

Caroga News Flash

October 14, 2020 Special Edition

Assemblyman Smullen and NYS Comptroller DiNapoli warned of a massive budget shortfall. This will result in reduced state aid to Caroga. They also warned of reduced sales tax revenue, which is a significant portion of the total revenue of the Town. The Town Supervisor presented a preliminary budget on October 5. This preliminary budget includes the revenue reductions for 2021. Just looking at sales tax revenue and ignoring all other reductions in revenue, the Town is expecting a \$50,000 reduction in revenue.

How should the Town government respond to a significant decrease in revenue?

The Town Supervisor's preliminary budget responds with:

- 47% salary increase for the Town Supervisor.
- 20% salary increase for the Town Clerk.
- 15% salary increases for the other four Town Board members.
- 7% increase for the Superintendent of Highways.
- 600% increase (\$12,000 increase) in "Celebrations".
- 73% cut in the Youth Services salaries for the summer youth program.

These are just some of the highlights of the Town Supervisor's preliminary budget. Nothing is final. Nevertheless, all it takes to adopt this budget is three Town Board members to pass a law to override the NYS Property Tax Cap and then vote on or before November 20 to adopt the budget. The voters have no recourse. This preliminary budget calls for a large increase in your Town property tax. Detailed information on the above numbers and about Caroga finances in general is available at: townofcaroga.com/finances

Other towns are freezing their budgets with no increases whatsoever including no cost of living adjustments.

Whether you support or oppose the Town Supervisor's preliminary budget, now is the time to make your voice heard. One of the few opportunities to make your voice heard before the budget is adopted in November will be the next monthly Town Board meeting on October 14 at 7:00pm. You can voice your concerns during public speaking at the beginning of the meeting. You can also email the Town by visiting TownOfCaroga.com.

The October 14, 7:00pm monthly board meeting will be publicly accessible via Zoom. Join the Zoom meeting with your computer or smartphone at: zoom.us/join,

Or dial (this is a toll call on traditional Frontier landlines in Caroga) +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 821 8597 8254
Passcode: 339514

There will be a work session on October 16 at 9:00am. Details on how to join that meeting will be sent out as part of the Caroga News Flash that will follow the October 14 Town Board Monthly Meeting.

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