

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday December 8, 2021 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 7:00 pm with the following persons in attendance by roll call. The flag salute followed.

Supervisor Scott Horton - Here  
Council Member John Glenn – Here  
Council Member James Long – Here  
Council Member Richard Sturgess - Here  
Council Member Donald Travis – Here

Tor Shekerjian Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor facilitated the zoom meeting. There were 16 people in attendance using zoom and 5 in person attendees.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment this evening. The public session ended at 7:03 pm.

**Department Reports:**

**BTI** – John Delesky just completed 8 hours of refresher training for BTI Supervisor up in Piseco. It is required every three years. The training was in Piseco. There were about 12 other people there doing the training also. The second week of January Mr. Delesky will be co-teaching a 30 hour pesticide class with the Town of Stratford. The course will be held at the Caroga Fire house. There is no charge. To take the course on line the cost is \$300 - \$400.00. All five applicators in Caroga will be returning. They are experienced, conscientious, and reliable.

Mr. Delesky found out in October that the gallon jugs of BTI will not be available anymore. The next available container size is 264 gallons. It comes in a 4 x 4 square tote weighing 2500 lbs. the latest quote is \$11,000.00. The town uses approximately 70 gallons a year. Mr. Delesky reached out to the other towns letting them know of the problem that effects all BTI users. He suggested sharing the cost of the tote with the other towns and dividing up the cost. Mr. Delesky also talked to NYS DEC and the manufacturer. Everyone is onboard with sharing.

Supervisor Horton asked if there was a discount buying in volume. Mr. Delesky asked for a formal quote. The quote came back at about \$42.00 a gallon. About the price paid last year. Council Member Sturgess asked if the product expires. It has a two year lifespan was the response. One thing the town will have to do is get the product off the delivery truck. The product can be frozen. There are no other permits needed to have that volume of material. Over a certain amount the town would have to have a seller's license. The solution to that on the bill of

lading each town will have to be listed along with their commercial applicator name and number listed. Council Member Travis suggested storing it in the gym. Supervisor Horton noted the golf course is experienced in handling chemicals and storage requirements. It can be under lock and key for the BTI Program. It was stated that Mr. Stedman did not need to take a course on BTI. Council Member Long asked about repeated freezing and thawing. Mr. Delesky stated it would be distributed to the towns and used.

Council Member Long asked about making the purchasing this year and if there were funds. Council Member Sturgess thought the bill would come in next year.

**RESOLUTION #2021-125 to authorize John Delesky to negotiate a purchase of 264 gallons of BTI** was offered by Council Member Long at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Delesky BTI Co-Coordinator discussed with the board the need to purchase BTI in bulk due to the discontinuance of the sale of individual gallon size containers, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to authorize John Delesky to purchase 264 gallons of BTI Valent Bio Science from ADAPCO Company to be divided with other towns. Delivery could be scheduled for the beginning of January.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Supervisor Horton stated the BTI program has \$5105.00 left in the budget this year. The cost to purchase 264 gallons is \$11088.00. The board would be authorizing the spending an additional \$6,000.00 this year. The additional amount would come out of contingency.

Council Member Long amended the resolution to including \$6,000.00 coming out of contingency. Council Member Sturgess noted he did not know if there were shipping or delivery fees.

Council Member Long amended the resolution to say not to exceed \$7,000.00 coming out of contingency. Council Member Sturgess seconded the amendment.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Aye

Council Member James Long - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Aye

Council Member Donald Travis - Aye

Supervisor Horton stated the logistics can be worked out afterwards. The Supervisor and board tried to find the balance in contingency A1990.4. If there was not enough money a transfer could be made at the December 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO*** –The Town Clerk submitted a monthly cash report and gave an update to the town board. The clerk asked if once the board set the golf rate did, they want her to sell the golf certificates. Jerry Groom was out of town and asked the clerk to do that for him. Council Member Sturgess wanted everything run through the point-of-sale (POS) system at the golf shop. The clerk agreed but noted people have called wanting them as gifts. The clerk asked if anyone from the PLRT could run the POS system. Gene or Jen will be contacted on this matter.

The clerk spoke to Supervisor Horton earlier today about tracking down revenue funds from 2020 that were supposed to be recorded on A2501 but were not. This was mentioned at budget time.

The drug company the town uses for testing has not followed through on their end with some paperwork. I will be working to see that it is done. Supervisor Horton noted Energetix also does this work for the county. They were supposed to check CDL licenses for any violations. The random quarterly draws are being done.

I will be working with Larry Voght on his retirement calendar.

***Code Enforcement & Sanitation*** – Fancher, Blowers Supervisor Horton stated it was another strong month for Code Enforcement. For the month of November another \$505,250.00 worth of valuation of permit fees were issued. The amount collected for permit fees was \$3,482.50.00. This will take us over 7 million for the year. Council Member Long stated that not all of this can translate to increased assessed value. Supervisor Horton stated that for the first time in a long time the town did have our assessed valuation did go up close to a million dollars. The Supervisor noted the assessor is out doing data collection and is down into Pine Lake. It will be 3 - 4 years before it is all done and then the town can take a look at doing a reevaluation. The public need not be afraid the effect is generally 1/3 stay the same 1/3 go up and 1/3 go down.

***Sole Assessor*** – Loucks

***Dog Control*** – Dutcher No report.

***Golf Course*** – Stedman / Groom /Centi /Councilman Sturgess – Supervisor Horton stated the golf course is in maintenance mode.

There is nothing new with the new building. The town has gone back to the insurance company and stated we had a post and beam building that we want to be reimbursed for. We should get a revised number in a few weeks from the insurance company for the loss of the building. He noted the town board did approve hiring the Syracuse firm Financial Advisors and Marketing. He spoke to Christine Crawley yesterday. When these two things come together then we can let the public know where we are financially with the project. Supervisor Horton wanted to get more details on the contingency number proposed by the Phinney Group. The financial advisors will be able to give us what the market rate is now for borrowing, for bonding.

Council Member Sturgess noted Steve Stedman and Jerry Groom put out the stakes for the cross county/snow shoeing track/course. It starts by hole #8, where there is parking. The clerk stated the trail map is on the town website. The snowmobile club does not have a cross country ski tracker but will groom the trail.

**Highway** – Supervisor Horton stated the town will have to advertise for MEO with clean CDL license. Mr. Henry Snell did retire last Friday after 38 years of service to the town. He will be missed. He was an operator, the Highway Superintendent for a while, and deputy Highway Superintendent for many years.

Council Member Sturgess was contacted last minute by Larry the highway Superintendent. Mr. Voght stated that there is a want/need for a sander for the small chevy dump truck. He feels like he is back tracking. A quote was received from Stahl for around \$8,900.00 installed. Supervisor Horton stated this is the first he has heard of this, and we have done without for a long time. A couple of the board wanted more time prior to review requests.

Supervisor Horton recently walked around the Kane Tower parking lot. Mr. Livingston stated during the summer he counted 200 cars coming in and out every day. They are looking into who owns how far off the edge of Green Lake Road the state owns so it can be widened. DEC [John DeSantis] was very happy with the parking spaces the town put in. Additional spaces have to be considered through the Unit Management Plan. He was not sure whether that was going to happen or not.

**New Business:** Council Member Sturgess looked at the books today and noticed the propane cost is considerably higher than what he feels the town should be paying by about 10%. He wants to start the process of how to look into switching companies. Perhaps just a phone call to Suburban about the price. He contacted a person he knows with a propane business; they sell to the Caroga Fire Department. He quoted a price 10% lower than what the town paid a week ago. The propane dealer did suggest the town purchase their own tanks. Then you can shop around. Council Member Sturgess thought the town spent \$8,000 - \$10,000 a year in propane, 10% is a \$1,000.00. Council Member Long agree about owning the tanks but wondered what the life span was on the tanks. He was not sure they would be used at the new town hall. Council Member Sturgess stated lifetime. Council Member Long stated perhaps the new building will have a different type like a buried tank. Council Member Sturgess began to look at this last year and then the fire happened. He noted it is virtually impossible to get a tank now. He is a small business owner. He does not have the inventory. Council Member Sturgess suggested looking at this in the summer time. Supervisor Horton wants to save the taxpayer all they can, but we are up in the air on where we will be in two years. He was not sure of the expense to switch out tanks and purchase tanks. Council Member Sturgess stated the tanks could be sold, but the return on the investment would not be good. Council Member Sturgess stated the person he contacted would not charge a delivery fee/safety check fee. It is not on his personal bill. That is \$20 - \$30 each time they make a drop. The Supervisor thought it might be required by law. Council Member Elect Deluca thought the price of propane was at a high right now. Council Member Sturgess stated he paid \$1.99 a gal yesterday. The Town paid \$2.2? last week.

The Supervisor authorized Council Member Sturgess to look into this further. The Supervisor was concerned about the future.

Supervisor Horton moved on to other business: The board members had copies of the current golf fee. Council Member Sturgess worked with Jerry Groom on this a few weeks ago. He proposed the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION #2021-126 to set the 2022 golf rates for the Nick Stoner Golf Course** was offered by Council Member Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Sturgess worked with Jerry Groom who works in the golf shop on setting the rates, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the fees for the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course are as follows:

**Membership Incentive Rates Before May 1**

Individual membership:	\$575.00
Couples combined membership:	\$1,100.00
Senior membership (age 65 & up)	\$475.00
Junior age 20 and under:	\$175.00 *amended to \$150.00
Annual Golf Cart membership:	\$575.00

**Memberships rates after May 1st**

Individual membership:	\$625.00
Senior membership (age65&up)	\$475.00
Couples combined membership:	\$1,200.00
Junior's age 20 and under:	\$200.00 *amended to \$150.00
Cart membership:	\$575.00

**Daily Use**

18 Holes Walking: \$25  
Cart Fee: \$13 a person  
9-Hole walking Ticket: \$15  
Cart Fee: \$11 a person  
Pull Cart: \$5

**Member Cart Fee**

18 Holes: \$12 per person  
9 Holes: \$8 per person

**League Cart Fee**

18 Holes: \$12.00  
9 Holes: \$8.00

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess stated there were some rates he disagreed with. Supervisor Horton thought they were reasonable and stated we had talked about 10%. Council Member Sturgess noted some are 10% some are not. The board members discussed the junior rate. Council Member Sturgess reviewed his notes and stated the town does just a hand full of junior memberships. Council Member Sturgess suggested a rate of \$150.00 for the junior rate.

Council Member Long made a motion to amend the resolution to make the junior rate (20 and under) to \$150.00\* prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> and also after May 1<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Council Member Sturgess. Hearing no discussion, the vote was called. All board members were in favor of the amendment.

The resolution was adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member James Long - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Aye

Council Member Donald Travis – Aye

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Supervisor Horton stated the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company has an offer to purchase for \$165,000.00 the old fire station. The town was offered first refusal on the building. The town has to let them know if they are interested in the building. If the town is interested it would have to go to referendum. If the town is not interested in the property the board has to let them know so they can go ahead and sell it to another 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Supervisor Horton offered a resolution to either accept or reject the right of first refusal in the lease agreement with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company. Council Member Long stated you can't make that motion you have to choose one.

**RESOLUTION #2021-127 to reject it** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Caroga has a lease agreement with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company for the property known as the old fire house, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to reject the right of first refusal.

Discussion: Council Member Glenn asked what the advantage was to the town to own another building. There would be the expense of heat, electricity and maintenance on it. Is there a use for it at this time?

Supervisor Horton stated the reason he is making the motion is the building is similar to this building in that it is almost 70 years old. It needs work. It is currently being used by the golf course which is great. Long term the supervisor did not see what the town would use it for. He stated the town did not want to become landlords of property. If it was donated to the town that is one thing, but to use taxpayers' money to buy a building and then have to fix it up and have the liability did not make sense. He thought it was wonderful for the fire company to sell it. They can use the money.

Council Member Long wanted everyone to be aware that it is currently zoned as conservation. It is surrounded on three sides by conservation. It is fronted by the state highway. If the town or another party bought it there would be a zoning issue. Council Member Sturgess stated depending on the use. Council Member Long noted it has very limited uses. Council Member Sturgess stated that is their problem. He thought with the price and the \$50,000.00 the town has

to put into it would be going backwards. That money could be going into a potentially a new facility. Council Member Glenn agreed. Supervisor Horton did not see a benefit to the town. Council Member Travis stated he looked at it, it needs work.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member James Long – Aye to reject

Council Member Richard Sturgess – Aye to reject

Council Member Donald Travis – Aye - reject

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye reject

Council Member John Glenn – Aye reject

Supervisor Horton stated he would notify the Fire Company tomorrow.

Supervisor Horton made a motion to advertise that all claims against the Town of Caroga must be submitted by December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for audit and payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Long.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis – Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Aye

Council Member James Long – Aye

**RESOLUTION #2021-128 to contract with NBT Insurance Company the insurance agency for the term 9/1/2021 until 9/1/2022** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton and Town Clerk Gilbert met with Bill VanGorder the town's insurance agent several months ago, and

**WHEREAS**, the town received an insurance proposal for insurance effective 9/1/2021 – 9/1/2022 now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga town Board does hereby move to accept the proposal as outline in the 36-page document.

Seconded by Council Member Long

Discussion: Council Member Long laughingly stated better late than never. Council Member Sturgess asked how we missed that. Supervisor Horton stated he did not know – he signed it.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Donald Travis – Aye

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Aye

Council Member James Long – Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Aye

Supervisor Horton stated the florescent light fixtures in the highway garage started to smoke getting ready to catch fire. This was an emergency. The electrician came the same day.

**RESOLUTION #2021-129 to replace the light fixtures in the highway garage** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton stated there was an emergency situation at highway barn because the florescent light fixtures began to smoke, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby authorize the spending of \$1,625.00 to replace the light fixtures in the highway garage.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Aye

Council Member James Long – Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Aye

Council Member Donald Travis – Aye

Supervisor Horton then stated he wanted to present a resolution to sell the old snow plow that was on the codes truck. It was not used at all last year and needs repair work. The Supervisor stated we would just go out and try to solicit some bids for it. Council Member Travis stated Mr. Taylor will give the town \$200.00. Supervisor Horton stated “I think we ought to ask a couple other people.” Council Member Travis stated that is not too much for that plow. Supervisor Horton did not think it was very valuable. Council Member Long stated if that was a resolution, he was seconding it to keep things moving. Council Member Travis talked to the highway superintendent who said the town would get more money in the state auction. The plow electronics are not working. The clerk asked how the board was going to sell it. Supervisor Horton stated we are going to go out and get some bids for it. Council Member Sturgess suggested putting it out on auctions international. The clerk stated she gets weekly emails from Auctions International asking if the town has any items to sell and that they would come up and take pictures to list items. Supervisor Horton stated he did not think the value of the plow warrants going through the trouble. The clerk stated it would be a bigger process to put it out to bid. The Supervisor stated he was suggesting that Council Member Travis call a few people that might be interested in it. The Clerk stated “you can’t do that.” The Supervisor asked why not. The clerk stated that would be picking and choosing who you would sell it to. Council Member Travis stated it would be the highest bidder. The clerk asked Council Member Long for his input. He stated it should be advertised legally he supposed. The clerk stated you just can’t say you, and you, and you, can bid on this. The clerk stated the board has to tell her what it is and when the bids will be opened. Supervisor Horton made a resolution.

**RESOLUTION #2021-130 to sell a plow** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.



**WHEREAS**, the board discussed getting rid of a plow that used to be on the code truck that is no longer working, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to dispose of the old snow plow that was on the codes truck.

Seconded by Council Member Long

Discussion: the clerk asked if there was a minimum bid the board wanted to set. Council Member Sturgess asked if the town can put something for sale for a certain price out front with a sign on it. Council Member Long stated “No, we have to go through the legal process. We have to advertise it.” Supervisor Horton stated it is such a small amount of money and here we are spending all this time... and it take hours. The clerk offered to take care of it. The supervisor declined her offer. Council Member Travis will take care of it. The clerk offered her help to him. The Supervisor stated the motion is to dispose of it not how we are going to dispose of it. Council Member Sturgess asked how we can put a price on something in the gym on garage sale weekend but we cannot put a price on a plow. The clerk stated that never happened.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member James Long – Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis – Aye

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

**RESOLUTION 2021-131 to join the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board**

was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton received information on the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board moves to join the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for \$300.00 per year. With the money not being spent until the first of 2022.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member James Long – Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Council Member Donald Travis – Yes

The clerk stated that Council Member Elect Deluca would like to attend the Association of Towns training virtually for newly elected officials on January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2022.

**RESOLUTION #2021-132 to allow training for Council Member Elect Deluca** was offered by Council Member Long at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the clerk stated that Council Member Elect Deluca would like to attend the Association of Towns training, virtually for newly elected officials on January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town board does hereby authorize the expenditure of \$75.00 for the training.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Supervisor Horton did not think that could be done before she was sworn in. The clerk stated that she has been sworn in. He confirmed that it was after the first of the year. Council Member Sturgess asked if there was a fee and was it covered by the town. Supervisor Horton confirmed that was in the motion.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:  
Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes  
Council Member Donald Travis – Yes  
Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye  
Council Member John Glenn - Yes  
Council Member James Long – Aye

Supervisor Horton called for a town board meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to pay bills and to conduct any other business. The clerk stated this was already scheduled. Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Tor Shekerjian, confirmed this. The Supervisor stated this would be virtual as well. Council Member Long stated it does not have to be a resolution – the Supervisor is calling a meeting.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> meetings. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, Long, Sturgess, Travis

**RESOLUTION #2021-133 to contract with the James A Brennan Memorial Humane Society** was offered by Council Member Long at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday December 8, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the town received the 2022 contract with the James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to enter into the contract for 2022 for \$600.00 per year as we have done in the past.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, Long, Sturgess, Travis

Council Member Long made a motion to pay bills as presented for audit. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, Long, Sturgess, Travis.

At 8:17 pm Council Member Long made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion, Horton, Glenn, Long, Sturgess, Travis.

Submitted by Town Clerk  
Linda M. Gilbert, RMC, CMC

General #'s 367 – 399 \$12,702.84

Highway #'s 133 – 143 \$23,594.79

Prepaid #'s 286 – 309 \$32,685.00

General Park #'s 165 – 169 \$57,628.51