

Town of Thurston Water Test Results & Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday April 19, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Michael Volino
Town Council Members: Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase, Daniel Gee
Town Highway Superintendent:
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney: Rachel Treichler
Town Code Officer: Nick Nolton
Town Historian:
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Town Justice:
Absent: Richard Gauss, Jr & Randy Akins

Visitors: See attached

Michael Volino called the Water Test Results meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Elizabeth Dondowicz gave an in depth power point presentation on the water test results collected from several different water sources in Thurston and the surrounding area.

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

Public Comment: Ruth Schoonover asked when the potholes on McIntosh, Tucker, and Dee roads were going to be fixed. Volino stated that he would speak with Richard Gauss, Jr about it.

Minutes: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to accept and approve the March 7, 2023 Public Hearing minutes, the March 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes, and the March 29, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated April 19, 2023 totaling \$16,350.26 and the Highway abstract totaling \$31,497.26 Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: March 2023 monthly deposits were \$477.00. Dolores Crooker stated that there will NOT be a Primary Election in June.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported a total deposit of \$600.00. NYS received \$343.00 and the Town received \$257.00. Justice Smith met with special council from Rochester as it relates to outstanding cases. Michael Volino stated that Danielle Weaver may need an additional 12 hours to finish the Justice backlog. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to approve 12 more hours for Weaver at \$16.00 per hour. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Tax Collector Report: Total tax collection and final settlement with Steuben County has been completed.

Assessor Report: Diana Dixon asked Holly Chase to add a section to the Assessor section of the website to add informational links for the Star program and the Assessment Grievance Forms.

Historian Report: Nothing

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Michael Volino stated that Nick Nolton was entering data on the new Code Enforcement laptop. Nick Nolton stated that the local law #1 of 2002 needs to be updated to include the new NYS Energy Code. Attorney Treichler will draft a local law to be reviewed at the May 2023 board meeting. Michael Volino stated that there has not been any interest in the permanent NYS certified Code Officer position.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 2 complaints about dogs running at large. Akins collected \$94.00 in dog license fees. There will not be a rabies clinic in the month of April.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the March 2023 report to the Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Volino reported that all audits have been completed. Volino stated that he met with the Sprague Agency, a NYMIR quote is being prepared and there will be a presentation at the May Board meeting. Volino will attend OSC Annual Finance School May 8th and 9th in Geneva. Volino attended Cameron Board meetings April 5th and 12th. All computers and emails have been installed as of April 17th. Bank accounts at Chemung Canal have been closed and new reserve accounts have been opened at Five Star Bank. New bank cards with Five Star Bank have been issued one for the Highway Superintendent and one for the Town Supervisor.

Highway Superintendent's Report: March 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 03/16/23-04/19/23. Roads, parking lots, and sidewalks were plowed and sanded once. The Grader is back from Five Star Equipment. Spring grading has begun. A section of ditch on Smith road has been cleaned. Pot holes on some of the oil and stone roads were patched with stone dust. Four days were spent cutting along road sides. Four days were spent cleaning up what was cut. The divisible load overweight permits for 4 dump trucks have been renewed. Six loads of creek gravel have been graded into an area on Green Hill road and 5 loads of creek gravel has been graded into a bad section on Harrison road. One day has been spent removing trees and limbs from roadways. Driveway permits were issued for driveways on Rising and Knowles roads. Eight hundred fifty eight and a half ton of #1 stone has been purchased from Austin Construction. Ten loads of item 4 gravel have been purchased from Coots for Harrison road. Sweeping of oil and stone roads has begun. The EGR pressure sensor has been replaced on the excavator. New bearings and seals have been installed on the brush head. The 2022 Peterbilt truck was taken to Utica Truck to investigate a warning light for the steering control sensor. The roller has been serviced. The spring grading equipment is ready for use. Richard Gauss, Jr asked for a temporary MEO from May 1st through October 1st. An ad needs to be put in The Shopper for an MEO with a class B CDL preferred but not required. Wage

not to exceed \$17.00 per hour. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to hire a temporary MEO. Richard Gauss Jr requested approval to spend \$11,392.38 a Cold Mix project made by Suit Kote. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee for Richard to hire Suit Kote to make the Cold Mix for \$11,392.38. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that there was only one estimate submitted to repair the Highway shop roof and soffits. Kurtz Homes estimated the project at \$24,703.98 and their certificate of insurance was outdated. Michael will ask for an updated insurance certificate. Holly Chase suggested the Board get more estimates before making a decision. Noel Sylvester explained the condition of the bridge on South Hill road. Michael Volino will send a letter of concern to the Steuben County Public Works Supervisor. Michael Volino stated that he and Richard Gauss Jr discussed the possibility of posting a 15 ton weight limit on Bonny Hill road, Shauger road, and Harrison road. Designated farm vehicles would be exempt. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Highway Superintendent's report. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: Michael Volino stated that he asked Valerie Peck to document the hours she is at the Town Hall while cleaning. Volino stated that the cleaning position will be rebid because the Town Hall is not clean. Volino stated that waste cans have not been emptied, bathrooms have not been cleaned, and floors have not been mopped. Volino stated that there is salt still on the main floor of the building. Volino stated that there have been complaints about how dirty the building is. Paul Peck asked for written complaints. Wendy Lozo explained how the cleaning position is covered under the Steuben County employment program and suggested that Volino contact the County for verification. Volino stated it was time to move on to the Dickson Casella update. Volino stated that he has contacted Kimberly Merchant and Tim Walsh at the NYSDEC. Volino stated he has had conversations with both parties asking for an informational meeting with no luck of a scheduled meeting. Both Merchant and Walsh have vowed a return call to Volino and have NOT done so to date. Several Thurston Town residents spoke about contaminated well water and asked Casella representatives if they plan to test for heavy metals and PFAS. Mary Cole Rayeski stated yes, they intended to test for heavy metals and PFAS. Tim Hargrave supplied email addresses and suggested residents should email Merchant, Walsh, and Haley at the DEC office with their concerns. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to close Old Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Michael Volino stated that Noel Sylvester submitted a letter of interest for the Historian position. With no other submissions motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to appoint Noel Sylvester to the Historian position immediately with no pay at this time. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that Jennifer Hargrave a Thurston Town registered voter applied for the unexpired Council person position. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester for Jennifer Hargrave to be appointed to the unexpired council person position immediately. Put to vote; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he needed to transfer \$2,200.00 from the Attorney personal account to the Supervisor Contractual. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to transfer \$2,200.00 from the Attorney personal

account to the Supervisor Contractual. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that the balance available in the ARPA account is \$108,000.00 and a plan needs to be put in place to spend the remaining money. Michael Volino will get 3 quotes for a community playground before the May Board meeting. Holly Chase will post a diagram of the projected playground on the webpage and on facebook for the Town of Thurston residents to view. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to close New Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:42 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk