

Caroline Town Board Meeting of June 10, 2015

The Town Board Business meeting held on June 10, 2015 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

Attendance:

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

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk

Also present: 12 members of the public were present and County Legislator Dan Klein

Privilege of the Floor

Cal Snow addressed the board in reference to Climate Smart Community Goals. (Please refer to attachment #1) He spoke to the opinion that fossil fuel is not a bad thing and that global warming is not the most urgent problem but that human misery is. He spoke to the correlation between energy use and quality of life as measured in infant mortality, and life expectancy.

Frank Proto spoke about the Tax rate and staying below the tax cap and that people should be able to enjoy the rebate Governor Cuomo allots from property taxes staying below the tax cap. Supervisor Barber talked about the Town budget process and how to you stay below the cap without cutting into the fund balance? It is not as if the Town has a wasteful amount of employees that could be cut or hours to be shaved to when most employees are already part-time. The Highway Department has the largest budget but when you make cut there you give up service and the maintenance of the roads.

Agenda

Supervisors Report – (7:25)

County Representatives Report (7:30)

Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports (7:35)

Discussion and Action Topics

- Transfers – (7:45)
- Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting (7:50)
- Approve Minutes of April 16, 2015 and May 5, 2015 meetings (7:55)

- Adoption of Local Law #1 Discontinue Minimum Maintenance of a section of Level Green Road (8:00)
- Resolution to Establish Site Plan Review Fee Schedule (8:15)
- Resolution to Authorize Supervisor to Sign Health Consortium Amended Municipal Cooperative Agreement(8:20)
- Resolution on Climate Change (8:35)
- Introduce Local Law #2- Discontinue Minimum Maintenance of a section of Downey Road (8:45)
- NYS
CPA Audit Firm
Amendment 284

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Correspondence of Note:

1. Printed email from Clarity Connect of costs for Phase 2 Infrastructure

Report:

1. Communicating with construction contractors about broadband infrastructure costs to confirm Clarity numbers are in ballpark.
2. Phone conversation with Senator Seward on Phase 2 funding- staff looking into New NY Broadband Program
3. TCCOG shared service group developed proposal to comply with 1% permanent reduction in municipal costs- on today's agenda. Also will be appointing committee to begin assessing Unified Court options
4. TCCOG shared services will be sending in Tompkins Govt efficiency plan on June 1. At the same time, TCCOG will be releasing and holding press conference about efficiencies developed over recent decades and the savings to tax payer: estimated for 2015 alone \$4.56 million (document 2014 = \$2.75 million) which equals 4% of tax levy

For 2015

- a. Consolidated Assessment \$ 386K
 - b. Consolidated 911 \$ 250K
 - c. TCAT \$ 540K
 - d. Digital Records \$ 440K
 - e. Health Insurance Consortium \$1,422K
 - f. Bolton Point \$ 21K
 - g. Ithaca Area WWTP \$ 262K
 - h. Cayuga Hts WWTP \$ 1K
5. As a function of my Tompkins Health Insurance Consortium ED role, I'm part of a leadership team to create a Tompkins worksite wellness coalition. I brought back some ideas which Cindy picked up on right away like whole fruit snacks and wellness bingo. These initiatives cannot currently be funded by taxpayer dollars. The TB needs to develop a wellness program in order to make financial outlays a legitimate Town

expense. I sense much excitement with the Town of Caroline Wellness Committee to develop out first program.

Tim Seely, Town Board

The Joint Youth Commission

Meeting was 6/9/2015 at the Ithaca Town hall

Shelly Lester from CCE reported on the hiring of a new program manager for Dewitt to fill the vacancy left by Penny Boyton's retirement. The job has been posted and applications are due by June 16th. The JYC will be reviewing applications at July's meeting. The members are concerned about the loss of summer programs due to the vacancy and are considering what alternatives could be implemented to keep summer enrollment numbers up.

Tompkins County Recreation Partnership

No meeting in May

Buildings and Grounds

Town Hall Roof:

Received a quote from local contractor for metal roofing at the town hall. The quote is within the current budget and I will prepare a set of bidding specifications for public bid.

Town Hall Door:

Ace security is on call to come look at the door hardware as soon as I have the opportunity to meet them. Hopefully later this week.

Mark Witmer, Town Board

Barry Goodrich on site with Jeff 4 sections Chuck Moehler property Frontier cables near. 38 minutes. Asked increased cost by \$17,500 because where the fiberoptics lay. Work on upper sections this coming Friday. Brought in large stones and small stones large 4 foot pipe to drive over to deliver stone without harming fiberoptics. Chuck Moehler still some work to be done but is very happy.

6/16 Watershed invited Fingerlakes land trust conservation easements B'dale fire station 7 pm

John Fracchia, Town Board

Irene Weiser, Town Board

absent

Dan Klein, County Representative

Transfers
Resolution 111 of 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Seely

Be It Resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2015 Fund Transfers

\$ 1,150.00 from General Fund Account A 1480.4 Public Information CE to General Fund Account A 1620.41 Information Technology CE.

\$ 30.78 from General Fund Account A 1990.4 Contingency to General Fund Account A 8989.41 Solarize CE.

And be it further resolved that the Caroline Town Board makes the following Inter-fund transfer:

Close out CD account CD201 in the amount of \$969.22 and transfer those funds to general Fund Account A2710 Miscellaneous

And be it further resolved that the Caroline Town Board makes the 2015 Budget adjustment

Increase General Revenue line A 2710 Miscellaneous by \$969.22 and Increase General Appropriation Line A 8989.41 Solarize CE by \$969.22

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

Approval of Abstracts
Resolution 112 of 2015**Streetlight Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Seely to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 11 and 12 for \$533.54.

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

Resolution 113 of 2015**General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Seely to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 188 through 218 for \$13,446.91

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

Resolution 114 of 2015**Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Witmer to approve payment for the

Highway Fund voucher numbers 115 through 131 for \$43,383.14.

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

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 115 of 2015

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held April 15, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Witmer to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Resolution 116 of 2015

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held May 5, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded Mr. Fracchia to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.

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

Town Business

Joe and Judy Wiiki came to the meeting to hear what the board had to say about the proposed Local Law 1 of 2015 to change a portion of minimum maintenance to a class C road. Judy said she spoke with a "Highway" guy from Tioga County who was very familiar with the area roads and that there was no way it would cost \$300,000.00 to make .6 of a mile of Level Green a class C road. After the board had said that that as much as they wanted to help the Wiikis, the \$300,000.00 was too much to ask tax payers to undertake, there was a discussion, and Councilmember Fracchia, said he would like more information, as would Mr. Wikki about where the amount of \$300,000.00 came from. Mrs. Wiiki said her friend from Tioga County said the Road way on Level Green was shale, so the Town Clerk read in part, information below from a previous meeting describing the road base, (see below). The vote for the proposed local law was subsequently put on hold until next month to see if any additional information was available to show that the project could be done for less.

Findings of Level Green Road section that is proposed to be changed from Minimum Maintenance to Class C

1. Road classification would change to Residential access.
2. Other land uses along this section of Level Green Road are 100 acre Tompkins County Forest parcel #36.-1.9, 40 acre parcel owned by an out-of-state person parcel # 36.-1.7, and 36 acre parcel owned by a Caroline resident parcel # 37.-1.1.
3. Residential access with less than 50 average vehicle trips per day must meet Design type "C"
4. Type "C" must have lane width of 10', operating speed of 40 mph, and no asphalt of concrete surface required.
5. Type "C" shoulder must be at least 2' on each side.
6. This road section has one cross culvert.
7. This road section does not have a gravel base.

8. This road section has native soil for its base and surface.
9. This road section, at the southernmost, point is at the top of a steep slope
10. To bring this road section up to the point of safe year round travel of emergency service vehicles, garbage and delivery vehicles, municipal vehicles like Town trucks and school buses; and where annual maintenance and snow removal are possible, this road section needs:
 - a. In the 10' traveling lane width- at least 12" of road base
 - b. Constructed 2' wide shoulders on each side of travel lane
 - c. Sufficient ditching to keep the road base.
 - d. Possible cross culverts to conduct surface water under road.

Resolutions

Resolution 117 of 2015 table

A motion was made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Mr. Fracchia

Town of Caroline Resolution on Global Warming

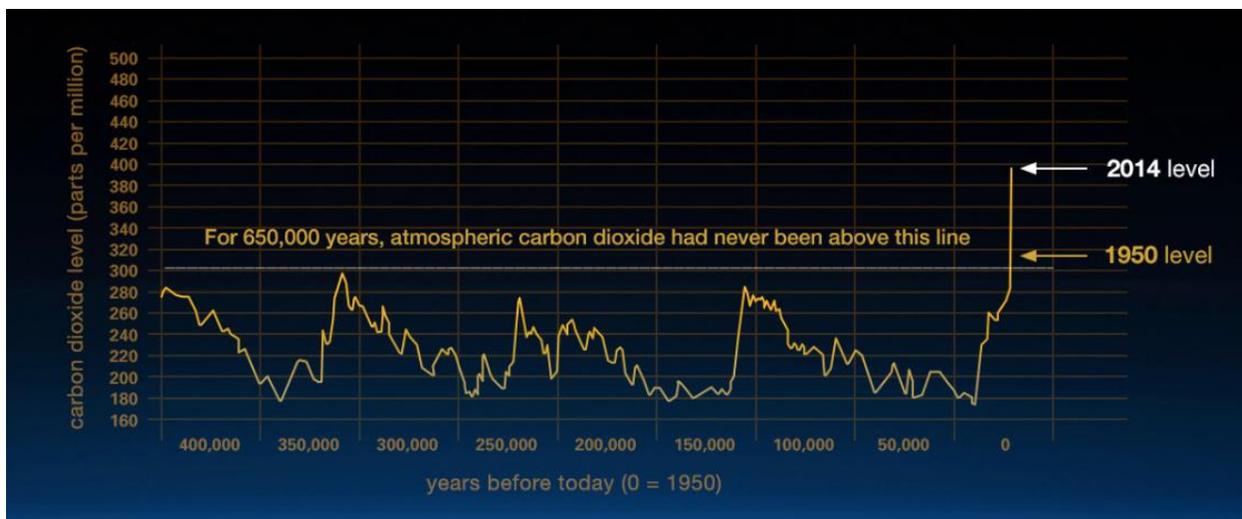
Whereas warming of earth (global warming) by fossil fuel combustion and other human activities is unequivocal and recognized by an overwhelming majority of climate scientists (97% of 1,372 experts)¹;

Whereas the following global effects are documented:

- *Atmospheric CO₂* - atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years; carbon dioxide is now at 400.6 ppm (parts per million) and is increasing at > 2% per year^{2,3} (Fig. 1);

Figure 1. These data from atmospheric samples contained in ice cores and more recent direct measurements show that atmospheric CO₂ has spiked since the Industrial Revolution. (Credit: Vostok ice core data/J.R. Petit et al.; NOAA Mauna Loa CO₂ record)³

- *Global temperature* - increased 1.4 °F since 1880, with 10 warmest years occurring in the past 12 years; the earth's surface has been successively warmer in each of the last three decades compared to any decade since 1850^{2,3};
- *Sea level rise* - increased 6.7 inches in last 100 years, the rate doubling in last decade; sea level of New York's coastal marine communities, home to more than 60% of the state's citizens, is projected to rise by 18 to 50 inches by 2100 - these communities are already experiencing intensified storm surges and flood events. Thermal expansion of ocean waters is primarily responsible for sea level rise to date; melting of surface ice is expected to accelerate the rate of sea level rise in the 21st century^{2,3,4};



Global effects, continued:

- *Warming oceans* - ocean waters have absorbed 90% of the energy accumulated from 1971 through 2010; the temperature of the top 700 m of earth's oceans have increased by 0.302 °F since 1969^{2,3};
- *Shrinking ice sheets* - since 2003, Greenland and Antarctica have been losing 258 and 147 billion metric tons of ice per year, respectively³;
- *Diminishing arctic sea ice* - declining by 13.3% per decade³;
- *Glacial retreat* - retreating nearly everywhere, worldwide; loss of glaciers is predicted to reduced water supplies, especially in South America and Asia³;
- *Extreme weather events* - since 1950 more record highs, fewer record lows, more frequent intense rainfall events³;
- *Ocean acidification* - oceans have absorbed 30% of human-generated carbon dioxide, causing acidification of ocean waters; acidification has increased 26% since the dawn of the industrial revolution^{2,3}, altering ocean ecosystems;

Whereas global warming is increasingly impacting nature, with negative consequences for human society, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Whereas limiting climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation and renewable energy sources is much less costly than adapting to the impacts of climate change⁵;

Whereas conservation and build-out of renewable energy sources provide opportunities for sustainable economic growth and employment, as we have demonstrated in the past two years in Tompkins County - our Solarize programs have resulted in 3.65 Megawatts of residential solar PV, more than doubling the amount of residential solar in the county, and producing 55 new solar-sector jobs;

Whereas New York State Executive Order #24 establishes a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 20% of 1990 levels by 2050⁶;

Whereas Tompkins County has committed to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 20% of 2008 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 20% reduction by 2020;

Whereas citizens must take responsibility for halting and reversing climate change, recognizing human contribution to the problem, and the opportunity to develop solutions that will strengthen communities;

Whereas a principal responsibility of the Town Board of Caroline is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community;

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Town of Caroline recognizes that developing and implementing effective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is of the highest priority to minimize physical, social, and economic impacts to the town from future climate change;

Be it further Resolved that the Town of Caroline calls on individuals, businesses, and governments to work together to promote effective measures to limit climate change. By rapid achievement of Climate Smart Community goals, collaborating with other levels of government, and working together with citizens and businesses, we commit to:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- fostering energy-efficient communities and lifestyles
- promoting renewable energy sources
- directing our energy and investments toward efficiency and renewable energy and halting any further development of fossil-fuel infrastructure
- recognizing that fossil fuels, including natural gas, do not represent viable energy sources for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but instead will push us in the wrong direction^{7,8}
- investing in effective measures to make communities resilient to expected climate-change impacts

Be it further Resolved that this resolution shall be sent to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (New York State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224), New York State Senator James Seward (172 State Street, Room 430, Capitol, Albany, NY 12247), New York State Senator Michael Nozzolio (188 State Street, Room 503, Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12247), New York State Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton (106 E. Court St., Ithaca, NY 14850), Audrey Zibelman, Chair, New York State Public Service Commission (Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223-1350), U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510), U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (478 Russell, Washington, DC 20510), Congressman Tom Reed (U.S. House of Representatives, 2437 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515), Congressman Richard Hanna (U.S. House of Representatives, 319 Canon HOB, Washington, DC 20515), Administrator Gina McCarthy (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20460), and President Barack Obama (The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500).

Sources:

1. Anderegg, W. R. L. 2010. Expert credibility in climate change. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 107:12107-12109; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1003187107.
2. IPCC. 2014. Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.
3. NASA: Global Climate Change: <http://climate.nasa.gov>
4. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. 2010. Final Report of the Sea Level Rise Task Force.
5. Ackerman, F. and E.A. Stanton. 2008. The cost of climate change: what we'll pay if global warming continues unchecked. Natural Resources Defense Council Policy Paper. [considering the costs of damage to infrastructure and escalating energy and water demands, the authors estimate that not addressing climate change would cost \$1.9 trillion annually by 2100.] <http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/cost/fcost.pdf>
6. Executive Order #24 (2009, issued by Gov. David A. Paterson). Establishing a Goal to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions 80% by the Year 2050 and Preparing a Climate Action Plan. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/71394.html>
7. Howarth, R. W., R. Santoro, and A. Ingraffea. 2011. Methane and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas from shale formations. Clim. Change Lett. 106:679– 690. doi: 10.1007/s10584-011-0061-5
8. Howarth, R. 2014. A bridge to nowhere: methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas. Energy, Science & Engineering. doi: 10.1002/ese3.35

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

Resolution 118 of 2015

Audit for Town Supervisor's Books

A motion was made by Mr. Seely and seconded by Mr. Fracchia

Whereas, the Town Board would a third party financial audit of the Supervisors Accounts for the year 2014, and Whereas, the CPA firms of Chiaschi, Dietershagen, Little, and Michelson and Scirabba-Walker has submitted proposals for this audit service, Now Therefore be it Resolves that the Caroline Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with Chiaschi, Dietershagen, Little, and Michelson to conduct this 2014 financial audit

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

Resolution 119 of 2015

Site Plan Review Application Fees

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Fracchia

RESOLVED The Caroline Town Board hereby puts forth the following

Site Plan Review Application Fees:

1) Fixed fee: Upon submission of a completed Preliminary Plat Application, a fee of \$100.00 will be due to the Town of Caroline.

2) Reasonable expenses:

- The reasonable and necessary costs, fees, or disbursements incurred by the Town or its officials for consultation or review by professionals including architects, landscape architects, engineers, surveyors, attorneys, or others on any Application for Subdivision Approval shall be paid by the applicant.
- After submission of a completed Preliminary Plat Application, the Site Plan Review Board will notify the applicant of an estimated fee, if any, for expected reimbursable costs. Any estimated fee greater than \$2000.00 must be approved by the Caroline Town Board. Unless action is required by the Town Board, the applicant will be notified of the estimated fee within 14 days of the submission of the completed Preliminary Plat Application. This fee shall be paid by the applicant within 14 days of notification and will be placed in an escrow account for use by the Site Plan Review Board.

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

Resolution 120 of 2015

Amend the 284 Agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Seely

Resolved, the Town Board hereby makes an amendment to the 284 Agreement.

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

Resolution 121 of 2015

URGING THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A2177-A AMENDING THE NYS TAX LAW TO ESTABLISH A TAX CREDIT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SYSTEM

A motion was made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Mr. Fracchia

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the 2015 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan has established greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of at least 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 over our 2008 levels, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council (EMC) has strongly supported

these goals through public education, participation in County committees such as the Energy Road Map, and adoption of resolutions in support of the Tompkins County Public Library solar photovoltaic system and the Black Oak Wind Farm, and

WHEREAS, the EMC Energy Committee has advocated for local programs that focus on energy conservation and energy efficiency to reduce demand as well as for the expansion of renewable energy systems to transition our community to one that relies on clean energy sources, and

WHEREAS, the Solarize Tompkins SE program in 2013-2014 and the Solar Tompkins program in 2014-2015, resulted in homeowners contracting for more than 500 solar photovoltaic systems, and the creation of 50 new permanent jobs, and

WHEREAS, Solar Tompkins is planning a new initiative for 2015-2016, Heat Smart Tompkins, featuring building efficiency upgrades combined with the installation of air-source and ground-source heat pumps, and

WHEREAS, to foster public interest in and appreciation for these technologies, a financial incentive structure is necessary to encourage widespread adoption, and

WHEREAS, solar photovoltaic systems in New York State receive New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) block grant incentives as well as state and federal tax credits, and

WHEREAS, currently there are no NYSERDA incentives or New York State tax credits provided for the installation of air-source or ground-source heat pumps, and

WHEREAS, the public costs associated with the subsidies made available for geothermal heat pump incentives must be balanced by their environmental, social, and public health benefits, and

WHEREAS, both houses of the New York Legislature have introduced a uniform bill (A.2177/S.2905) to provide tax credits for the installation of geothermal heat pump systems, and

WHEREAS, S.2905 was adopted on Earth Day 2015, now therefore be it

~~RESOLVED, That the Caroline Town Board urges the New York State Assembly to adopt A.2177 in the current session of the Legislature,~~

RESOLVED, ~~further~~, That the Town Clerk send copies to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Assembly Energy Committee Chair Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton,

RESOLVED, further, that the Caroline Town Board urges that, upon passage by the Assembly, the Governor should sign S.2905/A.2177 into law.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Discussion: Remove 3rd Resolved sentence from the bottom with ~~strike through~~ and ~~further~~ from the following sentence. Amended-Motion by Councilmember Seely and 2nd by Councilmember Fracchia - Adopted

A motion to accept the Resolution as amended Supervisor Barber and 2nd by Councilmember Fracchia

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

Resolution 122 of 2015

Proposed Local Law #3: Discontinue Minimum Maintenance of a section of Downey Road

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Seely

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the introduction of proposed Local Law #3- Discontinue Minimum Maintenance of a section of Downey Road

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

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

Adjourned on a motion by Mr. Fracchia and seconded Mr. Seely at **9:26** p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk