

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday March 15, 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
Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr
Town Dog Control Officer:
Town Attorney:
Town Code Officer:
Town Historian:
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Town Justice: Darlene Smith
Absent: Ray Orr, Randy Akins

Visitors: Attorney Rachel Treichler, Marge Taft, Elizabeth Donderwicz, Reginald Rice, Eva Turner, T Borhman, Mary Rayeski, and one other

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

Public Comment: Nothing

Minutes: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to accept and approve the February 1, 2023 Public Hearing, the February 15, 2023 Casella Presentation minutes, and the February 15, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated March 15, 2023 totaling \$5,738.22 and the Highway abstract totaling \$77,390.98 Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: February 2023 monthly deposits were \$293.00. Dolores Crooker stated that there will be a Primary Election on Tuesday June 27, 2023 and a General Election Tuesday November 7, 2023. All Elections will be from 6:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m. Crooker stated that there were two Town Hall rental applications one for 03/25/23 for a birthday party and one for 04/15/23 for a baby shower. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to approve both Town Hall rental applications. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye. Carried.

Justice Report: Justice Smith reported a total deposit of \$393.00. NYS received \$300.00 and the Town received \$93.00. Justice Smith asked the Board for a Court Clerk. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Justice Smith to check with the Campbell Court Clerk to train Justice Smith for 12 hours at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated

that he received a letter from the Unified Court System requesting a Justice audit of 2022 and report from December 2022. Volino stated that he will get in touch with Jeffery Sweeney to get the audit completed.

Tax Collector Report: Total Town tax levy has been received for the Town, Steuben County receives the balance. Sandra Nowicki will collect taxes in March only on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm till 8:00 pm and Friday March 31, 2023 which is the last day for collection.

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Michael Volino has resigned the Historian position which leaves a need for a Town Historian.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: One building permit totaling \$225.00.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 2 dogs running at large. Tentative date for the Spring rabies clinic is April 29, 2023.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino met with Debra Castile from Williamson Law for training with accounting/payroll software. Michael Volino stated that he set up digital banking and direct deposit through Five Star Bank. Michael Volino closed the Reserve Accounts at Chemung Canal and will open Savings/Money Market accounts at Five Star Bank. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to open Savings/Money Market accounts at Five Star Bank. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye. Carried. Volino will have office hours on Tuesday and Saturday from 8 am – 11 am and by appointment.

Highway Superintendent's Report: February 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 02/16/23-03/15/23. Roads were checked 18 times plowed and or sanded 12 times. Parking lots were plowed and sidewalks cleared 5 times. Forty nine point fifty three ton of rock dust has been purchased from the Stone Quarry. One day has been spent patching pot holes. Sixteen days were spent cutting trees and brush along road sides. The weight limit signs were posted on the oil and stone roads on 02/17/23. One hundred twelve point fifty eight ton of rock salt has been purchased. The brine permit renewal has been submitted. The total cost of repairs to the 2009 JD Grader was \$66,468.83. Repairs were made to the following equipment. Two cable pulleys and a bolt were replaced on the 05 Volvo dump truck and a fabricated muffler strap was installed. The excavator had 3 new hydraulic lines replaced on the brush cutter head. Richard Gauss, Jr asked if there was a possibility of switching from vouchers to purchase orders for vendors. Michael Volino will check into it. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase 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; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: Michael Volino stated that he met with Adam Landon from Southern Tier PC to purchase 4 laptops, two desktop computers, and transfer all data for slightly over \$7,000.00. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael to sign a purchase

agreement with Adam Landon. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he did not want to hire Mullen Associates for Town Attorney representation. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to appoint Rachael Treichler Town Attorney temporarily until an Attorney could be hired permanently. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he checked with NYS and found that the Local Law of #1 was filed on 2/21/23. Michael Volino stated that he called Scott Orcutt director of landfills for Steuben County and requested a public meeting but has not heard back from Orcutt. Michael Volino sent a letter to DEC requesting a public hearing. Volino called Ms Merchant a DEC representative requesting a meeting and has not heard back from her. Michael Volino stated that he has had two conversations with Senator O'Mara's office, they have reached out to Tim Walsh from region 8 to set up a DEC meeting. Michael Volino stated that water testing is underway in the Town which was funded by the Sierra Club and expects a report by the April Board meeting. Michael Volino stated that he would like to schedule a special meeting at 6:00 pm April 19, 2023 to report Thurston's water test results. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to do internal audits of the Justice, Tax Collector, and the Town Clerk. Before April 19, 2023. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to close Old Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Michael Volino stated he wanted to set up auto bill pay for monthly bills Armstrong, Spectrum, and Verizon. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to set up auto bill pay for the three recurring accounts. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that a resolution was needed to remove Wendy Lozo from the Superior Plus Propane Account. Motion/Resolution was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee to remove Wendy Lozo from the Superior Plus Propane Account. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept Paul Pecks resignation effective 02/22/23. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he would not be cutting the grass at the 3 cemetery locations in 2023. Alan Crooker sent a proposal to the Board to cut the grass at the Bonny Hill, County Route 12, and the Thurston cemeteries along with the locations that are presently being maintained for a total of \$5,000.00 for the 2023 season. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee for Michael Volino to sign the cemetery maintenance contract with Alan Crooker for the 2023 season. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that estimates were needed for the roof and soffit work on the Highway shop. Estimates will be discussed at the April Board meeting. Michael Volino stated that a plan needs to be put in place to spend the ARPA funds. Some suggestions were a park, cemetery signs, and to fix railings on the front of the Town Hall. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to close New Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:30 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk