

# *Caroga News Flash*

## *Town Board Meeting Highlights*

### **April 10, 2024 Monthly Meeting**

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

This monthly meeting began at 6:30 PM and lasted 92 minutes. Thirteen residents attended at Town Hall, and twelve families participated via zoom.

The Board discussed the 2024 ProcellaCOR Project for East and West Caroga Lakes (see pages 2-3).

In addition, Supervisor Palcovic noted points from the April 3 building project work session, but the Board passed no building resolutions on April 10. More work sessions will be needed about building projects.

#### **Resolutions:**

##### **1. Capital Building Projects —**

- Inadequate Highway Garage design prompted discussion of a revised design and cost estimate.
- The Board tabled a resolution to rescind an account to move the pole barn golf maintenance shed.
- They tabled a resolution to proceed with designing a 40' x 66' stand-alone golf clubhouse building.
- Council Member Sturgess is pushing for a combined Golf Clubhouse / Town Hall design.

**2. Comprehensive Planning Committee —** Approved a 5-person committee to revise the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* (5-0 vote). Residents who would like to serve on this special committee are invited to write an email letter to the Town Board giving their name and address and describing planning / development experience and reasons for expressing interest.

##### **3. Highway Department —**

- Transferred funds for the F-550 Truck the Highway Department ordered in 2023 (5-0 vote)  
From: DA0201.20 Equipment Reserve \$122,871.55 To: DA5130.2 Machinery & Equipment \$122,871.55
- Approved \$7,902.74 JPRO diagnostic system from Highway Maintenance Fund (5-0 vote)
- Authorized Highway staff and janitor to attend OSHA training (5-0 vote)
- Discussed HL§ 284 form to set priorities for highway improvement spending, including CHIPS

**4. Proposed Speed Limit Change —** Authorized NYS Department of Transportation Form TE9C for a road study review to lower the speed limit on Rt. 10 from Town Hamlet sign to Kasson Drive (5-0 vote)

**5. Golf Course —** Approved a *Golf Benefits and Donations Policy*. Tournaments of 80+ players receive 2 rounds of golf and a 2-person cart, and Manager can make 10 other donations per year. (5-0 vote)

**6. Board of Assessment Review Stipends —** Approved \$300.00 Chair & \$175.00 members (5-0 vote)

**7. Assessor Training —** Authorized \$125.00 for Assessor's official training (5-0 vote)

**8. Short-Term Residential Rentals —** Rescinded Resolution #2022-017, so fees are no longer in effect for special colored-bag refuse collection previously used with Short-Term Rentals (5-0 vote)

**9. Budget Transfer for Municipal Association Dues —** (5-0 vote)

From: A1990.4 Contingent. \$300.00 To: A1920.4 Municipal Association Dues \$300.00

**10. Minutes and Bills —** Approved minutes of 3/13/2024 monthly meeting and 4/3/2024 work session and approved bills as presented for audit (5-0 votes)

#### **Announcements:**

- ❖ Caroga Transfer Station is now on summer hours:  
Mondays & Fridays 8:00AM-4:00PM; Wednesdays 4:00PM-8:00PM; Saturdays 8:00AM-Noon

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

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Issue #06– 2024

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**The Town of Caroga plans *ProcellaCOR* Phase I Treatment of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil in East and West Caroga Lakes to begin in June 2024.**

### **What is invasive Eurasian watermilfoil?**

<https://www.adkwatershed.org/eurasian-watermilfoil>

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2021/02/22/spread-word-not-weeds>

### **How do we fight Eurasian watermilfoil?**

Since the 1980s, Caroga residents, lake associations, and town officials have advocated with NYS DEC for management and prevention of invasive species, including Eurasian watermilfoil. As a result, DEC improved the state campground and funded grants to aid prevention efforts with lake stewards, boat inspections, and a decontamination wash station (see [https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/wispfactsheet.pdf](https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/wispfactsheet.pdf) and <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/battle-against-invasive-species-continues-adirondack-waters>). To further address the local crisis, Caroga has invested almost \$700,000.00 since 2017 to fight watermilfoil in East and West Caroga Lakes using diver-assisted-suction-harvesting (DASH) with budgeted price tags of \$102,400.00 in 2023 and \$155,300.00 in 2024. Invasive watermilfoil is partially contained but continues to spread locally and regionally.

Now a new chemical is available to fight invasives. In 2017, the US EPA approved a synthetic herbicide named florpyrauxifen-benzyl, the active ingredient in *ProcellaCOR*, that effectively targets and kills Eurasian watermilfoil (see <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/inline-files/Florpyrauxifen-benzyl.pdf>). After a 2019 technical review, NYS DEC determined that *ProcellaCOR* is effective in controlling watermilfoil and has a favorable risk profile (see <https://townofcaroga.com/notes/procellacor-ec-dec-registration-decision.pdf>). DEC approved registration and use with permits that follow Best Management Practices by licensed professionals. Best practices include site assessment, prescription, and implementation to ensure accurate applications, concentration monitoring, minimized risks, optimal performance, and site compatibility (see also <https://www.sepro.com/aquatics/procellacor-product>).

Recently, other Adirondack towns—including Minerva and Lake Luzerne—have gotten DEC and APA permits and used *ProcellaCOR* in their lakes with reported benefits and without identified adverse effects. Town officials from both Minerva and Lake Luzerne visited Caroga last year to share their stories and answer residents' questions here.

Caroga is now planning to use *ProcellaCOR* in East and West Caroga Lakes. In 2023, public support increased after info sessions and notification letters (see [https://townofcaroga.com/notes/procella-cor\\_letter\\_december2023.pdf](https://townofcaroga.com/notes/procella-cor_letter_december2023.pdf); <https://townofcaroga.com/notes/apa-public-notice-project-2024-0040.pdf>). Financial help came in September 2023, when DEC awarded Caroga almost \$50,000.00 for *ProcellaCOR* treatment in Phase I pilot areas. The 2024 Budget included Weed expenses but not grant revenues (see [https://townofcaroga.com/finances/2024-11-08\\_adopted.pdf](https://townofcaroga.com/finances/2024-11-08_adopted.pdf)). Mr. Hogan has been working closely with Certified Lake Manager, Glenn Sullivan, and APA Project Analyst, Aaron Zeimann, on a process that follows Best Management Practices to plan and deliver an effective program in Caroga.

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**\*\* Still pending are approvals for a permit from APA and budget transfers from the Caroga Town Board. \*\***

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### **April 10, 2024 Town of Caroga *ProcellaCOR* Discussion Transcript**

**(Walter) Jim Hogan** (*Weed Harvester Coordinator*): We're on target for the week of June 3 to do our first *ProcellaCOR* application. Regarding permits, the DEC has approved us. We're waiting for APA to review it in May.

When the DEC got our permit application, they felt that the areas at the channel and adjacent to the channel going toward the outlet are continuous and should be one area. The Pilot study grant was set up for 3 areas, but hopefully we also can do the campsite—that is loaded with milfoil—where treatment would be extremely advantageous.

An expense that came as a surprise is an August survey by an independent inspector after *ProcellaCOR* treatment to see the effect. I think all of that money could come from the Lakes Management budget and with the pilot study grant. So, as I wrote in my report, we're looking at having only 5—possibly 6—divers this year, but I budgeted for 8. My salary is included in the grant. That money could cover the additional expenses to treat the campsite. As far as the harvester goes, we're getting ready to set up for diving. Hopefully, we will have everything, and all the equipment. We're planning to get started in the first part of June...

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**Council Member Rick Sturgess:** Quick Question. I guess I'm confused about what you stated. You're gonna take your money out of the budget for the Pilot Program? We've not authorized doing that. We don't have any numbers. The money we've authorized to spend on the Pilot Program is the \$50,000.00 that we have from that grant for it.

**Mr. Hogan:** I understand that. What I'm saying is that I'm hoping to work with you people to find out. Can money in the budget that's already there be used for additional ProcellaCOR application? Now is the time to do it, and not to delay. So, I think that money could be there. My salary is already in there. That was put in the 2024 budget last year, and my salary is in the grant, so that money should be available to use toward ProcellaCOR, if you so choose. You decide. The Town Board may say, 'No ProcellaCOR. Milfoil is not that much of a problem, and we'll use that money somewhere else.' Your call. I can only ask you to use that money for ProcellaCOR and milfoil. That's up to you.

**Mr. Sturgess:** You're going to come back to us with numbers on what you're anticipating for the cost to be for the expanded area in the pilot program? Is that what you're gonna do?

**Mr. Hogan:** I'll get into the data. The one I don't have is for the survey after ProcellaCOR treatment in the areas to see how well it worked. That's a requirement for a permit from the DEC and APA. So, I'm waiting on those numbers. The numbers that are coming down from Glenn Sullivan could come from my salary, if you choose.

**Mr. Sturgess:** You keep saying, 'Covered by your salary.' I think it was put in the grant, so it was back out the other side on the budget. Like it's not in there twice. Know what I mean?

**Mr. Hogan:** All I'm saying is that money for my salary is there in this year's budget.

**Mr. Sturgess:** We have to show the expense. Know what I'm sayin'?

**Supervisor Ralph Palcovic:** It's funded by the grant, and we still have a line item in the budget.

**Mr. Sturgess:** We still have a line item for where the money goes. It's not in there twice? That's what I'm sayin'. Now the 8 divers with 2 additional divers, that's something the Board's gotta talk about. Know what I mean?

**Mr. Hogan:** Ok. I'm just

**Mr. Sturgess:** Unless I'm not understanding.

**Mr. Hogan:** No. I'm

**Mr. Sturgess:** Maybe I'm not understanding.

**Mr. Hogan:** I understand that you have a system of how to do things and what you're allowed to do and not do. Ok. I'm just looking at the budget, and I see where there's \$16,000.00 for the Weed Director that's not going to be spent, and then I'm looking at additional dollars from 2 divers we are not going to have that are not going to be spent.

**Supervisor Palcovic:** So, we'd do an account transfer from labor and your salary and apply it to that, because your salary should be paid out of the grant, even though we have a budget line item. So, there are dollars there.

**Mr. Hogan:** So, that can happen?

**Supervisor Palcovic:** We all have to agree on it.

**Mr. Hogan:** I know this is complicated.

**Supervisor Palcovic:** I will tell you as my county assignment, I am the Fulton County liaison with the Adirondack Park community. You have APA reps there. You have DEC reps there, and also Adirondack Town Supervisors from all over New York State. They watch, and they've spoken very highly of ProcellaCOR. Minerva and Lake Luzerne officials are wonderful technical resources. Everybody's watching this program throughout the entire Adirondack Park. It's high visibility. They're watching, and they want to see us as another positive success story. We're all looking for a positive outcome for the Caroga Lakes.

**Mr. Hogan:** Thank you. I'm saying that the milfoil is a very serious problem, and if we have the money somewhere and can move it around, so we can do a good job, that's what I'm hoping. I hope you all will fall on that side.

**Supervisor Palcovic:** We'll look at the numbers.

**Mr. Hogan:** We definitely have the West Caroga Lake covered and the channel and that area adjacent to the channel. Those are covered by the pilot grant. It's the campsite area that I'm hoping we'll have enough dollars in the budget to cover also. I hope we can move the money to do that.

**Supervisor Palcovic:** Thank you, Sir. Thank you very much.