

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at 7:06 pm at the Caroga Municipal Building 1840 State Highway 10 Caroga Lake NY . Supervisor Morris called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. The roll was called with the following results. The salute to the flag followed.

Supervisor Beth Morris - Here
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Anthony Sturchio – Here
Council Member Jeremy Manning – Here

Other Department heads in attendance were Steve Putman – Highway Superintendent, Deputy Town Clerk – Judy Aldinger, Don Travis – Janitor, and Gene Centi – Weed Harvesting Coordinator. There were 50 people in attendance.

Supervisor Morris welcomed the summer residents back.

Public Speaking – Supervisor Morris noted Town law rules were to apply. Speakers were limited to 3 minutes with comments directed to the board. Once public speaking is closed it is closed till the end of the meeting.

Barbara Donnelly has seen signs all over town about a boat parade meeting at Sherman's. She thought no one was to be on the property. The supervisor will discuss this during her report.

Bill Bishop thanked Mr. Ruby who cleaned up the whole Sherman's property today. The Supervisor and board also thanked him.

Jed Potocar – asks the town each year to consider donating money to fish stocking. He has been speaking with hatcheries who say it would be good to stock bait fish in the lakes. This might be good to enhance the fish population over the long term. They are doing this at Peck Lake. Stocking can be done anytime. He has been stocking West Caroga Lake in May. They do a fundraiser or he does some himself.

Kent Kirsch – Acknowledged and thanked the Highway Department for the no parking on the pavement signs on route 10.

Joe Capparella – commented on last evenings meeting. He stated that Mr. Sturchio brought up the most significant thing of the whole meeting when he said Mr. Abdella said he would sue the town if we sell it or give it away. He wanted the board to clean this up and do something so we can move on. People have to be able to get financing. He thought it would be great if the two entities who submitted RFP for Sherman's got together. He did think they were two totally different groups.

Kim Hart – stated that people wish something positive could be done at Sherman’s this year.

Gene Centi – noted that East Caroga Lake stocks every year. He noted that Mr. Atteo did stock some brown trout 2 weeks ago.

Public speaking was then closed.

Department Reports:

Assessor’s Report – Victoria Hayner submitted a written report. Her office has completed the 2017 Assessment Roll. The Board of Assessment review met on May 31, 2017 there were 4 grievances that evening. The BAR reviewed 4 corrections to the tentative roll and 9 Stipulations. The process for the 2018 assessment roll has begun. A total of 20 sales have been entered since March of those 4 were valid and 16 were invalid sales. There were 11 residential, 7 vacant lands, and 2 commercial sales. On July 17 the Assessor will be at a conference to earn CEC. Building permits have been entered and are coming in regularly. The assessor is in the office on Tuesdays from 8 am – 2 pm. Her email address is value411@nycap.rr.com

BTI – Lynne Delesky reported for her husband. The BTI team has already applied as much BTI as all of last year at this point. This year is different as the small streams have not dried up. They are still out there applying. Mr. Delesky was at the Pine Lake outlet yesterday. He saw a lot of larva which means this is the 2nd or 3rd hatching. They will continue to treat until the end of July. At the last meeting a picture of larva was passed around, they would like the picture back. The Town supervisor has the photo. Lastly Mrs. Delesky showed a hat with dead deer flies on a sticky patch. The patches are available on line for \$1 each.

Clerk/Registrar – No Report

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – Supervisor Morris has a report from John Duesler. She is happy to report he is back. The board is in the process of advertising for his replacement. The office is extremely busy. There may be a time when there are two code officers in the office just for the busy season from May 1 to right after Labor Day or October 1st.

Supervisor Morris acknowledged Mr. John Allen who stepped up and issued permits for a few days. The board appreciated his help.

Mr. Duesler conducted 17 inspections for the month of May and issued 32 building permits, 5 demo permits, and 3 sanitation permits.

Blight – Supervisor Morris stated Mr. Duesler will work on this again.

Dog Control – Mr. Dutcher submitted a written report. He received 9 calls for the month not 6 as reported at the meeting.

Golf Course – Mr. Jennings was not able to attend the meeting this evening. He has an injured AC Joint in his shoulder.

Highway – Mr. Putman gave the board a copy of an article “How your town gets new trucks for free.” The article gives the board an idea of how other towns update their equipment and practically get equipment for free. He asked the board to look at the article. He has asked the board to update equipment every 3 – 5 years and that has gone by the wayside. We have fairly safe equipment. He noted the Grader is about a 1961 and complicated to run. They are putting money into it.

Mr. Putman just returned from Highway School. He stated he has been attacked on the computer by an x-council person – a woman. It is only right that he protect himself. This is the same person who was complained about as she lied to them about signing a petition. This is totally wrong. He noted that the town supervisor she worked under at the time, they had knowledge of things that should have been reported to the Attorney General’s Office and they never were. At one time the Supervisor and this person forced the code officer to write a ticket to him for an offense that other people had done but they weren’t ticketed. People are still doing this but no tickets have been written since. He feels this is defamation and slander on the town’s part.

The highway garage went through an insurance inspection. Mr. Putman was proud of what the inspector saw when he came through the door. The town is in the top 95% [of compliance] of places he sees. Not all of the acetylene tanks had flash arresters. Within 4 hours of the inspector leaving all tanks now have flash suppressors. A stop engine sign needs to be posted at the fuel tanks. That will be done. The last thing the inspectors noted is the furnace at the hwy barn. It is out of code. It has to be mounted 8ft off the floor. If something happens insurance won’t cover it as the board has been notified. It would not be practical to hang this one.

Mr. Putman discussed an issue under the vehicle and traffic laws. He talked to the NYCOM attorney at the conference about snow plow operators depositing snow/mud on and across municipal highways. Last year he stopped counting at 67 people doing it. It takes his department lots of time and energy to correct this. He stated the town can create a Local Law to charge people for the clean up on that. The NYCOM attorney would help us with this. These things need to be addressed. At the schooling they had AOT, NYCOM, & Comptroller Office attorneys. It was really eye opening. They brought up similar cases to Morey Road. He heard about a town with a similar incident where they had been maintaining it highway wise and they lost the deal because the.. Supervisor Morris noted this was in litigation and so the board can’t talk about this. She stated he could talk to the board privately.

Shared services was discussed at the conference. He was glad they discussed this. They have been having a lot of trouble with villages and towns. We share services with the county. Some of the things the governor has put out now we can opt out of. He noted the town is in a lot of trouble with the County landfill (transfer station site) he has had equipment down there for a second time. The container was jammed to the top. He was surprised to find one of the caretakers jumping up and down on the stuff in the compactor. He had a Gradall and loader there for nearly 4 hours. The town should be billing them for this time and equipment time. This is a fact from the AOT & Comptroller’s Office. Mr. Putman will create a list for the board. The other thing is the town hall driveway (parking lot) should not be taken care of by the Hwy Dept. They should get monetary value out of that, but he will still take care of it.

Lake Steward Program – Mr. Durkee stated both the boat wash station and the boat launch inspection sites were open on Memorial Day Weekend. Traffic has not been very heavy. They are experimenting and modifying the hours due to the weather. If it rains all day and looks to continue he sees no point in running up the labor costs to keep it open. He noted on Monday boats have already been launched by 8 am.

He is getting the highway sign modified by Rooney signs to say Boat Wash Open instead of Boat inspection.

Town Hall Building – Mr. Travis put flowers in this week. He doesn't know how to turn down the hot water tank in the clinic. He needs to hire a plumber. He received one quote from Custom Woodcrafters for clinic ramp. He will try to get some more. This quote went up \$1,000 from last year. It uses sona tubes per the board's request. Supervisor Morris thanked him for putting up the mirrors in the hallway.

Weeds – Mr. Centi has been out on the lake. There are lots of weeds. On May 29th they worked on the harvester for 4 hours. He takes the safety of the divers very seriously. He has put a lot of safety equipment on the harvester, flairs, air horn, life vests, weights and another diver flag.

The major problem is the fragmentation of Eurasian Milfoil. The harvester basket was redesigned last year leaving a gap for pieces to escape. The two compressors failed. He tried to repair them but had to end up putting in a hooka system. All of the filters were replaced. They range from \$50 - \$70 each. Mr. Centi stated the wrong oil filter was on the machine. He had help from Matt Cooper and Nestor Bojarczuk. One of the gas tanks is missing.

Mr. Centi explained the new system the divers will use. They will go down for 45 minutes then come up for 15. Last year they took 40 bushels of weeds. This year they removed 131 bushels. The divers are enthusiastic and were not happy about how the program went last year. They are determined to get the lake cleaned up.

Mr. Centi noted it is a state law that boaters must stay 100 feet from the diver's flag. They may be between the boat and the flag. The public was instructed to stay away from the area being harvested. He has received calls about harvesting in front of private residents. The divers do hire out for that at a cost of \$25.00 per hour and is done on their own time.

Youth – Council Member Manning did not have a report from Colleen Ricciardi. The youth program will begin on July 5 and run until August 11, 2017. It will be run from town hall beginning at 9 am to 2 pm. There are a number of field trips planned Albany and Cooperstown were mentioned. Copies of the Town of Caroga Summer Youth Program enrichment & recreation packets were given to each board member.

Sherman's Advisory Committee – Ken Kirsch noted the public presentations were last night. At the end of the meeting the two interested parties were given another two weeks to make any final adjustments to their proposals. The groups were also asked to discuss a joint proposal which they are already working on. The committee will look at all three options and give their

recommendation to the Town board at the July meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 6/28/ 2017 @ 7 pm.

Supervisor's Report

SERVPRO took care of a public health situation in the town. Supervisor Morris will check with the County to see if the town can get any of the \$1,600.00 back.

Supervisor Morris noted the need to get bids for a new boiler. The cost was over \$20,000.00. Council Member Manning suggested reaching out to USDA for some grant money. We could not do a salt shed as the lifespan is too long he stated. They do general repairs on buildings we would have to see if this would fall under the guidelines.

Supervisor Morris did have the report back from the visual electrical inspection at the main building at Sherman's and at the carousel. There were a total of 13 defects reported. Once the structural report comes in then the board can discuss what to do next. She does know that it will have to be fenced and a barrier around the ferris wheel. She knows the concert series is still waiting for an answer if they can use the property.

The supervisor has been on the Sherman's property at least 20 times chasing all ages from the property. A couple was having a picnic in the bumper car building and their dogs were swimming in the water. If she gets many more phone calls she will call the Fulton County Sheriff's department and ask them to patrol. Council Member Manning stated at the bare minimum there could be more signs. More windows have been broken out.

The supervisor will look into the signs about the boat parade. She stated nothing will be launched from the property.

Mr. Putman was asked about putting in a crosswalk at town hall from the building to the new crosswalk across the street to the park. This will be discussed later.

The board discussed setting a meeting with the Town Attorney next week. The meeting was set for Wednesday June 21st at 7 pm. She believes there will be an executive session.

Old Business:

Salt Shed – Council Member Sturchio wanted to figure out the size and style of the proposed salt shed. Then some firm numbers can be obtained. The location has to be discussed. A meeting was set at the barn tomorrow. Supervisor Morris wanted to discuss a capitol plan and noted her discussions at the county level for shared services.

Council Member Manning noted the deadline of July 26, 2017 for some possible funding. There are a list of questions that have yet to be answered. A decision on the details have to be made before the forms can be filled out completely. Mr. Putman was concerned when asked about vicinity of any wells. Council Member Manning stated these are just questions that need to be answered. It would not mean we would not qualify for a grant.

Council Member Manning has been in contact with Attorney Ferlazzo about the currently Lifetime Ins. Benefits. The board wants to phase this out in the future. He noted we currently spend \$30,000 a year on retirees. For current employees we are up to almost \$200,000.00 per year. The goal here is to stop this effective tonight. The board would not be looking at the past or at people who have time in. The resolution would be for any new employees from here on out. Council Member Manning read the proposed resolution. Supervisor Morris stated this was a good thing. The public have been asking for this for a long time.

RESOLUTION #2017-062 to set the availability of lifetime health insurance benefits in the Town of Caroga was offered by Council Member Manning at the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at Caroga Town hall.

WHEREAS, on or about January 3, 1996, the Board of the Town of Caroga (the “Town”) passed three separate resolutions relating to the provision of medical coverage for elected officials and/or full-time appointed officials and such resolutions are identified as #7/96, #8/96, and #9/96, respectively (collectively, the “Resolutions”); and

WHEREAS, among other things the Resolutions provide that any individual serving as an elected official and/or full-time appointed official in the Town for a period of at least twelve (12) years shall be entitled to individual medical coverage for the rest of his or her life with the option for family coverage at his or her own expense; and

WHEREAS, having discussed the matter the Town desires to limit the lifetime benefits identified in the Resolutions to only those persons eligible to receive them as of June 14, 2017 and, going forward, such lifetime benefits will not be available for those elected officials and/or full-time appointed officials who are elected or appointed after June 14, 2017 and who have not previously held elected or appointed office in the Town prior to June 14, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the availability of lifetime health insurance benefits set forth in Town Resolutions #7/96, #8/96, and #9/96 shall remain in force and effect only for eligible elected officials and/or full-time appointed officials elected or appointed prior to June 14, 2017. Elected officials and/or full-time appointed officials who are elected and/or appointed on or after June 14, 2017 and who have not previously held elected or appointed office in the Town prior to June 14, 2017 shall not be eligible to receive the lifetime health benefits set forth in the Resolutions, irrespective of position held or years of service provided to the Town.

Supervisor Morris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then taken.

Council Member John Glenn - Aye
Council Member Anthony Sturchio – Aye
Council Member Jeremy Manning – Aye
Supervisor Beth Morris – Aye

It was noted that the highway department workers are not included in this resolution. The clerk made a list of former employees that this resolution may effect.

New Business:

Correspondence:

The Boathouse of Caroga Lake New Liquor License was reviewed by the board. The application states they will be serving liquor, wine beer and cider. They will have recorded and live music. They plan to use a patio or a deck. They would like a response tomorrow if there is any objection.

Fulton County Dept. of Solid Waste is offering a Household Hazardous Waste Drop off day on August 12, 2017. Residents must pre-register at 736-5504 to bring items to Mud Rd.

The Assoc. of Towns will hold their 2017 Planning & Zoning Summer School in Albany NY on August 10. Any board member who wants to attend should contact the Town Clerk.

At 8:10 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 8:49 pm Supervisor Morris made a motion to exit from the Executive session. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION #2017-063 to obtain bids to replace Boiler was offered by Supervisor Morris at the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at Caroga Town hall.

WHEREAS, there is a problem with boiler #1 at Caroga Town hall, and

WHEREAS, Apollo NE was called to evaluate the problem, and

WHEREAS, the #1 Boiler of 3 has to be replaced, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to have the Supervisor draw up the specifications and go out to bid with the bids being in by July 7th 2017.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Manning.

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

Supervisor Morris stated that throughout the winter she has been working with the bookkeeper, the NYS Comptroller's Office, and the Town Attorney to get the town books up to date. We are still at least two years behind on filing certain documents. At this time Supervisor Morris felt she needed to spend the money to get some help in the office.

RESOLUTION #2017-064 to hire a temporary Part time Assistant to the Bookkeeper was offered by Supervisor Morris at the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at Caroga Town hall.

WHEREAS, Supervisor Morris has been working throughout the winter to get the town's books up to date, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Supervisor to have the town's book up to date, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to hire Shannon Wager of 2991 State Highway 29A PO Box 27 Caroga Lake NY 12032 to be the part time assistant to the bookkeeper at a rate of \$25.00 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per week effective today.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturchio.

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

Supervisor Morris made a motion to pay the bills as presented for audit, accept the minutes of the 5/3, 5/12, 5/18, 5/24 Work Session and 5/10 Monthly meetings. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

At 9:52 pm Council Member Glenn 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