

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board meeting held Friday March 18, 2022 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 12:30 pm with the following persons in attendance by roll call. The flag salute followed the roll being called.

Supervisor Scott Horton - Here
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Barbara Deluca - Here
Council Member Richard Sturgess – Here
Council Member Donald Travis – Here

Also in attendance were Larry Voght Highway Superintendent, Planning Board Members, Lynne Delesky and Karen Dutcher, John Byrnes ZBA Member and Shirley Holliday.

Council Member Glenn thanked Council Member Sturgess for lunch.

RESOLUTION #2022-055 to amend resolution #2022-044 for the permission for fireworks display for Royal Mountain was offered by Supervisor Horton at a special meeting held on March 18, 2022 at 12:30 pm at Town hall.

WHEREAS, the clerk was contacted by Jeff Ward of Santore’s World Famous Fireworks LLC about a change in the rain date for the fireworks at Royal Mountain, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the date of the fireworks at Royal Mountain will be March 18, 2022.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

All board members were in favor of the resolution; Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Travis

The clerk updated the board on the speed limit study they requested at the February meeting by resolution. Both the County Highway Superintendent and NYS DOT were sent letters. The state contacted the clerk to say they will begin the study shortly. They will be in touch with the town when they are in the area. The clerk noted to them the many changes on the state highway that would affect traffic. The Clerk listed the Boat wash Station, West Lake fishing access where it was reported that three thousand boats turn into during into the summer, the music group at Sherman’s and the Wheelerville Bike Trail. This distance is one of the longer studies they have conducted in a while. Supervisor Horton stated it was an amazing job. He expected not to go up to the top of the list so quickly. Supervisor Horton stated “typical Linda she gets stuff done.

Supervisor Horton asked for any other business before asking for a motion to go into an executive session.

Council Member Glenn noted that he met with Frank Malagisi from Assemblymen Smullen’s office. He was able to get a list of potential funding services for grants.

The clerk asked what kind of grants. Council Member Glenn stated they were for Infrastructure, the clerk asked if the highway barn would be first then town hall/golf shop. Council Member Glenn stated the sewer system would be part of it, and also the capital project of the town hall/golf course and relocation of the town barn. Supervisor Horton suggested having a work session. He and Council Member Sturgess met with the insurance company. Right now, the town is looking at north of 2.6 million for the clubhouse.

Council Member DeLuca asked how many square feet is the building. It will be under 6000 sq. ft. Council member Sturgess stated the building will cost more than 2.6 million for both the golf building and the town hall. The 2.6 is the buy off from the insurance company for the fire.

Supervisor Horton explained the insurance company does not pay the town for what we want to build. They pay us for what we lost. Council Member DeLuca understood that. The building the town lost was just under 6000 sq. feet. The proposed clubhouse that Phinney has designed along with the town hall is around 17,500 sq. feet and it is split 50/50. The club house would be not even 10% larger it is a two-story building. Council Member DeLuca asked if they knew the cost of the proposed structure. Preliminary cost estimates are 8 – 10 million. But that is a broad price to give out. Council Member Sturgess noted they are not ready to present it yet. The Supervisor and Council Member Sturgess are going down to meet with the architect on Tuesday to get the cost shaved down more. This is a long process and it has to go to the public for a referendum too, an analysis of the energy savings has to be done, there are so many things to look at.

Supervisor Horton noted with a capital project there has to have a whole separate account set up using H accounts. The Supervisor noted the building is not the whole story, it is the ancillary things, grading, landscaping, and sidewalks and porches they want to put on. Supervisor Horton thanked council Member Sturgess for all of his help. Council Member Sturgess stated it's not just building the building it's getting rid of the highway garage because it's right in the way and putting it in a different location. The salt shed would get converted into the maintenance repair facility for the pro shop. The project has to be broken down so everyone understands where the money is going.

Council Member Glenn remembered a few meetings ago Mrs. Holliday mentioned about Bruce Busch and George Holliday talking about moving the highway barn, that was 40 years ago. Council Member Sturgess stated this is such an opportunity with this money from the fire. Mr. Voght stated it costs \$1,000.00 a week to heat the highway barn.

Council Member Glenn stated this is a great opportunity for the capital project to be able to do all these types of things. This is a vision the town board has to move this forward. It won't happen tomorrow and it will be expensive, but it never gets any cheaper. Council member Sturgess noted that by combining the pro shop and the town hall together is a savings of not having to do everything twice. Not two electrical services, septic systems, wells, foundation, so many things can be shared. Council Member Sturgess hates putting money into the town hall.

Supervisor Horton and Council Member Sturgess are excited about the project. This will solve the capital needs of the town for a minimum of 70 years maybe 100 years. This week someone

tripped on the tiles at the town hall entrance. That could have been a lawsuit, they can't be glued down because they are asbestos. So, for less than \$600.00 a floating floor will be put in. It is one thing after another with the building. It's the asbestos, the mold, a roof that is 25 years beyond its prime. Everyday Supervisor Horton wonders what is next. There is a reason the town got the building for a dollar. It became expensive for someone else.

By combining the buildings, the architect stated we could save a million dollars. To bring the town hall building up to code the cost would be 1.3 – 1.6 million dollars. You can't do it a little at a time because once you do a certain amount of renovation the entire thing has to be ADA compliant.

Supervisor Horton will come up with a date for another work session. He wants to have more information from the architect. After Tuesday he will share the next steps of the design process. He wants to get this information out to the public as well.

The board has to move forward on this the insurance company is not going to allow the town to rent the old firehouse for the next ten years. The salt shed has to be moved this year.

At 12:48 pm Council Member DeLuca made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues on the highway department. Council member Sturgess seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion; Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, and Travis. The Highway Superintendent Larry Voght attended the executive session.

At 1:55 pm the Highway Superintendent Larry Voght leaves the room.

At 2:30 pm Council Member Glenn made a motion to exit from the executive session. Council Member Travis seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion; Horton, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, and Travis. There was a five-minute recess.

Council Member Sturgess made the following resolution

RESOLUTION #2022-056 for competitive reason to set the following highway salaries was offered by Council Member Sturgess at a special meeting held on Friday March 18, 2022 at 12:30 pm at town hall.

WHEREAS, for competitive reasons the guys & gals at the highway department shall be paid \$18.75 for entry level, after one year \$19.51, after three years \$21.07 after five years \$22.80.and

WHEREAS, mechanics will start out at \$23.05 and laborers will start at \$17.50 and there are no steps in the mechanics and laborers position, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this will be effective January 1, 2022.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Supervisor Horton stated it would be an agreement this way. We were talking about doing future raises but...

Council Member Deluca asked if this was a one-year contract. The Supervisor and Council Member Sturgess stated this was not a contract. It is a one-year agreement.

Council Member Sturgess stated it is to increase their pay rate because of the bump of the cost of living plus the/such increase in minimum wage in the past 2 – 3 years. A market adjustment Council Member DeLuca stated.

Supervisor Horton stated four months ago council Member Travis did a survey of neighboring towns and found that our wages for the highway workers were generally less and considerably less in some cases than our neighbors were. There has been some discussion on this, a little bit today and for competitive reasons we gave a bump that was more than 3%. The idea was to address recruiting and retention and then go back to normal cost of living increases year over year. Council Member Sturgess stated the highway department will be dropping down to seven guys as well and staying within the budget allocated. There is no budget increase for this.

Supervisor Horton stated there is a different step system. Before it was 2 years, 4 years and 5 years. These steps are 1 year, 3 years, and five years. Again, he stated it is for retention purposes the board wanted to have an incentive in there for people to stay on, and not lose them to other highway departments.

Supervisor Horton stated the work rules will be as outlined in the previous agreement. They don't change. But this is not an agreement it is work rules from the town.

The clerk asked when you say that you mean? Then she listed days off, vacation, longevity, anything else? Sick pay and bereavement were then listed. Supervisor Horton stated everyone was tier B which means that health insurance is only offered/only paid for to the employee, but the employee has the option for paying for the family difference.

Supervisor Horton stated there were no changes other than salary, oh and there is a labor position.

Council Member Sturgess stated to the clerk the salary was changed and also the different pay schedule as to after X amount of years worked. Council Member Sturgess stated it went from 1, 2, 4 to 1, 3, and 5.

Adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Scott Horton - Aye

Council Member John Glenn - Yes

Council Member Barbara Deluca - Yes

Council Member Richard Sturgess - Yes

Council Member Donald Travis - Yes

Supervisor Horton stated he will notify the bookkeeper. He stated the rates will be retroactive and go into effect the next paycheck.

Supervisor Horton asked if there was any other business. Council Member Glenn asked if a date for another work session would be set up now. Council Member Sturgess suggested the week after next for the town hall project. A Friday meeting was suggested. Council Member DeLuca was not available Monday - Friday for the next three weeks. She is available evenings. Council Member Glenn has all day Mondays and Fridays. Supervisor Horton noted the next board

meeting is the 13th of April. Council Member DeLuca's schedule may change. She will let the supervisor know.

Council Member Sturgess suggested talking about a plan of attack on attacking the Air B & B problem at the next board meeting. Council Member Glenn asked for a sample Local Law. He received one from Mayfield from Code Officer Fancher. It is in a draft form only. Supervisor Horton wanted everyone to get a copy of it. The clerk has a copy of a proposed Local Law from 2019 drawn up by Attorney Dunn. Supervisor Horton stated we can only work off of one.

At 2:45 pm Council Member DeLuca leaves the meeting.

At 2:46 pm Council Member Glenn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion; Horton, Glenn, Sturgess, and Travis.

Submitted by Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC