

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 7:23 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Wendy Lozo
Town Council Members: Noel Sylvester, Michael Volino, Holly Chase, Paul Peck
Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney:
Town Code Officer:
Town Historian: Michael Volino
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Absent: Ray Orr, Randy Akins

Visitors: Attorney Rachel Treichler, Tim & Lisa Hargrave, Sheree Gauss, Marge Taft, Eugene McIlwain, Chris Volino, Elizabeth Dondowitz

Wendy Lozo called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:23 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Diana Dixon reminded the visitors present that are 65 or older to get their enhanced star forms turned in by March 1, 2023.

Minutes: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the January 18, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting minutes. 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 Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck for Wendy Lozo to pay all claims listed in the General abstract February 15, 2023 abstract A-024 – A-044 totaling \$55,449.36 and the Highway abstract 19 - 34 totaling \$36,658.43 Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: Dolores Crooker stated that she received an email from Joseph M Campbell – President Seneca Lake Guardian requesting his email regarding Solid Waste Management Facilities Moratorium Law be included with February meeting minutes. January 2023 monthly deposits were \$283.00.

Justice Report: Nothing

Tax Collector Report: Total Town tax levy has been received. Balance due belongs to Steuben County.

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Nothing

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nothing

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 1 dog running at large. Randy collected \$21.00 in dog license fees.

Supervisor's Report: Wendy Lozo is still working on December 2022 bookwork with Williamson Law group to changeover to 2023, January report, and NYS AUD

Highway Superintendent's Report: January 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 01/18/23-02/15/23. Roads were checked 17 times plowed and or sanded 11 times. Parking lots have been plowed and sanded with sidewalks cleared 5 times. Eight days were spent cutting trees and brush along Dee, Foster, Hanrahan, Starr, and Griffin roads. Three days were spent removing tree stumps and clearing banks along a section of Dee road. Two days were spent cutting logs out of a section of woods that has been cleared along Starr road. A water wash across Hanrahan road has been repaired. One hundred ton of salt has been purchased from American Rock Salt and 2 days were spent mixing it with sand. New road signs were installed at the intersection of Bonny Hill and Harrison roads. The fuel oil furnaces at the shop have been serviced. Lewis Overhead Door has repaired a large overhead shop door. The payroll certification has been submitted to Steuben County. The Fire Dept requested road sand be put on Smith road January 20, 2023 at the site of a trailer fire. Repairs have been made to the following equipment. A new rear spring and rubber isolator has been installed on the 06 Sterling dump truck. A new air relay valve has been installed on the 01 Autocar dump truck. The rear wing cable has been replaced on the 05 Volvo dump truck. A windshield guard was fabricated and installed on the excavator for protection while using the brush head. Richard Gauss Jr stated that the bill for the Grader repair so far is \$61,475.95 + \$2,000.00. Wendy Lozo stated a public hearing to approve moving money to pay the Grader repair bill needs to be scheduled. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck to schedule a public hearing to move money March 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm. 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 a formal resolution needs to be made for Holly Chase to contact and ask NYSDEC for a discussion about permit applications and other environmental processes. Motion/Resolution was made by Michael Volino seconded by Noel Sylvester for Holly Chase to contact NYSDEC and ask for a discussion about permit applications and environmental processes. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Paul Peck stated that he wants to make sure the Solid Waste Moratorium does not affect Thurston farmers activities in any way. Attorney Treichler stated that the moratorium has many exemptions and modifications can be made if needed. Attorney Treichler stated that transfer of application has been filed. Hargrave asked if the permit transfers to Casella. Attorney Treichler stated that this moratorium only stops new permits and expansions. Motion was made by Michael Volino seconded by Noel Sylvester to adopt the Local Law #1 of 2023 known as Establishing a Solid Waste Management Facility One Year Moratorium. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; as long as it does not affect

the activities of farmers in the Town of Thurston, Wendy Lozo, aye; all of the unanswered questions have been answered and that it does not affect the activities of the Thurston farmers, Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he appreciates Wendy Lozo's transparency and continuous work on this moratorium. Wendy Lozo stated that a replacement for Town Attorney is needed. Lozo stated the Board members should call around to see who might be available and willing to take the position. Michael Volino volunteered to call around. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to close Old Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Wendy Lozo stated that she has received Steuben County's list of rabies clinics available. Lozo stated that she has received the DCO inspection report from NYS Dept of Ag & Markets. Lozo stated that the new name for Councilman/men is now council member/person. Lozo stated that she sent the Town Notaries a copy of the new Notary Law to keep records of each time they notarize something. Lozo stated that Wreaths Across America is a ways off but the Board should acknowledge it and place the notice on the webpage as the time draws near. Lozo stated that she has received a resignation letter dated 2/4/23 from Deputy Supervisor Randy Akins Jr. effective 2/4/23. Lozo stated she is now presenting the Board with her own resignation letter dated 2/15/23 with her last day in office being 02/28/23. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept Wendy Lozo's resignation with regrets. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion/Resolution was made by Paul Peck Seconded by Noel Sylvester to remove Wendy Lozo and Randy Akins Jr. from all bank accounts at Five Star Bank as of March 1, 2023. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion/Resolution was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to remove Wendy Lozo and Randy Akins Jr. from all accounts at Chemung Canal Trust Co. as of March 1, 2023. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Holly Chase made a motion seconded by Noel Sylvester to appoint Michael Volino as interim Supervisor/Budget Officer from 3/1/23 through 12/31/23. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino verbally resigned from Board member on 02/15/23 to take effect 02/28/23 to fill vacant Supervisor/Budget Officer position commencing 3/01/23. Motion/Resolution was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck for Holly Chase to be Deputy Supervisor 03/01/23 through 12/31/23. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion/Resolution was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck to put Michael Volino and Holly Chase on Highway, General, and T&A accounts at Five Star Bank as of March 1, 2023. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion/Resolution was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck to put Michael Volino and Holly Chase on Chemung Canal Trust Co Reserve Accounts as of March 1, 2023. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, abstain; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to add Michael Volino to NYS Retirement as Security/Administrator and payroll. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion/Resolution was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to provide Michael Volino a Town of Thurston Visa Credit Card. Put to vote: Noel

Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo asked the Board members if anything else comes up if she could take care of it. The Board all agreed. Motion was made by Michael Volino seconded by Paul Peck to appoint Attorney Rachael Treichler media spokesperson. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Attorney Treichler stated that she entered into a consulting agreement with Attorney Abrams. Attorney Treichler stated that she expects someone from Casella to contact the Board sometime soon. Motion was made by Michael Volino seconded by Paul Peck 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 Holly Chase seconded by Michael Volino to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:19 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk