

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday September 18, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Michael Volino
Town Council Members: Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave
Town Highway Superintendent: Saige McGarvey
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney:
Town Code Officer: Nick Nolton
Town Historian: Noel Sylvester
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Town Justice:

Absent: Randy Akins, Darlene Smith, Rachel Treichler

Visitors: Marge Taft, Jeff Sweeney, Eva Turner, Cathy Manning, Tim Hargrave, Lisa Hargrave, Morris Smith, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad

Supervisor Volino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Sue Conklin stated that from Route 333 to Tucker road and McIntosh road there is places that need attention. Conklin stated that in her opinion CHIPS money should only be used for road improvements. Tim Hargrave stated that the Town of Cameron is not as aggressive as the Town of Thurston when tackling a ban on sludge spreading and asked that the two municipalities work together. Jeff Sweeney complimented the highway crew for the work that has been completed on Knowles road and asked for a warning sign to be installed. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to close Public Comment. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to accept and approve the August 21, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated September 18, 2024 totaling \$7,584.74, the Highway abstract totaling \$20,072.47, and the T&A totaling \$158.00. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: August 2024 monthly deposits were \$2,699.70. Dolores Crooker stated that Gordon Foster applied to use the Town Hall basement on 10/26/24 from 1pm till 4pm. Suzanne Shoemaker applied to use the Town Hall basement on 11/09/24 from 11:00 am till 6:30pm.

Justice Report: Justice Smith collected \$40.00 in the month of August.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Diana Dixon stated that the new cycle for 2025 has begun. Dixon stated that she is continuing to take training sessions and that the Assessors will be holding a Star program, tax credit informational on October 16, 2024 from 6:30pm till 7:00pm.

Historian Report: Noel Sylvester stated that according to documents from Margarete Wilson the Risingville Church owns the Community Building which sits on the Town of Thurston property.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nick Nolton issued five building permits and had one complaint.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 2 complaints about dogs running at large and that a drive through rabies clinic is scheduled for Thursday September 26, 2024 from 6 pm till 8 pm at the Thurston Highway dept.

Highway Superintendent's Report: Saige McGarvey reported that Knowles, Yost, Shauger, and South Hill roads have been graded. A new bolt bin has been installed at the highway shop. T&R pumped out the floor drains. Several Hometown Hero banners have been hung on poles. McGarvey attended CPR and First Aid training. Safety items purchased with grant funds have been arriving. A 2 page tool inventory has been established.

Supervisor's Report: August end of the month closing was sent to the Board members on 9/02/24 and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Supervisor Volino met with Kayla Wagner from Sprague Insurance Agency on August 22, 2024, Wagner will attend the November Board meeting, she will speak during Public Comment regarding the 2025 NYMIR proposal. On September 4, 2024 Supervisor Volino met with Mike Bernard from CPE Interlink about security cameras for the Town Hall and Highway Dept. The first CHIPS reimbursement check in the amount of \$203,249.61 arrived on September 11, 2024. Supervisor Volino spoke with DEC Region 8 Director Tim Walsh on September 12, 2024 regarding documents submitted to the Town Board by Casella at the August Board meeting. The first budget workshop was held on September 12, 2024. Supervisor Volino attended the CPR and First Aid training presented by AMR on September 17, 2024. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Supervisor's report. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Unfinished Business: Supervisor Volino stated that a definition of a town resident needs to be established for sales of plots in the Aldrich cemetery. The Board stated that a town resident must live in the Town of Thurston at time of purchasing plots. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester that a town resident must live in the Town of Thurston at time of purchasing a plot. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. The order in which plots should be sold was established as by row only. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded Jennifer Hargrave to sell plots by row only in the Aldrich cemetery. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester,

aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Consideration for Matt Nowicki to construct a flag pole at no labor cost to the Town of Thurston at a price of \$819.75. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to allow Matt Nowicki to construct a flag pole in the Aldrich cemetery for a price of \$819.75. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. The Town Board waived the \$300.00 plot fee for Gordon Foster for his nearly 50 years of service to the Town as Assessor. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to waive the \$300.00 plot fee for Gordon Foster. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Local Law #1 of 2021 Solar Law Energy Law: Consideration to retain Attorney Gary Abraham to amend or rewrite the local law of 2021 for \$5,000.00. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Holly Chase to retain Gary Abraham to amend or rewrite the local law #1 of 2021 for \$5,000.00. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Security Cameras: A second estimate from CPE Interlink was presented to the Board for \$2,078.17 to repair or replace security cameras at the Town Hall. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to accept the bid from CPE Interlink for \$2, 078.17. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Security cameras for the Highway Dept estimate from CPE Interlink was for 9 cameras to be replaced for \$6,675.76. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Holly Chase to accept the bid of \$6,675.76 from CPE Interlink. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

The Town Board has approved to draw a draft for tax exemptions for Fire Fighters and EMTs. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to close Unfinished Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business:

Supervisor Volino presented the 2025 Tentative Budget to the Town Clerk and the Council members. Volino asked for a budget workshop to be set for 7:00 PM on October 1, 2024. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to set the budget workshop for 7:00 pm on October 1, 2024. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Supervisor Volino stated that Bill Caudill has submitted a letter of intent to sit on the Board of Assessment Review for the Town of Thurston to fill an unexpired term from 10/01/24 through 09/30/26. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to appoint Bill Caudill to the unexpired term from 10/01/24 through 09/30/26 on the Board of Assessment Review. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Highway Temporary MEO: Because the temporary MEO started so late there is still funds available to keep the temporary MEO through 12/31/24. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to extend the temporary MEO's term till December 31, 2024. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Smoking on Town property: Smoking receptacles at the front and back entrances verses no smoking signs. No smoking signs win.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to close New Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Announcements: Informational session with Assessors on Star program at 6:30 pm. Next Regular Board Meeting October 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:52 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk