

CAROLINE TOWN BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

March 11, 2020

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

Conservation Easement proposal from Finger Lakes Land Trust (7:05)

Update on LED Streetlight Project by New York Power Authority (7:20)

Highway Superintendent's Report (7:45)

Supervisor's Report (7:55)

Town Clerk's Report (8:05)

County Representative's Report (8:15)

Department, Committee, & Liaison Updates

Town Business (8:25)

- **Transfers**
- **Approval of Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting, Fire Protection**
- **Review of minutes of 2/4/20**
- **Resolution to appoint Nancy Kane as a representative to the Joint Youth Commission**
- **Proposal to establish Site Plan Review fees**
- **Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to submit Letter of Intent to Participate in Tompkins County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**
- **Resolution authorizing purchase of highway equipment**

—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.

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2020

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on February 4, 2020 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Attendance:

Supervisor Mark Witmer
Councilmember John Fracchia
Councilmember Irene Weiser
Councilmember Cal Snow
Councilmember Tim Murray

Recording Secretary:

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

Also present: Robert Spencer, Highway Superintendent, Velvet Lyke, Bookkeeper/Assistant to the Supervisor and 2 members of the public.

Mr. Witmer started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege-of-the-Floor

None

Discussion

Supervisor Witmer introduced newly hired Richard Brooks, a town resident, as the town's building maintenance person.

Resolutions

Resolution 60 of 2020

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby agrees on a motion made by Mr. Witmer and Seconded by Councilmember John Fracchia to appoint Richard Brooks as the Town's Building Maintenance person @ \$15.66/hr, not to exceed 100 hours/yr.

ADOPTED: Witmer: Aye Fracchia: Aye Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye Murray: Aye

Discussion: Clarification regarding who the point person will be to notify Mr. Brooks of needs/issues as they arise at the town offices.

Committee Reports

Irene Weiser, Councilmember – She has been playing phone tag with Charter/Spectrum regarding the number of residents in the town that have no broadband service and the cost to extend service to those residents.

Bob Spencer, Highway Superintendent – Two new trucks have been ordered and should arrive in the fall. The town pick-up needs to be traded in this year as well and he is planning to do so. Auctions International has taken inventory of old (not in use) equipment around the highway property. Useable items have been listed for sale on the auction's website. Routine snow and ice removal as needed.

John Fracchia, Councilmember – Has been in touch with a representative from Google maps regarding seasonal/minimum maintenance roads that Google Maps direct drivers to use that has caused hazardous conditions throughout this winter and the possibility to remove these roads. The representative was given Highway Superintendent, Bob Spencer's contact information.

Cal Snow, Councilmember – None

Tim Murray, Councilmember – None

2020 Town Committee Assignments

Board of Directors (Health Care Consortium) and Watershed Committee – Mark Witmer

Buildings/Grounds and JYC (Joint Youth Commission) – John Fracchia

CIT (Communications Information Technology), Emergency Services, CCA (Community Choice) and Court Office – Irene Weiser

Planning Board and Code Office – Tim Murray

EIC (Energy Independent Caroline), Highway Department and Cemeteries – Cal Snow

Age-Friendly Caroline - Wil Lawrence

Discussion of 2020 Goals

Handout of itemized list of 2020 projects provided (Attachment #1). Supervisor Witmer gave a summary of those items.

Supervisor Witmer to meet with the ATV Rider's Club Meeting on February 19th to look over the maps and discuss specific road use. The goal of the town board is to have a proposed Local Law drafted in April.

Discussion on Policy to Promote Old-Growth Forests on County Lands

Councilmember Tim Murray offered a draft resolution Recommendation of Hands-off Policy to Promote Old-Growth Forests on County Lands (Attachment #2). He explained that he incorporated proforestation language and his decision for doing so came after privilege-of-the-floor comments were offered from resident, Jonathan Bates at the last board meeting. Supervisor Witmer is in favor of the language of the resolution. Councilmember Irene Weiser recommended changing the language or removing the last paragraph. Councilmember Cal Snow offered his recommendation of removing the word “negative” in the sixth paragraph of the Resolution. The Town Board will vote on the revised resolution at next week’s Business Meeting. The Town Board will reconsider and vote on the revised resolution at next week’s Business Meeting.

Agenda items for February 12 Business Meeting

AOT Resolutions

Approval of minutes and monthly billing

Forest Resolution

Resolution to appoint the Code Enforcement Officer, Brook Greenhouse, to Permanent Probationary status.

Steve Nicholson to provide update on 2019 Tompkins County Environmental Management Council work

Brighten-up Caroline

Boiler work at the town hall to be done by Halco

----Adjourn the meeting ----

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Councilmember John Fracchia at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

(ATTACHMENT #1)

CAROLINE TOWN BOARD 2020 PROJECTS

GENERAL TOWN

- Trail
- ATV
- 5 year budget
- Traffic control issues – Coddington, White Church, B'dale Rd
- Personnel – performance evaluation process, wages review

BLDG/GROUNDS

- Front lawn and rock pile
- Rain Garden, Parking lot, Midline Rd
- Signage
- Old Town Hall
 - air seal, insulate, paint or siding, basement wet
 - Fix shades.
 - Cushions for benches?
 - Sound system (see also court below)
 - Ceiling mounted projector

COURT

- Document storage
- Security measures
- Sound system (grant?)

HIGHWAY

- Hwy Barn Planning
- New Trucks – lease, finance, buy
- Repairs to existing structure

PLANNING

- Comp Plan
- Wind/Solar Siting Law
- Cell Tower siting

FARMING/AG

- Meet in February – plan next steps.

ENERGY INDEPENDENT CAROLINE

- Wind/Solar Siting Law
- Stretch Code/Heat Pumps

COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Broadband – finish buildout
- IT Policies – acceptable use, ransomware, security breach, etc
- Review operations – backup, software licenses, etc. BAS →WLB?
- Website improvements
- Swift911 and Town Listserv enrollment

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Dry Hydrants
- Emergency Preparedness Planning – w/County, also local
- EMT services – what else can be done

TCCOG

- CCA
- Streetlights

YOUTH

- Members to JYC

SENIORS

- Wil's project

OTHER

- Parking law?
- Aquifer Protection law?

(ATTACHMENT #2)

Resolution _____ of 2020. Recommendation of Hands-off Policy to Promote Old-Growth Forests on County Lands.

~~Whereas, Tompkins County owns forest lands in the Towns of Caroline and Newfield, and~~

Whereas, forests provide many benefits to our residents and the environment, and old-growth forests (those that are undisturbed by human intervention for centuries) are among the rarest habitats and pieces of biodiversity, and

Whereas, forests are in a natural state of flux where trees get sick and die, insects kill trees, wind blows trees over, and fire sometimes burns forests, and

Whereas, none of these natural phenomena need automatically trigger human intervention, and

Whereas, strategies of proforestation, the practice of purposefully growing an existing forest intact, benefit nature-based biological carbon sequestration and ecosystem services such as biodiversity enhancement, water and air quality, soil health, flood and erosion control, public health benefits, low impact recreation, and scenic beauty, and

Whereas, a proforestation policy is a low-cost/low-effort approach that avoids the ~~negative~~ impacts of logging on the landscape and the related erosion and costs to the County and Town of Caroline, and

Whereas, Tompkins County's Environmental Management Council has produced a draft report with different management options, noting, among them, that the forests will naturally develop to an old-growth state, and

And whereas proforestation will sequester quantitatively more carbon over the critical next few decades than cutting and regrowing forests,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Caroline Town Council requests that Tompkins County allow the land ~~it owns in Caroline and Newfield~~ it owns to grow intact toward its full ecological potential without commercial logging, ~~and with minimal human intervention, and~~

~~Be it further resolved that Tompkins County clearly identify potential human interventions with the goals of protecting our forests, enhancing public enjoyment, and protecting the public.~~

Resolution ____ of 2020. Appointment of Code Officer Brooke Greenhouse to Permanent status

Whereas, Mr. Brooke Greenhouse successfully completed Building Code of New York State courses as of February 21, 2019; and

Whereas, Code Officer Greenhouse passed the Zoning/Code/Fire Enforcement Officer Civil Service exam on June 22, 2019, and Tompkins County Civil Service provided a Certified List on October 7, 2019; therefore be it

Resolved, Code Officer Greenhouse is hereby moved from Provisional to Permanent status as of December 5, 2019, marking the beginning of his required Probationary Period of from 8 weeks to one year.

Resolution ____ of 2020. Recommendation of Hands-off Policy to Promote Old-growth Forests on County Lands.

Whereas, forests provide many benefits to our residents and the environment, and old-growth forests (those that are undisturbed by human intervention for centuries) are among the rarest habitats and pieces of biodiversity, and

Whereas, forests are in a natural state of flux where trees get sick and die, insects kill trees, wind blows trees over, and fire sometimes burns forests, and

Whereas, none of these natural phenomena need automatically trigger human intervention, and

Whereas, strategies of proforestation, the practice of purposefully growing an existing forest intact, benefit nature-based biological carbon sequestration and ecosystem services such as biodiversity enhancement, water and air quality, soil health, flood and erosion control, public health benefits, low impact recreation, and scenic beauty, and

Whereas, a proforestation policy is a low-cost/low-effort approach that avoids the impacts of logging on the landscape and the related erosion and costs to the County and Town of Caroline, and

Whereas, Tompkins County's Environmental Management Council has produced a draft report with different management options, noting, among them, that the forests will naturally develop to an old-growth state, and

Whereas proforestation will sequester quantitatively more carbon over the critical next few decades than cutting and regrowing forests,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Caroline Town Council requests that Tompkins County allow the land it owns to grow intact toward its full ecological potential without commercial logging.