

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the Regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday December 14, 2016 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 7:00 pm with the following persons in attendance by Roll Call:

Supervisor Beth Morris- Here
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Anthony Sturchio - Here
Council Member Jeremy Manning – Here

Other town department representatives in attendance were Lita Hillier- Budget Director and Secretary to the Supervisor, and Steve Putman – Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Morris noted the loss of a member of our community recently. Bruce Busch was a businessman, Fire Chief for many years, and a former Town Supervisor. A moment of silence was held. Thoughts and prayers were extended to the family at this difficult time.

A presentation from students of PTECH on the Sherman's property.

Mr. **Michael Lamaster** introduced the students who were going to make presentations this evening. The school is similar to a regional high school. The students will earn a high School diploma and credits toward collage simultaneously. They learn through project based learning. The students used the proposal process for the Sherman's redevelopment to learn the economic and business side of this assignment. Another teacher incorporated the environmental side of it. The students came up with their ideas and vision for this site.

After some technical difficulty the board decided to move forward with the meeting until they were resolved.

Supervisor Morris on behalf of the board wished everyone a happy and merry holiday and a very happy and healthy New Year.

The **Public** portion of the meeting was opened for comments.

Mary Lou Patterson spoke on behalf of the Nick Stoner Seniors – The council is invited to stop in at their holiday luncheon at noon next Tuesday.

Public speaking was closed.

Department Reports:

Assessor: No report but a reminder that the Enhanced STAR forms are due back by March 1st.

BTI: No Report

Clerk/Tax Collector – Mrs. Gilbert noted the need to place a notice of claims for the year 2016 in the newspaper. I am working on the town directory and with Time Warner to get new email addresses for the board. Information on the boat wash station and lake steward program will be added to the directory. Additional information on building permits will be included in 2017.

A date of December 27, 2016 was set for all claims against the town to be submitted to the town for payment. The board set December 29th at 7:30 pm for their yearend meeting.

Code Enforcement/ Sanitation & Blight – Mr. Duesler gave Supervisor Morris his report. He conducted 29 inspections for the month of November. The attorney is drawing up a letter to be sent to property owners with unsafe structures. There are a total of 6 as of now. Letters are being sent out on blight and he is getting compliance.

Dog Control: No Report. The clerk noted there are dog owners who have not renewed their dogs licenses and are delinquent. Tickets need to be issued by the DCO.

Golf Course: No Report

Highway: Mr. Putman received paperwork from The Dept. of Transportation on the study that was conducted to reduce the speed limit in certain areas. On RT 10 & 29A by the school the 40 mph will be extended to the south. On S. Shore East 300 ft. beyond the school the speed limit will be 15 mph, the remainder of the road is 25 mph. Mr. Putman asked DOT to reduce the speed limit on several roads in town to 15 mph however that won't happen unless there is a church, or school. Kasson Drive was one of the roads without a legitimate speed limit. It had been 55 mph - now it is 25 mph. Pine Lake Road in its entirety is 25 mph. Green Lake Road is 25 mph. East Shore Road of West Caroga is 25 mph. That road was 55 mph during the winter. Now it is 25 mph year round. The law enforcement agencies have been notified. The state will post the state roads. The town will post the town roads.

Mr. Putman has been working with the state to get street signs on the streets in town that intersect with the state highway. He wants them to do all the roads. This would be a savings to the town and we would have better signage.

The board members were encouraged by Mr. Putman to visit the new Town of Johnstown salt storage building. We could use that size so the sand and salt could be placed in it. Now the sand behind the barn freezes. We cannot mix the two and store it outside as we are in the APA he noted. Mr. Bradt would help the town pave under the salt storage shed. He has a larger machine. They saved 2/3 of the cost of the base by doing it themselves. We can use their blueprints. Mr. Putman has had the state on site to check for wetlands. They were marked. The property by the cell tower is good to go. The cost of the structure did not include the base. He has talked to a couple of the neighbors with positive results. He would like a public meeting on this also eventually.

The clerk noted that recently she was at a meeting in Buffalo with the USDA on rural Development. They have funding for low interest loans and grant money for salt sheds. The Town Supervisor was given a packet of information.

Mr. Putman is working on “NO PARKING” signs for all the roads. There is no parking during the winter on any town roads. Illegally parked vehicles delay winter maintenance – plowing and sanding. The Sheriff and state police will be called. The ban was advertised in the newspaper.

Mr. Putman has a man out with a blown out knee. He may need someone to fill in. Already this year we have more plowing time in than all of last year. It would be a safety issue if he had plows he could not run because he does not have the help.

The highway superintendent asked the board to accept the bid for the obsolete truck bed. Nothing else was bid on so the other two items will be scrapped. He will use the brake cans.

The Garbage truck bid on Auctions International was \$13,500.00. He was not at the last meeting where a minimum of \$15,000.00 was set. He suggested accepting the bid.

He was asked to stay for an executive session this evening.

The technical matters were resolved and commercials were shown of the student’s vision for the Sherman’s property. A brief question and answer session was held on each idea.

The presentations were as follows:

Idea 1 – Sherman’s Point Musical Marina, there would be boat rentals, bait and tackle shop,

Idea 2 Vintage Restaurant - similar to Johnny Rockets

Idea 3 Hotel, Small Café, & activity center

Idea 4 Caroga Hangouts with Café, convention center, BINGO, things for all ages

Supervisor Morris thanked the presenters and teachers. She thanked Kent Kirsch and Jeremy Manning for going to the school and talking to the students. Their next project they will do is to design and test medieval armor.

Lake Steward program: No report

Town hall Building: No report

Weeds: No report

Youth: No report, after the first of the year Supervisor Morris will begin revamping the youth program. She wants to find an aquatics director for the program. Then the kids can be back in the water more than one day a week.

Sherman’s Advisory committee: Kent Kirsch thanked the board for giving the students time to do their presentations tonight. It was a great opportunity for them. Members of the committee heard about 24 presentations in all. He is happy to report the committee received a proposal on the Sherman’s property on December 1st. It is from the Caroga Arts Collective. It was a first draft. The committee gave Kyle Price feedback on it. He will be working with his group to revise the proposal and resubmit it by December 31st. The committee will schedule a meeting in

January to review the submitted proposal. Generally the proposal had interesting concepts. Mr. Kirsch noted it was not in the template approved by the board for submission. He commented that generally there was not enough information, especially financial, to assess it properly. Essentially it was a proposal to operate the property for the town. Because we did not market the property there weren't any other proposals at this time.

Mr. Hamilton noted a video on line showing the property for sale at \$1.5 million. Council Member Manning stated no one authorized this advertising. Cushman Wakefield did draw up a marketing proposal but no one approved moving forward with it. The video had 3700 views. Mr. Sturgess was concerned that information was being given on property that is not for sale. He stated the property was donated to his kids. He was amazed at the student's ideas. He wondered if his kids would ever have access to the property. Supervisor Morris confirmed that the town is not marketing the property. She stated there are legal issues that have to be cleared up, if the board decides to market it. The video is not legitimate.

Mr. Long commented that the town can't sell it unless the voters approve it.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Morris stated she is the fourth person to be in this seat in one year. It is a lot for the town to go through. She is hoping they can come together as a town and a board and move forward. She wants to do what is right for the town and values the public's opinion.

Lifetime Benefits – this issue has been brought to her attention the last several months. No resolution will be made tonight. She has to meet with Mrs. Hillier. She knows many residents are concerned about this issue. Those employed by the town now are grandfathered in. When this was first implemented health insurance was cheap. That is not the way it is now.

Volunteer members/residents that contact state agencies – there is a problem with the state agency discussing issues with the public and then when a town representative calls them they have to relay the same information again. She asked that when a member of the public calls the state to let a board member know. They will lose patience with us. Council Member Glenn noted they cannot represent themselves as being from the Town. Council Member Manning stated we could not demand that. It is everyone's right to speak to whom they want to speak with. If a specific project is being worked on – like the weed program or invasive species she just asked that a board member be contacted.

Test Gym for Mold - Supervisor Morris noted the clerk did not feel well today. The gym was being aired out and warmed for possible use for this evening's meeting due to the anticipated number of attendees. The clerk could not catch her breath and went to the clinic to be checked. After about an hour of fresh air from an open office window her symptoms subsided. The health officer will be contacted to have more tests done. This matter cannot be tabled as people working in the building are getting sick.

Ameri-Gas contacted town about the propane tank on the Sherman's property. Mr. Abdella is no longer paying the fee for the propane tank that sits on the property. At the end of the meeting Supervisor Morris will propose a resolution to have the tank removed. The fee is \$250.00 to have the tank per year if no propane is purchased.

The Supervisor set up Liaisons with the various departments:
Supervisor Morris - Golf Course, Youth, Town clerk, Assessor
Council Member Manning – Code/Building,
Council Member Glenn – Blight, Weeds, Lake Steward
Council Member Sturchio - Highway

Old Business: NYS DOT completed engineering speed limit study results – discussed under highway.

New Business:

Council Member Sturchio had requested the need to fill the vacant council seat be on the agenda. Supervisor Morris asked the board members to come up with a short list of 3 names each. Council Member Manning asked if there was going to be an official process to do this. Council Member Sturchio thought there should be 5 board members. If someone were appointed they would be appointed for one year and run on the ballot in 2017. A formal announcement could be made for interested parties to submit a letter of interest. The Association of Towns suggested that. It will be discussed at the next board meeting. This could be placed on the town's Facebook page. Council Member Manning thought this could be controversial. Supervisor Morris thought it should be left to the voters. Council Member Manning is concerned with the legitimacy of putting someone in the seat and the credibility of an appointment. Council Member Glenn was ok with waiting. It was noted there will be four seats up on the board in 2017.

Mr. Putman wanted a 5th person so there is representation. He thought the person who applies should not have a personal agenda. Many people do – that is no good for anybody.

Appointment of Weed director – After Jack DeWeese retired another person was hired. We are moving in a different direction. Gene Centi has indicated an interested in the program.

A job title and hours for Jennifer Blower – will be discussed in executive session.

A resolution will be made to set the reorganizational meeting.

Correspondence:

- 1) Transfer Station Hours Holiday Hours: Open 12/24 and Tuesday 12/27 CLOSED Monday 12/26 & 1/2/2017
- 2) Announcement of Single-stream recycling Kick off March 1st 2017 – The clerk received the following information. Residents will need to provide their own container 35- gallon max & not filled with more than 50 pounds. It must have a lid. No more plastic bags* no more sorting. Solid Waste will mail instructional brochure and stickers to residents who have curbside pickup.
* Shredded paper can be in a clear plastic bag tied up. Everything will go in one bin including cardboard.

RESOLTUIONS:

RESOLUTION#2016-132 to authorize payment for 3 BTI Technician Licenses was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, John Delesky program director has indicated a need to pay for the licenses of his 3 applicators for the Black Fly Program, and **WHEREAS**, the cost of each license is \$450.00, now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve the payment of 3 BTI technician licenses at \$450.00 each. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION#2016-133 to accept the bid for obsolete equipment was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, Steve Putman – Highway Superintendent indicated there were three pieces of obsolete equipment to be disposed of at the Highway Department, and **WHEREAS**, an ad was placed in the Leader Herald newspaper on November 17, 2016, and **WHEREAS**, one bid was opened on Tuesday November 29, 2016 from Sharon Stock for the Truck bed with a bid of \$500.00, Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the sole bid from Sharon Stock 144 Shawn Drive Caroga Lake NY. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION#2016-134 to have Ameri -Gas remove Tank was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, the Town Clerk was contacted by Ameri- Gas about a large propane tank located on the Sherman's property, and **WHEREAS**, the board discussed removing the tank as the town was not using it, Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to have the fuel tank removed from the Sherman's property as soon as the weather allows. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturchio.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION#2016-135 to Appoint Gene Centi as the Weed Harvesting coordinator was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, the board discussed hiring a weed harvesting coordinator for the upcoming season, and **WHEREAS**, Gene Centi of 218 S. Shore Road East Caroga has expressed an interest in the program, Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to appoint Gene Centi of 218 S. Shore Rd East Caroga Lake as the Weed Harvesting Coordinator for the upcoming season. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturchio.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION#2016-136 to set the Reorganizational meeting for 2017 was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board

held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, the board discussed earlier in the meeting setting the reorganizational meeting, now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to hold the reorganizational meeting on Wednesday January 4th 2017 at 7:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Manning.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION#2016-137 to pay Beth Morris as Council Member until 11/15/16 and as Supervisor until 12/31/2016 was offered by Council Member Glenn at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, Beth Morris served as a council member on the Town Board up until 11/15/2016 and, **WHEREAS**, Beth Morris will serve as Supervisor of the Town Board from 11/16/2016 until December 31, 2016. Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to pay Beth Morris the appropriate salary for the capacity in which she will serve until the end of the year.

Discussion: Beth Morris stated she was going to waive the supervisor salary but the county has paid her as a supervisor since November 16, 2016 the town has to coincide with the County.

Seconded by Council Members Sturchio & Manning

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION #2016-138 to accept the St. Mary's Employee Assistance Program contract was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, the town received the EAP contract which covers the 12 full time town employees at \$15.00 per person, and **WHEREAS**, the total cost is \$180.00 paid biannually to St. Mary's Healthcare at 430 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam NY 12017 (518) 843-0503, Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to have Supervisor Morris sign the agreement and does hereby accept the contract with St. Mary's EAP.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

RESOLUTION#2016-139 to accept and amend the bid for the sale of the Garbage Truck was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, Steve Putman – Highway Superintendent indicated that the 2004 International Garbage truck with 161,842 miles on it was obsolete and was to be disposed of, and **WHEREAS**, the truck was put out to bid on Auctions International 11167 Big Tree Road East Aurora NY 14052 and **WHEREAS**, the high bidder was Joel Santana Candy Auto Group LLC 330-E. Commerce St. Ste. 228 Bridgton NJH 08302 with a bid of \$13,500.00, Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the bid and be it further **RESOLVED**, that resolution #2016-130 to set

the bid at \$15,000.00 is hereby be amended to accept the bid of \$13,500.00. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturchio.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

Supervisor Morris made a motion to waive the reading of the November meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Manning. The motion was accepted unanimously.

At 8:42 pm Supervisor Morris made a motion to enter into an executive session for pending litigation and to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, Council Member Manning seconded the motion all board members were in favor of the motion.

At 9:27 Supervisor Morris made a motion to exit from the executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn; all board members were in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION #2016-140 to ratify the hiring of Victoria Hayner as Assessor was offered by Supervisor Morris at the December 14, 2016 regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held at Caroga town hall. **WHEREAS**, the board discussed in executive session the terms of employment and the salary, now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to hire Victoria Hayner at a salary of \$24,500.00 with the set hours of her office as 8 am – 2 pm on Tuesdays. The motion was seconded by Council Member Manning.

Adopted by a vote of 4 Ayes, Morris, Glenn, Sturchio, Manning

The Clerk gave the Supervisor information on the local law to change grievance day in the town of Caroga. The Supervisor will discuss the date for the annual meeting of the grievance board in 2017 with the assessor. The clerk explained how the previous law was set up as the previous assessor worked for multiple towns also.

Supervisor Morris made a motion to pay the bills as presented of audit and to accept the minutes of the November 2nd, 9th 16th and 21st meetings. Council Members Glenn and Manning seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

At 9:32 pm Supervisor Morris made a motion to adjourn. Council Members Glenn & Manning seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert, RMC, CMC
Caroga Town Clerk

General #372 – 413 \$28,649.75, Highway #200 – 215 \$10,487.84m Prepaid #157 – 190 \$284,901.24