

# Caroga News Flash

## Town Board Meeting Highlights

### November 8, 2023 Budget Hearing and Monthly Meeting

[TownOfCaroga.com](http://TownOfCaroga.com) contains all issues of the *Caroga News Flash*.

Hearings for the Tax Cap Override and 2024 Budget began at 5:00 PM and lasted 51 minutes at Caroga Town Hall and via zoom. Twelve citizens participated at Town Hall and eleven via zoom. The November 8 monthly Board meeting followed at 6:00 PM and lasted 114 minutes.

Executive session from 6:35 to 7:50 PM addressed the Assessor's complaint and evidence of improper activity by the BAR Chair at the 2023 Grievance Hearing. By ignoring the Assessor's statutory rights provided by NYS RPTL § 525, Mr. Horton claimed both the BAR Chair and Assessor made errors, referred both for mandatory training, and unilaterally ejected the Assessor from the Board meeting.

Department reports noted that Town of Caroga lakes continue to be exceptionally heavily utilized.

- In 2023, Stewards did 2,866 boat inspections and 255 decontaminations, making Caroga the third busiest in New York State, after only the I-87 Adirondack Northway and Lake George.
- To proactively address local needs and protect the lakes, Marcus Harazin and Walter Hogan have volunteered long hours to organize, write, and submit grant applications to the NYS DEC (\$100,000.00 over 3 years for Steward Inspection and Boat Wash Decontamination and \$100,000.00 over 3 years for Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting and ProcCellaCOR).
- With the grant application, Mr. Harazin secured letters of support from Fulton County Soil and Water, Adirondack Watershed Institute, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Adirondack Park Lakes Alliance, Canada Lake Conservation Association, West Caroga Lake Association, East Caroga Lake Association, Pine Lake Association, Peck's Lake Association, Stoner Lake Association, Pleasant Lake Association, Canada Lake Marine, and Caroga Lake Marina.  
*Letters show town-wide and regional support of stewardship for invasive free waterways.*

#### Resolutions / Local Laws:

1. **Approved Tax Cap Override Local Law and Adopted Final 2024 Budget** — (5-0 votes)
  - The Board approved 11/8/2023 changes with unclear justification: (a) for 75% salary increase for Court Clerk (\$5,150 to \$9,000) and (b) for 100% increase of Fish Stocking (\$1,500 to \$3,000).
  - They refused changes in the \$181,600 Lake Environmental Control Program, by cutting 2024 Boat Wash and Steward personnel (\$23,000) and ignoring requests to maintain 2023 levels (\$26,000).

<b>Tax Rate (Per Thousand)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>1-Year Increase</b>	<b>4-Year Increase</b>
General Townwide	\$1.00	\$1.10	<b>\$1.25</b>	13.6%	25.8%
Highway Townwide	\$4.07	\$5.19	<b>\$5.19</b>	0.0%	27.5%
Fire Contract	\$0.89	\$0.91	<b>\$0.95</b>	4.4%	6.7%
Fire Truck Purchase			<b>\$0.52</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.96</b>	<b>\$7.20</b>	<b>\$7.91</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>

2. **2023 Budget Changes** — Approved the following adjustments for the current year (5-0 votes)

From: A8090.13 Divers/Tenders	\$2,000.00	To: A8090.41 WEED C/E	\$2,000.00
From: A7145.1 Trails P/S	\$ 700.00	To: A7145.41 Trails Merch	\$ 700.00
From: DA5110.1 Gen Rep P/S	\$2,000.00	To: DA5110.4 Gen Rep C/E	\$2,000.00
From: A7180.41 Golf Merch	\$2,000.00	To: A2025.20 Merch Revenue	\$2,000.00

3. **Other Business** —

- Approved submitting US DOT Thriving Communities grant Letter-of-Interest application (4-1 vote)
- Approved minutes of 10/11 budget, 10/11 monthly, and 10/19 special meetings (5-0 vote)
- Approved bills as presented for audit (5-0 vote)

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

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Issue #15– 2023

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### Town of Caroga General Election Results November 7, 2023

Voters elected Ralph Palcovic, Jim Subik, Larry Voght, Matt Cooper, and Rick Sturgess to serve as Town Officials.

Supervisor	Whole Number	REP	IND				Write-In	Blanks
		PALCOVIC	PALCOVIC					
	488	346	34				22	86
Town Justice	Whole Number	REP					Write-In	Blanks
		SUBIK						
	488	365					2	121
Highway Superintendent	Whole Number	REP					Write-In	Blanks
		VOGHT						
	488	325					117	46
Council Member	Whole Number	REP	IND	REP	IND	IND	Write-In	Blank
		COOPER	COOPER	STURGESS	STURGESS	LONG		
	976	276	37	239	19	238	2	165

### Bond Propositions

Voters **approved** the **Town Barn** bond proposition with a vote of “312 Yes” versus “136 No”.

Shall the Town of Caroga be authorized to issue serial general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,000,000 in order to finance the construction of an approximately 4,800 square foot butler style building to be used as a Town barn located at 1913 State Highway 10 in Caroga Lake in the Town of Caroga, Fulton County New York, including site work and the costs incidental thereto?

Voters **disapproved** relocating the **Golf Storage Facility** with a vote of “249 No” versus “192 Yes”.

Shall the Town of Caroga be authorized to issue serial general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$450,000 in order to finance the relation of an existing golf course storage and maintenance facility building by forty feet, the construction of a foundation, and the reconstruction of the approximately 3,360 square foot building located at 1801 State Highway 10, Caroga Lake in the Town of Caroga, Fulton County, New York, including site work and the costs incidental thereto?

**Caroga’s municipal renewal will begin from the ground up with citizens’ investment in transportation infrastructure.**