

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

November 25, 2020

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This emergency meeting at Town Hall lasted 45 minutes. The Town failed to provide zoom. Councilmember Long participated by public teleconference, with more than 40 connections. The meeting focused on the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse fire on 11/15/20.

To “dispel rumors”, Supervisor Horton started the meeting by announcing, “On the same day that we had the fire, last Sunday, we put together a steering committee. The steering committee consists of: the PLRT Chair Gene Centi, Councilman Sturgess, Golf Pro Steve Jennings, and myself.”

A “Community Survey” inviting public comments (see TownOfCaroga.com/PLRT/NSGC.pdf) noted: “Be assured that the steering committee, that has been working on improvements to the course since the beginning of the year, has redirected its focus on rebuilding the clubhouse. Since the fire, the committee has been in numerous meetings with insurance agents, adjusters, and fire inspectors.”

Resolutions / Local Laws:

- Steering Committee** — The Board voted 4-to-1 to appoint the above 4-person committee, after Councilmember Long noted, “If the Town Board creates a committee, it must be done in open session. I don’t remember such a resolution being made. I certainly was not party to it. And, of course, that committee would also have to keep minutes, etc.” in keeping with Open Meetings Law. Councilmember Long’s proposal to expand the committee to include local experts (Denny Fincke, Chris Rohrs, and Jim Meinhold) received no second. Golf Pro Jennings’ proposal to add Brandon Hemmerich received no action. To clarify the committee’s plans, Mr. Centi insisted, “We’re not redesigning the golf course... We’re building a building.” With post hoc justifications, the Board officially created the advisory committee on 11/25/20 with restricted membership and narrow scope.
- Delegate Negotiators** — The Board voted 4-to-1 to appoint “Supervisor Horton and/or his delegates to be lead negotiators for the architect, engineers, NYMIR insurance, and all other contractors, agents, or consultants for rebuilding the Nick Stoner Clubhouse, with all contractual issues presented to the Board for approval.” The “delegate negotiators” were unnamed. Supervisor Horton said, “I’m not going to spend a penny without Board approval.” Discussion noted that delegating statutory responsibility risks violating Town Procurement Policy and/or NYS General Municipal Law.
- Public Comment Form** — Gene Centi introduced plans to mail the “Community Survey”. The Clerk asked, “How do you have the authority to do a mailing?... It should be a Board decision... You have to do it in the proper manner.” The Supervisor replied, “I disagree.” He insisted no resolution is needed to do mailings or authorize purchasing authority. “The powers I believe are granted to me.”
- Architect** — The Supervisor said, “We had an architect candidate come” (PhinneyDesign.com).
- Land Survey** — The Board voted 5-to-0 to authorize the Supervisor to hire Chris Foss (of FergusonandFoss.com) to do a land survey including boundaries and topography of potential land location sites for designing the new Nick Stoner Golf Clubhouse.

Announcements:

- ❖ At the end of the meeting, Golf Pro Steve Jennings emphasized, “I know a lot of people love golf and love the golf course. We are going to get this golf course open in April, running as smoothly as we can... We’re going to work together to get through this... We’ll move along.”

Next Meeting:

Monthly Board Meeting: Wednesday December 9, 2020 7:00pm (Town Hall & zoom)

Join zoom.us or dial 929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 840 5105 3915 Passcode: 969788

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