

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday June 19, 2024 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: Saige McGarvey
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney:
Town Code Officer: Nick Nolton
Town Historian: Noel Sylvester (Deputy)
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Town Justice:
Absent: Darlene Smith, Randy Akins, Rachel Treichler

Visitors: Sam Dick, Ruth Schoonover, Teresa Borhman, Marge Taft, Helen Stephens, Jeff Sweeney, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad

Michael Volino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Public Comment: Sam Dick stated that most playgrounds are geared towards 5 to 12 year old children. Supervisor Volino agreed with Sam Dick. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to close public comment. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept and approve the May 15, 2024 Public Hearing and Regular Board meeting minutes. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated June 19, 2024 totaling \$58,919.48, the Highway abstract totaling \$87,753.14, and the T&A totaling \$158.00. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: May 2024 monthly deposits were \$1,446.00. Dolores Crooker stated that the Town of Thurston Local Law #2 of 2024 was filed with NYS on 05/30/24. Crooker stated that she received the 05/28/24 BAR meeting minutes from George Whitbred. There will NOT be a Primary Election on 06/25/24 in the Town of Thurston. Resolutions were passed to be included on the November General Election ballot to increase the term length from 2 years to 4 years for the Town Tax Collector, the Town Clerk, The Town Supervisor, and the Town Highway Superintendent positions. Three out of the four resolutions were passed by a 5-0 vote except the Town Supervisor vote was a 4-0 with Supervisor Volino abstaining.

Justice Report: Nothing

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Diana Dixon stated that the 2024 BAR grievance process has been completed. The 2024 Final Tax Roll is near completion.

Historian Report: Noel Sylvester stated that he contacted the RISE organization to come observe the items in the mystery building in Risingville.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nick Nolton issued 2 new building permits and responded to 8 complaints.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 2 dogs running at large. The enumeration was completed on 06/07/24 with 126 unlicensed dogs found in the Town.

Highway Superintendent Report: Items of Interest and work performed 05/17/24 – 06/18/24. Saige McGarvey stated that the Highway Shop improvements are near completion. McGarvey stated that ditch dirt will be available to those in the Town that would like it. Cold patch has been made. Potholes are being fixed. Grading of roads is ongoing. Saige McGarvey attended training in Ithaca. McGarvey attended an informational on brine spreading and the new regulations of spending CHIPS funds. Approval to spread brine has been received. Assessed a down road sign on Dee road. A large air valve has been replaced on the water truck.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Volino emailed the May 2024 monthly report to the Town Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Supervisor Volino stated that 1,056 feet of Campbell Savona road from the Hamilton road towards Savona belongs to the Town of Campbell. Volino spoke with Brian Reed Thurston Fire Commissioner letting him know that the Crooker's will cut the grass at the Thurston Fire Hall at no cost for the remainder of 2024. Paryker's Pressure Washing pressure washed the Town Hall on 05/26/24. Supervisor Volino met with Brian Toy on 05/31/24 and 06/11/24 to discuss the submission of the CDBC Block Grant process. One high school freshman volunteered their time for 5 hours on 05/28/24 at the Town Hall to do community service. The Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics report has been submitted. Hargrave Construction installed a new spotlight for the Flagpole at the Town Hall on 06/03/24. Panic buttons were installed at the Town Hall on 06/04/24 by Eastern Security Services. Five Hometown Hero Banners were delivered on 06/07/24 and hung on poles 06/17/24. All JCAP Grant items have been received. Received annual audit results for the new playground on 06/17/24 with no issues.

Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Town Supervisor's report. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Unfinished Business:

The 2024 Tax Collector audit was completed by Noel Sylvester and Jennifer Hargrave. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase to accept the 2024 Tax Collector audit. Put to

vote: Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, abstain; Jennifer Hargrave, abstain. Carried.

Supervisor Volino stated that he received a letter from Steuben County Engineer Nathan Holmes upon recommendation of County Manager Jack Wheeler and Public Works Commissioner Eric Rose, that the County defers to the findings of Steuben County Water and Soil as it relates to the Smith road runoff dispute. Supervisor Volino stated that it's up to the Board on how to proceed with the situation. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester for Nick Nolton Town Code Officer to contact the Water and Soil department and return to the Board at the July Board Meeting with his findings. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, abstain. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to set the Town Hall Open House and Playground ribbon cutting from 11 am – 2 pm on July 27, 2024. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

The Thurston Town Board passed 4 term change resolutions for ballot propositions to be voted on by the Thurston voters at the November elections.

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee to close Unfinished Business. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business:

Jennifer Hargrave gave an update on the housing subcommittee progress. One hundred fourteen surveys have been returned as undeliverable, 81 were completed and returned, 30 residents expressed interest in receiving housing rehabilitation funds, with 15 being income eligible. The site reviews have been completed. Fifteen applications have been submitted. Supervisor Volino stated that a dollar amount is needed to be determined in order to apply for the Block Grant by July 31, 2024.

Supervisor Volino read the revised section of the Procurement Policy. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept the revision and to adopt the Procurement Policy. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Town of Thurston Equal Employment Opportunity Policy: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to adopt the Thurston EEO Policy as written. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Town of Thurston Grievance Policy: Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to adopt the Grievance Policy as written. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Town of Thurston Fair Housing Plan 2024: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to adopt the Fair Housing Plan as written. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

NYS CDBG Program Town of Thurston Local Recipient Administrative Plan: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to adopt the NYS CDBC Program Town of Thurston Local Recipient Administrative Plan as written: Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Supervisor Volino stated that he received a letter of resignation from BAR member Steve Smith. George Whitbred asked not to be reappointed for another 5 year term.. Wendy Jordan advised the Town of Thurston to find someone to fill these two positions as soon as possible in order to get the training needed to sit on the BAR. The Board decided to use Facebook and the website to announce the vacancies. BAR members need to be Town of Thurston residents.

Supervisor Volino stated that the Regular Board meeting needed to be moved to July 24, 2024 and a Public Hearing needs to be set for that date also. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to set the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Public Hearing for 6 PM and the Regular Board meeting at 7 PM on Wednesday July 24, 2024. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Budget Modifications:

Transfer \$179.99 for drain tile from A1990.4 Contingency Fund to A7140.2 Playground Equipment. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to make the transfer: Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Transfer \$1,840.00 from A231 Building Repair Reserve Fund to A5132.2 Highway Shop Equipment. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase to make the transfer. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Transfer \$5.32 from A1110.4 Justice Contractual to Justice Equipment Fund A1110.2. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to make the transfer. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase to close New Business. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Enter Executive Session pending litigation at 8:30 PM. Reenter Regular Board meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester that the Board will move forward with research as it relates to a Local Law, banning Solid Waste Management

Facilities in the Town of Thurston. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Dan Gee seconded by Holly Chase to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:37 p.m. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk