

February Notes from the Town Supervisor

Please note that the start time for our Town Agenda and Business Meetings has been changed back to 7 pm!

The Town Board unanimously approved introduction of a *Local Law Providing for a Moratorium on Actions Subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review for a Period of 180 Days*. The purpose of the moratorium is to review and, if needed, propose revisions to the Town's [Subdivision](#) and [Site Plan Review](#) laws to help encourage energy efficiency, reduction in greenhouse gasses, water conservation, and development of on-site renewable energy in larger-scale development projects. The Town Board has scheduled an Information Session on the proposed moratorium for Monday March 6th at 7:30 pm at the Caroline Town Hall. There will be a presentation explaining the law, an opportunity for Questions/Answers, and an opportunity to express comments.

The Board unanimously adopted a resolution put forward by CIm. Fracchia condemning Governor Cuomo's recent disparagement of local governments, suggesting that they are responsible for high property taxes because of unwillingness to work cooperatively in order to enhance efficiency. The resolution points out the example of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Consortium, an intermunicipal health insurance cooperative that was developed about 10 years ago and provides high-quality, affordable health insurance to municipal employees in Tompkins County and six surrounding counties. The resolution asks that state aid be restored to 8% from its current level of less than 1%.

I introduced an updated Caroline Stormwater Protection Plan. This is required as one of our duties as a MS4 community (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The document provides guidance and facilitates our reporting process for managing stormwater effectively, from public education to minimizing construction site runoff, to preventing pollution. The Caroline Watershed Committee will be reviewing the new document and providing any further recommendations to the Town Board at our March meeting.

At our Agenda meeting the Town Board discussed a proposal by the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for commercial Solar Photovoltaic Projects. The PILOT is intended to provide a reasonable tax return to municipalities without making commercial solar projects cost-prohibitive. We had lots of questions and will be meeting with the IDA and Tompkins County Assessor to learn more and provide feedback on the proposal.

In January I sent an update on the South Hill Recreation Way Trail Extension proposal to Caroline neighbors of the rail bed property. A number of people spoke at the February Business Meeting to express their continuing concerns. Information about the proposal is at: <https://southhillrecway.wordpress.com>. Many of the issues that have been raised are addressed in the 2009 Caroline Natural Areas and Trails Committee Report: <https://southhillrecway.wordpress.com/project-details/>. I will also be posting this information at our town website. We will be holding a second informational public meeting about the trail proposal in the near future.

In November Haeefe TV applied for a NY State broadband grant to extend broadband service in the greater Speedsville area. To date there is no word as to whether they have been awarded funding.