

## **Caroline Town Board Meeting of December 12, 2014**

The Town Board Business meeting held on December 12, 2014 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Deputy-Supervisor Tim Seely.

### **Attendance:**

Don Barber, Supervisor, absent  
John Fracchia, Councilmember  
Irene Weiser, Councilmember  
Mark Witmer, Councilmember  
Tim Seely, Deputy Supervisor

### **Recording**

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

### **Also present:**

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## **Agenda**

### **Discussion and Action Topics**

Transfers – (7:50)

Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting (7:55)

Approval of Minutes for Nov. 12 (8:00)

Authorize Supervisor to sign Construction Agreement with JB Excavation for Buffalo Creek Stabilization (8:05)

Authorize Supervisor to sign annual Contracts for Workers Comp, B-dale Stream Gauge, etc.(8:15)

FERC Scoping of Dominion Pipeline Upgrade Resolution (8:25)

Recognition of 50 Year Fire Protection Service (8:45)

Establish date for 2014 Year-end meeting (9:00)

Establish Date for 2015 Organization Meeting (9:05)

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## **Reports**

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

No report

### **Don Barber, Town Supervisor**

Absent

### **Tim Seely, Town Board**

Arborist Keith Vonderhyde from Limbwalker Tree Care LLC; 2 trees on either end of the property need limbs moved. The whole tree in the middle does need to be removed. The trunk of the tree can, however, be left for habitat or the whole tree can be removed for \$1100.00

### **John Fracchia, Town Board**

No report

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

Councilperson Weiser gave a report about the Aquifer protection committee

CIT – The Committee met and talked about Computer upgrades. Council person Weiser will work with the clerk's office around/within tax season to make a smooth transition with new computers and moving everyone to a new email system. Everyone has to be switched to the new e-mail system at the same time.

Home Energy rating report- received grant in December.

Tompkins County Meeting- Privilege of the floor for the legislators to report on other community activities. Councilmember Weiser would like to consider the idea for agenda and business meetings.

### **Mark Witmer, Town Board**

Barry Goodrich spoke with the Masons about an agreement for property next to the Slaterville post office for a "park and ride". Discussed liability, enforcement of no overnight parking, trash can, etc. Move forward with an agreement of \$2000 suggested funding for a year? Using the parking area belong to the Masons would free the Town parking lot for the Town officials and patrons. T-cat opinion?

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

Absent

## **Fund Transfers**

### **Resolution 214 of 2014**

Motion made by Tim Seely and seconded by John Fracchia

### **Be It Resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2014 Fund Transfers**

\$ 225.00 from General Fund Account A 1460.4 Records Mgmt CE to General Fund Account A 1460.1 Records Mgmt PS.

\$ 13,000.00 from Highway Fund Account DA 5112.2 Capital Improvement to Highway Fund Account DA 5130.1 Machinery P.S.

\$ 5,000.00 from Highway Fund Account DA 5112.2 Capital Improvement to Highway Fund Account DA 5140.1 Misc P.S.

\$ 2,600.00 from Highway Fund Account DA 9040.8 Workers Comp to Highway Fund Account DA 9060.8 Health Insurance

**Be It Further Resolved that the Caroline Town Board makes the following Budget Amendment:** Increase General Revenue Line A2389 Intergovernmental Charges by \$26,600 to new total of \$39,391 and Increase General Appropriation line A 1440.405 Creek Engineering by \$19,261.20 and line A 8710.4 Creek Stabilization by \$7,338.80 to a new total of \$61,638.80

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

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**Approval of Abstracts**

**Resolution 215 of 2014**

**Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Irene Weiser to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 22 and 23 for \$582.03.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 216 of 2014**

**General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Irene Weiser to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 395 through 435 for \$34,543.76

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye.

**Resolution 217 of 2014**

**Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Mr. Witmer to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 203 through 212 for \$13,454.36.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

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**Approval of Minutes**

**Resolution 218 of 2014**

**Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held November 12, 2014:**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2014 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk as amended.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

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**Resolutions**

**Resolution 219 of 2014**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Environmental Assessment for Dominion Transmission**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Tim Seely

Resolution on Scope of Issues for Environmental Assessment of Dominion Transmission, Inc. Proposed New Market Project (Docket #14-497-000): Evaluate best course.

Whereas, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has solicited public input on the scope of issues that FERC should address in the Environmental Assessment for Dominion Transmission, Inc.'s proposed New Market Project,

Whereas, climate change is underway as a result of human combustion of fossil fuels (IPCC,2013),

Whereas, positive feedbacks exist in which products of atmospheric warming (water, methane, ice melt) lead to further warming (Howarth 2014),

Whereas, thresholds at which positive feedbacks would produce unavoidable global warming and climate chaos will be reached within the next several decades on our current trajectory (Howarth 2014 and references therein),

Whereas, methane use as an energy source produces more greenhouse gas emissions than other fossil fuels because, in addition to carbon dioxide emissions that result from combustion, substantial methane, a potent greenhouse gas, leaks during mining (primarily hydraulic fracturing) and distribution (Howarth 2014).

Whereas, emissions of volatile organic compounds, like benzene and formaldehyde, from compressor stations are associated with health impacts on residents living near compressor stations and pipelines (Madison County Department of Health 2014: symptoms associated with proximity to compressor stations include throat irritation, severe headaches, frequent nosebleeds, confusion, and skin rashes; effects of chronic exposure to VOCs of compressor stations include nervous system damage, anemia, leukemia, liver, kidney, heart, and lung damage, and mutagenic effects on fetuses).

Whereas, renewable energy sources exist that can provide our power needs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions: solar, wind, and hydro-power are viable energy sources (Jacobson et al. 2013),

Whereas, impacts of energy policy will affect energy availability, climate effects on private properties, town infrastructure, and quality of life for residents of Caroline and other localities,

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Caroline questions whether it is good strategic energy policy to build out fossil-fuel-distribution infrastructure in light of objective evidence that this would accelerate global warming and resulting climate change. We call on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement that carefully and comprehensively evaluates the cumulative impacts of the proposed New Market Project (Docket # CP14-497-000) in these critical respects:

- Does the New Market Project contribute to an effective energy policy that curbs GHG emissions to levels that will avoid climate tipping points?
- What are the cumulative environmental impacts of the New Market Project compared to viable alternatives, like renewable energy technologies. This analysis must include a full life-cycle perspective of GHG emissions, including mining, transportation, storage, distribution, and usage, and should evaluate local impacts to residents adjacent to compressor stations and pipelines, as well as regional and global impacts.
- What are the quantified health risks, both local and global, associated with methane pipelines and compressor stations?
- What are the health costs resulting from compressor station emissions of methane and other volatile organic compounds?

And further it be resolved that the Town Clerk sends a certified copy of the resolution to the DEC.

Senator Schumer, Senator Seward, Gilabrand, Assemblywomen Lifton, President Obama, the EPA and the Public Service Commission.

#### Sources:

Howarth, R. W. 2014. A bridge to nowhere: methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas. *Energy Science & Engineering*.  
[http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/publications/Howarth\\_2014\\_ESE\\_methane\\_emissions.pdf](http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/publications/Howarth_2014_ESE_methane_emissions.pdf)

IPCC. 2013. *Climate change 2013: the physical science basis*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>.

Jacobson, M.Z., et al. 2013. Examining the feasibility of converting New York State's all-purpose energy infrastructure to one using wind, water, and sunlight. *Energy Policy* 57: 585-601.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2013.02.036>

Madison County New York Department of Health. 2014. Comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, docket #CP14-497-000.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 220 of 2014**

**James Leigh 50 Years Volunteer Service**

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

**Resolution Recognizing Mr. James Leigh For 50 Years of Volunteer Service To The Town Of Caroline Through The Speedsville Fire Department**

**WHEREAS**, The Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Companies provide an invaluable service to the Town of Caroline and its residents,

**AND WHEREAS**, Mr. James Leigh has provided fifty years of faithful service to the Town and its residents through the Speedsville Fire Department, as both a volunteer fire fighter and as it's chief,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Caroline Town Council does hereby recognize and commend Mr. James Leigh for fifty years of service to the community and hereby designates in his honor, Monday, December 22, 2014 as James Leigh Day in the Town of Caroline.

**Tabled until further discussion**

**Discussion:** Councilmember Weiser would like more like more structure. A bit more guidance around the process of how people get nominated.

**Resolution 221 of 2014**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Mark Witmer

**Award the Contract with JB's Excavation Services**

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to award the contract with JB's Excavation Services for Buffalo Road Streambank Stabilization Project.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 222 of 2014****Year End Meeting**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by John Fracchia

Resolved, that the Caroline Town Board will hold a year end meeting to pay end of year invoices and encumber funds on December 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Caroline Town Hall.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 223 of 2014****2015 Organization Meeting**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Mark Witmer

Resolved, that the Caroline Town Board will hold its 2015 Organization meeting on January 2, 2015 at 4 PM at the Caroline Town Hall

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 224 of 2014**

**Worker's Compensation Contract**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Irene Weiser

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Workers Compensation Contract with Brooktondale Fire District

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 225 of 2014**

**Soil and Water Contract**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by John Fracchia

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Brooktondale Stream Gage Station.

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

**Resolution 226 of 2014**

**2015 Annual Brooktondale Fire Protection Contract**

A motion was made by Tim Seely and seconded by Irene Weiser

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the 2015 Annual Brooktondale Fire Protection Contract

**Adopted** Barber: Absent; Fracchia: Aye; Witmer: Aye; Weiser: Aye Seely: Aye

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

Adjourned on a motion by Tim Seely and seconded Mark Witmer at **8:33** p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk