

**TOWN OF THURSTON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2025 - PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
ON ESTABLISHING A PROHIBITION ON THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, OR
MAINTENANCE OF A COMMERCIAL SEWAGE SLUDGE COMPOSTING FACILITY IN THE
TOWN OF THURSTON HELD MAY 21, 2025 AT 6:45 PM AT 7578 COUNTY ROUTE 333,
THURSTON, NEW YORK.**

Present: Michael Volino, Town Supervisor
Town Council: Jennifer Hargrave, Daniel Gee, Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase
Assessor: Diana Dixon
Code Enforcement Officer: Nick Nolton
Highway Superintendent: Ben Smith (Zoom)

Visitors: Jeff Sweeney, Mike Volino, Elizabeth Donderewicz, Elizabeth Jenkins, Margie Taft, Lisa Hargrave, Tim Hargrave, Samuel Dick, Teresa Borham, Eva Turner, Cal & Lamora Hoad (Zoom), Brandi Smith (Zoom).

Town Supervisor Volino called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Michael recapped the purpose of the proposed Local Law noting that Earth Justice assisted in drafting this. He read the Legislative Findings and Declaration of Policy from the Local Law (attached hereto). It was noted there will not be a vote tonight as a written public comment will be received up to our June 18th meeting. This proposed Local Law # 5 has been sent to the Steuben County Planner who indicated it is not subject to review.

Elizabeth Jenkins asked if we are the first town in NYS who has successfully challenged the construction of a composting facility in our town and Michael said there are now some other municipalities working on the same matter, but he believes we were the first. Tim Hargrave asked if Casella has contacted the Town at all with comments and Michael said he has not heard from them since August 2024.

Sam Dick said the Bath Water Treatment Plant treats sewage and it goes in the river which flows to Elmira where it is used for drinking water.

There being no further public comment, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. upon motion by Holly Chase, seconded by Jennifer Hargrave, put to vote, all members present voted aye, and unanimously carried.