

# Caroga News Flash

## Town Board Meeting Highlights

September 24, 2025

<https://TownOfCaroga.com> contains all issues of the *Caroga News Flash*.

This work session at Town Hall began at 6:00 PM and lasted 90 minutes. Council Member DeLuca arrived at 6:15 PM. Discussion focused on the *Town of Caroga 2026 Tentative Budget* ( see *2026 Tentative Budget*: <https://townofcaroga.com/finances/2025-10-07tentative.pdf> ).

### Resolutions & Topics:

#### 1. Call for Bids to Build Golf Storage and Maintenance Building at 1795 State Highway 10

- The Board voted 4-0 to approve going out for bid to construct the Town of Caroga's Golf Storage and Maintenance Building at 1795 State Highway 10.
- PE Darrin Romeyn DMR Engineering did 2025 engineering design specs for the concrete slab & enclosed pole barn (see [https://townofcaroga.com/notes/2025\\_caroga\\_pole\\_barn.pdf](https://townofcaroga.com/notes/2025_caroga_pole_barn.pdf) ).
- From the date of bid award, a 90-day timeline is required for completion (i.e., 01/06/2026).
- Construction bids will be accepted until Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 3:00 PM.
- **A bid award will be selected at 7:15 PM at the monthly meeting on October 8, 2025.**

#### 2. Town of Caroga October 2025 Account Balances

- Fund Balance: \$250,000 (To be used and depleted in 2026 with almost none for 2027)
- Unassigned General Account: \$1,430,165.00
- Reserve CD Savings Account: \$2,075,983.00 (Includes Clubhouse Insurance Revenue)

#### 3. Town of Caroga 2026 Tentative Budget

| Proposed Tentative 2026 Budget Tax Rate Schedule Summary |                             |                    |                                           |                             |                        |                            |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| FUND                                                     | Appropriations Adopted 2026 | Less Est. Revenues | Less Fund Balance & Appropriated Revenues | Amount to the raised by tax | Taxable Assessed Value | 2025 Tax Rate per Thousand | 2026 Tax Rate Per Thousand |
| General Townwide                                         | \$2,135,855                 | \$1,721,869        | \$164,167                                 | \$249,819                   | \$164,354,942          | \$1.53                     | <b>\$1.52</b>              |
| Highway Townwide                                         | \$1,434,100                 | \$268,500          | \$250,143                                 | \$915,457                   | \$164,354,942          | \$5.42                     | <b>\$5.57</b>              |
| Fire Contract                                            | \$256,017                   | 0                  | \$58,907                                  | 197,110                     | \$167,110              | \$0.98                     | <b>\$1.18</b>              |
| Fire Truck Purchase                                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0                                         | 0                           |                        | 0                          | 0                          |
| TOTALS                                                   | \$3,825,972                 | \$1,990,369        | \$473,217                                 | \$1,362,386                 | \$1,362,386            | \$7.93                     | <b>\$8.27</b>              |

*New York State's property tax cap limits levy growth at either 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. An exception allows a tax cap override by Town Board majority vote.*

Several specific items are notable in the 2026 Tentative Budget, as initially proposed.

- **The Board proposes raising the Highway Superintendent salary to \$70,200 in 2026.**  
This \$70,200 Highway Superintendent Salary would be the highest in Fulton County.  
The County median is \$54,000 and range is \$41,500 (Stratford) to \$70,000 (Johnstown).  
Historically, Caroga's Highway Superintendent budgeted salary was \$51,500 in 2023, \$60,000 in 2024, and then dropped back to \$51,500 for 2025 after Mr. Voght resigned.  
The 01/08/2025 *Caroga News Flash* reported the Board set Mr. Stock's 2025 salary at \$57,500, but 01/08/2025 official Town Minutes reported a \$67,500 salary (not \$51,500).
- **Per Teamsters Union contract, Highway employees will receive a 4% annual raise.**

# ***Caroga News Flash***

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

- **Per Town Board proposal, some other employees have a tentative 4% annual raise.**
  - Those with a **4% annual raise** include: **Golf Superintendent** (\$72,420), **Code Officer** (\$61,787), **Town Clerk** (\$51,417), **Golf Cart Storage Contractor** (\$42,000), **Assessor** (\$31,200), **Bookkeeper** (\$29,855), **Youth Director** (\$25,000), **Town Justice** (\$22,880), **Deputy Town Clerk** (\$10,000), **Court Clerk** (\$9,360), **Budget Director** (\$3,422), **Highway Secretary** (\$2,510), **Supervisor Secretary** (\$1,500), **Webmaster** (\$750)
  - Those with **NO annual raise** include: **Golf Club Manager** (\$26,000), **Trail Manager** (\$24,000), **Town Hall Maintenance** (\$19,000), **Supervisor** (\$18,000), **BTI Supervisor** (\$17,480), **Invasive Species Director** (\$16,000), **Dog Control Officer** (\$5,869), **Town Board Member** (\$3,600), **Youth Recreation Staff** (\$3,600 Total for all Youth Staff), **Boat Wash & Stewards Coordinator** (\$2,370), **Planning Clerk** (\$2,000), **Zoning Clerk** (\$1,400), **Substance Compliance Officer** (\$1,000), **Assessment Review Board Members** (\$1,000 Total for all BAR Members), **Registrar** (\$885), **Historian** (\$800)
  - Many of Caroga's Programs are run by local volunteers who donate time and resources.
- **Tentative changes are made to specific General Townwide budget items.**
  - Proposed Comprehensive Planning Grant balances \$130,500 in Expenses & Revenues.
  - Contractual Engineering Planning for Town Buildings is maintained at \$100,000.
  - Nick Stoner Golf Course Expenses and Revenues increase across budget lines.
  - Recreation Project Budget for trails decreases to \$109,000 with less grant revenues.
  - Lake Management Environmental Control decreases to \$137,970 with fewer divers.
  - Lake Management C/E line increases from \$36,000 to \$66,400 for lake mapping.
- **Basic Highway Department budget increases include multiple areas.**
  - Additions include the Capehorn Bridge Replacement Contractual Expense of \$87,500.
  - The new highway truck adds annual bond principal and interest expenses of \$50,000.
  - Traffic control sign funds increase from \$2,500 to \$10,000.
  - Road Repair Personal Services increase from \$172,000 to \$200,000.
  - Snow removal Personal Services increase from \$185,000 to \$205,000.

#### **4. 2026 Fire Contract**

- With the Town Board not approving a 2026 Fire District, the Board maintains jurisdiction.
- Brian McIntosh of the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company presented to the Board and answered questions about the proposed budget, expenses, equipment, and vehicles.
- The proposed 2026 contract goes to \$256,017, with a one-time \$58,907 revenue offset.
- **The proposed 2026 Fire Contract Tax Levy is \$1.18 per thousand assessed value.**

*This remains below that of other nearby volunteer fire companies (e.g., Ephratah \$1.93, Pleasant Square \$2.26, Meco & Town of Johnstown \$3.33), and Mr. McIntosh noted that Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company has maintained lean budgets that are well below other companies largely because volunteers donate time and offset costs.*
- Town Board members asked the Volunteer Fire Company to tighten the proposed budget.

#### **5. Next Budget Meeting**

- The next budget work session will be Tuesday October 7 starting at noon.
- The next step will be to move from the 2026 Tentative Budget to the Preliminary Budget.