

Town of Caroline Town Board Minutes

May 11, 2006

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on May 11, 2006 at the Town Hall was called to order by Supervisor Don Barber at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Don Barber, Supervisor
Ed Cope, Councilman
Tim Seely, Councilman
Dominic Frongillo, Councilman
Nelly Farnum, Councilwoman

Recording

Secretary: Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk

Visitors: Todd Schmit, 688 Valley Rd.

Privilege of the Floor

Todd Schmit, Barrile Project: Matthew Podolsky, an IC film student, is working on a 15-minute rough cut of documentary designed as an educational piece about this kind of stream restoration, to be viewed Tuesday at public info session of the watershed committee. Wants to extend this piece to an hour. Can start July; project will take 7 weeks, 30 hours per week, for \$2500. Asking board to support this proposal. Main audience: various types of watershed agencies looking to do this kind of work. Distribution: all agencies they interviewed or talked to are very interested; can advertise thru IO, watershed network, etc. Town made a tremendous investment, and worth our effort to document it completely; we can recoup costs from other agencies. Supervisor requested that Todd contact other agencies for funding, such as DEC and IO, which stand to reap more benefits. Todd will contact Dominic with news.

Town Business

Midnight Sun: Tim Seely led board members on a tour of the building to show the structural analysis.

All Hazards Mitigation Plan Development

Nelly Farnum: Did the development work, handed paper to the board. Committee would need to set a list of priorities yearly. Committee would have a broad representation of people involved with all aspects of emergency preparedness in the Town of Caroline. Would form subcommittees to develop and implement more focused plans. Priorities would be presented to the Town Board. Don suggested we piggyback on what other towns might be doing. Also said we will probably want to start out small and build on it each year. Could be as small as getting a generator through a grant. Tim encouraged involvement of the schools, which have events each year, like early dismissal, to test their preparedness.

Assessment Report on Radio Tower Property Values

The county looked at assessed values of properties in towns around the county and found that the towers had no effect on property values. Don disagrees. Said that it might be true in the aggregate, but not for each individual town. Newfield: average price for vacant land is 5k per acre and parcels near tower sold for 3k. Similar in Dryden. But properties in Danby, where towers sit on land that is very developable, sold for more. It's very hard to separate out value for houses, since there are many other factors in play.

Discuss Possible Disposal of Bald Hill Road Property

Cornell was interested in 120 acres of property that had become landlocked. We swapped for property with road frontage. Do we want to sell it? Not on tax rolls and wasn't when Cornell owned it. No utilities. If we wanted to sell it, we would have to articulate to the town why we need the money.

Seely: Should hold onto it if we think future generations will want to use it as a park, or if we think value will increase. Land is valuable for timber – should have a forester look at it.

Cope: doesn't hurt to hold on to it, and think over the prospects.

Farnum: Has owned land adjacent to 70 acres undeveloped land, and it was a free-for-all for snowmobilers, etc. Feels very conservative about selling our land until we have an idea of land use.

Barber: the fact that there aren't utilities right now, but might be in the future, means the value will only go up. The rate of return for holding onto the land will undoubtedly be higher than investing in a CD.

Monthly Reports

Highway Superintendent's Report

Ed Cope read the report. Both trucks will be delivered to auction site on May 20 (550 and pickup).

Reinspection: all violations corrected. Reported on roadwork being done. Crew is cleaning Midnight Sun lot. Junk cleanup runs May 15 – May 20. Several calls on illegal dumping.

Supervisor's Report

Report

- Intermunicipal Planning Coalition meets 4th Friday; currently discussing:
 - Sales tax repeal of clothing under \$110; option for the county, does not affect Caroline
 - Consolidation of municipal health insurance: we have highest rate that can be paid. Group has applied for a grant to look into this plan; would need to hire a consultant.
 - Council of Governments: communication between and among towns and the city.
- School signals: will receive permit applications soon; will need to have a meeting with ICSD administration about ownership, maintenance, etc.
- Midnight Sun: water supply found (will not reuse, it's a seep); buried tank – Tim has alerted DEC that we found it, it is holding water
- Spoke to TC Public Works Committee about low freeboard at Boiceville Rd. Bridge; the bridge is sinking (actually fill is rising); two committee members came out and verified
- Received \$121,000 check from IO for Barrile Project
- Letter from Board of Elections to BCC regarding inspection: Building does not fulfill ADA compliance; they will look for funding to help out

County Representative's Report

1. Sales tax repeal: not everyone interested; the amount of money generated (mostly by student population) is relatively small.
2. Property assessment grievance day: 7 pieces of property were questioned. Very good interaction.
3. Solid waste: doing a sneaker retrieval. Nike has agreed to take them. Must remove all metal.
4. New solid waste fee schedule is out.
5. Youth award: did not receive anything from Caroline. County web site has criteria for nomination; can nominate someone at any time.
6. Ag and Farmland protection board: Frank brought them a resolution about doing something in our county about biomass. 90,000 acres of ag land in county could be used for crops for energy-related products (not just ethanol). At request of Ag and Farmland, he took proposal to the EMC. Without a major train or highway to bring product in, doesn't warrant a plant in Tompkins County, but could contribute to one of two plants being sponsored right now.

- 7. Water resources council: drafted a letter that outlines concerns of Cornell trying to trim permits for monitoring the lake. Univ. asking for an amendment to their permit, but those on council are not interested in doing that.
- 8. Chamber of commerce capital grant, asking for 75k to support new addition, into which tourism center would go. It failed 7 to 7.
- 9. Budget retreat. Tax levy discussion was all over the map. Budget committee will bring resolution to county next Tuesday asking for 3% increase. Hard to start at a higher number and come down; better to start low and add if need be. \$1 million increase in the mandate request from the state.
- 10. Health and Human Services Committee: reviewing fees from Bolton Point; they think their fees are too high. Cornell and the City of Ithaca pay the same amount. Been in effect since 2004, but have not received anything from Bolton Point. They have asked the committee to use a different formula. Bolton Point sued the County. They've since come back and asked to start the process again, and for a 60-day delay from the court. They want to see justification for the fee.

Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports

Frongillo: Rec Partnership is developing a sponsorship policy. Can't solicit outside money. How can they accept donations? Developing list of goals for year. Watershed Committee has a public meeting on 5/16.

Seely: MS4 discussion from last time. Wash bay at the town barns will cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000. Is it a requirement? We dump tons of salt on our roads every year that make it into our watershed, but they want us to spend this kind of money to take ounces of salt off a truck.

Barber: Capital outlay is huge; assistance from the feds? This is an unfunded mandate.

Cope: Planning Committee. Timeline setback because they couldn't find an intern. But they just hired someone, and the plan will now go forward. Expect to be conducting the last of their own hearings by the fall, and have a plan by the end of the year. Must develop a budget to present to the county, and should have something to present to the board by the June business meeting. There are no more public sessions planned until they present what they're preparing right now.

Farnum: Incident Command System course will be offered Saturday at 9:30 at Slaterville Springs Fire Dept.; also being offered online. Next Friday, people on the animal committee will attend a workshop on animals in emergency situations given by the state SPCA.

Transfers

Motion to Authorize Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilwoman Farnum to authorize the following transfer:

	From	To
\$1000.00	General Fund Account A 1420.415 Attorney CE	General Fund Account A 1440.407 Engineering: Midnight Sun CE

Adopted

Don Barber	Aye
Ed Cope	Aye
Tim Seely	Aye
Nelly Farnum	Aye
Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Action Topics

Approval of Abstracts

Approval of General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Councilman Cope and seconded by Councilman Seely to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 112 through 142 in the amount of \$13,136.66.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Approval of Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Councilman Cope and seconded by Councilman Frongillo to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 080 through 100 in the amount of \$20,771.35.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Approval of Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Councilman Seely and seconded by Councilwoman Farnum to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher numbers 008 through 009 in the amount of \$534.60.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Minutes

Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2006

A motion was made by Councilman Seely and seconded by Councilwoman Farnum to accept the minutes of March 7, 2006 with the following amendment.

Amendment:

Committee Reports, Watershed Committee. Should read, "Molly Adams wrote the grant applying for funds to correct stream problems at what has been labeled 'the Barrile Project.' "

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2006

A motion was made by Councilman Cope and seconded by Supervisor Barber to accept the minutes of March 16, 2006 with the following amendment.

Amendment:

Barber: Resolutions should start numbering at 3-4.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2006

A motion was made by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Seely to accept the minutes of April 4, 2006 as submitted by the deputy clerk.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Abstain
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Abstain
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2006

A motion was made by Councilwoman Farnum and seconded by Councilman Cope to accept the minutes of April 13, 2006 as submitted by the town clerk.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Resolutions

**Resolution 5-1 of 2006
Lawn Mowing Contract**

By Councilman Seely; Seconded by Councilwoman Farnum

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the lawn-mowing contract with Lucente Landscaping for the 2006 season.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Discussion: Ed would like it communicated that the contractor should not mow unless it needs it.

**Resolution 5-2 of 2006
Shared Highway Services Agreement**

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Councilman Cope

WHEREAS, all municipalities, including the Town of Caroline, have the authority under New York Highway Law Sections 142-d and New York General Municipal Law Article 5-G to contract with other municipalities to exchange, borrow, lend, or maintain machinery and equipment, with or without operators; and

WHEREAS, all municipalities, including the Town of Caroline, have the authority under New York General Municipal Article 5-G to borrow materials and supplies from and lend materials and supplies to other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline and other municipalities in Tompkins County have machinery and equipment that are not used during certain periods, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline and other municipalities in Tompkins County often have materials and supplies on hand that are not immediately needed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline and other municipalities may avoid the need to purchase of store certain needed highway machinery and equipment and a large inventory of certain extra materials and supplies, and thereby save the taxpayers money, if the municipalities can contract with each other to exchange, borrow, lend, or maintain these items; and

WHEREAS, the town board determines that it is in the best interests of the Town of Caroline to engage in such shared arrangements; and

WHEREAS, many of the municipalities in Tompkins County are developing a standard contract that will authorize the highway superintendents to engage in such shared arrangements with other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, pending the finalization of the standard contract, the town board of the Town of Caroline wishes to authorize the Town of Caroline highway superintendent to engage in such shared arrangements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town of Caroline highway superintendent to engage in such shared arrangements with other municipalities (including Tompkins county), provided that (1) the machinery, equipment, supplies, and services the Town of Caroline provides to another municipality are not immediately needed by the Town of Caroline and the town receives equivalent machinery, equipment, supplies, and/or services from that municipality, (2) the highway superintendent shall maintain written records of the machinery, equipment, supplies, and services that are exchanged, borrowed, lent, or maintained and shall periodically update the town board on such matters, and (3) the town shall maintain sufficient insurance coverage to protect the town in such joint efforts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the standard contract is approved by the town board and the town enters into written contracts with other municipalities for such shared arrangements, the highway superintendent's authority to enter into such shared arrangements shall be governed by the terms of the written contracts.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Resolution 5-3 of 2006

Appoint Salary Structure Committee for Elected and Appointed Officials

By Supervisor Barber; Seconded by Councilman Seely

RESOLVED, the town appoints board Dennis Kuhn, Hal Craft, Ron Acerra, and Becky Bilderback to the Salary Structure Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop an objective rating system for the elected and appointed positions in the Town of Caroline and to develop a salary structure based on these ratings.

The tasks will be to:

1. Collect job description information on each position.
2. Rate the positions of supervisor, highway superintendent, clerk, justice, court clerk, deputy clerk, code enforcement officer, typist, bookkeeper, and town board for compensable factors such as knowledge and skills, supervision responsibility, and complexity. This will result in a point total with possibly an agreed margin of error.
3. Collect compensation information (wage plus benefits) and hours worked from comparable municipalities to arrive at an hourly rate.
4. Develop a relationship between point total and wage rate.

The town will be collecting actual hours worked for these position in September that we can use along with the graphical relationship developed in #4 to develop a defendable salary plan.

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Resolution 5-4 of 2006
Letter of Support for Green Power

By Councilman Cope; Seconded by Councilman Seely

RESOLVED, the Town Board directs the supervisor to send the following letter to senators Bruno, Little, and Seward, and Governor Pataki:

President Bush and Governor Pataki have called for the country and state to move toward a more secure, environmentally sustainable energy future through the increased use of renewable power.

Our community, the Town of Caroline, has taken a significant step toward creating clean, homegrown, renewable power in New York State by purchasing New Wind Energy for 100 percent of our electricity needs. Our purchase and those of 55 other municipalities equal the electricity output of eight wind turbines at the Fenner Wind Farm in Madison County. The more municipalities that choose to purchase renewable energy, the more new renewable energy power plants will be built in New York.

We ask you to support the passage of S-4472-A and clarify a portion of municipal bidding law so that it specifically promotes the purchase of renewable energy power. The passage of this legislation will send a clear signal that will encourage all New York State municipalities to take a critical step and help create a homegrown, safe, secure, and sustainable energy future.

Sincerely Yours,

Don Barber
Town Supervisor

Adopted	Don Barber	Aye
	Ed Cope	Aye
	Tim Seely	Aye
	Nelly Farnum	Aye
	Dominic Frongillo	Aye

Adjourn

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk