

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

August 13, 2025

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

This monthly meeting at Town Hall began at 6:30 PM and lasted 111 minutes, with 20 minutes in executive session. Twenty-one residents attended.

Supervisor Palcovic reported on Town contracts and projects.

- **The Southern Adirondack Fire District will not materialize this year.**
 - ✓ The Town received a letter terminating the exiting fire contract effective 12/31/2025.
 - ✓ The Town and Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company will renegotiate a 2026 contract.
- **The Board has delayed delivery of bike trails for grant-funded contractual obligations.**
 - ✓ The Supervisor met with DEC Region 5 Forester about the Trails Grant Contract.
 - ✓ The Supervisor seeks to prioritize and build an alternate phase 2 wild pass trail on the NYS "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve that requires a DEC Shaker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP) amendment with an unknown long-term time frame.
 - ✓ By focusing on exclusive golf access disagreements instead of community grant contract obligations, the Town Board and Golf Superintendent have delayed approval and delivery of the phase 1 Wheelerville-Caroga Connector Trail along the edge of the golf course, thereby risking grant contract default and jeopardizing all external funding.
- **The Board is advancing phase two redesigns for rebuilding the Golf Clubhouse.**
 - ✓ CT Male completed geotechnical analyses, subsurface testing, and a site report.
 - ✓ Next steps are civil/structural engineering, architectural system, and wastewater system.
 - ✓ Major questions remain about how to build grant capacity to bridge project funding gaps.
- **Supervisor Palcovic spoke with the Fulton County Sheriff's Department about road safety.**
 - ✓ Residents remain concerned about unlicensed golf carts and ATVs on public roadways. Both Town and County officials agree, "Recklessness will not be tolerated in the Town of Caroga."
 - ✓ On 8/5/2025, Sheriff Giardino endorsed DOT reconfiguration strategies to improve road safety.
- **Officials are revising the Town of Caroga Employee Handbook to bring policies up to date.**
 - ✓ A draft document is currently available with the Town Clerk for review and comments.
 - ✓ The Town Board will hold a work session on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Resolutions:

1. Golf Course — (5-0 vote)

- The Board approved \$215,300.00 contract with CT Male to engage in the next phase of golf clubhouse redesign, including (1) \$99,400.00 for site civil and structural engineering, (2) \$4,500.00 for architectural system programs, and (3) \$6,400.00 for waste water sanitary system and leach filed inspections and designs.
- Approved purchase of a desk top computer for the Golf Pro Shop not to exceed \$1,500.00

2. Town Hall — (5-0 vote)

- Approved \$1730.00 CT Male contract for Certified Industrial Hygienist's emergency Indoor Air Quality Assessment and sampling. All results fell below potential hazard curves.

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- 3. Landfill Inspection** — (5-0 vote)
 - Approved \$7,091.00 CT Male contract for 2026 landfill sampling, analysis, and monitoring.
- 4. Tourism Committee** — (5-0 vote)
 - Approved \$3,850.00 bid with Upstate Transit of Saratoga LLC for 2-day “Kane Mountain Express” Trolley for Fire Tower and Golf Course Land Donation Centennial Celebrations.
- 5. Town of Caroga Planning & Zoning** — (5-0 votes)
 - The Board approved hiring Alyssa Groom as the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Clerk, in accordance with current budgets and personnel policies.
 - The Board accepted, with regret, Karen Dutcher’s Planning Board resignation letter.
 - The Board deferred making an appointment to replace Jennifer Blowers on the ZBA.
- 6. Highway Department** — (5-0 votes)
 - After executive session, approved the current Memorandum of Understanding and Contractual Obligations between the Town of Caroga and Teamsters Local 294.
 - Approved undertaking snow removal and ice control for the 2025-2025 winter on County Roads 111 and 137 for 5.13 miles at \$5,500.00 per mile for \$28,215.00 paid to Town.
- 7. Other Business** — (5-0 votes)
 - Reappointed Assessor Leigh Anne Loucks according to regulation with term to 8/30/2031.
 - Approved 8/30/2025 Majestic fireworks display by Caroga Arts at Sherman’s Park.
 - Approved waiving 30-day waiting period for Mr. Monks’ Liquor by the Lakes Store permit.
 - Approved 7/9/2025 meeting minutes and bills as presented for audit

Announcements & Gratitude:

- * Thank you to all who pulled together to deliver unforgettable 2025 summer events.
- * Thank you to all volunteers who contribute to programs and projects in the Town of Caroga.
- * Thank you to local lake associations for generous donations for lakes management.
- * Thank you for Boat Wash and Highway crews’ collaborations to complete equipment repairs.
- * Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 Caroga Community Survey.
- * Thank you to the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the NYS DOS 2025 Smart Growth Community Planning Grant application proposal aiming to bring in State funding to support Phase 2 of the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Planning Process* in 2026 and 2027.

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