

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board work session held on January 23, 2017 at the municipal Building 1840 State Highway 10 Caroga Lake NY 12032.

Supervisor Morris – Aye  
Council Member Glenn – Aye  
Council Member Sturchio – Aye  
Council Member Manning Aye

Other Town officials in attendance were Steve Putman – Highway Superintendent, Deputy Highway Superintendent Chuck Wager and his wife, there were 5 other members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the salute to the flag.

Supervisor Morris noted there are a couple of issues at Town Hall. This morning there was a roof drain leak outside the clerk's office. Council Member Manning will go up and take a look at it. He will take care of contacting some people to see about remedying the problem. The Supervisor also noted she was contacted by the Deputy Town Clerk about power failure in part of the Clerk's office. Matt Hillock was called about the problem with the outlet. The clerk noted there are only 2 outlets in the front office and two in the back office. A lead was run to operate the DECALS computer so fishing licenses could be sold.

A strange odor in the Supervisors office as reported by the janitor. He thought it was coming from the heating device. Neither Lita nor Supervisor Morris smelled it.

Prior to the meeting Highway Superintendent Steve Putman discussed with the Supervisor lifting the parking ban on town roads during events held in town. He asked that he be contacted 15 days prior to the event for approval. The fishing contest had a great turnout and he did not want to deter people from participating. He asked the board for a resolution to put this into effect. Council Member Manning asked how people would know the ban had been lifted. He said the word would get out by notifying those holding an event. It would be posted on the town webpage.

The Town Clerk informed the board that the winter parking ban is a Local Law and so there has to be a public hearing to amend the law. Council Member Glenn also noted that Mr. Putman had discussed shortening the length of time the parking ban is in effect. Mr. Putman would like the winter parking ban to run from December 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Supervisor Morris stated she would introduce the local law and a public hearing could be held at next month's meeting. A public hearing is also being held in February to change Grievance Day.

Next Mr. Putman notified the board that the 2013 Freightliner has a mechanical problem. He has a \$5,000.00 limit on the amount he can spend without notifying the board. He worked with previous boards and did not have to ask permission to spend the funds. He has spent over \$13,000.00 before without going to the board for approval. He stated we get audited for a reason. He has to be able to run his shop. \$5,000.00 is not enough to keep his vehicles running. He received a quote of \$17,000.00 for the part he needed. He continued to look to get a better price and found the part for \$11,000.00 and now he found the part for \$9,500.00. He noted he spends the limit on salt in a week.

The previous highway superintendents (back till 2008) had a limit of \$1,000.00. Mr. Putman has a limit of \$5,000.00. Mr. Putman stated the bottom line is things weren't being spent properly. He documents every item he purchases. He is accountable. He is here because of the proclamation done during the reorganizational meeting. He has the knowledge to run his shop. Mr. Putman noted the board will have to reexamine the limits when someone new comes into the position. Mr. Putman stated he is a hands on Highway Superintendent – he turns wrench with the men. He does not anticipate going over his total budget. He is trading in his case to get a rebuilt one.

To cover his shop Mr. Putman asked for a \$15,000.00 limit in spending. Anything over that he would again contact the Town Supervisor with an expense over his limit.

Council Member Manning stated the board does trust him and his knowledge of mechanics and that when he says he needs something the board understands that he needs it. Down the road if someone else in in that position that doesn't have his knowledge, then we would have to reevaluate and go back and change the amount. Mr. Putman noted the board has a huge responsibility to do that.

Mr. Putman noted the reason the limit was changed is because a previous highway superintendent spent about \$9,000.00 on car soap.

Mr. Putman tries his best to get the best price for the town.

Mr. Putman explained that he believes there is a design flaw in the vehicle. Our truck has a transfer case cooler. Where it was mounted it catches all kinds of dirt off the belt for the sander. It does not have a gage to indicate it was getting hot. Council Member Sturchio asked if the new case will have a gage installed for future problems. He will check with the company to see if a gage can be installed.

Mr. Putman recommends that the 2013 Freightliner be gotten rid of. He thinks it may be worth \$100,000.00 it cost \$174,000.00. He did not know the repair costs, to date, off the top of his head. A lot of it was under warrantee but now the warrantee is off. On New Year's Eve the water pump went on the vehicle. When it goes in the shop then we lose man hours for sanding, and plowing. Mr. Putman was asked to get a value on the Freightliner. Mr. Putman noted that they did a lot of front end work on this vehicle. It was the first new truck he purchased for the town. He stated the lowest bid is not always the best bid.

Mr. Putman wanted to discuss a personnel issue with the board in an executive session.

Supervisor Morris noted that executive sessions cannot be advertised as going to take place. She and the clerk researched the topic and found you can't assume the board will vote to enter into an executive prior to the board meeting and taking an actual vote. You have to be in a meeting to call one. The clerk further explained it depends on who calls the meeting as to how many days' notice is given for a meeting.

Members of the snowmobile club were in attendance this evening. Supervisor Morris knows they are interested in what is going on with the Morey Road. The supervisor reiterated that we are in litigation. She noted that the town is waiting to hear from the Town Attorney. He will be at the February Town Board meeting. They asked to be notified if and when anything changes.

The board asked the clerk for a copy of the Local Law #1 of 2014 that was to be amended.

At 8:05 pm Supervisor Morris made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; Council Member Sturchio seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

At 8:16 pm Supervisor Morris made a motion to exit the executive session. Council Member Manning seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

There were no decisions as a result of the executive session.

**RESOLUTION #2017-016 to amend Resolution #1 of the year 2017** was offered by Supervisor Morris at the January 23, 2017 work session held at Town Hall, **WHEREAS**, the Caroga Town Board enacted resolution #1 of 2017 at the reorganizational meeting and **WHEREAS**, Highway Superintendent Steve Putman contacted the Town Supervisor about an expense that would go over his spending limit per the resolution, and **WHEREAS**, the board discussed amending resolution #1 of 2017 to increase the amount the Highway Superintendent may spend without notification to the board now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Highway Superintendent Steve Putman is hereby allowed to spend up to \$15,000.00 without board approval. Council Member Manning seconded the motion.

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

**RESOLUTION #2017-017 to amend the Winter Parking Local Law** was offered by Supervisor Morris at the January 23, 2017 work session held at Town Hall, **WHEREAS**, the Caroga Town Board discussed the changes the Highway Superintendent would like to make to amend two sections of Local Law # 1 2014 a law to Regulate Traffic in the Town of Caroga. **and WHEREAS**, Section 9 Winter Parking shall read "In order to facilitate snow removal operations on all public highways, the parking of vehicles is prohibited on all town and county streets and highways during the period of December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> except and unless

special permission in writing be provided by the Town Highway Superintendent, and then only in the case of an emergency.

Section 11. Exceptions article B will be added, when there is a special event taking place within the Town of Caroga the Highway Superintendent may lift the winter parking ban on town roads with a request 15 days prior to the event from the persons or group sponsoring the event.

Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the town board shall hold a public hearing on the proposed changes on Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm Council Member Manning seconded the motion.

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

At 8:22 pm Supervisor Morris made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Sturchio seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert, RMC, CMC  
Caroga Town Clerk