

Town of Thurston Meeting Minutes  
Held: Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.  
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Wendy Lozo  
Town Council Members: Michael Volino, Paul Peck, Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase  
Town Highway Superintendent: Richard Gauss, Jr.  
Town Dog Control Officer:  
Town Attorney: Shawn Sauro  
Town Code Officer:  
Town Historian: Michael Volino

Absent: Ray Orr, Randy Akins

Visitors: Tom Lozo, Shawn Twist

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

Public Comment: Shawn Twist asked about the status of his complaint on South Hill Rd. Wendy Lozo asked him to explain his situation and she reassured him that she would ask Code Officer Ray Orr for an update on his findings. Wendy took Shawn's contact information and advised him to let her know if he is not able to get in touch with Ray Orr.

Minutes: Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Board Meeting minutes dated February 17, 2021. 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 A047- A067 totaling \$17,276.87, and the Highway abstract 036-054 totaling \$27,277.31. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: February 2021 monthly deposits were \$224.00.

Justice Report: Wendy Lozo stated that the Justice has sent collection letters to people that haven't paid their fines in order to recoup outstanding fines and fees.

Tax Collector Report: Wendy Lozo stated that Sandra Nowicki is collecting taxes through March 31, 2021.

Assessor Report: Nothing.

Historian Report: Michael Volino asked if Wendy could check with The Ryan Agency to see if the damage at the Risingville cemetery is covered by insurance so the retaining wall and the monument could be repaired before grass cutting season begins. Motion was made by Holly

Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy Lozo to request coverage from The Ryan Agency for repairs to the retaining wall and monument at the Risingville cemetery. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye Paul Peck, aye Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, refrain; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nothing

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported that he received 1 call about a missing dog that later returned on its own. Randy reported five calls about what appeared to be an abandoned dog. The dog owner was located and ordered to surrender the dog to the SPCA. Randy would like to conduct a rabies clinic possibly at the end of April. Attorney Shawn Sauro advised to contact the Steuben County Health Dept for guidelines. Wendy Lozo stated that Steuben County has published requirements for safe handling of clinics. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for the Town to have a rabies clinic with COVID safe requirements in place. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Supervisor's Report: The month of February 2021 paperwork has been emailed to the Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office.

Highway Superintendent's Report: February 2021 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 02/17/21-03/17/21. All road conditions were checked 11 times. Roads have been plowed or sanded 9 times. The Town Hall and Fire Dept parking lots were plowed 3 times. Two days were spent mixing salt with sand. The weight limit signs were put in place on the required roads February 24<sup>th</sup>. One day was spent removing limbs from road ways caused by high winds. Three loads of stone dust were purchased from the Stone Quarry and 3 days were spent patching potholes. A road sign on Smith road has been repaired. Five hundred feet of ditch line has been opened up on Bonny Hill road. Fill Rite replaced the failed fuel pump. Nine loads of scrap steel and culverts were taken to Hornell Waste with a return of \$7,094.75. A large Cherry tree in the Risingville cemetery that was pushing over the Carr headstone has been removed. The payroll certification has been mailed to Steuben County. The equipment for use in Spring and Summer is being maintained. Two days were spent repairing the trunnion shaft break on the rear suspension of the 01 Volvo dump truck and a fender bracket has been replaced. A brake accumulator has been replaced on the grader. New teeth were replaced on the road rake. Two rear wheel studs and nuts were replaced on the 01 F550. Motion was made by Michael Volino for Richard Gauss, Jr to hire a temporary employee at \$16.00 an hour. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Richard Gauss, Jr. stated that he received a call from Deputy Martin with an update on the children that vandalized some equipment at the highway shop and the destruction at the Risingville cemetery. Each of the vandals were charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanors. A discussion took place on fuel mileage and emissions monitoring. 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: Wendy Lozo stated that along with Covid -19 protocols being followed the UV sanitizing system was installed in the heating and cooling unit of the Town Hall for added safety measures against the virus. Paul Peck will install the parts in the parking lot lights as soon as the weather allows. Wendy Lozo stated that she is still waiting on the Solar decommissioning and Bond info from Ryan McCune. Ryan did ask for road classifications associated with the Town of Thurston's road use agreement. Wendy Lozo stated that the Supervisor and Justice internal audits have been completed. Resolution/Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Michael Volino to accept and approve the Justice internal audit. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that the 2020 FOIL request for New York State has been completed. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept the NYS Emergency Health Plan associated with the Teamsters Union and for Wendy Lozo to sign and submit it. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that the funding for the new Peterbilt dump truck has been approved by Chemung Canal at 3%. Wendy Lozo stated that the first payment on the Peterbilt needs to be paid in 2022 and CHIPS money will be used for the first payment. Holly Chase asked for backup financing in case the CHIPS money isn't available. Wendy Lozo explained where the funds would come from if the CHIPS money is not available. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for a letter of intent to purchase be drawn up for the Peterbilt dump truck and both Richard Gauss, Jr and Wendy Lozo should sign it. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that the Board can vote on financing in April. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck to close Old Business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase. Carried.

New Business: Wendy Lozo stated that the price of dog tags is \$5.95 apiece and the Town only charges dog owners \$2.00 for replacement tags. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to amend the original agreement and raise the replacement tag price to \$6.00. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy lozo stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution needs to be submitted by April 1, 2021. Resolution/Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy Lozo to sign and submit the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase 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 Michael Volino to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:17 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