

Town of Thurston Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday August 19, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Wendy Lozo
Town Council Members: Michael Volino, Paul Peck, Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase
Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr.
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney: Shawn Sauro
Town Code Officer:
Town Historian: Michael Volino

Absent: Randy Akins, Ray Orr

Visitors: Ryan McCune

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

Public Comment: Ryan McCune – Business Development Manager for NEXAMP Solar Inc presented the Board with a project overview of a solar farm proposal to be located on Lewis road in the Town of Thurston. A summary of the environmental review process was discussed in great length with questions from the Board members about the SEQUER process, costs involved, vegetation control, and the Towns legal oversight. Shawn Sauro Town Attorney advised the Board members to contact Ryan McCune to request any and all beneficial avenues that the Town of Thurston could take advantage of from the solar power farm installation. Noel Sylvester volunteered to work with Shawn Sauro for advise on how to approach NEXAMP, Inc. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to make a final decision about the Town's involvement in the SEQUER process at the September Board meeting. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Board meeting minutes dated July 15, 2020. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy Lozo to pay all claims listed in the General abstract A138- A152 totaling \$13,365.43 and the Highway abstract 123-139 totaling \$55,774.84. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: July 2020 monthly report was presented to the Board. Total deposits were \$1,192.00. Dolores Crooker stated that she received a letter from Five Star Bank that the bank on Liberty Street in Bath would be completely consolidated with the West End Branch by October 24, 2020.

Justice Report: No activity in the month of July. NYS cancelled Justice Court because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wendy Lozo stated that the Justice received a new computer system from NYS and a new monitor was purchased with funds from the Justice contractual.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing. Wendy Lozo stated that she would be contacting the Assessors to find out if the two of them were going to continue with their positions.

Historian Report: July 2020 report: Michael Volino stated that he is now the administrator of the Town's facebook page.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: July 2020 report was presented to the Board. Wendy Lozo stated that Ray Orr had 2 building permits totaling \$427.00. Wendy stated that Ray had a complaint about an abandoned property on Lewis Rd with garbage in the lawn. Noel Sylvester asked about the results of the cleanup of the Sutton property. Wendy Lozo will check with Ray Orr and have results at the September meeting.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 2 dogs running at large, 1 complaint about animal abuse, and collected \$66.00 in dog license fees.

Supervisor's Report: Wendy Lozo emailed July bookwork to the Board and a hard copy was presented to the Clerk.

Highway Superintendent's Report: July 2020 monthly report was presented to the Board. Armstrong internet and phone service are being installed at the Highway shop. Items of interest and work performed 07/15/20-08/18/2020. Phase one of the Lewis road CHIPS project has been completed. Nine hundred feet of fabric has been installed and 3,140 ton of gravel has been put in place. Fifty feet of drive pipe has been installed on Dixon road. Ditches were cut on Knowles road and gravel has been put in place on a section of it. A section of ditch line on South Hill road has been cleaned and 11 loads of dirt has been removed. Four loads of clean gravel have been graded into this area. Eddy and Cottage roads have been graded. A section of Hanrahan road has been patched and another section has been graded. A large tree that fell on Foster road was removed and a thank you note was received from the Sumeys for the speedy cleanup efforts. The Helms road project has begun. Culverts will be replaced and gravel will be put in place. The following repairs and service have been completed. The Roller, the 2001 F550, and the Grader have been serviced. The excavator had 2 sparkplugs replaced in the regen system. The axle housing cover was replaced, a new yoke seal has been installed, and the turbo flex joint with clamps were replaced on the 06 Sterling dump truck. A mirror has been replaced on the 07 Western Star dump truck. A fuel filter has been replaced on the 2015 F350 pickup truck. A wheel seal has been replaced on the 01 Auto car dump truck. Richard Gauss, Jr asked Shawn Sauro about the Tucker road turn around. Attorney Shawn Sauro said to continue to use the turn around until Mrs Schoonover proves legally that she owns that location. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Highway Superintendent's report. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: Wendy Lozo stated that the Cyber policy needs to be approved by the Board. Motion was made by Michael Volino seconded by Holly Chase to approve the Cyber policy. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Holly Chase asked about the railing on the front of the Town Hall. Wendy Lozo stated that it is still safe. Wendy Lozo stated that the toilet tank in the ladies room on the first floor of the Town Hall needs a new flushing kit installed. Holly Chase volunteered her husband to have a look at it. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Paul Peck to close old business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase. Carried.

New Business: Wendy Lozo stated that she would be handing out budget information to all dept. heads and council members and that Budget dates need to be set at the September Board meeting. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to close new business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Michael Volino to move to executive session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss union negotiations. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck to return to the regular board meeting at 8:55 p.m. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Holly Chase to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:56 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase. Carried

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk