

Caroline Town Board Meeting of February 10, 2016

The Town Board Business meeting held on February 10, 2016 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. 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

Also present: 17 people of the public attended

Privilege of the Floor

Carl Foyer- Community Organizer of Living Wage of NY. He spoke about the financial entities and the working class interest in the Living Wage. He asked, "Who speaks for the single mother?" "Who speaks for those on public assistance?" He said "One ¼ of people in Tompkins County with children receive some form of assistance. Also 1/3 of children are from low income families who don't make a living wage". He commented that without the living wage there is no way for a person to better themselves, or to get ahead. It is more lucrative to stay on social services than to work, because at least the family unit is kept together (for the most part) because the parents aren't having to work multiple jobs to try and make ends meet. If you give someone the means to survive with one job then a family will thrive.

Pete Myers- Spoke for Barbara Lynch and Paul Houston about the Living wage for the Town of Caroline, encouraging the adopting of the working/living wage. NYS approved adopting the Living Wage by enacting a local law which has to be approved by NYS. This will make people less dependent on social services.

Speaking for the Living Wage resolution, were Emily and Edward Sorel. They are thankful for the work the Town Board has put into going toward this resolution.

Edie Regen worked in ministry and human services and is thrilled to support the Living Wage resolution. She saw the effect on the children and how the added work required for the parents to make a living, meant less time for families to spend together

Carl Campbell for the Town Board

Carl moved here in 2005. He started volunteering for the Slaterville Fire Department and as Fire chief in 2006. He has volunteered for fire districts for 27 years. He helped establish an EMS Company, and would like to help work toward a new one in the Town of Caroline. His availability and hours are flexible. He doesn't have a lot of administrative experience, but is willing to learn. He wants to work for the Town in any capacity that is needed. He is happy to work on committees.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Cindy reported that she bought a spreader for the one-ton truck purchased last year. The Highway crew will be using it this year. Since fuel prices are so low, she proposed to continue road-surfacing projects begun last year on McGrath Rd, Gulf Creek Rd and Level Green Rd.

Cindy attended a conference on archiving records with laser fiche and will be working with the Clerk's office on that project.

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor –Mark is still trying to work with TCAT to develop Park-N-Ride space for Caroline TCAT-riders. He doesn't want to discourage public transportation but we need to also insure space for visitors to the Town Hall. The current proposal he was looking at was to expand the snowplow turnaround on the south side of NYS Route 79 near the county line, but it appears that is not feasible. There is still talk about the Brooktondale Fire Department?

Mark spoke about the Broad Band and there does not seem to be much head way at this time.

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board Gary spoke about the Broadband initiative.

John Fracchia, Town Board

John met with Tim Seely to review bid documents for the Historic Town Hall roof plans. RFP next 2 weeks?

Irene Weiser, Town Board

The Town of Caroline Website is launching next in 24 hours. It is estimate that John and Irene put about 100 hours of time into getting the website in working order. Chris Valenti is joining the CIT committee.

The Aquifer Protection Committee is working on Aquifer Protection local law.

TOCOGG- Looking at water flow through culverts. They are locating high priority ones in need of evaluating and fixing. What are the projects to take on?

In 2017 NYSEG is looking at running pipe a mile and half along Boiceville to extend to gas service to Bruno Schickel's Schickelville homes.

Dan Klein, County Representative

Everybody in NY will get Broadband Housing need survey. Housing need survey. Will put on the website and on the listserv. Ban the box change the way the application is processed.

Dan Klein, County Representative :

*In 2015, TCPL had more than 365,000 physical visits to the Library

*Free programs for children, teens and adults had a combined attendance of more than 32,000

*Nearly 800,000 items were circulated last year

*TCPL has more than 40,000 registered borrowers

*The collection includes more than 222,000 items

*The library is partially funded by tax dollars, but also by private funds.

There is a large piece of the library building that most people have never seen. Until recently, it was home to the Finger Lakes Library System, the organization that services libraries throughout our whole region. The Finger Lakes Library System recently got space of its own, freeing up 6,000 square feet of space. The plans for using this space revolve around accommodating several new features in the library. One is a Teen Center. The Teen Center is meant to be a safe venue for teens to spend out-of-school time, and will feature collections, mobile technology, flexible spaces for reading, studying, collaborating, and holding programs.

Another feature to be added to the library is a 21st Century Learning Lab. The Learning Lab will be used to promote education, skill building, employment, career development and more. It will feature a dedicated computer training area, media tools, a "makerspace", and more. The \$1.1 million dollar cost to

install these and other new features is being undertaken entirely by private fundraising through the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation. Expect these projects to be completed next year.

Many of you will remember when the library moved into its current building – formerly Woolworth’s – in 2000. The purchase of the building was also a joint partnership between tax dollars and private fundraising, mostly from the Park Foundation. To me this shows that historically and currently, the library is a highly-prized local institution. I applaud their efforts to meet the community’s needs not just in the present, but with a sharp eye towards the future. In addition to the library in downtown Ithaca, TCPL partners with the Caroline Reading Room in the Town Hall by providing items through inter-library loan. Patrons may also return items borrowed from TCPL at the reading room or items borrowed at the reading room to TCPL. The Caroline Reading Room is staffed entirely by volunteers, and they can always use more help.

Town Business

Cal Snow, Evie Weinstein, Emily Adams, Carl Campbell, Adam Hilker and Karyn Scott were voted for by the Town Board by written ballot with the person receiving the highest tallied votes being the victor, (as counted by the Town Clerk) and voted in as the new Town Board member. The person with the highest number of votes was Cal Snow.

Resolution 54 of 2016

Cal Snow was Appointed to the Caroline Town Board

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser
Resolved, the Town Board hereby appoints Cal Snow to the Caroline Town Board as Councilmember until December 31st 2016.

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

Fund Transfers

Resolution 55 of 2015

Motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia

Be It Resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2016 Fund Transfers

\$ 57.50 from General Fund Account A 1220.102 Supervisor Bookkeeper to General Fund Account A 1220.4 Supervisor Contractual.

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

Approval of Abstracts

Resolution 56 of 2016

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to approve payment for the

Streetlight Fund voucher number 3 and 4 for \$610.15

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

**Resolution 57 of 2016
General Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 30 through 66 for \$17,911.04

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

**Resolution 58 of 2016
Highway Fund Abstract**

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 15 through 49 for \$ 193,063.96.

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

**Resolution 59 of 2016
Caroline Fire Districts**

A motion was made by Don Barber and seconded by Mr. Witmer to approve payment for the Caroline Fire Districts voucher numbers 2 through 3 for \$69,154.00.

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

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 60 of 2016

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held January, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the January, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Ithaca Deputy Town Clerk, Deb DeAugustine.

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

Resolution 61 of 2016

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held January, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the January, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Ithaca Deputy Town Clerk, Deb DeAugustine.

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

Resolutions

Resolution 62 of 2016

To Establish an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt

WHEREAS, Access to fast and high-quality emergency medical care is of benefit to all members of the Town of Caroline community, **AND**

WHEREAS, Slaterville Ambulance after 57 years of dedicated service to the Town of Caroline community has ceased operations as of January 1, 2016, **AND**

WHEREAS, loss of ambulance service to the Town of Caroline community means a increase in response time and an increased cost to town residents when a medical emergency occurs, **AND**

WHEREAS, citizens of the Town of Caroline have expressed in writing and through privilege of the floor a desire for the Caroline Town Council to explore opportunities to restore ambulance service within the Town of Caroline, **AND**

WHEREAS, trained emergency medical providers residing within the Town of Caroline have expressed in writing and through privilege of the floor a desire to restore ambulance service within the Town of Caroline, **\NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED that the Caroline Town Council creates an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee to research and make recommendations to the Town Board pertaining to the feasibility of a) creating of an ambulance district, b) obtaining a certificate of need (CON), and c) restoring ambulance service within the Town of Caroline ; **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED that John Fracchia will serve as committee liaison to the Caroline Town Council and that the committee shall be comprised of community members with interest and/or experience in EMS, including members of emergency services providers within the Town of Caroline if willing to serve.

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

Resolution 63 of 2016

Town of Caroline Supports of the Living Wage in Tompkins County

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

WHEREAS, it is one of our most cherished values that there is dignity in work; and

WHEREAS, raising incomes is critical to providing economic mobility and opportunity for working

families; and

WHEREAS, the growth in income inequality in recent years has created serious divisions within our society and community; and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is becoming increasingly two counties with a portion of the population thriving while many more face low wages, growing inequality, erosion of middle-class jobs, staggering housing costs, and the institutionalization of a low-wage service economy; and

WHEREAS, failure to pay workers a living wage is a major problem within the Town of Caroline resulting in 38% of students at Caroline Elementary poor enough to qualify for free or reduced lunch; and

WHEREAS, a full-time minimum wage worker in New York State earns \$18,720 at the current minimum wage of \$9.00/hour, an income significantly below the current living wage in Tompkins County of \$29,827; and

WHEREAS, a higher minimum wage across Tompkins County would increase spending on locally produced goods and services by workers benefiting from such increased wages, which, in turn would produce greater demand and help stimulate the local economy; and

WHEREAS, a higher minimum wage would reduce the cost of providing social services in the Town of Caroline and Tompkins County; and

WHEREAS, our community has a proud tradition of advocating for worker rights and promoting economic justice; and

WHEREAS, we as a community and we as a country can no longer accept wages that leave some without hope of rising up and unable to support themselves nor their families; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Town of Caroline requests that the Tompkins County Legislature pass a local minimum-wage law establishing the Tompkins County Living Wage (currently \$14.34/hour) as the minimum wage; phasing the new minimum wage in over a four year period; and indexing it to the New York State median wage thereafter; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Town of Caroline supports Tompkins County further passing a home-rule request to New York State seeking the authority to implement such a local minimum wage; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Town of Caroline calls on the New York State Legislature to pass promptly said home-rule request; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tompkins County Legislature, the Tompkins County Council of Governments, New York State Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, New York State Senator James Seward, and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

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

Resolution 64 of 2016

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Cal Snow

RESOLVED, The Town Board hereby gives permission to the Highway Superintendant Cindy whitaker to sell the 1983 Mac truck at auction.

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

Resolution 65 of 2016

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

RESOLVED, The Caroline Town Board hereby gives the Highway Superintendent permission to donate unused office equipment donate the reuse center.

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

Resolution 66 of 2016

CIT Committee

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

RESOLVED, The Caroline Town board hereby appoints Chris Valenti to the Town of Caroline CIT committee.

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

Resolution 67 of 2015

Joint Youth Commission

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

RESOLVED, The Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Tim Seely to the Caroline Joint Youth Commission

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

Resolution 68 of 2015

284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies

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

RESOLVED, The Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies.

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

----Adjourn----

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt at **9:50** p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk