

Town of Thurston Public Hearing Minutes
Held: Wednesday January 18, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333 Thurston NY

Present: Wendy Lozo, Attorney Shawn Sauro, Noel Sylvester, Paul Peck, Michael Volino, Holly Chase, Diana Dixon, Richard Gauss, Jr.

Visitors: Rachael Treichler, Tim & Lisa Hargrave, Sheree Gauss, Elaine Benjamin, Darrell Benjamin, Caleb Cook, Elizabeth Dondowitz, Marge Taft, Ed Tietje, Caleb Tietje, Jared & Christine Sutton, Mary Catherine Rayeski, Merlin & Debbie Button, Dan & Kyle Wilson, Earl & Angie Sanford, Jim Taft, Shane McGarvey, Chris Volino, Ernie Jessup, Jim & Bonnie Morse, Lee Swarthout, Ron Reed, Heidi Reed, Robert Adams, Cathy Cardinelle

Wendy Lozo opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Lozo stated that a 2 minute max per person speaking time is allowed. Ed Tietje asked why 2 minutes. Lozo stated that it gives everyone a chance to speak and the regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Tim Hargrave stated that he did appreciate the Town Board and Town Attorney for the draft of The Town of Thurston Local Law #1 of 2023 but he has had an opportunity to meet with Rachael Treichler and a moratorium that they possess would cover the landfill ban more so than the Town's local law #1 of 2023. Hargrave stated by raise of hands that 9 out of 10 people in attendance would like to see a Landfill ban. Hargrave presented the Board with a petition with 116 names in favor of a ban on landfills in the Town of Thurston. Lisa Hargrave gave up her 2 minute speaking time to allow Tim more time to speak. Hargrave with the assistance from Treichler explained the moratorium and provided each board member with a copy.

Ed Tietje stated that he had 108 questions but with the time limit allowed he read some entries from NYS manuals on New York state land use regulations. Caleb Tietje gave up his 2 minute speaking time so Ed could continue to speak. Tietje encouraged the Board to familiarize themselves with the NYS laws. Shane McGarvey proposed the local landfill law is way too vague. Lozo stated that the law could be amended and at least it's something to start with.

Bonnie Morse asked about sites that are already underway. Jim Morse asked who is going to enforce the law. Attorney Shawn Sauro stated that the Board is responsible to name the enforcer. That person would have the authority to issue appearance tickets and Sauro would attend court sessions to represent the Town. McGarvey asked if the candidate to enforce the law needed to be educated and if the position is appointed. Lozo stated yes the position would be appointed and there would be certain criteria and requirements for the position.

Marge Taft stated who knows what material would be dumped in such landfills. Lozo stated that the Town needs to get something on the books soon to prevent a possible landfill application being filed, as it stands right now the Town of Thurston has no zoning or planning laws, a landfill application could not be denied by the Town.

At 7:00 p.m. motion was made by Michael Volino seconded by Holly Chase to add 30 minutes maximum more to the public hearing. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Treichler stated the moratorium would be the right approach. To deny permits without a moratorium is troublesome.

Cathy Cardinelle thanked Tim Hargrave for his interest in the surrounding communities and his continued leg work in preventing a landfill from being established.

Darrell Benjamin stated that he trucks gravel to a local landfill on a regular basis and the space there is limited.

Michael Volino stated that all residents should test their water for PFAS which are toxic. Volino stated that he has testing supplies for anyone interested in testing their water.

Robert Adams stated that dumping is prevalent in the Town along roadways. Adams asked Attorney Sauro if the moratorium would prevent dumping and protect the Town. Attorney Sauro stated that he believes from what he has read that it would. Attorney Sauro stated that he would suggest outside council or a specialist to help with meticulous and precise wording. Adams proposes the moratorium. Lozo thanked Treichler for her work in this field. Treichler offered to work with Attorney Sauro on a moratorium for the Town of Thurston. Attorney Sauro stated that he would be ready by January 19, 2023 to work with Treichler as needed.

Diana Dixon complimented the Board and Attorney Sauro for acting quickly on this issue. Dixon stated that the residents in the Town need to attend Board meetings to stay informed.

With no further comments motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to close the public hearing at 7:35 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, Thurston Town Clerk