Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

September 9, 2026

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This monthly meeting began at 6:30 PM and lasted 105 minutes at Town Hall. The meeting was led by Supervisor Jack Glenn. Council Members Rick Sturgess, Matt Cooper, Kim Walker, and Greta Cronin were present, along with Town Clerk Linda Gilbert, Highway Superintendent Roy Stock, and 17 residents.

Supervisor Glenn began with silence for Jack DeWeese, Caroga's first aquatic invasive species director.

Resolutions:

1. **Town of Caroga Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan** — (5-0 vote)
   - Authorized the Consultant Agreement with Highland Planning (https://highland-planning.com).

   WHEREAS, the Town of Caroga was awarded a Smart Growth Community Planning Grant in the amount of $130,500 from the NYS Department of State (2025 CFA # 151664; Contract # C1003602) that requires the Town to provide a $14,500 match (or 10 percent of the $145,000 total project cost); AND

   WHEREAS, the funding supports redeveloping the Comprehensive Plan oriented around Smart Growth principles to drive targeted community reinvestments and reclaim Caroga as a great destination and attractive place to live, by building on community character, recreational assets, environmental stewardship, and downtown revitalization; AND

   WHEREAS, the Town will use the grant funding for consultant services necessary for the coordination of the planning process and preparation of the comprehensive plan; AND

   WHEREAS, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued April 9, 2026 seeking proposals from qualified planning consultant firms to perform program delivery and administrative services; AND

   WHEREAS, the Town received seven (7) responses that were reviewed and evaluated by the Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan Committee; AND

   WHEREAS, after reviewing, evaluating, and interviewing firms, the Committee voted without objection to recommend awarding the Highland team the *Planning Consultant Firm Agreement* for the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan Project*; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

   RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accept Highland Planning's Proposal and Revised Cost Estimate and authorize Supervisor Glenn to execute the Agreement in the amount not to exceed $134,000.00 with the firm and complete any documents necessary to fulfill the NYS Smart Growth Community Planning Grant.

2. **NY Parks Recreational Trails Program Grant Contract** —
   - Noted that the grant contract is in place and construction is underway for the multi-use connecting trail from Wheelerville Bike Park to the south edge of Town-owned property to link to downtown.

3. **Town Hall Maintenance & Energy Costs** —
   - Discussed the Town Clerk's 6-year survey of Town Hall expenses. On average, the Town has spent $13,000 per year on repairs of the heating, pluming, roof, and septic system PLUS about $14,000 per year for heat. Last year, the Town spent more than $80,000 on maintenance and energy.

4. **Summer Youth Program** — (5-0 vote) https://townofcaroga.com/youth/caroga-summer-youth-program-report-09-01-2026.pdf
   - Thanked Colleen Ricciardi & appointed Verna Snell as 2027 Caroga Summer Youth Program Director.

5. **Highway Department** — (5-0 votes)
   - Approved $1,500 to strip the Town parking lot & to mark a crosswalk with signs on East Shore Rd.
   - Accepted the County's Snow Removal Contract with the Town of Caroga.
   - Highway Superintendent Stock said that the new truck (ordered 5/13/25) is expected in Jan. 2027. The Town will pay for the truck with a 10-year borrowing agreement for the highway equipment. They also discussed a possible Reserve account of $60,000 and annual contributions toward trucks.

6. **Lakes Management** —
   - Caroga's Lake Steward Program inspected over 3,000 watercraft during the 2026 season, educating boaters about Clean-Drain-Dry and decontaminated Eurasian Watermilfoil + zebra mussels.
   - On August 4, Ready Scout completed a survey of invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil on Caroga Lakes.
   - The 2024 ProcellaCOR Pilot Treatment Program was highly successful for this lake system, but Eurasian Watermilfoil remains in specific bays and outlet with a full Phase 1 treatment expected.
   - Questions were discussed about creating an $80,000 Reserve Account and/or grant applications.
   - A new 2026 water testing program in the Caroga Lakes and Canada Lakes showed average e. coli well below the NYS recommended 235 CFU/100 mL in water bodies designated for swimming, but e. coli and total coliform levels were above zero and lake water should not be used for drinking.
   - Volunteers have been collaborating to assess water quality of our lakes since 2016. Check it out: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FLSfJV88VmQ3e5WfucY4NTNePVAONW1fENnW0tHabsM/edit?gid=0#gid=0
   - Checkout APIPP's *iMapInvasives* mapping at https://adkinvasives.com/get-involved/report-invasive-species/ .

7. **Building Recreation Infrastructure for Communities, Kids, & Seniors (BRICKS) Grant** — (5-0 vote)
   - Discussed a multi-million grant opportunity with NYS BRICKS: https://www.dasny.org/BRICKS .
   - Approved requesting proposal from Jim Thatcher at C.T. Male to review application eligibility.

8. **Other Town Business** — (5-0 votes)
   - Rescheduled the Fire Contract meeting for 9/15 6PM, and set a Budget Work session for 9/25 2PM.
   - Supervisor Glenn and Council Member Cooper will meet with Broadalbin Officials and W.A. Wilson engineers about their Highway Garage to explore a similar design and construction for Caroga.
   - Tabled finalization of 2026 proposed zoning district amendments for Town-owned parcels (SBL 68.14-1-6, SBL 68.-1-27, SBL 68.-1-26, & SBL 68.-1-27./9999), pending clarification of the APA specification that the Hamlet zoning district cannot extend more than ¼ mile from the highway.
   - Reviewed and approved the $200 request for the 2026 Trunk or Treat Event at Sherman's Park.
   - Approved Town Board meeting minutes for July 8, 15, & 29 and August 12 & 26.
   - Approved paying bills as presented for audit.

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Announcements:

- The Town Board rescheduled their Fire District Meeting for September 15 at 6:00 PM.
- A 2027 Budget Work Session will be held on September 25 at 2:00 PM.
- The next monthly Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 PM (with + work sessions).
- The Lakes Management Committee will meet on October 5 at 5:30 PM at Town Hall.
- The Caroga Tourism Committee will meet with Council Member Cronin on September 21 at Town Hall.
- The Board of Assessment Review has an opening. Send letters of interest to townclerk@caroga.town.
- Thank you to Caroga's Highway Department crew for painting and improving the Highway Garage!
- Thank you to the team at the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course for a strong 2026 season!
- Thank you to all who contribute to make the Caroga Summer Youth Program so special!
- Thank you to all who help fight black flies and mosquitos in Caroga with the Town Bti Program!
- Thank you to all who contribute to Caroga's Lakes Management Program to protect our lakes!
- Thank you to all who helped make the 5th Annual Wheelerville Bike Festival the biggest event yet!
- Check out the 2026 family-friendly Halloween Celebrations at Sherman's Park: https://carogaarts.org .





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