

Caroline Town Board Meeting of June 15, 2016

The Town Board Business meeting held on June 15, 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: 28 people of the public attended

Presentation

Energy Efficiency House Ratings

Presentation by Emilie Cupernill (see attachment) The project plan is to create energy efficiency ratings on homes in the Town of Caroline. The ratings would be an energy efficiency label and part of the homes identity and be a value based on supportive energy used in reduction of greenhouse gases. The energy efficiency goals in the NY rating system on the home being evaluated would generate the score on the label and would help potential buyers know the energy efficiency of a home they are looking at purchasing. It would also help homeowners know where they need to upgrade their energy efficiency. It would be a volunteer program for homeowners. It would also let you how does your home compare to other homes. It would give cost estimates to operate that home. Realtors would have better information for their clients. Some of the questions from the board where would an upgrade have an impact on assessment; low score, low assessment? high score, high assessment? - Tompkins County Assessment Department said they no way to measure energy efficiency into assessment. Will there be an impact on low income population? And what about homeowner privacy concerns? When and how will the information be released? How will alternative upgrades be done for historic housing? Will there be funding from NYSERDA? Is there a pilot program? Councilmember Fracchia shared his concern about negatively impacting low income people who can't afford to do energy upgrades.

Privilege of the Floor

Town of Caroline Trail:

The County is talking about an informal trail from Banks Road to White Church Road which is currently used by snowmobilers and property owners along what the County claims is a NYSEG easement. The consideration is a plan for a future extension along this strip to the Finger Lakes Trail being developed.

The recreation trail from Burns rd. to Banks Rd is considered phase one. Phase 2 would include additional areas requiring additional planning because of structural issues.

Bill Hilker, a resident who owns property that abuts the trail property in question says he owns the property they are talking about as "the trail" not NYSEG.

Joe Scaglione, another resident, said the land was reverted back to the land owners. In a 2008 there was a woman bludgeoned to death off Pearsall place in Ithaca. He said no property owners near "the trail" want strangers behind their homes.

Mary Beth O'Connor, made the statements. "We are here to listen. We do not want this trail. We are still opposed for all the same reasons given in 2008.

Margaret Fisher, shared her concerns. She has had issues with down state hunters on her property next to the trail". She stated she could foresee there would be attempts to use vehicles more than bicycles or people just walking. She also said she would not be happy with construction behind her home.

Scott Van Goosbeck, Read a statement/fact filled letter- please see attachment

Rebecca Phillips, stated that there should be owner property rights, and the County and the Town should not be making the decisions.

Sam Phillips, made the comment about the usages of the railroad bed. The other part of the track is used by property owners for four wheelers, hunting etc.

Bridget Foster, shared her concerns. She said her house has already been broken into and the trail will go the whole length of my property. She doesn't want strangers behind her house milling around. There is no respect for privacy,

Dave Risley, A land owner in the Town of Dryden commented. "My family owns 100 acres I have 3 little kids. There is a huge impact of drugs and they use these trails (he owns property in the Town of Dryden on Snyder Hill Rd) to transport drugs. This is not what I want going on behind my house".

Mary Arsenault, expressed her concerns. She said her horse pasture backs up against the trail and she had issues with people going through her pastures and being on her property. She felt people did not respect property lines.

Barbara Calabras, spoke from her experience as a realtor and an appraiser for owners' properties. She said having the trail in people's back yards would lower the assessed value of their homes. That having an existing avenue that invited strangers in your backyard so people could have easier access to your property would also be an insurance issue.

Pat Longaker-My land is on Coddington Rd. We are not short of places for people to go and walk.

Crystal VanGoosbeck, shared her concerns. "We have an orchard on both sides of the trail that we spray with organic and non- organic sprays that can toxic. We don't want people walking on our property or possibly getting sick from the sprays".

Sandra Keene- see attachment

Phoebe VanGoosbeck, spoke about her concerns. She does not want strange people on our property, she does not think it is right that the County and the Town would even consider trying to put in a trail after the hassle and hurt feelings everyone went through last time (2008).

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

Wood shed at the Town Barns- We'll get it painted when painters are available.

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor

Planning Board (12 May, Ed Wurtz, Chad Novelli, Lois Lounsbery):

- Collected responses for Comprehensive Plan update are being compiled. Reviewed what we have. Need to build working groups for plan sections.

Energy Independent Caroline (16 May, Jonathan Comstock, Pat Dubin, Ed Wurtz, Don Barber):

- Discussed Katie Borgella's May 10th Energy Roadmap presentation.
- Don presented data from Code Officer showing solar PV buildout in Caroline from 2012 through 2015. In those 4 years we've gone from a few home solar PV systems to 800 kW of solar generating capacity, including 344 kW of commercial solar in two projects in 2015.
- Information from Katie Borgella on ClearPath AP for analyzing town GHG Inventory
- Discussion of exclusion of fugitive methane emissions from County's Energy Roadmap scenarios.
- Update on HeatSmart II: pending information on Taitem/NYSEG initiative.
- CCAs
- Explore ways to strengthen the energy code for new and remodeled buildings.

Caroline Watershed Committee (17 May, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Becky DeWitt, Joe Lychalk, Jackie Cassaniti):

- Worked on survey questions about the Town's flood resiliency. Brad DeFrees will join us next month to follow up on funding opportunities.

Town Hall Roof: Followed up with First General of Southern NY. I spoke with Tim Connolly who told me that they had done metal roofing and that this was within their scope of work. All of the work that they would provide for us would be in-house, not subcontracted. The reference that they provided me was an engineer for a firm that had worked with them on a metal roof installation on the East Main Fire Station. The engineer said that the project went well. Finally, I spoke with a volunteer at the Fire Hall who was not present during construction, but said the roof was about 10 years old and that they had had no problems. Therefore, I propose to hire First General for replacement of the Town Hall Roof.

Community Solar PPA: Renovus submitted a proposal for a PPA for the Town's municipal energy usage. Deadline for submission of proposals extended to Monday, June 6, 5 pm.

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board

Haefele TV Inc

Cal Snow, Town Board

John Fracchia, Town Board

Irene Weiser, Town Board

Aquifer Protection law sent to the Town Attorney, Guy Krogh and to the Town Code Officer Kevin McMahan for review.

Dan Klein, County Representative

Resolutions

Resolution 95 of 2016

Tompkins County Soil and Water Shared Services

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

Resolved, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor Mark Witmer, to sign the contract with Tompkins County Soil and Water for shared services.

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

Resolution 96 of 2016

Living Wage

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

Resolved, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor Mark Witmer to sign the 2016 contract supporting the Tompkins County Living Wage Certification for the Town of Caroline.

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

Approval of Abstracts

Resolution 97 of 2016

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Gary Reinbolt to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 11 and 12 for \$544.47

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

Resolution 98 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 179 through 214 for \$45,282.25

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

Resolution 99 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 113 through 128 for \$ 64,163.15.

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

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 100 of 2016

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held April 5, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington-Lawson.

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

Resolution 101 of 2016

Minutes of the Business Meeting held April, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington-Lawson.

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

Resolution 102 of 2016

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held May 3, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded John Fracchia to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Acting Clerk Tee-Ann Hunter and Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington-Lawson.

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

Town Business

10:20 pm. Executive Session- A motion was made by Mark Witmer and 2nd by Gary Reinbolt to discuss personnel matters.

10:46 p.m. Out of Executive Session A motion was made by Mark Witmer and 2nd by Gary Reinbolt

10:47 p.m. A motion was made by Mark Witmer and 2nd by Gary Reinbolt to end the meeting.

----Adjourn----

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt at **10:47**p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk