

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday December 13, 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 Jeremy Manning (and his son Oscar) – Wheelerville Bike Trail Manager, Steve Stedman – Greens Keeper, Ralph Palcovic Supervisor Elect and Matthew Cooper Council Member Elect, and John Livingston Board of Assessment Review Member. There were six members of the public in attendance and an additional sixteen people were on using Zoom. Supervisor Horton thanked everyone in person and online for attending.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Council Member Sturgess seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Department Reports:

Wheelerville Bike Trail – Oscar & Jeremy Manning gave an update of the past few months and asked the board about moving forward to approve an application for the 2024 Smart Growth Grant. The Wheelerville Trails Project was listed in the Mohawk Valley Economic Council as a priority project for the region. This will help with applying for grants, it gets us more points. It is a great thing for the town. The town was awarded a 2023 Federal RPT Grant. This is for an overall project of \$110,000.00 and the town was awarded \$88,600.00. This will be for the connect a trail project. He was not sure this will be done in 2024 as more planning needs to be done on it. He needs to finalize where it is going to go. He has to get the federal highway authority to sign off. There are a lot of steps to go through before it can begin.

Tonight Mr. Manning wanted to talk about applying for the Adirondack Smart Growth Application. The town has received two smart growth grants one in 2017 and the other in 2019. This is how our project got going. He is calling this round Wheelerville Phase II. Mr. Manning stated this would be mostly for developing beginner and intermediate trails. This will allow for more family friendly riding. The three beginner trails would be four and a half miles and one intermediate trail for a mile and a half. It will lead to the existing trails. All of this project would be on the current parcel. The request will be for \$99,700.00. The grant total you can apply for is \$100,000.00. The 18-week project total is \$115,000.00 for the project total there is no match required. But it makes sense for the town since it allocated \$74,500 for the program to use the town's money which will give us a 34% match. This will give the town leverage. The grant has

to be submitted by the end of January. Mr. Manning will start writing it this week and submit it by the end of January. There are funds that could be used next year.

Supervisor Horton stated the matching funds are not real money from the taxpayers. Correct was Mr. Manning's reply. The Supervisor thought some of the funds the county is giving the town could be used. Mr. Manning stated the county is giving us \$25,000.00, \$11,000.00 of that is a match (\$14,000.00) toward the RTP Grant. The \$14,000.00 will go toward maintenance which is in the grant application. The county was OK with using the money for the match. The Supervisor noted this will allow for skills development and for trails that are not as aggressive which will help build enjoyment of the sport. Mr. Manning stated right now most of the ride is to go toward the top of the mountain. This would be for the development of the lower mountain.

Council Member Sturgess asked if this Phase II is the same work that was already planning on doing this current year. Mr. Manning replied it is for work he did not have funding for this year. It will include more work for this year, understanding they will do what they can. If he is awarded this grant then he will have enough to do these trails. If he doesn't get awarded the grant then he has to go out and do additional fundraising. It was noted the grant money is good for three years.

Council Member Sturgess was concerned about the budgeted money for the bike trail for next year. He asked if donations and grants are included in the line already. Mr. Manning replied yes, the counties \$25,000.00. Mr. Manning stated he is anticipating \$15,000.00 in donations or he might put that in the grant for the in-kind contribution. He did that with the last one. Mr. Manning broke it down as: \$52,000.00 is our match, \$37,000.00 could be cash, and \$15,000.00 could be in-kind. Council Member Sturgess had a concern if we don't get the level of in kind (\$15,000.00) How would that effect this. Mr. Manning stated we would be spending the amount we have. Mr. Manning stated in the last grant he listed 10% in kind but it was closer to 20%. Mr. Manning stated he can adjust the way we get to the \$52,000.00 even once you are awarded. Mr. Manning stated the RTP Grant is also a three-year total. Council Member Sturgess noted the RTP Grant would not be started this (next) year. Mr. Manning stated it wouldn't as he has to go through a leveling study and approval from DOT and the federal highway authority. There are a lot more steps with the federal funding. He did not think any of the RTP Funding would be spent this year. Mr. Manning stated he talked to the county about the match money would roll over in the following year as well. Mr. Manning stated any dollar you can put as a match to the Smart Growth makes us that much more competitive.

Council Member DeLuca congratulated Mr. Manning on being awarded the grant. Other Board members also thanked him.

Supervisor Horton received some good news today that the Town of Johnstown wants to expand mountain biking trails. He was happy that the Wheelerville Trails are a regional project. With participation from the largest town in the county it will help the county to support mountain biking. Mr. Manning agreed that a larger trail system benefits the town. The County has put aside \$100,000.00 for next year to up their Comprehensive Plan with one of the phases to be expanded is tourism.

The Town Clerk asked Mr. Manning to submit copies of grants to her. He noted he has a box of papers. The clerk stated he can bring anything he wants to get out of his home and put it in the records room.

Mr. Manning wrote an article for the ADK Magazine. It has tons of photos and descriptions of the trail system. Tonight, he asked the board for a resolution to apply for the 2024 Smart Growth Grant – Wheelerville Trails Phase II with a project amount of \$99,700.00.

BTI – Mr. Kunath was not in attendance. Supervisor Horton read his report. “I’ve been teaching classes this past Friday thru Sunday and finishing up this coming Sunday to satisfy DEC 30 hour course for new techs eligibility for licensing exam. Classes have been attended by myself and Mike Sokira from Stratford BTI who has been helping instruct. As well as newly hired Austin Hinderliter and Douglas Kampfer. Douglas was a last-minute hire, because Jason Young backed out of classes last week. Upon class completion, I will be mailing out certificates of 30hr course completion, application, and 100.00 fee for both new employees so they can take the DEC pesticide exams and become certified BTI technicians.”

Sole Assessor – No Report.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO – A written report was submitted to the board along with a copy of the monthly financial report. The clerk noted that this fall she and Deputy Clerk Aldinger have been working on the septic systems holding tank files. There 338 holding tanks on file. Of those 125 were listed as not pumped. After letters were sent out we are down to 72. The code officer has also helped with this project. His help is appreciated.

Fulton county Planning notified the clerk that their office is sending out an Agricultural & Farmland Survey. The completed from can be dropped off in the clerk’s office.

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – Mr. Fancher submitted a written report. Supervisor Horton read that 11 permits were issued for the month totaling \$2,300.00 in fees being collected with a valuation of \$164,500.00. Mr. Fancher has revised the fire safety inspection sheet and is working on business building inspections. He has mailed out expired permits notices. He is also mailing out letters for property maintenance and code violations.

Dog Control – A report was not submitted by Mr. Dutcher.

Golf Course – Mr. Stedman reported that the course was treated the first week in November to prevent snow mold. Even though the products were used if there is a really cold winter or there are high temperature he will be out checking that there is not a lot of ice on the greens.

Mr. Stedman reported the progress on holes #4 & 10, they are pretty much ready to go in the spring with sod. It will take about seven pallets of sod. There is still a little bit of work to do on #10. The #10 Tee box will be built up just a little bit.

The cross-country trail is marked out. It is the same as last year. The Nick Stoner Trailers will groom the trails once we get a lot of snow. He thanked them for grooming. He asked that everyone stay 50 feet away from the flag sticks.

Pesticide reports will be submitted a few weeks before February 1st. He will put a receipt of approval in his binder. All of his reports to the day are in the binder.

Mostly during the winter months Mr. Stedman stated is doing equipment and preventative maintenance. There are 21 mower wheels that have to go Latham to the grinder. Before he sends them out they have to be cleaned. He is ordering seasonal supplies and he also provides the clubhouse guys information and is ordering parts.

Supervisor Horton asked if he was seeing anything inflation wise with prices like we saw in 2022 – 2023. Mr. Stedman noted only grass seed. But we are not throwing much grass seed out only at the end of the year.

Council Member Glenn asked if the trees by #9 had been cut down. Mr. Stedman talked to the logger last week. They know about the job. Mr. Stedman told them they can come anytime.

Highway – Supervisor Horton stated that Mr. Voght wanted the board to know he had some problems with the 2016 Freightliner again. There is a resolution to take care of some repairs for \$12,000.00. The problem is with the DEF pollution control system.

The town was sent a Notice of a Highway Defect at 164 Pine Lake Road (tree hit by plow over the years) Supervisor Horton stated the small pine tree is now a big pine tree and is encroaching upon the road, the neighbor wants it removed. Mr. Voght is looking into that. The clerk stated Mr. Voght told her it was not in danger. Supervisor Horton went up with the Highway Superintendent and looked at it. It is a large pine. He stated it has plenty of scars from the plows it is a narrow road. He is looking into taking it down.

Council Member DeLuca asked if there was any more information about the status of the Cape Horn Road Bridge. Supervisor Horton replied no, he had not heard anything else. There is a scouring issue there.

Lakes Management Program – Council Member Glenn stated that Walter Hogan submitted a written report. It will be posted on the town website and all board members should have a copy of it. **Invasive Species Annual Report to the Town of Caroga 12/13/2023**

The 2023 Eurasian Water Milfoil Harvesting Season. Total Eurasian Water Milfoil Bushels harvested from East and West Caroga Lake for 2023 were 1436 Bushels. The total Bushels removed from East and West Caroga Lake for 2022 were 2149. This resulted in a decrease of 713 Bushels from 2022. Unfortunately, this decrease was not the result of less Eurasian Water Milfoil, rather multiple events occurring throughout the season that were unexpected and out of the program's control. Overall, the amount of Milfoil in both lakes remains very high with a noticeable increased growth in West Caroga Lake.

The factors that caused the decreased harvest included:

Mechanical failures of the Outboard motors used to propel the Harvester and Jon boat. Both motors had been in service for almost 15 years, used on a daily basis and had served the program well. They were replaced with new 20 HP motors, partly through a \$ 1,500.00 donation by the East Caroga Lake Environmental Association and Operating funds from Invasive Species program. Time lost was one week of Harvest time. **Fuel injector failure** on the Harvesters Diesel

engine caused multiple lost days. **Weather** was the largest factor causing over 2 weeks of lost diving time. Heavy winds prevent secure anchoring of the harvester, pulling it away from the diving location and causing possible injury risk to those on the deck of the pontoon boat and offloading the Milfoil to the Jon boat. **Non-work-related Injuries** to several divers, prevented them from working. Several **divers being unavailable** for 2 weeks due to a non-work-related commitment.

B. The Harvester, Jon Boat, motors, dump trailer and misc. items have been winterized and stored for the off season at the Town Hall.

C. The \$50,000.00 Grant Application for a Pilot program to try the Herbicide, ProcellaCOR, was approved by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. There is a 10% matching fee required so \$5,000.00 of the grant is to be picked up by the town.

The Permit Application to the DEC is underway with the APA to follow, and are being handled by Glenn Sullivan of Ready-Scout LLC, an experienced and licensed Herbicide provider/applicator who will also be applying the ProcellaCOR. The application is scheduled for late May early June depending on Milfoil growth. Monitoring of the lakes for adverse effects will continue until June 30th of 2025 which will complete the grant. To date, follow up of lakes that have used ProcellaCOR have shown no negative effects to fish, native plant species, drinking water or swimmers/bathers. Some native plants species have minor discoloration for a week or 2 and then return to normal.

Permit requirements call for an informational letter (Attached) to be sent to all shoreline property owners including those adjacent to Caroga Creek as far as State Route 10A. The process of mailing is underway and is expected to be completed no later than Tuesday Dec 19th.

In preparation for the Pilot Program, the Town has conducted 2 Public forums to educate and allow for comments.

The 2nd Public forum included the Town Supervisors from Lake Luzerne and Lake Minerva, who were responsible for the use of ProcellaCOR in those lakes. Mapping of the ProcellaCOR application locations, one in West Caroga and 3 in East Caroga were completed by Adirondack Institute and the final report provided to the town. This mapping is a requirement of the DEC which documents the extent of Milfoil in these areas.

D. In October, the town board approved the Invasive Species program to apply for a grant titled Invasive Species Early Detection/Rapid Response and Control. The application was for new equipment to allow for more accurate and faster identification of Milfoil and using GPS technology to retain the location of Milfoil in the software. This will allow for a rapid return to the location for removal or checking for regrowth. There are also funds to replace the existing motor on the Lake Management boat with one more suitable for the slow speed needed to search for Milfoil.

There were two questions in the grant that may disqualify us from going forward after its initial review. If we have a current active grant with the same activity, we may not be allowed to apply. I have already had a conversation with the Grant Director stating the ProcellaCOR grant activity is for the removal of Eurasian Milfoil while activity in this grant is to rapidly identify and

permanently locate the Milfoil. She did not comment for or against my reasoning which gives some hope. If you have been removing Milfoil for more than 3 years, you are not eligible for this grant. Obviously, with a 30-year history of the program it would appear to be an automatic disqualification. However, I felt it was important to continue the application because if this is the rationale for denial, I intend to use the Appeal process for an explanation of why we are being denied the opportunity to help improve our ability to remove a very devastating invasive species we have been fighting for 30+ years. I am sure they are trying to help lakes with new invasions of Eurasian Milfoil before they become like our lakes and while that may seem appropriate, to earmark every dollar in that direction, to me is not appropriate. If nothing else, they may realize the importance of creating a grant for those lakes with a long history of Milfoil.

E. Looking forward to 2024, the ability to retain / recruit divers and tenders is foremost. I have been approached by 2 property Owners in Caroga Lake who are certified divers and looking to work this summer. I am currently in the process of confirming who will be returning from 2023 and believe we will need these 2 residents. In the past, we had a diver who could train and certify new divers, but he will not be returning along with one other. Having these 2 potential divers available will be a big help.

With a full workforce, good weather, no major mechanical issues and the pilot program, optimistic for a successful season. Submitted by Walter Hogan Director Invasive Species Program.

Council Member Glenn noted the weed harvesting operation is obviously closed for now as well as the lake stewards' program.

The ProcellaCOR pilot project for East & West Caroga Lakes is a go. Glenn Sullivan from Solitude (actually "Ready Scout") will be applying the chemical one day between May 15th and June 30, 2024. A letter notification is going out to all people who live on East and West Caroga Lake and along the stream bed from the Caroga Lake outlet to the where it crosses at 10A. The letter is scheduled to go out tomorrow. Council Member Glenn noted there were two informational sessions, one on July 21 & October 18th. Questions were asked and answered. There were specialists here. He is excited about the project and hopes it works. Supervisor Horton thanked the clerk Linda Gilbert for her assistance in coordinating the printing and stuffing of envelopes with the county. Council Member Glenn announced that everyone was notified. There are only three areas being treated. Two on East Caroga and one on West Caroga. According to Mr. Sullivan we didn't need to notify everyone but Council Member Glenn wanted total transparency that this was coming. Supervisor Horton stated there will be another notification a couple of weeks before application. That is Council Member Glenn's understanding.

Marcus Harazin wished everyone a happy holiday. He thanked everyone for their work on all levels at the town. He thinks Council Member Glenn covered everything. Mr. Harazin thanked John Olm, and Walter Hogan for their work too. At the last meeting he was approved to apply for a DEC Grant. The town won't find out if it was successful until between January and March. Mr. Harazin noted in the area of lakes management that he has been waiting for the report from the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Taskforce. It is a couple of years overdue. Legislation was passed years ago to conduct a study. The report finally came out in the fall and as we move ahead the ADK Explorer Magazine has been tracking the issue and there will be a meeting on February

15th up at the Wild Center. He was not sure if he could make that meeting. Once we have more information, he will share the recommendations with the town. He noted the primary user of salt on the roads is the state. The report does show detrimental effects not only to the lakes and streams long term but also to wells. He wants to make sure we are protecting the waters and the health of our residents. He will pass along more information on the meeting as he gets it.

Council Member Glenn noted there was a lakes management meeting the first weekend in May, another meeting will be held again next year.

Supervisor Horton asked if Mr. Harazin had applied for a grant for an additional lake steward, Mr. Harazin replied it is the grant he applied for with DEC. It is the same one Mr. Hogan applied for too. This funding became available again so he put in for it. The grant is for three years. He got a lot of support from the lake associations. If we get the grant it will help cut the town's expenditures toward the lake steward and boat wash station. He has worked with the Adirondack Water Shed Institute to place people in the town of Caroga. Initially we had none and now we are up to three last year. That has helped to keep the costs low. If we receive the grant it would help with the cost of the stewards and the operation of the unit annual maintenance and maintenance of the site like graveling the road. Mr. Harazin stated that Caroga is the gateway to boaters accessing the Adirondacks from the East, West and South. We are one of the busiest decontamination and inspection stations in the state. Supervisor Horton hopes we are successful again.

Town Hall Building – Council Member Travis introduced Gordon Baker an applicant for the maintenance job for the town hall. Mr. Baker stated he was new to the area. Supervisor Horton and Council Member Travis met with Mr. Baker for about a half an hour last week. He has some experience in this area. The board was emailed his resume.

Caroga Tourism Committee – Council Member DeLuca reported that the committee is working on having sanctioned snowmobile races. More information will be available by the end of the week. Information will be posted on the Town of Caroga Tourism Facebook page.

Short Term Rental Committee - Council Member DeLuca reported this is almost ready to go.

At 6:37 pm Supervisor Horton opened the floor to public comments or questions.

Jason Bush requested an executive session with the board regarding a letter he received from the Highway Superintendent. Supervisor Horton stated he was not sure it would be done at this meeting. Mr. Bush stated it was time sensitive and hoped they would meet. This will be brought up at the end of the meeting.

Allen Farber expressed his disappointment in the decision notice issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals in response to the application he submitted regarding the excavation on Kasson Drive. He stated the lot was previously undeveloped and significantly under sized lot was newly added to the tax roll in 2019, he believes any excavation undertaken on the lot needed Site Plan approval. Mr. Farber stated he has been asking the town since July for a ruling and gotten no response from the code officer or town board. He and Cheryl Kenney applied for an interpretation of the ordinance but the application was deferred. He asked the Town board to request the Zoning Board

of Appeals to return to this application and make the requested interpretation and answer the complaint that he issued back in July.

Mr. Purcell of S. Shore Road East Caroga noted the above comments were a lead in to remind the board that he submitted a letter of interest for the open position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He had hoped a resolution would be passed tonight. He noted his term ended in 2021 and another 5-year term would put him, most likely, in a position of a conflict of interest with an application from the Caroga Arts Collective (CAC) as he was on the board. He also had a conflict with his officiating high school sports schedule. He attended a recent hearing regarding the CAC and tried to help twice during the meeting. During that meeting ZBA Chairman Russitano asked Mr. Purcell if he was interested in being back on the board. He responded no, at the time as the matter was tabled. He attended the subsequent meeting where the application was approved and again he helped procedurally. He was unable to attend the Farber/Kenny application review but sent an 8-page letter to the ZBA of things to consider when making their determination. When he came back he realized his influence is better heard when seated at the table than from the other side of the table. Mr. Purcell stated the seat has been open for a year. He noted the open seat expires at the end of 2024 and he brings 13 years of experience with 3 of those years serving as chairman. He is the ideal person to help this board grow. If appointed he would like to attend the January 31st training opportunity. He noted this appointment could be deferred to the new board but thought the sooner the appointment is made the better. He thanked the board for their consideration.

Marcus Harazin wanted to follow up on what Allen Farber said. He concurs with that. He is still concerned that the excavation project on Kasson Drive has not been dealt with by the Zoning Board of Appeals. He thought the zoning rules are clear in terms of a site plan review of a project like this. He urged the town going forward, not to clutter up the ZBA, but on things that are developed by the lake – a steep hill requiring lots of excavation and clear cutting that the person go for a site review as well as getting a building permit. He is not against development but thinks this is the direction we should go in. He knows there was a stop work order put on this. He thanked the town for doing that. Mr. Harazin asked if a site review is scheduled he asked the board if it was possible to send an email to folks. He wanted to know if this will be open to public input. Another concern was as winter progresses with frost and so forth the rocks could fall into the road. He also thought there would be erosion forthcoming this spring that could affect the quality of the lake. Mr. Harazin knows the town wants to protect the water and the quality of the neighborhood to maintain the great place that it is. He did not want to see a precedent set here and look the other way. This could happen everywhere on similar terrain.

Supervisor Horton noted he does not run the code or the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals but had some information on the project. The Supervisor noted a Stop Work Order was issued and it is his understating that the owner had developed a site plan review that was rejected for not having enough detail. The owner is working with an engineer for something more comprehensive that can be reviewed in more detail and he hoped it would address many of these issues. Supervisor Horton noted this is not the forum for back-and-forth comments. The Supervisor stated the Site Plan Review will be conducted. All Planning Board activities are public he noted.

At 6:49 pm the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Horton stated this was his last formal board meeting as Supervisor of the town. "It has been a very interesting four years." A lot of things have been done. It is great to see the town going forward from his perspective. When you change things, change causes some sort of controversy from time to time. If you don't change anything then we will stay exactly where we are. It takes nerve, and you have to be bold you have to have the strength of your convictions and the one thing he can say is he has always been honest to the people of the Town of Caroga. Whether you liked the supervisor's or board's decisions or not, the Supervisor didn't think you could say we were worse off than we were before. Financially we are very strong and solid. As an organization we are better. The golf course is doing much better, even with the noise on the social media. The Bike Trail has put this town on the map. A town that has recognition, is a town that people want to come and visit, is a town that has a lot of potential and viability.

When Supervisor Horton came back here 15 years ago he saw the same place he left but it wasn't in as nice of shape as when he left. When you talk to people from outside the area about Caroga the first thing they say is OMG look at all the things you can do here. This is exciting, the lakes the trails and now there are even more amenities. Supervisor Horton wanted to look toward a vision especially for the younger people. He had a vision he expressed it, he's had many plans, the plans are still there. Hopefully they are accepted or modified to be better. "We have a community that the rest of the world thinks is beautiful and wonderful and we should also have the faith as residents and voters of this community to look at ourselves the same way that people from outside look at us. Supervisor Horton said thank you very much for the town's people for giving him four years. He has enjoyed it. He has enjoyed the county. He was blessed to be the county chairman. Supervisor Horton is really happy he had a chance to give to his community something that he never would have been able to without the support of these people. (Applause)

Old Business:

Term of Cathy Ann Wallace on BAR expired on 9/30/2023.

Supervisor Horton commented generally that there have been some applications to fill board seats. A couple of applications for the Zoning Board of Appeals, hopefully one for the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). Maybe the Planning Board. At this time with the new administration coming in he did not think it was proper to ask *this board* to approve to fill those positions. There is only the matter of a few weeks before the new board convenes and starts to work together as a team and make those decisions. He thought that was proper and prudent and hoped the board respects that he is not bringing any names forward. Supervisor Horton stated it has been customary for people that want to join a board (Zoning, Planning, BAR) to talk to the chairman of those boards, maybe meet with those boards then go forward with a recommendation. That is our courtesy. The town board doesn't have to do that. The town board has the authority to just place somebody there but, he has been on a lot of committees and he knows it's much better to have a committee supporting the candidate. That has been his philosophy. He does appreciate people throwing their hat in the ring as the saying goes.

New Business:

Resolution supporting Empire State Development designation of point person to lead enhancing cellular coverage.

The clerk stated this was in the board packet. Supervisor Horton gave this to the clerk earlier this month. It is a 3 ½ page resolution. The matter was tabled until the meeting on the 28th as the board members had not seen the material on improving cell service in the Adirondacks. It was noted that the governor passed legislation for a lot of money to go towards a \$700 million dollar study.

Supervisor Horton read through the correspondence:

Information from Association of Town Training for newly elected officials and annual training.

Fulton Co. Res. # 424 Notice of 2024 Community Development Block Grant Hearing 12/11.

Transfer Holiday Hours Closed 12/25 and 1/1 open Tuesday 12/26 and 1/2, 2024 open 8 - noon

Letter of interest from Doug Purcell to serve on Zoning Board of Appeals.

Letter of resignation from Matthew Cooper from the Planning Board. Supervisor Horton thanked Mr. Cooper for his service.

Supervisor Horton also noted that Mr. John Byrnes sent a letter today noting his term on the ZBA expires at the end of the month. He expressed his interest in serving a second term. The Supervisor stated he served with distinction and hopes the new board appoints him.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #2023-119 to place a notice of the 12/22 deadline for the Audit of Claims for 2023 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, the end of the year draws near, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga desires to have all outstanding claims against the town paid by the end of the year 2023, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a notice shall be place in the Leader Herald newspaper that all audit of claims against the town shall be submitted by December 22, 2023.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-120 to hold a Year End Meeting was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, the end of the year draws near, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to pay bills and possibly vote on a resolution on cellular service, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board will hold a year end meeting on Thursday December 28th at 10 am and will conduct any and all business to come before them.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-121 to move forward with the Pilot Program for the use of ProcellaCOR in East & West Caroga Lakes in 2024 was offered by Council Member Glenn at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Lakes Management team has spent countless hours researching various methods to control Eurasian Milfoil in East and West Caroga Lakes, and

WHEREAS, earlier this year two meetings were held to discuss the use of ProcellaCOR in our lakes, and

WHEREAS, the information obtained indicates that the use of ProcellaCOR may be another method to help control Eurasian Milfoil in our lakes, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board through this resolution shows their support of the pilot program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to move forward with the Pilot Program for the use of ProcellaCOR in East & West Caroga Lakes in 2024.

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

Council Member John Glenn – Aye

Council Member Barbara Deluca – Yes

Council Member Richard Sturgess – Yes

Council Member Donald Travis – Yes

RESOLUTION #2023-122 to hire a new custodian was offered by Council Member Travis at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, the current custodian is unable to continue on in the job, and

WHEREAS, Council Member Travis thought the salary should be \$18.00 per hour, for 35 hours per pay period, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to hire a new custodian.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn.

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess asked what the position is budgeted for as far as hourly rate. Supervisor Horton stated \$15.50. Council Member Deluca asked if that was the amount in the next budget as well. Supervisor Horton stated the budgeted amount is a gross amount. At the organizational meeting the appointment, and salary is set. Council Member Travis noted at \$18.00 for 20 hours per week the hours per week would have to be cut each pay period by 5 hours. The hours worked would be 35 hours every two weeks, and that would work within the budget. Line item A1620.1 has \$17,500.00. Council Member Sturgess figured at \$18.00 the line would be under funded by \$1,200.00 give or take. Council Member Travis stated he has only received one application. He wondered if this should be tabled to go get more people.

Supervisor Horton noted the resolution has nothing to do with the potential hire. Council Member Sturgess noted the need to have a custodian, Supervisor Horton noted right now the highway superintendent and the highway crew are helping out. Council Member Glenn was fine with the resolution. Supervisor Horton wanted to vote on it. He preferred to have this go to the next year.

The Supervisor stated the resolution is not to hire the custodian but to change the wage of the custodian to \$18.00 for 35 hours per pay period (26 pay periods). The clerk asked if this was until the end of this year. Or is this for next year? When does this start. Supervisor Horton stated this could be for until the end of this year. Currently the custodian is paid \$16.40 or so. Supervisor Horton thought the vote now, if the board so chose to change the pay rate until the end of the year so that next year at the organizational meeting this would be decided based on the budgeted amount. Council Member Travis stated Bob is still here but wanted someone starting new to work with him for the last week. It was noted that the town does not have a resignation letter yet. Supervisor Horton asked if we were hiring an additional custodian. Council Member DeLuca suggested tabling this until the January meeting. Council Member Sturgess asked if Bob would stay on until the next person was hired. Council Member Travis thought he would.

Council Member Travis pulled the resolution until January of 2024. Council Member Travis will ask Bob to stay on until the organizational meeting. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION #2023-123 to repair the Freightliner Plow Truck in the amount of \$12,000.00 by Tracy Road Equipment was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, the 2016 Freightliner truck is in need of repairs, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent Larry Voght received a quote from Tracy Road Equipment in the amount of \$11,530.00 to repair the vehicle, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to authorize the repairs in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 and be it further

RESOLVED, that Supervisor Horton over heard that an additional part is needed whereby if the repair cost exceeds \$12,000.00 the Highway Superintendent will have to come back to this board.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Supervisor Horton noted we only have three plow trucks.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

Council Member Sturgess confirmed with Supervisor Horton that this expenditure comes out of the 2023 budget. Supervisor Horton stated the bookkeeper has until the end of February to make adjustment to the 2023 budget and then it is closed out. After the books are closed the audit has to be submitted to the county and State Comptroller.

RESOLUTION #2023-124 to apply for an Adirondack Community Smart Growth Grant in the amount of \$152,000 - \$99,700 grant funds, and \$52,300 in town matching funding was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, earlier this evening Mr. Manning provided the Town board with information on the Adirondack Community Smart Growth Grant, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board supports the ongoing improvements to the trails, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning stated he would write the grant and would apply for a \$152,000.00 grant whereby the town would provide \$52,300.00 in matching funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to apply for an Adirondack Community Smart Growth Grant in the amount of \$152,000 - \$99,700 grant funds, and \$52,300 in town matching funding.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Discussion: Council Member Glenn asked if there would be any financial implications to the taxpayers. Council Member Sturgess noted as he understands it, this is budgeted.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-125 to approve amendments to the 2024 Budget due to clerical errors was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board passed the 2024 Budget on November 8, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the town was contacted by Alicia Cowan Budget Director/County Auditor, Fulton County Budget Office with a question on the budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Town of Caroga budget be amended as follows: Page 16 Conservation - Weed Program line A3910 the amount of \$46,450.00 shall be carried over from

the preliminary budget line to the adopted column, and on the (first page) the ***Summary Page of the 2024 Budget Tax Rate Schedule*** - the Fire Contract Less fund Balance & Appropriated Reserves was reduced by \$205.00 from \$402.00 to \$197.00, on the Amount to be Raised by Tax - Fire Truck Purchase (2024) the line was increased by \$205.00 from \$84,700.00 to \$84,905.00 making the Totals for the column under the amount to be raised by tax increased by \$205.00 to \$1,276,079.00. **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General & Highway Taxable Assessed Value shall be \$160,363,572.00 per the Real Property Director making the 2024 tax rate per thousand \$1.26 for General Town wide and \$5.21 for Highway Town wide and no change to fire.

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Discussion: Supervisor Horton explained that the tax warrants are done at the county. He was not sure if the Bookkeeper Joanne Young received the wrong information for the assessed value, or taxable value. It has changed. If the assessed value goes down then the per unit cost goes up. It was a three-cent change. Once cent for general and two cents for the highway. We were at \$1.25 per thousand now it is \$1.26, The Supervisor stated that no new money is being spent. This is a mathematical error that was caught. The highway went from \$5.19 to \$5.21 and there is nothing we can do about it. The tax warrants have already been signed. He wanted the budget cover sheet to be correct. The Supervisor reviewed the cover page of the budget. The taxable assessed value went down because of a conservation easement that was filed with the county that reduced the amount of the assessed value. He did not think the bookkeeper was aware of this.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-126 to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023

WHEREAS, the Bookkeeper Joanne Young has indicated the need to make various transfers to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to make the following transfers:

From A1620.4 Building C/E	\$ 450.00	
To: A1670.4 Central Printing/Mail		\$ 450.00
From: A8090.13 Divers/Tenders	\$ 11,000.00	
From: A8090.2 WEED equip	\$ 1,000.00	
To: A8090.41 WEED C/E		\$ 12,000.00
From: A7145.1 Trails P/S	\$ 750.00	
To: A7145.40 Trails C/E		\$ 750.00
From: A7180.13 Club House P/S	\$ 400.00	
To: A7180.12 GC P/S		\$ 400.00

From A9050.8 Unemployment	\$ 1,500.00	
To A9010.8 Retirement		\$ 1,500.00
From: DA5142.1 Snow Removal P/S	\$ 12,000.00	
To DA5142.4 Snow Removal C/E		\$ 12,000.00

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-127 to fund the Equipment Reserve for 2023 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton noted the 550 Plow Truck that the town purchased won't be delivered until next year, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board desires to reserve \$70,000.00 as follows:

From: DA5130.2 Machinery & Equipment	\$ 70,000.00	
To DA9901.9 Hwy. Equip Reserve		\$ 70,000.00

Now, therefore be it **RESOLVED** that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to fund the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund in the amount of \$70,000.00.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Supervisor Horton noted that about \$8,000.00 has been used from account DA5130.2. So, there is plenty of money to move over. This money can be used for the new plow truck when it comes in.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

RESOLUTION #2023-128 to fund Golf Course Reserves for 2023 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 13, 2023.

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton noted that two equipment reserve funds had previously been set up for \$1.00, and

WHEREAS, these reserves are for long term planning on the golf course with one reserve being for equipment and the other for golf course improvement for capitol reserve programs not the day-to-day expenses, and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton stated there was plenty of money left over in golf course fees \$180,000.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following reserves be funded as follows:

From A2025 Golf Course Fees	\$30,000	
To: A9950.93 Golf Course Equip Reserve		\$15,000
To: A9950.94 Golf Course Improvement Reserve		\$15,000

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by the following vote: 5 Ayes Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

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

Council Member Sturgess made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8 Budget meeting, & November 8th Town Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Supervisor Horton stated that a former employee of the Highway Department has made a request for an executive session with the town board.

At 7:30 pm Council Member DeLuca made a motion to enter into an executive session. Council Member Glenn asked what it was for. Supervisor Horton replied it was for a personnel matter. Council Member Sturgess seconded the motion. In favor of the motion were, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess and Travis. Opposed – Horton.

At 8:19 pm Council Member Sturgess made a motion to exit from the executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Supervisor Horton stated, Jason for your information the town is going to get working on this ASAP, maybe as early as tomorrow afternoon. He will move this forward as fast as he can.

At 8:21 Council Member Glenn made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Travis seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Submitted by Linda Gilbert RMC, CMC

Caroga Town Clerk

General #'s 370 – 409 \$34,632.07	Prepaid #'s 333-366 \$102,424.71
General Park #'s 121-123 \$2,529.35	Highway #'s 147-163 \$21,260.06