

CAROLINE TOWN BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 7 pm

Because of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and State and Federal bans on large meetings or gatherings, and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.55 issued on August 5, 2020 continuing suspension of the in-person meeting requirement of Open Meetings Law, the Caroline Town Board Business Meeting scheduled for September 9, 2020 at 7 pm will be held electronically via Zoom teleconference instead of a public meeting. Members of the public may listen to and/or view the meeting by following the web and telephone instructions below. Minutes of the meeting will transcribed and posted on the [Town of Caroline website](#). Comments to the Board may be provided at Privilege of the Floor during the Zoom meeting, by email (clerk@townofcaroline.org), or by mail (P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881).

INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND THE VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING (<https://zoom.us>)

1. Direct Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86148710458>
2. Without a Zoom account: <https://zoom.us/join>; enter Meeting ID: 861 4871 0458
3. Phone dial-in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number (if not NY): <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/86148710458>

MEETING AGENDA

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

Interview for Land Use and Economic Development Task Force

Update on Health Insurance Issue from Consortium Executive Director Elin Dowd

Highway Superintendent's Report

Supervisor's Report

Town Clerk's Report

County Representative's Report

Department, Committee, & Liaison Updates

Town Business

- Resolution proposing New York State funding of rural emergency services*
- Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign three-year joint funding agreement for maintenance of the Six Mile Creek at Brooktondale NY stream gauge beginning October 1, 2020
- Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign 2021 Animal Control Services Agreement with Tompkins County Animal Control (TCAC) for \$19,798
- Update on negotiations for License Agreement for use NYSEG's rail bed property as a recreational trail
- Transfers
- Approval of Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting, Fire Protection
- Approval of minutes of [September 1](#)

—Adjourn—

Privilege of the Floor Policy at Caroline Town Board Meetings

- Privilege-of-the-Floor is offered at the beginning of town meetings as an opportunity for individuals to provide input to the town board. Speakers have up to three minutes, subject to modification depending upon time constraints of a particular meeting. Each resident is provided one speaking opportunity per meeting; written input is also welcome.
- Comments should be directed to the town board. The Supervisor or Councilpersons may answer questions brought forward or defer to allow for further research and thought.
- Personnel matters should be directed to the appropriate Supervisor or Department Head.
- Respectful discourse is required.

*Resolution _____ of 2020 Proposing New York State Funding of Rural Emergency Services

WHEREAS, volunteer Fire and EMS services in rural New York State have been under pressure for many years - ongoing declining volunteerism rates which leads to the closure of departments, which leads to the expansion of coverage areas for nearby agencies, which themselves struggle with staffing – in an environment of ever-increasing costs; and,

WHEREAS, efforts to increase volunteerism, particularly in EMS, while noble, are neither sustainable nor effective enough to make a meaningful impact; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of these circumstances, many municipalities have been forced to implement paid EMS Departments, contract for services with other paid departments, or do without timely EMS coverage for their residents; and,

WHEREAS, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical nature of EMS services, particularly in rural areas where EMS response is the primary source of frontline emergency healthcare to millions of NY residents; and,

WHEREAS, as a subset of the healthcare field, annual EMS cost increases strain the budgets of rural towns and villages who are nevertheless morally and ethically obligated to provide these services to their constituents; and

WHEREAS, Article XVII §3 of the New York State Constitution states that,

*“The protection and promotion of the health of the inhabitants of the state are matters of public concern and provision therefor **shall be made by the state** and by such of its subdivisions and in such manner, and **by such means as the legislature shall from time to time determine.**” (emphasis added); therefore be it*

RESOLVED, that the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) requests that the Tompkins County Legislature call upon New York State to allocate funding to local municipalities to support the provision of rural EMS services; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that TCCOG requests that the Tompkins County Legislature advocate for a CHIPS or STOA model of funding wherein funds will be allocated to municipalities using a formula which takes into account call volume, coverage area and funding needs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board supports this proposal; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall be sent to New York State Senator James Seward, New York State Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, and Governor Andrew Cuomo.