

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the Regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday September 9, 2009 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 7:00 pm with the following persons in attendance by Roll Call:

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

Other town officials in attendance were Joseph Insogna – Highway Superintendent, and Kathi Hillock – Assessor. There were approximately 44 members of the public in attendance.

Supervisor Selmsler opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Following the roll call and the flag salute the reading of the minutes of the August meeting were waived.

Public:

Doug Smith handed out a half page of information -Aquatic Invasive Species Report from the Canada Lake Protective Association. In it he states, “Aquatic Invasive species pose a significant ecological and recreational threat to Adirondack Lakes and the cost of controlling them. These species, specifically Eurasian Water milfoil. Are fast growing weeds that crowd out native plants, destroy fish habitat and clog waterways. The weeds inhibit swimming, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities.

The goal of the Canada Lake Protective Association is to keep these species from entering our lakes and associated streams and, if detected, to quickly eradicate them.”

A stewardship program was conducted at the DEC launch at West Lake this past year. A paid lake steward works at the boat launch Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm from memorial Day to Labor Day. A volunteer stewards work Fridays from 4:00 – 7:00pm. There are four people presently doing that. There are 12 – 15 lake inspectors who check the bays and shallow areas on the lake by throwing a rake out in 20 – 25 feet of water to see what weeds are down there. The paid stewards go to Paul Smith’s college for five days of training. The volunteer stewards receive a half-day of training. Next year the training will be at Blue Mountain Lake. Last year the paid steward inspected 432 boats the volunteers inspected 51 boats at the launch site. Due to the rain they expect more boats next year. Nothing invasive has been found in Canada Lake to this point in time. DEC put up a kais up so that information can be posted. There are other stewardship programs in the Adirondacks. Most people have been very receptive with a few exceptions. Boater education is key to this program.

WCLA is requesting funding from the board for the 2010 program. The total cost for the program is \$6,000.00. The training is expected to cost \$3,000.00. The lake steward Salary is \$3,000.00. The CLPA contribution is \$3,000.00 they are asking for matching funds from the town. Councilman Sullivan asked how many can be trained for the \$3,000.00 cost? A new lake steward is needed the person doing it this year is not able to return. Councilman Palcovic was concerned about who pays the salary. Unemployment insurance costs are a concern for the town board. The association hopes to hire a local student. Jim Hayes has put together a lot of information for the CLPA. It was asked if

there are other areas where boats are launched on Canada Lake. Bill Fielding responded that there are other spots but the majority of boats put in at the state launch. The state launches don't monitor the sites it was noted.

Linda Pomeroy knows some divers and they have found more debris in the lake this year. Mr. DeWeese noted that his divers have seen more debris also. Supervisor Selmser has found charred wood with nails in it from the ice fisherman on the lake.

Department Reports:

Highway – Mr. Insogna reported that his department has been hauling sand. They are buying it for \$2.50 a yard from Carvers pit in Rockwood. They will save about \$16,000.00 from last year. It is stored on Lane Road. The pole barn has been paved to hold the salt. They are getting the machinery ready for winter. They are also changing some culverts. Mr. Insogna found a 4-wheel drive backhoe for sale. It has a snow pusher, a set of forks, two buckets, and new tires. It has 2700 hours on it for \$27,000.00.

Paving will be done on Alderwood Park Rd., and S. Shore Rd. The big paving will be done next year as some trees need to come down and rocks dug up. It was noted that the town owns 25 ft on either side of the road from the center. Sand will be mixed up at the pole barn as needed. Poles were damaged on Lane rd. before the fencing was put up and papers, and wood were dumped. Mr. Insogna patrols the town everyday. He has posted signs and told the kids to slow down on their four wheelers down there.

Supervisor Selmser has been down to look at the sand pile and pictures have been taken to comply with DEC. A letter will be sent to DEC tomorrow.

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – Supervisor Selmser thought Mr. Heberer would be able to attend the meeting this evening. He did submit a written report dated August 13 2009 to September 9, 2009 during that time 25 building permits were issued and one sanitation permit was issued. Things have slowed down but there is still quite a bit for building going on. A number of homes have been sold recently.

Dog Control – The Clerk has sent out second notices at the beginning of each month this year to owners who did not renew their dogs' licenses. Currently there are 43 dogs from January – July that are delinquent. There are over 50 dogs total that have not been renewed over the last year. She asked the board if they had any suggestions on how to get full compliance. Supervisor Selmser will talk to the DCO. The clerk can generate a final warning letter. Mr. Dutcher will be consulted.

Golf Course – Mr. Jennings submitted a report. The revenue year to date is \$186,000.00. Last week was very good. The weekend was extremely busy. Supervisor Selmser stated, "I think we made a decision to put an ad in for the discount on Monday. Mr. Jennings is doing work on the course as weather permits. There are still some tournaments scheduled for the weekends.

BTI – No Report

Weeds – Mr. DeWeese has submitted the final year report to the APA along with the application to renew the harvesting permit for the next five years. This year was very abundant with weeds. They were able to get 125 more baskets than last year. On West Caroga approx. 95 % of the Eurasian Milfoil was harvested. On East Caroga only 65 % was harvested. Thus he has requested two teams for next year. Barbara Donnelly was thanked for allowing the use of her private property to park the harvester and also the use of a port-a-potty. Mr. DeWeese thanked the board for their support. He also thanked the Highway department for putting the boats in and out and for fixing the starter

switch. The motors are being winterized and they will be put away for the winter. The goal for next year is to catch up from this year with two teams of divers. It was recommended that signs be posted at the NYS campsite, association beach, and one at the boat launch, and 2 on West lake access. Next year will be the third year of a three-year grant. He still has that one report to finish for DEC. It is not due until Oct. 31st. An extra starter switch is needed and the air hose needs to be fixed. No days were missed due to the weather. However two days were lost due to the broken starter switch on the diesel motor. The Town Supervisor will serve on the super weed committee along with Mr. DeWeese and two members from East & West Caroga Lakes. Mr. DeWeese believes Canada Lake Assoc. is going about the Eurasian Milfoil situation the right way. A member of the public asked how much money is currently spent for the program. Mr. DeWeese estimated next years budget at \$20,000.00.

Youth - no report but the photo book was presented to the board from the 2009 program.

Clerk/Registrar – Linda Gilbert gave the board a copy of her monthly report. She reported that the Cleanup days were successful - 14 tires and 22 Freon units we brought in to the transfer station.

Assessor's Report – Kathi Hillock gave the board a written report. She noted that there are three small claims Assessment Review Proceedings last week. One case was disqualified due to improper procedure. She is waiting to hear on the other two cases. The Code officer and the assessor will be going out into the field sometime next week. The office of Real Property will be coming back to tailor the computer to how she wants the valuation tools set. In another month or so the renewal applications for the STAR program will go out. She is fielding calls on the tax bills that are out.

Supervisor's Report

- 1) Supervisor Selmser did forward the Garbage contract to the Town of Bleecker. He has not heard back from them. It is an increase from last year. Last year the town asked for an increase after their budget had already been established.
- 2) One CD was renewed with the Bank of America in the amount of "\$24,000.00 and change." Back in January the rate was 1.75% for a 6-month term. The money has been set aside for highway building needs. The CD is now in an 18-month term. There is an option after 6 months if the rates go up the town can go with the higher rate. This is locked in at 1.65%.
- 3) Mike VanGorder of Mang Insurance met with the supervisor on August 26. There were some property items that were duplicated.
- 4) The copier/fax machine broke down on August 27. Supervisor Selmser went to Derby Office to discuss the options – repair or replace it. A year ago approx. \$700.00 was spent this year it was estimated to cost another \$600.00. Based on the age and the need for additional features this refurbished machine was available at \$1,900.00. This machine could be networked if desired. The old one was traded in. The cost for a new one is \$5200.00
- 5) NYMIR will reimburse the town \$1,925.00 per year for 3 years.
- 6) Presently there is a CD that the supervisor has not renewed. It is set up for Highway Equipment with NBT Bank in the amount of \$60,000.00. It was set up over 10 years ago. He asked the board if they wanted to renew the CD or utilize part of the money for equipment the highway superintendent is asking for. The money can go into a money market account until the board has a work session to hold further discussion.

Supervisor Selmser reviewed the financial reports: Through the end of August in the general fund the revenue is up \$22,655.00 expenses are down \$167,000.00. A good part of that has to do with some payments for insurances, and a final payment of \$28,000.00 that just went out. Some of those

expenses will catch up with us next month. “We are in very good condition in the general fund and the highway department we are ahead on revenue of about \$75,000.00 and down on expenses \$43,000.00.” Additional revenues will be made hopefully through the CD’s.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Mike is not here – so there is no update on the utility building. The town did the prep work. It is up to the contractor to start work in the coming week with the better weather. The specifications for phase 2 or 3 have not been drawn up/put out to bid. The completion date is in the contract.

Park Creation - the gazebo is square and not octagon due to the expense. The gravel paths are being made. The topsoil will be put down and the trees will be put in soon. Councilman Palcovic asked if there would be access from the golf course to the park to facilitate golf tournament use. There will be a net there. Mr. Insogna noted there is a ditch there. The golfers have already used it.

Cell Service – There hasn’t been any communication with the cell carriers this month.

Old Business:

Supervisor Selmsler asked the clerk to set up a Public hearing at the next regular board meeting for the Time Warner Franchise Agreement. A representative from Time Warner will be at an upcoming work session.

RESOLUTION to set public hearing #2009 –000

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on September 9, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the franchise agreement between the Town of Caroga and Time Warner Cable is up for renewal, and

WHEREAS, the town will set meetings with a representative of Time Warner and also with a communications representative from the State of New York, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board shall set a public hearing on October 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm for the public to have input on the Franchise Agreement with Time Warner Cable Albany Division 1021 High Bridge Road Schenectady NY 12303.

Unanimously Carried

New Business:

Town offices Closed Primary Day September 15, 2009 at noon

Bereavement Policy – there is a need to create a policy in the town due to a recent situation.

Currently there are no standing resolutions. Councilman Palcovic has a resource for a policy.

Go out to bid for gasoline, diesel, and #2 Fuel oil. The supervisor is going to look at the amount ordered last year. If this building were converted to natural gas then the need would be different.

RESOLUTION to go out to bid for #2 fuel oil, Diesel, and Gasoline #2009-000

Offered by Councilman Palcovic

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on September 9, 2009, and

WHEREAS, annually the town of Caroga goes out to bid for #2 Fuel, Diesel, and Unleaded Gasoline, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the board does hereby move to go out to bid for the above stated items, and that the bids shall be opened at the next regular monthly meeting of the town board.

Unanimously Carried

Work sessions were set for Wednesday September 23rd at 7:00 pm and October 7th at 6:30 pm. The time Warner representative will be available at one of those meetings. Budget preparations will also be conducted. The contract will be available for anyone to review prior to the board formally agrees to accept the document. The agreement is for 15 years. There is very little change in the agreement from the last one. Councilman Sprung stated that we don't get anything for the agreement. Supervisor Selmsler responded, "Unless you want to establish fees, which I believe you don't."

Supervisor Selmsler announced a training session established by the insurance carrier for September 29th from 5 – 7 in Johnstown. The meeting is about snowplow safety, snowmobile and ATV liability, workplace violence and some other topics. Board members were invited to attend.

There will be a county Supervisor's training session/convention Sept 16 – 18th in Saratoga.

Correspondence:

Fulton Co. Public Health –poster to deter handling of wild animals & annual report
Anita Potocar – WCLA RE: imminent danger – speeding traffic on East Shore Rd West Caroga
Richard Beckwith suggestions for solutions to E. Shore Rd. W. Caroga traffic problem
Certified mail: renewal of Liquor Licenses – Vrooman's Hotel & Maple Tree Knoll
Thank you from Mrs. Lynch on behalf of women golfers – use of pavilion

"That covers the agenda. There were some communications that came in." the board has copies of them. "If you don't – or have concerns...I can supply copies later." Supervisor Selmsler asked if there were any other items or business we need to cover tonight? Hearing none.

Councilman Sprung made a **motion** to pay the bills as presented for and to accept the minutes of the August meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scribner.

Unanimously carried

Councilman Sprung made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Councilman Palcovic seconded the motion. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert – RMC
Town Clerk