

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Held: Tuesday May 31, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 7578 County Route 333 Thurston, NY

Present: Michael Volino, Holly Chase, Noel Sylvester, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave, Rachel Treichler

Visitors: Charles Plank, Mike Volino, Kayla Wagner, Payson Snyder, Caleb Cook, Calvin Weaver, Ruth Schoonover, Caleb Tietje, Joshua Tietje, Marge Taft, Mary Rayeski, Sam Dick, Brett Dickson, Kurt Phillipson, Bradley Dick, Tim Hargrave

Michael Volino called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. The Board opened with the pledge of Allegiance.

Kayla Wagner from the Sprague Agency presented the Board with a proposal for insurance by NYMIR. The Board members will review the proposal and make a determination to accept or not at a later date.

Michael Volino stated that the removal of the trees in the Risingville cemetery was approved in December of 2022. Cawards Tree Service bid has expired with no interest in rebidding. A bid of \$500.00 by Crazy Abe's Tree Service was presented to the Board. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester for Crazy Abe's Tree Service to remove the trees in the Risingville cemetery. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, abstain; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Michael Volino stated that he needed a motion to pay Invoice number 23PRI_Volino_2031 for Public Officials Training totaling \$85.00. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee for Volino to pay the \$85.00 invoice. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Michael Volino asked the Board if there should be a Training Fund established to cover all training for Town officials that receive W2 forms. Holly Chase suggested they track the training expenses for some time before making a decision.

Michael Volino stated that there was nothing to present on the Sewer Sludge Law at this time.

Michael Volino read a draft of a letter that he has written in response to a letter written by Casella's Bonny Hill Division Manager, Mary Rayeski. The Board determined with advice by some of the Town of Thurston residents and Attorney Treichler to make revisions to the letter before publishing it. Brett Dickson stated that he feels his name is being dragged through the mud and he feels the Town owes him a public apology, which he feels will never happen. Michael Volino explained that he has not named names in any of his conversations about the spreading of class B biosolids on agricultural land. Michael Volino stated that he does not want class B biosolids from Bay Park located in Nassau County, on Long Island brought to the Town of

Thurston and spread on the Town of Thurston agricultural land. Volino stated that Nassau County has plenty of farm land they should spread the biosolids in Long Island. Mary Rayeski stated that certified soil and water testing is ongoing by ALS Laboratories. Rayeski stated that no spreading of class B biosolids will take place until NYSDEC publishes their policy on PFAS. Brett Dickson asked how many different categories PFAS falls under. Attorney Treichler stated that certified laboratories typically test for 50 different PFAS contaminants. Treichler stated that the tests also determine how long ago or how recent the PFAS contaminants have been in the soil. Mary Rayeski and Brett Dickson both stated that biosolids are considered organic under the NYSDEC guidelines. Dickson said he would rather use an organic fertilizer on his fields than use synthetic fertilizers loaded with chemicals.

With no further discussion motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Daniel Gee to close the public hearing at 9:05 p.m. Put to vote: Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk