

# ***Caroga News Flash***

## ***Town Board Meeting Highlights***

**March 8, 2023**

[TownOfCaroga.com](https://TownOfCaroga.com) contains all issues of the ***Caroga News Flash***.

This monthly Board meeting at Town Hall and via zoom began at 6:00 PM and lasted two hours.

Twenty citizens attended at Town Hall, and forty-four households participated via zoom.

The meeting was notable both for the Town Board's actions taken and actions not taken.

### **Resolutions / Local Laws:**

1. **Short-Term Property Rentals** — Approved forming a committee to propose a new local law. The 5 members are: Council Member Barb DeLuca (Chair), Al Kozakiewicz (Planning Board), Anthony Fancher (Code Office), Tor Shekerjian (Supervisor's Office), and To-Be-Announced (short-term rental community) (5-0 vote)(For dates, see <https://TownOfCaroga.com/calendar>).
2. **Building Project Budget Amendment** — Approved Golf Course Storage and Maintenance Building project and budget with Revenue of \$450,000.00 from NYMIR Fire Insurance and Expenses of \$45,000.00 Engineering Costs plus \$405,000.00 Construction Costs (5-0 vote). The Supervisor requested that the new budget lines be setup as supplemental "K Accounts" (see <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/publications/pdf/arm.pdf>).
3. **Grant Proposal** — Approved applying for a \$500,000.00 Community Investment Grant and hiring Orion Management to write the application (est. 20 hours at \$100.00/hour) (5-0 vote)
4. **Caroga Town History Book** — (4-1 votes)
  - Approved the Museum's proposal to reprint Barbara McMartin's *Caroga: An Adirondack Town Recalls Its Past* (with Allen Farber and Dick Loomis' 2023 digital layout and images)
  - Approved the Museum's proposal to prepare a third edition of Barbara McMartin's *Caroga: An Adirondack Town Recalls Its Past* (with a targeted completion goal of 2026/2027)
  - The undisputed copyright ownership of all editions remains with the Town of Caroga.
5. **Planning Board** — Accepted the resignation of Mike Voght with thanks for his long service and appointed John Ivancic to serve the remaining term to December 31, 2025
6. **Code Enforcement and Assessor's Office** —
  - Approved lease of a new Toyota RAV4 with funding from A1620.40 (4-1 vote)
  - Approved selling current vehicle at Auctions International (min. bid \$15,000.00) (4-0 vote)
7. **Highway Department** — Approved Superintendent's bid process for a new pickup and current trade-in, with final purchase requiring a separate Town Board resolution (5-0 vote)
8. **Other Business** — (5-0 votes)
  - Approved permit for fireworks at Royal Mountain on 3/18/2023
  - Approved donating a round of golf for 4 with carts for the Eccentric Club's 4/21/23 Gala
  - Approved paying bills as presented for audit and approved 2/8/23 meeting minutes

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:** <https://TownOfCaroga.com/calendar>

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Issue #5– 2023

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### **March 8, 2023 Topics Without Resolutions:**

1. **Honoring Volunteer Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians —**
  - New state law supports fire fighters & emergency medical personnel with a 10% residential property tax reduction. To take effect this year, local authorization was needed before April.
  - This proposal had strong citizen support with numerous letters sent to the Town Board.
  - As a fire fighter and EMT, Council Member DeLuca recused herself from discussion and/or voting on this property tax matter. She clarified that she remains able to participate fully in budget and contract negotiations with the Town and Caroga Volunteer Fire Company.
  - Supervisor Horton and Board failed to act on this. No resolution was proposed or passed.
2. **Highway Department Hazards —**
  - The Superintendent discussed equipment problems and safety risks with no resolutions.
3. **Zoning Ordinance Revisions —**
  - The Supervisor held a closed-door meeting with Planning Chair Kozakiewicz, ZBA Chair Russitano, & Code Officer Fancher. Apparently, he aimed to change the Zoning Ordinance.
  - Planning Board Members said they were left in the dark and “need to be in the loop.”
  - When called on the overreach, the Supervisor said, “Maybe we got a little over our skis.”
  - The Board will not hold a public hearing on 4/12/23 as noted on the 3/8/23 meeting agenda.
4. **Open Meetings and zoom Access —**
  - When questioned, Supervisor Horton admitted that his 2/8/23 proposal was not legal.
  - The Supervisor cannot refuse to admit citizens to meetings if full names are not displayed.
  - Mr. Shekerjian should not refuse to acknowledge citizens on zoom during public speaking.
  - Council Member Glenn continued to oppose citizens’ virtual meeting access via zoom.
  - Other Town Board members supported citizens’ participation and access to open meetings.
5. **ProcellaCOR Proposal and Permit Process —**
  - Supervisor Horton voiced hope about resolving technical failures with submitting the Town’s grant proposal to DEC. Their plan aims to use the chemical herbicide ProcellaCOR to combat invasive Eurasian watermilfoil infestations in East and West Caroga Lakes.
  - Along with the Supervisor, Council Member Glenn said Caroga’s ProcellaCOR plan must proceed regardless of the 3/3/23 Judicial Decision and Judgment to vacate APA/DEC permit approval for ProcellaCOR for the Lake George Park Commission (for the ruling, see: [https://townofcaroga.com/environment/ef2022\\_70178.pdf](https://townofcaroga.com/environment/ef2022_70178.pdf)). They focused on local meetings, with no mention of APA/DEC permits or administrative law judge adjudicatory hearings (<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/judge-calls-apa-review-of-lake-george-herbicide-permit-one-sided>).
6. **Municipal Building Projects —**
  - No judicial decision has yet been made about the validity of September 2022 Town Board Bond Resolutions versus the validity of October 2022 Citizen Referendum Petitions.
  - The Town Board chose not to authorize a bond referendum vote at the June 2023 election.
  - The Supervisor paused the Phase 1 Highway Garage Project, pending borrowing questions.
  - In July 2022, the Supervisor put the Phase 2 Nick Stoner Golf Club House Project on hold.