

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the Caroga Town Board special meeting held Wednesday May 28, 2025 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at noon with the following persons in attendance by roll call. The flag salute followed.

Supervisor Ralph J. Palcovic - Absent
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Barbara DeLuca – Here
Council Member Richard Sturgess – Here
Council Member Matthew Cooper – Here

Also in attendance were Walter Jim Hogan weed harvesting coordinator, Roy Stock Highway Superintendent, and Anita Long.

The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm as Mr. Hogan left his paperwork at home in Cobleskill. A search was done for the information in the Supervisor's office but the file with the three quotes was not found. Mr. Hogan ultimately emailed the quotes to the highway superintendent who printed the information out for the board members and the clerk.

Deputy Supervisor DeLuca began the meeting with a discussion on the problems with the weed harvester. The harvester was damaged last fall when it fell off the trailer while having work done through the Caroga Marina. Councilmember Cooper looked at the harvester last year and noted the repairs made it better than it was before it was broken. The town accepted it back as being repaired. If we said it was OK then it is on us. "It is not something we should spend money on if it was damaged by a third party." Councilmember Cooper wanted to examine the harvester again to see what Mr. Hogan and Luke the diver is talking about.

Mr. Hogan noted that Councilmember Cooper examined the motor and said it was fine. That is the only information he got back from Supervisor Palcovic. Mr. Hogan did not know who checked the entire harvester. "Who told Caroga Lake Marine that it was complete and the harvester was all set to go?" Councilmember Cooper replied that should have been through you and the program. Mr. Hogan stated he found out about the damage to the harvester from Luke, one of his divers. A friend of Luke's saw the accident and called him to say, "Hey your harvester is upside down, down here on the road." Luke drove down to see it and texted Mr. Hogan. After that Mr. Hogan has had no communication from the town about anything.

Deputy Supervisor DeLuca asked who repaired the harvester. Mr. Hogan believed it was Adam Hancock where it was sent out to have some welding done on it. Deputy Supervisor DeLuca asked if there was documentation on what was repaired on it? Councilmember Cooper asked who did the coordination to have the boat initially repaired. Mr. Hogan asked Carl Ziemann of Caroga Lake Marina about having the pontoon, which is used as a step and was broken, about getting it repaired. He recommended a guy down in Sir William Johnson who does aluminum welding. That is how it was left with Carl. When the harvester was on its way back from being

repaired was when it was dumped over. So, it was under Carl's watch. That is the last information Mr. Hogan got about anything.

Councilmember Cooper thought it happened on the way down to be repaired. "It doesn't look like Adam's work. He was going to repair the railings, but I assumed he had did it." It is your program for organization, maintenance, and coordination. Mr. Hogan had no hesitation taking responsibility. The problem he had is does he have to chase down everybody to ask them what is going on? He has never had to do that in his entire career. When he gives a boat to someone or gives something to somebody, they always get back to him and let him know what the situation is. All he got back was that it tipped over via third hand information. That is not right. Councilmember Cooper did not disagree.

Mr. Hogan thought Carl should have contacted the town and then the town should have contacted him. The town did not contact Mr. Hogan. Mr. Hogan stated that the marina was in contact with Supervisor Palcovic. Mr. Hogan was kept out of it.

Councilmember Sturgess stated someone dropped the ball but what are we going to do to get it...

Mr. Hogan stated the town is probably going to have to pick up the tab for this. The diver has already said he can not climb up on the ladder to get up on the harvester. The ladder he felt was going to rip right off any day. The diver asked who checked the boat when it came back to the town? Mr. Hogan could not answer that question. The whole thing, it was stated by Mr. Hogan was, fine prior to the accident.

Deputy Supervisor DeLuca thought the place to start is with the marina. What were the damages? If the boat belongs to the town and they had an accident there must have been a police report. It was stated there wasn't a report, since Carl was self-insuring it and he fixed it.

Mr. Hogan did not want this to drag out. He needs to get the harvester in the water. Mr. Hogan knows what the problem is and what they didn't do and what they should have done.

Councilmember Sturgess suggested having Councilmember Cooper and Mr. Hogan go outside and look at the problem(s) on the harvester.

Deputy Supervisor DeLuca asked for an estimate on the repairs from somewhere. Then we can move forward. Either the town picks up the tab or the marina does. Or there is insurance on it too. Councilmember Sturgess stated sometimes it is not worth putting in a claim. Council Member Sturgess suggested passing a resolution to have the harvester repaired with a not to exceed \$1,000.00 limit. Mr. Hogan stated he has \$1,000.00 in his budget for the repair. It was noted the next board meeting was not for another two weeks. The procurement policy was reviewed by Deputy Supervisor DeLuca.

Councilmember Glenn noted Howard Dutcher put the harvester together. He suggested having him take a look at the boat. Mr. Hogan thought Mr. Dutcher could look at it within the next day or two. It was noted Mr. Dutcher put the new deck and rails on a couple of years ago. Mr. Hogan has already asked him to look at it.

Councilmember Glenn asked about the integrity of the pontoons themselves. Mr. Hogan replied he did not know it has not been in the water.

Mr. Hogan and the diver Luke looked at the harvester and said they could fix it themselves. He just wanted to get it done. Councilmember Sturgess asked so why is the board even being told about this. Mr. Hogan stated he will get an estimate if the board wants. "I will do it for nothing," Mr. Hogan stated, and so probably will Luke.

Councilmember Sturgess again asked why was this being discussed. He compared a repair on the golf course mower to this and stated it would just be done. Permission was not needed from the board. There is a budget for the harvester. This is under the control of Mr. Hogan to figure this out. Mr. Hogan did not have a problem with that.

Councilmember Glenn stated if the estimate is above the procurement allotment, then it has to come back to the board. Deputy Supervisor DeLuca reads if it is greater than \$500.00 and less than \$5,000.00 it is subject to board approval. If it is less than \$500.00 it is left to the discretion of the purchaser. Mr. Hogan thought it would be under \$500.00. They need some lumber and bolts. Mr. Hogan will take the lead and take care of it.

Deputy Supervisor DeLuca thought every department head should have a copy of the procurement policy. Mr. Hogan will be given a copy of the policy.

Councilmember Glenn noted going forward he questioned that there was some sort of break in the chain of command on the status of the harvester. That Mr. Hogan never received a report back on the damage to the harvester. Mr. Hogan stated that however this went down it was between the Town Supervisor, and Carl. Mr. Hogan stated he was not informed of anything. When Mr. Hogan did go to check on the status of the repairs the harvester was already back in the hands of the town. Councilmember Sturgess thought perhaps the supervisor should have told the marina to contact Mr. Hogan directly. Then Mr. Hogan could keep the supervisor updated. This happened last fall. Deputy Supervisor DeLuca suggested Mr. Hogan speak to Supervisor Palcovic about this.

The next item to be discussed is a boat motor. It was noted that Mr. Hogan could not attend the last town board meeting. Deputy Supervisor DeLuca stated we had two quotes. Mr. Hogan stated Supervisor Palcovic received the third quote directly. Deputy Supervisor DeLuca stated if we had three quotes we wouldn't be here now. Mr. Hogan stated he could review his emails showing he sent the supervisor the quotes.

Mr. Hogan stated he wanted the low bid quote which is from REETS.

RESOLUTION #2025-057 to accept the quote from REETS Boatworks for an outboard motor for the lake management boat was offered by Councilmember Glenn at a special meeting held on May 28, 2025 at noon at town hall.

WHEREAS, Mr. Hogan - weed harvesting coordinator has indicated the need to purchase a motor for the lake management boat, and

WHEREAS, three quotes were obtained as follows:

Canada Lake Store & Marine – Caroga Lake NY for a 50ELPT Mercury, controls, harness, gauge, cables, prop, demand valve and no charge to install \$6,297.00.

Caroga Lake Marina P O Box 504 Caroga Lake NY for a Suzuki 50 hp motor with 3 yr warrantee, binnacle, wiring, harness, cables, gauges, propeller, and labor to rig motor \$6,704.00.

Reets Boatworks Inc. 1740 State Hwy 30 Mayfield NY for a Mercury 50ELPT 4-stroke motor, ignition harness & key switch, gauge harness, aluminum propeller, service and labor to install new engine. (they keep the old engine) \$6,245.62.

Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town board does hereby move to purchase the motor from REETS Boatworks for an outboard motor for the lake management boat.

Seconded by Councilmember Sturgess

Discussion: Councilmember Sturgess stated so now we have to take this boat over to Mayfield for them to install this motor and bring it back. He noted that the quote from Canada Lake Store is \$52.00 more. By the time we pay someone four hours to drop it off and return, then go to pick it up verses five minutes up the road. In his opinion it should go to Canada Lake Store. There is less chance of it tipping over or blowing out a tire. Deputy Supervisor DeLuca said that was a good point.

Councilmember Glenn noted Mr. Dutcher works at Reets and maybe he could take it over one morning and bring in back.

Mr. Hogan had that initial thought about purchasing it from Canada Lake also. He told Canada Lake that there was a lower bid and Brett Fielding said that was fine because they would not be making any money at all on this sale. Mr. Fielding also said he would service the motor if there were any problems.

Mr. Hogan still wanted to go with the lowest bidder for a reason he did not want to discuss at this time.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

Mr. Hogan stated we are going to trailer it. He will take that responsibility on for nothing.

Deputy Supervisor DeLuca asked if there was any other business this afternoon. Hearing none.

At 12:29 Councilmember Glenn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cooper. All board members were in favor of the motion, Glenn, DeLuca Sturgess, and Cooper.

Submitted by Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC