

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday April 9, 2025 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 6:30 pm with the following persons in attendance by roll call.

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

Department representatives in attendance were: Jeremy Manning – Wheelerville Bike Trail Manager, Mike Kunath – BTI, Steve Stedman – Golf Course Greenskeeper, Walter Hogan – Weed Harvesting Coordinator, Roy Stock – Highway Superintendent, two highway employees, Mike Voght – janitor, Anita Long – Comprehensive Plan Committee Member, and one member of the public.

Supervisor Palcovic called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to waive the reading of the previous month's minutes. Council Member Cooper seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

Department Reports:

Wheelerville Bike Trail – Mr. Manning submitted a brief outline for the Wheelerville Trails updated and development Plan. He will be applying for a Municipal Parks, and Recreation Grant on May 2, 2025. There is another project he wants to get underway but first he talked about the 2025 Trust for Public Land Survey that just came out. It analyzed 13 trail locations throughout the United States. They found that:

- 1) On average Mountain Bike Tourism is responsible for an average of \$416 per visit (lodging, retail, & restaurants). The range was \$100 - \$1000 per user, per trip.
- 2) Trails boost local economies while improving community well being
- 3) Increased property values
- 4) Kingdon Trails in VT saw a \$10.3 million in local economic impact

Goals 2025 – 2028 (based on grants) create 5 new trails beginner and adaptive, maintain existing trails, and put power in the parking area. Have a covered pavilion for events/daily use. Improve accessibilities, and work on connector trail to get users with local businesses.

Mr. Manning wanted a resolution tonight to authorize him to apply for the 2025 New York State Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant. It just came out last week. He has sent out letters asking for support to all levels of government. The grant would fund an ongoing management plan – a three-year plan. It would cover his salary and maintenance on 3 re- treads/ per year.

That would preserve the trail standards and design. New construction of 5 new trails 2 intermediate, 3 beginners. They would be built to adaptive Mountain Trail Bike accessibility standards. Improve parking areas and trail signage. COST - \$360,000.00. Local Match \$36,000.00 Grant amount \$324,000.00. Mr. Manning noted there wouldn't be another meeting prior to submitting the grant and asked for a resolution.

Mr. Manning talked to Supervisor Palcovic and Council Member Sturgess about putting together an overall Recreational Revitalization Plan. When he goes out for a grant it should not be just about the bike trail. He thought there should be a planning tool to identify and prioritize specific recreational development for other grants. This way there could be multiple projects all at once. He wanted to connect it all together.

Supervisor Palcovic stated he thought all were in favor of applying for the grants to continue the progress we are making. But in conversation with some of the board members they would like a work session. To make sure everyone understands what is going on. Things covered tonight would be hurried and rushed. Council Member Cooper stated it's a great effort and he wants to support it but needed a work session to cover this more in depth.

The Board discussed dates for a work session and set Wednesday April 16th at 5:30 pm.

A member of the public asked how the town can obtain some revenue from the bike trails.

BTI – Mr. Kunath reported they have been out applying for about a month now. It was a slow start. He was in snow up to the top of his buck boots. Half of the streams have been checked and or treated. There is a lot of water out there. So far 25 gallons have been checked out. That is pretty high for this time of year. He thought they would have enough for the season. It could be a bad year due to the amount of water/rain we are getting.

Council Member Sturgess asked if we should order more BTI if it is going to be a bad year others may need more too. Mr. Kunath stated we have 50 gallons still. If we start to get down to 20 gallons in inventory Mr. Kunath will order more.

Sole Assessor – Supervisor Palcovic read Leigh Anne Loucks report. She has worked with the Fire Department on a parcel list and assessments for a future program change on how the fire department is going to operate. She has done an excellent job putting data together for them. The assessor worked with the County and Codes on a couple of correction of errors.

In the Assessor's report she noted the Town clerk was concerned and talked to her about the equalization rate. Supervisor Palcovic stated "as we all are." He stated it was the dynamics of the market. The Supervisor stated we are no different than a lot of other areas. He meets with supervisors throughout the Adirondack Park monthly and short of a re-evaluation the market.... is what someone will pay if it is on the lake. Right now, that is a lot of money. Routinely the assessor is collecting data, updating the short-term rental list. Supervisor Palcovic noted we have a law in place and noted the State of New York also has a law in place. We will be maintaining our own jurisdictional home rule.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO – the monthly report was submitted to the Supervisor. The Tax Collectors Books will be ready for Audit on April 14th, the books will go back to the County on Friday. The problems the Assessor referred to affect the tax collection process as well. This year 2 corrections of errors were received on March 31st the last day to process tax payment. It took hours of work because unfortunately the county made errors.

The clerk followed up as requested by Council Member Glenn to look for Substance Compliance Company locally. St. Mary's Hospital was contacted and they do not have a plan but Compliance Officer Gilbert was put in touch with another company (Eastern Med. LLC) in Amsterdam. They charge \$350 - \$400 per year plus testing. Energetix does not charge an annual fee we only pay for the testing. Eastern Med does not do the clearing house process which is the annual check to make sure the drivers have a clean Commercial Drivers License. The check on the licenses for this year have already been done. The town has 14 queries left. I plan to purchase an additional 15 – 20 more queries at \$1.50 per once I can get in touch with the clearing house. Council Member Glenn asked how much is cost to do the random draw. The company does this at no cost. The Compliance Officer – Linda Gilbert is notified of the list quarterly. There was a snafu this quarter. Nathan Littauer Hospital has a new system whereby they automatically notify the person who has an appointment coming up. Unfortunately, it was for the town's drug tests which is secret. Last quarter no one was chosen.

This morning the tax bills were taken to county printing to be cut in half before being returned to the County. Mr. Louer picked up the bills and asked where the papers had been kept, "they smell like my basement." The building smell is permeating and very noticeable. The clerk didn't know what the next step was but it is embarrassing, and not good for anyone's health either.

Research was done with Miller printing on reprinting the Caroga Book. They did the second edition of the Caroga book. For 50 books it is \$37.1298 each or \$1,856.49 (colorized) for 100 it is \$37.1113 per book, or \$3,711.13. For black only guts – 50 - \$28.0270 each or \$1,401.35, 100 are \$27.7039 or \$2,770.39. The board will discuss purchasing books at the work session.

Transfer Station permit forms were updated to include a place to indicate if the person applying has a business or Short-Term Rental in Caroga. The forms are a handy tool especially when it gets busy in the office.

Lastly, Mark Yost the County Highway Superintendent responded back about the envelope found in Supervisor Palcovic office from 2014 that was unopened and contained the Snow and Ice payment. The check had been voided because it was lost and a replacement check #3400 was issued in the amount of \$25,750.00 on November of 2014 and was cashed.

The clerk noted we've all seen that Frontier is running fiber optic throughout town. She noted they didn't need a permit to do it but noted there is an annual report RP 7114 that has to be filled out for New York State Real Property for work being done in the right of way. The Clerk asked for, and received, a copy of the work order so it can be attached to the report in 2026. The permit is for Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

Tax Report – unpaid \$568,637.52 paid were \$3,206,472.99. Penalties collected was \$4,911.08.

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – Mr. Fancher submitted a written report. His continuing education for state certification is completed. He recently received 25.5 hours of training.

Nine permits were issued and \$1,450.00 in fees was collected, with a valuation of \$89,400.00. Nineteen inspections were completed and one Short-Term Rental inspection was done. A new letter was drafted to a forecasted list of Air B & B's that are in the town. It will be sent out to advise people that they need to comply with our local law. In the letter the code officer noted a situation downstate that took place whereby the owners of a rental property, that was not permitted or inspected, had a tragic fire. As a result, the owners were charged with manslaughter.

Our inspection covers smoke detectors, CO detectors and exit plans. He works diligently to have everyone in compliance.

The code officer is working on property maintenance violations. Supervisor Palcovic stated there are some very obvious property maintenance issues. This doesn't happen overnight, there is a process you have to go through legally. "There are some gross violations, and we are working diligently to get some messes cleaned up."

The code officer is also working with the Assessor to complete a close out list. When a permit is closed the assessor goes out and updates the assessment. "Hopefully the paperwork trail follows diligently so we don't have the problem."

Mr. Fancher requested that the board allow him to keep the town car home to make it easier for evening and weekend appointment inspections. Supervisor Palcovic stated he is a salaried employee. His personal view that it would be acceptable as he is on call 24/7 so to speak. Council Member Glenn asked if anyone else used the car? The Supervisor stated "on a daily basis I believe the assessor uses it." The maintenance person has a key to it but uses his own vehicle for town business. He stated he doesn't charge mileage. Council Member Sturgess did not have an issue with it. The Supervisor noted the concern of people seeing it parked at a private residence.

RESOLUTION #2025-040 that the Code Officer, Anthony Fancher be allowed to use the company car to keep it at his home for use on evenings and weekends was offered by Council Member Glenn at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on April 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the code officer has identified a need to keep the town car at home for his use on evenings and weekends as he gets called out, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Code Officer is allowed to use the company car and keep it at his home for use on evenings and weekends.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: hearing none

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

The clerk asked if there was any sort of log on the vehicle. Supervisor Palcovic could not answer that. It was a good question the supervisor stated. The maintenance is computer tracked by Toyota. The clerk asked if there was a mileage log when he fuels up. The Highway Superintendent noted there is a gas/mileage log when he fills up.

Dog Control – Mr. Dutcher DCO notified the clerk he had three calls for the month. The clerk reported to him that there are seven delinquent licenses from 2024. The clerk discussed with Mr. Dutcher a complaint she received about dogs defecating in the town right of way. Mr. Dutcher suggested having a pooper scooper law. The current ordinance just says the dog can not defecate on anyone else's property. He suggested the board may want to think about this for the future. Council Member Cooper thought it was a state law. Supervisor Palcovic suggested the DCO present the board with a model of what it might look like. The Supervisor noted the enforcement issue and then stated he is licensed by Ag. & Markets to do this anyway.

Golf Course – Mr. Stedman reported on the club house first. All employees minus two – Dave & Jake are going to return. Ed, Adam, Amy, and Kim are returning. Last Friday he spoke to someone about the club house job. They said they would let him know. Mr. Stedman has temporarily taken over a lot of the responsibilities over there.

Ed came in for two days/12 hours and got the club house completely cleaned out, and it is much different than last year. Things have been filed properly now. The 38 carts have been moved up. Chris Rector will be called next week depending on the weather to get the bathrooms de-winterized. Some of the bathroom traps are outside. Once the water is on the carts will be washed. Orders have been placed for all bathroom supplies and trash bags. He has not contacted Valley Beverage yet, or ordered any merchandise. The score cards are done at Derby Office. He will also stop down to Silk Screen to see about some merchandise. He spoke to Joanne about where merchandise had been bought from before. Council Member Sturgess thought Dave put together a list of all of our vendors for everything. Mr. Stedman found a lot of “useless paper work, that like I...”

The golf cart recall has been finished. Yesterday all 40 carts had the throttle spring on the gas peddle replaced. The damaged cart was brought back by WB and they took their loaner cart. All 40 over there are ours.

Brian Macintosh from Canada Lake Computers will be in tomorrow to look at the club house computer and card reader. He is also going to put up the cameras that were purchased last fall.

Mr. Stedman continues to take calls for membership and advertising.

As far as the golf course all of the mowers are ready to go. The downed trees have been cut up and put to the side. The dumping area on Irving Pond Road is too muddy. They will take them away when it is dryer. Granular fungicide was applied last week on the Tees, greens, and

approaches. It is too wet to get a 200-gallon sprayer out there. 28 days later he needs to do another application. The resolution was sent to Toro for the two pieces of equipment that are on order.

They have been working on #6. Forty stumps were removed last week. They are using the soil down by the 9th green to shape the area. He hopes to plant grass in the next three weeks. He has one employee working with him and another will start on Monday. They are cleaning/blowing off the surfaces. Another employee will start on the 21st.

April 28 he and his staff will be going to an OSHA class in Mayfield with the highway guys.

The course always opens between a three-week period. Closing in mid-November, opening is usually around the 20th of April. He is playing it by ear but he hopes to be fully open on 4/28.

Alan Farber contacted him about the anniversary of the fire tower and he wanted the course to be incorporated in the celebration. It could be an outing or ½ off golf. The land was purchased in 1925. The anniversary of the course opening has several dates. Mr. Stedman has read a lot about this and stated the course was open from 1925 – 1935. The supervisor noted it was opened in stages. There were 6 holes just after 1925 Mr. Stedman related. In 1929 there were 9 holes. In 1935 was when all 18 holes were officially open. Our logo says 1925 on it. Council Member Sturgess stated we should look up what the golf rate was in 1925.

Council Member Sturgess noted the #5 green #6 Tee Box project. There is someone who does a lot for the golf course and he was willing to bring his machine up to let the course use it for a week to pull 40 stumps. This same person managed to get all of the new Tee signs donated again this year. Council Member Sturgess asked the board to waive his advertisement fee this year. It was also suggested that perhaps the town would give him his membership for this year too. If we had to rent the machine it would have been about \$1,500.00 for the week. Mr. Stedman called Putthaven Farms and the rental would have been \$3,845.00 for two weeks.

RESOLUTION #2025-041 to waive the advertising fee on the golf course for North Country Electric/Matt Hillock and also to give Mr. Hillock paid membership for greens fees for 2025 was offered by Council Member Cooper at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on April 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the board was informed by the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course greenskeeper about all of the assistance Mr. Hillock gave him by allowing the use of his equipment to remove stumps on the work being done on hole # 6, and

WHEREAS, it was also noted that Mr. Hillock was able to get all of the Tee signs donated to the town once again, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to waive the 2025 advertising fees for North Country Electric/Matt Hillock and also to give Mr. Hillock a paid membership for greens fees for 2025.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

Supervisor Palcovic noted for years he put up the flags on the street lighting poles in town. The Supervisor noted we have to purchase new flags.

Highway – Roy Stock thanked his guys for doing a good job this winter. He thanked (Council Member) Matt Cooper for all of his help. He has been working on equipment. He put \$300.00 into the 1987 Tractor and it is like brand new. They are getting ready for pot hole season but is waiting until the weather is better as not to waste town money. Once the frost is out, he will take care of the pot holes. They have fixed five failed galvanized culvert pipes this year. They have been replaced with plastic. They have painted the plows and is getting ready to take them off.

He gave the board members the final quote for the new truck. The quote is good for 120 days. He has been in contact with a bond agency. He also talked to a leasing company today. There are 3/5- or 7-year lease. He signed the NTP for today for Henderson which locks us in. He is waiting on the bond company. The bookkeeper will be contacted tomorrow by Mr. Stock for some help with the financial documents he needs. Supervisor Palcovic thought this could be worked on in the work session. The lead time on the truck is a year and 3 or 4 months. Council Member Sturgess noted we would not even have it for next winter.

There will be Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training tomorrow.

Truck #17 the International needs a new box. He has two quotes. Council Member Cooper stated a new one is \$22,000.00 to repair it is \$10,000.00 to repair a junk box. Mr. Stock suggested taking the box off of truck #20 and putting in on #17 and put the new box on truck #20. Truck 17 can not be driven the way the box is. Mr. Brady noted there wasn't a catastrophic event due to Roy and Cory the mechanic.

Mr. Stock submitted the 284 to the town board for the proposed paving of roads in 2025. Council Member Cooper stated this can be discussed during the work session. It is a contract between the town and the highway department for expenditure of funds for the roads. Council Member Cooper also noted Mr. Stock has the draft renewal for the SPEDES permit for the waste water out of the highway building. It is due in June.

Lakes Management Program –Mr. Hogan reported he is working with DEC on the reimbursement for the grant. It is problematic as it was awarded at the time the state changed the existing grant process to another system. He is compiling the data.

The idea of trying to do Bennetts Bay this year became complicated. The permit we obtained from the Adirondack Park Agency is good for 2 years but only good for those specific areas. We would have to apply for a new permit for Bennetts Bay. It cannot be revised or amended. Mr. Hogan noted when the survey was done there was no milfoil there. They hand harvested it before the survey. A new survey will be done this year. It will cost between \$6,000 - \$7,000.

Mr. Hogan provided the board with two quotes for a motor. One from Canada Lake and another from Caroga Lake Marina. The Supervisor noted 3 quotes are needed, and that the quote from Caroga Marina was dated last year. Mr. Hogan said the quote would not change.

Mr. Hogan talked about reducing his hours to spend more time at home in Cooperstown helping his wife with the boys. He does want to stay involved. He stated that one of the divers will pick up a lot of the day-to-day operations. There will be four divers this year.

Supervisor Palcovic mentioned the recent floodplain management maps in regards to a grant and East and West Caroga Lakes fall into it. Mr. Hogan and the board were sent the information. Mr. Hogan noted the problem the divers have, in shallow water with cloudiness, especially on East Caroga in the channel and also the outlet channel. Council Member Glenn thought there should be dredging in those areas and in the bay due to silting in.

Council Member Glenn passed around a news letter that Jed Potocar put together to send out to 1000 mailings. "It has been as clear as mud." Fulton County printing put this together. It is two sheets/double sided and the cost for color is \$400 black ink \$160 to fold and insert into (supplied) envelopes would be \$20.00. He cannot do the labels. Leigh Anne will put on the labels. The cost to mail them \$0.69 per envelope. The cost to print an envelope with a return address would be \$70 per thousand.

Council Member Sturgess suggested taking this to the post office and do a mass mailing. Regions to be mailed to can be selected.

The clerk stated the mailing is very specialized. It is going to the people on East Caroga, and West Caroga. East Caroga gets 200 town directories and hands them out with their memberships. She asked why are we mailing 200 pieces of paper to them when the information could be hand delivered their membership. Council Member Glenn stated the mailing is to advertise our lakes for people to come use our lakes join an association and become involved. The clerk stated you can't join an association. East Caroga Lake Association is only for specific area. Council Member Glenn stated they could join West Caroga Lake and Canada Lake Associations. The clerk stated you can't join Canada Lake. The clerk stated the way to get new members is to go door to door to your nonmembers. Council Member Glenn stated it could go through the mail. The clerk agreed to where they live in Selkirk or Hawaii. She noted everyone around Stoner Lakes know each other. Council Member Glenn again stated people can join and become a member. The clerk argued you can not become a member of the various lake associations. Mr. Hogan stated that East and West are working together for mutual goals.

Council Member Sturgess asked what the letter end result was looking for. Council Member Glenn stated, "advertise the fact – come to Caroga Lake, use our lakes, recreate, protect our lakes." A member of the public asked how we are generating revenue for the town?

Supervisor Palcovic tabled the discussion. The clerk noted all of these associations have a means to reach out to their members. The Supervisor gets a mailing quarterly.

Town Hall Building – Council Member Cooper stated he would meet with the clerk to come up with a better solution for ventilation or storage. We will never eliminate it. He thanked Mike Voght for the work he’s been doing. He came in when the roof was leaking and tiles were falling down. Daily surprises of snow and ice. He keeps a daily log and has pride in what he does.

Mr. Voght would like to come in on a Saturday and or Sunday and start carpet cleaning soon to get things smelling better.

Caroga Tourism Committee – Council Member DeLuca was not here this evening. Supervisor Palcovic reported the committee is looking to do a Memorial Day Parade.

Supervisor’s Report:

Supervisor Palcovic reported that the 2024 Annual Report was filed in the Town Clerk’s Office on April 1st.

The Supervisor is working on some Local Laws when the Attorney sends them to him.

The Supervisor put forth a motion to support the State Pro-Housing Community pledge which could open the door to some future grants. Scott Henze Director of the Fulton County Planning Department said there will be questions on future grants, that is why we should adopt this.

RESOLUTION #2025-042 a resolution in support of Pro-Housing Communities was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on April 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroga believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being, and

WHEREAS, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities, and

WHEREAS, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities, and

WHEREAS, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits, and

WHEREAS, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Caroga in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

Seconded by Council Member Cooper

Discussion: Council Member Glenn noted the cities of Johnstown and Gloversville just entered into this and received over \$100M in infrastructure. Supervisor Palcovic talks about this with other supervisors at the Adirondack Park Local Government meetings. It was stated that our zoning would have to change. Council Member Cooper stated we don't have to take action on anything – we are getting on the list if something comes in then the board can make a decision on where to go with it. He stated if you are not signed up for it you aren't even eligible.

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

Supervisor Palcovic noted the Highway & Golf Course Staff will be attending required OSHA training.

On some good news after a long-fought battle – there were some deficiencies with our fuel tank system. The permit had expired three and a half (3 ½) years ago. We received our official permit from the State Dept. of Envir. Conservation on April 4. We are now complying and legal. In conjunction with this the town was served with notices of violation that were three (3) years old. This was at an un budgeted cost of over \$10,000.00. That included the cost of having C. T. Male work on this, remediation, cleanup, and permit fees. The permits are good for 3 years. Council Member Cooper noted we made the decision to upgrade our bulk storage tanks inside the facility to a double wall structure. Roy and his team did a lot of the inhouse cleaning and remediation work.

Supervisor Palcovic noted the need for durable outside flags. He is looking for solid fiberglass poles. Council Member Sturgess will ask his wife about where they were obtained from previously. We will need at least a dozen.

****Public Comments and Questions**

Mark Candella of 109 Channel Road wanted to be put on the record for a request to have his road paved. He has been here 19 years. Currently there are 60% on the road that live there all year round. There are a lot of ruts. It is not a very long or wide road. He could not be promised that it will happen this year. He did request this a few years ago. Supervisor Palcovic noted County Road 111 will be paved this year.

Linda Gilbert stated Yes, she was concerned about the equalization rate in this town. It effects the benefits we received for the STAR exemptions and it also effects the amount of revenue the town gets from the county for our sales tax. When the equalization rate is down, we get less sales tax money and less exemption money. It makes a difference it comes out of our pockets. The board needs to be aware of it.

One other thing the town supervisor mentioned this evening was accessory structures. As she sees them, they can put a second residence on each parcel in town. This effects the sanitation into our lakes. In the future Ms. Gilbert asked the board to consider removing accessory structures as a right in the zoning. She showed a picture of an accessory structure on Green Lake Road that has French doors to what used to be a cliff and now has a deck on the structure. This is not a shed. Ms. Gilbert thought this should be revisited. This happens repeatedly.

Council Member Cooper noted this went to the planning board as a shed. They took two sheds down to put this up to store their summer furniture, water skis and other things. The question was asked if this was going to turn into living quarters. The answer was no. Supervisor Palcovic stated there should be a notice of violation. The minutes will be provided to the code officer. Council Member Cooper (former Planning Board Member) noted there are accessory structures and accessory dwellings. A shed falls into a 10 x 10 anything bigger than that falls into an accessory structure and based on where the zone is, is what is authorized. An accessory dwelling is a dwelling where people can live, it has the amenities of that – Dick Aulisi put an accessory dwelling in. There is water, electric, and septic.

Anita Long who is working on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. She asked if the Chairman Mr. Foss had requested a mailing – was there money in the budget and did it require authorization from the supervisor. Supervisor Palcovic asked Mr. Foss for the verbiage for a resolution. Council Member Sturgess stated as long as it was not over the procurement policy of the budget... They shouldn't need authorization from the board on how they are spending the budgeted line item. The clerk replied "no," a committee has no authority to spend funds or to incur expenses Supervisor Palcovic interjected.

Anita Long encouraged the town board to pass a resolution authorizing the spending to send out a card notifying people that the committee is looking to get public input. Supervisor Palcovic noted Mr. Foss was out of town but was glad Ms. Long brought it up. This matter was referred to the upcoming work session.

James Brady thanked all the council members, the town clerk for doing a great job. The last nine months have been great at the highway department. He spoke on behalf of the staff. Roy has done a phenomenal job working with the board and town supervisor, and clerk. Things are really looking up. They can see light at the end of the tunnel. They have worked diligently on some

things that were neglected the last 3 - 4 years. Bad culvert pipes, washed out roads. They are working to put the roads back in shape to a point where they can someday pave the roads. We do live in an Adirondack town. Do we want to live where all the roads are paved?

Mr. Brady wanted to ask Mr. Manning.... In the snowmobile club you pay for a membership, on the golf course you pay for a membership. Where is the income coming from to help the town other than town businesses that it helps thrive but he wanted to see the town thrive for the expenditures of the bike trail. For the fuel, equipment, labor, man hours. Mr. Brady was asking about permitting the bike trails.

Mr. Manning stated when there is a permit ridership drops off. Mr. Manning brought in over \$21,000.00 last year in donations for the trail program. They did not take one tax dollar last year, there was an excess last year. The year before there were \$16,000.00 in donations. They go right back into the budget for the program. If riders or trail users were to pay it changes your insurance, and the model you are offering. It is a park designed around tourism, and public benefit. Mr. Manning knows of ten (10) people who have moved here and bought houses here because of those trails. Now they are tax paying residents to the highway department.

The stump dump was discussed briefly by the highway superintendent on how it can be managed. It is up to him to decide.

Mr. Stock also noted under tourism that he has been in contact with the Department of Environmental Conservation about opening the Kane Mountain parking lot a little bigger. Supervisor Palcovic confirmed that the town does work with permission of the state to maintain the parking lot and trail head areas.

Old Business:

New Business:

Correspondence:

Fulton County Solid Waste Summer Hours of the Transfer Station began April 1

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #2025-043 to Approve the Bookkeeper attending Town Finance & Personnel School April 22 – 24 Saratoga NY was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on April 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the bookkeeper Joanne Young has indicated a desire to attend an upcoming training in Saratoga Springs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to authorize the Bookkeeper to attend the Town Finance & Personnel School April 22 – 24 Saratoga NY.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

RESOLUTION # 2025-044 to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget: was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on April 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the bookkeeper Joanne Young has determined that the following transfers are necessary to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following transfers be made as indicated below:

To A9950.91 Weed Harvester Reserve	\$ 1,000.00	
From A8090.41 WEED C/E		\$ 1,000.00

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

RESOLUTION#2025-045 to acknowledge the following income and use that to fund the following account to maintain a balanced budget was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on April 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the bookkeeper Joanne Young has determined that the following transfers are necessary to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following transfers be made as indicated below:

Revenue: DA2650 Sale of Scrap	\$774.75	
Fund: DA5130.4 Machinery C/E		\$774.75

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

RESOLUTION #2025-046 to authorize appropriate signers on the various established accounts at NBT Bank was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on March 9, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk, Linda Gilbert recently discovered that a mistake was made by the official at NBT Bank back in January of 2024 when Supervisor Palcovic was added on as a signer to all of the Town of accounts, and

WHEREAS, only the Town Clerk, Linda Gilbert and Deputy Town, Clerk Judith Aldinger should be signers on the Town Clerk, Tax Collectors, and 911 # Project accounts, and the Code

Officer Anthony Fancher is the signer on the Code Account, and that the Town Justice, James Subik is the sole signer on the Town Justice account, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor Ralph Palcovic, and Council Member Richard Sturgess are the authorized signer of the 11 other accounts at NBT Bank excluding the Town Clerk account ending in 5991, Tax Collectors account ending in 6000, and 911 # Project account ending in 1512, and the Code account ending in 2985 and lastly that Town Justice James Subik is the sole signer on the Town Justice account,

Seconded by Council Member Cooper

Adopted by a vote of four (4) Ayes, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

Council Member Cooper made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2025 Town Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

Supervisor Palcovic made the motion to approve the bills as presented for audit. Council Member Sturgess seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

At 8:12 pm Supervisor Palcovic made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

Submitted by Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC

General #'s 115 – 158 \$36,846.85

Prepaid #'s 80 – 110 \$35,339.00

Highway #'s 41 – 56 \$17,859.02

General Park #'s 11 – 14 \$1,197.74