like that our town posts a lot of stuff on the website. It would be great if someone could send a listserv when documents or other things are posted on the website.

Bruce Murray - I would strongly suggest that the Board set in to motion rewriting our cell tower local law.

Public Hearing:

Public Hearing on request to discontinue minimum road maintenance on the final 0.16 mi of Bald Hill Road.

Barry Goodrich comment: Is the portion that's going to be opened up to regular maintenance as opposed to seasonal, is that portion of the road built to the specs of the rest of the town.

Mr. Witmer responded: Yes, according to the Highway Superintendent, it is up to specs. The only recommendation is that the town should add a snowplow turnaround.

Public hearing closed at 7:14 PM.

Discussion: Road use agreement with AT&T for road protection from cell tower build? Bruce Murray does not believe this was brought up in the Review Board meeting. Next Review Board meeting is September 17th.

Committee Reports

John Fracchia, Councilmember –

Building and Grounds

- In the process of developing a budget request for FY 2020. I am considering budgeting for a consultant for the Highway Department project.
- Shared draft of Highway Task Force notice with Councilmember Snow for feedback. Anticipated release is by the end of the week.

Communications, Information, & Technology

- In the process of developing a budget request for FY 2020. I am considering budgeting for a projection system with HDMI capability or flat screen technology, as well as a sound system in order to make our meetings more accessible.
- Met with Charter representative Lauren Kelly to discuss non-disclosure agreement. Am forwarding the agreement to counsel for review. Some things learned from the conversation include -
 - o While non-disclosure prohibits posting coverage information on the website, it would not preclude the town from sharing with someone if it appears that they would be covered in the build out.
 - o Build out will likely serve more under-served areas
 - o She expressed a willingness to try to help under-served areas and is checking to see if a wi-max type option exists for areas in which it is unfeasible to serve via coaxial cable or fiber optic means.
 - o Shared with me that our franchise agreement expired in 2012 and that in absence of a new agreement they have been continuing from the expired one. I asked her to send me a more current agreement so that we can review it.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

- Attended the August meeting of the consortium. In that meeting several resolutions passed including - a) appointments to the newly established Operations Committee, b) adoption of a policy to determine a municipalities pro rata share of the consortiums assets should they choose to depart - to date this has not happened.
- Received notice from Executive Director, Elin Dowd, that the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design is considering an increase in the deductible for the Gold Plan (this impacts us) in order for the plan to meet the definition of a High Deductible Health Plan. The proposed change is an increase of \$50 for an individual plan and \$100 for a family plan. If this passes (which is likely), we will need to factor this in to our budget discussions.

The proposed increase to Health Insurance is 5% which is consistently under industry.

Joint Youth Commission

- There was no August meeting of the JYC.

Cal Snow, Councilmember -

Recently attended the Energy independent Caroline meeting. Discussion was about getting LED and energy efficient light bulbs ordered. Buying in bulk [6000] to be distributed is the idea. All seemed enthusiastic. Campaign this Fall, in October and another in the Spring to get bulbs and information out to the public.

Suggests looking in to emergency preparedness planning - specifically emergency power for town buildings.

What is going on with Scott Doyle's snowmobile trails? Mr. Witmer shared that there's a small change in the routing of the trail due to a conservation easement being established by the County at Level Green and Flat Iron Rds. Snowmobile club gets funding from the state. Dan Klein shared that this was on the County agenda.

Tim Murray, Councilmember -

Planning Board meeting September 25th

Speaker at last meeting (Monika Roth from CCE) spoke about the 8-year evaluation of our Agricultural District now underway. Will be working with Planning Board on the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate ways of using farm land to preserve open space in rural communities

Wil Lawrence commented - Monika mentioned some of the agricultural land is heavily forested (reference to 488)

Councilmember Weiser commented - Site plan laws for solar and wind panels. Lansing has just [possibly] finalized solar and wind local laws. How do you distinguish between prime farm land and ag district land?

Councilmember Snow responded that there is a soil classification.

Irene Weiser, Councilmember -

Phone tag with Bangs regarding services to the Town.

Dry hydrants - Tried to convene with the team that met over dry hydrants with little success. GIS mapping assistance from the county is delayed due to their workload.

Discussion and Agenda items for August Town Business Meeting -

Resolution to hire a Bookkeeper.

Snowmobile Trails

Employee Handbook updates

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Fracchia at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

DRAFT