

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2017

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on February 7, 2017 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Attendance:

Mark Witmer, Supervisor
John Fracchia, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember
Gary Reinbolt, Councilmember
Cal Snow, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: 2 members of the public were present

Mr. Witmer started the meeting at 6:38 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Privilege of the Floor

Janice Burton expressed her thankfulness for the town, it's officials and for a decrease in her taxes this year

Barry Goodrich was also in attendance

Reports

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board – Discussed Haeefele in conjunction with Councilmember Weiser's Broadband update (below)

John Fracchia, Town Board –

Building and Grounds

* Discussed establishing timelines for evaluation of historic Town Hall painting and short-term remediation of Highway Barns with Supervisor Witmer.

Emergency Services

* Wrote to Association of Towns to get additional information about Ambulance Districts and to learn if there are differences or prohibitions in the law if contracting for first response v. transport.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

* Attended the January 26th meeting of the GTCMHC.

Joint Youth Commission

* January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. No report.

Additional

* Am researching customer satisfaction with AFLAC in follow-up to presentation at January meeting. Online reviews are mixed, but it is difficult to determine how much this represents a significant percentage of all users.

* Finishing draft of a resolution condemning Governor Cuomo's characterization that local governments are not serious about trying to reduce property taxes.

Cal Snow, Town Board – Highway International truck is back. Cost of repairs were about \$20,000. Close to \$40,000 has been spent on salt, of which approximately \$20,000 is to be reimbursed by the County for their sections of road. 284 Agreement to be handed in next meeting. Councilmember Snow proposed Google maps/GPS needs routing improvements so as not to send motorists down posted Nov 1 – May 1 seasonal/limited maintenance and dead end roads.

Irene Weiser, Town Board –

BROADBAND UPDATE

Contacted Lee Haefele – he has not yet heard back on grant proposal

Meanwhile Attorney General Schneiderman has sued Charter for fraud – claiming that they consistently and knowingly do not deliver the speeds they promised to consumers.

Where does this leave us - with most of our Town purportedly getting covered by Charter (Spectrum)? I wish I knew. Contacted Broadband Program Office but no reply thus far.

PHONES

So far none of the Voice Over Internet Provider (VOIP) vendors have sent proposals after multiple requests – which I presume means we're too small for them. Meeting scheduled with Cisco – another VOIP vender on Feb 21 @ 10am.

AQUIFER PROTECTION

One of our 3 committee members is out of town till end of march – Committee doesn't want to meet w/o her. Meanwhile -we're reviewing Danby's law which has passed to see what we can learn from them. Committee to meet again in April.

TCCOG

EMS Task force continues to meet 2x per month. For the next 2 – 3 months we'll be reviewing data from County, discussing legal structures and regulatory issues. Getting basics under our belt before trying to reinvent the system.

Town Business

Discussion of Proposed IDA Renewable Energy PILOT Agreement

[Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency](#)

www.tompkinsida.org

Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency 401 E. MLK Jr., Street, Suite 402B, Ithaca, New York 14850 • phone: (607) 273-0005 • fax: (607) 273-8964

The IDA is proposing a payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that municipalities could implement. The intention is to create a streamlined process in which municipalities must accept the standard amount of \$8000.00 per MW, with 2% increases each year for a maximum of 20 years.

According to the New York State Dept. of Taxation and Finance office of counsel, municipalities were given the option to opt-out of the Real Property Tax Law, Section 487 exemption for solar, wind, and farm waste energy systems. If your municipality did not opt-out, a tax exemption for these systems is in place for 15 years, however, you may be able to negotiate a PILOT agreement anyway.

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/legal/raq2.pdf>

Heather McDaniel, Administrative Director for Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) presenting at TCCOG next meeting end of February.

Discussion of Association of Towns 2017 Proposed Resolutions

Councilmember Cal Snow is the delegate for the Town of Caroline at the Association of Towns Conference. As delegate he has voting rights on the Associations 2017 Proposed Resolutions. See attachment 1

With the exception of Resolutions #9 and #10, all were approved (Aye) for Cal's vote by the Caroline Town Board Members.

http://www.townofcaroline.org/uploads/6/2/7/8/62781479/aot-resolutions_rules_of_order.pdf

Agenda Items for Business Meeting:

- Approval of updated Stormwater Protection Plan
- Resolution of completion of Annual Audit of Caroline Town Court and Supervisor's Office
- Resolution amending 2016 Encumbrance Resolution (48-2016)
- Resolution Recognizing Efficiency Efforts of Local Governments and Loss of State Aid

---Adjourn the meeting ---

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia at to move to executive session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss legal issues and personnel matters.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk