

Minutes of the Thurston Regular Town Board Meeting
Held: Wednesday: December 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: 7578 County Route 333 Thurston, NY

Present: Town Supervisor: Wendy Lozo
Town Council: Paul Peck, Steven Frederick, Sam Gauss
Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr.
Town Attorney: Shawn Sauro
Town DCO Officer: Randy Akins

Absent: Town Council Member: Gary Lewis

Visitors: Tom Ryan, Tom Lozo, Noel Sylvester, Marge Taft, Steve Peck, Holly Akins, Colton Peck

Wendy Lozo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Board opened with the U. S. Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Peck from the Ryan Agency gave a brief overview of the renewal insurance policy of the 2018 coverage.

Public Comment: Tom Ryan stated that he was very pleased at the number of votes he received during the November elections from the registered voters in the Town of Thurston. Marge Taft turned in the results of the December elections of the Thurston Fire District. Noel Sylvester stated that he had contact with the administrator of the Thurston facebook page and she will turn the information over to Gary Lewis that is needed to access that page for future use.

Minutes: Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck to accept and approve the Town Board Meeting minutes dated November 8, 2017. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Paul Peck for Wendy Lozo to pay all claims listed in the General abstracts A206-A230 totaling \$23,466.42 and the Highway abstracts 178-194 totaling \$36,324.39 dated December 20, 2017. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried

Clerk's Report: November 2017 monthly report was presented to the Board. Total deposits for the month were \$822.00. Dolores Crooker stated that she turned in all of the remaining landfill tickets on Friday December 15, 2017. Dolores stated that she had received the election results and there was a tie for the unexpired Assessor's term. Dolores stated that she had received a letter from the NYS Dept. of Transportation and the surveyor determined that the road signs requested by the Risingville residents were not necessary.

Justice Report: November 2017 monthly report was presented to the Board. Justice Sweeney collected \$453.00. \$303.00 went to NYS and the Town's share was \$150.00.

Tax Collector's Report: Wendy purchased 3 rolls of stamps for the tax collector. Sandra Nowicki will have Thursday evening collection hours added along with the Wednesday and Saturday hours already established in the month of January.

Assessor's Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Nothing

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nothing

Dog Control Officer's Report: November 2017 monthly report was presented to the Board. Randy Akins reported 7 dogs running at large. He collected \$15.00 in dog license money.

Supervisor's Report: October and November monthly reports were presented to the Board.

Highway Superintendent's Report: November 2017 monthly report was presented to the Board. Richard stated that he was having technical difficulties with the internet service at the Highway shop. Items of interest and work performed 11/08/17-12/20/17. Two hundred twenty five ton of item 4 gravel was used on the Dee road project. Two days were spent patching potholes. A section of Dee road was graded, a water wash on Helms road was repaired, and a section of ditch was cleaned on Wood Hill road. The summer equipment has been winterized and put into the cold storage building. Downed trees were removed from Starr road, South Hill road, and Forty Dollar road. Eight days were spent on the Brink road cutting trees, removing stumps, and widening the road. Road conditions were checked a total of 13 times. The fire department parking lot was plowed 4 times. The town hall parking lot was plowed 3 times and the sidewalks were shoveled 3 times. The town roads were plowed and sanded 9 times. The pole light on the salt barn quit working so it was replaced with a new LED 70 watt light. The 2017 highway inventory has been submitted to the Town Supervisor. The reduced speed limit sign request for the Risingville area was turned down by NYSDOT. The following equipment was repaired or serviced. The 2005 Volvo dump truck and the Hyundai loader were both serviced. The turbo pipe was replaced on the 2006 Sterling dump truck. The F450 Bucket truck was serviced, the starter was replaced, and a new coolant jug was installed. The F550 Ford dump truck had 2 new tires mounted on it. The 2001 Auto car had exhaust work done on it. Motion was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Steven Frederick to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Highway Superintendent's report. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried

Old Business: A brief discussion took place about the webpage. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck for Holly Chase to reestablish the Town webpage. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. A brief discussion took place about the back parking lot pole light installation. Attorney, Shawn Sauro will send a letter to Cory Saltsman stating that January 31, 2018 is the final deadline for the light installation. The Board agreed the \$5000.00 ear marked for the pole light installation should be rolled over to 2018. Sam Gauss stated that being approached by an organization

about solar power should be researched thoroughly. A brief discussion took place about the Code Officer's neglect to follow up on the garbage at a residence on Forty Dollar road. Wendy Lozo will contact the Dept of Health for help with this issue. Motion was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Paul Peck to close old business. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried

New Business: Wendy lozo stated that she has received the annual shelter agreement. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Sam Gauss for Wendy to sign the shelter agreement. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. Wendy asked for a motion to be made for any and all bills to be paid through the end of the year. Motion was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Steven Frederick for Wendy to pay year end bills. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. Wendy stated that a resolution needed to be made to take Dolores off from the Five Star Bank account and put Holly Akins on. A resolution was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Paul Peck for Dolores to be removed from the Five Star Bank account and put Holly Akins on. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. A resolution was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck for Holly Akins to have a Town of Thurston credit card in the amount of \$2500.00. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Sam Gauss to keep Dolores on as Vital Statistic Registrar until Holly gets her Notary license. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. The 2018 organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Wendy asked for a motion to be made to accept the highway union negotiation contract. Attorney Shawn Sauro presented two board authorized counter proposals and such documentation is physically attached to these minutes. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Steven Frederick for Wendy to sign the highway union negotiation contract with the correct information. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried. Wendy reminded everyone to let Richard know if the Town Hall was going to be used in the winter and on weekends so he could do snow removal if it were necessary. Motion was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Paul Peck to close new business. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Sam Gauss seconded by Paul Peck to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Put to vote: Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Sam Gauss, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dolores Crooker, Thurston Town Clerk

Regarding the December 19, 2017, final meeting of Highway Department Union Contract negotiations, Attorney Sauro advised the Board that the sole remaining questions for Highway Department consideration were wage increases and/or health insurance employee contribution, if any. Attorney Sauro advised that he presented to the employees two Board authorized counter-proposals as follows:

- a) The Board would agree to a 3% wage increase contingent upon the employees contributing 5% to rising health insurance premiums; or
- b) The Board would agree to a 3% wage increase and a 0% contribution to the rising health insurance costs with the explicit understanding that the Town may be required to eliminate a Highway Department position in the next budget cycle.

Attorney Sauro reiterated to the Board that great lengths were taken to explain to the employees that the rising cost of health insurance premiums without employee contribution could require elimination of a Highway Department position based on Town budgetary constraints alone. Supervisor Lozo confirmed she witnessed and took an equal role in the discussion and explanation. Attorney Sauro went on to state that he advised the employees that the option of a raise without contribution was not the preference of the Board and that the potential elimination of a Highway Department position was completely undesired.

Attorney Sauro concluded by advising that after the Union representative and employees discussed the issue for over two hours, the employees selected the 3% wage increase with no health insurance contribution, with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of elimination of a Highway Department position at the next budget cycle. As there will be several new Board members involved in the next Town budget cycle who were not present and/or had not yet taken their seats on the Board, it was Attorney Sauro's request that this particular issue be fully reflected in the record for their potential review at a later date.