

Caroline Town Board Business Meeting of August 9, 2017

The Town Board Business meeting held on August 9, 2017 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Recording

Secretary: Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

Attendance:

Mark Witmer, Supervisor
John Fracchia, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember
Gary Reinbolt, Councilmember
Calvin Snow, Councilmember

Also present: 10 members of the public attended the meeting

Privilege of the Floor

Bob Spaulding - Commented on Resolution EV Charging station. Opposed.

Laurie Konwinski, Deputy Director Catholic Charities 324 W Buffalo Street, Ithaca. She shared services the program offers that serve thousands of people per year. Among the many services available are help in emergency situations, prescription drug coverage, utility bill assistance, SNAP, food stamps, multiple services application assistance, clothing & personal needs provided, support group for young fathers, immigrant services & citizenship program. New program called "A Place to Stay", transitional housing for single homeless women.

Connie O'Brien – Discussed the trail extension and inquired what the Town Board is thinking these days of the trail? Known facts & concerns: Ownership questions, Judge would have grounds to question Guy's abilities, obvious majority of town supports, 32 more signatures 28 of which are Caroline residents. #3 funding: town of Ithaca (Nov meeting) offered to maintain trail. NYS grants option. Does not believe trail maintenance costly.

Kathryn Goldberg – shared her positive Black Diamond Trail experience.

Edie Spaulding – Abstract states property reverts to resident property owner

Kathy Mix – 26+ years fire & ambulance service. Urges the Board and community to think about emergency response & possible difficult access to trails.

Kris Bennett, Joint Youth Commission (JYC) presentation

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

See attachment #1

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor

Correspondence of Note:

- Girl Scouts Caroline Beigel, Lily Dean, and Cecily Hansen of Slaterville Springs earned Bronze Awards for their project to make blankets for kittens and cats at SPCA. Sent letter of appreciation to each of them.

Supervisor Notes:

- Finger Lakes Land Trust - Cal Snow and I attended Tompkins County Legislature meeting on July 18th to speak in support of the Finger Lakes Land Trust's request for \$15,000 contribution from Tompkins County toward their WQIP grant application for Lounsbery Tract Agricultural and Conservation Easement. We provided legislators a letter (attached) signed by all town board members pointing out the value of protecting farmland and Six Mile Creek and that this easement would further the goals of the Town's Comprehensive Plan in bolstering the local agricultural economy and the rural nature of Caroline. The measure later passed unanimously.
- Worked with T.G. Miller to provide NYSDHSES an updated project scope for Buffalo Road Creek II. There was no increase in the length of the project, nor cost.
- Worked with T.G. Miller to submit WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Plan) Culvert Replacement and Streambank Stabilization grant proposal for Ekroos Road culverts. Obtained two-year temporary easements from land-owners.
- Nathaniel Haviland-Markowitz, intern at CCE, assisted us with completing Climate Smart Communities Resiliency questionnaire that will aid us in evaluating areas for improvement.
- With assistance from Code Officer Kevin McMahon we completed our fourth "high-impact action item" of the 10 listed under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program, Energy Code Training. The other three are completion of a Solarize Program, adoptions of the Unified Solar Permit, and Benchmarking of building energy use. With completion of four action items, Caroline has now qualified for a NYSERDA grant for which we will need to submit a proposal within 90 days.
- 2018 Budget requests sent to town departments.
- Trail. Posted our town attorney's Legal Memo Regarding Title to Railroad Bed on the town website. My observations:
 1. The Town's attorney, Guy Krogh, has concluded, NYSEG holds valid title to the rail bed. Chapter 21 of the NYS Laws of 1828, including specifically § 8 therein, is clear and unambiguous that the I&O Railroad actually took true title - fee simple absolute.
 2. The trail extension is unique in that it would provide a direct, safe route for non-motorized transit between Brooktondale and Ithaca. No other such corridor exists.

3. There is widespread support in Caroline for extension of the South Hill Recreation Way Trail.
4. Concerns have been raised that the trail would create unacceptable impacts.

5. These concerns are among the 11 issues articulated by the 2008 Caroline Town Board that have been thoroughly and satisfactorily addressed by the 2009 Caroline Trails Committee Report. This document that has information specific to the proposed extension relevant to planning issues. I appreciate the hard work of the former Natural Areas and Trails Committee members who researched and compiled this document.

6. The proposal is to reinforce the rail bed with gravel/stone. For the four Caroline residences that neighbor the NYSEG property, the closest proximity of the rail bed is approximately 300 ft. We would work with neighbors to mitigate potential impacts and maintain the natural character of the rail bed.

By developing a project proposal that incorporates the community vision, mitigates concerns, and details costs, funding, and management plans, we can make an informed decision.

Dan Klein, County Representative –

Budget season about to start. County has already passed overriding tax cap about 2.9% 25K place holder for EMS future planning. Shared services agreement all supervisors & mayor YES! Issue: ride sharing Uber & Lift not a level playing field between them & taxis

Jail study has come out. Build a bigger jail or reduce inmate count. Working on ways to reduce inmates with mental health and drug abuse programs to name a couple.

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk – No Report

Cal Snow, Town Board – No Report

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board – No Report

Irene Weiser, Town Board – No Report

John Fracchia, Town Board – Health Insurance Consortium meetings. JYC meeting last night. Buildings & Grounds bids closed this evening 43K 52K received, bid extended.

Resolutions

Appointment of Candidates to Planning Board

Resolution 108 of 2017

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Alex Jochym for 2017-2021 term

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

Resolution 109 of 2017

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fraccia

Resolved, the Caroline Town board hereby appoints Bill Podulka for 2017-2020 term

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

Resolution 110 of 2017

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser

Resolved, the Caroline Town board hereby appoints Charles Eldermire for 2017-2018 term

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

Approval of Abstracts

Resolution XX of 2017

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 15 through 16 for \$597.44

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

Resolution XX of 2017

General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 203 through 232 for \$ 9969.76

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

Resolution XX of 2017

Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fraccia to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 118 through 134 for \$ 250095.35.

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

Resolution XX of 2017

A Motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to introduce Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit for fiscal year 2018.

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

Resolution XX of 2017

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to sign TCAC for next 3 years

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

Resolution XX of 2017

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to authorize Supervisor to commitment for EV Charging station at Town Hall (Irene amendment seconded by John Fracchia) contingent on discussion with County Hwy

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

Resolution XX of 2017

A motion made by Mr. Witmer seconded by Gary Reinbolt Declaration of Environmental Impact Buffalo Rd Creek Phase II

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

Resolution to budget for professional services for EMS planning in 2018

A motion made by Irene Weiser seconded by Gary Reinbolt

Resolves that the Caroline Town Board recommends that the town budget includes \$ 5000.00 in contingency for emergency medical services for 2018 reserves

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

Resolution authorizing town commitment from donations to Caroline Broadband fund of 10% of project costs, not to exceed \$32,000, for phase II and III awards

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by John Fraccia

----Adjourn----

A motion made by Mr. Witmer seconded by Gary Reinbolt to move to executive session at 9:23 pm to discuss collective bargaining.

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Jordan
Deputy Town Clerk

Attachment #1

DRAFT