

Caroline Town Board Meeting of October 12, 2016

The Town Board Business meeting held on October 12, 2016 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:02PM by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Attendance:

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

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk and Becky Jordan, Deputy Clerk

Also present: 9 people of the public attended

Salute to the Flag (7:02)

Privilege of the Floor

Privilege of the Floor: Opportunity for citizens to bring forward matters of concern
Please be prepared to make one statement not to exceed 3 minutes in length

Pete Hoyt is opposed to tax cap override. Disagrees with Town Board personnel services monetary increase.

Barry Goodrich discussed verbiage revision to General Municipal Law Section 1 Legislative Intent re: tax cap override.

Bob Spaulding supports Town Board personnel services monetary increase.

Pat Dubin - Astonished by all that the Town Board does. Thankful and supportive of Town Board personnel services monetary increase. Concerned with fossil fuel usage and promotes resolution urging Governor Cuomo to approve Geo-Thermal tax credit.

Special Presentation by Frontier Communications: Frank O'Donnell, General Manager discussed 2017 Connect America (CAF) program Slaterville Springs Exchange. Frontier currently uses DSL Technology for broadband. It is outpaced and distance degrades speed. Embarking on a Connect America Fund from the FCC to convert from copper cable to fiber optic cable to improve bandwidth. Updating 5 existing locations and adding proposed new sites (indicated by red push pins on map) in 2017 (see map provided) The FCC requires 10/1 minimum speed service. Fiber to the home will improve speed. Build out locations are not the decision of Frontier Communications but stipulated by the FCC, designated by the government based on census blocks. This Frontier build out will not be available to residences where Time Warner is available.

Additions or Deletions from Agenda: None

Highway Superintendent's Report: Attached

Supervisor's Report: Attached

Town Clerk's Report: No report

Department, Committee, & Liaison Updates

Irene provided brief updates from the Broadband Committee. The maps have been redrawn and it looks like Charter is taking over quite a bit of Caroline although specifics are unknown. The Broadband Committee has decided to continue exploring opportunities and advocating for funding. Haefele is still eligible and considering building into their areas of existing service specifically Harford Road and part of 76 Road.

Discussion and Action Topics

- Transfers: None
- Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting
- Approval of minutes: None

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Capitol Highway Projects

Sealed Thomas Road with 1A's- We will placing shoulders down in next couple of weeks when shoulder machine is available (we borrowing the machine) on all three of these roads under Capitol Highway

Ditched and cut brush on Perkins Rd and then shimmed with Type 3 Binder- Will top next year.

Ditched and cut brush on Valley Rd and then shimmed with type 3 binder- Will top next year

Roadwork

Removed two very large trees from right of way that were dying with large branches that had been falling in the roadway. Tompkins County Highway and Asplundh tree service worked with our employees on this project.

We have been out patching and cutting brush

Repaired shoulders on Buffalo Rd

Hauling sand and 1Bs for snow and Ice

Hauling stone to stock pile for next year's surface treating projects

Ditching and cleaning culverts

Replacing road signs

We will soon be working on our snow plow equipment

Miscellaneous

Four of us attended MSHA training last month, it's been a busy year and hopefully the weather will hold out and we can get started on next year's projects.

Cindy Whittaker

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor
Supervisor's Report, October 12, 2016

Correspondence of Note:

- Received Resolution from City of Ithaca and a proclamation from Ithaca Mayor Myrick calling upon Congress and President Obama to support and reinstate insurance coverage for abortion services for women enrolled in public insurance programs.
- Received 30-day Advanced Notice from NYS Liquor Authority for an application for a license change for Brookton Market for alcohol consumption on front porch and lawn.
- Update from Tompkins County Hwy Division noting no changes to report for Brooktondale Road Slope Stabilization.
- Kristen Hychka submitted application to join the Watershed Committee.
- Medication Disposal Event on Saturday, October 22, 10 am– 2 pm at the SLATERVILLE FIRE STATION for responsible disposal of medications. Free and confidential.

Supervisor Notes:

1. Historic Town Hall roof installation began on October 5th. The project should be completed this week.
2. Completed and submitted Tentative Budget to town clerk. This took even longer than selection of Town Hall roof color reported last month. I look forward to constructive discussions to build a solid 2017 budget that serves the needs of Caroline.
3. FEMA approved full funding of our grant application for completing the Buffalo Road Creek stream stabilization project. (☺) We will be developing the contract with Mr. Abbati at DHSES (Dept. Homeland Security and Emergency Services) in the next couple of months, but we are authorized to proceed with project implementation.
4. Following the conference call noted in last month's report, I received a call from Andrew Hickey of NYS Division of Cemeteries on September 16th. He and Director Lewis Pollishook had visited Carine and Robert Kenyon for information on the status of Cooper Cemetery. They were impressed with the organization of Cooper Cemetery and condition of the cemetery grounds. The Kenyon's clarified that they had already established a 7-member board of directors, identified cemetery bank funds, and proactive about fund-raising. They also advised that we have other struggling cemeteries and were advised to encourage cooperation amongst cemeteries. Mr. Hickey and Mr. Pollishook also did a drive-by of Quick Cemetery. Cooper Cemetery is hoping for approval of incorporation at October meeting of Div. of Cemeteries. Thanks to the Kenyon's and other Cooper Cemetery folks. Board meeting tonight.
5. Spoke with Senator Seward's office about our broadband situation, plans, and funding possibilities. CIT Committee is defining plans to bring to Senator Seward for consideration. Requested meeting later this month. Proposed 10% contribution from Town for Connect NY.
6. Planning Board will be hosting a public meeting to present the results of the Comprehensive Plan Survey on Thursday, October 27, 7PM at the Brooktondale Community Center.

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board - no report

Cal Snow, Town Board - no report

John Fracchia, Town Board - no report

Joint Youth Commission – volunteered to be a liaison Irene and Mark 2nd all in favor

Irene Weiser, Town Board – See Broadband Committee updates

Dan Klein, County Representative Report - County requested BridgeNY grant for CR 115B Brooktondale Road culvert near 6 mile creek. If approved, 100 % funded. Back Road and county portion of CR 113L Lounsbery Road paved. CR 117A Flat Iron Road is on the list for re-paving in 2017. A Member of the public and Council Member, Irene Weiser discussed the Tompkins County budget with Dan Klein.

Resolutions

Resolution 139 of 2016

Vote on Local Law to Override the Tax Cap

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to override the tax levy limit.

Town of Caroline, County of Tompkins Local Law No. 2 of the year 2016
TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C

Be it enacted by the Town of Caroline as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this Local Law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Caroline, County of Tompkins pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-C, and to allow the Town of Caroline to adopt a Town budget for (a) Town purposes, and (b) any other special or improvement district, and Town improvements provided pursuant to Town Law Article 12-C, governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-C.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government’s governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent of said governing body.

Section 3: Tax Levy Limit Override

The Town Board of the Town of Caroline, County of Tompkins is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2017 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law §3-C.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court’s order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or its application to the person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 4. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

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

Resolution 140 of 2016

Resolution urging Governor Cuomo to sign into law bills A9925/S6249 establishing a New York State Geothermal Tax Credit

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to adopt:

Resolution # 140 of the year 2016 Urging Governor Cuomo to Sign Bills A9925/S6249 to Establish a New York State Geothermal Tax Credit

WHEREAS, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is urgently needed to avoid catastrophic climate change, calling for government policies to reduce energy consumption and spur the transition to renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, space and domestic-hot-water heating comprises 75% of residential home energy use; and

WHEREAS, geothermal energy systems are well tested, extremely effective, but underutilized, home space-conditioning technologies that are 3- to 5-times more efficient than conventional home heating methods, have very low operational costs, are long-lived, and provide a comfortable indoor climate year round by virtue of heating, cooling, and dehumidification functions; and

WHEREAS, geothermal heating/cooling systems are broadly applicable, offering the potential to reduce energy demand, especially during the extremes of hot and cold, contributing to grid efficiencies, consistent with the goals of New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV); and

WHEREAS, tax credits and rebates create opportunities for citizens to transition away from fossil-fuel use and support the growth of renewable energy sector jobs; and

WHEREAS, a 25% New York State tax credit has effectively spurred the adoption of solar PV and hot water systems, locally by the successful Solarize Tompkins Southeast and Solar Tompkins solarize programs; and

WHEREAS, the 30% federal tax credit was instrumental in Solar Tompkins' HeatSmart I Program that educated and facilitated home envelope improvements and purchase and installation of geothermal and air-sourced heat pumps; and

WHEREAS, the 30% federal tax credit for geothermal energy systems expires on December 31, 2016, due to an inadvertent omission from the federal tax credits extension bill; and

WHEREAS, HeatSmart II will promote geothermal adoption in the Tompkins County region beginning in 2017; and

WEREAS, the New York State legislature has overwhelmingly passed bills (A9925/S6249) for a 25% tax credit up to a \$5,000 cap for purchase and installation of geothermal energy systems; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board urges governor Cuomo to sign bills A9925 and S6249 in order to establish a 25% New York State tax credit for the purchase and installation of geothermal systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to NYS Senator James Seward, NYS Representative Barbara Lifton, US Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, US Representative Tom Reed, and President Barack Obama.

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

Resolution 141 of 2016

Budget Adjustment Resolution:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded John Fracchia to make the following Budget Amendments.

Be it resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2016 Budget Amendments:

\$2,332.94 Decrease General Fund Acct. A2770 Revenue, Misc. (so that September Budget Adjustment increase of \$4,400 matches A7510.4 Expenditure increase of \$2,067.06)

\$3,700.00 Decrease Highway Fund Acct. DA3501 Revenue, State Aid, CHIPS (so that September Budget Adjustment increase of \$76361.02 matches DA5112.2 Expenditure increase of \$72,661.02)

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

Resolution 142 of 2016**Appoint Kristen Hychka to Caroline's Watershed Committee**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia to appoint Kristen Hychka to Caroline's Watershed Committee.

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

Approval of Abstracts**Resolution 143 of 2016****Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 19 and 20 for \$605.13

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

Resolution 144 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 300 through 327 for \$10,380.63

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

Resolution 145 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 179 through 190 for \$130,853.47.

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

A motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to move to executive session at 9:31PM.

A motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to leave executive session at 10:42PM.

----**Adjourn**----

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk and Becky Jordan, Deputy Clerk