

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

June 9, 2021

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This monthly meeting lasted 118 minutes at Town Hall and via zoom. The next meeting is June 28 10:00am.

Supervisor Horton reviewed a dual-purpose Golf Club House and Town Hall building concept. He asked, "What kind of savings can we have with a separate Golf Club House versus a dual-use building?"

- Note that prior and current Town Hall engineering reports have flagged multiple issues: leaking roof, rotting joists, active mold, friable asbestos, poor ventilation, old pipes, failing heat system, and handicap-access noncompliance. In 2010, a prior Board proposed a \$999,000.00 Town Hall replacement project, but voters rejected it. Now we are stuck, throwing good money after bad. Building inefficiencies mean almost \$20,000.00 energy bills every year, and costly repair needs grow increasingly urgent. Yet, as the Town recovers from the Golf Club House fire, we now have a new opportunity to rebuild.
- According to design experts, a dual-purpose building could save the Town more than a million dollars by sharing costs of the septic, foundation, parking, heating, bathrooms, meeting space, maintenance costs, and energy needs. With a 25-35% larger space, a dual-use building could incur costs but also cut costs. Initial tax impact estimates might be around \$30-40 per household, and voter approval is needed for bond financing. Overall, Town finances are strong with a sizeable fund balance, increased tax revenues, and fire insurance money. We have one shot. Now we need a focused target cost and a clear building plan.

Resolutions / Local Laws:

1. **Dual-Purpose Golf Club House and Town Hall Proposal** — The Board voted to authorize the Supervisor to go to the Phinney Design Group architects to develop an alternate Golf Club House plan to include Town Hall facilities and to report back to the Board for more discussion (5-0 vote).
2. **Golf Course** —
 - Provided gift certificates for two 18-hole greens fees with carts to the Nick Stoner Trailers (5-0 vote)
 - Provided gift certificates for two 18-hole greens fees with carts to the Caroga Arts Collective (5-0 vote)
 - Provided gift certificates for two carts and four greens fees to the Caroga Museum (5-0 vote)
 - Refunded \$400.00 for Charles Michaels' annual golf membership, due to health issues (5-0 vote)
3. **Highway Department** —
 - Amended Resolution #2021-051 for excavator to include "with buy out after 10 years for \$1" (5-0 vote)
 - Approved repair of truck used by the Highway Superintendent, not to exceed \$4,000.00 (5-0 vote)
4. **Fulton County Planning** — Gave tentative approval of 2022 Planning Services Agreement for \$1,500.00 with Fulton County Planning for their budgetary planning purposes (5-0 vote)
5. **Holiday Fireworks** — Approved two firework display permits for Pine Lake Park on July 3 and for Canada Lake Conservation Association on July 3 (5-0 votes)
6. **Grant Application** — Agreed to submit a letter of support for the Nick Stoner Trailers DEC grant application for 80% funds to purchase a grooming machine for trails on private lands (5-0 vote)
7. **Building Use Waiver** — Granted a 1-year extension (9/30-21-9/30-22) of nonconforming use waiver for Lakeside Motel (5-0 vote). Councilman Glenn noted an expectation of no extensions beyond 2022.
8. **Town Bills** — Approved bills to be paid as presented for audit (4-0 vote, 1 abstention)
9. **Board Meeting Minutes** — Approved meeting minutes for April 14 (4-1 vote) and May 12 (5-0 vote)

Announcements:

- ❖ **Summer Youth Program** will have two sessions from July 6 to July 23 and July 26 to August 13.
- ❖ **Caroga Fishing Contest** will be held on June 20 on East and West Caroga Lakes.
- ❖ **Caroga Transfer Station** will be closed Monday July 5 in observance of Independence Day.
- ❖ **Wheelerville Bike Trails Grand Opening Event** will be celebrated on August 21, 2021.

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Next Public Meeting:

For pandemic safety precautions, in-person attendance at Town of Caroga meetings is currently limited to 12 members of the public with socially-distanced seating. To enter Town Hall for the next public meeting, you must get a **confirmed advance reservation** from Clerk Linda Gilbert. Others may attend via zoom.

Special Town Board Work Session

Monday, June 28, 2021 10:00am

Join zoom.us or dial 929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 687 640 4445 Passcode: 427903