

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board Special meeting and work session held Wednesday November 17, 2008 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 5:00 pm with the following board members in attendance: Supervisor Robert Kane, Councilman Ralph Palcovic, Councilman Robert Sprung, Council Member Valerie Scribner, and Councilman Robert Sullivan. Lita Hillier Bookkeeper and Budget Director was also in attendance as were Chuck Herman and Mike Wright (specialist in group health ins. Benefits formerly of Blue Shield on NE NY) of Lockpointe Inc. -Employee Benefits Consultants.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

At 5:00 pm Councilman Sprung made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss pending litigation on the Herms case, Council Member Scribner seconded the motion. At 5:29 pm of Council Member Scribner made a motion to exit from the executive session and Councilman Sprung seconded the motion. The board held a conference call with Attorney Salvatore Ferlazzo during the executive session.

Mr. Herman brought the board new information on an insurance plan, which just became available. It was noted that the town currently only offers single and family coverage. In looking at the plan Councilman Sprung noted that the prescription plan is actually cheaper for generic prescriptions. The brand names are bumped up \$10.00. Currently the town has Empire Blue Cross HMO. Traditional Blue is a Blue Shield of NE NY plan. They are decreasing their rates as of January 1st. The plan is \$100.00 more if the board were to take it this month.

Councilman Sprung asked what we are paying now. Mr. Herman explained that currently there is a \$20.00 co-pay, individual payment is \$532.00 and \$1382.00 for a family. A direct HMO with a \$25.00 co-pay base plan - RX 10-20-30 is what the board was going to go with after the last meeting with Mr. Herman.

Councilman Sullivan asked how physical therapy and chiropractors fit in on the Traditional Blue plan they are looking at. Mr. Wright responded that there is a \$25.00 co-pay. The drug card is a 5-30-40. Councilman Sprung figured there would be a \$324.00 savings on a family plan. The board discussed a 2 or 3-tiered plan. The town would save with a three-tiered plan even if there were only a couple of people who utilize it.

Mr. Herman explained the differences in the plans. There are limits on orthotics and prosthetics they have a 50% co-pay and a \$1000.00 maximum. Councilman Palcovic did not see that as a deal breaker. Councilman Sprung noted if something happened on the job workers compensation would kick in.

Traditional Blue is offering a better network. It was stated that preexisting conditions are covered. They have to have had continuous coverage – no gap of more than 62 days in the last 13 months. Councilman Sprung asked if there was a handout of information about this new plan

for the employees. Mr. Wright stated there is a booklet for each employee and Mr. Herman stated that he would come down and talk to everyone about the benefits.

Mrs. Hillier did not think there would be very many who could take advantage of a two-person policy. Mr. Herman recommended doing the enrollment first before deciding what tier plan the board wanted. Then just pick whatever works out best price wise.

RESOLUTION to change insurance plans

#2008-107

Offered by Council Member Scribner

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a special meeting/work session on Monday November 17, 2008 at 5:00 pm, and

WHEREAS, the board met with Chuck Herman and Mike Wright of Lockpointe Inc. -Employee Benefits Consultant, and

WHEREAS, the board discussed the Traditional Blue insurance plan with the representatives, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to change the insurance plan for active employees as if January 1, 2009 to Traditional Blue.

Unanimously carried

Supervisor Kane announced the results of the bid opening this afternoon at 2:00 pm for the utility building. There were three bids.

Dutch Valley - \$150,000.00
CFI – Ralph Hayner - \$139,800.00
Stephen Miller - \$133,700.00

They were all one hundred thousand dollars off as far as the supervisor was concerned. He thought the building would come in at around \$40,000.00.00. Supervisor Kane wanted to draw up bid specs with Mr. Heberer – the code enforcement officer and then select the contractors to bid it. He wanted to call Mr. Senzio tomorrow to see what he bid for the electrical was and also contact the person who bid the plumbing. Councilman Sullivan stated that he could not do that. It has to be put out to bid. There were no breakdowns on the bids. If the board wanted they could put each individual portion out to bid, “and we would be the general” Councilman Palcovic stated.

Council Member Scribner noted that the golf course building would be the clubhouse for the foreseeable future. She wondered if money could be put into it and it could be used for office space while we decide what to do with the current municipal building. Councilman Palcovic thought that would just be prolonging the inevitable. “We can stay here as long as everything stays in tack. We are not in a window that we have to get out.” He thought ADA would have to be complied with down at the golf course building. Council Member Scribner was not sure

money needed to be spent before the town had a definite plan. Councilman Sullivan agreed the town did not have a set plan. Councilman Palcovic stated that the town was not in a hurry. Councilman Sprung examined the bids and stated they did not tell us anything – just the bottom line. Nothing is broken out on the specifications. Supervisor Kane noted that some contractors did not bid because of the bonding. Councilman Palcovic stated that the town owns the bid specifications. “We can take those bid specifications and become the general.”

Councilman Sprung stated that if we put this on hold until the board hears the nonbinding recommendations from the committee and we don’t decide to take their recommendations and decide on something different, then we have to come up with a plan one way or the other. Councilman Sullivan stated a plan from square one from one to the end, completely. Councilman Palcovic is waiting for information from NYS Parks and Recreation and Historical Preservation on the oldest section of the building.

Supervisor Kane did ask at the clinic if anyone had ever been denied treatment. To Alison Dwyer’s knowledge the only reason someone was turned away was because their insurance would not pay.

The board discussed briefly the option of utilizing and adding on to the newest section of the existing building. It was noted that restrooms, and a records room and has to be added on. The common wall may also be an issue. Those offices cannot stand-alone; there is no heat, electricity, or wheelchair access.

Councilman Sprung thought the clinic was here to stay, it is good for the community. Councilman Sullivan wondered if the structure could be built for the clinic and then let them furnish the interior entirely. Councilman Palcovic wanted to have some type of commitment from Nathan Littauer Hospital. The board was in favor of having the supervisor contact the clinic administration.

The board briefly discussed the municipal building. It was noted that licensed engineers have said it is not an option to put a truss roof over the existing roof. Supervisor Kane noted that when the 1955 section was built he did not think any soil testing or borings were done. Councilman Sullivan stated that the newest addition was only meant as a temporary measure. Councilman Sprung noted that for a dollar the town got it’s money’s worth for the use of the building.

RESOLUTION to reject bids for the Utility Building #2008-108

Offered by Council Member Scribner

Unanimously Seconded

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a special meeting/work session on Monday November 17, 2008 at 5:00 pm, and

WHEREAS, an ad was placed in the Leader Herald newspaper on November 4, 2008 seeking bids for a utility building, and

WHEREAS, the town received three sealed bids for said project, and

WHEREAS, the bids were opened at 2:00 pm on November 17, 2008, and reviewed at a meeting of the board at 5:00 pm on November 17, 2008, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to reject all bids for the Utility Building.

Unanimously carried

Councilman Sullivan discussed the Canada Lake request for a lake steward. He did not think the town could afford to do this. The other Council members were in agreement. The board wanted to address this request from the lake association. They felt enforcement would be an issue. The board did not think the budget could support another seasonal employee. The State should look at improving their signage and educational programs should be created.

RESOLUTION to Adopt the Town of Caroga 2009 Budget #2008-109

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Council Member Scribner

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held a special meeting/work session on Monday November 17, 2008 at 5:00 pm, and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Kane and Budget Director Lita Hillier have worked countless hours on preparing the 2009 Town of Caroga Budget, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town board has studied, reviewed, discussed and made numerous changes to the 2009 Town of Caroga budget – in its preliminary and tentative phases, and

WHEREAS, notification was published in the Leader Herald Newspaper for the public hearing on the 2009 Budget on November 1, 2008 and the public hearing was held on the Town of Caroga 2008 Budget on Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm, without comment now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to adopt the Town of Caroga 2009 Budget.

Unanimously carried

The board thanked Mrs. Hillier for all of her work on the budget.

At 6:10 pm Councilman Sprung made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Sullivan seconded the motion. Unanimously moved

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert – RMC
Town Clerk