

Town of Carroll
Town Board Minutes
Regular January Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

The Regular January Meeting of the Town of Carroll was held on the 15th day of January 2020 at 6:30 p.m., at the Town of Carroll Administration Building, 5 W Main Street, Frewsburg, New York, the following board were members present:

Supervisor Russell Payne

Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom

Councilman Thomas Allison

Councilman Kenneth Dahlgren

Councilman Thomas Fenton

Supervisor Payne called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and lead everyone in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Payne welcomed everyone to the first meeting of his administration. Supervisor Payne read a letter concerning the Town Clerk office being appointed as an acting deputy court clerk to be able to accept court fees when the court clerk is not available. Attachment 1

Councilman Kenneth Dahlgren read a letter from Judge Robert Gray concerning the Town Clerk as being appointed acting deputy court clerk, allowing the Town Clerk to accept fees or fines when the court clerk is not available to do so. Attachment 2

The Town of Carroll welcomes public comments by all. We ask that you stand, state your name and keep your comments brief (3 minutes or less) as a courtesy to the business nature of the meeting and others time constraints. If you wish to have an interactive conversation with the board regarding a specific matter or concern, it would be greatly appreciated if you request to be placed on the Agenda and provide an outline of the matter you wish to discuss at least one week prior to the meeting. You may do this by contacting the Supervisor or the Town Clerk at (716) 569-5365. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Supervisor Payne requested a motion to accept the January 3, 2020 Organizational Town Board minutes. Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom made the motion, Councilman Thomas Fenton seconded the motion. All in favor, carried.

New Business:

Supervisor Payne requested a motion for the authorization to sign and expend Highway Funds for the year 2020 pursuant to Section 284 of the New York State Highway Law. Councilman Kenneth Dahlgren made the motion, Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom seconded the motion. All in favor, carried.

Personnel Appointments:

Supervisor Payne requested a motion for authorization to hire Tara Underwood as Court Clerk. A motion was made by Councilman Kenneth Dahlgren, seconded by Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom. All in favor, carried.

Supervisor Payne then requested a motion for authorization to hire Linda Trostle as Deputy Town Clerk. A motion was made by Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom and seconded by Councilman Thomas Fenton. All in favor, carried.

Supervisor Payne entertained a motion to authorize hiring Sydney Smith as Custodial Staff. A motion was made by Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom, and seconded by Councilman Thomas Allison. All in favor, carried.

Supervisor Payne announced the committee appointments of following residents, to the Community Engagement Committee: Kim Blanchard, Jon Blanchard, Debby Tompkins Walsh, Amy Mackie and Ann Rubrecht.

Contracts and Agreements:

Supervisor Payne requested a motion to accept the contract between the Town of Carroll and the Town of Busti for Assessing Services that was approved on January 15, 2020. A motion was made by Councilman Kenneth Dahlgren and seconded by Councilwoman Patty Ekstrom. All in favor, carried.

Departmental and Officers Reports:

2019 Monthly Supervisor Financial Report was received by Town's Accountants, Baghat, Laurito and Baghat.

2019 Monthly Town Clerk Report is Pending.

Police Chief William Nelson reported he will have a complete 2019 report at the February meeting. Chief Nelson stated he has recovered two stolen bicycles and is searching for the owners. He has posted pictures of them on facebook hoping to find the owners of the bikes.

Highway Superintendent James Mitchener reported that the past month has been mild, however they have been out plowing, sanding and salting about a dozen times. The Highway Department has taken delivery of about 400 ton of salt so far this season. With no major snow events the department has been busy working on repairing damage at the Highway Garage that was caused by the flooding this past June. Highway staff have been busy restoring the upstairs bathroom at the Town Hall building, and they installed some new LED ceiling lights in the Highway Garage. They have also been working on cutting brush and trees and some pothole patching. Superintendent Mitchener also stated that he has submitted the agreement to spend the Highway Funds forms, and also the Highway Equipment Inventory has been signed and forwarded to the Chautauqua County Department of Public Facilities. He also stated that he will soon need a Board Resolution to adopt the County Shared Services Agreement to be able to work with surrounding Townships.

Supervisor Payne thanked Superintendent Mitchner and his crew for the outstanding job they did repairing the upstairs bathroom and the job they did cleaning up afterward.

Water Department Supervisor Daniel Sisson reported that he will soon be requesting a special meeting to discuss future water projects to replace some tanks and other additional work that needs to be accomplished. He is requesting January 22 or February 5th, he will contact the engineers he is working with to set up a time.

Animal Control Officer Nick Cusimano was not in attendance.

Code Enforcement Officer Alan Gustafson was not in attendance.

Laurie Sorg from the Assessor's Office reported that this is a very busy time of year and there are some significant differences this year. As the Enhanced Star Program for residents who are the age of 65 or older, has been taken out of the hands of the Assessor's Office and is now being administered by New York State Tax and Finance. She stated that those receiving the Enhanced Star need to sign a form authorizing New York State to automatically check their income. She stated that some residents are beginning to receive notifications from the state requesting more information from them in order to improve their Enhanced Star for next year and can continue to receive Enhanced Star. Anyone turning 65 in the year 2020, and your combined household income is under \$88,050, all paperwork needs to be submitted before March 1, 2020 in order to be eligible for Enhanced Star for the upcoming School Tax season. She also stated that the Aged Program is available to residents who are 65 years of age or older and whose income is under \$22,000 per year. Ms. Sorg will be available on Thursday January 30, and Thursday February 27th from 9am to Noon at the Carroll Town Hall to assist anyone with these issues. She also stated that Agricultural renewals will be accepted on these dates.

District 16 County Legislator, John Davis reported that the county held it's Organizational Meeting where Paul Wendal was appointed as Chautauqua County Executive through the next election cycle, and Pierre Chagnon was elected to the Chairmanship of the County Legislature. Chairman Chagnon appointed Legislator Davis to the Administrative Services Committee, and the Public Facilities Committee. Legislator Davis stated that he is concerned with the ban on plastic bags, although he supports environmental causes and things that are good for the environment, he does not support the 5 cent fee per bag fee. He feels that that is a tax on the residents, and he stated the municipalities will have to collect the fee, with 3 cents going to the municipality and the other 2 cents will go to the state. He will be voting against this fee if it comes to the Legislature for a vote.

Councilman Thomas Fenton inquired about the flooding with the town building if anything different is happening with the alarm systems. Dan Sisson replied that the alarm system seems to be in working order and there shouldn't be any further issues with the system that is currently in place.

Supervisor Payne reported that he has received notification from Carroll Town Attorney Paul Webb, and he will be going back to the Appellate Division on February 21 to argue the remaining item left on the agenda. This issue will hopefully be resolved on that day, and he will then be asking for a summary judgement against Sealand, and that is the only issue left on the table at this time. Supervisor Payne will keep the residents informed on this issue as results are forthcoming.

Public Comments:

Resident Thomas Erlandson, 26 Valleyview Drive addressed the Board as a resident of the town and also the President of Chautauqua County Board of Health. He stated the Board of Health recently sent a letter to all municipalities concerning Wind Farms and Chautauqua County. The letter he read was concerning the health issue concerns with Wind Turbine projects that are placed in close proximity to residential areas. He requested that the Town of Carroll Board considers a law banning Wind Turbines before it becomes an issue within the Town. He states he called the Town Hall a few months ago to inquire if Wind Turbine Companies have approached the Town, and he was told that they have not. He states it is prudent that the Town acts now to put legislation in place to ban such companies from erecting wind turbines within the Town. He states once the wind turbine companies come to the town, it is too late to pass legislation banning them. He strongly urged the Board to consider this legislation. He is willing to come and discuss this issue with anyone on the board if they so wish. Supervisor Payne stated that the town received the letter and they will be taking further action on this issue.

Supervisor Payne requested a motion to adjourn the January Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Kenneth Dahlgren, seconded by Councilman Thomas Fenton. All in favor, carried.