Town of Thurston Meeting Minutes

Held: Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Wendy Lozo

 Town Council Members: Noel Sylvester, Paul Peck, Steven Frederick, Holly Chase

 Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr.

 Town Dog Control Officer: Randy Akins

 Town Attorney: Shawn Sauro

Absent: Town Clerk: Dolores Crooker

Visitors: Tom Arquette, Jordon Harrison, Tom Lozo, Marge Taft, Sheree Gauss, Tom Stephens, Bruce Akins, Bob Bettinger, Colton Peck

Wendy Lozo called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Marge Taft stated that the tax payers in the town do not want their taxes increased. Marge gave Wendy Lozo Fire District paperwork that needs to be signed and returned by the Town Clerk. Sheree Gauss stated that she appreciated all of the hard work and time that went into the preparation and consideration of the 2019 budget. Randy Akins stated that the NYS Union Rep Belinda Combs was supposed to be at the Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Jordon Harrison stated that Belinda talked about switching insurance policies with an HSA account that could potentially save the Town money.

Minutes: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the meeting minutes dated October 17, 2018. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck for Wendy Lozo to pay all claims listed in the General abstract A192- A205 totaling $12,982.14 and the Highway abstract 169-179 totaling $21,469.45. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk’s Report: October 2018 monthly report was presented to the Board. Total deposits were $588.00. Dolores Crooker took over as Town Clerk on November 1, 2018 she will catch up the October dog license reminders, Clerk’s ledger, and work on Decals for the sale of hunting licenses. Dolores was absent at the November Board Meeting due to prior commitments. Holly Chase took notes for the Clerk.

Justice Report: No activity for the month of October.

Tax Collector Report: Collector’s hours will begin in January. Postage stamps will be purchased soon.

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Nothing

Code Enforcement Officer’s Report: Wendy Lozo has not gotten in touch with Ray Orr yet due to all of the time involved with getting the information ready for the 2019 budget. Wendy stated that she has a letter ready to send to Ray Orr and will send it to the Board for review.

Dog Control Officer’s Report: October 2018 monthly report was presented to the Board. Randy reported one dog running at large. This dog was adopted out to Luke Dickson. Randy stated that High View Kennels will be closing the first of the year. Mr. Draper the Town of Rathbone DCO is building a kennel and is drafting a contract to offer to the Thurston Town Board. Randy stated that he would meet with the Town Clerk to go over the main dog list.

Supervisor’s Report: October 2018 monthly report was emailed to each of the Board members and a hard copy was presented to the Clerk.

Highway Superintendent’s Report: October 2018 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 10/17/18-11/14/18. Roads have been plowed once and sanded twice. Both sides of a section of Bonny Hill road have been cleaned with 17 loads of dirt removed. Three cross pipes and a driveway pipe have been replaced on Reed Hill road. Cleaning of ditches on Reed Hill road CHIPS project has begun. Thirty six loads of dirt have been removed. A water wash was repaired and shoulder work has been completed on Wood Hill road. New road signs have been put up on Waters and Dee road. Damaged, missing, or faded road signs have been replaced. A large tree that had fallen across McIntosh road has been removed. Twelve hundred thirty nine ton of road sand has been purchased from ST Coots. Four thousand three hundred fifty four point twenty three ton has been purchased for this winter season. The CHIPS, Pave NY, and the Extreme Winter Recovery reimbursement forms have been filed with NYSDOT. CHIPS total is $88,615.14, Pave NY is $35,655.35, and the EWR is $11,317.70 with a total reimbursement of $135,588.19. The summer equipment has been winterized and put into cold storage. The winter equipment is ready to go to work. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Clerk’s report through the Highway Superintendent’s report. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: The Town Hall back parking lot light project has been tabled until spring. The intercom system is on hold until someone gets a chance to set it up. Noel Sylvester stated that he would like a stronger word used other than request for Ray Orr to attend the monthly Board meetings. Holly stated that the firewall will be worked on the week after Thanksgiving to set up Dual Band at the Town Hall. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck to close old business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Wendy Lozo stated that she must complete the tax cap paperwork regardless of the decision on the 2019 Budget. There is no exemptions given by New York State this year. Wendy stated that Five Star Bank never took Dolores Crooker off from the Clerk’s bank account but a resolution is needed to stay in compliance with NYS. A resolution was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck for Dolores Crooker to remain on the Five Star Bank account. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo asked for a motion to transfer money from the contingency fund to the Code Enforcement contractual to cover the cost of a camera. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Paul Peck for money to be transferred from the contingency fund to the Code Enforcement contractual to cover the cost of a camera. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that $7,000.00 was designated specifically to the back parking lot light project which isn’t going to be carried over into 2019. Wendy stated that she needed a motion to transfer the $7,000.00 into the Building Repair Reserve Fund. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Noel Sylvester to transfer the $7,000.00 into the Building Repair Reserve Fund. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that the Highway Dept. only has $4,500.00 left after the last payroll. Wendy Lozo stated that she is concerned that overtime may create a problem for the Highway Dept. She asked for a motion to transfer money from the contingency fund to cover the last highway payroll of the year until CHIPS money comes in December. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck for Wendy to transfer money from the contingency fund to cover the highway payroll if needed. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy stated that the shared services contract is up for renewal with Steuben County and that nothing in the contract has changed. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Paul Peck for Wendy Lozo to sign the renewal contract with Steuben County. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

2019 Budget: Marge Taft asked how much money was needed to keep the 4th highway crew member. Wendy Lozo voiced her concern that the Town was out of money in the accounts that were available by law to cut for payroll use. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Steven Frederick to accept the three man Budget. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Paul Peck to eliminate the 4th position on the Highway Dept. with a lay off on December 31, 2018. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. With deep regrets motion was carried. Motion was made by Steven Frederick seconded by Noel Sylvester to close new business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Holly Chase to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:38 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Steven Frederick, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk