

## **Caroline Town Board Business Meeting of June 14, 2017**

The Town Board Business meeting held on June 14, 2017 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

### **Attendance:**

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

**Also present:** 12 members of the public attended the meeting

---

### **Presentation on NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program**

By Terry Carroll Program Manager for Designated Clean Energy -from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Tompkins County. Teaches about Solar Energy. Clean energy actions, save energy and create jobs. Provides technical assistant- helps the municipality to look at cost benefit analysis.

Step by step- 4 action items. When you get the 4 approved through NYSERDA then grants are available. There are 18 grants. Grants can be from \$50,000 and \$100,000. It is basically "first come, first serve" depending on who finishes the 4 action items. The Town has 3 months to turn in the grant application. After that you are notified if you are approved. The program is looking for the project to have Clean Energy benefits.

Benchmarking and Solarize- Caroline has these 2 action items already in place; Kevin McMahon the Town of Caroline Code Officer is working on required training and Unified Solar Permits.

The purpose of the grant is to help the Town of Caroline become a Climate Smart Community – (To be Certified).

High Impact Action Items:

Discussion going forward to with other Towns on a shared contract- One idea is LED Street lights.

---

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Kathern Goldberg- Spoke in favor in the trail, and read a message from Jenny Walsh; see attachment 1

Sam Tractor- PE teacher is at Caroline School- Data says the majority of people will benefit from the use of the Trail.

Bob Spaulding- Opposes the trail. See attachment 2

Avi Smith - Wants to move back to Brooktondale; loves the country, the creek, railroad track. He said when he was a boy he used to ride his bike all the way from Caroline to Ithaca.

Lynn Abbott- 100 White Church Rd- Wants speed limit reduced. Any unposted road in the Town of Caroline is 55 miles per hour. There needs to be signage to lower the speed limit.

Betty Dean- Asked people to please do your homework on the Trail and its impacts on everyone.

---

## **Reports**

### **Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent**

Purchased a new gradall and new pick-up truck. Flat Iron road is slated for paving

### **Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor**

#### **Correspondence of Note:**

- Notice from NYSDEC about Hogweed control in our Town this summer. Methods are applying glyphosate and removal of seed heads. Landowners will be contacted by crews for permission to control and monitor. Classified as a Type I negative declaration.
- Historic Structures Report received from Cornell student Sam Coons for his class project for Building Materials Conservation. Provides plan recommendations for maintenance of the Town Hall.
- Received letter from NYPIRG (non-partisan, non-profit organization) providing notice that they will be conducting door-to-door surveys in our town this summer.
- GTMHIC sent notice that they have added an International Prescription Drug Program, CanaRx through ProAct, Inc.
- Karyn Scott forwarded notice of Transportation Camp in Ithaca this Saturday 17 June at Cornell.
- Code Office: 47 permits in May; 161 year-to-date.
- Received 58 additional petition signatures in support of trail extension.

#### **Supervisor Notes:**

- Interviewed for brief news segment by Spectrum News about why Caroline is such a great place. Caroline is 11th fastest growing town in NYS, increasing 6% over last six years to about 3,500 residents. Danby is 13th fastest growing town. Theme was rural, local entrepreneurs, friendly nature of community, with proximity to higher ed and other employment opportunities, and the challenge that growth will pose for maintaining rural nature of town.
- County-wide Shared Services committee met on 5 May. Goal is to have a program by August 1. Discussion of Trainings, equipment leasing, LED streetlights. Need to show cost savings.
- NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program: Benchmarking and Solarize complete. Unified Solar Permit and Energy Code Training in progress. Completion of 4 items is imminent, so we will soon need to have a project for a grant proposal: GHG reductions, innovative.
- Met with Terry Carroll, Skye Hart, and Clp. Weiser to discuss progress with Town becoming Climate Smart Community. Skye is intern who will be assisting us with this effort.
- Resident registered concern about the 90 degree corner on White Church road. Notified Dan Klein, Jeff Smith, and Superintendent Whittaker. Dan has followed up. Town can make request to DOT for speed limit change.
- Working on RFP for town hall heating system replacement with Taitem
- Working on RFP for town hall painting with Clp. Fracchia

### **Dan Klein, County Representative**

**Absent**

**Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk**

**Cal Snow, Town Board**

**Gary Reinbolt, Town Board**

**Irene Weiser, Town Board**

**John Fracchia, Town Board**

---

**Town Business**

Councilmember Weiser wrote the Resolution #98 of 2017; LGBT- Flag Flying in the Month of June at this meeting during the reading of the Supervisor's report. The resolution was not presented to the public previously because it was created at this meeting.

---

**Resolutions**

**Unified Solar Permit**

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

**Resolution 89 of 2017**

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign the application for the New York State Permit for Unified Solar. The permitting is available statewide for eligible solar photovoltaic (PV) installations.

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

Discussion: Apply for funding for \$2,500 and if we use it for a charging station in the Town hall parking lot.

**Resolution 90 of 2017**

**Change Date of July Agenda meeting**

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town board hereby moves the Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda meeting to Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic town Hall

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

**Resolution 91 of 2017**

**Electric Station at the Caroline Town Hall Parking Lot**

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town board hereby authorizes the Town supervisor, Mark Witmer to sign the notice of interest in Electric Car Stations for the Caroline Town parking lot.

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

---

**Funds Transfers 2017**

**Resolution 90 of 2017**

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

Transfer DA5130.2 Machinery Equipment \$365,311.36 (get the whole resolution)

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

---

**Approval of Abstracts****Resolution 91 of 2016****Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 10 through 12 for \$709.32

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

**Resolution 92 of 2016****General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 143 through 173 for \$11,889.29.

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

**Resolution 93 of 2016****Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 79 through 100 for \$ 466,822.86.

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

---

**Minutes****Resolution 94 of 2017****Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held May 2, 2017:**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2017 Agenda meeting as submitted by Deputy Town Clerk, Becky Jordan.

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

**Resolution 95 of 2017**

**Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held April 4, 2017:**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2017 Agenda meeting as submitted by Deputy Town Clerk, Becky Jordan.

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

**Resolution 96 of 2017**

**Minutes of the Business held April 12, 2017:**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2017 Business meeting as submitted by the Acting-Deputy Town Clerk Deb DeAugustine.

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

**Resolution 97 of 2017**

**Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held June 6, 2017:**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded John Fracchia to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Agenda meeting as submitted by Deputy Town Clerk, Becky Jordan.

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

**Resolution 98 of 2017**

**LGBT- Flag Flying in the Month of June**

A motion was made by Irene Weiser and seconded by John Fracchia

Whereas beginning in the year 2000 the month of June has been recognized nationally as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month with a purpose to recognize both the contribution of LGBT persons to society and their continued struggle for equality, safety and acceptance, and

Whereas on June 12, 2016 forty-nine members of the LGBT community were gunned down at a LBGT dance bar in Orlando, Florida, in this country's largest mass murder, and

Whereas LGBT persons live in and contribute to the quality of life in Caroline, and the Town Board believes that LGBT persons should be regarded as valued members of our community and that they deserve equality, safety and acceptance,

Therefor be it resolved that the Town of Caroline declares the Month of June as LGBT Pride Month and that during this month, the Town will fly the rainbow flag to symbolize our recognition of the contribution of and support for equality, safety and acceptance of LGBT persons w/in our community, and be it

Further be it resolved that this resolution shall be added to the annual organizational meeting resolutions and adopted in years hence.

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

All in favor

---**Adjourn**---

Adjourned on a motion by Gary Reinbolt and seconded by John Fracchia at **9:00** p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Attachment 1

The trail extension would eventually pass right through our property. Our child, Raven, has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. How amazing of a resource would it be to have a compressed gravel trail for his scooter. This would increase his ability to connect with our community.

Jenny Walsh

Attachment 2

DRAFT

Bob Spaulding June 14, 2011

I find it interesting that I can regularly attend Town board meetings and see (sometimes many) new groups of people expressing their opinion that the proposed rail trail should be approved by this body. Sometimes they even bring along petitions signed by like-minded individuals. It's ~~very likely~~<sup>very likely</sup> that a significant portion of those appearing or signing petitions would never be caught dead on this trail if, indeed, it eventually came to pass. They are essentially activists and their only interest is to show support for a point of view.

Contrast them with the small number of people appearing in opposition to the trail. One could ask, "Why there are not more of them?" The answer is simple: people generally do not want to get involved unless they feel personally threatened. That does not mean in any way that there isn't a lot of opposition that could and likely would be brought to bear in a public hearing.

My concern is that the continuing parade of ~~activists~~<sup>people</sup> attending meetings or signing petitions in support of the trail will eventually sway the board to favor approving the project for 'the Common Good' rather than considering the merits of property owner's rights to the full enjoyment of their properties. Approval of this project based on head count would be an incredibly short sighted decision to say the least. In the end if the project is approved, users of the trail could enjoy trail usage occasionally, if ever, while affected property owners deal with their loss of privacy on a daily basis. To me this outcome would be morally reprehensible and totally unacceptable. Finally I do not think for a second that these types of decisions should be the purview of government especially small, local governments, period.



DRAFT



