

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday November 8, 2023 at 7:09 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: Randy Akins
Town Attorney:
Town Code Officer:
Town Historian: Noel Sylvester
Town Assessor: Diana Dixon
Town Justice:

Absent: Darlene Smith, Jennifer Hargrave, Rachel Treichler, Nick Nolton

Visitors: Elizabeth Donderewicz, Barbara Dartt, Eva Turner, Marge Taft

Michael Volino called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Marge Taft gave Dolores Crooker a public notice to post on the Clerk's sign board and the webpage for the Fire District Election which will take place in December 2023.

Minutes: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the October 4, 2023 public hearing, October 17, 2023 Special meeting, October 18, 2023 Local Law #3 meeting, and October 18, 2023 Regular 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 Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated November 8, 2023 totaling \$3,880.70, the Highway abstract totaling \$8,557.55, and the T&A \$157.00. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: Dolores Crooker stated that she received a notice from the Dept of State that the Town of Thurston Local Law #3 of 2023 was filed with NYS on October 23, 2023. October 2023 monthly deposits were \$571.00.00.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported that there was no money collected. Justice Smith reported that the Justice docket for 2023 is ready for the internal audit.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Nothing

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Michael Volino stated that Nick Nolton is working on a proposed solar project on Knowles road.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins stated that the dog shelter in Rathbone will be closing December 31, 2023. Akins is looking for a shelter for 2024, Akins will check with Jerry Aldridge for pricing.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the October monthly report to the Town Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Volino stated that he attended a retirement reporting training on October 24, 2023. Volino stated that the railings on the front of the Town Hall will get another coat of paint in the spring. Final payment will be made when the Town Board approves the finished project. Volino stated that he contacted Spectrum for an internet upgrade at the Town Hall. There will be no additional charge for the upgrade. Volino stated that there were 185 ballots cast at the November election in the Town of Thurston. Volino stated that he appreciates those who came out to vote.

Highway Superintendent's Report: October 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 10/18/23-11/08/23. Richard Gauss, Jr stated that the F550 dump truck bid came in at \$5,800.00 on Auctions International. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept the bid of \$5,800.00 for the F550. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. The fall grading has been completed. New road signs have been installed along the Starr road project. A stop sign that was stole from the intersection of Knowles road and Brink road has been replaced. The lower headwall on a cross pipe on Smith road has been reset. Ditch and shoulder work have been done there also. A large dead tree on Jack road has been removed. Three days have been spent patching potholes and rough areas with stone dust. The ceiling lights in one half of the shop have been replaced with LED bulbs. The CHIPS reimbursement form has been sent in. A reimbursement of \$206,477.23 is expected the middle of December. The total reimbursements for the year are \$310,048.06. The total expense was \$255,075.04. Equipment and labor earnings total was \$54,973.02. The CHIPS revenue budgeted for 2023 was \$40,200.00 which leaves \$14,773.02 above what was budgeted. All equipment is ready for winter. The 01 Autocar had a new oil pan installed and a tail light has been replaced. The 2022 Peterbilt was taken to Utica General Truck to have the steering recalibrated. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee 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: Noel Sylvester will get 2 estimates for the kitchenette by the December board meeting. Job descriptions and duties will be updated at the 2024 organizational meeting. Michael Volino will email a template to the Board members of a procurement policy which is required by the OSC. It will be addressed at the 2024 organizational meeting. A design for the veteran banners needs to be chosen. Permission from the electric company to hang the banners is needed. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase 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 that he needed a motion to adopt the 2024 preliminary budget as the 2024 Final budget. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to adopt the 2024 preliminary budget as the 2024 final budget. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he would like to include payroll in the General and Highway accounts. Holly Chase suggested having a sole account for payroll for tax purposes. The Board will discuss the bank accounts at the December Board meeting. Michael Volino stated that Justice Darlene Smith tracked her hours of work in July, August, and September to establish the standard work day for the Justice retirement resolution. The time worked equals 2.87 standard work days. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to sign the Justice resolution at 2.87 standard work days for the Justice retirement. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that the Thurston Water/ Sierra Club would like to use the Town Hall basement to present the second phase of water testing results to the public in December 2023. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to allow the Thurston Water/ Sierra Club to use the Town Hall basement on December 20, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. Put to vote; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester 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 7:50 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