

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday August 9, 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 – arrived at 6:09 pm  
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, Leigh Anne Loucks – Sole Assessor, Ralph Palcovic - Caroga Tourism Commission (CTC) member, Steve Stedman – Greens keeper, Walter Hogan – Weed Harvesting Coordinator, BTI Director Mike Kunath and Dave Cummings – golf course manager. There were 26 members of the public in attendance and an additional five people were on using Zoom.

Council Member Sturgess made a motion to waive the reading of the July minutes. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All Board members present were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, Sturgess, and Travis.

**Department Reports:**

***Wheelerville Bike Trail*** – Supervisor Horton stated Mr. Manning was getting ready for the Bike Festival this weekend and would not be here. If there are questions, they can be forwarded to the Supervisor or Mr. Manning. They are expecting 800 people. There are major sponsors attending and there is an anticipation they will possibly be the sponsor next year. Scott Henze from Fulton County Planning came up today to look at the progress, the format will be the same Saturday racing, skills development on Sunday. The trails are open for recreational use except for the one downhill trail being used for the race. Those who don't ride and walk up and see the riders.

***BTI*** – Mike Kunath didn't have much to report. The season is over as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, the last day to treat under the license. They used roughly 60 gallons of BTI concentrate. He will have the exact number once all of the paperwork is in. That is a bit on the high end, but not the highest he has ever seen. He has not had any problem with access to properties.

***Sole Assessor*** – Leigh Anne Loucks – Sole Assessor gave everyone her report. She is still hoping to move forward with the Solar Local Law just so the town does not lose out. She noted a public hearing is needed. Supervisor Horton asked when it has to be done by. The assessor stated there is no time limit, but something has to be in place before someone submits a letter of interest or intent. Once the letter is filed the town no longer has the ability to have a pilot. They would be wholly exempt unless they choose to give the town money.

Supervisor Horton stated at the county they opted out of that. The Assessor stated you can opt out giving them wholly exempt status. Supervisor Horton stated no, they are fully taxable at the county. This changed the end of last year. That only applies to the county not for the town

or school districts. You have to either opt out or give them a pilot of a flat fee or like a business exemption where they pay 50% the first year, 5% added each year for ten years, and then a flat fee from year 11 – 15 at full value.

Council Member Sturgess asked what the advantage of the pilot was. He thought the pilot seemed like it was an incentive to bring solar up here. The assessor stated if you don't have a pilot, they are wholly exempt. The value of the property would not increase, because there isn't a pilot and the property owner would pay the same land tax as was always done.

Supervisor Horton was under the impression that the counties local law was applicable to all of the townships. The assessor did not believe so. Supervisor Horton will talk to the county attorney about this. If we do have to do a local law it can be addressed at a future meeting.

The Assessor stated the town should just get something in place prior to a letter of intent coming to the town for a solar farm. She was wrongly under the impression that solar farms were not allowed in the Adirondack Park. She has been corrected.

Leigh Anne Loucks also noted the town was served for a tax proceeding. The attorney was contacted. The supervisor noted the attorney responded to the petition.

The assessor is still looking to meet in regards to the Board of Assessment review. She gave everyone a letter and there are some other things she would like to discuss too. The Supervisor said maybe they can get together next week. Supervisor Horton stated he wanted to look at the maximum property tax deduction for seniors. The assessor also mentioned looking at the disability exemption too.

Council Member Glenn wants more information about the solar farms. He asked to have a work session some time.

Council Member DeLuca noted the safety issues with regard to the solar farms. There was a big fire in Jefferson County. It was a 3 - 4-day fire and at the time fumes were released.

The Assessor noted another important part was the decommission plan for any of them. Right now, it is up to the property owner who leases the land to them to set up a plan. If no plan is set up after the 15 years everything is still there. Supervisor Horton stated in our code we require a bond to decommission. In Palatine the cost of a permit for a solar farm is \$8,000.00 per megawatt of the project. This helped the town if they had to get an appraisal for court. There are certain things that come up with this, so it won't come out of taxpayer money.

Council Member Glenn again asked for a work session on this. The first step is to talk to the County attorney the Supervisor replied, to see on the tax side. The supervisor explained that some solar farms are tax exempt which means that even though improvements are made to the property there is no tax. The pilot program is usually used for economic development purposes and instead of having the assessor assess a piece of property an agreement is entered into in some form. Usually, a ten year sometimes a ten year plus five. The Supervisor noted on the county level it was thought solar farms were going to come in regardless and did not need the incentive. So, the county decided to tax them.

The Assessor noted the state put out a model on how to assess solar farms that produces at least one megawatt (mw) of power. You cannot use the model if they are not producing the one mw per year.

The Supervisor noted there is a huge solar farm in Mayfield and they have zero control. Council Member Glenn was asked to write up a list of things he wanted to know.

***Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO*** – The Clerk submitted the monthly report to the Supervisor he did give a receipt to the clerk. The clerk will let the board know about some time off she plans to take. She noted on the report that was received from the Code Officer two permits were issued to Mr. Ken Benton on July 17<sup>th</sup> but he sold that property and he is no longer

the owner. Another person was issued a permit on July 12 but they are deceased. Supervisor Horton suggested sending the code officer a note.

**Code Enforcement & Sanitation** – Supervisor Horton noted Mr. Fancher is not here today his significant other's father passed away. He did send in a report but it does not have the details the public asked for at the last meeting. There were about \$500,000.00 of new construction permits for last month. He has been busy

**Dog Control** – The clerk stated – no report

**Golf Course** – Mr. Stedman reported that he has been getting some flak from some of the golfers about the bike trail issue. He spoke to Jeremy today and thought there should be a meeting of the minds on this. He knows golf is a quiet sport yet some people have music or whoop and holler on the course. Areas of concern was #4, the use of the cart path on #7 and he noted there is zero room on the right side of #3. It is lined with rocks. Supervisor Horton noted this is the proposed bike path through the golf course. The area on the other side of Irving's Pond creek was also mentioned. Mr. Manning doesn't think this will even be done this year. It was noted that a grant was applied for this design. Supervisor Horton stated this is moot if we don't get the grant. With a deadline looming some sort of expansion of the bike trail had to be presented. He did not see where the two uses are comparable so if we get the grant the first step is to take a look at the proposed plan and what would be a better plan for the golfer's standpoint and then bring the two sides together. Mr. Stedman agreed and wanted to look at the plan more.

The August is a busy month with outings pretty much booked every Saturday or Sunday or both until October 8<sup>th</sup> the Falling Leaves Tournament. He puts cones out in the cross walks during tournaments.

All of the applications of chemicals are up to date Mr. Stedman reported. He did some Verti cutting which is a dethatching process – a raking of the grass. He is working to eliminate the moss on the course. Holes were shut down for 4 -5 days during a time when it was raining and not much play. They are recovering. There are 7 – 10 pounds of seed on them. Hole #18 was ditched. It took two days and 12 hours of work with a rented mini excavator. This week he will work on the left side of #5, the approach is always wet. He did find the drainage outlets so he will expose the ditch and hopefully it won't be as wet anymore. Then he will work on #4 before winter. Mr. Stedman is already thinking about preparing the course for winter- ordering top dressing sand, and getting an aerifying schedule before he has to close the course around the first week of November.

Council Member Travis noted a worker on the course got stung the other day and went to the hospital, he wondered if the course should have an EpiPen. Council Member DeLuca noted those who have documented allergies should be prescribed an EpiPen. The fire department EMT's carry them and can treat them. The person recently stung chose not to be treated and drove himself to the hospital.

Mr. Cummings noted the golf club house has a Narcan kit.

**Highway** – Mr. Voght submitted a written report. He saw the agenda and saw that the town may possibly put up the land the town owns on Fisher Road up for sale. In his report he wrote "Land on Fisher Road is not good to town highway Department. No sand on it or good logs, no use to Town of Caroga." His report lists roads that have been resurfaced as of 8/9/2023

N. Bush - Paved  
Mussey – Millings

Maloney - Millings  
Hutchinson – Crusher Run

Fisher – Millings	Holler – Crusher Run
Hilley Crusher Run	Even Pond - Milling
Nick Stock Milling	North Branch – Milling
Pine Lake – Milling	East & West Stoner Lakes – Crusher Run
North Shore – Milling	Barber and Point Breeze – Crusher Run
Morey – Paved	W. Lake – Crusher Run
Kasson Black Top soon from RT 10 – London Bridge	

Supervisor Horton noted if anyone wanted to see the report, they can ask the clerk.

Council Member DeLuca asked if the request from Mr. Voght to purchase a plow was in the highway budget. Supervisor Horton replied the purchase of a plow was not put into the budget for this year, but it may be possible to make the purchase he has not looked at the budget. Council Member DeLuca asked if all of the resurfacing done came out of CHIPS money. Supervisor Horton replied, “Yes.”

**Lakes Management Program** – Hogan stated it was a cold spring for the divers to work. They lost a couple of weeks in June with thunder storms and wind. Consequently, the year-to-date total is down 104 bushels from last year. He noted however that close to ½ of what was harvested came out of West Caroga Lake. That has never happened before. The lower numbers on East Caroga are due to the cold weather he believes that may have slowed the growth. The plants are shorter and harder to find. Now that the divers are on East Caroga, they are finding Milfoil that was not seen earlier. Mr. Hogan said the new motors are working well.

Mr. Hogan noted the meeting on ProcellaCOR for a pilot project he is looking to do went well. There was good attendance. He received a letter that he will respond to. He noted it will take years to get to the point the DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) program can be cut back. He stated it cost \$100,000.00 to run that program.

He has not heard back on the grant yet. Seventeen people applied for the grant – not all was for Milfoil but for other invasive, and contamination on the Mohawk.

Mr. Hogan contacted DEC about the timeframe for mapping the milfoil. In order to get the grant. He is going ahead with that the cost is \$8,900.00 which the town will have to spend if we don't get the grant. He does have it in the budget. He has been conservative in his spending. He told Ezra Schwartzberg from Adirondack Research that he could do the mapping tomorrow. Mr. Sullivan from Solitude recommends that we also do the mapping on the two areas heavy with milfoil for the pilot program. Since Ezra is going to be here it would be cost effective for this to be done while he is here. If not done this time the estimate he gave to come down again is \$5,000.00 added to the \$8,900.00.

Mr. Hogan noted ARA Zeiman came down from the Adirondack Park Agency. That is a requirement to make sure we do have a milfoil issue. This is for the permit process. He toured the lakes for 4 – 5 hours. Mr. Hogan noted Mr. Zeiman has worked with Glenn Sullivan and Ezra Schwartzberg and highly recommends them.

Spectrum News did a piece on invasive species. He will share the link. He had the reported look at the boat wash station, and the program for the Jr. Stewards was being conducted, a lot of video was taken but the boat wash hasn't aired. He thought this was important and will call her.

He noted that the main hoses used to pull the milfoil may need to be replaced. Sometimes they are hit by the prop. They have been spliced and repaired. He has heard prices from \$200 a foot to much less and we have 50 – 60 feet of hose.

Mr. Hogan had a convenience matter. In the past the program has used the white truck to get gas or to dump the trailer. Mr. Voght has been very accommodating in helping out this year. Now Mr. Hogan uses a dump truck but the highway needs it too. He wanted to make note of this for next year. Council Member Sturgess asked why the harvester is not filled daily. Mr. Hogan said they go 4 – 5 days without having to refuel. They are never sure when it's needed. He would have to be at the highway garage at 6 am for fuel. They have 6 – five-gallon cans they try to keep filled. They are in the back of his car which he does not appreciate. Having another pickup truck around would be helpful. Supervisor Horton suggested putting something in the budget for next year.

Supervisor Horton saw the video and it was well done. He thinks the second segment on the youth program will air later.

Supervisor Horton clarified that the town board approved monies to Solitude. He thought the Solitude program included doing a survey of the lake. Mr. Hogan stated Glenn with Solitude was to get the permits into DEC and APA. Then administer the ProcellaCOR next year. The \$8,900.00 was to do the two spots on West Caroga, the channel, the area outside the channel, and the marina. Glenn thought it would be wise to do Avery Road/Turtle Bay and Campsite areas included in the pilot program. You have to do the mapping to do the application for the permit. Supervisor Horton stated he would check the budget.

Council Member Glenn wanted something in writing from Mr. Hogan on this. He asked if we needed a contract. Supervisor Horton noted the next meeting is in a month. Mr. Hogan said Mr. Schwartzberg would be flexible with his payment. He could not do the extra mapping without board approval unless something special is done. If he has to come back to do the mapping it will set us back a year.

Mr. Harazin (on Zoom) noted Mr. Olm sent in a report on the boats inspected. We are on par or ahead of last year despite the bad weather. He complimented Mr. Hogan on the piece on Spectrum News. It is educational and shows a real issue. The date of the program for the kids had to be changed from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28 due to the weather. The kids were shown water craft and milfoil. Forty-eight kids participated in the Junior Stewards program. Mary Jablonski and Lori Mott volunteer their help with the program. Mr. Harazin thanked the town for working with the Canada Lake Conservation Association (CLCA), and AWI. This was the only program done in the southern Adirondacks. He hopes to do this again in a couple years. He would like to take the kids down to see the Harvester next year.

In Mr. Olms report it stated 203 water craft were inspected at the Caroga boat launch and 167 were decontaminated. At the East Caroga Lake Campground launch there were 188 water craft inspected, and at the West Lake Fishing Access site 1508 watercraft that were inspected. Last year signs were put up to direct boaters to the boat wash. DOT put up more signs and he thought this helped as the numbers were up. He noted that there were a couple of instances where the stewards have had uncooperative boaters. They cannot be forced to get their boat washed. Mr. Harazin stated the state has to do a better job of letting the public know this is the law. They need to do some enforcement on it. 90 % of the people take this seriously, ten percent can be a challenge for the stewards.

Council Member Glenn gave kudos to Linda Gilbert, the youth steward program would not come about without her input. Mr. Harazin made the connections with America's Watershed Initiative. He noted CLCA picked up the cost of the extra workbooks and certificates. Colleen and her staff did a great job too. It was a fun day.

Council Member Glenn thanked everyone who came to the July 21<sup>st</sup> informational meeting concerning the possible use of ProcellaCOR a herbicide to limit and control the Eurasian Milfoil.

He looks forward to having 1 or 2 more informational meetings. He wants the public to ask questions, and discuss concerns. He wants to have the results of the mapping at the next meeting.

***Town Hall Building*** – Council Member Travis reported the water testing was just done for the Summer Recreation program. Everything was good on that. Council Member Sturgess asked about the heating system. Council Member Travis noted the boiler inspector came back and everything was good.

***CTC (former PLRT)*** – Council Member DeLuca noted the traffic pattern for the bike festival this weekend has changed. Use caution while using Kasson Drive the alternate route.

There will be a craft fair in October at Royal Mountain. She will have that information next week for the clerk to put on the website and on the tourism Facebook page. They are also planning for Halloween. The CTC next meeting will be set soon.

***Short Term Rental Committee*** – Council Member DeLuca stated they are looking at some changes. It is a fluid document at this point because as this evolves, they are finding new things they need to address. She is working on the permit that will be fillable and payable online, a trigger would be sent to the necessary departments. This would take out a whole lot of paperwork making it easier for people to apply. If not next month, then October. Council Member DeLuca has found 68 pieces of property being used for short term rentals. Leigh Anne Loucks the Assessor has also been looking online and she has found 900 that she is going through on the website. You have to look at the picture to find where it is. Council Member DeLuca stated when you put Caroga Lake into one of the search engines for Air B & B's you get Gloversville, stuff from Hamilton County, and Peck Lake too. You cannot filter it. You only get the location once you book online. The Council Member and the Assessor use RPS to assist them.

Council Member Sturgess wanted to make sure that we are looking at the pros and the cons of this. Sometimes he feels we are focusing on just the cons of this. He did not want to push the Air B & B's out of the town. Council Member DeLuca stated she did not want to do that either. Council Member Sturgess also did not want the whole town to be Air B & B's either. First Council Member DeLuca stated we have to have a starting point. We have to know where they are, we have to make sure they are inspected, we have to set a standard for the community. It is about safety for the renters, the community and the environment. Council Member DeLuca noted there was a great informational session two years ago. Sometimes they take over, some places have had to change zoning law to say only a certain percentage can be an Air B & B in certain zoning areas, they had to go that far. When this all comes together there will be a more comprehensive discussion.

**Supervisor's Report:** In the interest of time Supervisor Horton did not give a report.

**\*\*Public Comments and Questions**

Dave Steele is a third-generation summer resident on East Caroga. He hopes to be a permanent resident. He congratulated the town for doing something about the milfoil by realizing that what's happening now is not working. He and his family are concerned about the need for more independent scientific evaluation of these lakes that has been done. The information at the meeting was put out by the company. He is looking for more independent scientific information. He and his wife have been doing a lot of research on this recently. There are professors

throughout the region from Clarkson, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry out of Syracuse, and Cornell. He urged the board before getting into anymore contracts for chemicals to be put into the lake that we look for a biological and other management techniques. He is concerned about the board's process in applying for a grant for ProcellaCOR. He would have hoped there would have been a public meeting of some type – he stated he knows the grant had to be applied for in March when a lot of summer residents were not here, but he was not aware of this at all until the public hearing. He wants to know how that process went.

Council Member Glenn noted the opportunity to apply for a \$50,000.00 grant from DEC was specifically for the pilot program for ProcellaCOR window closed quickly. We were 48 hours late for the deadline. So, there was no time to sit down and talk. We are here now in open session talking about education and any other method. Council Member Glenn welcomes any and all information. The person from Solitude Lake Management offers scientific papers on this. They are on the website. Mrs. Steele wants to give the board information. The more scientific approach to this is better. She thought that all of the micro environments should be taken into consideration and the approach has to be different. There is information on YOUTUBE. She wants a group of people together to work with the board on this. She doesn't want to do something that will, down the line keep poisoning the lake.

Joanne Clark (virtual) had a two-prong question. She was told that the town of Caroga sat down with the EPA and came up with an agreed upon set of rules and regulations for the management of the town. The agency was corrected to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). Supervisor Horton stated if she is talking about zoning.... She again asked if the APA sat down with the town management and came up with a set of rules and regulations for the management of the town concerning things that concern the APA. Supervisor Horton replied, "Yes, "If he understands what she is saying. He stated this happened 12 years ago when he was the chairman of the Planning Board, they developed a new set of zoning rules and regulations if we were in contact with the APA and the APA back and forth to draw up those new regulations.

Ms. Clark then asked if those rules and regulations include clear cutting along the shoreline. Supervisor Horton replied anything 35 feet or closer there are shoreline regulations with the cutting of trees. She talked to the legislative director for a state senator today and Sherry Kenny was the first person to make contact. He advised her that if she wanted to register a complaint that they should go to the attorney general's office. She has that contact information if anyone wanted it. She is as concerned as she was at the last meeting. She doesn't understand what is going on up here. She is going home to VA but will be staying tuned in.

Alan Farber of 222 Sand Point Road stated that last month he submitted complaints to the town and to the code officer regarding projects in town. He wanted to focus on the one on Kasson Drive. Today he was driving on the road and it was blocked by an excavator. When he submitted the complaint, it was concerned about the size of the property which is .38 acres. It is in a 2.5 zoning district. It is below the size and a non-complying property. Since it is non-complying, it would have to go to a site plan review before the Planning Board. He doesn't know if any of this has happened. He wants to make sure this has a site plan review and until that is done, they really should do a stop work order on that project. This was to be done before any work was done on the property. He wants to make sure the town is having the ordinance followed accurately and consistently. He doesn't see that happening right now. He encouraged the town as a whole make sure these rules are followed.

Council Member Sturgess asked if he was insinuating that he was building on this property so far. Mr. Farber replied not building on it he is excavating... Council Member Sturgess stated so he has moved dirt on property that he owns that he pays taxes on. Mr. Farber replied "right."

That is all Council Member Sturgess asked. Council Member Sturgess stated we can't police until he buys a hammer, a nail, and a board. It is his property. Supervisor Horton interjected noted we don't usually get into discussion. It is the privilege of the floor. Supervisor Horton stated he will follow up with a response. The Supervisor noted the lot is a preexisting non-conforming lot. He has the right to develop the lot. Article 9 Section 6 of the ordinance was quoted by Mr. Farber. It appears to Mr. Farber that the town is not following its own code.

Liane Schur of 107 Forrest wanted to defend Air B&B's. She has been a host for Air B& B for 8 years. She is wondering about what the process will be for permits. She thought maybe the code would be changed. She asked if the public, those who own Air B& B's, are involved in this and can they speak up. How does this work. Supervisor Horton explained that Council Member DeLuca is working on a proposed Local Law. When that is ready to be presented to the public in its final form it will be posted on the town website, and there is a public hearing. At that time all interested parties would come and there would be a dialog, you can ask questions and offer opinions. Right now, it is still a work in progress. Nothing will be hidden from the public the supervisor stated.

At 7:16 pm the public section of the meeting was closed.

Supervisor Horton stated we have made a little progress on the Franchise Agreement.

**Old Business:**

Franchise agreement with Spectrum Northeast LLC expired in 2020

**New Business:**

Supervisor Horton stated if the public wants any of this correspondence, contact the clerk.

**Correspondence:**

July 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of intent to purchase 8.10 acres of land from the town

July 7 letter from Angela Holliday re: dead trees on golf course near her house

Labor Day Transfer Station Hours. Closed Monday 9/4 open Tues. 9/5 8 – 4.

Fulton Co. Workers Compensation report

Letter from Friends of East Caroga Lake re: use of an herbicide

Town Served with a complaint by Northern Pine Cove LLC re: Assessment

Canada Lakes Conservation Assoc. thanks for running Junior Invasive Species Steward session

Letter from Nick Stoner Trailers to Supervisor & town board

Fulton Co. Res. 290 authorizing application to the NYS dept. of Health to obtain a permanent municipal certificate of need to establish, contract for and/or operate an ambulance service under contracts within the County's boundaries.

Supervisor Horton noted the motion to go into an executive session is between resolutions however, that will be the last item of business.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION #2023 – 076 to make the following transfers** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.



**WHEREAS**, the Bookkeeper Joanne Young has determined that a transfer is needed, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following necessary transfers be made to maintain a balanced budget:

FROM: DA5142.1 Snow removal P/S	\$2,600.00	
TO: DA9050.8 Unemployment		\$2,600.00

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

If passed the board members were reminded that this needed to be signed by them tonight.

**RESOLUTION #2023 – 077 to accept the Fulton County Highway Department Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract for 2023-2024** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, Fulton County Highway Department submitted a Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract to the Town of Caroga for the total miles of 5.13, the price per mile is \$5,500.00, with the total contract amount of \$28,215.00, and

**WHEREAS**, the town received certificates of liability insurance included with the contract, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the Fulton County Highway Department Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract for 2023-2024.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

**RESOLUTION #2023-078 to set a public hearing** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the town received the renewal for the Cable Television Agreement between Spectrum Northeast LLC and the Town of Caroga two and a half years ago, and

**WHEREAS**, the town Attorney has reviewed the agreement, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to set a public hearing on Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:05 pm at Caroga Town Hall.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Supervisor Horton stated the document is on file in the clerk's office. The clerk stated it would be posted on the website. Supervisor Horton stated the only change being

proposed is the length of the term. The rate is still the same at 4%. The term of the contract is ten (10) years. The justification is that technology is changing so fast.

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

**RESOLUTION #2023 - 079 to set term of Caroga Tourism Commission member** was offered by Council Member DeLuca at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the Caroga Town Board passed resolution #2023-074 at the July meeting increasing the number of board members on the Caroga Tourism Commission now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Sue Collins of Kasson Drive Caroga Lake NY term on the Caroga Tourism Commission will run until Dec. 31, 2028.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

It was noted for informational purposed that the seventh member's term expires on Dec. 31, 2029.

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

**RESOLUTION #2023 - 080 to approve two application/permits for firework displays** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the town received paperwork from Majestic Fireworks, Inc. 29 College St., Clinton NY 12032 for two upcoming fireworks displays one on August 19 for Pine Lake Park and the other on September 3 for Caroga Arts Collective, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move approve the application/permit submitted by Majestic Fireworks Inc. in accordance to NFPA 1123/1126 – Penal Law 405 & 270.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

**RESOLUTION #2023 - 081 to donate 4 rounds of golf and two golf carts to the Nick Stoner Trailers for their 2023 golf outing** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, a letter was addressed to Supervisors and the Town Council from the Nick Stoner Trailers postmarked July 28, 2023, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to donate 4 rounds of golf and two golf carts to the Nick Stoner Trailers for their 2023 golf outing.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Council Member Sturgess asked if the board could make a resolution for the manager of the club house to be able to donate 4 rounds of golf and two carts for every tournament over x amount of people. He states it was no different than a special. Supervisor Horton did not know if that was legal. Council Member DeLuca responded “No.” The Supervisor stated he can look into that. Supervisor Horton noted there was going to be a transition this fall. This was not done when he took over four years ago. He would like the board to consider hiring an outside CPA to come in to do an audit before the end of the year of the supervisor’s books so the new administration would know everything was in order when they took over.

**RESOLUTION #2023 -082 to get an estimate from Phil Beckett CPA to do a limited audit of the Supervisor's records before the end of 2023** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, there will be a transition at the end of 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton would like to have an audit done before the end of the year of the Supervisor’s books, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to have Supervisor Horton get an estimate from Phil Beckett CPA to do a limited audit of the Supervisor's records before the end of 2023.

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Supervisor Horton explained that this would not be a full-blown audit. He talked to Mr. Beckett who would look at the checking accounts, bank statements, the reconciliations done by the bookkeeper every month. He thought it was a good idea at the change of every administration.

Council Member DeLuca asked if that included the town clerk and code. Council Member Travis replied, “No.”

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Supervisor Horton stated that now that the invasive program needs a truck maybe we want to put a transmission in it. Council Member Travis stated the cost of a new transmission was \$900.00.

**RESOLUTION #2023 - 083 to contract with Auctions International to auction off the 2002 White Ford F-150** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the 2002 White Ford F150 truck has a blown transmission and is not worth repairing, and

**WHEREAS**, the town paid \$600.00 for the used truck several years ago, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to contract with Auctions International to auction off the 2002 White Ford F-150.

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Discussion: Council Member Travis thought \$900.00 was a lot cheaper than going out and looking for another truck for the weed harvester. Council Member Sturgess asked Mr. Cooper about spending the money for a new transmission. He recommended not putting money into a 21-year-old truck.

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Council Member Travis reached out to four different tree removal companies to remove 4 dead trees along the first fairway that threaten a resident's house with two companies TBS at \$3,450.00 and Unlimited Heights at \$3,800.00 responding, both would do all of the removal and cleanup. The work would be done when the course is slow or rainy in two days. The cart path would need to be shut down. Waiting until the end of the season was also offered.

Council Member Sturgess asked why we were taking these trees down. Council Member Travis stated there were five dead trees but one fell on the property owner's house located next to the ninth hole.

Mr. Stedman stated the trees could be removed the first week of November or the last week in October. He confirms that the trees were going to fall either on the house or the 9<sup>th</sup> green.

Supervisor Horton asked where the money was coming from. Council Member Sturgess was not in favor of taking the money from the golf course contractual expense budget. Mr. Stedman stated he could not take the trees down. Supervisor Horton suggested taking the money out of contingency A1990.4. Mr. Stedman has certain planned expenses for the year.

Council Member Sturgess has heard good things about Unlimited Heights. Council Member DeLuca stated that TSB is very knowledgeable, both are. Supervisor Horton noted we have to contract with the lowest responsible quote.

**RESOLUTION #2023-084 to contract with TSB Company** was offered by Council Member Travis at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the town received a letter from a property owner adjacent to the town owned golf course regarding dead trees on the town's property, and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Travis reached out to four different tree removal companies to remove 4 dead trees along the first fairway that threaten a resident's house with two companies TBS at \$3,450.00 and Unlimited Heights at \$3,800.00 responding, both would do all of the removal and cleanup, and both are insured, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to contract with TSB at a price of \$3,450.00, coming from the contingency account A1990.4, with the coordination of the project being on Mr. Stedman's time.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Council Member Sturgess asked if it would be done this year. Supervisor Horton stated you cannot approve funds for next year.

Supervisor Horton asked the board if they were interested in selling an approximately eight-acre piece of town owned land on Fisher Road with a cross road of Hohler Road. Council Member Sturgess was not in favor of selling the property. He thought the matter should be tabled. Council Member Sturgess remembers the town drawing sand off the property. He has heard from two people who work for him that there is still sand on that property to draw off of for the town. He believes that the Highway Superintendent chooses not to do it. Trees need to be cut to open up the sand bank. He thinks the town should hold on to the property and go back to screening our own sand with the screen plant we have. Council Member Glenn agreed and thought we needed more information.

**RESOLUTION #2023-085 for a public hearing to contract with Coldwell Banker to list and sell the property at the end of Fisher Road** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the town received a letter of intent date July 1, 2023 to purchase a piece of town owned property on Fisher Road which is approximately 8 acres, and

**WHEREAS**, after Supervisor Horton introduced the resolution the board discussed, but no second was made on the resolution now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the resolution was withdrawn by Supervisor Horton.

Dave Cummings Golf Course Manager submitted two statements of support to the clerk for the agenda on Monday for donations of rounds of golf and carts to the Saratoga Ancient Order of Hibernians, and Dolgeville Violet Festival First Annual Golf Tournament

A couple of the board members stated they had not heard about this donation...

Mr. Cummings stated this has a \$140.00 value, and last year the town donated to the Saratoga Ancient Order of Hibernians. This year the Dolgeville Violet Festival is holding its first annual golf outing. Mr. Cummings has been trying to gain greater participation of the counties to the east and western edges at the Nick Stoner Course. It was noted that this is two separate donations. Last year we had eight new players due to the donation to the Hibernians. The other

is new, and Mr. Cummings wants to show how awesome the course is. Neither is doing a tournament here.

Supervisor Horton stated if the tournament is held here then it is worth the town donating. If the tournament is held someplace else it would be an advertising expense and not a donation. Mr. Cummings thought maybe this would entice a tournament to come to Caroga. The publicity is a small fee, we can say we supported the Violet Festival next year.

Mr. Stedman stated they made the request to the town.

Council Member Sturgess stated we don't have to donate four rounds of golf and carts; we can give them two greens fees and they can rent the cart. The greens fees don't have a cost coming out of our pocket. Council Member Sturgess was concerned that every single organization, tournament, benefit, in the area would then try to get a donation of four rounds of golf and two carts for everything they do and the course would be filled with free golfers. Council Member Sturgess was in favor of donating two 18 holes of golf but no cart.

Supervisor Horton wanted to have two separate resolutions. He also wanted to see the resolution before getting to the board meeting. It was asked if either organization was having a tournament at the Nick. Mr. Cummings noted that 12 members of the organization live in Fulton County and so far, eight players have played on the Nick using the certificate from last year. They also brought four new players.

Supervisor Horton thought we were getting to the point where there should be a policy on donations of golf. Certainly, for charitable events, and people using our golf course.

Mr. Cummings was in favor of some criteria. He noted the Ancient Order of Hibernians was a 501c3. Supervisor Horton was not going to support this as we don't have a policy even though we did it last year, it was a mistake, and he believed they were having an outing up here. Council Member DeLuca confirmed that neither organization was holding a tournament in Caroga. The assessor clarified that the Violet Festival was fundraising for its festival.

**RESOLUTION #2023-086 to donate two 18 - hole golf certificates to The Saratoga Ancient Order of Hibernians,** was offered by Council Member Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, Dave Cummings Nick Stoner Golf Course Manager submitted a letter of support for the request from the Saratoga Ancient Order of Hibernians for a donation of greens fees at the Nick Stoner Golf Course, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board hereby authorizes the donation of two 18 – hole golf certificates to The Saratoga Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

**RESOLUTION #2023-087 to donate two 18-hole golf certificates for Dolgeville Violet Festival First Annual Golf Tournament** was offered by Council Member Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, Dave Cummings Nick Stoner Golf Course Manager submitted a letter of support for the e-mail request from the Dolgeville Violet Festival First Annual Golf Tournament for a donation of greens fees at the Nick Stoner Golf Course, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board hereby authorize the donation of two 18 – hole golf certificates to the Dolgeville Violet Festival First Annual Golf Tournament.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member Glenn asked about the tournament. Council Member Sturgess noted the tournament was to be held somewhere else. Basically, they are looking for a gift for a silent auction. It was the hope of Council Member Sturgess that they will come here and use the certificates and pay for the use of the carts.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

1 Nay – Horton for the reason that we don't have a policy.

At 7:49 pm Supervisor Horton asked for a motion to go into an executive session. Council Member DeLuca made a motion to go into executive session to review the work history of an employee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

At 8:26 pm Council Member Sturgess made a motion to exit from the executive session, The motion was seconded by Council Member Travis All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

As a result of the executive session the board decided to have the town supervisor explore with council and or the ethics committee the future work history of an employee. Furthermore, the clerk was directed not to tape over the July town board meeting tapes indefinitely

Council Member Glenn stated we were down to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with the lake survey being done by Ezra Schwartzberg from the Adirondack Research group. He is coming tomorrow to map the lakes. He noted an additional \$5,000.00 was needed to do the map. Council Member Glenn wanted permission to take \$8,900.00 out of A8090.41 and to take \$5,000.00 out of Contingency A1990.4.

**RESOLUTION #2023 - 088 to authorize payment for extra mapping of the lake** was offered by Council Member Glenn at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 9, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, Ezra Schwartzberg form the Adirondack Research is coming tomorrow to map the lakes, and

**WHEREAS**, to save taxpayer money and time the board desires to have additional mapping done this year (tomorrow) while he is here, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board hereby authorized the payment of \$8,900.00 out of A8090.41 and \$5,000.00 out of Contingency A1990.4 to authorize payment for extra mapping of the lake.

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Discussion: Supervisor Horton stated since we had the opportunity to save the taxpayers money by not doing a remobilization that the inspection done by the APA and DEC two weeks ago identifying two areas that are heavily infested and this would be a better time to do it while they are mobilized and not have the extra expense for remobilization. Council Member Glenn agreed.

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Supervisor Horton stated he has not read all of the July 12, 2023 minutes. He wanted to wait to approve the minutes until the next meeting. Supervisor Horton did not want the draft minutes posted yet.

Council Member Sturgess made a motion to approve the bills as presented for audit with the exception of General Park voucher #75 of which there is in question as to why it is being charged to the golf course. Council Member Sturgess did not want to have a late fee. Supervisor Horton stated the bill can be approved conditionally upon verification that it is properly coded. Council Member Travis seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

At 8:34 pm Supervisor Horton 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 Caroga Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC