

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the Caroga Town Board Budget meeting held Wednesday November 6, 2024 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 6:30 pm with the following persons in attendance by roll call. The flag salute followed.

Supervisor Ralph J. Palcovic - Here
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Barbara DeLuca – Here
Council Member Richard Sturgess – Here
Council Member Matthew Cooper – Here

Also in attendance were Joanne Young Budget Officer, Anita Long Alternate Planning Board Member, and one other person. The meeting was facilitated by Zack Vosburg using Zoom. There were 2 participants at the start of the meeting, 3 participants at the peak and 3 participants at adjournment.

Supervisor Palcovic opened the public hearing on the 2025 budget at 6:30 pm.

Marcus Harazin thanked the board for the resources for the invasive species program. He thanked them for the money for lighting and trail system.

No one in the virtual audience raised their hand to speak.

Supervisor Palcovic stated the public hearing would be open for fifteen minutes, in accordance with Fulton County's policy. At that time, we will close the public hearing and vote for the budget.

There was one question via email from Chris Rohrs dated November 6, at 4:28 pm. Council Member Sturgess stated this was not a budget question. It is a general information question. The question could not be answered without some research the council member stated. It will be answered at the next meeting. The question was in reference to the fire insurance revenue number in regards to the club house building.

Council Member Sturgess asked how the town would go about purchasing something from a private citizen. The purchase would be for a light tower at the salt/sand storage building. Council Member DeLuca ask why we are buying one. The Supervisor stated because we are renting one for \$600.00 a month. Council Member Sturgess went on Facebook market place, there are hundreds of them on there for \$3,000.00. He asked how do we go about purchasing that.

Joanne Young Budget Officer, stated you would have to invoice the town, "it would be like any other vouchers," we would have to get an invoice from them stating what is being purchased and what the price is. Then like any other voucher go forward and approve – Supervisor Palcovic interjected per the procurement policy. Council Member Sturgess asked what if it is below the procurement policy?

The town clerk stated that the board can say they want to spend up to a certain amount of money for a light tower. Then the bookkeeper can cut a check. The bookkeeper stated they would need documentation. A resolution would need to be made to pre - approve the purchase.

Council Member DeLuca asked how much we paid to rent the light? Council Member Cooper stated the town rented two of them for \$600.00 a month for seven months. This is a safety issue. Council Member Sturgess estimated the town spent \$8,000.00 or so last year.

Supervisor Palcovic and Council Member Cooper have been looking online. The cost of a new unit can be \$30,000.00. It is basically a generator with a mercury vapor or LED (more expensive) light. It is based on watts and lumens. Supervisor Palcovic stated it would cost effective to buy a used unit.

Council Member Cooper noted there is no power there. The lighting of the vehicle and the loader when it is pitch black it not adequate.

RESOLUTION #2024-102 to authorize the Supervisor to purchase two light towers in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the November 6, 2024 public hearing on the budget meeting.

WHEREAS, this budget public hearing meeting was advertised on October 12, 2024 in the legal section of the Leader Herald newspaper, and

WHEREAS, the board discussed how they could purchase a light tower, for safety reasons, for those working in the area of the salt/sand building, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to purchase two light towers in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Council Member Glenn asked if we had budgeted last year to have electricity put in on the site. The Supervisor stated it is a little more complex on the engineering side.

Council Member Cooper stated we can't physically do it right now because we don't have the site plan of where the building is going to be. We can't budget how far the power is going to go in on the site.

Supervisor Palcovic stated the engineering distress is because of the potential wetlands encroachment. We have to be careful where it sets. He was on the phone with Joe Dannible the principal engineer with EDP for quite a while today discussing the preliminary engineering. It is far more complex than we initially anticipated. We need lighting for safety and operations.

Council Member Cooper stated regardless, if you go to any municipality they have light towers. If there is an emergency and they are working during a storm, you have that capability.

Council Member DeLuca asked what is on state contract or on line at the Federal Surplus Equipment site. Supervisor Palcovic has also looked on the GSA sites. Those units are \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. The county has two and we could use them for a couple of days. We have looked at alternate resources.

Council Member Sturgess stated with the resolution we have the accessibility to go get them. That is the problem with items are online you have to get them when they show up.

Adopted by a vote of five (5) Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

The clerk noted when they are shopping online to print out other comparable items, two if possible.

Supervisor Palcovic stated there were still seven (7) minutes until the close of the public hearing. He asked if there was anyone online who wanted to comment on the budget. Mr. Vosburg stated there was no activity.

The Budget Officer asked the board about the position of Walter Hogan, the Invasive Species Director. He cut his position salary in half. If he does not remain in that position the Budget Officer asked if the board wanted to move the salary back to where it was in the previous budget. This would mean adding the \$8,000.00 back in.

Council Member Glenn would hate to see that budget cut in any way shape or form.

The Budget Officer stated Mr. Hogan recommended cutting the line item of his salary. The board did it, but never came back to it for discussion.

Council Member Cooper believed when Mr. Hogan said to cut it, he didn't mean to cut it from the program, but to cut it from his position. It could be used for another person or Council Member Glenn stated, as a safe net for ProcellaCOR if it was needed. Council Member Sturgess thought the money was shuffled around. The Budget Officer stated Mr. Hogan added more to the contractual for the invasive species for maybe one more spot for ProcellaCOR. That only brought the line item to \$36,000.00.

The board discussed page 10 of the budget. Mr. Hogan planned for the divers expense to be less as they were not pulling as many weeds from the lake. He was OK with just one shift. Council Member Cooper stated just because it is there doesn't mean we have to spend it.

The Budget Officer stated the tax rate would not change. The \$8,000.00 would be adding to what you are expected to spend for fund balance. It won't have any impact. The board was all in agreement. The change will be made. Line A8090.14 was changed from \$8,000.00 to \$16,000.00.

The front-page appropriations were increased by \$8,000.00. and the fund balance was changed by \$8,000.00.

Supervisor Palcovic checked again with Mr. Vosburg to see if anyone wanted to address the board. No one, was the response.

At 6:45 pm the public hearing on the Town of Caroga 2025 Budget was closed by Supervisor Palcovic.

RESOLUTION #2024 -103 to adopt the 2025 Town of Caroga Preliminary Budget as the adopted budget was offered by Council Member Cooper at the November 6, 2024 public hearing on the budget meeting.

WHEREAS, this budget public hearing meeting was advertised on October 12, 2024 in the legal section of the Leader Herald newspaper, and

WHEREAS, the board held multiple meetings with the public and the Budget Officer, Joanne Young, on the tentative and preliminary budgets, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroga 2025 Budget is hereby adopted with the final change made this evening to add \$8,000.00 to the line item A8090.14.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess asked if there was specific verbiage that has to be said. He remembered something was screwed up last year. The Budget Officer stated we are adopting the Preliminary Budget as the Adopted Budget.

Adopted by a vote of five (5) Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

Council Member Glenn had a phone call today from Karen Seeley the President of the East Caroga Lake Protection Association. Fifteen or nineteen years ago there was some sediment coming down from the culverts to the association beach. It was filling in around the docks. Instead of eight feet deep it was only three feet deep. Supervisor Palcovic stated they did some hydraulic excavation on the waterfront. He remembers the tractor in the water. They would like to do that again. Council Member Glenn thought there were other places and people in town who would like to see their areas dredged as well. Examples were – Bennett’s Bay, Avery Road, and maybe even to dredge the channel down to the outlet. Council Member Glenn stated there was money available through the State Department for the revitalization of water front available. He spoke to Mr. Hogan on this and he would look into it.

Supervisor Palcovic recounted when the association did the reclamation they paid for it at that time. They are willing to do that Council Member Glenn stated. But if there are grants available to do other places in the lake, why not do it. The Supervisor noted a few years ago the highway superintendent put in a box (catch basin) to trap the sediment in the Bennett Bay area. The box is cleaned out once or twice a year.

Council Member Glenn asked if the culverts that run down the avenues are maintained by the town. Supervisor Palcovic stated they do maintain the drainage ditch. There was a major washout down there a year ago. There was flooding conditions. Major renovations were done to the drainage system. The ditches along the road may need maintenance. The Supervisor would have to talk to the highway superintendent to see if that is on his schedule.

Council Member Glenn told Ms. Seeley he would bring this up to the board. Council Member Glenn would like to pursue and get more information from the State Department on revitalization of waterfront.

At 6:50 pm Supervisor Palcovic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Sturgess seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, and Cooper.

Submitted by Caroga Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC