

# ***Caroga News Flash***

## ***Town Board Meeting Highlights***

**February 26, 2025**

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

This special work session began at 3:30 PM and lasted 55 minutes at Town Hall. In attendance were Town Supervisor Ralph Palcovic; Council Members Matt Cooper, Barb DeLuca, and Jack Glen; Town Clerk Linda Gilbert; Highway Superintendent Roy Stock; and two residents.

The meeting focused primarily on the Highway Department Garage and Equipment (see below).

### **Resolutions:**

#### **1. Highway Department — (4-0 vote)**

- The Board authorized Highway Superintendent Stock to contact dealers at Kenworth Trucks and Henderson Products to get current T480 quotes, purchase terms, & delivery timelines.

#### **2. General Business — (4-0 votes)**

- Approved purchasing two \$931.46 laptops from Adirondack Computer Services for the Golf Course and Highway Garage, plus one for the Assessor (not to exceed her \$1,500 budget)
- Approved \$1,300.00 payment for snow plow damages done to a car in a local driveway
- Approved pre-paying E-Z pass charges until other E-Z pass options are explored
- Approved fireworks for the Royal Mountain Cardboard Derby on 3/22/2025 at 7:00PM

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

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### **HIGHWAY GARAGE BUILDING PROJECT**

- The Board discussed the new Highway Garage project at 1913 State Highway 10, with a key focus on updated building site designs from Environmental Design Partnership (EDP).

#### **HIGHWAY GARAGE**

- As noted on 12/11/2024, 2022 “Concept 1” plans improperly sited the garage in wetlands.
- In 2024, the current Town Board contracted with EDP to do wetland assessments and delineations and then to prepare new garage site plans with appropriate wetland setbacks.
- The Board preferred EDP’s “Concept 2” garage site layout (not the “Concept 3” layout).
- Council Member Cooper recommended 44V single phase (not 3 phase) electrical service.
- Questions remain about placement of: (a) well, (b) wastewater, and (c) gas/diesel/oil tanks.
- Supervisor Palcovic will meet with EDP’s Joe Dannible to move the garage design forward.

#### **SALT SHED**

- EDP’s design layouts all require moving the salt shed recently constructed in late 2022.
- New York State DEC and APA Environmental standards require wetland setbacks and building design standards to protect safety of the local watershed and neighboring wells (see <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/saltstoragebldgreccs.pdf> and <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/rock-salt-reduction#reduce> ).
- Code Officer Anthony Fancher oversaw the 2022 salt shed construction. He now reported that he will allow “*storage containers*” for construction “*if they are cosmetically covered.*”
- Supervisor Palcovic underscored needs for more information about the salt shed options.
- Highway Superintendent Stock will talk with Hybrid Building Solutions’ salt shed contractor.

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### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

- Council Member Cooper and Highway Superintendent Stock reported on equipment.
- They described structured plans for equipment repairs, maintenance, and replacements.

### SMALL PLOW & MAINTENANCE TRUCKS

- The 2016 Chevy 3500hd Dump Truck has a broken rear axle and is not movable.
  - Weight issues: This 13,800# capacity truck weighed 22,000# with plow and sand.
  - Repair Cost Estimates: (1) \$51,099.00 remanufacture with labor; (2) \$10,000.00 new parts + in-house labor; (3) \$3,400.00 for used salvage parts + in-house labor.
  - Mr. Cooper recommended either removing from use or repairing with salvage parts.
- The 2024 Ford F-550 truck (17,500# capacity) is in use but does not replace larger trucks.

### LARGE PLOW TRUCKS

- Plans advance lifecycle replacement of large trucks at the Highway Department.
- Trucks #13 and #17 are now 8 to 11 years old, with 10 to 15 year expected lifecycles.
- Mr. Cooper praised maintenance by Cory, our highway department mechanic, but added, “Our big trucks are in deplorable shape mechanically, with one emergency after another.”
- Mr. Cooper and Mr. Stock reviewed paperwork presented to the Town Board, including quotes for trucks by Kenworth, International, and Freightliner (\$130-180,000.00) along with additional quotes and specs for plows, sanders, and salters by Henderson and Viking.
- Caroga now has International (#20) and Freightliner (#13) trucks and Viking plows, but those trucks and plows have had frequent repair issues with high costs over time.
- They noted Kenworth’s performance, power, and value. The County has 2, with 1 on order.
- They emphasized Henderson’s sand/salt spreaders are made of durable stainless steel. They preferred the rear-discharge option. The setup is like those used on New York State trucks, and the State is moving toward standardized mandates for salt use and control. The computerized system setup allows for more accurately measured and controlled salt application, in order to balance snow and ice management with watershed quality goals (see <https://www.adkaction.org/project/reducing-road-salt/> ).
- **While acknowledging uncertainties with budgetary hurdles and tariff impacts, they recommended a purchase plan, according to non-bid State contract, for a new Kenworth T480 Truck with Henderson stainless steel accessories. The preliminary estimate is about \$315,000.00 (\$183,000.00 Kenworth + \$132,000.00 Henderson).**

