

Caroline Town Board Business Meeting of July 12, 2017

The Town Board Business meeting held on July 12, 2017 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Recording

Secretary: Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

Attendance:

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

Also present: 8 members of the public attended the meeting

Candidates Interviewed for Caroline Planning Board

Alex Jochym

- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Familiarity with the planning and subdivision process
- Love the area and want to find a way to give back to the community

Bill Podulka

- Ph.D, Applied Physics
- Skilled meeting facilitator and practiced public speaker
- Help maintain the wonderful rural character of Caroline, provide infrastructure that will help support home and small businesses, and our local farmers

Privilege of the Floor

Lynn Abbott – Property owner at sharp corner on White Church Rd across from Cooper cemetery. Drunk driver smashed an aspen tree and tumbled rock wall. Accident #3 of 2017. Jan 29th, June 8th & yesterday (7/11) morning 12:40AM. Took northern part of stone wall down, took out a bush and 2 county Rd marker signs at 44mph. This corner is posted 15 mph. Councilmember Weiser reiterated the process in getting a speed limit change. Neighbors, Town Board, County, State. Enforcement issue. Ms. Abbott stated the rumble strips have helped but thinks starting them as far back as Weber Lane would be beneficial. Frank Proto contributed his recollections of past dealings with this issue. Mr. Witmer to reach out to the county.

Frank Proto – Timing on considering application of the Planning and site plan review board? Mr. Witmer replied that the application is open. Invited to interview next month. Mr. Proto asked when do the meetings and reviews take place? Who is going to sit down and do the review of documents? Will there be a published time table with meeting dates and times? What committee does the Agricultural piece fit in? Considered resolution draft for environmental Mine Shaft. Currently vice chair . water resources council was 11/4 vote not to pursue action. Liz Cameron of health dept. environmental health head did not think that signing off on the letter since DEC in negative debt. A lot of discussion about endorsing action. WRC members were encouraged to write letters as individuals not as representatives of the WRC. Suggests drawing info from the

WRC. Environmental management council. Concern. Town should seek more info. County has decided not to proceed. Air shaft, escape route.

Bob Spaulding – Thinks it strange that the Town of Caroline would be considering and/or passing a resolution regarding the proposed Cargill mine shaft construction project.

Edie Spaulding – Opposition to the trail extension. Waste of money where it may be better spent elsewhere.

Betty Dean – When was the Comprehensive Plan community meeting/survey? 2016. Was the trail proposal discussed? No, only as public feedback.

Reports

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent – report given by Councilmember Snow: Have we heard back from the Engineering consultant regarding the Town Barns? No, we can move forward with that. Would like to think long term as far as process and capital expenditures. Still thinking about a site visit to old Crispell Garage. Challenges of existing site versus a new site. County working on Valley Rd by Banks road location.

(Written report by Highway Superintendent Whittaker see attachment #1)

Mark Witmer, Town Supervisor

Correspondence of Note:

- Received Tompkins County Animal Control (TCAC) 3-year contract, 2018-2020.
- Brooktondale Road Slope Stabilization Project slated for fall 2017.
- Excellus BlueCross BlueShield notice of request to DFS for 8.2% premium increase for 2018 (Platinum Plan).
- Code Office Report: 36 permits/reviews/notices: 3 building permits, 17 plan reviews, 2 close-outs.
- Finger Lakes Land Trust - seeking commitments for agricultural easement for Lounsbery Tract. FLLT is seeking funds from Tompkins County's Natural Infrastructure Program, City of Ithaca's Six Mile Creek Watershed Protection Fund, and NYS Water Quality Improvement Project Funding (WQIP).

Supervisor Notes:

- County-wide Shared Services committee met again on July 5. County Administrator Joe Mareane has compiled a shared-services plan laundry list: training academy, service modernization plan for management of records, mass notification system, LED streetlights purchasing/maintenance pool, expansion of GTCMHIC. Also, discussed exploring opportunities for fleet maintenance, stormwater management, code enforcement.
- NYSEERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program: Benchmarking, Solarize, and Unified Solar Permit are now complete. CFA for Unified Permit has been approved! Kevin has submitted building plans for

two projects for the Energy Code Training and we have received review of one of those projects from T.Y. Lin. Next step is to arrange site visits for two projects.

- Quarter 3 FEMA report for Buffalo Road Creek Stabilization Phase II will be submitted later this week. Project slated for bid in August and work in September.
- Reviewed Climate Smart Communities Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool with intern Nathaniel Haviland-Markowitz and Kristen Hychka of CCE/EFC. I will be gathering information to complete this item.
- Attended July 7 Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative (TCCPI) program on ground-sourced and air sourced heat pumps. Two experts presented very good information on each technology.
- Attended Governor Cuomo's Industrial Hemp Legislation Signing Event at Cornell today. NYS is committing 10 Million dollars into research and development and processing and manufacturing.

Dan Klein, County Representative – No Report

Karyn Scott, Joint Youth Commission - Absent. See attachment #2

Marilou Harrington-Lawson, Town Clerk – No Report

Cal Snow, Town Board – No Report

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board – No Report

Irene Weiser, Town Board – Broadband: new developments. Charter presumably will become provider throughout much of Tompkins County. They have fallen behind. Required to build out broadband to 4500 households much like TW. Didn't meet targeted # of households expected in the first year. Open for Public comment. Financial penalty. 30 houses within 1 mile TW required to build out. This is not realistic of rural areas. Irene plans to take advantage of the open public comment period and ask that they re-negotiate contracts in rural areas.

View TCCOG EMS Task Force findings presentation [here](#) Data provided by Lee Shurtliff. Community based services are collapsing rapidly.

John Fracchia, Town Board – No Report

Resolutions

Resolution 101 of 2017

Fund Transfer Resolution

Be it Resolved the Caroline Town Board makes the following 2017 Fund Transfer and bank account closure:

Transfer: all remaining funds from the Highway Fund Reserve Account DA231 (Tompkins Trust Account 1421002019) to Highway Fund Account DA201 Savings

Adopted Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Reinbolt: Absent; Weiser: Aye; Snow: Aye

Resolution 103 of 2017

Account Closure Resolution

Account Closure: The Caroline Town Board hereby authorize the Supervisor to close Tompkins Trust Account 1421002019

Adopted Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Reinbolt: Absent; Weiser: Aye; Snow: Aye

Approval of Abstracts

Resolution 104 of 2017

Streetlight Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Streetlight Fund voucher number 13 and 14 for \$589.96

Adopted Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Reinbolt: Absent; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

Resolution 105 of 2017

General Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the General Fund voucher numbers 174 through 202 for \$14164.91

Adopted Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Reinbolt: Absent; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

Resolution 106 of 2017

Highway Fund Abstract

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow to approve payment for the Highway Fund voucher numbers 101 through 117 for \$ 36158.26

Adopted Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Reinbolt: Absent; Weiser: Aye Snow: Aye

Minutes

Resolution 107 of 2017

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held July 5, 2017:

A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded Irene Weiser to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2017 Agenda meeting as submitted by Deputy Town Clerk, Becky Jordan.

Adopted Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Absent; Reinbolt: Absent; Weiser: Abstained Snow:
Aye

Attachment #1: Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent report

Attachment #2: Karyn Scott, Joint Youth Commission report

----Adjourn----

A motion made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to move in to executive session at 10:31 to discuss contract negotiations

Adjourned on a motion by Mark Witmer and seconded by Cal Snow at **10:59** p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk