

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

July 10, 2024 Monthly Meeting

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This monthly meeting began at 6:30 PM and lasted 90 minutes, including 45 minutes in closed executive session to discuss “matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.” The audience at Town Hall had 20 residents and highway employees, joined by 14 additional families via zoom. New York Assembly Member Robert Smullen also attended this meeting at Town Hall.

Supervisor Ralph Palcovic emphasized two urgent safety issues with the Highway Department:

1. Errors with fire insurance paperwork risk coverage and safety, and New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal’s (NYMIR) issued Caroga a Notice of Conditional Policy Renewal.

“There was a report lacking. A couple of years ago...[NYMIR] required municipalities to install an electrical disconnect...[for Highway Garage trucks]...We complied but did not fill out paperwork. They sent us a notice that we were getting a conditional renewal policy...I immediately contacted the Highway Superintendent. We looked at every truck to verify. We signed that document and sent it in the mail...We’re at risk of losing a lot of coverage...Fire safety is important.”

2. The Town’s bridge on Capehorn Road requires immediate emergency safety repairs.

“NYS DOT identified a rail defect...in need of immediate corrective action...The cost is \$55,000.00 plus labor...to be paid from...Road Maintenance accounts. It’s a Town bridge.” Discussion noted that Fulton County offered to take over bridge repairs, but Caroga Officials opted against doing so.

Given lack of Town Board consensus for grants, he said, “There’s nothing new on grant writers.”

During this meeting, no mention was made of progress with any municipal building projects.

Resolutions:

1. Town Planning and the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee — (5-0 votes)

- The Town Board appointed Chris Foss as Chair of the Committee.
- The Board approved a 2025 \$1,500 contract with the Fulton County Planning Department. The Supervisor stated that this contract “provides up to \$1,500 of service” for next year “for advice and technical assistance they will be supporting” for comprehensive planning, “so, if we spend that amount, then the Town will be billed by the County for X dollars.”
- They declined to submit a \$100,000.00 planning grant proposal draft sent to them (see <https://dos.ny.gov/smart-growth-community-planning-and-zoning-grant-program-24-opdsg-5>; https://townofcaroga.com/comprehensive_plan/cfa_questions_sqcp2024_2024-07-07.pdf).
- Council Member DeLuca led a 30-minute meeting on July 9, where she told the Committee about Town Law § 272-a (see <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/TWN/272-A>).

2. Other Business — (5-0 votes)

- Approved 6/12/2024 & 6/18/2024 meeting minutes and approved bills as presented for audit

Announcements:

- ❖ The 2024 Wheelerville Trails Festival will be August 24 & 25 (<https://wheelervilletrails.com>).
- ❖ Thank you to the Nick Stoner Golf Course Grounds Team—Golf Superintendent Steven Stedman and his crew Kenny Holliday, Paul Kidder, Tim Putman, Tyler Hutchinson, & Brady VanAernam—for excellent work and progress with improving the course playing surfaces.

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

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