

Town of Thurston Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday September 16, 2020 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: Randy Akins, Ray Orr

Visitors: Marge Taft

Wendy Lozo called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Nothing

Minutes: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to accept and approve the Board meeting minutes dated August 19, 2020. 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 Holly Chase for Wendy Lozo to pay all claims listed in the General abstract A153- A168 totaling \$13,160.16 and the Highway abstract 140-153 totaling \$30,579.49. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: August 2020 monthly report was presented to the Board. Total deposits were \$602.00.

Justice Report: No activity in the month of August.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing. Wendy Lozo stated that the Assessors have started having office hours on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm till 8:30 pm September through April.

Historian Report: August 2020 report: Michael Volino stated that he contacted 2 monument businesses for estimates to fix the damage created by vandalism in the Risingville cemetery. Haughey Memorials can fix the retaining wall for \$200.00 and reset the Spencer monument for \$100.00. The damage to the end stones are beyond repair. Haughey recommends plaque markers in the place of end stones. The families of the deceased will have to decide if this is acceptable.

Town Attorney, Shawn Sauro recommends submitting a claim to the Town of Thurston's Insurance Co.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Wendy Lozo stated that Ray Orr checked on the Sutton residence for cleanup progress and found that old tires have been removed.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported that he had a NYS inspection on 9/4/2020 and passed. Randy reported an investigation into a dog bite and is waiting on rabies vaccination confirmation.

Supervisor's Report: Wendy Lozo emailed August bookwork to the Board and a hard copy was presented to the Clerk.

Highway Superintendent's Report: August 2020 monthly report was presented to the Board. Armstrong internet and phone service have been installed at the Highway shop. Tucker road potholes have been patched. Green Hill turn around near Carl Soleski residence has been used by the Town of Thurston for 40 some years while Carl lived there. New residents claim they own the turn around and are pretty addiment that the Town Highway should not be using that location for a turn around. Items of interest and work performed 08/19/20-09/15/2020. The Helms road CHIPS project has been completed. Drive pipes and cross pipes have been replaced. The headwall on the lower end of a large cross pipe was rebuilt and approximately 3220 ton of gravel has been used in the project. The Fall grading has begun. The Hyundai loader is still at George & Swedes for repairs. Cummins has agreed to pay roughly 75% of the cost of a new motor for the loader which is approximately \$16,500.00. The motor has been ordered and will take 4-6 weeks for delivery. The Town of Thurston Highway will pay roughly \$10,000.00 after the motor is installed. A large pine tree has been removed from Eddy road. Five days were spent patching oil and stone roads. The reimbursement forms for EWR, Pave NY, and CHIPS have been submitted to NYSDOT in the amount of \$102,661.79. The CHIPS reimbursement will be enough to cover the Helms road project which should be received in December. The Army trucks that were stored behind the Salt Storage Barn were vandalized sometime around September 1, 2020. All the glass has been broken and a couple mirrors. The Sheriff's department has been notified. They are investigating and are questioning some people. Choice Auto Glass has given an estimate of \$1,797.15 to replace the glass and mirrors. Repairs were made to the following equipment: The exhaust brake has been rebuilt on the 01 Volvo dump truck. The waste gate has been replaced on the 07 Western Star brine truck. The line dryer has been replaced on the 01 Autocar. New front brake pads were installed on the 2015 F350. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Paul Peck 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 thanked Noel Sylvester for gathering information and reporting back to the Board on the Nexamp Solar Farm findings. Town Attorney, Shawn Sauro explained the pros and cons of being Lead Agency on the Solar Farm project. Furthermore with no zoning in the Town of Thurston or Planning Board the Town Board realized with much consideration that the time involved with being lead agency and getting involved with the SEQR process would put too much strain on one person alone to dedicate themselves to the solar farm project. Also, quite

simply all that is truly required from the Town of Thurston is a Building Permit for the installation of a solar project. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Michael Volino to refuse to be Lead Agency on the Nexamp Solar Farm project. Noel Sylvester, nay; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that a vote needed to take place on the Highway Department Union and Health Ins contracts. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Michael Volino for Wendy Lozo to sign the contracts with corrections. Put to vote. Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Holly Chase, aye; Michael Volino, aye. Carried. Holly Chase's husband installed the new hardware in the toilet tank of the female bathroom on the first floor of the Town Hall. Isaac Heating & Air conditioning does deep cleaning and sanitizing of commercial buildings. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase for Wendy Lozo to get an estimate from Isaac Heating & Air conditioning for possible cleaning and sanitizing sometime after the Elections in November. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester 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 Highway trucks and cemetery vandalism is being investigated by the Sheriff's Dept. Richard Gauss, Jr. stated that the Sheriff is getting depositions from the kids involved. Town Attorney, Shawn Sauro advises to give estimates to the Sheriff and let the DA take care of the situation. Shawn stated that the criminal system is the way to go and to place a claim with the Insurance Co. Motion was made by Paul Peck seconded by Noel Sylvester for Wendy Lozo to place a claim with the Insurance Co. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo asked the Board members to decide if they wanted to participate in the 3rd party credit card payment program for the Town and County tax season provided by Steuben County. Motion was made by Michael Volino seconded by Noel Sylvester not to participate in the 3rd party credit card payment program. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Wendy Lozo stated that she is working on updating the no smoking policy to meet NYS requirements. Wendy Lozo stated that she needed the Board to set the dates for Budget meetings. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to have October 5, 2020 meeting at 7:00 pm for Wendy to hand out tentative budget information and October 12 & 14 2020 at 7:00 pm for Budget workshops. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to have the Preliminary Budget Public Hearing on November 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Paul Peck asked the board if he should put LED light bulbs in the lights on the back of the building. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase for Paul Peck to replace light bulbs with LED bulbs. 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 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 Noel Sylvester to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:06 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Paul Peck, aye; Wendy Lozo, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase. Carried

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk