**Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2023**

The Town Board Business Meeting was held hybrid at the Caroline Town Hall on March 15, 2023, and was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Supr. Witmer

**Attendance**:

Supervisor Mark Witmer

Councilmember Cal Snow

Councilmember Tim Murray

Councilmember Katherine Goldberg

Councilmember Kate Kelley-Mackenzie

**Recording Secretary**:

Jessie Townsend, Town Clerk

**Public Present:**  33 **Zoom**: 12

Supr. Witmer opened the meeting with Pledge to the Flag.

## Privilege-of-the-Floor

## *John Morse* – Spoke in opposition of zoning. He also turned in a petition to postpone the Board’s vote on zoning for at least two years so the community can continue to have public debate. He added that a total of 1228 signatures were collected, and that all signers are citizens and/or taxpayers in Caroline.

*Tonya Van Camp* – Spoke in opposition of zoning. She presented data and offered petition comparison’s from both the supporters of the Moratorium petition and those in opposition of zoning. Census and the Board of Elections. She also announced her desire to withdraw her signature on the Moratorium petition, stating at the time of signing it was to support time for the completion of the Comprehensive Plan, not zoning.

*Bruce Murray* – Spoke in opposition of zoning and signed the petition that was submitted earlier in the evening by John Morse.

*Bruno Schickel* – Spoke in opposition of zoning. He asked that the Board remember that they serve the people, not the other way around. He requested that they sincerely consider if this law will help or will it hurt this town.

*Rob Swansbrough* – Spoke in opposition of zoning. He is a Code Officer for the City of Ithaca and deals directly with zoning every day, adding that zoning is burdensome and costly for the homeowner.

*Jay Payton* – Spoke in opposition of zoning. Shared concern regarding the water overlay and what that will mean for new residential properties.

## Discussion with Susan Holland from Historic Ithaca on the Historic Preservation Grant proposal

Susan came this evening to discuss the Old Town Hall project. After discussing her role as the grant writer for this project, she will need a list of priority items they plan to address in this preservation project. It was agreed that Mark and Cal will work on this and will also meet with Steve Gibian and get his thoughts and recommendations of same.

## Committee Reports

**Supr. Mark Witmer** – Supr. Witmer provided the following:

Correspondence of Note:

-Letter from Nancy Hall requesting road safety measures on Valley Road at the Brooktondale Community Center because of summer camp.

-Letter from Graham Savio of CCE notifying us of application by owners of 250 Thomas Road for inclusion in the Agricultural District and asking for Town’s endorsement.

Supervisor’s Notes:

* Public Hearings on the Zoning Commission’s Preliminary Report were held on February 22 and February 28.
* Land Use Moratorium Local Law expiration is May 1, 2023. Propose 6-month extension.
* TCCOG Emergency Services Planning: Joe Milliman has been hired by the T.C. Department of Emergency Response as the Emergency Services Program Manager.
* Attended round-table of Supervisors and Mayors with LaBerge Engineering to discuss code enforcement issues and possible measures for countywide support. Will now be identifying possible solutions.
* Attended meeting on preliminary FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps at TCPL.
* Attended meeting district Ag to discuss the feasibility study for geothermal in Speedsville.

**Town Clerk, Jessie Townsend** – *Tax Collection –* Has collected 92% of the total Warrant and has just over 2 weeks of collection remaining. Clerk’s February Report was completed and submitted to Town Supervisor on March 7, 2023.

**Clm. Tim Murray –** *ZC* **–** Meeting was canceled last night due to weather conditions. The next meeting is tentatively set for next Tuesday, March 21st at 7pm

**Clm. Katherine Goldberg** – *Ag* – Katherine provided the following information:

There is a Caroline Community Ag Gathering on Thurs April 6 at the Brooktondale Community Center, from 6-9pm(potluck 6-7 followed by meeting 7-9). This is an opportunity to learn about what the Caroline Ag Committee is working on, and to contribute your ideas to an Agriculture Plan for the Town. **Please RSVP** [**here**](https://forms.gle/Z6rtVoAtYc4hUQf87) **so we have an idea of how many tables to set up.**

We're also trying to gather information about all agricultural activities in the Town, so if you raise any crops or animals - even just for yourself - please [**respond to this survey**](https://forms.gle/pcvUTioJZT4dzpwj9) to help us get an accurate picture of ag in the Town. If you'd prefer to fill out the survey on paper, please email [mr55@cornell.edu](mailto:mr55@cornell.edu) to request a copy. We will also have them available at the potluck on April 6th.

If you'd like to stay informed about the Caroline Ag Committee's activities as well as other relevant food/farming events in Caroline, please join the Friends of Caroline Ag listserv, so you'll hear about any food and farm related events happening in the town. If you're interested, send an email to Erica ([info@shelterbeltfarm.com](mailto:info@shelterbeltfarm.com)) and she'll add you to the list.

**Clm. Kate Kelley-Mackenzie –** Continues her research for funding opportunities.

**Clm. Cal Snow –** *Town Hall -* Looking into creating signage at the Town Hall to include Offices, the Court, History Room, and Library. *Court –* Has requested improvements needed for the Court Clerk’s office and Chambers. Items involve new paint, removing the existing carpeting and sanding/refinishing the floor, furniture including desks, chairs and secured filing cabinets, and shelving. After a very brief discussion, Supr. Witmer confirmed that the agreement was for secured cabinets which was given by Resolution 62 of 2023. He also wished to remind the Court that the agreed deadline for securing the space and submitting a key is fast approaching.

## Discussion on Speed Limit Reduction on Brooktondale Rd

Received a letter from Nancy Hall requesting consideration of a speed limit reduction on Brooktondale Rd, particularly in front of the Community Center. The letter summarized the need of such, especially during the summer camp where children are near or walking the road. Wondered if a school zone was appropriate. A brief discussion regarding Brooktondale Rd being a County Rd and the involvement and determination of how to proceed will be that of the County Highway.

## Transfers

**Resolution 69 of 2023. Budget Transfers**

Motion by: Witmer Second: Murray

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board authorizes the following 2022 budget transfers:

$35.17 From A1990.4 Contingency To A3310.4 Traffic Control

**Motion carried.**

**Ayes: Witmer, Snow, Murray, Goldberg, Kelley-Mackenzie**

**Nays: None**

**Resolution 70 of 2023. Approval of Vouchers for Payment of Town Bills**

Motion by: Witmer Second: Goldberg

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board approves payment of vouchers for bills in the amounts of $42,212.69 for the General Fund, $63,133.71 for the Highway Fund, and $273.39 for the Streetlight Fund.

**Motion carried.**

**Ayes: Witmer, Snow, Murray, Goldberg, Kelley-Mackenzie**

**Nays: None**

## Approval of Minutes

The Caroline Town Board approved the Minutes of February 15, 2023, and March 1st, 2023, as submitted by Town Clerk, Jessie Townsend.

A Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Supr. Witmer to discuss the Highway Barn Project proposals for purposes of entering a Professional Services Contract and was thereby seconded by Clm. Kelley-Mackenzie and carried unanimously at 8:05 p.m.

A Motion to exit Executive Session and to adjourn the meeting were made by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Kelley-Mackenzie carried unanimously at 9:28 p.m.

----**Meeting Adjourned----**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Townsend, Town Clerk