

Town of Thurston Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday February 16, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

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

Absent: Ray Orr, Randy Akins

Visitors: Marge Taft

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

Public Comment: Marge Taft presented Wendy Lozo with a written F.O.I.L. request along with payment asking for a copy of each month bills January 2022 through December 2022.

Minutes: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the 2022 Annual Organizational Meeting minutes and the Board Meeting minutes dated January 19, 2022. 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 Michael Volino for Wendy Lozo to pay all claims listed in the General abstract A029- A046 totaling \$14,589.28 and the Highway abstract 22-37 totaling \$32,600.99. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: January 2022 monthly deposits were \$8,567.00.

Justice Report: January 2022 monthly deposits were \$305.00. NYS received \$0.00 and the Town received \$0.00.

Tax Collector Report: Sandra Nowicki is collecting Town and County taxes in February on Wednesday evenings 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sandra Nowicki sent an email to Steuben County letting them know of the issues she ran into with the new tax mailing system.

Assessor Report: Nothing.

Historian Report: Michael Volino reported that he received and forwarded an insurance certificate to Wendy Lozo from Rodney Caward tree removal service. Ernie Newman neglected to follow through with an estimate. Gordon Foster approved the wood from the trees in the

Aldrich cemetery to be put in the hedgerow along his fields. A written agreement will be supplied by Gordon Foster to the Town of Thurston. The new headstone for Amos Chapman is still being designed consciously considering the price of Granite has increased dramatically in the last six months.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Lewis Road solar project is underway. Building permit for the construction of the solar project is \$8,101.00.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported that he passed his NYS inspection. Randy reported 1 missing dog that later returned on its own. The mandatory NYS dog shelter annual inspection has not been completed at this time.

Supervisor's Report: January 2022 report will be emailed to the Board and the hard copy will be filed in the Clerk's office. Wendy Lozo stated that the end of 2021 and the 2022 accounting program has been updated.

Highway Superintendent's Report: January 2022 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 01/19/22-02/16/22. Roads have been checked 15 times, plowed and or sanded a total of 16 times. The Fire Department and Town Hall parking lots have been plowed and sanded 5 times. Five days have been spent winging back snow drifts with the excavator. Ice slabs on Starr Road have been scarified out. The payroll has been sent into Steuben County for certification. One hundred ton of salt has been delivered and three days were spent mixing it with sand. Downed trees were removed from Helms Road and Smith Road. The bathroom at the Highway department has been renovated and an exhaust fan has been installed. Many items were donated by highway employees for the project. A call came in to the Highway department from the 911 Call Center about a fire in Tanglewood Lake. A request was being made for a sander to the site because of icy roads. Randy Akins went there with the Autocar sander and ended up skating down the hill backwards after he had sanded it. The wing on the truck took out the electric service to the house that had the fire, which was a fire in the hopper of the pellet stove. No one was hurt and the equipment wasn't damaged. Issues with responding to calls to go into Tanglewood Lake need to be addressed. Weight limit signs were installed on the oil and stone roads February 11, 2022. The following repairs have been made to the following equipment. The 01 Autocar dump truck had an alternator replaced and a new fender bracket installed. The 05 Volvo dump truck had a wing cable, hydraulic hose, and a new oil pressure sensor installed. The 01 Volvo dump truck had a hydraulic hose replaced and the driver side step rebuilt. The excavator had a new blade mounted on the wing attachment. Wendy Lozo thanked the employees that donated items for the bathroom project at the highway shop. Richard Gauss, Jr put salt and sand on the ice puddle in front of the Town Hall. A lengthy discussion took place about the highway department responding to Tanglewood lake as it is all private and the home owner association is supposed to contract with an independent contractor to maintain the private roads within. Marge Taft stated that the fire department is aware of the situation and they are attempting to work with the Tanglewood lake HOA. The Thurston Town Board tabled the discussion until the Fire Dept returns with an update. Richard Gauss presented the Board with information from Mobletech communication radio systems for new radios at the highway shop and portables for the equipment. A discussion took place about the initial radios being paid for with ARPA funds. Annual maintenance would be paid for with funds out of the highway budget.

Wendy Lozo will check to see if ARPA funds are an acceptable way of payment for the radios. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Paul Peck 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 received a note from Gordon Foster stating trees from the Aldrich cemetery could be put in his hedgerow. Note said temporarily, The Town Board wants temporarily struck from the approval note. Wendy Lozo will approach Gordon Foster about this. The Town Board agreed that the estimate from Rodney Caward needs to be amended to read that he will put the trees that he removes from the Aldrich cemetery into the hedgerow and not leave them in the cemetery. Michael Volino stated that he would take care of the amendment. 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. Carried.

New Business: Wendy Lozo stated that the Annual Financial Report has been completed and sent in to NYS on 2/13/22. Wendy Lozo spent an hour at Five Star bank on 02/14/22 rectifying bank statements showing double charges for checks and deposit slips that had not yet been received. The Town of Thurston received Covid test kits and KN-95 masks from Steuben County for distribution. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Michael Volino to distribute the test kits and masks on Saturday February 26, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon with a limit of 2 test kits per household and 2 masks per person per household. 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 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 Holly Chase seconded by Paul Peck to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:35 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Notes taken by Wendy Lozo, Town Supervisor
Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk