

Caroline Town Board Business Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2019

The Town Board Business Meeting held on February 9, 2019 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7 pm by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

In Attendance: Supervisor Witmer, Councilmembers Fracchia and Snow. Councilmembers Weiser and Murray absent.

Recording Secretary: Debra DeAugustine

Supervisor Witmer led the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege-of -the-Floor: none

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Supervisor Witmer added Tompkins County Planning Department request for town support of Owego Creek Headwaters Project

Reports

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor:

Correspondence of Note

- Received January report from Code Officer Greenhouse. Senator Seward sent a letter to the Workers' Compensation Board in response to Brooke's letter of concern to him about resident difficulties in filing the Workers' Compensation Board required certificate for building projects.
- End-of-year report from Historian Barbara Kone.
- Dog Control Inspection Reports by NYS Ag & Markets for Tompkins County SPCA of 1/17/19 for Municipal Shelter and Dog Control Officer were both Satisfactory.
- Letter of 2/7/19 from NYSDEC notifying Town of sale of timber at Hammond Hill State Forest that requires purchaser to control undesirable vegetation with herbicides. Undesirable vegetation listed as American beech, striped maple, and hop hornbeam, all native forest species. Desirable species listed as sugar maple, black cherry, white ash, and red maple.

Supervisor's Notes

- Communicating with agencies and engineer for Ekroos Road/Boyer Creek project.
- Continuing work with Energy Independent Caroline and NYSERDA for Brighten Up Caroline project.
- 2019 Town Audits of books for offices of the Supervisor/Bookkeeper and Court Clerk/Justices completed on Saturday, January 26.
- Work with bookkeeper on end-of-year accounts.
- Working with watershed committee to have a Saturday morning cleanup

Brooke Greenhouse, Code Officer – None

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk - None

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent - Routine maintenance and snow and ice removal.

Councilmember updates:

Mr. Fracchia - Still trying to understand Charter/Spectrum plans for broadband buildout. We would have to sign a confidentiality agreement to obtain buildout maps. Wil Lawrence said she read the court order from Feb 5. They're expecting Charter to agree to **provide service to** 145,000 unserved residences. They have to identify who they're including in that buildout.

Dan Klein, Tompkins County Representative -

Several successful Bridge NY grants to County. NYS DOT will be doing work: Central Chapel Rd. Bridge; culvert on Valley Rd over Six Mile Creek tributary.

Cal thinks it might be the one right after Burns Road going toward Slaterville. Have had trouble with washouts there for a couple years.

Dan: 6.4 percent more in sales tax over 2017.

County-owned forests: 100 acres in Caroline and 450 in Newfield. Had plans to log Newfield but called off due to absence of loggers. 2007 plan inventorying the land. Roughly one quarter was recommended to leave alone and about half was an old pine plantation that was treated with herbicides and all killed so it's been reverting back to hardwoods. Little pockets, one that is heavy ash trees, maybe 70 percent. The ash will all die when ash borer gets to them. That is one spot that should be looked at and a decision made in the next five years, because it will be all dead trees and doing nothing could be a bad thing. Because of the attention to this issue, consensus on the thing to do would be to allow it to revert to old growth, but disagreement on how to reach that.

Mark thinks this is a great opportunity to get more old growth by essentially doing nothing. Then you don't have to spend money on foresters, etc. NYS used to have all old growth, but now it's gone. The form of familiar forest trees at the Smith Woods old growth forest in Trumansburg is much different than what we are accustomed to seeing. Tompkinsoldgrowth.org is Dan's web site.

Dan: Management of invasive species may be needed, but not the same impact as commercial logging. He visited the Newfield county forests, but has never been to the Caroline county forests.

Cal said mother nature can manage it. Commercial logging is a disruptive enterprise.

Audience member Mike Moran spoke about the veterans finally doing something for the veterans. Most of them have gone to Cortland County, to Carl Bullock on how to set up a successful enterprise.

Dan said the County is seeking a contractor to have on board in the next couple months.

Dan: land was abandoned farmland. He's wondered how the county got only this, and the state got the rest. Only option is to hang on to it or give it back to the state.

Wil Lawrence talked about healthy NY giving workshops to cover each of the domains, she handed out a new schedule. They also updated schedule. Feb 22nd workshops will be on transportation and will include someone via skype from Maine. There are other rural areas that are interested in the age friendly communities project. Most people who attend these workshops are from county offices of the aging.

Discussion and Action Topics

Draft Flag Policy: Discussion of flag policy. Mr. Mike Moran said that under no. 7 change to any resident of the town of Caroline. We tried to maintain the dignity and unity of the government pole, and the second pole special interest groups. No cost to town with the exception of the mount that goes on the pole. Lots of discussion. Agreement. Mark suggested we vote on it next month when there's a full board.

Employee Handbook: all changes the board wanted were included with the exception of one. Mark re health insurance for employees. He would like to add eye and dental.

Owego Creek Headwater Project: Capital Reserve Program of Tompkins County to support Owego Creek Headwaters Project.

Mark said its part of the Mix farm and will protect the borders of the creek.

Cal said mix place is going up for sale, so this is a good time to do it.

Dan Klein asked, as to whether the project is a conservation purchase or easement.

The Town Board spoke unanimously in favor of the project.

Brooktondale Swimming Hole: Mark talked to Kate Kelley-Mackenzie. One thing talked about earlier was to not allow parking. It would require a local law and he said he is not averse and would consider.

Resolution 64 of 2019. Meeting Minutes of December 28, 2018 and January 9, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Snow to approve the minutes of End-of-Year Meeting December 28, 2018 and Business Meeting January 9, 2019 as offered by Deputy Clerk, Jessica L. Townsend and Paulette Rosa.

Adopted: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye

Resolution 65 of 2019. General Fund Abstract.

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 21 through 51 for \$17,384.24

Adopted: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye

Resolution 66 of 2019. Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher number 14 through 30 for \$49,268.72

Adopted: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye

Resolution 67 of 2019. Streetlighting Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Fracchia to approve payment for the Streelight Fund voucher number 2 through 3 for \$749.44

Adopted: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye

Resolution 68 of 2019. Resolution Rescinding Town Board Resolution of December 20, 2018.

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Snow.

Whereas, the Carson Groundworks bid for the Town Hall Bioretention and Parking Project has been withdrawn by the Contractor and cancelled by the Town; therefore be it

Resolved, the Town hereby repeals the Town Board Resolution No. 177 of December 20, 2018 authorizing the Supervisor to sign a contract with Carson Groundworks as low bidder; and further be it

Resolved, the Town will proceed to examine other bids and re-examine the project.

Adopted: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye

Resolution 69 of 2019. Vote on 2019 [Association of Towns Legislative Program](#)

A motion by Mr. Witmer, seconded by Mr. Fracchia

Authorize the attending delegate to vote in the affirmative on all resolutions with the exception of 4 and 11.

Adopted: Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Snow: Aye

Executive Session was called by a motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Tim Murray to discuss the potential acquisition of real property and was carried unanimously at 9:29 p.m.

----Adjourn----

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Jordan, Deputy Clerk