

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday July 19, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Michael Volino

Town Council Members: Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave

Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr

Town Dog Control Officer:

Town Attorney: Rachel Treichler

Town Code Officer: Nick Nolton

Town Historian: Noel Sylvester

Town Assessor: Diana Dixon

Town Justice:

Absent: Randy Akins, Darlene Smith

Visitors: Mike Volino, Tom Arquette, Mary Rayeski, Larry Schilling, Andy Dickson, Rhonda Dickson, Brett Dickson, Shane McGarvey, Mary Ruth Schoonover, James Nichols, Connie Nichols, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad

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

Public Comment: Shane McGarvey stated that the CDBG is a good program but the paperwork is not easy and is time consuming to process. McGarvey stated that the agency has their own project manager that oversees the projects. McGarvey stated that sometimes the contractor's workmanship is not adequate. Mary Ruth Schoonover asked McGarvey if there is a project manager why the workmanship is so poor. Schoonover asked Michael Volino if he has spoke with other municipalities about the program. Volino stated that he had.

Mary Rayeski stated that Casella was going to have an open house on Saturday September 9, 2023 from 11:00 am till 2:00 pm.

Minutes: Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Daniel Gee to accept and approve the June 21, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated July 19, 2023 totaling \$16,350.26 and the Highway abstract totaling \$31,497.26 Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: June 2023 monthly deposits were \$616.00. Michael Volino stated that Dolores Crooker has been working with NYSDEC DECALS and should be ready to sell hunting and fishing licenses August 1, 2023.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported a total deposit of \$393.00. Michael Volino stated that the NYS Unified Court System will send the Town of Thurston a formal report with

recommendations on how to improve the safety of the courtroom. Improvements to the courtroom would be covered by grant funds offered by the court system. Justice Smith has been working with Randy Akins on delinquent dog licenses. Justice Smith made a request to move her office hours to one night per month.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Nothing

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Three building permits totaling \$150.00. Nick Nolton stated that he received one complaint that which he will investigate on Thursday July 20, 2023.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported that there were 31 dogs and 12 cats vaccinated at the rabies clinic held 06/24/23. There was \$74.00 in donations split evenly between the Town of Thurston and Steuben County PH. Approximately \$120.00 was collected in dog license money. Two complaints about dogs running at large. A September rabies clinic is planned, the date is to be determined.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the June 2023 report to the Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office.

Highway Superintendent's Report: June 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 06/22/23-07/19/23. Roadside mowing has been completed. A section of about 300 feet on Wood road has had 3 loads of gravel graded into it. Cold patch has been graded into several other areas. The highway crew cleaned up around the shop to give the contractors easy access to the shop roof, fascia, and soffit. Three doors and locksets were replaced. The construction began on June 29, 2023 and was completed on July 5, 2023. A hole near a cross pipe on South Hill road has been repaired. The highway crew took their vacation from 06/29/23 through 07/10/23. 108.85 ton of stone has been purchased from Austin Construction. 104.76 ton of item 4 gravel has been purchased from Coots Gravel. There was a complaint about potholes on the seasonal section of Tucker road. Kaden Jewell took a load of gravel and Richard Gauss, Jr took the grader to the location and fixed the pot holes. There was a complaint about someone driving a track excavator on Tucker road. The excavator had street pads on it, there was no damage to the road. The person responsible for driving the excavator assured Gauss that it wouldn't happen again. The Bonny Hill road project is underway. 350 feet of driveway pipe has been installed, ditches are being cut, and the dirt is being removed. There has been a complaint about a washout on the East end of Cottage road. It has been graded and a large dead pine tree has been removed. The loader has been serviced. The GMC 5500 had a new rotor installed. Richard Gauss, Jr stated that he is still waiting on a report from NYSDOT on the South Hill road bridge. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Highway Superintendent's report. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: Michael Volino read aloud the CDBG resolution. Roll call for the Town of Thurston to apply for the CDBG program goes as follows, Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept the draft of Local Law #2 of 2023 with revisions to section 9 with more details such as notice of cost provisions and set a Public Hearing for August 16, 2023 at 6:45 pm. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino received a bid of \$4,520.00 from John Kurtz to repair the concrete, repair the railing post, repaint with epoxy paint, and add boots to the base of the railing posts on the front of the Town Hall. Funds from the Building Repair Reserve account would be used for the repairs. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept the bid of \$4,520.00 from John Kurtz. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he received a quote from Parkitect for the year 2024 installation of the Parkitect playground that has exceeded the ARPA funds available. The Board decided to try and negotiate pricing with Parkitect. Michael Volino stated that he was pleased with Masonic Management Cleaning Service. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to hire MMCS to clean the Town Hall at \$150.00 per cleaning through December 31, 2023 at which time the Board will determine the need for cleaning through the winter months. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Holly Chase read aloud a letter she received from NYSDEC that stated the NYS Governor Kathi Hochal approves of biosolids being spread on farm land in NYS. Michael Volino asked the Board if having another Public Hearing with a certified court reporter present which would provide a transcript. The Board decided to move the public hearing to a larger facility with a Certified Court Reporter. Mary Rayeski asked what the public hearing with a court reporter was meant for. Michael Volino stated he wanted the Town of Thurston residents to have an opportunity to participate by voicing their opinion on sludge spreading in the town. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to schedule a public hearing for Thursday August 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm at a larger facility to help collect information before the draft of a Local Law on sludge spreading in the Town of Thurston is created. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Tom Arquette asked if the Town Board ever replaced the Town Attorney. Michael Volino stated that Rachael Treichler along with assistance from Gary Abrahms have volunteered as Town Attorneys at this time. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to close Old Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Michael Volino stated that he needed to transfer \$750.00 from A1990.4 Contingency fund to A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to transfer \$750.00 from A1990.4 to A1220.4. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he needed to transfer \$250.00 from A1990.4 Contingency fund to A1989.4 Legal Advertisement account. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to transfer \$250.00 from A1990.4 to A1989.4. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he has researched the sale of cemetery plots. NYS declares that each Town has control over the sale of cemetery

plots. Volino stated that the Aldrich cemetery on Foster road has plots available but needs a map developed. Volino stated that Haughey Memorials can help with guidelines. Michael Volino stated that the Town of Thurston does not have a procurement policy which is required by the NYS Comptroller's office. The Town of Freemont has a template which Volino will email to the Board members. Michael Volino will draw up a new Town Hall use agreement form for the Board to review. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to close New Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to move to executive session to discuss personnel issues. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to adjourn the regular board meeting at 9:08 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk