

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes  
Held: Wednesday May 15, 2024 at 7:05 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: Rachel Treichler  
Town Code Officer: Nick Nolton  
Town Historian: Noel Sylvester (Deputy)  
Town Assessor:  
Town Justice:  
Absent: Darlene Smith, Randy Akins, Diana Dixon

Visitors: Sam Dick, Eva Turner, Lisa Hargrave, Tim Hargrave, Ruth Schoonover, Teresa Borhman, Marge Taft, Gary Lewis, Helen Stephens, Tom Stephens, Jeff Sweeney, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad, Brennan Hardy

Michael Volino called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Public Comment: Supervisor Volino stated that Middletown Historical Society requested a donation of \$500.00 from the Town of Thurston. Lisa Hargrave a Board Member from Middletown Historical Society gave a brief overview of what the Society is, it's mission, and it's vision. Gary Lewis complimented the Town Board and the contractor for the completion of the kitchenette in the Town Hall. Lewis also stated that he appreciated the installation of the playground and added that a pavilion should be considered for family use also. Lewis mentioned the light on the flag pole and the railings on the front of the Town Hall still need to be completed. Marge Taft said thank you to the Town Board for the kitchenette and the playground. Brennan Hardy stated that he has small children and they will be using the playground. Hardy asked if the Town would consider the use of ATV and Four Wheelers on town roads. Hardy stated that Hornellsville and Andover are two towns that he knows of that allow it. Hardy asked when the potholes on Forty Dollar road were going to be fixed. Saige McGarvey stated that Vestal Asphalt was going to make cold patch on Thursday May 16, 2024 and Forty Dollar road is first on the list to be patched. Tim Hargrave thanked the Thurston Town Board for establishing a Local Law on sludge spreading. Hargrave asked the Board to give the Cameron Town Board some encouragement and some formal support to move forward with a local law. Motion was made by Holly Chase 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 Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to accept and approve the April 17, 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 Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated May 15, 2024 totaling \$27,486.95 and the Highway abstract totaling \$166,149.14. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: April 2024 monthly deposits were \$1,012.70.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported \$243.00 collected in the month of April. Michael Volino stated that the JCAP grant items purchased are still arriving.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

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

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nick Nolton reported issuing 3 building permits, 2 separate ongoing violations, and one complaint.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 109 animals vaccinated at the drive through rabies clinic with \$260.00 in donations. One complaint about two dogs acting aggressive. Collected \$100.00 in late dog license fees. The enumeration process is underway.

Highway Superintendent Report: Items of Interest and work performed 04/18/24 – 05/16/24. Seasonal grading is underway. New bristles have been put on the broom. The new siding is being put on the highway shop. The playground has been completed. The 3 pieces of equipment that sold on auctions international have gone to their new owners. The full time MEO position filled by Chris Volino began work on April 29, 2024. The part time position filled by Kaden Jewell began work on April 29, 2024. The upper section of Hanrahan road has been determined to be the road project. The down payment has been submitted on the new 10 wheeler. A faulty wiring harness has been replaced on the truck. A 60 foot driveway pipe has been replaced on Tucker road. Gravel has been purchased to make patch material. A few of the turn around locations have been repaired. A tree has been removed off from Hamilton Rd. An air tank has been replaced on truck 424. A load of scrap metal has been taken to Weisman's in Hornell. A clean up session took place behind the salt barn. All roads have been checked for any hazards.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Volino emailed the April monthly report to the Town Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Supervisor Volino stated that five Hometown Hero Banners have been ordered. Volino stated that the NYS budget passed on April 20, 2024. The AIM and CHIPS funding will remain the same as 2023. The construction of the playground and the safety audit have been completed. The 2023 ARPA expenditure report has been submitted. The American Medical Response ambulance reported 21 requests and 16 transports in the first quarter of 2024. Supervisor Volino met with Brian from STCPD on May 14, 2024. The plan is to apply for a Rehab Grant in 2024.

Housing Needs Committee update. Jennifer Hargrave stated that the assessment survey and site reviews are ongoing. The site reviews need to be completed by May 31, 2024. Thirteen applications have been submitted only 9 qualify at this time.

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

#### Unfinished Business:

Supervisor Volino stated that Helen Stephens requested to hear the Smith road water runoff situation first. Attorney Rachel Treichler reported that it is highly unlikely to hold the Town of Thurston responsible for water runoff from one neighbor to another. Attorney Treichler recommended the Town give Mr. and Mrs. Stephens the 9 page memorandum and let them respond to it. The discussion ended with Supervisor Volino getting in touch with Steuben County's Engineer for an outside opinion on the runoff situation. Attorney Treichler suggested a written description and photos be drawn up to present the situation to the Steuben County Engineer.

Supervisor Volino stated that the Solar Moratorium Local Law #2 of 2024 has been changed to meet the suggestions put forward at the April Board meeting. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Holly Chase to approve the Local Law #2 of 2024 as written. Roll call vote: Holly Chase, yes; Daniel Gee, yes; Michael Volino, yes; Noel Sylvester, yes; Jennifer Hargrave, yes. Carried.

Supervisor Volino stated that the Campbell Summer Recreation program will not need a donation from the Town of Thurston in 2024. Supervisor Volino asked the Town Board if those funds could be used for the Middletown Historical Society. Daniel Gee made a motion seconded by Noel Sylvester to make a donation of \$500.00 to the Society with a stipulation attached that documentation of how the funds were used be disclosed. Put to vote; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Supervisor Volino asked the Board to consider the purchase of a second Peterbilt Dump Truck for the Highway Dept. Holly Chase stated that purchases cannot contribute to tax increases. Chase is addimtent about keeping the tax rate below 2%. Daniel Gee suggested putting the purchase out for bid. Jennifer Hargrave is concerned about having too many large payments all at the same time. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase 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:

Michael Volino stated that the Shared Service Agreement with Steuben County needs to be signed. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase for Michael Volino to sign the Shared Service Agreement with Steuben County. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

The 2025 CHIPS form for reimbursement and the 284 Agreement to spend Highway funds has been filed. Supervisor Volino asked the Town Board if the Town Hall should be washed again

this year by Paryker's Soft Pressure Washing for \$350.00. The Board agreed to have the Town Hall washed again this year. Supervisor Volino asked if S&S Disposal could set up at the Highway Shop for 1 day in May or June to collect trash at no cost to the Town of Thurston. Rates per bag will be charged to the person using the service. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for S&S Disposal to set up at the Highway Shop. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Supervisor Volino explained the confusion of ownership on the Savona Campbell road to the Town Board. Volino asked permission to speak with the Town of Campbell to clarify the boundaries. All Board members were in agreement for Volino to contact the Town of Campbell. The Town Board will hold an opening event for the new playground sometime this summer. Daniel Gee offered to supply food for the event. Supervisor Volino will contact the Fire Dept about the overflowing of soda cans at the Fire Dept.

#### Announcements:

The Dog enumeration is underway and will run through June 30, 2024.  
Grievance Day will be held May 28, 2024 from 5 to 9 P.M.  
Housing Survey must be completed by June 3, 2024. The Town Clerk has extra copies  
First Safety Committee Meeting will be held June 19, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.  
Next Regular Board Meeting will be June 19, 2024

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester 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.

Motion was made by Dan Gee seconded by Holly Chase to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:35 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