

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2012

The Town Board Business meeting held on August 14, 2012 at the Historic Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Donald Barber.

Attendance:

Donald Barber, Supervisor
Dominic Frongillo, Councilmember
Linda Adams, Councilmember
Aaron Snow, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Marilou Harrington, Town Clerk

Also present: 5 members of the public

Privilege of the Floor

Nelly Furham- Spoke about the Likens Easement at the intersection of South road and Smith Road. She supports the resolution and for using the \$1300.00, donated by Nelly Farnham, Molly Adams and Jim Burlitch (which is currently in the Stewardship Reserve Fund for the Town of Caroline; Trust and Agency Account number TA-86, established in 2007) as a donation from the Town of Caroline in support of a stewardship fund being established by the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) for the Likens easement in the Town of Caroline.

John Confer- Also spoke in favor of the Likens resolution. He gave a history of Gene Likens and his contribution to clear water act. He said that Mr. Liken was in the ecology department at Cornell University and later became the director of the NY Botanical Institute

Mark Witmer brought in a James Hansen book; Storms of My Grandchildren. It is a signed copy of the book to be donated to the Caroline Library. Mr. Hansen is a leading authority on climate science and wrote the book for his young grandchildren in 2004, published in 2009.

Interview with Mark Witmer for position on Subdivision Review Board

Mark Witmer candidate for the Subdivision Review Board. Mark heard that there was a need for an individual on the sub-division review board. He believes the development of sub-divisions will affect the future of Caroline. "If it matters to me then I should pitch in and help out". He supports the comprehensive plan; "a great vision for Caroline". He feels strongly it is important and the comprehensive plan will affect development projects that will happen in Caroline. He would evaluate projects that come in front of the sub-division review board based on existing criteria. He would look carefully at all projects and offer his opinion in ways that he feels matters. He has been attending aquifer protection committee meetings and feels that water resources are important in the town of Caroline. He said he feels to have to weigh the impact of development on the community. Councilmember Frongillo asked about volunteer experience. He has worked with critical environmental areas, he has been an attendee at Energy Independent Caroline meetings. He would like to see Energy Independent Caroline work closely with the Sub-division review board to embrace the comprehensive plan, conservation, renewable energy and transportation issues. Councilmember Adams asked if there was anything he has learned that he would like not to be repeated in the future in Caroline. Mark responded that Caroline has not been impacted heavily by development. There could be pressure for change in the future. Zoning, at some point may be an important issue. Schickel development raises questions about density in a particular area. Look at town wide population. I think it is a judgment call. Another issue, but the design of the place is for rentals. Renters may not be as invested in thee community. Councilmember Weiser asked if he was aware that he may be filling up to 5 year term and if he felt he could make a commitment for that long. Mark answered in the affirmative. She also asked if he was aware that the town would send him for specialized training;4 hours a year in or around

Tompkins County. Mark said that would not be a problem. Supervisor Barber mentioned that at any time there is a conflict of interest while serving on the board that he should opt out if he can't feel he will be objective.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent (given by Aaron Snow)

No report

Supervisor's Report

Correspondence of Note:

1. 7 comments on Ban Local Law- varying opinions
2. Response from Town's attorney on question of Ban Local Law to withstand legal challenge
3. ORPTS – Town equalization rate is 100%
4. Pro-Act Prescription Drug Discount card 10-20% brand name, 20-70% generic- no cost. Most helpful to those uninsured and underinsured

Report:

1. FEMA: Signed contract with Bruce Construction for Boice Creek and 600 Road work has started at Boice Creek
2. RE: Banks mitigation- Soil and Water Conservation District signed contract with JB Construction for \$247K. All easements are signed, DEC expects to issue permit either Friday or Monday pending comments on their public notice, State Office of Emergency Management is requiring that the mitigation scope of work be approved by FEMA, after a frustrating 2 weeks with paperwork setting on desks, we have moved on to FEMA which has asked questions and we have responded- not sure when we will hear about their approval and funding. Due to limited amount of time to be in the creek, work must begin soon (after DEC permit). SWCD has \$130K for this work (because it will extend both up and down stream) and the Town has \$70K extra from Boice Creek and 600- or \$200K of \$247K- still working out details and pushing for FEMA funds.
3. Subdivision Review Board- postponed 8/15 meeting due to request by County Planning for more time to review and comment, County Health Dept does have regulatory authority over water supply and septic treatment and they will review both quality and quantity of water before issuing a permit. DEC has been on site to review conditions for their review of Storm water discharge permit.

Frank Proto, County Representative

Pro- Act Health committee approved the program for discounted prescriptions. A mailing of the discount cards will be sent this month to the residents of Tompkins County. The cards are extremely valuable (to receive discounted prescriptions) and can be used in 50000 places across the U.S, not just in Tompkins County.

Affordable health care act used to transfer care from hospital to home; grant money is being used to go forward with the program. 2 of the first referrals visiting nurse service are very engaged. TC is the only rural county selected as kind of a test case.

The Farm bill has been delayed until the national election. There are a lot of repercussions depending on the subsidy in agriculture. The subsidy puts into the economy 60 million dollars (which isn't all dairy farming but organic too). Food stamps will be affected.

NY State pulled funding from the HEAP and the RAP on the rehabilitation program. The funding helps keep seniors in there own home. The State pulled monies from HEAP (normally used for RAP) and the County does not know here the money has gone.

Dave Squires (Tompkins County Finance director) is retiring. The County is starting a national search for his replacement.

Irene Weiser-

Pat Pryor for Tompkins County is looking at setting up a sub-committee of the Broad Ban Committee to work with municipalities to assess their broad ban needs. Una Money Penny from the Caroline CIT committee will represent Caroline.

Aaron Snow- no report

Linda Adams- no report

Dominic Frongillo-

The Planning board met (2 of the 5 members were present). They worked through Site Plan Review reviewing "line by line" the Town attorney, Guy Krogh's and John Cantor's comments.

Transfers

Resolution 130 of 2012

Motion was made by Mr. Barber: seconded by Dominic Frongillo

Be It Resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2012 Fund Transfers

\$ 1,303.00 from General Fund Account A 1460.4 Records Management CE to General Fund Account A 1460.1 Records Management PS

\$ 10,000.00 from Highway Fund Account DA 5130.2 Equipment EQ to Highway Fund Account DA 5130.4 CE

And be it further resolved, that the Town of Caroline makes the following 2012 budget adjustment increase General Fund Account A 3065 FEMA Grants by \$107,557.00 and increase appropriation line A8710. 41 Boice Creek by \$51, 804 and appropriation line A8710.42 600 Road by \$55, 753.00

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Approval of Abstracts

Resolution 131of 2012

Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 148 through 171 for a total of \$66,078.55.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolution 132 of 2012

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Ms. Weiser to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 14 and 15 for \$614.76

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolution 133 of 2012

General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Snow to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 245 through 279 for \$17,262.46.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolutions

Resolution 134 of 2012

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo

Resolved, the Town Board hereby appoints Mark Witmer to the Town of Caroline Subdivision Review Board for the term ending December 31, 2012.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolution 135 of 2012

Resolution in Support of Finger Lakes Land Trust Proposal -Likens Conservation Easement

A motion was made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Mr. Frongillo

Whereas, the proposed Likens conservation easement will permanently protect significant natural resources within the Town of Caroline while providing for traditional agriculture, forestry, and limited residential use; and

Whereas, the Likens property is located within a natural resource focus area identified in Tompkins County's Comprehensive Plan and also within the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt – a priority project of New York State's Open Space Plan; and

Whereas, funds are needed to cover transaction costs associated with completion of the conservation easement as well as to provide for long-term monitoring of the land; and

Whereas, the Finger Lakes Land Trust seeks an allocation of \$13,250.00 from Tompkins County's Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection; and now Therefore

Be it resolved that the Caroline Town Board supports this allocation in furtherance of the conservation goals of both the Town of Caroline and Tompkins County.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Resolution 136 of 2012

A motion was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Frongillo

Resolved, the town board hereby changes the Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Abstract and Agenda Meeting to Thursday, November 8, 2012.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; Snow: Aye; Weiser: Aye

Town Business

The Town Board discussed the budget process. Councilmember Adams explained it typically takes 2-3 meetings to discuss the budget, she also commented on what an excellent job supervisor Barber does putting together the tentative budget. Supervisor Barber explained that the tentative budget can't be "loosely put together" as it will become the preliminary and final 2013 budget unless the board votes to make changes or modification.

Property tax cap-The board discussed the budget process and how important it is to stay in the 2% property tax cap. That to change the 2% tax cap would require a local law.

The Town board will talk about the 2013 budget appropriations and revenue at upcoming board meetings for the, General budget, Highway budget, Fire budget and Streetlight budget.

Dates for budget meetings- Tuesday 10/2/12 at 7 p.m., Tuesday 10/9/12 at 7 p.m., Wednesday 10/10/12 at 7 p.m. and Wednesday 10/24/12 at 7 p.m

Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Councilmember Weiser , the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilou Harrington, Town Clerk