

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

September 29, 2021

TownOfCaroga.com contains all issues of the ***Caroga News Flash***.

This 2022 budget work session started at 6:00pm and lasted 157 minutes at Town Hall and via zoom.

This hybrid meeting was held under new law—effective September 2021—authorizing virtual participation for NYS and Local Government meetings. (Part E of Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 amended Article 7 of the Public Officers Law or “Open Meetings Law”.) This statutory change allows officials and the public to attend remotely to reduce need for public congregation while the COVID-19 Delta variant is prevalent.

Highlights of the preliminary 2022 budget meeting (see TownOfCaroga.com/finances/budgets.htm):

- **TAX**: The Board’s preliminary goal was to have no 2022 tax rate change from the prior 2021 level.
- **PAY**: The Supervisor gave himself a 46.6% raise.
A 3% cost-of-living pay increase will be given to some employees.
Town Clerk requested a 3% raise plus additional salary expansion. She was given a 3% raise.
Mr. Long offered to continue volunteering without pay as clerk to ZBA and Planning Board.
- **SENIORS**: The Board debated restoring pre-pandemic funding for the museum and senior programs.
Supervisor Horton and Councilman Glenn opposed restoring full funding to museum or seniors.
- **GRANTS**: The Board and Jeremy Manning reviewed strategies for smart growth and grant funding.
- **GOLF**: Supervisor reviewed budget for special recreation facilities at the Nick Stoner Golf Course.
2021 spending exceeded revenues. Supervisor plans to increase greens fees by 10% in 2022.
Golf Fire Recovery Revenue was shown as \$1,338,342.36 for 2021 and \$350,000.00 for 2022.
- **PLRT**: Parks, Lakes, Recreation, & Tourism Celebrations was given \$14,000.00.
This is 103% more than PLRT 2021 YTD, 146% more than 2020, and 354% more than 2019.
A proposal was rejected to cut PLRT’s budget to \$10,000.00, closer to 2021 operating expenses.
- **SPENDING**: General Appropriations increased from \$1,035,034.00 in 2019 to \$1,972,561.00 in 2022.

Preliminary Budget Summary for 2022

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Appropriations: | \$3,185,849.00 |
| Estimated Revenues: | \$1,773,000.00 |
| Fund Balance/Reserves: | \$ 310,375.00 |
| Amount to be Raised by Tax: | \$1,102,474.00 |
| Tax Rate per \$1000 Assessed Value: | \$ 7.03 |

Resolutions / Local Laws:

1. **Budget Hearing** — Board will hold a public hearing for the budget at 7:00pm on October 13 (5-0)
2. **NYS Planning Federation** — Board voted to join for \$270.00 (5-0)

Next Public Meeting:

Up to 12 members of the public may attend at Town Hall with reservations. Others may attend via zoom.

Town Board Monthly Meeting & Budget Hearing
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 7:00pm

Join zoom.us or dial 929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 687 640 4445 Passcode: 427903

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