

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday June 14, 2023 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 6:00 pm with the following persons in attendance by roll call. The flag salute followed.

Supervisor Scott Horton - Here
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Barbara Deluca – Here
Council Member Richard Sturgess – Here
Council Member Donald Travis – Here

Tor Shekerjian – Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor facilitated the hybrid meeting using Zoom. Also in attendance were Larry Voght – Highway Superintendent, Leigh Anne Loucks – Sole Assessor, Ralph Palcovic, Caroga Tourism Commission (CTC) member, Planning Board Member Lynne Delesky, John Livingston –Board of Assessment Review Member, Jeremy Manning – Bike Trail Coordinator & CTC member, Steve Stedman – Greens keeper, Walter Hogan – Weed Harvesting Coordinator, BTI Director Mike Kunath and Dave Cummings – Golf Course. There were eleven members of the public in attendance and no one was shown to be on using Zoom.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All Board members were in favor of the motion.

Supervisor Horton announced that the public hearing scheduled for this evening to change the terms of the office for the Town Supervisor and Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years won't be held. The requirement for this proposal to start in 2026 requires 150 days' notice before the November election. We are at 145 days. This won't be possible. Supervisor Horton explained he has been in town government for a number of years and each year you gain experience in the job. Four years brings more influence on the county level he noted. He noted the various agencies he has worked with along with numerous state officials he has met. By the time you build these relationships you are out of office. Supervisor Horton stated it is unfortunate that he did not do his math properly. General comments will be heard but it would not be part of a public hearing.

Department Reports:

Wheelerville Bike Trail – Jeremy Manning showed a two-part video and gave a 30-minute presentation on the Wheelerville Bike Trail festival and proposed improvements. Part one of the video was a message by Steve Smith CEO of LL Bean a supporter of the trail system. He stated the bike trail was an economic driver for small rural communities. He owns property at the south end of an area being developed now. Mr. Smith is developing trails on this land and will allow the town to use it too. The second video was a summary of last year's festival. It was made by a company in Schenectady. Below was the handout. A map was passed out to the board.

WHEELERVILLE TRAILS UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN– 6/14/2023

Second Annual Wheelerville Trails Bike Festival, Aug12-13

17 vendors, food trucks, beer	Live Free and Fly DH Race
5 national brands participating	Jump Jam
6 skills clinics	Wheelie Competition
6 guided group rides	Kids games and skills clinics

2023-2026 Goals

Expand trails (Beg. Int. Adv.) 12-15 miles	Covered pavilion for events/daily use
Refresh existing trails	Establish 501c3
Power in parking/jump area/EV charging	Bridge over Irving Pond outlet
Expand trails throughout Fulton County	Connect users to community/businesses
<i>Wheelerville-Caroga Connector Trail (3 miles)</i>	

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) GRANT- CFA JULY 28TH

Federal Grant, administered in NY by OPRHP.

Phase 1 (2024) (3.5 miles)-

RTP Grant Funded, Town Land, 20% local match (cash, in-kind, donation)
2 miles of Wheelerville-Caroga Connector
1.5 miles of Beg/Intermediate Trails

COST

TOTAL: \$110,803
GRANT AMOUNT: \$88,600
LOCAL MATCH: \$22,203

Phase 2 (2023/24)

1 mile of Caroga-Wheelerville Connector
Privately Funded, Private Lands

LOCAL TRAILS PLAN- A planning tool designed to serve as a recommended vision for trail Development in Caroga. Necessary for many grants and helpful in securing future funding. Adoption of local trails plan necessary for RTP application.

ONGOING FUNDING/MANAGEMENT MODEL- Goal is to establish a long-term cooperative agreement between Fulton County, Town of Caroga and Wheelerville Trails 501c3.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution authorizing the Town of Caroga to apply for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant through the 2023 Consolidated Funding Application for \$88,600 for the *Wheelerville-Caroga Connector Trail Project*

2)Resolution adopting the *Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan*

While reviewing the plan Mr. Manning stated these points:

- 1) Red Bull is participating this year and may make this one of their own festivals next year.
- 2) By 2023 he hopes to have 20 miles of trails. There are 9 miles of trails now and we will have 12 miles after this summer.
- 3) The average daily expense of a weekend bike rider is \$485.00.

- 4) In the survey done last year people stated they liked the quality of the trails and the level of build that was done.
- 5) He noted the importance of a connector trail to the downtown businesses in Caroga.
- 6) The deadline to submit a grant to the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation is the end of July.
- 7) Right now, he is thinking the town could be responsible for retaining employees and the 501c3 would be responsible for paying for them. (Do the fund raising)
- 8) Tonight, he is looking for a resolution to adopt the Town of Caroga Trails Plan to be used in the application for the Recreational Trails Program grant.
- 9) Also, a resolution approving the town of Caroga to apply for the RTP grant through the Consolidated Funding Application.
- 10) It was noted that part of the trail would go on the golf course. Mr. Stedman did not see a major problem with the trail going on the bottom side of hole #3. This is very close to state land. The town can't go on state land. Mr. Stedman noted in Colorado there are golf and bike trails together. Mr. Manning stated the trail could be moved.
- 11) Applying for the grant does not bind the town in any way. If we apply for it and don't receive it, we don't do it. If we apply for it and get the funds, we don't have to use them. We still have to go through a planning process.
- 12) We have three years to use the funds.

Council Member Glenn asked if the map indicated that the trail would run behind the #4 Tee box which is being expanded. Mr. Stedman stated he is working on it now and that the bikers would skirt behind it. You will see the bikers. It was asked if there will be interference to the golfers by the bike trail. Supervisor Horton stated there wouldn't be.

Mr. Manning stated it must be made clear to the trail users they must yield to golfers. Mr. Potocar asked if this is covered under the town's liability policy. He stated people would be walking, biking, and golfing all in the same area. Supervisor Horton stated there are exemptions in state law. He did not think we were taking on any more liability and stated there would probably not be any more coverage needed.

Council Member Sturgess asked about the area between hole 7 & 8. Mr. Stedman noted the trail would skirt along the cart path on 7 behind the 7 tee for about 25 feet or so. Mr. Manning stated the trail could go further in the woods and then go behind the 7 green. Mr. Stedman stated the lines are not exact. Mr. Manning stated if he is told definitely not to do something then he won't do it.

Mr. Morris asked about where the bike trail intersected with the snowmobile trail. Mr. Manning spoke to Mr. Ivancic about using the bridge and about using 20' of trail. He noted that Park Agency would have to sign off on crossing wetlands before commencing any work.

Mr. Hogan asked about the economic impact on the town. Mr. Manning stated by extending the trails south riders would visit local businesses. Supervisor Horton stated Economic Development and tourism is a big part of this. The County Planning Dept. and the County Board is excited about this regional attraction. The Supervisor stated this is one of the fastest growing new sports in America. Mr. Manning knows of three guys that have rented RV space for the season because of the trails. He sees getting people to move here too.

Council Member Sturgess looked at the purple future expansion lines around Irving Pond. These are proposed. Mr. Manning replied that they will be hand built and non-motorized tracks. Council Member Sturgess asked why the trails were drawn on state land. Mr. Manning stated

right now you can't touch anything on state land. Council Member Sturgess again asked then why are the lines there. Mr. Manning replied "at some point we will be able to." It has to be in the plan so we can show the state, so they can roll it into their master plan. The plan has to be shown to Department of Environmental Conservation. Council Member Sturgess wondered why we didn't just wait. Mr. Manning noted he did not want to see kids riding a mile down the road on the state highway. The point is to put people in the woods. He was not sure they would be able to do the trail in the next 10 years, but they have to be on the map.

Mr. Potocar asked if charging a fee has been considered, or having vendors in the parking lot selling apparel on a regular basis. Mr. Manning replied we don't have enough miles to charge. Trails with 100 miles in Vermont charge an annual \$50.00 fee. We have 9 miles right now. Mr. Manning stated we could do this if the Wheelerville Bike Trails become a 501c3.

Council Member Glenn wanted more information on the 501c3. In his mind the 501c3 is the planning and fundraising part of this whole thing. Trails could be run on private land through a user agreement. They send the money to the town; the town then hires employees to do the work. If the Wheelerville Trails do the work they have to pay prevailing rate at \$100.00 per hour. The town can pay whatever they want. This year he noted the county is giving money toward the festival. The county can't give the town money. The town can donate to the non-profit.

Mr. Hogan asked about the liability on private land. Mr. Manning stated it falls in two ways, the town would keep a liability policy on their own land and the 501c3 would be responsible for the other land. Mr. Manning noted to use grant money on private property he would have had to get public and private easements over all the parcels, so annual user agreements were suggested just like the snowmobile club has. The Supervisor noted these fit in with the comprehensive plan and who we are as a community and how attractions build a community. He feels it is the government's responsibility to set the stage for development and this is one way we can do that. You have to have a vision and a plan. If you don't have a plan, you don't know where you are going. The 501c3 is all about finding the structure to help fund and develop the bike trails. Supervisor Horton noted this has been planned and we have one of the best trail builders in America helping us. Who would have thought the town of Caroga would become one of the top 5 destinations for mountain biking within two years of putting a shovel in the ground.

Council Member Sturgess was concerned about the impact on the golf course. He would like to have a public meeting with the golfers to hear their opinion on this. He wants time to call the other golf courses that have a similar situation. He didn't think golfers wouldn't come here because of the bike trail. The golf course is a proven revenue stream for the town and did not want to jeopardize that. He understands the, if you build it, they will come concept, but did not want to lose the golf course.

Mr. Manning noted there is a fail stop in this already. He has six weeks to write a grant. He has to get a resolution saying the town is behind this out to lawmakers for their support. If he is successful with the grant, we don't have to accept the funds. We can work on all of the details later on if we get awarded. Council Member Sturgess agreed. Mr. Stedman stated he would find a golf course that has done this with a bike trail close by and bring the information to the next meeting. Council Member Sturgess stated just because we approve a grant process doesn't mean that a shovel is going in the ground. Supervisor Horton noted this trail system is flexible. This may have to be modified. Mr. Manning stated again that the application doesn't bind us in any way. He stated this is not the last meeting on this. He was in favor of a meeting with the

golfers. Supervisor Horton thought maybe some netting would have to be put up on hole #3. Safety measures will have to be considered.

Mr. Hogan asked if the town invested in the snowmobile trail plan as well. He knows the town donates to the club but the club maintains everything themselves at their expense with their own manpower. Will that happen with the bike trail? Will it become self-sustainable? Supervisor Horton stated the concept is to eventually make it self-sufficient. The Supervisor noted the snowmobile clubs are supported by registration fees collected by the state, and then there are the contributions by the volunteers. He noted the town cannot put up a donation can at the trail head, a 501c3 can do that. Supervisor Horton stated we have not invested a lot in this, and stated this is a logical transition.

Council Member Glenn asked that going forward once the nonprofit is established that the burden of the maintenance of the trails would be over completely. Supervisor Horton thought so. Long, long term if this is something that really takes off county wide, the Supervisor could see where eventually the county would take the whole thing over.

Mr. Manning noted two weeks ago 20 guys came down from Toronto. People come from all over to check it out. They would never have come to Caroga otherwise. We have to give them more reasons to stay, more things to do.

BTI – Mike Kunath showed the board the laminated maps he had made of the streams they treat. There is also a new large map of the town in the entrance way to town hall. He stated that the black flies were under control. The smoke from Canada may have helped. He spoke to the highway superintendent about the beaver dam on Mead Creek. He was told in years past this has caused flooding and an excavator had to be used. He will keep an eye on this. Supervisor Horton and Mr. Voght confirmed that this was on private property. Mr. Kunath spoke to Robert Abdella to ask if it was OK to remove part of the dam by hand. Mr. Abdella agreed as long as no machinery is brought in. He said it was OK to trap. Supervisor Horton stated we have a blanket trapping permit. Various names of trappers were brought up. Council Member Glenn asked if the highway superintendent could give his report next as he begins his day at 4 am.

Highway – Larry Voght – reported that they finished paving Morey Road, and the top half of North Bush. They are working to get the shoulders on. The cost of that paving was \$112,700.00. He stated that this was at no cost to the taxpayers “all by the state.” He put refurbished millings on Nick Stock Road, Pine Lake Road, Maloney Road, and there were a couple of other ones.

He informed the board that the highway crew was now represented by the teamster’s union. Mr. Voght reported that on Memorial Day this year they picked up almost 9 tons of garbage. In previous years it was 6 tons.

Mr. Voght reported that he met with Supervisor Horton, Council Member Glenn and Mark Yost (Fulton County Highway Dept.) and came up with a replacement plan to replace equipment for the town. He stated plow trucks were going to be replaced every ten years, the small trucks every six years.

Mr. Voght asked the board to help out with the beaver problem on Newkirk Road. He is there 2 – 3 times a week. He doesn’t know what to do he has an excavator down once a week to open up the culverts. He needs a solution. He stated the DEC will not help him. It was noted that the pelts are not worth anything now.

Council Member Glenn spoke to Mr. Voght today about a front-end loader from Milton Cat. The previous administration used to contract with Milton Cat for a loader. Mr. Voght wanted to lease it and then either buy it out for a dollar or get a new piece of equipment. All board members received this information earlier today. Council Member Glenn suggested talking about this at the next meeting. Council Member Sturgess wanted to talk about it now. Council Member DeLuca wanted to wait she did not have time to review the material.

Supervisor Horton gave a footnote on the meeting he had with Mark Yost. They identified that without taking into account the resale of the used equipment that the town should be budgeting around \$100,000.00 per year for equipment replacement. This year the town budgeted \$90,000.00. This way we would have a schedule and funds available when the time came to replace the equipment.

Mr. Voght left the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Sole Assessor – Leigh Anne Loucks provided the board with her report and all of her supporting documents prior to the meeting. She noted her report is much larger than it normally is. One of the first things she wants the board to look at the information related to solar farms. She did not realize that the Town of Caroga had not taken any action to either have the facilities wholly exempt by using the RO487 or to opt into a PILOT instead of the RP 487 exemption. She provided the board with three different templates used in Montgomery County, (started in 2016) they had a pilot program now they make the solar farm pay full shot. They opted in and out over the years and now the solar farm pays taxes on whatever the valuation is. Another plan is an example of a business exemption – a 50% exemption the first year, and 5% value added every year to get to 100%. In the other example the solar farms pay a flat fee determined by the solar company and the town. Supervisor Horton asked if the pilot programs are run through the Industrial Development Association (IDA). The assessor noted each taxing entity does their own district. The town would decide how they want to collect money on this. The assessor was wrongly under the impression that the Adirondack Park Agency does not allow solar farms. She feels the town should look into this, or the town can have solar farms be wholly exempt. If there is a 6million dollar project going into town, the town should probably get something.

The Assessor also provided the board with information on what took place at the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) hearing. She would like to discuss this with the board at some point in the year future. She has discussed this with the town supervisor on several occasions they are not exactly on the same page with this. She feels this is important so she can move forward with what the town is trying to do with data collection, updating inventories, and in the future running the numbers. The goal is to get all the data collected in the town by the town. Then hire someone for \$50,000 - \$60,000 fee to run the valuation numbers.

The Assessor also provided the board with information on some issues that came about via the BAR with some certificates of compliance and certificates of completion that were issued.

The Assessor thanked Council Member Sturgess for bringing forth information on something he built. When she asked for information from code, she was told there were no permits. Council Member Sturgess provided his copy of the permits. Council Member DeLuca gave the Assessor the list of short-term rentals.

Supervisor Horton asked if the assessor would be in on Friday. He stated they would “get together and come up with a structure and try and address those issues. I will let the board know.”

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO – Linda Gilbert reported that three board members have reviewed the tax collection books for 2023. She asked that a resolution be passed accepting the books as presented for audit.

The conference the clerk attended at the beginning of the month was very informative. The Clerk gathered information on writing a grant perhaps in the future to do some micro filming and putting resolutions, minutes and policy documents into the cloud making them accessible and searchable.

The clerk wanted to note that the 284 form needs to be submitted to the town board from the highway (superintendent) prior to paving. She noted it hasn’t been done for a couple of years.

The clerk sent the board members a couple of audits from the Comptroller’s website one was pertaining to towns being written up for not having a plan for equipment.

The clerk submitted a monthly report and will talk to each of the board members about first amendment auditors.

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – Supervisor Horton read the code report. He issued 49 building permits last month collecting a total of \$5,825.00 in fees. The construction value was \$248,645.00. The supervisor stated we are ahead of last years, year to date numbers in collections of fees.

Dog Control – Dutcher – No report

Golf Course – Steve Stedman reported that the golf course sadly likes the beavers. They have a four-foot-high dam up at Irving Pond. When he needs water, he breaks part of the dam and it flows downstream. He has plenty of water. Mr. Stedman noted the irrigation system was running pretty much every day toward the end of May when it was dry. While running at max a pressure sensor blew out. Back in February he had scheduled to have the pump serviced this spring. They came and worked on the system for 3 – 4 hours and the cost was \$1,200.00. He will continue to have this service done. He has repaired 3 – 4 gate valves in the past month along with replacing 5 -6 sprinkler heads.

Herbicide has been used the greens, fairways, collars, approaches, and tees. It is a 21-day spray. It will be applied again around June 23. Some greens get insecticide some don’t. Holes # 6, 9, and 18 don’t because they are within 100 feet of the creek. He hasn’t seen any damage but the white grubs usually start coming up in June. Another way to control this is to aerify the area. All sprayings are logged and documented in a book and on the computer immediately after Mr. Stedman sprays. If anyone had questions on what is being applied Mr. Stedman stated they can contact him.

Mr. Stedman reported that the mini excavator that he rents is back up and going. In the next month he will get back to his project work.

All of the MSDS sheets are up to par. He filed the last two with the town clerk. His copies are right inside the shop door.

Council Member Sturgess asked if Mr. Stedman talked about automatic watering with the water pump house people. He did not as they just do repairs.

Council Member DeLuca asked to see who was on using zoom right now. Mr. Shekerjian replied that no one was on zoom.

Lakes Management Program – Mr. Hogan reported that **APA Permit** – The APA is satisfied with the data sent to them for our 2019-2021 Milfoil removal which fulfills our existing permit to remove Milfoil and will allow us to request a new permit for the possible use of a Herbicide (ProcellaCOR).

Lake Management Boat – The boat is used to search for new growth of Milfoil using the Lowrance sonar unit. The unit is currently in need of service and in communication with suppliers, it has been recommended I look at Live Sonar which would be more accurate. This process has led him to look at the Garmin units as superior to the Lowrance so he is currently performing that task.

2023 Season Mr. Hogan met with the divers and Councilman Glenn in May for a preseason get together and confirmation - we have a full crew. There is 1 new diver who is certified and 2 new members who will need to be certified by Diver Montana.

The harvester and Jon boat were launched earlier this month and we were unable to get either one of the motors to start. The harvester is launched at the Marina so it was necessary to have it towed to Kowalski Point. The Jon boat is launched at the Point. Howard Dutcher came to the point and was able to get the Harvester motor started but the Jon boat motor was taken to Canada Lake Marine. He noted the divers can dive for 45 minutes then have to come up for a rest and to warm up, but the weather is too cold so they have only been working 2 – 3 hours per day in shallow water. Mr. Hogan reported we are way behind.

During the Harvester set up it was noted two major hoses that are critical in creating the suction (Venturi Hose) for getting the Milfoil up onto the Harvester were found to have cracks and tears, making them unusable. Last year, I was looking for additional hose to extend the length of the hose that the Milfoil travel in. The Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. offered me 2 pieces of used hose outdated for their use. However, they were too small for the Milfoil hose but turns out to be perfect for the Venturi hose. A big thanks to the Fire Dept. without the Venturi Hose we are out of commission vs the extra length we want on the Milfoil hose is an inconvenience only.

Grant Application – We are still waiting to learn if we have been awarded our grant for the ProcellaCOR pilot. My contact at the DEC has told me they are on a Lockdown and are not allowed to discuss anything in relation to the awards to any of the 17 applicants. Mr. Hogan stated his personal thought regarding the Pilot for Milfoil removal is that it needs to move forward even if the grant is denied.

For 30 + years the town has been removing the Milfoil and to date somewhat keeping even with its growth. I say somewhat as new beds were found in W. Caroga Lake and some in E. Caroga Lake have heavier growth. We are not seeing a true decrease. The cost per year is approaching \$100,000 per year and will continue to increase. The Diesel engine on the Harvester, from what I am told, is believed to be original to the program and with normal yearly price increases and added EPA regulations regarding pollution control, a new unit could be in excess \$50-60,000.00.

Mr. Hogan believes we have to be proactive with the milfoil and have to look at some other method other than DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) He believes we have to cut expenses on that particular program.

Council Member Glenn thanked Mr. Hogan and noted they held a lakes management meeting in May 22, 2023. It was well attended by West Caroga and Marcus Harazin. They talked a little about ProcellaCOR. Council Member Glenn spoke about meeting Glenn Sullivan a representative of SOLitude Lake Management Services. It is a nationally known company. They gave him a contract to consider. They would help the town get the necessary certifications and permits. He thought the board should seriously consider this. The terms are for \$6,500.00 with 50% being due on November 23 and the other 50% upon submission to the DEC and APA sometime around February 2024. Council Member Glenn will make copies for the board members. Mr. Hogan said that Mr. Sullivan would try to come out in the summer and review with them along with Ezra Schwarzenberger July 24 and 25th to do a survey our pilot area. Mr. Hogan noted that Lake Luzerne went through the permit process in May for ProcellaCOR. These are great contacts for the town. Mr. Hogan noted we don't know what will come out 10 years from now as a result of using this product. But the only way to find out is to try. Council Member Glenn noted the next lakes management meeting was set for July 21st at 6 pm. The meeting may be changed to coordinate for all to meet.

Council Member Glenn noted the youth program will have a presentation on weeds and lakes management on July 23 from 10 am till 2 pm.

Council Member Glenn noted this month's Adirondack Life Magazine has articles about Sherman's, milfoil, and a trail builder from Keene Valley.

Supervisor Horton asked if we had contracted to have this survey done. Council Member Glenn replied we have not. The Supervisor noted we have budgeted \$12,400.00 for contractual expenses the weed program. We don't know what the repair costs on the motor are yet. The Supervisor wanted to be kept informed.

Town Hall Building – Council Member Travis reported that the insurance inspector checked the town buildings, and found the state inspection of the boiler had not been done yet. An appointment was made and the boiler inspector found that the #1 IBC unit passed, #2 IBC unit did not pass. The low water probe was located in the wrong place. This boiler was installed by Mohawk they were called to redo their work. The #3 Navien boiler passed.

Council Member Travis is trying to get someone to look at the transmission on the white truck so weeds can use it. He is not sure it would be cost effective. The brakes were fixed. Supervisor Horton noted the old code truck was going to be sold and the revenue used to offset some of the cost of the new code vehicle. Supervisor Horton offered selling the white truck. Mr. Hogan noted he only needs a tow vehicle once a week or so. Council Member Travis will check into the cost to repair the transmission on the white truck.

CTC (former PLRT) – Council Member DeLuca reported a meeting was held earlier this month. It was very successful. The next meeting is July 20th. They are working on an end of the summer celebration, scheduling a craft fair at Royal Mountain in September, a witch's ball, and trunk or treat. Snowmobile races are scheduled for February 25th 2024 that is just to lock in a date, a location has not been discussed. Council Member DeLuca spoke to Jeff Raino the resident who sent a letter of interest about getting involved with the town. She said he has a lot of ideas

energy and will attend the next meeting. Council Member DeLuca is also working on getting letters to send to DOT for the Bike Festival from the Fulton County Board of Supervisors.

Short Term Rental Committee – Council Member DeLuca reported that the document will be sent to the board for their consideration at the next meeting. She stated there were some flaws with the document that needed to be revised. Later in the meeting a resolution is needed to send the final draft to the board in a PDF 10 days prior to the meeting via email.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Horton noted that if there is money left from the street lighting program (which there is) it would be nice to finish off by adding two more decorative light in the town center are. He has reached out to a contractor for a revised figure, previously he had estimated cost at \$3,960.00. The Supervisor would like to make a resolution on this later in the meeting. There is money in the budget he replied to Council Member DeLuca. He noted what a success this program was. Originally it was projected that replacing the lights would pay back through energy savings within seven years. It has now down to 3 ½ years of which we have paid two years already.

Supervisor Horton reiterated that NYMIR did an inspection as council Member Travis said. They have had a lot of claims for fires this last year and want to make sure the town has battery disconnects on all of the large vehicles to prevent electrical fires from happening when the vehicles are unattended. This is another expense for the town. Supervisor Horton noted we were a leader in cyber security. As with technology things change and there are more things, they want the town to do and comply with. The Supervisor asked the insurance company if we do this will there be a reduction on our premium. The first answer was no, but the supervisor will have a follow up discussion about this. If you don't comply it will cost you the same if you do comply. That is no reason to not comply, but if you have an anti-theft device on your car you get a discount. He thought there should be a discount if you comply with cyber security.

At 7:55 pm the floor was opened for public comments.

Jed Potocar stated you couldn't do it because you didn't make the 150 days but can you do it anyways for two years from now. Supervisor Horton stated he would like to bring this back in front of the public next year. There is another option but he does not support it because the term would begin in 2024. He did not think this was right.

Mr. Potocar wondered if the board had thought about term limits. That you could only be elected one time. He thought this would get reelection out of every one's dashboard. With a two-year term you have to start running for reelection on day one. With a four-year term you have a couple of years to buckle down and not worry about that. He thought having someone re-elected every two years is counterproductive. He thought as a companion to changing the term having a limitation on how many times you can run. The Supervisor stated he would have to look into that.

Lynne Delesky noted the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Auxiliary is having a chicken BBQ on Saturday July 15th at Camper Corner from 12 – 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 she has them with her. "Come out and support the Auxiliary which in turn supports our fire company."

Jennifer Gross of 115 Summit Ave is relatively new to Caroga Lake. When she first moved in, she was told the town was responsible for cleaning out the culverts. She is wondering when that gets done. Supervisor Horton asked if she contacted the Highway Superintendent. She has done that. He has told her what he can't do for her, but not what he can do. The Supervisor noted the roads are the sole responsibility of the Highway Superintendent. She asked if she had the work done on her own can she bill the town, (No was the response) Council Member Sturgess contacted highway superintendent Voght a year or two ago about a culvert problem and it still hasn't been done. He noted the other ditches in town haven't been done either. The Supervisor stated he would bring this matter up to the Highway Superintendent.

The public portion of the meeting was closed at 7:57 pm. Several people leave the meeting.

Old Business:

Supervisor Horton said this is Franchise agreement with Spectrum Northeast LLC expired in 2020. This has been on the agenda forever. The rates are set by the state so signing the document doesn't make a difference. Ralph Palcovic stated the franchise agreement can be modified for the town. There is a fee attached that the town gets. Supervisor Horton stated he "won't get into a discussion we've closed the public hearing."

Correspondence from Assoc. of Towns stating that Planning Chair last received training in 2021 Supervisor Horton stated if anyone wants correspondence, they can contact the Town clerk

New Business: Supervisor Horton asked for any new business.

Council Member Sturgess noted under correspondence there is one from Majestic for fireworks but not a resolution to pass them.

Correspondence:

Letter from Jeff Raiano looking to get involved in local level.

Majestic Fireworks displays on 6/17, 7/1 Canada Lake, 7/3 Pine Lake, 8/5

Supervisor Horton announced the Caroga Transfer Station will be open on Monday. The July 4th holiday does not affect our station.

Supervisor Horton noted he reached out about the anonymous complaint about the condition of the road on Third Ave and found out who the person was and gave the highway superintendent the information.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #2023-051 to donate a round of golf for four and two cart for the Wheaton Golf Benefit as requested by Cindy Marler was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, Cindy Marler has put together a benefit golf tournament for the family of Todd Wheaton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to donate a round of golf for four and two carts for the Wheaton Golf Benefit.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-052 to renew contract with Fulton County Planning Department for 2024 in the amount of \$1,500.00 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Planning Department has submitted a contract for services in 2024, whereby putting that amount in the budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to renew the contract with Fulton County Planning Department for 2024 in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-053 to call for a public hearing to swap land with a property owner for the purpose of building the golf course maintenance shed was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, a drawing was available from Supervisor Horton for the board members that want to see it; he explained that the proposed layout of the new club house and maintenance shed was to the far east of the boundary which would have required the town to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance, and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton talked to the property owner, who is amenable to swapping about 8000 square feet of land (that the town had been using) with the town, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to call for a public hearing to swap land with a property owner for the purpose of building the golf course maintenance shed .

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-054 to accept a proposed Wheelerville Bike Trail Plan was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, Jeremy Manning gave a presentation this evening on a proposed Wheelerville Bike Trail Plan which included expanding and refreshing trails, putting power in the parking/jump area/with EV charging, expanding trails throughout Fulton County, a Wheelerville – Caroga Connector Trail (3 miles), a covered pavilion for events/daily use, establishing a 501c3, a bridge over Irving Pond outlet, and a connect trail to the community/businesses, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to accept the proposed Wheelerville Bike Trail Plan.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess asked if the board was giving permission for the bike trail to go through their.... Supervisor Horton explained we are accepting the plan but the plan is.... will most likely be close to what was presented but some modifications may be made. The Supervisor noted if approved by the board this would involve going across the pre-existing golf course property.

Council Member Glenn noted the next resolution is to approve the application for a grant for the Wheelerville Bike Trail. The supervisor explained you have to accept the plan first, the plan is part of the application. He noted if the board does not pass the resolution to accept the plan, then you can't go forward with the application for the grant.

Council Member Sturgess wanted to make sure that this resolution was not bonding the town to go through with this plan because he still wants to hear the level of importance on this from the golfing community.

Council Member DeLuca stated that Mr. Manning said that all of this can change. But noted we needed an initial plan in order to proceed with the grant. Mr. Manning responded that all of those plans can be amended. It is a guiding model.

Council Member DeLuca did not think we are making a commitment here to overrun the golf course with bicycles.

Mr. Manning stated that if we should get to a point where we accept the funds we will then go out and do more site work and will reach out to the golfing community. He will reach out to other golf courses with shared use. The plans are conceptual.

Supervisor Horton stated the board still has to approve the acceptance of the funds.

The clerk discussed with the board the buzzer system used at the Kingsboro Golf Course.

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-055 Approve the application for a grant to expand the Wheelerville Bike Trail was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, Jeremy Manning and many volunteers have put in countless hours to create the existing Wheelerville Bike Trail, and

WHEREAS, riders have come to the town from many other states and Canada to ride the trails, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby support and move to approve, Jeremy Manning, in applying for a grant to expand the Wheelerville Bike Trail.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Resolution # 2023-055 was amended by supervisor Horton and seconded by Council Member Sturgess to include the words approve “the application” in the title and in the resolved add application for the Recreational Trails Program Grant for the 2023 consolidated funding application in the amount of a \$88,600.00 grant for the Wheelerville – Caroga Connector Trail Project. All board members were in favor of the amendment, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess and Travis. Mr. Hogan asked if the town was then committing to the difference in from the \$88,600 to the full amount of the grant. Yes, was the reply by Supervisor Horton. He stated it could be for a period of over three years.

RESOLUTION #2023-055 Approve the application for the Recreational Trails Program Grant for the 2023 consolidated funding application to expand the Wheelerville Bike Trail

was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, Jeremy Manning and many volunteers have put in countless hours to create the existing Wheelerville Bike Trail, and

WHEREAS, riders have come to the town from many other states and Canada to ride the trails, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroga seeks to connect the existing Wheelerville Trail System with its Town Center Business District, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby support and move to approve, Jeremy Manning, submitting an application for the Recreational Trails Program Grant for the 2023 consolidated funding application in the amount of \$88,600.00 grant for the Wheelerville – Caroga Connector Trail Project.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-056 to call for a public hearing to receive comments on a new contract proposal with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Caroga town board desires to hold a public hearing on the new Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company contract, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that there will be a public hearing to receive comments on a new contract proposal with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess asked if we scheduled a date for the last public hearing. Supervisor Horton stated he was right to call for a public hearing on July 12, 2023 at 6:10 pm.

Resolution #2023-056 was amended as follows:

RESOLUTION #2023-056 to call for a public hearing to receive comments on a new contract proposal with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Caroga town board desires to hold a public hearing on the new Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company contract, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that there will be a public hearing to receive comments on a new contract proposal with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company on July 12, 2023 at 6:10 pm.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: The clerk asked if the board wanted this on the website. Yes, was the reply for the Supervisor. Council Member Glenn asked if someone from the Fire Department was going to give a presentation on what they are requesting. Supervisor Horton was sure the Fire Company will be here. He will reach out to them.

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-057 to amend Resolution #2023-053 a resolution to call for a public hearing to swap land with a property owner for the purpose of building the golf course maintenance shed was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the date and time of the public hearing was not stated in resolution #2023-053, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to amend resolution #2023-053 a resolution to call for a public hearing to swap land with a property owner for the purpose of building the golf course maintenance shed on July 12, 2023 at 6:05 pm.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-058 to call for a public hearing to receive comments on a proposed Local Law granting property tax exemptions to volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers, was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law #1 will be posted on the bulletin board and website, and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton read the following: resolution entitled adopting Local Law #1 of 2023 to provide real property Tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers pursuant to section 466-a of the real property tax law and

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law 1 of 2023 entitled “A Local Law to provide Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance workers pursuant to section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law” has laid upon the desks of the Town council for the required period; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on July 12, 2023, after due posting thereof and everyone who wanted to speak was heard, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Local Law 1 as attached hereto and made a part hereof, be and hereby is approved, and, be it further

RESOLVED That the Town clerk is directed to number said local law for appropriate recording and filing purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and the Attorney for the Town be authorized and empowered to do each and every other thing necessary to further the purport of this Resolution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the County Treasurer, NYS Secretary of State, Fulton County Code, Town Budget Director, and to each and every other person, institution or agency which will further the purport of this Resolution.

Supervisor Horton stated he would not read the entire 3 – page Local Law.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Council Member DeLuca stated she has to recuse herself on this resolution. The Clerk asked for the resolution to be read (for the public) Supervisor Horton stated it will be posted at town hall and on line.

Supervisor Horton stated this was held up because he wanted the county to come up with a template on this. This is for uniformity for what the county adopted, to all of the other municipalities. He stated one municipality could have 5 years seniority and 5% savings and another could have 2 years seniority and 10% savings. He noted the person must be vested for 5 years and would receive a 10% property tax reduction. The Supervisor noted some of the benefits to a spouse of a deceased firefighter or ambulance worker. The Supervisor noted the terms of taking the states income tax deduction. The Supervisor noted the county did vote to support a bill at the state level for a \$1,000.00 tax credit. He was not sure if that passed or not.

Council Member Sturgess wanted to make sure this was the first Local Law this year being proposed. He remembered a law passed about dogs recently. The clerk will double check, but noted no Local Laws have been passed this year. Supervisor Horton didn't think a miss numbering error would negate the purpose of this.

Adopted by a vote of four ayes: Horton, Glenn, Sturgess, and Travis. Council Member DeLuca recused herself.

RESOLUTION #2023-059 to provide the Caroga Lake Museum a Nick Stoner Golf Certificate Four 18-hole Greens fees and two carts was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board desires to support the Caroga Historical Association and Museum at their annual craft fair next month by donating a gift certificate in their raffle, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby move to donate a certificate for four 18-hole Greens fees and two carts to the museum.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

Supervisor Horton stated this next resolution has to be unanimous.

RESOLUTION #2023-060 to send the final draft of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance to board members by email 10 days prior to the July Board Meeting July 12, 2023 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, information on a Short- Term rental Ordinance will be forthcoming, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to agree to send the final draft of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance to board members by email 10 days prior to the July Board Meeting July 12, 2023.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member DeLuca stated this is so that the entire ordinance does not have to be read at the board meeting. Supervisor Horton stated we may need more of these.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton - Yes

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara Deluca - Yes

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Horton then announced that he would like to suspend the rules (this is something new when we have late resolutions) Council Member Sturgess made a motion to suspend the rules. Seconded by Council Member Travis.

Supervisor Horton stated as we've heard time and time again that resolutions are supposed to be on a piece of paper for the public to view. "To suspend the rules allows us to put resolutions today instead of waiting another month."

RESOLUTION #2023-061 to accept the Town Clerk's Tax Collection books for the year 2023 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector presented her tax collection books for audit for the year 2023 on April 12, 2023, and

WHEREAS, three members of the Town Board did audit the tax collectors' books without comment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the Tax Collectors books for audit for the year 2023.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-062 to approve the applications for fireworks submitted by Majestic Fireworks, Inc. was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, Majestic Fireworks, Inc. 29 College St. Clinton NY 13323 submitted two applications for fireworks in the Town of Caroga one sponsored by Canada Lake Protective Association on July 1st duration 15 minutes, and the others sponsored by Pine Lake Park on June 17, July 3, and August 5 for 15 – 18 minutes approximately, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the applications for fireworks submitted by Majestic Fireworks, Incorporated.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess questioned why we are suspending rules for resolutions added to the meeting. He noted we haven't done that in the past. He noted the motion was made and seconded. He noted we have to vote on it. Supervisor Horton stated it is the proper thing to do. Council Member Sturgess again made a motion to suspend the rules. Council Member Travis again seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-063 to add two additional lights to town center not to exceed the budgeted amount was offered by Council Member Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, the board desires to add two additional lights to the town center area, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to add two additional decorative lights to town center area not to exceed \$4,000.00.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Council Member Sturgess made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2023 Town Board meeting. The clerk asked what had been decided about the resolution to appoint another Caroga Tourism committee meeting member. Supervisor Horton stated it was not discussed. Council Member DeLuca explained the committee was seven members then it was changed to a five-member board and then a sixth person was added at the last meeting. The committee members do not include Council Member DeLuca. The board decided to wait to approve the minutes of the May meeting. All Board members were in favor of tabling the approval of the May meeting minutes. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Council Member Sturgess made a motion to approve the bills as presented for audit. The motion was seconded by Council Member Travis. All members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Jeremy Manning asked the board to amend resolution # 2023-054 a resolution to accept a proposed Wheelerville Bike Trail Plan, and instead have the resolution state that the Town Board accepts the Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan.

RESOLUTION #2023-064 to accept the Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.

WHEREAS, Jeremy Manning gave a presentation this evening on a proposed Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan (Wheelerville Bike Trail) which included expanding and refreshing trails, putting power in the parking/jump area/with EV charging, expanding trails throughout Fulton County, a Wheelerville – Caroga Connector Trail (3 miles) a connecting trail to the community/businesses, a covered pavilion for events/daily use, bridge over Irving Pond outlet, and outlines future trails to be constructed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to accept the proposed Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan for the Wheelerville Bike Trails.

Seconded by council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, Travis

At 8:37 pm Council Member Sturgess made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Submitted by the Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC

General #'s 153 to 194 - \$20,340.65

Prepaid #'s 144 to 176 - \$26,071.13

General Park #'s 28 to 49 - \$7,975.28

Highway #'s 56 to 69 - \$150,294.84