

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

January 8, 2026

TownOfCaroga.com contains all issues of the ***Caroga News Flash***.

This 2026 annual organizational meeting and monthly meeting from 6:30 to 7:10 PM was held at Town Hall with 10 people attending. Current Town of Caroga Elected Officials are as follows:

- **Supervisor:** John (“Jack”) Glenn
- **Council Members:** Richard Sturgess, Matthew Cooper, Kimberly Walker, Greta Frasier
- **Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/Records Management Officer:** Linda Gilbert
- **Highway Superintendent:** Roy Stock
- **Town Justice:** James Subik

Resolutions:

1. Organizational Business — (5-0 vote)

- Financial Institutions: M&T Bank, NBT Bank, Key Bank, Community Bank
- Regular Board meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM.
- Supervisor is authorized to invest money, pay fixed bills, pay officials’ monthly salaries.
- 2026 Gas Mileage will be \$0.725/mile, and detailed logs shall be submitted monthly.
- Highway Superintendent is authorized to spend in accordance with the Town Procurement Policy and within specified budget allocations up to \$2,000 without Board approval, \$2,001-5,000 with Supervisor approval, and over \$5,000 with Town Board approval.
- The official newspaper is *The Leader Herald*.
- If an elected official will be out of town more than 48 hours, the Clerk shall be notified.
- 2026 Holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, General Election Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day.

2. Town Attorneys — (5-0 vote)

- Girvin and Ferlazzo, P.C.

3. Deputy Supervisor — (5-0 vote)

- Created the position of Deputy Supervisor with a newly-defined salary of \$15,000.00 (A1220.51) by reallocating funding from A1010.41 Grant Writer C/E \$10,000.00.

4. Appointed Positions — (5-0 vote)

- Deputy Supervisor: Council Member Rick Sturgess
- Alternate Check Signatory: Council Member Rick Sturgess
- Registrar of Vital Statistics: Linda Gilbert
- Webmaster: Linda Gilbert
- Dog Control: Howard Dutcher
- Health Officer: Howard Dutcher
- Youth Director: Colleen Ricciardi
- Historian: Richard Nilsen
- Building Maintenance Staff: Mike Voght
- BTI Coordinator: Michael Kunath

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- Aquatic Invasive Species Weed Coordinator: (open)
 - Boat Wash and Stewards Coordinator: John Olm
 - Recreational Trail Manager: Jeremy Manning
 - Sole Assessor: Leigh Anne Loucks
 - Confidential Secretary to the Town Supervisor:
 - Golf Course and Clubhouse Manager: Steven Stedman
 - Planning Board Chair: Al Kozakiewicz
 - Zoning Board of Appeals Chair: Tony Russitano
 - Alternates to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals: (open)
 - Deputy Town Clerk: Judith Aldinger
 - Second Deputy Town Clerk: Alyssa Groom
 - Court Clerk: Thelma Subik
 - Bookkeeper/Budget Officer/Highway Secretary: Joanne Young
 - Boat Wash and Steward Coordinator: John Olm
- 5. Sanitation & Code Enforcement Officer** — (4-0 vote with Greta Frasier abstaining)
- Anthony Fancher
- 6. Annual Salaries** — (5-0 vote)
- **2026 Budget:** https://townofcaroga.com/finances/2025-10-22_2026-adopted-budget.pdf
 - Golf Superintendent \$72,420; Highway Superintendent: \$70,200; Code Enforcement Officer \$61,787; Town Clerk \$51,417; Justice \$22,880;
 - Supervisor \$18,000; Deputy Supervisor \$15,000; Town Council Members \$3,600;
 - Assessor \$31,200; Bookkeeper \$29,855; Golf Manager \$26,000; BTI Director \$17,480; Recreational Trail Manager \$24,000; Aquatic Invasive Species Weed Director \$16,000
 - Court Clerk \$9,360; Youth Director \$6,400; Dog Warden \$5,869; Budget Director \$3,422; Deputy Highway Superintendent \$2,510; Highway Secretary: \$2,510; Boat Wash Coordinator \$2,370; Youth Lead Teacher \$2,300; Supervisor Secretary: \$1,500
 - Substance Compliance Officer \$1,000; Registrar \$885; Historian \$800; Webmaster \$750
- 7. Hourly Rates** — (5-0 vote)
- Highway Mechanical Equipment Operator (by contract); Highway Mechanic (by contract);
 - DASH Lead Diver \$27.00; DASH Senior Diver \$26.50; DASH First-Year Diver \$23.50; DASH Shift Diver \$26.75; DASH First-Year Tender \$16.00; DASH Senior Tender \$16.50;
 - Zoning/Planning Clerk \$20.00; Deputy Town Clerk \$18.10; Town Hall Building Maintenance \$18.00; Confidential Secretary to Supervisor \$18.00; Human Resources \$18.00; Town Clerk 2 \$16.25; Codes Secretary \$16.00;
 - Pro Shop Manager \$19.00; Golf Course Laborer II \$17.50; Golf Course Laborer I \$16.90;
 - Summer Youth Recreation Head Counselor \$18.50; Summer Youth Lifeguard \$17.00; Summer Youth Recreation \$16.00; Summer Youth Bus Driver (set by school)
 - BTI Tech II \$17.00; BTI Tech I \$16.00; Boat Wash Stewards \$16.00
 - Position levels (e.g., Laborer I and II; BTI Tech I and II) are defined as they were in 2025.

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8. Planning Board Appointments —

- John Ivancic was reappointed to a 7-year Planning Board term to 12/31/2032 (5-0 vote).
- Art Wadsworth was appointed for a 1-year term as Alternate to the Planning Board (5-0 vote).
- Note was made that Town Law § 272-a requires the Comprehensive Plan Committee to include “*one or more members of the planning board,*” and request was made for one of the seven current Comprehensive Plan Committee members to serve as an Alternate Member.
- Local Law 2005-1 provides for 2 Alternates: https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_2005_1.pdf .

9. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Appointments —

- The Town Board debated ongoing controversies involving the Town of Caroga ZBA, and they heard input from current ZBA Chair Tony Russitano, who endorsed Scott Horton to serve.
- Council Member Greta Frasier recused herself from votes about ZBA appointments, stating, *“I recuse my vote for the ZBA to be transparent about my relationship with the Town Code Enforcement Officer ... I have spoken with the Association of Towns and Town Attorney, and there is a conflict of interest in the Common Law... In the long run, if there is a conflict between the Code Office and the ZBA, it could come back against the Town, because I did or did not vote to put somebody on that Board. I don’t feel at this point that we should set the Town up for any more litigation. That is my personal opinion, and I will recuse myself from this vote.”*
- In a 2-2 vote, the Town Board did not approve the appointment of Scott Horton to the ZBA.
- The Board voted 4-0 to reappoint Pat Cooper to the ZBA for 5-year term to 2030, with the caveat that she must comply with required training in 30 days (noting no training for 2 years).
- In 2025 Doug Purcell served as ZBA Alternate and Comprehensive Plan Committee Member, and he was a prior ZBA Chair. When Mr. Russitano and the Town Board suggested keeping Mr. Purcell as an Alternate (rather than the voting member), he said, “I respectfully decline.”
- The Board also discussed possibly appointing Jeff McGillis, but tabled the issue for now.
- Terms and duties for the ZBA Alternate Member are defined by the *Town of Caroga Zoning Ordinance* Article 11, § I(A)(4) (see <https://townofcaroga.com/ordinances/zoning.htm>) and *Local Law 2008-2* (see https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_2008_2.pdf).
- Regarding training for ZBA Members, Town Law § 267(7a), (7b), and (9) provides, *“Each member of the board of appeals shall complete at a minimum, four hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties... To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall have completed the training... Any zoning board of appeals member may be removed for non-compliance with minimum requirements relating to meeting attendance and training.”*

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Announcements:

- ❖ The next Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM.
- ❖ The Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan Committee has secured funding to redevelop the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* with a community process in 2026 and 2027.



https://townofcaroga.com/comprehensive_plan/caroga_grant_award_press_release_01-05-2026.pdf

- ❖ Council Member Greta Frasier is leading planning for the second annual Winter Carnival.



<https://www.44lakes.com/the-caroga-winter-carnival-is-back-for-2026/>