

## **Caroline Town Board Business Meeting of January 10, 2018**

The Town Board Business meeting held on January 10, 2018 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 -Absent  
Irene Weiser, Councilmember  
Calvin Snow, Councilmember

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

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## **Agenda**

**Salute to the Flag (7:00)**

**Board Interviews with Town Council Candidates (7:05)**

**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*

**Additions or Deletions from Agenda (7:50)**

**Environmental Management Council Report from Representative Steve Nicholson (7:55)**

**Highway Superintendent's Report (8:05)**

**Supervisor's Report (8:15)**

**Town Clerk's Report (8:25)**

**County Representative's Report (8:35)**

**Department, Committee, & Liaison Updates (8:45)**

**Discussion and Action Topics (8:55)**

- **Transfers**
- **Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting**
- **Approval of minutes**
- **Review of Dec 31, 2017 Trial Balance.**
- **Resolution authorizing Supervisor to submit Letter of Commitment for Caroline's Clean Energy Communities grant proposal.**
- **Resolution authorizing Supervisor to sign 2018 Contract for Stormwater Management Services with Tompkins County Soil & Water.**

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## Town Board Candidates

Each Town Board member took turns asking a question to the applicants for the Town board member openings: (please note the following are excerpts from the questions from the Board and the candidate responses. The wording is not verbatim in all circumstances but rather an overview of the conversation).

### Richard Anderson, candidate

Councilmember Cal Snow: Who is a hero of yours? **Bob Dylan**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: Energy and skills - What kind of work do you do? **I am a proud of this community and its initiatives and clean energy. I am interested in NYSERDA grants, and ground source heating, like in the Annex Building.**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: Can you relate your town experience? **I am a proud member of this community and give back to it. I volunteered for Town committees and was the Chair of the Subdivision Review Committee. The Joint Youth Commission (JYC); it is important to engage the youth of the community and get them involved in community happenings and government. I have been a Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) representative. I work to be a role model for my sons.**

**I am interested in Subdivision Committee and buildings like the Boiceville project. The developer had a lot of integrity. The water supply two separate systems. Stormwater management state of the art. The parking was configured with the waterway and dog parks. Comp plan planning and going forward**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: What do you see as a significant Challenge going forward? **I feel all the folks in our community don't feel represented. I see myself as a good representative. I am a Military Veteran, I have volunteered for the Slaterville Ambulance. I believe it is a challenge to represent everyone but I am sympathetic to people who have lived here and feel everyone should be represented whether you are a land owner or not.**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: Do the required meeting dates work for you? **I show up prepared and am functional.** In addition to the Town Board meeting, you might be responsible to be on a committee with various hours, is this a problem? **Very do-able.**

Councilmember Cal Snow: What is your favorite sport? **I love pickle ball. I am a runner, cross-county skier and big-time hiker.**

### Megan Barber, candidate

Councilmember Irene Weiser: What interests that you will bring to the board.? **I have been involved in civic service all my life; one example, Americorp. I helped renovate a teen center and have been involved in community service. Some of the community service work was with 600 seniors. I worked for the National Service Senior Corp., matching seniors with different agencies. I have project management collaboration skills. I am a member of Art at Work; a national initiative to improve municipal government through strategic art projects with municipal employees, elected officials and local artists. We do creative work together with police, fireman, activists, etc.**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing our community? **In general, what I see is a feeling of being "squeezed" with the economy managing the financial services. That energy needs to be put toward cultivating the land and social network, and not just financial cultivation.**

Councilmember Cal Snow: What do you do for the sheer fun of it? **Everyone in my house sings, and then we vote. My son is 5 years old and he keeps me extremely busy.**

**I also jog/run, cross country ski and go sledding with my 5 year old.**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: Do the meeting times and Committee responsibility cause any issues? **All the meeting times would work, and I have no problem with committee responsibility.**

**Katherine Goldberg- Forrest, candidate**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: General question, why do you want to serve? **I did not grow up here or in a town like Caroline. I have great gratitude for Caroline. This is an amazing place to be. I do not have any civic experience. My gratitude for the Town is the catalyst for wanting to serve and to address this whole trail issue. I am a life-long learner. I am learning about the process and would like to clear up some questions of the people; that would be my motivation for serving. I grew up in Long Island.**

**I would like the land to stay rural enough that people can farm. We have all these green spaces and are 15 minutes to a truly small city. The town has challenging issues and many gifts. I am interested in being supportive of different people.**

Councilmember Cal Snow: what is your favorite book? **Being Mortal, End of Life issues. The author is a system thinker.**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: Would you consider running for the elected position? This is a one year appointment. **I have never ran for public office.**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: Would volunteering for committees work and making the 2 Town board meetings be an issue? **No**

Councilmember Cal Snow: What is your favorite sport? **Iron man triathlon**

**Karyn Scott, candidate**

Councilmember Cal Snow: What is a favorite piece of music? **Christian music, spiritual music. A big variety.**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: This is your second time applying for the board. We are really greatly appreciative of all youth issues you work with through YJC and Recreation Partnership. In terms of your interest of being on the board, what do you look forward to addressing? **I am concerned about environmental issues, employment in the Caroline area and youth activities. We have different opportunities that could be nurtured, and I would love to participate in community health and wellness; being physically on the go and taking good care of yourself.**

**Getting people involved in committee work, transportation is an issue. I think the Town could better advertise and cultivate talents and skills of community members. It is important to bring people together and build relationships. Word of mouth and networking.**

Councilmember Cal Snow: What is your favorite sport? **My favorite sport has always been soccer.**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: Would volunteering for committees work and making Town Board meetings be an issue? **No, there is not a problem making meetings or serving on committees.**

**Carlan Gray, Candidate (did not come for an interview)**

**Richard J. Morgan, Candidate**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: Can you tell us about yourself and your interest in working on the Town Board? **I have time now, retired 5 years ago. I served in Speedsville Fire and EMS from 1986-1990. I have worked for the government and would like to see some changes. A hiking trail, is one area, Fire and EMS services is another area... we are faced with a declining group on community people willing to volunteer. In the next 4-5 years, if we cannot generate more volunteers then there may be no one to serve. By combining 3 departments; Speedsville, Slaterville and Brooktondale, there are insurance issues. Right now, if Speedsville couldn't respond then Brooktondale and**

**Slaterville help out.**

Councilmember Cal Snow: Who is your hero? **My hero is John Glenn**

Councilmember Irene Weiser: What were the big issues when you were on the board? **We needed better identification for property and people, but then 911 came in. One of the issues is where people build. If you want fire services, then road and the driveways have to be wide enough for fire trucks and ambulances.**

Supervisor Mark Witmer: Do you know how rural committees deal with dry hydrants? **Speedsville put plumbing in the ground and ½ was paid for by a Federal Grant. This brought better water supply. There has been a lot of structure fires in the county; Danby, Lansing, Newfield, Slaterville.**

Councilmember Cal Snow: What is your favorite vacation? **I went to San Diego with my wife. We went for 3 weeks and spent a week in Southern California. Our next trip will be to Rapid City.**  
What is your favorite sport? **Golf**

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**Privilege of the Floor****Reports****Environmental Management, Steve Nicholson**

A periodic update. Start off mentioning an EMC meeting March 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. It has been around since the mid 1970's. Brian Egan has been Climate adaption, outreach committee. There is talk of banning plastic bags in Tompkins County. Before there was opposition but now it seems ridiculous to use a plastic bag for 12 minutes that will last for 10,000 years.

There is a meeting with long time EMT; Mr. Beck.

Trails Committee: Read in the Ithaca Journal that there is an Environmental action group that filed a petition against Cargill, being an environmental hazard. It is the largest mine of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Climate change mitigation; [nyclimate@science.org](mailto:nyclimate@science.org). The webpage has interactive maps and tools and in October 2018, there will be updates for the Fingerlakes Land Trust land acquisition. There are 150 acres in Newfield and 50 acres in Danby. There is a toxic algae outbreak that can cause liver toxicity 200 times the legal limit. If a dog swam in the water and licked themselves while wet, they could die.

**Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent**

It has been plow, sand and break things. The Highway Department is down three trucks. The Town of Dryden has let them borrow a truck. The Caroline Highway Trucks are getting old, they will cost a lot of money to fix. When the truck broke down, the County didn't have any to lend. Another Sterling spreader broke. The employees worked through Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. They are out in zero degree temperatures for hours. The contract needs to be done. All the employees cancelled their plans and were available throughout the holidays

**Dan Klein, County Representative - None****Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk's office started collecting Town and County Tax collection right after Christmas, based on the mandate from Governor Cuomo saying 2018 taxes could be collected in 2017. In 4 days we collected approx. \$400,000.

The online collection has had a few glitches so we are working on get that running

Christine Wilbur, the deputy clerk will be leaving at the end of March 2018 and the Clerk will be putting a job opening ad February in the Ithaca Journal, the Brooktondale Newsletter, on the Town announcements and on the website to hire a new Deputy Clerk to start the first Monday in March so she/he could be trained in the month of March to take over in April.

The clerk would like to order parking signs for the parking lot. The board thought that was a good idea

### **Cal Snow, Town Board**

Get the flag pole lighted and change the flag. Revisit the procurement for the public highway. Threshold amounts.

### **Irene Weiser, Town Board**

Would like to talk with Rick Morgan about emergency services.

### **John Fracchia, Town Board - Absent**

### **Mark Witmer, Supervisor**

#### *Correspondence of Note:*

- Code Officer's Report for 2017: 374 permits, review notices; \$8,858 in fees; 786 inspections; 14 fire/safety inspections. Three fire/safety inspections in December.
- Received \$239,469.37 from New York State for highway improvements through CHIPS, PAVENY, and WIRP.
- Notice from DEC of proposal to purchase two parcels of land (Finger Lakes Land Trust and Finger Lakes Trail Commission) to join Danby and Shindagan State Forests.

#### *Supervisor's Notes:*

- Town EV Charging Station: cell-signal booster on order. Expected within the week. ChargePoint plans to finish activation on January 19. Will be moving forward with gravel and signage for perpendicular Park-N-Ride parking spaces.
- Energy Independent Caroline: Clean Energy Communities grant proposal - awaiting NYSEG Streetlight proposal. Grant preparation in progress with Energy Independent Caroline.
- Watershed Committee: Buffalo Road Stream-bed Stabilization II: final engineering plans approved by DHSES. DEC and ACOE permits received. T.G. Miller preparing bid materials for later this month.
- Lounsbery Tract WQIP grant for conservation/farmland easement approved.
- Meeting Training at Feb 8 Planning Board meeting, 6 pm at town hall.

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## **Resolutions**

### **Resolution 49 of 2018**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow

The Town board authorizes the Town Supervisor, Mark Witmer to sign a letter of endorsement for the application by Solar Tompkins for funding through NYSERDA's PON3723. The letter supports an intensive community campaign to enable residents to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use by tightening their homes and employing heat pump technologies.

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

Discussion: promoting community events

**Resolution 50 of 2018****Stormwater Management Contract**

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 2018 Contract for Stormwater Management Services with Tompkins County Soil & Water.

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

**Resolution 51 of 2018**

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

Resolved the Caroline Town Board, hereby authorizes Clean energy

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

**Funds Transfers 2018****Resolution 52 of 2018**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal snow

**ENCUMBERANCE RESOLUTION**

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to Encumber 2017 funds to be spent in 2018 as follows:

\$ 531.20 from General Fund Account A1220.4 Supervisor CE

\$ 1,017.20 from General Fund Account A1620.4

**Resolution 53 of 2018****2017 Transfers**

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

\$ 531.20 from General Fund Account A 1620.4 Town Hall CE to General Fund

Account A1220.4 Supervisor CE

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

**Approval of Abstracts**

**Resolution 54 of 2018**

**Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 1 through 2 for \$666.50

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

**Resolution 55 of 2018**  
**General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 1 through 32 for \$67,397.90.

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

**Resolution 56 of 2018**  
**Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 1 through 12 for \$ 74,197.11.

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

**Resolution 57 of 2018**  
**Caroline Fire**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher number 1 for \$ 7,305.00.

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

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

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow at **9:01** p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, CMC - Town Clerk