

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held on October 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Town hall with the following board members in attendance followed by the salute to the flag.

Supervisor Ralph Palcovic – Present  
Councilmember John Glenn - Here  
Councilmember Richard Sturgess – Here  
Councilmember Barbara DeLuca - Absent  
Councilmember Matthew Cooper - Here

Also in attendance were Steve Stedman – Golf Course Maintenance, Jeremy Manning – Wheelerville Bike Trail Manager, Roy Stock – Highway Superintendent, highway worker Michael Voght , John Livingston – Board of Assessment Review member, Chris Foss - Chairman, Anita Long and Rachael Simonds members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee and twenty-two members of the public.

Supervisor Palcovic announced first on the agenda is a presentation on the possible future transfer of the road in front of the CAC area. This is an informational session. Rick Ruby, Donald Cropsey and Attorney Laura Ayres spoke for half an hour. Mr. Ruby stated he has had multiple conversations with many of the board on this. He stated the reason for doing this now is safety. He stated it was probably busier now than at any time in its history. He proposed closing East Shore Road from Bath Avenue north. He stated the New York State DOT was not in favor of 45-degree angles coming on to a state road. Bath Ave. would be wider and with a curve. Mr. Ruby stated this would be beneficial to the people that live on East Shore Drive. This is for the benefit of the Caroga Arts Collective he noted as a road dissects the property. Closing the road now is so they can develop the whole campus. This is a benefit for the community he stated. Mr. Ruby noted the sales tax revenue is up not just because of Sherman's but also because of the other business in town. Mr. Ruby noted the park is open for people even tonight to walk the campus.

Attorney Ayres stated she has been helping the Caroga Arts Collective with the legalities of closing the road. Under Highway law there are two ways to discontinue or abandoned a road. They are proposing a formal application to the Highway Superintendent and Town Board asking for their consent to discontinue the useless portion of the highway. "Because we have Bath Avenue we don't really need to have East Shore Drive open, because it serves the same function." The attorney also proved a release of any damages that might be suffered by Caroga Arts Collective who owns the property on both sides of the highway from the road being discontinued. The order would have to be signed and filed with the town clerk. Attorney Ayres noted there are other ways to do this but this is the most above board. This way is the least likely to be questioned in the future. Attorney Ayres passed out a copy of Highway Law 171 Article 8 sub-paragraph 2 to the board. In the law it refers to the Highway Superintendent and his authority in this situation. The Attorney stated the road has become useless since it was laid out.

Donald Cropsey stated it is not a major road overhaul. It is really a modest change with a major impact on pedestrian safety. This is also in concert with the Town's master plan. The master plan was adopted back in 2013 and was a blue print on how the Town Board wanted to see the town develop. Mr. Cropsey hands out a page entitled "The Vision Town Center." It shows the road in front of Sherman's being closed. He noted zoning was changed so various areas could become magnets for Caroga Lake. Mr. Cropsey noted town center hasn't developed fully as the plan outlined. He did note the development of the Lakeview Store, the old Shutts service station and Dollar General. The Caroga Arts Collective have been approved for a new amphitheater. Mr. Cropsey handed out a one-page document showing the "growth and impact by the numbers." He stated this is not only for the benefit of the CAC but also for the community. Mr. Cropsey also spoke about the safety issues of people exiting the dance hall onto the street. During their events the road is closed and this isn't as much of an issue. Though sometimes the road is not closed. He noted the road is used as a cut through and in fact Google directs traffic flow from the north to the south onto East Shore Road. Their proposal would slow traffic down he stated. Mr. Cropsey hands out a packet of information. He stated a petition was sent around this summer and over 200 people signed it in favor of closing the road. The CAC proposed improving Bath Avenue making it a true two-lane road. In meeting with Supervisor Palcovic and Highway Superintendent Stock on site, changes were made to the plan. The snowmobile traffic comes off the lake and onto Grove Avenue. In this proposed plan snowmobilers would come off next to the CAC building. Mr. Cropsey noted the various other events held on the property like the car show, Tree Lighting and Trunk or Treat with 1000 kids. Lots goes on at Sherman's and this would be safer for the community. They will have a professional engineer do the final design. Mr. Cropsey again stressed the master plan.

Supervisor Palcovic thanked Mr. Cropsey for his presentation and asked the board members if they had any questions.

Councilmember Glenn asked about the 30 references to safety in the presentation. He asked for the number of incidents or injuries that have happened in the last 100 years. Mr. Cropsey did not know, but stated it's not the ones that have happened it the ones that could potentially happen with the redevelopment of Shermans. Councilmember Glenn stated there were none that he knew of. Mr. Cropsey noted when the Sheriff spoke (at a previous meeting at Shermans) he stated there were none as well. As far as the intersection of Bath Avenue and State Highway 29A – directly across is the post office and further down is Dollar General. It would be the same type of intersection being proposed. Councilmember Glenn asked Mr. Cropsey if he was aware of any safety issues there? Mr. Cropsey replied "there are definitely safety issues there." He stated that is they type of intersection the CAC is trying to change. Councilmember Glenn asked the attorney about the abandonment of the road. Attorney Ayres stated abandonment and discontinuance of the road are similar and used sometimes interchangeably in the law. She noted abandonment occurs when there is nonuse and non-maintenance of the road.

Councilmember Glenn reads the area highlighted on the handout from Attorney Ayres,: "Town Superintendent... or discontinuing a highway, which has become useless since it was laid out, upon

filing and recording in the town clerk's office, with such application consent and order, a release from all damages from the owners, etcetera, etcetera. Councilmember Glenn stated that is the definition of abandonment. Attorney Aires stated the town has to make the determination that it is useless, and it is useless since it was laid out as Bath Ave. serves the same function. That is different than abandonment, abandonment just falls out of use. Attorney Ayres stated Mr. Stock can file a certificate of abandonment when there is six (6) years of non-use by the public and six (6) years of non-maintenance for the same six (6) years.

Supervisor Palcovic reaffirmed that the CAC is going to pick up and provide the cost of the improvement. They will comply with the DOT regulations as built and designed. The supervisor stated they would discuss this probably at a work session. Mr. Cropsey asked if they would be notified of the meeting if a decision is going to be made. The Supervisor noted all meetings are public.

Supervisor Palcovic made a motion to waive the reading of the previous months' minutes. Councilmember Glenn seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

### **Department Reports:**

***Wheelerville Bike Trail*** – Mr. Manning reported he has spent the majority of the last month working on the round 8 of the Adirondack Catskill Smart growth Grant application. He submitted it on October 1<sup>st</sup>, in the amount of \$125,000.00. The intent of that is to upgrade the trail system for adaptability for adaptive trail users. The state is big on ADA compliance at this time.

Mr. Manning submitted the round 7 Smart Growth reimbursement papers in the amount of \$43,000.00, the town should be getting that soon.

Mr. Manning stated he is in the final phase of the work plan for the connector trail project. It will take about two years to go through the environmental review. He has talked to DEC, the Army Corps of Engineers, and there is an unexpected step about the bridge. DOT wants the town to have engineer stamped plans since the six-foot wide 20-foot-long small log bridge it's going to be federally funded. Mr. Manning reached out to Darin Romine for stamped plans. He has an example of a bridge from the forest service in Northville.

Merchandise has been re-ordered.

### ***BTI – No Report***

***Sole Assessor*** – Supervisor Palcovic reads the written report from Leigh Anne Loucks. She will be attending an Ethics for Assessor class on December 12. Exemption forms will be going out this week. The Assessor noted she was the point of contact for anything to do with assessing and tax bills. Sales are being entered. She stated there were addressing issues with school tax bills.

***Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO*** – The clerk noted there is a burn ban in effect until October 15 – 3 x 3 campfires are allowed, but no burning of brush or leaves. The board was notified

that the seniors plan to hold a bake sale on November 4<sup>th</sup> during elections. There is a correction to be made in the September minutes on the transfer that was made. The correct amount was \$1,250.00.

The Clerk recently attended an online training on Local Laws. Next year if the Local Law pertains to environmental issues a SEQR form will need to be filled out. Also, the tax cap Local Law can be put through in January. Then in November if you need it, it's already in place.

Lastly many residents asked about the two events taking place at town hall on October 1<sup>st</sup>. One was the Planning Board meeting and the other was the educational session OK'd by the Town Attorney. The rumors about the proposed Fire District are numerous, several residents said they would have like to have sat in so they could make an educated decision when the time comes for a vote. Perhaps in the future this topic with these speakers could again be presented to all of the taxpayers of Caroga and Bleecker. Supervisor Palcovic thought the burden, at this point, is on the fire department. He noted the Fire company sent out a letter which lacked some of the details.

***Code Enforcement & Sanitation*** – Supervisor Palcovic reported it was another positive month. Mr. Fancher issued 30 permits. The fees collected were \$3,350.00 with a valuation of \$406,394.00. Mr. Fancher conducted 35 inspections. He received the new code books. Mr. Fancher has also had several meetings for new house projects and remodels. People are in a rush to get permits prior to the new codes taking effect 12/31/25. Any new construction or construction with 50% renovation of an existing structure requires 100% compliance for the use of all electric. No gas or fuel, it is a state rule.

***Dog Control*** – Mr. Dutcher reported to the clerk that he received 6 calls for the month. He was also inspected by Ag. & Markets and no deficiencies were found. Supervisor Palcovic has a copy of the report.

***Golf Course*** – Mr. Stedman reported its new computer with the point of sale is all up and running. Last week was the falling leaves tournament. There were about 25 players. The fall rates went into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The golf course hours are 8 am to 5 pm. As for the grounds all of the tee boxes have been aerified, seeded and top dressed. The greens the front nine is completely done. The greens on the back will be done tomorrow. Half of the crew will be out spike rolling. The tall grasses will be chopped down. He also has drainage projects to work on.

**Bid Opening at 7:15 pm.** The clerk received two bids. The first bid is from James Hale; the non-collusion bidding certificate is signed – the company name is Adirondack Landscaping 1008 Pleasantview Ave. Scotia NY 12302. To Upfit the pole barn to usable heated workshop with a concrete floor, the proposal full price is \$73,800.00 the net delivered price is the same. The insurance agreement is initialed.

The second bid is from Keith Daniel Miller the non-collusion bidding certificate is signed. The company name is CM Adirondack Building LLC 95 Baldwin Rd. Glenville NY 12302. The full price is \$189,918.64 the net delivered price is the same. The insurance agreement is initialed.

Councilmember Glenn wanted the two contractors to come before the board and explain their bids. Supervisor Palcovic said we have to be careful on that. Councilmember Sturgess wanted to confirm the low bid and the work to be done.

**RESOLUTION #2025-099 to award the bid to the lowest bidder Adirondack Landscaping AKA James Hale** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the town went through the necessary steps to advertise for bids on the Pole Barn Renovation Project, and

**WHEREAS**, two bids were received one from Adirondack Landscaping/James Hale 1008 Pleasantview Ave. Scotia NY 12302. For \$73,800.00 and the second from CM Adirondack Building LLC/ Keith Daniel Miller 95 Baldwin Rd. Glenville NY 12302 for \$189,918.64. now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the lowest bid of \$73,800.00 from Adirondack Landscaping owner James Hale having submitted all of the necessary documentation.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Glenn

**Discussion:** Councilmember Sturgess asked the supervisor if he was going to schedule a meeting. The Supervisor stated they will talk and that no contracts will be signed at this time.

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

Another council member will be invited to the meeting.

**Highway** – Roy Stock reported that the paving is all done. All of the shoulders are on. All of the road sand is in. They are working on doing some tree trimming and getting ready for winter.

Mr. Stock noted to the board the need to contract with CT Male to put together a Spill Prevention Control Containment Plan. It is a state and federal plan that the town needs to have in place. The contract cost is \$2,600.00. Supervisor Palcovic noted that CT Male has already been engaged by the town for fuel and oil storage permits as required by the state. They have made the town legal and in compliance. This is still an outstanding document – SPCC.

**RESOLUTION #2025-100 to contract with CT Male to put together the Spill Prevention Control Containment Plan for the Town of Caroga** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, Highway Superintendent Roy Stock has identified a need to comply with the Federal requirements to have a Spill Prevention Control Containment Plan in place, and

**WHEREAS**, CT Male has been contacted to create the plan for the town, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to contract with CT Male for an amended contract price not to exceed \$2,600.00 to put together the Spill Prevention Control Containment Plan for the Town of Caroga Highway Department.

Seconded by Councilmember Cooper

**Discussion:** Councilmember Cooper asked what the frequency of this plan was to be updated and reviewed. Mr. Stock replied once every five (5) years minimum frequency. Supervisor Palcovic thought one the plan is in place the update would be based on any changes or modifications.

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

Supervisor Palcovic will sign the contract with CT Male.

Mr. Stock noted truck #13 needs an axel and bushing for the frontend in the amount of \$10,035.62. Supervisor Palcovic asked where the money was coming from. Mr. Stock replied out of mechanics or out of the equipment reserve. Councilmember Sturgess thought the reserve was going to be used for the truck that was ordered. Mr. Stock has not verified the figures with the bookkeeper yet. Councilmember Cooper noted the truck has to be repaired. It is a plow truck. The truck is not operational it is in pieces. Mr. Stock noted that last year this truck went to Tracy to get the front end fixed but they never touched this part of the frontend. Mr. Stock was asked to get the figures from the bookkeeper as to where the funds would come from to fix the truck.

**RESOLUTION #2025-101 to approve the Tracy Road estimate to repair truck #13** was offered by Councilmember Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, Highway Superintendent Roy Stock has identified a need to repair truck #13 a plow truck that needs front end work including a new axle, seals, bearing, pin-knuckle cap, and all new bushing, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Stock received an estimate from Tracey Road 9494-9498 River Road Marcy NY 13403 in the amount of \$10,035.62, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the Tracy Road estimate to repair truck #13 after speaking to the bookkeeper about funding sources as long as Supervisor Palcovic approves it.

Seconded by Councilmember Cooper

**Discussion:** Councilmember Cooper noted this is just for the parts. The vehicle is being repaired in house. If the truck went to Tracey or they came here the cost would be far greater.

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

Councilmember Sturgess wanted to make sure the equipment reserve is not allocated for this so there are funds when the new truck comes in.

***Lakes Management Program*** – Mr. Harazin reported that we are almost at the end of the boat inspection/decontamination program for the year. They start Memorial Day and end Columbus Day. He reported in the last few weeks they saw 441 boats. To date they have seen 3168 watercraft and decontaminated about 260 of those. Twenty-seven of them were found to have organisms some were unknown, but included milfoil and zebra mussels. Of those 414 boats people are pulling them out for the season, so they are sometimes coming to get washed or inspected. The traffic came from over 80 different water bodies. About 50 were from the Mohawk and Hudson River which have a very active invasive species population. The boat wash unit has to be shut down for the winter and the backup unit needs to get repaired. The DEC Grant will cover the cost. He asked the Highway Superintendent to help with the repair.

Today Mr. Harazin was notified about another round of grant funding available for prevention of aquatic invasive species spread and prevention, boat decontamination, terrestrial aquatic invasive species, rapid response and control or research or restoration and resilience. This is where you are going back and planting native plants. Mr. Harazin noted the grant has to be submitted by December 17, and it is a three (3) year run. He is willing to help apply again.

There is a lakes management committee meeting coming up on October 21<sup>st</sup>. On the agenda is the lakes management plan from 2017. Data will be reviewed from the Adirondack Lake assessment program. Charts will be shown for East and West Caroga, Canada and Pine Lakes. The information will be put up online.

It was noted that Mr. Hogan was not available tonight but that he will give a yearend report in November.

Jed Potocar reported that there are two new invasive species in West and East Caroga Lakes. They are a form of Blue Green Algae also known as cyanobacteria. One is called Tolphorix the other is Oscillatoria. They were both tested for toxicity and don't appear to be toxic but they are widespread. If left to their own devices they could choke off the oxygen in the lake's way down the road. He thought maybe there was a way to use the existing funding for the DASH program or ProcettaCOR. Supervisor Palcovic mentioned the new grant.

***Town Hall Building*** – Councilmember Cooper reported he is waiting for a quote to replace the double doors in the gym. Also, before winter the septic covers between the clinic and town hall will be repaired.

***Caroga Tourism Committee*** – No report.

**Comprehensive Plan Committee** – Supervisor Palcovic praised the whole team for the survey report. Chris Foss noted they have been working for a little over a year now. The biggest thing they did was the survey from the spring and over the summer. He noted public input is the major part of this plan. They have discussed updating the comprehensive plan. Mr. Foss attended the budget meeting yesterday to try to obtain funding to get some professional help. Supervisor Palcovic stated he

thought those details were worked through in a positive manor. Mr. Foss thought the survey came up with some good information. Rachael Simonds was behind the survey he noted.

Rachael Simonds noted the board received copies of the survey results and it is also posted on the Comprehensive Plan website. There were 565 survey responses from visitors, part time and full-time residents. Seventy three percent (73%) of the respondees found the quality of life is good or very good. There were also a lot of other positive things. People “really enjoyed the natural, like scenic outdoorsy type of things.” That will be a big part of what is addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. There are some challenges as well. The survey noted property blight, town infrastructure and cellular service. Other “positive things were the lake programs and things like that.” The front page of the report gives an overview of the report. Moving forward the committee will look to do more targeted surveys. Ms. Simonds stated they are “looking to revamp the Comprehensive Plan because it is a little bit older.” They will try to meet some of the situations that the town has now. She noted the committee really wanted more public input. They still have not had any members of the public attend any of the committee meetings.

The clerk asked when the meetings were they flip flopped from Tuesday to Thursday. Mr. Foss stated they were having an issue with attendance by the members. The meetings are the last Thursday of the month at 6 pm at town hall.

Mr. Potocar suggested inviting people by name to a focus group, residents/non-residents. Have a facilitator take all of these priorities (and there are a ton of them) he will take qualitative interviews anytime to narrow the list down and give the community something specific. Mr. Foss stated this has been discussed and he is trying to get people who do this type of work on a daily basis to help the committee out.

Anita Long noted this process is going to continue all through next year and into 2027. She foresees many opportunities through workshops and meetings and some focus groups.

Councilmember Cooper asked how this is being advertised. He sees others towns advertise meetings at various locations. Mr. Foss noted the meetings so far have been work meetings but they are open to the public. The minutes are published. But they haven’t specifically asked the public to come to a specific meeting. Committee Member Long noted on the caroga.town website is a link to a website Rachael created and on the website is a five-page public participation plan which describes how the public advertising will be rolled out over the coming year.

Fifty more copies of the report will be printed and made available to the public at the post office and at town hall.

### **Supervisor’s Report:**

Supervisor Palcovic noted an appraisal (Insurance) report from NYMIR via The Wright Insurance Group was done.

Frontier Fiber optic will be put in at town hall. The board members had no objection. The clerk wondered if when the work is done that the old payphone could be hooked up to one of the town lines for use again. The Supervisor replied he would think about it.

The supervisor received some periphery updates from CT Male in regards to the clubhouse. The area of the disturbance come out to 1.27 acres. This complicates things because of the Storm Water Prevention Plan[SWPP] is triggered by going over one acre. Supervisor Palcovic noted the current town hall has 41 parking places the new clubhouse will have 53. CT Male is working with Peacefull Living Homes on a manufactured structure and interfacing the engineering ... The wastewater evaluation is ready to begin. Councilmember Sturgess is going to be working with the engineering group to investigate the existing sanitary sewer system from the old club house to see if can be utilized in our new construction.

Supervisor Palcovic stated in regards to the bid award tonight he drafted a resolution to expeditiously keep the project going once it commences. The resolution will enable the code officer to follow the process with his expertise.

**RESOLUTION #2025-102 to authorize Councilmembers Sturgess and Cooper to approve change orders under \$5,000.00 on the Pole Barn Project** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Caroga Town Board has approved construction/reconstruction of the Highway Department Pole Barn for conversion to a Golf Course maintenance storage facility, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Caroga Town Board is following established guidelines for the bidding process to award the construction project to a qualified contractor, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Caroga engaged the services of a professional engineer to provide design services for this reconstruction project, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Anthony Fancher will be following the construction project representing the Town of Caroga, and

**WHEREAS**, time is of the essence regarding the construction season, and

**WHEREAS**, this project must take into consideration dynamic reconstruction of an old pole barn with unforeseeable consideration that they may require additional construction aspects, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that any contractor recommendations or change orders appropriately presented to Town of Caroga project oversite coordinator Anthony Fancher, shall be forwarded to Town Board members Rick Sturgess and Matt Cooper for authorization to proceed for a cost not to exceed Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) to maintain project integrity until completion.

Seconded by Councilmember Glenn

**Discussion:** Councilmember Sturgess asked if this was per incident? Yes, not total - per case, was the response from the supervisor. Councilmember Sturgess asked how the procurement policy pertained. He also asked how this pertains to the insurance funds since this is not taxpayers' money. Supervisor Palcovic stated it would be drawn down for the specific line item of the insurance fund. This has to be reported to the insurance company.

The clerk asked about setting the parameters for payment on this project. Supervisor Palcovic stated 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 is standard, if the bidders didn't specify that is how it is usually done. The Supervisor replied that the procurement policy doesn't really cover construction hold ups. It is fixed purchases.

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

### **\*\*Public Comments and Question**

John Livingston stated whenever the Caroga Arts Collective (CAC) have an event they request a road closure; it is not a safety issue. It's said there hasn't been an accident there in 100 years. When Shermans was open he thought there were many more people there then than there are now, hundreds a day as opposed to now. He noted the CAC is closed 6 months a year so...so much for more traffic. It's never been an issue. Also, because they are a 503c they relieve this town of thousands of tax dollars every year. Sales tax revenue is up Mr. Livingston stated but not because of the 503c. Many people walk the road it has beautiful sunsets. He knows a permissive referendum is not required but he thought one would get turned down quickly. Mr. Livingston looked up highway law. The town must demonstrate reasons for any abandonment – lack of use? Cars, and people walk it and it's used daily. Undue maintenance burden? Mr. Livingston asked if those 600 feet was hard to maintain? Mr. Stock- Highway Superintendent replied, "No." It is a brand-new road almost." Mr. Livingston stated it has to be demonstrated that it is in the best interest of the public. It is not in the public's best interest it is in the CAC's best interest.

Karen Dutcher as far as the road closure she could not justify that making any sense. Over and over, it's said safety but there've been no accidents there. There never have been. The road is always closed for events. In the 1920's Shermans was booming any older person can tell you. As Mr. Livingston said it is just for their benefit. Mrs. Dutcher stated she was totally against it. She hopes the local people will speak up and vote this down. Mrs. Dutcher is on the road all the time when you get to the end you look left and right you can see beautifully. As Councilmember Glenn said if you come out on Bath Ave. it's directly across is the post office so the vehicle traffic would be coming in and going out. It makes no sense what so ever.

Mrs. Wager had a question on the highway superintendent salary. Last year it was budgeted at \$51,500.00 and when Roy was appointed the board put it at \$67,500.00. On this year's tentative budget (the column for) the amended budget still shows the \$51,500.00. Where did the extra \$16,000.00 coming from?

Supervisor Palcovic replied, “We had to make an adjustment and the legal set salary was \$51,000.00.” Again Mrs. Wager asked where the extra \$16,000.00 come from. Supervisor Palcovic stated there was a salary adjustment they had legal counsel. “The Town Clerk pointed out deficiencies in our process, but we transferred/changed the position back to deputy superintendent – acting at that point.”

The clerk asked the supervisor “when did we do that?” Supervisor Palcovic replied whenever the money ran out. Councilmember Cooper interjected that it hasn’t happened yet. He is getting paid till it meets the budgetary obligation then he will go back into the bargaining unit for the remainder of the year.

Supervisor Palcovic stated, “We were legally obligated to make the salary for that position \$51,000.00 and maintain that. The supervisor had a lot of legal counsel on this to get it straight.

William Brian of Gloversville said he volunteers on Kane Mt., at the CAC, and at the mountain bike festival, and has been employed by the Town of Caroga as a seasonal diver for four years. He is vested in the area and is interested in the wellbeing and betterment of where we live. He has a heartfelt concern about the integrity of the dive program. Mr. Brian stated that there has been a falsification of time sheets, breaking and entering, and destruction of town property. Supervisor Palcovic attempts to stop Mr. Brian from making any further accusations. The supervisor stated this should be discussed in an executive session. There is a laundry list that Mr. Brian has printed out and handed out tonight. He has personally witnessed these behaviors. Again, the Supervisor attempts to stop Mr. Brian from continuing on. Mr. Brian wanted the taxpayers to know how egregiously their tax dollars are be misused. He feels appointing this person to head the program would be an irresponsible decision should the board move forward with it.

Councilmember Glenn asked if this could be brought up at the semi-annual meeting of the Lakes Management? Mr. Brian thought there was an imminent appoint being made. Councilmember Sturgess stated this was not even on the table right now. He was not sure where this was coming from. Mr. Brian was thanked for his comments and publication. He responded with a yes sir.

Mr. Wager asked about the contract with CT Male and asked if they were also overseeing the oil water separator. Supervisor Palcovic replied it is a separate engineering document – a SPEDES Permit. That is already in place. It has been pumped out per the letter of the law. Councilmember Cooper stated it was expired. The renewal was submitted in June and the town should have the permit in November. Supervisor Palcovic stated the town/highway department was delinquent in just about all of its state permits.

Mr. Wager had a feeling. Supervisor Palcovic stated the recovery job took twelve months.

Attorney Aulisi stated he has been resident here now for over 45 years. He has seen the ups and downs of Shermans all of his life. He hears so many arguments against the proposal that has been made here this evening to discontinue with use of the shore road as it runs along the Sherman property. Frankly, safety may or may not be an issue. The bottom line here is that there is no down side to what they are seeking. It can only a benefit to this town, it will improve the campus. Taking that road

away from the few people who use it locally isn't going to hurt anyone. It just doesn't make sense not to approve this project. It is a practical proposition. There is no down side. It can only benefit something that is benefiting our community. Anyone who thinks that this operation hasn't inured to the benefit of the whole community, whether or not they pay property taxes, is wrong. He has watched people come into this town since the CAC has opened and each year it gets bigger. The business here benefit from them. Therefore, the people benefit from them. Safety is not an issue either way. They can use it as a reason and it is legitimate, but the bottom line is there is no down side, what so ever, not to approve this project.

Karen Dutcher just wanted to note that they are only here July to August – just close the road then.

Supervisor Palcovic stated the town does not close the road for every event now only special listed occasions. The Highway Superintendent confirmed the statement.

Anita Long stated there also was a public meeting in August which was document and there were more than 80 people there. It was very positive and underscored and detailed some of what judge Aulis said about all of the upside of this project. She noted this was part of the comprehensive plan.

At 8:04 pm the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Supervisor Palcovic reviewed the Correspondence:

The Transfer Station is closed October 13 Columbus Day, but open Tuesday 8 am – noon.

The town received an email from Deb Hoffman asking to reconsider bringing back Zoom meetings. Veteran's day does not affect transfer station hours.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION #2025-103 to move forward with the rezoning of various parcels as recommended by the Planning Board at their October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Zeitler owner of 1785 State Highway 10 has petitioned the board to rezone parcel 68.5-4-6 the former Fire House which is currently zoned Conservation and has been since zoning came into existence in the Town of Caroga, and

**WHEREAS**, a recommendation was made by the Planning Board at their October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to rezone various parcels including that of Mr. Zeitler's those being the Caroga Highway Garage, the site of the former Nick Stoner Club House, and the now town owned parcel purchased from the Foster's in 2001, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to rezone parcels 68.5-4-6, 68.6-1-2, 68.6-1-1 and 68.5-2-15 to hamlet per the Planning Board's recommendation, and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the clerk is hereby directed to forward this resolution along with the Short Environmental Assessment Form part one to the Fulton County Planning Department and the

Adirondack Park Agency and upon receiving their responses the next step will be to hold a public hearing.

Seconded by Councilmember Cooper

**Discussion:** Councilmember Sturgess stated he was recusing himself from this vote. Supervisor Palcovic noted certain parcels were zoned from the original zoning date of the entire town as conservation. It is one of the most restrictive and fire houses aren't allowed in conservation. There are some other parcels that may need corrective action. This was improperly zoned to begin with.

Adopted by a vote of three Ayes: carried unanimously Palcovic, Glenn, Cooper

**RESOLUTION #2025-104 to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget:** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the bookkeeper Joanne Young has indicated a need to make the following transfers in order to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget:

|                                      |             |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| To: A7180.21 Golf Carts              | \$ 3,500.00 |             |
| From: A7180.40 GC C/E                |             | \$ 3,500.00 |
| To: A7180.2 Golf Course Equipment    | \$ 4,000.00 |             |
| From: A7180.11 GC Club house Manager |             | \$4,000.00  |

Seconded by Councilmember Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

**RESOLUTION #2025-105 to remove funds from the Golf Course Equipment Reserve to pay for the new Workman equipment purchased for the golf course** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the bookkeeper Joanne Young has indicated a need to make the following transfers in order to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget:

|                                            |              |             |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| To: A7180.2 Golf Course Equipment          | \$ 50,000.00 |             |
| From: A201.7 Golf Course Equipment Reserve |              | \$50,000.00 |

Seconded by Councilmember Cooper

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

**RESOLUTION #2025-106 to recognize the receipt of additional funding from the State for CHIPS project to cover the additional costs of paving to maintain a balanced budget** was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the bookkeeper Joanne Young has indicated a need to make the following transfers in order to maintain a balanced budget, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget:

\$24,000 increase to expenditure line DA5112.20 CHIPS

\$24,000 increase to revenue line DA3501 Consolidated Highway Aid

Seconded by Councilmember Cooper

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

**RESOLUTION 2025-107 to amend resolution # 2025-095** was offered by Councilmember Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on October 8, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, one of the transfers in resolution #2025-095 was incorrectly stated as

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| To A1930.4 Judgement & Claims | \$1,250.00 |
| From A1990.4 Contingency      | \$1,200.00 |

Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that that resolution #2025-095 is hereby amended to read as follows:

|                               |            |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| To A1930.4 Judgement & Claims | \$1.250.00 |            |
| From A1990.4 Contingency      |            | \$1,250.00 |

Seconded by Supervisor Palcovic

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes: Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper

A motion was made by Supervisor Palcovic to approve the minutes of the September 5<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> Town Board meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

A motion was made by Supervisor Palcovic to pay the bills as presented for audit. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

Councilmember Sturgess noted the need to call a budget meeting. The dates the budget director was available were discussed. The board set a budget meeting for Wednesday evening October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025 at 6 pm.

At 8:12 pm Councilmember Glenn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Palcovic. All board members were in favor of the motion, Palcovic, Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper.

Submitted by Caroga Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert RMC, CMC

General voucher #'s 367 to 400 \$43,335.33

Prepaid voucher #'s 262 to 290 \$44,722.49

Highway voucher #'s 158 to 178 \$254,575.84

General Park voucher #'s 66 to 81 \$73,467.42