

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board work session held on Thursday July 21, 2016 at 7 pm at the Caroga Municipal Building 1840 State Highway 10 Caroga Lake NY . Deputy Supervisor Sturchio called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The roll was called with the following results. The salute to the flag followed.

Supervisor Sullivan – Absent
Council Member Sturchio – Here
Council Member Glenn – Here
Council Member Morris – Here
Council Member Manning – Here

Other Department heads in attendance were Steve Putman – Highway Superintendent. There were three members of the public in attendance.

Deputy Supervisor Sturchio noted at the last meeting the board did not pass a resolution to purchase the radio system from Harris Assured Communications. Mr. Putman stated the board had the information to review. This is desperately needed for safety reasons.

RESOLUTION #2016-094 to purchase a base unit and 15 mobile radios with a repeater for the Highway Dept. and Town use was offered by Deputy Supervisor Sturchio at the Caroga Town Board work session held on Thursday July 21, 2016 at 7 pm at Town hall. **WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent – Steve Putman has discussed with the board since October 2014 the need to update the communications system at the Highway Barn for safety purposed, and **WHEREAS**, Mr. Putman contacted two vendors for a radio system, Pittsfield Communications and Harris-Assured Communications, and **WHEREAS**, the equipment from Harris-Assured Communications is on state contract #PT62493 PS62494E, now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby authorize purchase and installation of the equipment per the estimate of \$15,157.00 from Harris-Assured Communications 264 Bradford St. Albany NY 12206 (518) 449-3366 Paul LaCombe- Sales Manager, and be it further **RESOLVED**, that funds will be used from FEMA money the Highway Superintendent recouped from storm damage in 2014. Council Member Morris seconded the motion.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes; Sturchio, Glenn, Morris, Manning

Council Member Glenn asked the Highway Superintendent about the one way status of East Shore Rd. West Caroga Lake. Mr. Putman stated he was still waiting for communications from other agencies on this situation. He wants to move forward with this and come to the board with answers. He is sorry he does not have this information yet. He finds the negativity annoying. Some people on the road think that if it is one way it will increase the speeding in that one direction. One person at the last town board meeting stated that cars were traveling faster on East Shore Rd. now that it is paved. People on the road were not in favor of barriers down the

center of the road. The board discussed this situation and various solutions. Some of the suggestions were:

Speed bumps down the center of road,

Cross walks at the corners,

Creating a walkway with paint on the lake side or sidewalks

Using the, "this is your speed sign" with law enforcement sitting there issuing tickets

Installing STOP signs

Barriers with Planters on them

Rumble strips.

Flashing yellow caution signs

A combination of these options: Barrier/curb/plantings every so many feet.

It was noted that these options have to be winter/snow plow friendly. He needs the whole road in the winter. Hwy. Superintendent Putman stated at the school he attended they recommended not putting in speed bumps. Council Member Glenn really wanted to have something in place for next year. Our speed reduction paperwork was properly submitted to the County Hwy. Superintendent who misfiled it for 3 years.

The Town Clerk asked where and how many speed limit signs were posted on the road.

Council Member Glenn was not sure paint or striping would work.

The Town Clerk asked why the idea of gaining access to East Shore Road only from Chapel, Bath, and Grove was nixed. Instead of flying off of a main highway if you wanted to travel and enjoy the lake shore road you would turn off of State Highway 29A and make a left or right. This would eliminate the short cut. Mr. Putman could live with that idea. He could open the road back up in the winter. This idea would also save the town a ton of money. He noted this would not affect emergency vehicles. He has been a member for 42 years and they have a standing order about the road unless is an emergency. Deputy Supervisor Sturchio thanked the clerk for the good idea.

RESOLUTION #2016-095 to allow Alternate member of the Planning Board to attend training was offered by Council Member Glenn **WHEREAS**, James Long was appointed to the open seat as alternate to the Planning Board on June 8, 2016, and **WHEREAS**, the Board passed a Local Law #1-2005 a Local Law to permit the appointment of Alternate members to the Caroga Planning Board on January 12, 2005, and **WHEREAS**, the NYS Association of Towns is holding its 2016 Planning and Zoning Summer Schools from the end of July to the middle of August at various locations throughout the state, now therefor be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to authorize Mr. Long to attend the training being offered in the Town of Colonie on August 3, 2016, and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the town will pay for the registration and travel expenses for him to attend this mandatory training with the funds being drawn from A8020.4. Council Member Manning seconded the motion.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes; Sturchio, Glenn, Morris, Manning

Council Member Glenn asked Mr. Centi if he attended the East Caroga Lake Assoc. Weed committee meeting today. Mr. Centi noted there were 8 people at the meeting. Specific questions were asked of the coordinator Dave Egert. Mr. Centi thought the responses were fabricated, misleading falsified and the meeting was not productive. This is his personal opinion. Mr. Egert did not have any information about the program to report at the last town board meeting either he noted.

People are watching the weed harvesting process with binoculars to see where they are and what they are doing or not doing. They have seen things take place which Mr. Egert has said didn't take place. Mr. Centi finds this distressing. As a property owner he has a lot invested in this lake. Two years of this and the lake will be in trouble. Council Member Glenn has not seen the weeds this bad since he was a kid. He has taken to dragging bed springs in the water to harvest weeds. They need to be challenged. He is hearing the negativity about the job not being done.

Last week Mr. Centi observed the harvester being started at 10:10 am and it was shut off at 11:12 am. They took 9 baskets out and they were only ½ full. It was wondered if they were operating on grant money or town funds.

Mr. Putman wanted to add on to this. This morning he received an order at the town barn. It was not an order they placed from the NAPA Auto Parts Store in Gloversville. The auto parts worker remembered the person who placed the order the day before at 3:00 pm. Mr. Putman was concerned because the purchase was not authorized through the highway department. He saw Mr. Egert on the store tape and he is not authorized to put anything on the highway department tab. A Deputy Sheriff was called in on the matter and he did speak to Mr. Egert. Mr. Putman will check with the owner of NAPA tomorrow to make sure he has the real story of what went on.

The board discussed the number of hours the two divers work. It was noted that there is a safety issue on how many hours they should be breathing underwater. The hours cannot be increased to 40 hrs. It was unknown as to who sets the hours and what hours the divers are scheduled to work. It was noted that the board has not set any other departments hours to work. The question came up of how much money is in the budget to pay them. Council Member Morris does have a copy of the last two weeks timesheets. She will review them. Mr. Putman noted they have not been in every week to get fuel to run the boats. He wants the divers to be accountable – someone has to oversee the program – that is Mr. Egert's job. The board discussed how important it is to make sure the divers are safe and that they are being supervised. Hiring a different person was discussed. Before moving forward with any changes in the program all board members wanted to discuss this situation with Supervisor Sullivan.

Deputy Supervisor Sturchio noted Mr. Egert is going away on vacation for two weeks beginning the end of July.

Mr. Putman noted the job has been getting done for how many years?

Council Member Morris received a call from Mr. & Mrs. DeWeese they are a not happy.

Council Member Glenn noted that water samples were taken on East and West Caroga by his son. The testing will be conducted at Paul Smith's College. Mr. Long has been conducting sampling on Canada Lake for the past 13-14 years. This is a collaborative between Protect the Adirondacks and Paul Smiths. There are about 150 lakes involved. They are not testing for e-coli. They are looking for the ecological health of the lake longitudinally. They are looking for trends. They are looking for any issues with salt run off due to the number of roads adjacent to water and the capacity of the buffer with acid rain.

At 7:50 Council Member Glenn made a motion to adjourn. Deputy Supervisor Sturchio seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert, RMC, CMC
Town Clerk