

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the Regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday September 10, 2008 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 7:00 pm with the following persons in attendance by Roll Call:

Supervisor Kane - Here
Councilman Ralph Palcovic - Here
Councilman Robert Sprung - Here
Council Member Valerie Scribner - Here
Councilman Robert Sullivan - Here

Other town officials in attendance were Stephen Jennings – Golf Pro-Greenskeeper-Manager, Mike Heberer – Code Enforcement Officer, Joseph Insogna – Highway Superintendent, and Katherine Hillock – Assessor. There were 32 members of the public in attendance.

Supervisor Kane called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Heberer submitted a written report to the board. From the date of his last report Aug. 13, 2008 he has issued one plumbing permit, 9 sanitation permits, 3 heating permits, and 13 building permits. A violation report was not attached.

He gave the board preliminary drawings from CT Male of the Proposed Municipal Building. These updated drawings are as a result of the work session. He asked that he be given any changes as soon as possible so that numbers can be given. There were no red flags from the water testing done on all the lakes. Everything came back satisfactory from all the lakes.

Public:

Barb Germain and Steve Van Arnam spoke on behalf of the Johnstown Public Library. Dick Sullivan president of the board of trustees was also in attendance. She thanked the board of their annual support of the library. They presented statistical information on Town of Caroga users for 2007. An overview of their services was outlined. A funding increase was asked for. The Town of Caroga use is 2% proportionally of their budget. This would equal an amount of \$6,800.00.

James Hayes – gave the board a five-page report entitled “The dangers of Aquatic Invasive Plant Species to the Canada Lakes.” A lake Steward Program was proposed. He asked the board to contribute \$5,250.00, however it may be possible to do this for less. They are looking into training volunteer lake stewards for next year. Dona Goldman suggested posting signs to help boaters identify invasive weeds. Mr. DeWeese offered to give a presentation to the C.L.P.A. weed committee.

Tor Shekerjian – read a letter in response to a letter the board had received from Anita Potocar. In the letter he states that the WCLA has not attended educational trainings. He noted that the potamogeton in West Caroga Lake is a native weed and not one of the invasive varieties.

Jack Holliday spoke on behalf of the Nick Stoner Trailers Snowmobile Association. This summer they lost access to a main trail going north and east. In previous years they have lost access to other

trails and parking for snowmobilers. They asked if the town would let the snowmobilers use the golf course to connect to other trails. The club would mark the trail.

RESOLUTION to allow snowmobiles on designated areas of the Golf Course #2008-076

Offered by Councilman Palcovic

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, Jack Holliday addressed the board on behalf of the Nick Stoner Trailer Association about opening up sections of the Nick Stoner Golf Course to snowmobiles to facilitate a north and east corridor of travel through the town of Caroga, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby move to allow access to areas of the golf course as designated by the golf pro Stephen Jennings, in collaboration with the snowmobile club, to meet the needs of the snowmobiling public.

Unanimously approved

Department Reports:

Highway - Mr. Insogna reported that his employee have been digging rocks out of Alderwood Park Road. They are going to begin removing the rocks on S. Shore Rd. of East Caroga tomorrow. The area to be done is between Beech Ridge Rd down to the corner. The sand pit has been sealed up. He used 150 pounds of seed and 65 bales of mulch. Pictures were taken and sent to the state. He has purchased all his sand. The piles are all temporary. The person to replace the Mechanic is ready to go. Councilman Palcovic & Councilman Sullivan found a family with their dirt bike at the site of the newly seeded – former sand pile. They were very cooperative and were asked not to come back. The councilman asked to have a posted sign at the entrance to that site.

Golf Course – Mr. Jennings reported that the revenues to date were \$186,591.00. This is up from the figure last year at this time. He spoke to DOT today. The golf course crossing and warning signs for state hwy were ordered in June. The four signs will be here soon. They are doing normal maintenance. The greens have been airified, seeded, and top-dressed. They are cleaning out ditches on numbers 9,12, &18. They are being made wider and deeper.

Dog Control – no report

BTI – no report

Weeds – Mr. DeWeese thanked Barbara Donnelly for allowing the harvester to be parked on her beach. He also thanked Mr. Insogna for transporting the harvester to and from the site. The alternator has been replaced. Another thank you went out to Tor for his letter. Mr. DeWeese read a letter in response to the comments and letter from Mrs. Potocar at the August meeting. He noted the same weed harvesting approach is used on both East and West Caroga Lake. Potamogeton is a native weed to our lakes. It provides habitat for fish and invertebrate. There are 32 different varieties of potamogeton. The crispus variety is invasive. Caroga Lake does not have that variety. This weed may be hand pulled in front of ones property in up to 6 feet deep of water. The E.C.L.P.A formed a weed committee in the 1980's. They researched several options to remove milfoil and found the harvester was the best approach. In 1991 the harvester was purchased for

\$20,000.00 through fund raising and Senator Farley's Office. In 1998 harvesting began in West Caroga Lake. The cost of the program is about \$16,000.00 a year.

Youth - Desire Hines submitted a written report. They had a great year playing outdoor games, swimming, doing arts and crafts, and taking weekly trips. She put together a photo album to remember the fun in 2008.

Clerk/Registrar – I noted an upcoming NYSTCA regional meeting in Plattsburgh September 21 & 22 to the board. There is no cost to the town for travel or lodging however I may stay for the lunch on Monday at a cost of \$25.00.

RESOLUTION to allow town clerk to expend funds for luncheon #2008-077

Offered by Council Member Scribner

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the town clerk informed the board of an upcoming New York State Town Clerk's Association regional meeting in Plattsburgh NY, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Clerk, Linda Gilbert serves as secretary of that association, and

WHEREAS, the association will cover the cost of travel and lodging except for the Monday luncheon, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve funds in the amount of \$25.00 from account A1410.4 Town Clerk CE to cover the cost of the luncheon if attended.

Unanimously approved

Assessor's Report – Katherine Hillock give a written report to the board. The office has been answering calls about school taxes. The basic STAR exemption has gone down. She has corrected three tax bills to add the basic STAR exemption. There are three additional bills to be corrected. Star recipients are scheduled to receive a middle class STAR rebate check during the week of September 29, 2008. Mrs. Hillier stated that she is working with Mr. Heberer to collect data on the new construction for the next assessment roll.

A member of the public asked about the new fair market value that was stated on the tax bills. Mrs. Hillock responded that this is not new. "The previous assessor stated the level of assessment on the bill – which was required to be on the bill. It was always 100 so the assessed value and the market value was always the same amount. In reality the assessments aren't at 100 %. They aren't reflective of what's happening in the market right now. What I have stated is the equalization rate. So the level of assessment and the eq-rate are the same. That is why everyone thinks I've raised their assessment. I did not. I'm just stating that the assessment really is not 100%. If you take your assessment and divide it by the 53 that is why it shows the market value higher."

Councilman Sprung asked if she was going to be putting in some extra hours. He asked if she had a plan. Mrs. Hillock stated that she only did a small amount of new construction last year. There is a stack of building permits for her to work on. "I am only going to work with probably those that are completed to get an idea of where it is." She may put on some partial assessments on but she will

concentrate on the ones the code officer gave certificates of completion or compliance. Councilman Sprung asked for an update of what she did.

Supervisor’s Report

Supervisor Kane asked if the board wanted to make a decision on discontinuing the Medicaid part B reimbursement, or drop the issue. Council Member Scribner and Councilman Sprung thought the Town Attorney was going to review this issue. Councilman Sullivan noted that future retired employees would not receive this benefit. Councilman Palcovic still wanted a formal legal opinion.

Dan Dermott came in with a noise complaint on Sunday mornings from Royal Mountain. He stated that he could not hear the minister in church because of the noise. He asked if the motorcycle activities could wait to begin until 10:00 am on Sundays. It was noted that this is the first complaint in many year. Councilman Palcovic stated that the Planning Board could put the time as a contingent. He is sure Mr. Blaise would agree without restricting any of the recreational activities. Councilman Sprung noted that in Ballston Spa where his son races, they can’t start until noon.

Each Board member received a letter about the hospital. Supervisor Kane spoke to Patrice McMahon from Nathan Littauer Hospital. They agreed to the \$500.00 a month renal fee, but the hospital would like more than a one-year contract. Supervisor Kane suggested a two-year contract. By then if a new building were built then there would be an opportunity to increase the rent.

RESOLUTION to set rental agreement for the Caroga Lake Primary Care Center #2008-078

Offered by Councilman Palcovic

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board met with Patrice McMahon at a work session on August 26, 2008 to discuss the monthly rental fee for the space occupied by Nathan Littauer Hospital for a clinic which is located within the Caroga Municipal Building, and

WHEREAS, the board discussed the terms and price of the contract, which was being reviewed by the town attorney, and

WHEREAS, the board stated that the contract would start on a mutually agreed initiation date for the Nathan Littauer Clinic agreement in the amount of \$500.00 per month for a two-year period as written.

Unanimously approved

Supervisor Kane proposed on the 29th or 30 of this month an open house in the gymnasium to present all of the information we have on the new town hall and on this building.” The engineers are going to draw up sheets for us with the pictures and show where the deficiencies are in the building. They will also have a price on the water infiltration and to fix the bricks on this end of the building. The board would then have a complete cost on what it would cost to rehabilitate this building and the layout of the new. The board selected the 30th at 7:00 pm. Councilman Sullivan wanted a chance to review the materials before the meeting.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Supervisor Kane stated he would like to get this on the November ballot for everyone to vote on.

Salt & Sand – remove from agenda, as this issue has been resolved.

Park Creation - Council Member Scribner noted that the front of the pavilion needed to be stained. She will work on landscaping specifications with Councilman Sprung. The Cornell Co operative Extension was contacted for help with the project. Mrs. Hillier mailed in paperwork to the Parks and Recreation Dept. on the completed pavilion part of the project. Crusher run may be placed in the pavilion at a later date. Council Member Scriber asked the highway superintendent to do some grading on the site. Supervisor Kane has ordered 12 picnic tables for the park.

The sign for the Justice Court is still on the back burner. A permanent sign for the park will also be needed.

Cell Service –Council Member Scribner has asked everyone to turn in to her the petitions supporting cell towers in Caroga Lake. They will eventually go be given to a provider. She plans to have the draft Local Law ready tomorrow. It will be sent to the APA, after the Planning Board approves it. A public hearing will be held in the near future.

Old Business:

Golf Course Roof Repair

Golf Course – Mr. Heberer contacted Mr. Hayner and it was determined that the roof repair cannot be done for that price. The specifications will be changed and the project re-bid.

RESOLUTION to rescind resolution #2008-60 **#2008-079**

Offered by Council Member Scribner

Seconded by Councilman Palcovic

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, Mr. Heberer spoke to Mr. Hayner successful bidder on the golf course roof project, and it was determined that the job could not be done for the bid submitted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to rescind resolution #2008-060 hereby canceling the roof replacement on the golf course job.

Unanimously approved

Alienation – Supervisor Kane announced that Governor Paterson had signed S5288-B/A7813-B “An act to authorize the Town of Caroga, County of Fulton to discontinue the use of certain lands as parklands.”

Highway Superintendent suggested logging off more of the parcel for revenues.

RESOLUTION to investigate logging town owned land **#2008-080**

Offered by Councilman Palcovic

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, legislation was recently signed by the governor to alienate parcel #68.00-1-27 from a larger parcel of land to promote the towns growth by allowing diversified use of parkland and to support the town's infrastructure and ability to provide municipal services, and

WHEREAS, the highway superintendent noted the abundance of trees on said lands, which could be harvested to provide revenue to the town, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to go forward and contact Bob Ambrosino at Fulton County Soils and Waters for the name of forester to evaluate the lands for harvesting.

Unanimously approved

Correspondence:

Caroga Transfer Station – Start of reduced hours October 1st the station will be open Monday & Saturday 7am – noon and Friday noon to 4 pm.

APA – Conservation Subdivisions training session September 24, 2008 in Ray Brook.

New Business:

The clerk noted that at this time of year annual bids for #2 fuel, gasoline, and diesel are usually obtained.

RESOLUTION to advertise for bids for #2 Fuel oil, Unleaded Gasoline & Diesel #2008-081

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board did discuss the need to advertise for bids for #2 Fuel Oil, Unleaded Gasoline, and Diesel for the year 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to advertise once in the Leader Herald newspaper legal section for bids for #2 Fuel Oil, Unleaded Gasoline, and Diesel for municipal use in the year 2009, and be it further

RESOLVED, that said sealed bids will be accepted in the office of the Caroga Town Clerk until 4:00 pm Wednesday October 8, 2008 and will be opened at the next town board meeting to be held on Wednesday October 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

Unanimously approved

RESOLUTION to sign lease agreement with Nathan Littauer Hospital #2008-082

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Council Member Scribner

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board did discuss and send a copy of said agreement to the Town Attorney Edward F. Skoda, and

WHEREAS, a draft agreement was drawn up whereby the terms of the lease run from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2010 and the annual rent shall be the sum of Six Thousand Dollars payable on or before the first day of each month, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to have the Supervisor Robert M. Kane sign said agreement.

Unanimously approved

Councilman Sprung made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the August meeting, pay the bills as presented for audit, accept the minutes of the August meeting, 9-26 and 9-2 work sessions. Councilman Sullivan seconded the motion.

Supervisor Kane anticipates getting the final plans for the utility building, which will have a 400-amp service.

At 8:00 pm Councilman Sprung made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Scribner seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert – RMC
Caroga Town Clerk