

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2011

Supervisor Don Barber called the Town Board Agenda meeting held on Tuesday August 2, 2011 at the Caroline Town Hall to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Recording

Secretary: Christine Wilbur, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: Bruce Murray, Irene Wiser, Bill Podulka, and Aaron Snow

Privilege of the Floor

- Bruce Murray encouraged board members to be proactive in strengthening road laws, industrial pipeline review, and comprehensive plan to be ready for the gas industry.
- Irene Wiser discussed concerns regarding the issue of truck traffic relative to gas drilling. It appears the issue of number of trucks (threshold) overshadows the safety issues. Discussion with Fire Chiefs in Pennsylvania – they report a 50% increase in vehicle accidents involving heavy trucks.
- A discussion followed regarding the ways and means of determining the threshold of truck traffic. Supervisor Barber briefly described the RFP process for engineering reports. Many factors are taken into consideration such as seasonal traffic and company's estimates of numbers of trips, as well as taking into consideration current truck traffic as well. Other municipalities may provide models of proposals they have already developed.
- Irene Wiser also informed board members of other related (gas drilling issues) meetings in the area.
- Due to the controversy generated by the petition that circulated and produced 900 signatures of residents that are opposed to gas drilling operations in the Town of Caroline, Bill Podulka will make a presentation at the September meeting to provide information and background. This will occur at the Agenda meeting (September 6, 2011) and Bill will bring a copy of the petition and could provide a list of names. Dominic would like to see how many of the people voted in the last election. If a large crowd is anticipated, the meeting could be moved to an alternate location and will need to publicize the change of location

Reports

Highway Superintendent's Report (given by Toby McDonald) - no report

Don Barber, Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Barber reported on the following items:

- Time Warner Cable – a fast track request for fiber optic to run up Buffalo Rd. to Camp McCormick – met regarding plans and issued permit; needs to be completed by September 1; over & under ground. Cindy Whittaker contacted John Daniels and Supervisor Barber regarding Time Warner's plan – they didn't know they needed a permit; was good they reviewed – found some areas that weren't noted in UFPO; some residents will also have access.

- Contracts have been signed by Sioux O'Connor for painting and Linda Myer for window treatments at the Town Court Offices.

Frank Proto, County Representatives Report – no report

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board

Energy Independent Caroline will have another meeting and follow up – 3rd Monday of the month from 7-9 PM.

Peter Hoyt, Town Board – no report

Linda Adams, Town Board

The TCSW has about 5,000 trees from the bankruptcy sale of the RPM tree company. A new source for tree acquisitions will need to be found. She also reported that residents could pay \$35 for a site survey of water and soil structures on the properties. The company doing the survey would appreciate the landowners being present when the survey is done.

Toby McDonald, Town Board – no report

Town Business

- Fireworks Permits – Town does not have right for indemnification; resolution says Code Officer will develop a permit; Board can pass a resolution if they so desire; the permit includes everything that the labor law requires minus section K for indemnification. Board members discussed having the authority to deny a permit – if they feel there are conditions that are inappropriate, etc. like dry conditions, etc.

- Code Officer John Daniels informed Supervisor Barber that he is retiring in the next 6 months (probably by the end of the year). We need to be looking for someone to fill this position; Civil Service exam is required; Supervisor Barber will be talking with County Personnel about the procedure. Discussion followed regarding our current partners – Towns of Richford, Town of Harford. Their contracts also expire at the end of the year – they will have to decide to continue the contractual agreement or not – it is all part of the budget process. We will need to determine at some point if we are looking for someone to do the same territories as now or just for ourselves. Supervisor Barber indicated that the Town of Danby might also be interested in participating. So far, it has just been casual interest – nothing official. Currently the position is for 30 hrs – if another municipality joins in – it could be considered a full time position; and it was noted that the scope of duties has grown significantly over the years. Board members would prefer that the position stay under the control of the Town of Caroline.

- Supervisor Barber indicated that he would be introducing a Flood Plain Local Law at the business meeting next week. He proposed following the Army Corp of Engineers guidelines, adding the Town's responsibility for appeals, and rewrite the appeals process.

- The Recreation Partnership Agreement needs to be negotiated and budget considerations are not known at this time. This will be on the agenda for the business meeting next week.

- Water Resources Council – Board members discussed the need, or appropriateness of supporting that a local government representative and a local health department representative be included on the High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Advisory Panel that was created by the NYS DEC. As it addresses issues of impact on local governments and County Health Departments, it would be to our advantage to have

an advocate on the panel. Supervisor Barber will prepare a letter of endorsement that will be considered at the business meeting next week.

- After a brief discussion, Supervisor Barber will request Tompkins County Planner, Darby Kiley, to provide her presentation of what Tompkins County would look like if gas drilling proceeds. Some have seen her presentation already and felt it was very useful and informative. It was decided to have the presentation on August 30 at the Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. There will be a presentation and time for questions.

- There was discussion on preparation of an RFP for a road survey and items Board members feel are important to include. The Board may consider what other municipalities have done already and consider their RFP's as a model. Supervisor Barber will initiate further discussion regarding Road Preservation Initiatives and participation with the TCCOG at the business meeting next Tuesday. Highway Superintendent Cindy Whittaker will also be invited to participate in the discussion.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Business Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman McDonald and seconded by Councilman Frongillo to accept the minutes of July 12, 2011 as submitted by the Town Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions – none submitted

Agenda Items for August 9, 2011 Business Meeting:

- Transfers
- Approve Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting
- Approval of July 5, 2011 meeting
- Approve letter to DEC Martens about Gas Advisory Panel
- Discuss Road Preservation Initiative and participation in County-wide Road Engineering RFP
- Recreation Partnership Agreement
- Introduce Flood Plain Local Law

Adjourn

At 8:20 PM, Supervisor Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Frongillo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Wilbur, Deputy Town Clerk