

## **Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2011**

The Town Board Business meeting held on October 11, 2011 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

### **Attendance:**

Don Barber, Supervisor  
Dominic Frongillo, Councilmember- absent  
Linda Adams, Councilmember  
Toby McDonald, Councilmember  
Pete Hoyt, Councilmember

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Marilou Harrington, Town Clerk

**Also present:** Lucy Gagliardi, Penny Boynton, Molly Adams, Bev Liddington, Bert and Irene Wisner

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### **Public Hearing**

Supervisor Don Barber opened the public hearing about the proposed changes to the local law-A local law for Flood Damage Prevention as authorized by the New York State Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, and Environmental Conservation Law, Article 36, and gave a background of the law and why there was requested changes by New York State. (see attachment 1, the proposed local law.)

Molly Adams asked about the revision of the flood plain local law. She asked if this would establish where hydrofracking drilling could or could not take place. Supervisor Don Barber answered “no” that the law is has nothing to do with hydrofracking that it is an administrative law and does not determine the flood plain areas. She asked who defines the flood plains? Councilmember Linda Adams answered FEMA. Molly talked about flooding from Bald Hill that comes down behind her house when it rains hard and then floods the field behind her house. Don talked about the definition of a flood plain; that the erosion from a hillside that caused flooding is different than if the creek was to rise and flood in the area. That the area flooded by the rising and flooding creek water could be considered in the flood plain.

Public hearing closed 7:15pm

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### **Privilege of the Floor**

Irene Wisner would like to see more ways of notifying residents of the Town of Caroline about upcoming Public Hearings. Councilmember Toby McDonald and Supervisor Barber answered that the public hearings are discussed at previous meetings, are advertised in the Ithaca Journal newspaper plus sent out on the town listserv. They are also mentioned in the synopsis of the minutes submitted to the monthly Brooktondale newsletter by Supervisor Barber.

Penny Boynton- Handed out pamphlets to the Town Board members with the description of the programs of the Caroline Youth Program. (See attachment 2.) In one of the programs she showed how the students did a “mirror market” which was set up on Friday’s in the parking lot of the Town Hall. The students set up tables with products normally sold at the Brooktondale’s Farmers Market on Saturdays, to let people stop by, ask questions and let them know about the market and the products being sold. Another program she talked about involved the students taking the T-Cat bus to places they have researched and then to return back to Caroline by bus. The program helps teach independence and the ability to be able to navigate around Ithaca and surrounding areas. Penny has also has received grants to help pay for the programs offered.

Caroline, Enfield and Danby are having a joint meeting about how they can better serve the students from their communities in youth programs.

Bert Cooley- Addressed two areas; budget and hydrofracking. He wants the board to adhere to the 2% tax cap whether or not town employee salaries or town services are cut. About hydrofracking (and the proposed resolution to investigate the banning of hydrofracking in the Town of Caroline, that was not adopted at the last Town Board meeting) he suggested that the board members who he felt did not support their constituents best interest consider stepping down from their positions on the board. Councilmember Hoyt expressed his disagreement with the

comments that Mr. Cooley made.

Bev Liddington- She talked about the Caroline Youth Program and how they personally help other students at Caroline Elementary School. She said the school has been trying to address the problem of bullying with little success. Councilmember Peter Hoyt asked how the school was addressing the problems. Bev responded that the school will have an assembly and talk about the issues but then all the kids leave and the problems start over again. The school has also been teaching about friendship in an after school program in hopes of teaching the kids the importance of getting along with their peers. She said when the group from the Caroline Youth Program come into Caroline Elementary School they talk with students about issues they face like bullying and peer pressure. Having the consistent commitment and support by the Caroline Youth Program makes a difference, and with peer mediation it helps the younger kids make a transition into Dewitt Middle School. Bev said that Penny's program (Caroline Youth Program) is an asset to the Caroline Elementary after school program.

Irene Wisner- Used to head up the Dispute Resolution Center in Ithaca and has seen many forms of conflict. She thinks the program that Penny runs (Caroline Youth Program) is a great asset and that the board should support it and keep it in the budget line.

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## Reports

### Don Barber, Town Supervisor

Correspondence of Note:

1. 3 letters in support of youth program funding
2. 2 letters on gas drilling

Report:

1. Attended All-Hazards Mitigation Meeting- working with other Municipalities to update hazard document
2. Attended Youth Collaboration meeting without Danby- meeting scheduled with Danby on Thursday
3. Attended AoT webinar on tax cap and how to deal with it- biggest question which was not definitively answered was pension exemption
4. Conference call with Army Corp of Engrs got permit for Central Chapel road work started today- permit extension until Friday
5. Cindy went to initial FEMA meeting- she is gathering data on Beaver Creek and creek by Town Barns met today with TG Miller to develop scope of work for Banks road- may get permit to start work this fall
6. Attended meeting with 13 other munis on Cable Franchise contract negotiations
7. TCCOG will most likely sponsor a public hearing on dSGEIS probably 12/1

### Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent (given by Toby McDonald)

see attachment 3

### Toby McDonald, Town Board

Alarm monitoring of the Town hall has always been done through Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response who will no longer be monitoring calls as of 1/1/2012. Pleasant Valley Electric recommended a firm in Syracuse to do the monitoring that has a \$300 annual fee. Pleasant Valley's work to hook up two monitoring panels would take about an hour's time to set up the system. Two panels would be installed; one for fire and one for water level monitoring. The alarm systems would monitor fire alarms and for water flooding in both buildings. A proposal was given to Councilmember McDonald but he is waiting for an itemized list of the proposal.

**Dominic Frongillo, Town Board**

Absent

**Peter Hoyt, Town Board**

No report

**Linda Adams, Town Board**

The Watershed Committee- Barry Goodrich and Councilmember Linda Adams sat down with Highway Superintendent Cindy Whittaker and went over the MS4 report. Cindy just bought a software program that helps to track the work the Town Highway Department has done. The program will be helpful in case of an audit, as it will track all of the recorded work done in the Town.

**Town Business****Discussion and Action Topics**

- Transfers (8:00)
- Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting (8:05)
- Budget Deliberation

**Transfers****Resolution 128 of 2011**

Motion was made Don Barber by; Seconded Toby McDonald

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to transfer 2011 funds as follows:

- \$ **350.00** from Highway Fund Account DA 5112.11 Cap Imp PS OT to  
Highway Fund Account DA 5110.11 Repairs PS OT
- \$ **10,000.00** from Highway Fund Account DA 5130.2 Machinery EQ to  
Highway Fund Account DA 5130.4 Machinery CE
- \$ **44.40** from Highway Fund Account DA 9010.8 Retirement to  
Highway Fund Account DA 9050.8 Unemployment

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

## Approval of Abstracts

### Resolution 129 of 2011

#### General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Ms. Adams to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 313 through 344 for \$18,538.62.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Resolution 130 of 2011

#### Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. McDonald to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 170 through 190 for \$ 83,339.51.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Resolution 131 of 2011

#### Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 18 and 19 for \$552.85.

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Resolution 132 of 2011

Motion was made Don Barber; Seconded Peter Hoyt

Line DA 9030.8

Lower \$21,830.00 to \$18,518.00

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Resolution 133 of 2011

Motion was made Don Barber; Seconded Linda Adams

Line A 3001.

Increase from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 State Aid per capita

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

### Resolution 134 of 2011

Motion was made Linda Adams; Seconded Peter Hoyt

Line A8710.4

Increase by \$2043.00 to \$4604.00

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 135 of 2011**

Motion was made Don Barber; Seconded Toby McDonald

Increase Line A 3510.4 to \$16,350.00

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

**Resolution 136 of 2011**

Motion was made Don Barber; Seconded Linda Adams

A1110.1 Judges (2) increase \$401.00 to \$20,457.00

A1110.101 Court Clerk increase \$329.00 to \$16,788.00

A1110.103 Court Typist increase \$87.00 to \$4437.00

A1220.102 Bookkeeper increase \$100.00 to \$5100.00

A7510.1 Historian increase \$24.00 to \$1,224.00

**Adopted** Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Nay

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**Business**

Supervisor Don Barber discussed reasons why he did not believe the 2% tax cap should be mandated.

1. If there is a mistake in calculation that mistake is made up from reserves but not from subsequent override.
2. PTC is a political stunt that has no record of success- take CA with Prop 8- they are losing business faster than NY. The only state where successful is MA which countered the proposed tax cap with State revenue sharing.
3. Caroline's Town board doesn't need the State to tell us how to be sensitive to the needs of our residents faced with the regressive proposed tax. Town tax rate decreased from \$7 to \$6/\$1000- we think about persons on fixed income and working poor.
4. Fed has been printing \$\$-inflation is happening and will take off-making 2% a greater burden on Town programs.
5. If labor and material expenses increase >2% each year, the Town board will use up its fund balance to keep taxes within proposed tax cap then start eating programs in an unending downward spiral. (HI and Pension)
6. This Town board has stood up for Local Government and Home Rule in the past- this is a Local Government issue. We are autonomous. Local Law affirms—need it or not.
7. We will be joining a growing group, many that will present a budget over the proposed tax cap- it sends a powerful message of solidarity if we pass the Local Law and don't present a budget over the proposed tax cap.

Toby McDonald comment- He is not interested in sending a message to Albany and wants to work on keeping a budget increase under 2% through the hard work of supervisor Barber and the other board members. Through this year and previous years the board has been very prudent about keeping the budget in check; a “no frills deal”.

Toby and Don agreed that the goal of the budget was to try and stay under or at the 2% tax cap. Don continued with that he felt the board should stand up and tell the state that the Town is responsible for their own business and should not be constricted by what they felt was an across the board mandate for everyone. We (the town board) sit and listen to what the tax payers say to the board, the state doesn't, so who is better to know the wishes

of their Towns?

Pete Hoyt comment- He thinks it sends a terrible message to our constituents that we don't have enough faith in ourselves as board members to keep costs down whether the state tells us to or not.

Linda Adams comment- She said in the future the budget process would have to start in July or even September if the community was in a situation where it would have to exceed the tax cap, which the Town would have to be able to tell the state that they had passed a resolution permitting such a change.

Adjourned on a motion by Mr. Hoyt and seconded by Ms. Adams the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington, Town Clerk