

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday February 9, 2022 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 6:00 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 Barbara DeLuca - Here  
Council Member Richard Sturgess – Here  
Council Member Donald Travis - Here

Tor Shekerjian Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor facilitated the Zoom portion of the meeting. There were four persons in attendance at town hall. There were twelve people online using Zoom.

Supervisor Horton called for a moment of silence for Gene Centi, He served as the Weed Harvester Director and as Chairman of the Parks, Lakes, Recreation, and Tourism. He was unselfish with his time and energy that he put into helping the town. He was instrumental in getting the golf course going, this last year, after the fire. His wife Chris was in attendance.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Council Member Travis seconded the motion all board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, Deluca, Sturgess, and Travis.

**Public Comment:** Lynne Delesky asked the board to consider moving the time of the town board meetings back to 7 pm. She stated that 6 pm is really hard for people who work to attend.

At 6:05 pm the public portion of the meeting was closed.

**Department Reports:**

***Wheelerville Bike Trail*** – Supervisor Horton spoke to Mr. Manning today. Mr. Manning had wanted to thank several people for their assistance at the bike trail. He was going to send a list to the supervisor. The one person he mentioned was the highway superintendent for plowing out the lots so people could be on the trails with the fat tire bikes.

***BTI*** – John Delesky reported on the ongoing problem with the BTI containers. This situation may or may not be resolved. This involves the Federal Government OK'ing the 2.5 Gal. size. There are about three weeks until treating starts. We have 5 gallon of BTI. This will last a week or two. Mr. Delesky has been in contact with the manufacturer who will ship a 264 gallon tote. Mr. Delesky has contacted eight other towns to see if they wanted to go in on a tote. Caroga uses about 70 gallons a year or 140 for two years. The other towns would use about 100 gallons. The manufacture will not ship a partial tote but will credit the town for the unused amount in the one or two years, which we could keep. So far the Towns of Stratford, Arietta, Morehouse, and Lake

Pleasant have agreed to take BTI from the town. He is still waiting for a call back from Indian Lake.

Mr. Delesky made arrangements with Canada Lake Store to use their forklift to unload the tote. The tote will not fit through the doorway at town hall. He asked the fire house if they would store the BTI there for a year or two. They will help the town. Mr. Delesky also contacted C & C Auto to transport the tote to the fire house, Mr. Delesky has a pallet jack to move the tote. It will be warm and secure at the fire house. He noted the names of the towns using the BTI from the tote have to be listed on the bill of lading per Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Their address and lead applicator numbers are needed too. The cost of the tote is \$11,088.00. The town would have to bill the other towns using the BTI. Usually the town pays \$2,500 for BTI per year. At the end of the week Mr. Delesky will call the distributor for shipment.

The Supervisor thanked Mr. Delesky for all of his work and dedication.

Council Member Glenn asked if we needed a two year commitment from the other towns. Mr. Delesky stated Stratford will use 50 gallons, Arietta will use 20 gallons, Morehouse will use 10 – 20 gallons, and Lake Pleasant will use 12 gallons.

Council Member Sturgess asked why the highway department can't unload the tote at the fire house with the loader and the forks. This would save a lot of hassle. Mr. Delesky will contact Mr. Voght the Highway Superintendent.

The Supervisor commented on the Poker Run last weekend and was invigorated seeing all of the activity in town. Trailers were parked everywhere. The town seemed alive with activity. He was glad for the snow fall.

**Sole Assessor** – Leigh Anne Loucks submitted a written report. Copies of her report were made for the board. She was out sick for the past two weeks with COVID. She stated she was a little behind on data collection. The Supervisor noted the Assessor is systematically out in the field collecting data to eventually go forward with a re-val to get the town back to 100%. This will give fairness to the taxpayers.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO** – Linda Gilbert submitted the January monthly report to the board. The Clerk/Collector reported to date \$2,536,551.09 that leave \$753,118.95 uncollected. Penalties collected to date are \$269.91 which will be paid over to the supervisor on Feb 15. The collector noted credit card payments have been numerous this year.

The Supervisor reported that he received the fourth quarter sales tax distribution. It was \$214,000.00. He stated the town had budgeted for \$650,000.00 “we are well on our way to meeting that budgeted amount.” It was up 13% year over year. The clerk stated the fourth quarter was last year and asked what the total was for last year. The Supervisor stated last year the total was over \$800,000.00. He felt because of our recreational community with COVID our numbers went up. The Supervisor stated that 60% of the budget is based upon sales tax receipts and the amount coming in is healthy, that benefits all of the taxpayers in town.

**Code Enforcement & Sanitation** – Supervisor Horton stated that \$40,000.00 worth of permits were applied for the month of January.

**Dog Control** – No Report

**Golf Course** – Mr. Stedman reported that he has been in and out of the office to the maintenance garage. He is doing oil changes and detailing equipment. He has ordered parts, for the older equipment. He hopes spring comes soon. He is looking forward to the golf season. He wants to move the course forward. One of his employees is a junior at Johnstown High and is applying for the Honor Society. He wrote a recommendation for him.

Councilman Sturgess stated he wanted to meet with Mr. Steadman and Mr. Groom in a few weeks to see where we are headed this year, and what help they may need from himself and the board.

Mr. Groom noted if anyone wanted to get a membership he is available. Council Member Sturgess asked if the rates were on the website. The clerk stated they were.

Council Member Glenn asked if they would be advertised in the newspaper. Mr. Groom thought that was a good idea to do now. The clerk suggested writing up an article about things going on in 2022 on the course, for the newspaper instead of paying for an ad. The clerk also brought Mr. Groom a placemat from a restaurant with advertising and wondered if that was something the town wanted to do this year.

Council Member Travis asked if Mr. Groom was using his personal laptop for the golf course work. He suggested getting a computer for him. It was noted a computer is needed to run the point of sale system. Mr. Groom needs the ability to download and use Google Chrome. Mr. Groom will research computers.

**Highway** – Supervisor Horton reported they are doing their jobs. They have had a problem with frozen sand. It happens every year. The Supervisor stated they started up the screen plant to get rid of some of the large chunks. The department is down two employees. One through COVID and the other with an injury. There are five doing seven's work.

Council Member DeLuca had a couple concerns. At a recent fire department meeting there was a discussion on a couple of the roads that were not accessible to fire apparatus because they are so narrow. We don't have a lot of snow but the Chief did identify North Shore Road of West Caroga is very small. She is concerned about the safety issue. The Supervisor asked if it was any different than other years. Council Member DeLuca responded that she thought it was. Supervisor Horton suggested that the Fire Chief talk to the Highway Superintendent on this. Supervisor Horton will mention something to Mr. Voght. Council Member DeLuca would appreciate that.

**Lakes Management Program** – Council Member Glenn noted the loss of Mr. Centi, the driving force of the Weed Program. Council Member Glenn reached out to Walter Hogan to help out.

He has 40+ years of experience in management at Basset Hospital in Cooperstown. He oversaw the labs and budget. He is a summer resident of Caroga. He is very committed to the community. Council Member Glenn and the Supervisor interviewed him, Mr. Hogan is interested and Council Member Glenn stated he wanted to hire him.

**RESOLUTION #2022-030 to appoint Walter Hogan as the Weed Harvesting Director** was offered by Council Member Glenn at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday February 9, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Town lost a dedicated employee with the passing of Gene Centi the former Weed Harvesting Coordinator, and

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor and Council Member Glenn did interview Walter Hogan a property owner in the town of Caroga, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to appoint Walter Hogan as the Weed Harvesting Director at an annual salary of \$16,000 per annum paid in 4 monthly payments of \$4,000.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess asked if Mr. Centi went to classes for this position. Mrs. Centi replied that he called a lot of people, and did a tremendous amount of research online while they were in Florida. He taught himself about the weeds. Mrs. Centi brought two boxes of files to the clerk this afternoon.

Council Member Glenn stated Mr. Hogan would be as dedicated as Mr. Centi. Council Member Glenn read an email from Marcus Harazin giving the year-end report on the 2021 season on the invasive aquatic species. He noted the close working relationship with the Steward program and the Harvesting program.

Supervisor Horton noted the efforts of the dedicated individuals that contribute to the success of the various programs in town. Keeping the lakes clean is a priority for the Supervisor.

The Clerk noted that Mr. Hogan has been in asking for files to review. Mr. Hogan asked Council Member Glenn for contact information for the divers and tenders.

Council Member Sturgess wanted to know the status of the repairs to the harvester. The boat is already up to Canada Lake. The repairs have already been pre-paid.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara DeLuca – Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

***Town Hall Building*** – Council Member Travis reported there hasn't been heat in a couple of weeks in the judge's chamber or the meeting room. The part came in and Apollo will be here tomorrow to put the unit back together. They are using auxiliary heaters. The room was up to 65°. It was 66° in the meeting room.

***PLRT Commission*** – Council Member DeLuca reported on the meeting in January. There were some resignations. There were two members to be appointed tonight under resolutions. The commission is still looking for more members. At the next meeting they will review the mission statement and guidelines for commission. It is a work in progress. The next meeting is February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at town hall. Mrs. Centi brought files marked PLRT back to town hall.

There are no upcoming events from now until spring. They are at the regrouping stage. Council Member DeLuca stated they are trying to refocus the group's efforts to promote the Town of Caroga.

***Club House /Town Hall Project*** – Supervisor Horton stated they have been doing a lot of work on this large project. The insurance company has made the town an offer. "We have responded to that offer and said we do not understand the difference between our architects estimate for replacement of the building and theirs." It is a few hundred thousand dollar difference. The claim is well over 3 million dollars now between the equipment and the building. There are some items that were missed.

The unit price when the total amount of reimbursement divided by the square feet is not what he is seeing out in the market place according to the Phinney Design Group. The insurance numbers are \$285 a sq. ft. for the loss and the Phinney group is seeing anywhere between \$325 - \$400 a sq. ft. The Supervisor is trying to reconcile this with the insurance agent. It is important to remember that some of the reimbursement (now at \$644,000.00) is only available to the town if we rebuild. The rider on the policy stated that if the town rebuilds the insurance company knows that the town has to meet today's codes. There is a maximum of \$500,000 limit. We would receive all of that for the club house and would receive \$144,000 for the storage building for the golf carts.

Supervisor Horton stated he has discussed expanding the program to include the moving of the salt shed. The existing salt shed would be taken over and converted to the maintenance and cart storage building. The Supervisor stated that there has been an issue with doing maintenance in the winter time in the highway garage. There are some safety issues. He is looking at a 3-year phased approach. Soon he would like to get the facts out to the public.

Supervisor Horton noted the town is looking for zero interest loans and grant funding. Council Member Travis is looking into property that the town own that we don't use and selling that.

Supervisor Horton stated the town has and has had a facilities problem for a long time. Fixing the heat is just a band aid. The Supervisor got a quote to properly heat and cool the town hall would cost \$85,000.00 just for the system plus the cost to run power etc. Informally it was stated that it would cost 1.3 million dollars into this building and it is still a school. The Supervisor did not like the way we work in the building. The clerk and the Supervisor are separated though they should be working closely together. The space is not effective. He

thought putting more money into the building seems like it would be a waste of the tax payer's money.

Supervisor Horton stated the price for a salt storage shed has been stated at hundreds of thousands of dollars. He revisited this and has sent all of the board members information on this. For what this town needs we can accomplish a salt storage shed for \$50 -\$60,000.00.

The town board has approved a contract with a bonding company. So he has those numbers for a 5 million dollar loan over 30 years. There might be a little bit of tax increase to it. He is talking about \$10-\$15 a month. He wants to have a plan that will solve this for the town for the next 70 years.

Council Member Sturges and the Supervisor met for two and a half hours with the architect and found ways to save (1.5million) costs over the initial building. They looked at this comprehensively and solve it once and for all. The Supervisor stated if we leave this building there has been interest on parties.... He will talk to Fulton County Center for Regional Growth for someone who wants to lease this property. The town would tear the building down just like the town did with Nathan Littauer Hospital. Along with the savings of not having to maintain an old building.... this is a step by step by step project to come up with the right solution. The Supervisor is excited and has been looking at lots of different avenues to save costs. The Supervisor stated this is a one shot deal and wants to make it the best he can for the taxpayer. We won't have this opportunity to have a combined savings of a town hall and club house but once. They are trying to build something that will create community pride and be practical and be affordable.

#### **Supervisor's Report:**

Tor Shekerjian, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor wanted the Supervisor to remind the public that there is a town topics, it is not monthly, but it is a letter from the Supervisor's office to the public to let them know about things. Those interested can send an email to [confidentialsecretary@caroga.town](mailto:confidentialsecretary@caroga.town) and they will be added to the distribution list. A link will be placed on the website along with a recent letter.

#### **Old Business:**

Supervisor Horton called DEC about picking up waste from the Campground and then realized that programs to pick up commercial garbage would violate our contract with the county. (This includes Airbnb's) This is on hold. He didn't know if the county would make an exception.

Franchise agreement with Spectrum Northeast LLC expired in 2020

#### **New Business:** nothing on the agenda

Supervisor Horton stated if anyone wanted the *correspondence* (below) call the town clerk.  
President's Day Transfer Station Closed Monday 2/21 open on Tues. Feb. 22 8 am - Noon  
Fulton Co. Workers Compensation Report dated 1/14/2022  
Email from Rob Gray positive comments on Bike Trail  
Email from Jacob Sefcovic about opening a bike shop, looking for startup help

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION #2022-031 to Approve the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages dues of \$249.00** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton stated this was in our budget, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the payment of dues to the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages in the amount of \$249.00.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

**RESOLUTION #2022-032 to approve the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce dues of \$376.00** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton stated this was per annum, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve payment of the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce dues in the amount of \$376.00.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

**RESOLUTION #2022-033 to Approve the extra cost of installation of the new sander in the amount of \$240.00** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton explained the estimate was already approved but when the invoice came in for the installation it was \$240.00 more than the approved \$300, he had estimated, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the extra cost of installation of the new sander in the amount of \$240.00 for a total of \$540.00.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess thought they should have gotten an estimate first.

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 Barbara DeLuca - Aye

**RESOLUTION #2022-034 approve the donation of two rounds of golf with two carts to the Eccentric Club of Gloversville** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Horton explained that the Eccentric Club has an outing at the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course each year, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to donation of two rounds of golf with two carts to the Eccentric Club of Gloversville for their auction.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

For the resolution to authorize the Town Supervisor to solicit bids to construct a new salt shed, Supervisor Horton stated he did not want it to be a bid. The clerk asked if there were specs, there weren't any. He would like to pursue investigating the idea of building a new salt storage building so the town can convert the existing building into a maintenance shop which will be paid for by the proceeds of our insurance settlement. Council Member Sturgess did not think that required a resolution.

**RESOLUTION #2022-035 to accept the 2021 books of the Town Justice** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Audit Committee comprised of Supervisor Horton, Council Member Travis, and Council Member Sturgess audited the books of the Caroga Town Justice James Subik on January 31, 2022, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the 2021 books of the Town Justice finding no objections to the books as presented for audit.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes  
Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

**RESOLUTION #2022-036 to accept the 2021 books of the Town Clerk** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Audit Committee comprised of Supervisor Horton, Council Member Travis, and Council Member Sturgess audited the books of the Caroga Town Clerk on various days, independently with the clerk, finding everything in order, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the 2021 books of the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member John Glenn - Yes  
Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye  
Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes  
Council Member Donald Travis - Yes  
Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

**RESOLUTION #2022-037 to appoint two members to the Parks, Lakes, Recreation, and Tourism Commission** was offered by Council Member DeLuca at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, two member of the Parks, Lakes, Recreation, and Tourism Commission have recently resigned, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Jeremy Manning is hereby appointed to serve out the term of Jennifer Lair and the term shall run until December 31, 2026 and Jerry Groom III is hereby appointed to serve out the term of Barbara DeLuca the term shall run until December 31, 2027.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye  
Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes  
Council Member Donald Travis - Yes  
Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye  
Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Supervisor Horton met with Anthony Russitano today. He is a new member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Previously the Supervisor asked the seated members of the board if any of the four wanted to be the Chairman this year. They all declined to do so. Mr. Russitano is fine with being the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals but out of courtesy wanted to talk with the other board members. He was previously a town board members and a member of the Board of Assessment Review. There are not pending cases to the ZBA at this time.

**RESOLUTION #2022- 038 to appoint Laura Nealon as Secretary/Clerk to the Zoning Board of Appeals** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Zoning board of appeals is in need of a Secretary/Clerk, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to appoint Laura Nealon of East Shore Road Caroga Lake NY 12032 as the Secretary/Clerk to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Seconded by Council Member Travis

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that more research was done on this with the help of the town clerk and because it is a paid position it is the responsibility of the Town Board to appoint the Secretary/Clerk to these boards.

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 Barbara DeLuca - Aye

The Supervisor stated the funding source was approved two years ago to get this street lighting project in order. We never thought that National Grid will come and say they wanted an assurity in case something is not done correctly. The Public Service commission backs them up on this. The Town has to take out a letter of credit from the bank. It is not a loan. We have money invested in NBT Bank. The letter of credit would reserve the funds until such time that the lighting program is completed and accepted. They offered favorable terms.

**Resolution #2022-039 to authorize the Town Supervisor to enter into an agreement with NBT Bank to issue a letter of credit in the amount of \$75,300. Terms: 2% interest on the guaranteed amount, (normal rate 3.5%) application fee \$250.00 waived** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, a letter of credit is required by National Grid as the town moves forward with the project to replace the street lighting in the town of Caroga with more energy efficient LED lighting. Now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that a letter of credit will be issued by NBT Bank assurity to National Grid and or Niagara Mohawk in the amount of \$75,300.00. The terms are 2%, (normal rate 3.5%) and the application fee of \$250.00 was waived by NBT Bank. This will be timed so that the letter of credit is as short of time as possible.

Seconded by Council Member DeLuca

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess – Yes

At 7:15 pm Supervisor Horton began the discussion on the Code Enforcement Fee Schedule changes.

**RESOLUTION #2022-040 to Approve the Adoption of New Fees for Code Enforcement Department** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, last month the Code Department made recommendations to the town board on the fees charged for various permits in the Code Enforcement Department, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the adoption of new fees for the Code Enforcement Department.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: (The clerk distributed the proposed fee schedule to the members of the public in attendance) Supervisor Horton stated the fees are the same as was proposed last time except that commercial permits were removed. There is no distinction between commercial and residential.

Council Member Sturgess did not think the fees should be raised. He did not think the additional \$8,000 - \$10,000 in additional revenue was worth nickel and diming a resident building a half million dollar house with additional fees. He did not think it would deter someone from building in Caroga but did not think the increase was necessary. He noted the price of everything (due to COVID) is through the roof.

Council Member DeLuca stated the purpose of the building permits and code inspections is for safety. That is one of the primary purposes Supervisor Horton agreed. It is to protect the environment and the health and safety of individuals. Banks/loans also want to know things were done properly. Permits protect the neighbors as well.

Council Member Sturgess stated that it is the Code Enforcement Officers job to do the work associated with issuing permits. Why do we have to justify more money to the public to have a Code Enforcer do something they are already getting paid to do?

Supervisor Horton stated that is where he disagrees with Council Member Sturgess. He looks at code Enforcement as a service to the community at large. That is why the taxpayer pays for part of the service. Then he looks at Code Enforcement as also a service to the individual that's receiving the direct benefit from the inspection. Right now there is a 25% - 75% mix. Twenty five percent of the cost of Code Enforcement is paid for the application and seventy five percent of the cost of Code Enforcement is paid for by the taxpayers at large. He felt it would be more equitable to the public that the applicant picks up 50% of the cost that is what this fee schedule will do. Supervisor Horton stated the fees have been the same for quite some time. The cost of Code Enforcement has increased by 60%. The revised code fees would make this a 50/50 deal.

Supervisor Horton did ask other town supervisors if anyone had ever come to their town and go to the code office asking about their fees and stop them from moving to their town. It was not a deterrent for people to invest in a town. Supervisor Horton asked if some of the fees were reduced would that be more fair. He was open to suggestions.

Council Member Sturgess agreed that 25/75 (of the fees) might be too much of a burden on the general populous vs the person that is really getting the benefit. He asked how much is the tax increase on the \$50,000.00 garage that was built or the half million dollar house that was built, or the 1.5 million dollar house being built right now on Vrooman Rd. That has to justify it.

Supervisor Horton stated they would build it regardless. Everyone who has not done construction is still paying the same tax. Council Member Sturgess noted that month after month the Supervisor reports on how much the number of permits are up and how that raises our valuation. Council Member Sturgess sees this as a money grab. He just sees this as a way to justify the payroll for people doing their jobs.

Council Member Glenn stated Council Member Sturgess's point is well taken. His question was how these proposed fees compare with other communities in our area. This was asked at the last meeting and codes thinks it is comparable to other towns. Supervisor Horton stated if we didn't have all this growth we may have a smaller code department and the burden on the taxpayer would be less. Supervisor Horton stated since there has been this growth why should the taxpayer who is not involved in the increased demand for these extra services when they haven't done anything to their property in in 20 years have to pay more every year in their taxes to support the growth.

Council Member Travis stated that 50/50 sounds good to him. Council Member Glenn stated both sides' points are well taken.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye  
Council Member John Glenn - Aye  
Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye  
Council Member Richard Sturgess - No  
Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

At 7:31 pm Council Member Glenn made a motion to go into an executive session based on a paper he had concerning some sort of legal action. Supervisor Horton stated this was potential legal matters. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. Supervisor Horton asked if there were any other reasons to enter into the executive session this evening –hearing none all board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

At 7:54 pm Council Member Sturgess made a motion to exit from the executive session. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Supervisor Horton stated there was damage done to the Morey Road and the board went into an executive session to discuss what the town's response should be to the destruction of the Morey Road snowmobile trail by an individual. The board discussed whether a letter should be sent from the Attorney.

**RESOLUTION #2022-041 To Authorize the Supervisor to have the town attorney send a Letter to Mr. Johnson to not destroy the Morey Road Snowmobile Trail** was offered by Supervisor Horton at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Johnson was observed plowing up and destroying the Morey Road Snowmobile Trail, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to authorize the Supervisor to have the town attorney send a letter to Mr. Johnson to not destroy the Morey Road Snowmobile Trail

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member John Glenn - Aye

Council Member Barbara DeLuca - Aye

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Scott Horton – Aye

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

Council Member DeLuca made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

At 7:58 pm Council Member DeLuca made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion. Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis.

Submitted by the Caroga Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC

General #'s 22 – 49 \$13,076.91

Prepaid #'s 35 – 63 \$187,089.71

Highway #'s 7 – 22 \$23,249.04

General Park #'s 1 -4 \$852.13