

**TOWN OF THURSTON LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2025 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
SEWAGE SLUDGE LAND APPLICATION PROTECTION LAW OF THE TOWN OF THURSTON
HELD April 16, 2025 AT 6:45 PM AT 7578 COUNTY ROUTE 333, THURSTON, NEW YORK.**

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

Visitors: Sam Dick, Marge Taft, Elizabeth Jenkins, Jeff Sweeney, Penny Smith, Lorraine Levesque, Barbara Dartt, Megan Dorritie, Cal and Lamora Hoad, M. Ruth Schoonover

Michael Volino called the meeting to order and said as of October 2023 we had a law in place, but Earth Justice has asked that we add to the findings since the EPA has now done a risk assessment on these activities. This local law is more streamlined with more consistent penalties. The section requiring a public list of contaminated wells has also been removed.

Michael said in February of 2024 Casella tried to sue by saying the SEQR was not completed properly. This has since been re-done by Earth Justice.

Elizabeth Jenkins said she is very grateful to the Board for standing up for the residents in this matter and for all they have done.

Nick Nolton said he feels the penalties should be higher as any activities, after all the publicity, show a deliberate act of defiance.

Michael said no action will be taken tonight as we will continue to consider any comments until the next Board meeting.

The suggestion was made by a visitor that an assessment of unsafe wells should be done. Diana Dixon reminded those present that sometimes there are other reasons for contamination of wells and this should always be considered.

The County Planner refused proposed Local # 4 noting he felt the law was a violation of farmer's rights under the State Ag and Markets Law and may violate the Right to Farm Law at this time.

There being no further public comment, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. upon motion by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Conklin, Town Clerk.