

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board work session held Wednesday October 29, 2008
at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 3:35 pm with the following
persons in attendance by Roll Call:

Supervisor Kane - Here
Councilman Ralph Palcovic - arrived at 4:15 pm
Councilman Robert Sprung - Here
Council Member Valerie Scribner - Here
Councilman Robert Sullivan - Here

There were 6 members of the public in attendance. The time of the meeting was reported twice
in the Leader Herald Newspaper. One article stated 3pm the other 4pm. Kathy Hillock –
Assessor also attended the meeting.

Supervisor Kane asked for permission to go out to bid for the utility shed. Councilman Sullivan
asked how often someone has been in to repair any of the services in that structure? Council
Member Scribner asked if the structure is going down no matter what. The paperwork to obtain
the \$50,000.00 from Senator Farley's office needs to be completed before anything can happen
to the structure. It is noted that the heat is down cellar and Councilman Sullivan asked if it was
going to be moved to the utility building. Supervisor Kane stated not right now not until we
decide which way we are going. Councilman Sprung noted we have to do something that is
more energy efficient. Supervisor Kane stated that the same 400-amp 3-phase 4- wire entrance
would be put in the shed. It would come off the pole by the motel to a ditch and into this
building. All of the live circuits in the old building would be transferred. The board still has to
get a price from Mr. Senzio and get a plumber to take out the water pump, water conditioner, and
hot water heater and hook them up. After they are hooked up in the shed then they need to be
hooked up to the existing structure, which uses them. All the cut pipes will have to go into a
junction box. Council Member Scribner asked if this was temporary. Councilman Sprung
responded the shed would be permanent no matter what we do. The shed is set up to be adjacent
to the existing town hall. Councilman Sullivan stated the worse case scenario is the town is
going to end up with a stand-alone building out there with all our utilities in it, if we decide to
remodel this structure in some fashion. Council Member Scribner summarized "remodel or build
new that will stay there and be more efficient than what we have." Councilman Sprung noted the
boiler is designed to heat all the structures. Three experts say the existing boiler cannot be used.
Councilman Sprung noted you couldn't bring the boiler up and use it because it is level. It is
designed for below grade level. The boiler has to be below grade. The estimated cost for a 15 x
25 utility building is \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00 it would have wood 2 x 6 construction, a concrete
floor, shingles on the roof and cement siding. Prevailing wage has to be paid. It was wondered
if it could be built off site and brought here. Mr. Insogna will remove the rear portion of the
building as soon as the asbestos guys are finished. Supervisor Kane wanted to start the shed
ASAP. The clerk noted to the supervisor that the specifications state the building will be

completed within 120 days. Supervisor Kane scratched that out on his copy. "If they can't put that up in 30 days they ought to quit and go home."

RESOLUTION to put the building (shed) out to bid **#2008-093**

Offered by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a work session on Wednesday October 29, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board discussed the need to build a shed adjacent to the existing municipal building located at 1840 State Highway 10 to relocate the utilities which service the municipal building and

WHEREAS, CT Male has drawn up bid specifications for the 15' x 25' utility building, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga town board does hereby move to receive bids until 2:00pm on November 17, 2008 at 1840 State Highway 10, and then to have them publicly opened and read aloud.

Unanimously carried

Councilman Sprung discussed the forestry report from Mr. Greason. The two patches he saw combined with a salvage of the cherry and mature pine from the Golf lot would probably yield between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Although, the maple area might yield \$40,000 plus for an exploitive cut, which he certainly did not recommend. Supervisor Kane explained that he goes through and marks both sides of the trees. Mr. Greason estimates the time to conduct an inventory is between 8 1/2 hours to 10 hours at a cost of \$510.00.

RESOLUTION to pay Mike Greason to go forward **#2008-094**

Offered by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilman sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a work session on Wednesday October 29, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board discussed their desire to move forward with the evaluation of trees on two parcels of town owned land by Mike Greason of 5476 Cauterskill Rd Catskill NY 12414 (518) 943-9230, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to hire Mr. Greason at a price of \$510.00.

Unanimously carried

Mrs. Hillier stated that this (revenue) was not going to be built into the budget because this is going to be a reserve.

Supervisor Kane discussed purchasing a solar spot light at Home Depot to shine on the flag at the Nick Stoner monument on the golf course. He estimates the cost to be \$40.00. A new flag for the municipal building was also suggested. The board was in favor of the two purchases.

Supervisor Kane spoke to the Supervisor in the Town of Bleeker about the garbage contract. Their budget is already set for 2009. Changes will have to be made next year.

Council Member Scribner called National Grid about the street lighting. Information she had from 2003 indicates that if the town changes from mercury vapor to lumen there would be a savings of 25%. At the time a savings of \$499.00 on each bill was estimated. There is a two-year lead-time. There are 178 lights in the town 167 would need to be changed. Councilman Sullivan asked if the town would have to purchase the bulbs. Some are at a price to the town some are not. The lights that have been installed for over 15 years will not cost to change out. This would be most if not all of the mercury vapor lights. Council member Scribner will have a representative attend a future meeting.

Council Member Scribner discussed obtaining reimburse from the State for the Parks and Recreation grant money spent on the Glenn Harris Park with Mrs. Hillier.

RESOLUTION to amend Local Law #2-2006 **#2008-095**

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Council Member Scribner

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a work session on Wednesday October 29, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board received information from the Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Pete Welker regarding the language in Local Law #2-2006 and

WHEREAS, the following language is to be changed and added:

Section 2. (Changed to read) In the event the Town of Caroga Zoning Board of Appeals (hereinafter ZBA) lacks a regular member for any reason on any matter pending before it, the Chairperson may appoint the alternate member to be seated in place of the absent or conflicted member. Such appointment shall be noted in the minutes of that hearing or meeting.

Section 4. Paragraph c (added) Said alternate shall continue to sit for any adjourned dates for applications presented to the Board for consideration when initially heard by the alternate board member so as to provide continuity with the application. And

WHEREAS, the town attorney has reviewed said changes and additions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a public hearing will be held on Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Caroga Municipal Building on the proposed changes to Local Law #2-2006 thus numbered Local Law # 2- 2008.

Unanimously carried by roll call

Councilman Sprung discussed with the board the union process. It is the highway department's choice if they want to vote, sign cards and be unionized. He noted that bargaining is still done through the town board. Councilman Sprung noted the savings in insurance costs over the years with the union in other municipalities.

At 4:00 Council Member Scribner made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Councilman Sprung seconded the motion. At 4:09 pm Councilman Sprung made a motion to exit from the executive session Council Member Scribner seconded the motion. There were no decisions recorded as a result of the executive session.

Council Member Scribner noted that when she attended a recent Local Government training they recommended consolidation and shared services. The salt barn project was mentioned. Getting the barn out of the APA and into Bleecker was mentioned.

At this point Councilman Palcovic arrived. The board briefed him on the happenings at the meeting thus far.

Mrs. Hillier asked the board what other changes they wanted to make. Outside of health care the board had no other changes at this time.

A correspondence was received from Girvin & Ferlazzo dated October 28, 2008.

At 4:22 pm Chuck Herman arrived. Mrs. Hillier gave the board a list of those currently on the towns health insurance plan. He discussed with the board various plans available. Mrs. Hillier wanted to know if the board wanted to look toward cutting benefits as well as costs or try to stay with the benefits and cut costs in other areas. Mr. Herman wanted direction from the board. One trend is to go toward a consumer driven plan. The board reviewed the current coverage, and what the co-pays are. Higher co-pays were discussed. A list side by side of the HMO and the PPO plan with the NYSHIP network was reviewed. Mr. Herman noted that there could be a substantial savings by changing the retiree plan today because of something new that has come out this year -Medicare Advantage Plans. These are plans the government subsidizes. Mr. Herman named several companies that had good plans. He stated starting January 1, 2009 the range would be around \$252.00 for retiree's policies. Currently the town pays \$598.00 for retirees. The co-pays in-network are still very low. Mr. Hermance listed the benefits and co-pays covered by the new plan. Mrs. Hillier noted there were 17 retirees on the insurance currently. There would be a savings of around \$5,000.00 per month. New applications would need to be filled out by the retired employees. Mr. Herman offered to be on site to do this. The policy is available as of December 1st. To be eligible they must be Medicare eligible and participate in Medicare and Medicare B. Mr. Herman noted the plan has different co-pays. Currently the retired employees have co-pays of 10/20/40 so the premium would be less than \$252.00. It was noted that there wouldn't be a gap on what they have now. Councilman Sullivan noted the only gap is Medicare part D, which they don't have. Mr. Herman offered to attend another meeting to discuss making changes to the active employee plan.

RESOLUTION to enter into the Medicare Advantage Plan for Retirees #2008-096

Offered by Council Member Scribner

Seconded by Councilman Palcovic

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a work session on Wednesday October 29, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board met with Chuck Herman of Lockpointe inc. PO Box 12425 Albany NY 12212-2425 and Employee Benefits Consultant, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Herman reviewed with the board various ways to reduce the cost of medical insurance for retired employees of the Town of Caroga, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to change to the Medicare Advantage Plan for retired employees of the town effective December 1, 2008.

Unanimously carried

Assessor Kathy Hillock asked the board if they were interested in following Fulton Counties lead on the Cold War Veterans Legislation. The County has authorized the exemption for personnel of the military who served in the cold war years. She explained if the town grants this exemption the amount of the exemption would be spread among the other town taxpayers. Mr. Ruggerio from the Social Security administration stated there are 200 Fulton County residents who are eligible for the exemption. Councilman Sullivan is in favor of having the exemption available. She noted the need to have a public hearing on this. Councilman Palcovic and Councilman Sprung wanted to understand the financial impact before moving forward. Council Member Scribner made a motion to table this issue pending more information. Councilman Sprung seconded the motion. Those present were all in favor.

Councilman Sullivan left the meeting at 5:00 pm

Mrs. Hillier asked the board if they wanted her to take money off the health insurance line item for now. Currently the budget is \$0.90 up per thousand on the tentative budget. She may be able to whack ½ off the tax rate per thousand at this point. She is waiting to see what the third quarter sales tax is. Mrs. Hillier noted that the lumber money would not touch the budget, if it comes in it will only be applied into the budget to pay the forester the rest will go into reserve.

RESOLUTION to accept the 2009 Budget in its Preliminary format # 2008-097

Offered by Council member Scribner

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a work session on Wednesday October 29, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the Board did review and discuss the 2009 Tentative Budget as presented by Lita Hillier – Budget Director, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to have a public hearing on November 12, 2008 at 7:35 pm on the budget and does further **RESOLVE** to move from a 2009 Tentative Budget to a 2009 Preliminary Budget as of this date.

Unanimously carried

RESOLUTION to set public hearings

#2008-098

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Council Member Scribner

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a work session on Wednesday October 29, 2008 and

WHEREAS, the board identified a need to hold several public hearings on various topics at the next board meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board shall hold a public hearing on proposed Local Law #2-2008 to amend Local Law #2 – 2006 on Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm, on the Fire District on Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 7:15 pm, and lastly on the 2009 Budget at 7:35 pm.

Unanimously carried

The board discussed another meeting with Mr. Herman on Nov. 5 at 4:00 pm. Councilman Sullivan will be consulted. It was noted that the other plan could be implemented in January.

At 5:10 pm Councilman Sprung made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Palcovic seconded the motion. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert – RMC
Town Clerk