

Caroline Town Board Meeting of September 14, 2016

The Town Board Business meeting held on September 14, 2016 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:07 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 and Becky Jordan, Deputy Clerk

Also present: 5 people of the public attended

Presentation

Krys Cail gave a talk about energy for low income collaborative to look for ways to ensure benefits available for all citizens.

USDA 2% grants available.

We are a small, local to Tompkins County group of three consultants with experience in other energy, business development and cooperative development consulting, focusing on this team on emerging opportunities in Community Distributed Generation (CDG). Our name and our tagline is "Distributed Energy, Distributed Equity," and we are focused on how communities can create CDG projects that keep both the electric power AND the ownership/financing charges for the development of CDG local, in order to strengthen the power grid and strengthen the economy of upstate places at the same time. We have a 501 c 3 fiscal sponsor, Cooperative Development Institute, that has also provided start-up funding for our work.

When the Public Service Commission enacted regulations to make CDG possible in NYS nearly a year ago, they required the Department of Public Service to convene a "Low Income CDG Collaborative" to look for ways to ensure that the benefits of CDG were made available to all citizens. We (DE Squared) were made Parties to the Order, and, as such, were stakeholders that were invited to collaborate. We worked hard, on a mostly volunteer basis, to help NYSERDA/NY-Sun Program understand what kind of incentives and programs would make it possible for the 40% of NYS residents who are low or moderate income to participate in CDG. This is not out of a sense of fairness—although, surely, it is fair to have access to solar power for all—but also from a sense of urgency. If only 60% of our population can transition to renewable energy, we can't make NYS's greenhouse gas emission goals. You understand why we absolutely must do that.

Those proposed solutions are included in the NY-Sun Operating Plan, which you have received already. The funding solicitation for pre-development work on potential demonstration projects for Community Distributed Generation for low and moderate income communities is likely to come out within the next couple of weeks. This is great news. DE Squared would very much like to collaborate with municipalities on predevelopment work on a potential project. This is essentially a way for us to act as consultants to a municipality or an incorporated nonprofit group to help them accomplish the predevelopment work needed to eventually go forward with a project, either as a cooperative, or with

local financing and ownership. Alternatives Federal Credit Union, Cooperative Federal Credit Union (Syracuse) and Pathstone (a CDFI with upstate regional involvement, including Tompkins County) are also collaborating with us on this, and have been for three-quarters of a year.

I would like to request that you give us an opportunity at this juncture to make a presentation to your municipal officials and committees on how we believe that we can assist you in project predevelopment work under NYSERDA funding. We have reason to believe, in particular, that we are likely to receive funding for exploration of a co-op model, based on extensive conversations with NYSERDA reps who have put the solicitation together, and based on the NY-Sun Operating Plan that was recently filed that explicitly mentions the co-operative model as one to be explored in the use of Clean Energy Fund funding that is already allocated to address low and moderate income populations' participation in solar PV distributed generation.

We are hoping that municipalities that are interested in meeting their own buildings' electric needs may be in a position to act as the "commercial off-takers" (allowed at up to 40% of total generation) and that they may contribute their very-good credit ratings to help balance some of the families in their communities that do not have established credit, and, due to that, do not have established credit scores.

We are especially interested in the Town of Caroline, not only because of your leadership as a Cleaner Greener Community and the tremendous response to the Solar Tompkins program, but also because the demography of your town is ideal for creating a true "Energy Independent Caroline" CDG project.

Privilege of the Floor

Kathleen Boyd- She read a statement about Broadband committee see attachment 1. She talked about polling, outreach, and committee.

Sandra Kinney could not be at the meeting but asked to have a statement read by Kathleen Boyd. Please see attachment 2.

Pete Hoyt Would like to know about when the proposed budget will be available.

Agenda

Salute to the Flag (7:00)

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 (7:10)

Highway Superintendent's Report (7:15)

Supervisor's Report (7:20)

Town Clerk's Report (7:25)

County Representative's Report (7:30)

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

Discussion and Action Topics

- Community-distributed Solar, Krys Cail, Project Manager, DE Squared (see NY Sun Operating Plan, esp. Sec. 3, pp 16-20) (7:45)
- Discussion of Terms of the Renovus Community Solar Farm PPA Proposal (8:05)
- Resolution to Set a Public Hearing on a Local Law to Override the Property Tax Cap for October 4, 2016 (8:15)
- Resolution Establishing Town of Caroline Broadband Committee (8:20)
- Resolution Appointing Town Board Liaison(s) to the Broadband Committee (8:25)
- Resolution Appointing Kathleen Boyd and Wil Lawrence to Broadband Committee (8:30)
- Resolution Appointing Bruce Cota to the Communications and Information Technology Committee (8:35)
- Resolution Affirming Town Insurance Process (8:40)
- Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2016-106 (8:45)
- Transfers (8:50)
- Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting (8:55)
- Approval of minutes of August 2nd, August 10th, and August 22nd (9:00))

Reports
Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent

284 Agreement- \$60,000 on Perkins Rd and \$30,000+ on Buffalo Rd- Cold mix

Concern about keeping the trucks up to good running order- leasing verses owning

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor

1. Historic Town Hall roof color selected! (charcoal gray – ABC SL-16 roofing panels). Met last week at town hall with First General and ABC reps to work through work details and final decisions. Pending additional Work Change Orders for adding crown molding on front eave and finalizing work changes overall.
2. Budget proposals from town departments are due and I will now be constructing the Tentative Budget to submit to Marilou by 29 September.
3. We submitted BridgeNY grant proposals for two culvert/bridge projects on September 9 for South Road and Ekroos Road. T.G. Miller conducted structural and flood risk analyses and prepared the proposals. Cindy and Scott met at each site for review and to provide background information.
4. On September 10 I had a conference call with NYS Division of Cemeteries regarding incorporation of the Cooper Cemetery. Main points: they feel it should be incorporated, they still did not have information on existing cemetery trust funds, but will investigate with information from Mr. Stanton that the bank has authorized access to the information, and they will be seeking information on

active cemetery members/families. They inquired about support from Town – mowing and establishing liaison with cemetery association.

5. Broadband. Contacted Senator Seward's office about expectations and process guidance on NYS funding for Caroline broadband. They recommended applying to the next round of grant funding through NYS Broadband Office. I expect to learn more very soon. Endorsed our push for universal coverage for the Town.

Evaluating Renovus Community Solar PPA proposal for our municipal usage. Current proposal is for 50% of our projected usage with Air-Sourced-Heat Pumps at historic town hall. Term is for 25 years. Renewable Energy Credits are retained by owner/financier. Suggest determining whether we are comfortable with terms before moving forward for final project.

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board

No Report

Cal Snow, Town Board

No report

John Fracchia, Town Board

Joint Youth Commission - (Resolution to follow)

Irene Weiser, Town Board

No Report

Dan Klein, County Representative

Unavailable

Karyn Scott

Farm-to-Table Market, Sunday, September 18th

Volunteers and food donations from individuals not affiliated with the elementary school are gladly accepted. All are welcome in whatever capacity they'd like to participate. If dropping off food, it would be great to receive it before 10:00am on Sunday. The volunteer signup link is:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a9a92fabf85-farm1> New vendors can also be accepted up until Friday morning (if they want to be a vendor have them email: info@carolinepta.org)

AD:

*Students, farmers, and community members will be selling produce and goods that have been grown on or are locally sourced from a farm or garden.

*Educators will be present to help us learn about bringing food from farms to our tables.

*Caroline local cuisine will be sold – food dishes prepared by Caroline Elementary families and donated from Ithaca establishments with locally grown ingredients. Eat lunch at the market!

*A raffle will be held with many prizes from local companies, plus 50/50.

* Sarah Gotowka, a local artist, will be offering a free workshop focusing on local flora found on the school grounds by identifying and harvesting color-making plants and demonstrating methods for "printing" the plant matter onto fabric.

Come support this fundraiser for the Caroline School Garden curriculum as there will be good food and fun for all. Hope to see you at the market!

Resolutions**Resolution 122 of 2016****Board Liaison to Joint Youth Commission**

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

Resolved, The Caroline Town Board, hereby appoints Councilmember John Fracchia as the liaison to the Tompkins County Joint Youth Commission.

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

Resolution 123 of 2016**Renovus Term Agreement**

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

Resolved, The Caroline Town Board, hereby will not move forward with the Renovus project.

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

Resolution 124 of 2016**Board Liaison to Joint Youth Commission**

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

Resolved, The Caroline Town Board, hereby sets a Public Hearing meeting for Tuesday, October 4th to Override the 2% Tax Cap.

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

Resolution 125 of 2016**Establishing a Town of Caroline Broadband Committee**

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

WHEREAS access to high speed Internet broadband service is increasingly essential for education, health care, commerce, telecommuting, and support of local businesses and property values, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the CIT will resume work on broadband issues to assist the board in their efforts to secure universal access to broadband service for residents in the Town.

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

Resolution 126 of 2016**Appoint Liaison Broadband Committee**

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Gary Reinbolt as the liaison to the CIT Committee,

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

Resolution 127 of 2016

Appointments the Broadband Committee

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Willa Laurence, Kathleen Boyd and Bruce Cota to the CIT Committee.

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

Resolution 128 of 2016

Rescinding of Resolution 2016-106

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

WHEREAS, upon consideration the Caroline Town Board judges it prudent to submit all accident claims to its insurer, therefor be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board rescinds Resolution 2016-106.

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

Resolution 129 of 2016

Affirmation of Policy for Handling Accident Claims against the Town

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

WHEREAS, the Town maintains insurance policies to provide financial protection for accidents; and
WHEREAS, the Town is a member of the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) under which liability risk is managed by Wright Risk Management; and

WHEREAS, evaluation of accidents by the insurer and risk management company provides an objective evaluation of cause and assignment of responsibility; and

WHEREAS, objective assessment of accidents by the insurer provides constructive information for minimizing future accident risks; and

WHEREAS, processing of accident claims through our insurer provides fiscal protection to the Town from current and future liability risks; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that any Town officer, employee, or agent who is involved in any incident or accident which may or could result in a claim against the Town shall promptly report the nature and details of such incident or accident to both their department head and to the town supervisor, and promptly thereafter submit a written summary of such report; and be it further

RESOLVED, the town supervisor (or department head, with notification to the town supervisor) shall provide prompt written notice to the Town's insurer, Bailey Place Insurance, whenever there is an incident or accident that has the likelihood of being the subject of a claim or suit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any claim against the Town arising from, or in relation to, the alleged negligent or tortious acts of the Town or its officers, employees, and agents, shall be subject to the notice and claim requirements of the New York State General Municipal Law (such as § 50-e), and any contract-based or related claims shall be subject to the notice and claim requirements of

New York State Town Law (such as § 90), and nothing in this resolution shall waive or alter such federal or New York State mandated procedures or requirements as may apply, and no new claim, cause of action, right, or procedure or form of notice is authorized or created hereby.

Resolved, the resolution will be included in the yearly organizational meeting resolutions.

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

Resolution 130 of 2016

284 Agreement

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

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the signing of the 284 Agreement in the amount of \$134,505.07

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

Fund Transfers

Resolution 131 of 2016

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

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

\$ 7000.00 from Highway Fund Account DA5142.4 Expenditures, Snow Removal to Highway Fund Account DA5130.4 Expenditures, Machinery CE

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

Resolution 132 of 2016

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2016 Budget Amendments:

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

Around Caroline book printing costs and sales revenue (200 books):

\$2,067.06 Increase General Fund Acct. A7510.4 Expenditures, Historian CE (history book printing costs)

\$4,400.00 Increase General Fund Acct. A2770 Revenue, Misc. (history book expected sales revenue)

Increase in available CHIPS funding:

\$72,661.02 Increase Hwy. Fund Acct. DA5112.2 Expenditures, Improvement Equipment (road improvements/paving)

\$76,361.02 Increase Highway Fund Acct. DA3501 Revenue, State Aid, CHIPS

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

Approval of Abstracts

Resolution 133 of 2016

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 17 and 18 for \$581.90

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

Resolution 134 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 272 through 299 for \$28,477.57

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

Resolution 135 of 2016

Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 161 through 178 for \$ 107,311.87.

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

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 136 of 2016

Minutes of the Business Meeting held July 13, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Deputy Town Clerk, Deb DeAugustine.

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

Resolution 137 of 2016

Minutes of the Business Meeting held August 2, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk, Marilou Harrington-Lawson.

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

Resolution 138 of 2016

Minutes of the Business Meeting held August 10, 2016:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2016 meeting as submitted by the Deputy Town Clerk, Deb De Augustine.

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

Town Business

Discussion with Krys Cail, Project Manager, DE Squared and the board discussion after:

Renovus- Purchase agreement would be for 25 years. Renewable energy credits would be retained by the owner. Stefano put the Town of Caroline in with 10 other groups at 50% instead at 100%. He can “tweak it” so it would you the 50% of the Towns most expensive electrical usage bills.

John Fracchia - He is for bringing our community along with us in an effort for community wide savings. He is not supporting going forward with Renovus at this time.

Irene Weiser – Having a lead user she thinks it is an important leadership role. She said “I like the idea of where Krys is headed”. She said sheis encouraged and it is a serious model that Krys is representing. Renovus is uninspired to her and the 25 year commitment and the 2.5% price increase makes her uneasy. Who knows where the price is going?

Mark Witmer- Krys’ idea is interesting.

Gary Reinbolt – Kyr’s It is not profit driven- yes, it is speculative but it is viable. We are lacking the numbers but that is what is Renovus will be back we aren’t missing the boat.

Cal Snow - We were asked to assume to much risk with Renovus.

Executive session collective bargaining unit 9:45 p.m.

----Adjourn----

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded Gary Reinbolt at **10:37p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk and Becky Jordan, Deputy Clerk