

Town of Thurston Meeting Minutes  
Held: Wednesday January 15, 2020 at 7:00 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: Randy Akins  
Town Attorney: Shawn Sauro  
Town Code Officer:  
Town Historian: Michael Volino

Absent: Ray Orr

Visitors: Steve Peck, Tom Lozo, Colton Peck, 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: Steve Peck from the Ryan Agency presented the 2020 Insurance policy to the Board. Marge Taft turned in Mark Taft's oath of office form for the Board of Ethics position that he holds.

Minutes: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Holly Chase to accept and approve the Board meeting minutes dated December 18, 2019. 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 end of 2019 A216 totaling \$1,925.27 and A001-A026 January 15, 2020 totaling \$23,495.46 and the Highway abstract end of 2019 number 208 totaling \$6,152.90 and 001-017 totaling \$58,965.57. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: December 2019 monthly report was presented to the Board. Total deposits were \$227.00. Dolores Crooker reminded Richard Gauss, Jr. that Diana Dixson would be using the Town Hall on January 19, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Dolores stated that she would also call Valerie Peck the cleaning person and let her know that Diana would be using the Town Hall that day.

Justice Report: December 2019 monthly report was presented to the Board. Justice Sweeney collected \$1,128.00. It has not yet been determined how much will go to NYS and how much will go to the Town.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Michael Volino stated that he was willing to volunteer to cut the grass at the Thurston Cemetery by hand with his push mower so the headstones would not be damaged by commercial zero turn riding mowers. Tom Lozo suggested that Michael at least get gas supplied to him for his mower. Michael will turn in receipts with a voucher to get reimbursed.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Wendy Lozo stated that Ray Orr will meet with her in the near future to discuss the possibility of putting a kitchenette in the basement of the Town Hall.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins stated that he had 4 complaints about dogs running at large, 3 abandoned puppies and collected \$52.00 in dog license fees. The owner of the puppies that abandoned them has been identified and has a date with the Town Justice.

Supervisor's Report: December 2019 monthly report was emailed to each of the Board members and a hard copy was presented to the Clerk. Wendy Lozo stated that she is working on end of year paperwork.

Highway Superintendent's Report: December 2019 monthly report along with the 2019 Equipment Expense report was presented to the Board. Attorney Shawn Sauro gave an update on the escalating situation on the Tucker road turnaround. He is concerned about the safety of the highway crew that maintain that road. He suggested that the Highway Superintendent Richard Gauss, Jr. report to the Steuben County Sheriff's Dept the situation and to put them on high alert about the persons involved. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for Richard to report to the Steuben County Sheriff's Dept about the harassment by the Schoonover's. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Items of interest and work performed 12/19/19-1/15/2020. Town roads were checked 14 times plowed and sanded 9 times. The Fire Dept and Town Hall parking lots were plowed and sanded 6 times. Lewis Overhead Door repaired the small overhead door at the shop. Three days were spent mixing sand with salt. The weight limit signs were put up on the oil and stone roads on December 27<sup>th</sup>. New road signs were installed on the Reed Hill and Dee road projects. A couple of sharp curve signs with 20 mph advisory speed limits were installed on Wood Hill road. Steuben County Curtis shop replaced the load of sand that was borrowed from the Thurston Highway Dept and used on County Route 11 during the December ice storm. Rock was graded into soft areas on Shauger and Wood Hill roads. A large dip in the road in front of Leo Knowles driveway was also filled in. A two-way radio was installed in the tractor. The radio was donated by the City of Crystal and the antenna and mounting of it was donated by Steuben County Office of Emergency Services. Three hundred six point zero four ton of sand was purchased from Bath Sand and Gravel for \$6.50 per ton. The Nov. 1 – May 1 decals have been put on the seasonal signs. Richard Gauss, Jr. received a call at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> about a tree across County Route 24. Richard reported it to the 911 call center. They notified the Fire Dept and Steuben County. Richard reported to the fallen tree with a chainsaw to clear the road with help from Greg Schuchardt, Greg's son, and Noel Sylvester. The Fire Dept helped with clearing the road of debris. Richard checked roads in the Town of Thurston for fallen trees due to high winds of about 40 mph. There were a few branches and a small tree that was blocking a lane on McIntosh road. Richard returned home around 8:30 a.m. The Town payroll has been submitted to Steuben County for certification. Pot holes have

been patched in some of the oil and stone roads with winter cold patch mix purchased from Dalrymple Gravel. The 06 Sterling dump truck is back from Sonny's Repair shop. All dump trucks are now ready to go. Repairs and or service has been done to the following equipment. A new conveyor chain was installed on the 01 Volvo dump truck. Five new injectors were installed in the 01 Auto Car dump truck. A front leaf spring was replaced on the 05 Volvo dump truck. The 06 Sterling dump truck had a new head, fuel pump, and 1 injector installed. The 2015 F350 had a new fuel cooler and charge air sensor installed. The 01 F550 dump truck had a brake line replaced. 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: Attorney Shawn Sauro suggested that a Board Member have access to the security system at the Highway Dept. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Paul Peck that Michael Volino have access to the security system at the Highway Dept. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino asked permission to purchase the Merchant's headstone for \$500.00 from the Historian Contractual. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to purchase the headstone. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, nay; Wendy lozo, aye; Michael Volino, abstained; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Noel Sylvester questioned the Town Hall rental decision from the December Board meeting. Noel stated that he thinks the decision was too hasty. Wendy Lozo reminded the Board Members of the condition that the Town Hall was left in and that it was voted on. Wendy stated that she did not want to reopen the vote that it was final. Wendy lozo stated that the new carpets at the entrance doors have been put in place. Holly Chase mentioned the workplace policies still needed to be updated. Wendy lozo stated that the end of the month, the end of the year, and the beginning of the new year are a very busy time for her and February would be a better time to work on the policies. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Holly Chase 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 and Richard Gauss, Jr. will attend the Drug and Alcohol training meeting at the Steuben County training center at 8:00 a.m. January 16, 2020. Attorney Shawn Sauro presented the Board with a couple surveys of the land involved with the Tucker road turnaround that is used by the Thurston Highway Dept. He asked the Boards permission to speak with the surveyor to get clarification on the boundary lines. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck for Attorney Sauro to speak with the said surveyor. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. The Town Clerk's and the Town Justice internal audits will be completed by Holly Chase and Noel Sylvester before the February 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Paul Peck and Michael Volino will complete the Supervisor's internal audit. Wendy lozo stated that she needed a motion to pay Sonny's Service \$8,042.39 for repairs to T426 that came after the abstracts for January 15, 2020 were completed. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy to pay the repair bill. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that she needed a motion to sign and pay the Trident Insurance contract with The Ryan Agency. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Holly Chase for Wendy to sign and pay the Insurance

contract with The Ryan Agency. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that she needed a motion to sign the Dog Shelter Agreement between the Town of Thurston and Ann Denmark. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy to sign the Dog Shelter Agreement. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that she needed a motion for Michael Volino to be approved to volunteer to cut the grass at the Thurston Cemetery with a push mower. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Holly Chase for Michael Volino to cut the grass voluntarily at the Thurston Cemetery with a push mower. Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, abstained; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that she needed a motion to transfer money to pay yearend expenses. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy to transfer money for yearend expenses. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Holly Chase stated that she was approached by a couple of concerned Thurston tax payers about the rumor of Cassella Environmental purchasing Dickson Environmental. 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 Holly Chase to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:49 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