

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2012

The Town Board Agenda Meeting and Public Hearing held on November 8, 2012 at the Historic Town Hall were called to order at 7:00 PM by Deputy Supervisor Dominic Frongillo.

Attendance:

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

Recording

Secretary: Christine M. Wilbur, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: 2 members of the public

Dep. Supervisor Frongillo called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Public Hearings:

The Public Hearing on the 2013 Budget was called to order at 7:02 PM. Mr. Frongillo highlighted the 2013 preliminary budget by fund, expenses, revenue, fund balance, levy and the tax rate for the General, Highway and Debt. Funds. He also described how the total levy was determined; and reported salaries for Town employees.

Questions/comments were solicited from the public.

– Pete Hoyt – disapproves of raises for town board members; but expressed his overall approval of the budget as it was prepared. He inquired about account A1620.44 that has no title or description. Supervisor Barber explained that the funds (\$10,000) are directed toward roof replacement at the Historic Town Hall, but a reserve fund has not yet been created, which requires a public hearing. A lengthy discussion followed on how the tax levy is determined. Hearing no other questions or comments, the Public Hearing on the 2013 Budget closed at 7:15 PM.

The Public Hearing on the 2013 Fire Protection District budget was called to order at 7:16 PM. Mr. Frongillo reviewed the rates for the Speedsville Fire Company and the Brooktondale Fire Company.

- Pete Hoyt asked questions about previous year's budgets and what is being proposed for 2013. He feels we are getting a very good deal for the money (particularly for Brooktondale Fire Company). He is pessimistic about the future of local volunteer fire companies with no way to afford the alternative. He joined Slaterville Fire Company and he believes they are hanging on by a thread. Many volunteers left because they were disgruntled about the management style. He wanted to help, but there is so much pressure for minimum standards for training, that it takes a huge time commitment. Senator Seward should be contacted about mandate relief. He also discussed the "fire district" concept as opposed to the "fire company" concept.

- Ed Wurtz asked and received an explanation on how the rates are set for fire companies.

Hearing no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing on the Fire Protection District closed at 7:30 PM.

The Public Hearing on the 2013 Lighting District opened at 7:30 PM. Mr. Frongillo reported the expenses, fund balance, and the levy. Not all the streetlights in the town are in the lighting district – some are in the safety section of the General Fund.

Hearing no questions or comments, the Public Hearing on the Lighting District closed at 7:32 PM.

Privilege of the Floor – None

Reports

Aaron Snow, Councilmember –

- Caroline Youth Program –met in October and discussed the following items:
 - o Doug’s Fish Fry fundraiser – Dec. 13 – Rite Aide or Crispell’s – should be at Ride Aide at East Hill Plaza to get the most sales.
 - o More information to recruit members for the Youth Commission – meeting on November 17th here at 10:30 AM – Noon - info. and sign-up session.
 - o Janice Johnson from the Tompkins County Municipal Planning Group and Accountability Assessment – talked about what needs to be worked on – officers need clear duties; by-laws need to be revisited; active core of 3-5 members; efficient orientation procedures; meet at least 6 times a year with a quorum; new leadership development; ways to identify youth needs; as well as a variety of other identified issues.
 - o Discussed budget items – concerns about the leader having to use her own money – we should ask her for an estimate of personal expenses that are not covered in the budget.
 - o Described some of the programs and activities.
 - o 8 participants from the Town of Caroline.
 - o Registration form to participate in the Youth Program and an advertising flyer for the Nov. 17 info. session are being developed.
- Rec. Partnership – no new business – all parties signed on.
- Town Highway – no report. Supervisor Barber reported that the Highway Dept. has ordered a new truck. The voucher is in the abstract but needs approval for payment in advance of the audit.

RESOLUTION 165 of 2012:

Mr. Frongillo moved to approve the voucher to Albany Dodge in the amount of \$27,366.92 to be paid in advance of the audit. Seconded by Ms. Weiser.

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

Dominic Frongillo, Councilmember –

- Energy Independent Caroline – met and discussed goals and objectives as well as the work plan for 2013;
- Planning Board – The Site Plan Review document needs Town Board feedback – there are technical questions as well as policy issues to be addressed. Ed Wurtz of the Planning Board, was on hand to talk about the document and the issues and concerns the Planning Board has and would like Town Board input before they go any further. The Town Board decided to have a work session with the Planning Board to review the Site Plan document on Thur. Dec. 13th at 6:30 PM.

- Ms. Weiser reported the County Planning Dept. has grant money for rural center development – applications are due Jan. 15th, 2012 – any interest? If so, ask Ms. Weiser for further information.

Irene Weiser, Councilmember –

- TCCOG last month – presentation by Hydrilla task force – update – needs to go on for many years – described herbicide treatment – being watched on a national and international level – one key, crucial piece is education. Cayuga Lake Watershed Network ...encouraging towns to consider setting aside some funds for education aspect. The amount will be about \$1,000. Ms. Weiser approached the Watershed Committee with this issue prior to the TCCOG request. They (Committee) did not recommend our town put money to that effort – individual donations were encouraged.
- Emergency Preparedness – dodged a bullet with Sandy – commended Marcia Lynch (and others) for information sharing – notices posted to the Town website. Ms. Weiser continues to participate in the Haz Mitigation planning.
- Watershed Committee –
 - o 6 Mile Creek/Banks Rd. project completed and held up great in the recent rain. Log jam behind Caroline Elementary School - met with principal of school and others to discuss management of that logjam. Issue is the school has a nature trail that is near the logjam – students in close proximity could be in danger. Barry getting an estimate from Chuck Bruce, easements, etc.
 - o Bell School Rd. creek project – involves a culvert (described location) – between two houses – lots of undercutting – bank out and trees out – a mess. County is not repairing culvert at that location as yet – promised for 2013 – aware of the situation. Nov. 30th – meeting at 11:00 with all parties to discuss preliminary plans. Financial challenges – not clear there is critical infrastructure involved – hard to discern how Town might or might not be financially involved – ongoing struggle of the committee to determine who’s liable. Very complicated - may need recommendation from the Board.
 - o 6 Mile Creek/Banks Rd. – Barry gave some committee members a tour to come down and look at the restoration – an illicit discharge was discovered – will contact the Health Department.
- Aquifer Protection Committee – October – met with Todd Miller for the last time. Learning about the different aquifers in the town – one session related to sub-division development; described discussions in the meetings. Board members discussed water testing. Greg Clark – resigned from the committee – she put out an announcement for the vacancy – Ellen Harrison has indicated an interest, Robert Chapman may be interested. Meeting rescheduled to 1st Tues. of the month from 3-5 PM
- CIT – met last month and discussed the following items:
 - o TCIII Shared Services workshop for electronic records – really good meeting – directly related to topics she is working on – learned that Tompkins County is a leader in this area. Saving 3-5 million dollars per year – records storage, personnel, etc. public interface – really incredible. Linda discussed cost savings as opposed to cost avoidance – Ms. Weiser is not sure. The session was put on by the Town Clerk’s Association.
 - o Conversation with Greg Potter – County IT services – will come to Dec. 6 committee meeting and a webinar with another organization that has other means to digitize records.

- November meeting – discussed budget appropriations – develop a job announcement – hire an IT consultant early in 2013 – job description sent around today – what is the process? Cannot post until budget is adopted. Permission from the Board? A selection committee of 3 including Marilou – interested to attend meetings – resumes, review, recommend to interview, interview questions, etc. Then recommend to the Board. She asked the Board to think if this is a good concept. She will write up the proposed process and send it around. Discuss at next meeting.
- Technical difficulties with Clerk’s office – significant impediment to work flow – difficult to figure out; laptop crashed, etc.
- Phone system – changed long distance to Frontier – saves \$40 /mo. For long distance fees – extra services as well. Total savings of \$80-\$85/mo.
- Copier/Scanner/Fax – purchase or lease - State Incentive for 75% rebate if Town purchases for under \$5,000 – thinks it is a good deal – first come, first serve basis. The Committee reviewed 3 proposals and believes that Ricoh has the best offer and best price to purchase. Ms. Adams asked if it is better to lease or buy. With the 75% rebate, it will be cheaper to buy. Ms. Weiser recommends the purchase of the Ricoh machine.
- Security issues will be discussed next week in executive session.

Linda Adams, Councilmember – No report.

Don Barber, Supervisor –

RESOLUTION 166 OF 2013:

Deputy Supervisor Frongillo made a motion to approve the following alterations to the 2013 budget:

Change account A9040.8 (Worker’s Comp.) from \$19,000 to \$17,000;
 Change account DA9040.8 (Highway Worker’s Comp.) from \$29,400 to \$29,000;
 Change account SF9040.8 (Speedsville Fire Worker’s Comp.) from \$7,828 to \$8,863.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Weiser. After discussion regarding the nature of the changes, the vote was as follows:

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

RESOLUTION 167 OF 2013:

Supervisor Barber made a motion to send a bill to the Slaterville and Brooktondale Fire Districts for their share of the Worker’s Compensation premium (which increases the revenue line A2189 from \$16,170 to \$17,726 for 2013). Seconded by Ms. Weiser. After discussion, the vote was as follows:

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

Supervisor Barber reported that he is very proud of the fact that our Worker’s Comp. premiums stay low as we have very few claims and did not have any claims in 2012! The agreement with the Fire Districts is that they are included in the Town’s Worker’s Comp. coverage and they will pay for the first \$500 of any claim.

Agenda items for next week's meeting:

- Memorandum of Agreement for design work on 600 Road stream bed and bank stabilization with SWCD.

- TCCOG asked towns to pass a resolution to encourage Governor Cuomo to veto proposed legislation that would amend GML to permit claimants to serve a Notice of Claim on public entities by delivery of the notice to the Secretary of State.

Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION 168 of 2012: Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held October 2, 2012:

A motion was made by Mr. Frongillo and seconded Mr. Snow to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting as submitted by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Ms. Adams asked questions about building security and funding for that purpose.

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

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Mr. Frongillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Barber. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Wilbur, Deputy Clerk

