

MINUTES OF THE SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF THURSTON HELD MARCH 19, 2025, AT 6:00PM AT THE TOWN SHOP LOCATED AT 4525 COUNTY ROUTE 24, CAMERON MILLS, NY.

Present: Safety Committee Members:

Michael Volino, Noel Sylvester, Diana Dixon, Ben Smith, Randy Akins

Visitors: Jeff Sweeney, Sam Dick, Nick Nolton, Marge Taft,

Michael Volino called the meeting to order and said we were meeting at the Town Shop so Ben Smith could show us the condition of their equipment, explain why it is being replaced, and explain what some of their upcoming projects are.

Ben gave those present a tour of the shop and showed them the new lights, new overhead doors, and said that the floor was being cleaned for painting to protect it from salt and sand. He noted a PERMA inspection had been conducted. PERMA recommended a new electric panel be installed as the current one is getting older and is maxed out. Otherwise, PERMA was happy with the safety upgrades that have been made. New stairs had been installed and the new oil room was completed with a door for fireproofing. Since the door must be kept closed, a heater was added to keep the oil from gelling in the wintertime. The entire shop had a new paint job. He showed them the two wash stations. New tow chains were purchased as well. It was noted that all necessary posters were displayed in the shop. Training requirements were up to date and documented. The shop was clean and there were no trip hazards. It was requested that the temporary cart under one of the eye wash stations be removed so the station would not be blocked.

Next, Ben explained the issues with the old truck. He started by showing a pin that holds the plow blade to the plow frame. The pin was worn and bent, and he noted it had already been replaced in the past. This shows how the steel can break down with handling all the weight that these vehicles carry. The trucks are rusty and getting older and tend to break down more often and are expensive to fix. Randy Akins said new dump boxes had been put on 424 and 426 for the 2nd time (steel boxes) since we have had them and each time cost about 40 – 50 thousand dollars. The chain holders which supply the salt to the spreader are rusting and rotting away. He said the new dumps have a stainless-steel dump body.

Ben showed those present the line-up of old used items going up on the auction site. T 414 (2005) 10 Wheel dump is going up for auction shortly. A new one to replace this is on order and should be here sometime next week.

T424, as noted above, is on its second box and will be the next one that is to be replaced and is a 2001. The Jake brake on this will need extensive repairs at an estimated cost of \$2100. The replacement should be here by the end of 2025.

The grader is 2009 and would need several thousand dollars for repairs to bring it to a safe operating level. We have already spent over 65,000 on repairs about 5 years ago. We are considering various options as far as replacing the grader. Randy gave a demonstration of what the capability of the old grader is and said we need the same for a new one.

Ben said we have allowed our equipment to get too old and the longer we wait to purchase new, the more expensive it will be. We are facing possible tariffs and about \$45,000 extra penalty fee because of the emissions systems on the new vehicles we would need. This year we need DEC approval to order a vehicle without paying a penalty – this option may not be available next year due to Governor Hochul's mandates.

Ben asked those present to remember that we have employee's lives on the line when we ask them to operate equipment that may become unsafe if not replaced.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sue Conklin, Town Clerk