

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes  
Held: Wednesday May 17, 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:  
Town Justice:  
Absent: Randy Akins

Visitors: Mary Rayeski, Lary Schilling, Eva Turner, Paul Peck, Sheree Gauss, Marge Taft, Elizabeth Donderewitz, Brian Toy, Caleb Tietje, Chris Volino, Ruth Schoonover, Tim Hargrave

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

Brian Toy from the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board gave a presentation of the Housing Assessment and Block Grant Housing Program that is available to residents in Steuben County that qualify for funding.

Public Comment: Sheree Gauss read a letter she wrote to the Board on behalf of Valerie Peck. Gauss stated that Peck deserved an apology for the way she was treated by the Board. Michael Volino accepted the criticism. Ruth Schoonover agreed with Gauss.

Minutes: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to accept and approve the April 19, 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 Noel Sylvester seconded by Dan Gee for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated May 17, 2023 totaling \$6,841.24 and the Highway abstract totaling \$46,317.04 Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: April 2023 monthly deposits were \$211.00. Dolores Crooker stated that Samantha Horton applied and paid \$25.00 to use the Town Hall on 05/28/23 from 1pm – 5pm for a birthday party.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported a total deposit of \$170.00. NYS received \$120.00 and the Town received \$50.00. Justice Smith met with special council from Rochester as it relates to outstanding cases and all cases prior to 2019 have been dismissed. Michael Volino stated that Danielle Weaver continues to work on the Justice backlog. Motion was made by

Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to approve 30 more hours for Weaver at \$16.00 per hour. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Noel Sylvester stated that he visited the community building in Risingville and plans to do a Title search.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Code Officer Nick Nolton turned in 1 building permit. Nick will do a final inspection on the Nexamp Solar project on Lewis Rd. Nolton stated that he spoke with a resident of the Town of Thurston about the condition of the home on said property.

Dog Control Officer's Report: No veterinarian has been located for a Saturday rabies clinic in the Town of Thurston.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the April 2023 report to the Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Volino completed the 2023 ARPA Annual Compliance Report. Volino attended an 8.5hour training in auditing, budgeting, and reserves. Volino will be attending a 6hour training on journal entry located in Utica on June 28, 2023. Volino stated that negotiations with the Teamsters Local Union #118 are set to begin in June 2023.

Highway Superintendent's Report: April 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 04/20/23-05/17/23. Richard Gauss, Jr stated that he received a letter from Steuben County that the bridge on South Hill road is secure. Gauss stated that projected road work for 2023 will be on Bonny Hill, Starr, Smith, and South Hill roads. Gauss stated that the temporary MEO that has been hired has a CDL. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee for wage for the MEO position to begin at \$16.50 an hour for the first 3 months of employment then will increase to \$17.00 an hour. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Gauss stated that he would like to place a bid up to \$20,000.00 on Auctions International on a 2008 GMC 5500 single axle dump truck with 56,000 miles. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester for Richard Gauss, Jr to place a bid on Auctions International. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Gauss stated that CHIPS funds increased, Pave NY decreased, Extreme Winter Recovery stayed the same, and POP stayed the same. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester 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; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: Michael Volino stated that John Kurtz resubmitted a bid of \$24,703.98 along with an updated liability certification for the Highway Shop roof and soffits. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept the Kurtz bid. 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 Jennifer Hargrave to transfer \$24,703.98 from the Building Reserve fund to the Building Repair fund. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Volino stated that he contacted Parker Soft Power Wash Co to power wash the exterior of the Town Hall. The quote was \$250.00 with a liability certificate. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to hire Parker Soft Power Wash Co to power wash the Town Hall. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino read Valerie Peck's resignation letter. The Board decided to get quotes from cleaning companies to review at the June 2023 Board meeting. Rachel Treichler drafted a code enforcement law using the NYS model law of 2023. The Board will review and make certain provisions and decide on specifics following NYS codes. Michael Volino asked the Board to schedule a study group to review the drafted law. The Board decided on May 31, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Michael Volino stated there were designs of playgrounds on the web page for review. Volino asked for a motion to appoint a media spokesperson. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to appoint Michael Volino as the media spokesperson. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, abstain; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. The Casella update consisted of continued ground water investigation, two permit applications are pending, and two lagoons are being tested to determine if the waste can be spread onsite or taken to the landfill. No test results back yet on PFAS testing. Eva Turner asked how many trucks would deliver the class B biosolids a day and how much would they weigh. The answer was six to seven 30ton trucks would deliver Monday Through Friday. Motion was made by Holly Chase 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 a motion to transfer \$300.00 from A1460.4 (Records Management Contractual) to A3620.4 (Safety Inspection Contractual) for the Code Enforcement Software. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to transfer \$300.00 for the Code Enforcement Software. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Volino stated that he needed to transfer \$161.61 from A 7145.4 (Summer Recreation Contractual) to A1330.4 (Tax Collection Contractual). Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to transfer \$161.61. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated he needed a motion to sign the Countryside Propane fixed price contract. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester for Volino to sign the Countryside Propane contract. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he spoke with NYS DECALS about selling hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for the 2023 season. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee to sell hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for the 2023 season. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that by recommendation from Attorney Rachel Treichler NYMIR insures municipalities and the Town of Thurston should consider switching from the Ryan Agency. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase 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 Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to move to executive session for possible litigation. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Returned to regular session at 9:55 P.M. motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to set a date for a Public Hearing to review a sewer sludge law, as well as to hear a presentation by Kayla Wagner from the Sprague Agency on NYMIR municipal insurance, and for a workshop on an updated Town Code Enforcement law. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:00 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