

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

July 12, 2023

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

This monthly Board meeting at Town Hall began at 6:00 PM and lasted 198 minutes until 9:18 PM. Forty-three citizens attended the meeting in person, and nine households attended via zoom.

The Town Board received detailed public input and calls for action on multiple topics this month.

- The Assessor asked for Town Board help to protect the town's best interests by addressing irregularities with the Board of Assessment Review and adopting a local law for solar farm taxation.
- Citizens voiced support for the new fire company contract and emergency responder tax incentive.
- Regarding a land swap to facilitate constructing a new golf clubhouse and maintenance shed, citizens noted lack of public info about a town property transfer subject to permissive referendum.
- Twelve people asked officials to enforce safety/zoning regulations at an excavation site on Kasson Drive involving extensive land alteration, water runoff, falling rocks, and property encroachment. Town officials have not enforced zoning requirements for site plan review prior to undertaking such development on a noncomplying lot (see <https://townofcaroga.com/ordinances/zoning.htm>).
- Sixty citizens attended the July 21, 2023 informational meeting about invasive Eurasian watermilfoil and the proposed use of the herbicide ProcellaCOR on East and West Caroga Lakes.

Resolutions / Local Laws:

1. **Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company Contract** — Approved the 2024-2028 town fire contract with a 5% yearly increase and \$84,700.00 to assist with fire truck replacement (4-1 vote with Supervisor Horton voting against the contract with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company)
2. **Tax Incentive Local Law #2023-01** — Approved 10% town property tax exemption to volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers per Real Property Tax Law § 466-A (4-0 vote, 1 recusal)
3. **Real Property Conveyance** — Approved a "land swap" for the "construction of a new clubhouse and maintenance shed" by conveying about 8,000 square feet of Town property to Nancy Rhodes (Parcel No. 68.00-1-21) upon conveying her land to the Town (Parcel No. 68.06-1-3.2) (4-1 vote)
4. **Invasive Species Program** —
 - **For ProcellaCOR Pilot Study Permits**, approved a \$6,500.00 contract with Glenn Sullivan of SOLitude Lake Management from account A8090.41 to do APA and DEC permits (5-0 vote)
 - Approved Walter Hogan's recent purchase of two motors for the weed harvesting program from account A8090.2 for \$2,399.00 and \$2,339.00 (total motor expense of \$4,738.00) (5-0 vote)
 - Approved revenue received from East Caroga Lake Association and transferred funds from account A2705 Gifts and Donations \$1,500.00 to A8090.2 Weed Equipment \$1,500.00 (5-0 vote)
5. **Golf Course** — Singled out golf employee Ed Bauman for an extra 3% merit raise effective August 2023, with discussion noting many people go "above and beyond" in their work (4-1 vote)
6. **Highway Department** — Approved highway collective bargaining agreement (5-0 vote)
7. **Caroga Tourism** — Changed membership from 5 to 7 and appointed Sue Collins (5-0 vote)
8. **Other Business** —
 - Approved 9/2/2023 Majestic fireworks display by Caroga Arts (5-0 vote)
 - Approved bills as presented and minutes for 5/10/2023 and 6/14/2023 meetings (5-0 vote)
 - Scheduled (and later cancelled) a special meeting for 7/26/2023 6:00 PM (5-0 vote)

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

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