

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board year end meeting held Thursday December 28, 2023 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 10:00 am 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

Also in attendance were Highway Superintendent Larry Voght, Ralph Palcovic Supervisor Elect, Matthew Cooper Council Member Elect, John Livingston Board of Assessment Review Member and Dave Cummings – Golf Course Manager. There were four members of the public in attendance.

Supervisor Horton thanked everyone for attending the final business meeting of the year. There are a couple of resolutions that are necessary that will be taken care of at this time.

RESOLUTION #2023-129 to approve the cost overrun for repairing the 2013 Freightliner in the amount of \$2,179.43 was offered by Supervisor Horton at the year-end meeting held on Thursday December 28, 2023.

WHEREAS, at the last meeting the town received an estimate of a little under \$12,000.00 to repair the 2013 Freightliner, and

WHEREAS, a resolution was made to approve fixing the truck for an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the amount was over spent by \$2,179.43, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the spending of an additional \$2,179.43 to repair the truck which is now in service.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

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

Supervisor Horton stated that he received a letter from Stump City Brewery asking the town for a letter of support signed by the Supervisor for the new owners of Pine Lake Lodge to use their liquor license for eleven one day permits between January 13, and March 23, 2024.

RESOLUTION #2023-130 to approve Supervisor Horton signing a letter of support for Stump City Brewery having eleven one day permits in the Town of Caroga was offered by Supervisor Horton at the year-end meeting held on Thursday December 28, 2023.

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton received a letter from Stump City Brewery 521 West Fulton Street Gloversville, NY 12078 Re: Liquor License #2205499 asking the town for a letter of support for eleven one day permits for the new owners of Pine Lake Lodge, Dan MacIvor, Kim S MacIvor and Jeff Philbrick, and

WHEREAS, specifically the permit number is AA-23-206735-A for the dates 1/13/24, 1/20/24, 1/27/24, 2/3/24, 2/10/24, 2/17/24, 2/24/24, 3/2/24, 3/9/24, 3/16/24, and 3/23/24, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to support the application by Stump City Brewing for eleven temporary one-day permits for on premise use at the Pine Lake Lodge located at 1050 NY-10, Caroga Lake, NY 12032.

Seconded by council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess was under the impression that the property was an Air B & B and not a bar room anymore. Supervisor Horton thought they were doing it as an Air B & B – doing something special on each one of those days. Council Member Sturgess asked if that changes anything in the Codes Department with this. Supervisor Horton stated he understands that the code officer has been up there to inspect the establishment. The Supervisor stated that all businesses in Caroga have problems in the winter time getting through the season. This is a way to help them provide something community wise. Council Member DeLuca thought the Air B& B would probably make more money than selling beer. Supervisor Horton could not speak for the owners. Council Member Sturgess wanted more clarification on this. He stated it is tough to let this half a business and not a full business, noting there are businesses open seven days a week up here. Now there is someone that just wants to take advantage of the busiest day of the week to all the other businesses open seven days a week 365 days a year. Supervisor Horton stated he understood what the council member was saying. This is a seasonal community we live in.

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

RESOLUTION #2023-131 for necessary transfers was offered by Supervisor Horton at the year-end meeting held on Thursday December 28, 2023.

WHEREAS, the bookkeeper has indicated a need to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following transfers be made to maintain a balanced budget.

From: DA5142.1 Snow Removal P/S \$ 2,500.00

To DA5142.4 Snow Removal C/E		\$ 2,500.00
From: DA51110.1 General Repairs P/S	\$ 750.00	
To DA9089.8 Uniforms		\$ 750.00
From DA5110.1 General Repairs P/S	\$ 10,000.00	
To DA9050.8 Unemployment		\$ 10,000.00
From A8160.4 Garbage C/E	\$ 200.00	
To A 8160.1 Garbage P/S		\$ 200.00

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Supervisor Horton stated we have an employee from the highway department who is on unemployment so that is the need for the \$10,000.00 transfer. This went before an administrative law judge who said he is entitled to unemployment benefits. This is ongoing so next year the board may want to... there are some rumors that this individual is working in North Carolina, so the board may want to check with unemployment to see if he is paying federal taxes and let them reinvestigate this. Right now we have to pay this expense to the government. Supervisor Horton noted this was the employee that was let go Hext.

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

Supervisor Horton wanted the board to have time to read this next resolution that was from last month's meeting to support the Empire State Development's designation of a cellular point person to lead the state's efforts on enhancing cellular coverage. He thought everyone was aware of the problems we have upstate with cellular coverage. This has been going on for 30 years as the wheels move slowly down in Albany. In July the Supervisor attended a meeting to also push for better cellular and internet coverage in the Adirondack Park.

Council Member DeLuca stated it is her understanding after reading this that the town of Caroga will be supporting the creation of a position by the state for someone to be in charge of improving cellular service in the Adirondacks. She asked if she was correct. The supervisor did not know if it was a paid position. He thought it was just appointing a person. He stated there was no cost to the Town of Caroga. It would not be a person in the town of Caroga.

RESOLUTION #2023-132 to Support the Empire State Development's designation of a cellular point person to lead the state's efforts on enhancing cellular coverage was offered by Supervisor Horton at the year-end meeting held on Thursday December 28, 2023.

WHEREAS, Supervisor Horton introduced a resolution to support efforts to enhance cellular coverage in the Adirondacks, and

WHEREAS, the full resolution is on file in the Town clerk's office, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to Support the Empire State Development's designation of a cellular point person to lead the state's efforts on enhancing cellular coverage.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess stated he didn't fully understand this resolution and asked if the resolution had to be approved now or could it be tabled for a little bit later on. On a personal note he stated for the past three years he has interested in putting a cell tower on his own property. He did not want to vote on this if this has something to do with his idea of a tower on his property. He was not sure if he should recuse himself on this. He really wanted to look into it more personally. He had questions like Council Member DeLuca did. Supervisor Horton explained that this has gone out to all municipalities in upstate New York in the park area. He noted the need to have a point person to push this issue, and inform the legislators, and do the lobbying. That is his understanding of this. Council Member Glenn asked if there was something in this legislation to preclude someone from putting up their own personal cell tower other than the APA. Council Member DeLuca stated if Council Member Sturgess was not comfortable with this he should just recuse himself from voting on this. Council Member Sturgess stated he is not in contact with any company right now but he has been aggressively researching this. Council Member Sturgess stated he would recuse himself on this matter. Council Member Glenn asked if there was a rush to get this through by the end of the year. Supervisor Horton thought the answer was, No. He stated the town doesn't have to act on it at all. The Supervisor noted the more support you have the better chance you have of getting these services. He did not know if there was a deadline, Supervisor Horton thought that we support the idea of cellular service and this is doing it. This is just to appoint a person to help develop the legislation and get it through.

Council Member Sturgess made a ***motion to table*** supporting the Empire State Development's designation of a cellular point person to lead the state's efforts on enhancing cellular coverage.

Council Member Glenn seconded the motion.

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

Supervisor Horton wanted the board and people to know that the paperwork was completed on the culver installation and the town was to be reimbursed by FEMA for the expenses for the culvert installation on Kasson Drive. Supervisor Horton thanked the highway department for all of their efforts in this. The Supervisor also thanked Soils and Water for their assistance on this project.

Supervisor Horton made a motion to pay the bills as presented for audit. Council Member Sturgess seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

RESOLUTION #2023-133 to set an organizational meeting in January was offered by Supervisor Horton at the year-end meeting held on Thursday December 28, 2023.

WHEREAS, the incoming administration desires to have an organizational meeting prior to the currently regularly scheduled monthly town board meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby set the date of January 4th at 6 pm at town hall for the next meeting of the Caroga Town Board for the purpose of conducting organizational business to make a seamless transition and to conduct any and all business to come before them.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

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

Supervisor Horton introduced the following:

PROCLAMATION, made this 28th day of December 2023, in Honor of Donald Travis,

WHEREAS, Donny started working for the Town of Caroga beginning in 1992, and

WHEREAS, he has always been a conscientious, dedicated, and dependable employee going above (up on the roof) and below, (down in the crawlspace) to ensure the Caroga Municipal building was safe, secure, and tidy for all who conducted business within the town hall, and

WHEREAS, for the past four years Donny has served as a Council Member in the Town of Caroga making decisions, following through on projects, serving as a checks and balance with golf course revenues, and pouring over the vouchers with a fine-tooth comb **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board, the Town Clerk and all who have worked with and for Mr. Travis thank him for his Thirty-One Years of Service to the Town of Caroga.

Unanimously seconded and Signed by Supervisor Horton, Council Member Glenn, Council Member DeLuca, and Council Member Sturgess (Applause and standing ovation)

Council Member Travis thanked everyone.

Supervisor Horton thanked everyone for a great four years, and for all of their support. We've had some issues come up and we've resolved them. To go forward the town is in great shape. He is glad to have come in and help steer this ship for four years. Working with everyone he knows disagreements are not necessarily bad, he thought you get a better solution when you have those.

Highway Superintendent Larry Voght stated that it has been a pleasure working with Scott and Donny we had a good thing.

At 10:18 am Council Member Travis made the motion to adjourn, Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

General #'s 410 – 418 \$4,491.48

Prepaid #'s 367-372 \$18,318.82

Highway3's 164 – 173 \$25,896.18

General Park #124 \$639.99

Submitted by Town Clerk, Linda Gilbert RMC, CMC

