

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

January 8, 2025

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

This 2025 annual organizational meeting and monthly meeting was held at Town Hall and via zoom.

Per a consensus of the Town Board, zoom access will no longer be provided for public meetings.

The meeting included executive session followed by Board refusal to fill a Planning Board appointment.

Resolutions / Local Laws: (5-0 votes)

1. Elected Officials —

- Supervisor: Ralph Palcovic
- Council Members: John Glenn, Barbara DeLuca, Richard Sturgess, Matthew Cooper
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/Records Management Officer: Linda Gilbert
- Town Justice: James Subik

2. Organizational Business —

- Financial Institutions: NBT Bank, Key Bank, Community Bank
- Regular Board meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm.
- Supervisor is authorized to invest money, pay fixed bills, pay officials' monthly salaries.
- 2025 Gas Mileage will be \$0.70/mile, and detailed logs shall be submitted monthly.
- Highway Superintendent is authorized to spend within budget up to \$2,000 without Board approval, \$2,001-5,000 with Supervisor approval, and over \$5,000 with Board approval.
- The official newspaper is *The Leader Herald*.
- If an official will be out of town more than 48 hours, the Clerk shall be notified on calendar.
- 2025 Holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, General Election Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day.

3. Appointed Positions —

- Sanitation Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer: Anthony Fancher
- Registrar of Vital Statistics: Linda Gilbert
- Webmaster: Linda Gilbert
- Dog Control: Howard Dutcher
- Health Officer: Howard Dutcher
- Youth Director: Colleen Ricciardi
- Historian: Richard Nilsen
- Building Maintenance Staff: open
- BTI Coordinator: Michael Kunath
- Weed Harvesting Coordinator: Walter Hogan
- Boat Wash and Stewards Coordinator: John Olm
- Recreational Trail Manager: Jeremy Manning
- Sole Assessor: Leigh Anne Loucks
- Golf Course and Clubhouse Manager: Steven Stedman
- Planning Board Chair: Al Kozakiewicz
- Zoning Board of Appeals Chair: Tony Russitano
- Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals: Doug Purcell
- Deputy Town Clerk: Judith Aldinger
- Court Clerk: Thelma Subik
- Bookkeeper/Budget Officer/Highway Secretary: Joanne Young
- Recreational Trails Manager: Jeremy Manning

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- Boat Wash and Steward Coordinator: John Olm
- Alternate Check Signatory: Council Member Rick Sturgess
- Town Attorney: Girvin and Ferlazzo, P.C.

4. Highway Superintendent Appointment —

Appointed Deputy Highway Superintendent Roy Stock as 2025 Highway Superintendent for the unexpired term ending 12/31/2025 with an annual salary of \$57,500. If Mr. Stock does not seek election to the Superintendent position, he will maintain the option to return to the hourly position with the Department he now holds. He will also maintain seniority and retirement benefits.

5. Sole Assessor Changes —

Approved changes to go from an hourly rate to an annual salary with health care benefits. The position has on-call duties to provide tax-payer support, as needed, and hourly costs may exceed the annual costs of the position. Historically, this position was a salaried position, inclusive of health care. There is no impact to the 2025 Budget at this time.

6. Annual Salaries & Hourly Rates —

Town Clerk \$49,440; Registrar \$885; Bookkeeper \$28,706; Budget Director \$3,290; Assessor \$30,000; BTI Director \$16,970; Golf Superintendent \$71,000; Code Enforcement Officer \$59,410; Supervisor \$18,000; Council Members \$3,600; Justice \$22,000; Court Clerk \$9,000; Dog Warden \$5,869; Highway Clerk \$2,412; Recreational Trail Manager \$24,000; Youth Director \$6,230; Youth Lead Teacher \$2,250; WEED Director \$16,000; Boat Wash Coordinator \$2,370; Webmaster \$720; Historian \$800; Deputy Highway Superintendent \$2,318; Highway Superintendent (deferred)

Deputy Clerk \$17.40; Building Maintenance \$18.00; Highway Mechanical Equipment Operator (by contract); Highway Mechanic (by contract); Zoning/Planning Clerk \$10.00; BTI Tech I \$15.50; BTI Tech II \$16.50; Golf Course Laborer I \$16.40; Golf Course Laborer II \$16.90; Pro Shop Manager \$19.00; First-Year Diver \$23.50; Senior Diver \$25.80; Lead Diver \$26.60; Shift Diver \$26.25; First-Year Tender \$15.50; Senior Tender \$16.00; Boat Wash Stewards \$15.50; Summer Youth Recreational \$15.50; Summer Youth Bus Driver (set by school); Summer Youth Lifeguard \$16.50; Head Counselor \$18.00

7. Other Business —

- Approved 2025 contract with the James A. Brennan Humane Society
- Approved West Caroga Lake fireworks display at Caroga Winter Carnival 2/1/2025
- Reappointed Chairmen to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals
- Reappointed Planning Board Member Thomas Wojciechowski until 12/31/2031
- Reappointed ZBA member Jennifer Blowers (contingent on minimum training within 60 days)
- Approved 2025 contract with Fulton County Planning Department
- Approved 12/27/2024 meeting minutes and paying bills as presented for audit

Town Clerk Linda Gilbert reported several "red flag issues": (1) While doing records management, she found an undeposited \$25,750.00 check for the 2014 Fulton County Snow and Ice Contract when Ralph Ottuso was Supervisor, and she seeks to resolve that. (2) No golf course gift certificates are to be issued until reconciled within the point-of-sale system. (3) Code Officer Anthony Fancher has a conflict of interest with his Royal View Campground project ("A substitute Code Officer to work on the Royal View Campground project...is the Board's decision...not the Code Officer's decision...The Code Officer should not select a successor to oversee his own project.") (4) Town Hall has recurring heating failures. ("My office is 67 degrees...I talked to the Code Officer about this numerous times...It has been a problem for several years, and we need to find a solution to it.") Council Member Cooper reported that the Town Board has hired contractors to do repairs at Town Hall.

Announcements:

- ❖ Caroga Winter Carnival will be held January 31 through February 2, 2025 (see 44lakes.com).
- ❖ Thanks to John Byrnes who spent 45 days in NC with USGS and FEMA doing hurricane relief.

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

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