

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday August 16, 2023 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: Richard Gauss, Jr
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney: Rachel Treichler
Town Code Officer: Nick Nolton
Town Historian: Noel Sylvester
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Town Justice:
Absent: Randy Akins, Darlene Smith

Visitors: Elizabeth Dondoweicz, Sue Dondoweicz, Mike Volino, Chris Volino, Tom Arquette, Mary Rayeski, Larry Schilling, Tim Hargrave, Ruth Schoonover, Eva Turner, Marge Taft, Mary Borhman, Teresa Borhman, Wendy Lozo, Roxanne Dillon, Greg Dillon, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad, Rosalyn Renner, Ruth Schoonover, Wayne Wells, Robert Makitra, Reginald Rice, Robert Cilino

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

Public Comment: Tom Arquette suggested that the Town Board recognize the Veterans in the Town of Thurston and Richard Gauss, Jr for all of his years of service to the town. Diana Dixon explained that there have been tax exempt laws put into place for Veterans. Dolores Crooker stated that the pole banners that Arquette suggested are typically requested and paid for by families of Veterans. Larry Schilling asked about the zoom link that is available. Michael Volino explained that the zoom link is available for anyone interested in joining the open meeting.

Old Business: Michael Volino stated that there were 46 responses to the waste management survey. All responses to the question on the survey that asked if the Town of Thurston should establish a local law to prevent spreading of biosolids on land in the Town of Thurston were answered either yes or maybe none were answered no. Volino read a paragraph from one of the surveys that summed up the reason why there should be no spreading of biosolids on land. Larry Schilling asked Volino what the process was for establishing a local law. Volino stated the process is to accept a draft of the law, set a public hearing, accept the law, and then send it to the state for filing. Wayne Wells explained the difference between educated degrees in certain subjects, licensed and certified experts, and local verses non local testing results to form an accurate conclusion.

Volino asked for a motion to accept the draft of Regulating the Disposal of Sewage Sludge Local Law #3 of 2023. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept the draft of Regulating the Disposal of Sewage Sludge Local Law #3 of 2023. Roll call vote: Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to set the public

hearing for the Regulating the Disposal of Sewage Sludge Local Law #3 of 2023 for Monday August 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. Put to vote: Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried. Michael Volino read aloud the resolution that needs to be sent to the Steuben County Planning Dept. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to accept the resolution. Put to vote: Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried.

Ruth Schoonover asked what is going to happen for the Town of Thurston residents that have contaminated wells. Michael Volino stated that he will continue to push to get something done for those residents. Michael Volino asked for a motion to accept Local Law #2 of 2023 Establishing an Energy Code. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee to accept Local Law #2 of 2023. Put to vote: Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried.

Michael Volino stated that the estimate for the playground is \$3100.00 over the amount of ARPA funds available. Michael Volino will get a final estimate from Parkatech and get on the schedule for 2024 and report his findings at the September 2023 Board meeting.

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

Minutes: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the July 19, 2023 Community Block Grant Public Hearing minutes, the Local Law #2 of 2023 Public Hearing minutes, and the 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 Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated August 16, 2023 totaling \$22,159.97, the Highway abstract totaling \$35,958.10, and the T&A \$157.00. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: July 2023 monthly deposits were \$528.00. Dolores Crooker stated the General Elections are scheduled for November 7, 2023.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported a total deposit of \$769.00. Justice Smith requested approval to apply for 2023-2024 JCAP Grant.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Noel Sylvester stated that Jason Cornell could not find any records of the building across from the Church in Risingville. Diana Dixon suggested maybe Gordon Foster would have some knowledge about the building in question.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Four building permits and one demolition permit were issued totaling \$825.00. Nick Nolton stated that he received two complaints which he will be

investigating. Craig Stratton asked Nick Nolton what the process was to set a manufactured home. Nolton stated that manufactured homes have to be transported by a NYS licensed and certified transporter and set by a licensed and certified installer.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 4 dogs running at large and 1 missing dog.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the July 2023 report to the Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Volino took training in transition from Legacy to Enhanced retirement reporting on 07/25/23 and 08/08/23. Volino spoke to Steuben County Legislatures on 07/24/23 and recommended they amend their 2018 Solid Waste Management Plan to remove language that sewer sludge is a beneficial additive. Volino reported that the CDBG application was submitted on 07/26/23. A thank you letter has been sent to CSCS for the use of the high school auditorium on 08/10/23. Work on the 2024 budget is underway. The tentative budget should be presented on 09/20/23.

Highway Superintendent's Report: July 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 07/20/23-08/16/23. The Bonny Hill road project is near completion. Six days were spent trucking 3,331 ton of gravel. Four hundred sixty feet of fabric has been used in an area that was a problem in the spring. The oil and stone is the only thing that remains to be completed. The reimbursement through the CHIPS program at this time is \$54,497.45. Smith road reimbursement is \$49,073.38. The total reimbursement will be \$103,570.83 and it should be received around the middle of September. 483.36 ton of road sand has been purchased from Austin Construction. 203.84 ton of #1 stone has been purchased from ST Coats. The Starr road CHIPS project has begun. A drive pipe was replaced and ditches have been cleaned on a section of Smith road. Repairs were made to the following equipment. A brake hose has been replaced on the 97 F450 bucket truck. A new fuel pump has been installed on the generator. A new modulator valve has been installed on 06 Sterling dump truck. The rear trunnion has been repaired on the 05 Volvo dump truck. The rear trunnion has been rebuilt and a hydraulic pump PTO shaft has been repaired on the 01 Autocar. Wilbri replaced the hydraulic pump shaft on the 2022 Peterbilt dump truck. A new battery has been installed in the roller. Michael Volino asked Richard Gauss Jr for some estimates to replace the 01 Autocar. The Board will review the estimates and discuss them at the September Board meeting. Gauss stated that he received the check for the used radios. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave 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; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Michael Volino stated that he needed a resolution to repeal the 2002 Building & Energy Code law. Motion/ Resolution to repeal the 2002 Building and Energy Code law was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester. Put to vote. Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried. Volino stated that he needed a motion to authorize Justice Smith to apply for the JCAP Grant. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Justice Smith to apply for the JCAP grant. Put to vote. Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester

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

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to move to executive session to discuss Union negotiations. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to return to the regular Board meeting at 8:44 p.m. Put to vote. Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept the union contract between the highway workers, represented by Teamsters 118, and the Town of Thurston. Agreement was made to \$1.00 an hour increase across the board for each of the 2 years of the contract. Increase in their clothing allowance of \$100.00 annually totaling \$500.00 a year per employee. One more personal day totaling 5 annually. Add Juneteenth to the list of paid holidays. Union contracts will be negotiated every 2 years instead of 3 and longevity pay will be given after 15 years instead of 20 years.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to extend the employment of the seasonal MEO, Kaden Jewell, to 11/01/23 at a rate of \$17.00 an hour. Put to vote. Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:46 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