

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes
Held: Wednesday September 20, 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: Diana Dixon
Town Justice:
Absent: Randy Akins, Darlene Smith

Visitors: Sue Dondoweicz, Mike Volino, Chris Volino, Heather Quick, Mary Rayeski, Larry Schilling, Eva Turner, Marge Taft, Roxanne Dillon, Greg Dillon, Brett Dickson, Frank Patterson, LeeAnn Dickson, Kurt Philipson, Bill Dartt, Barbara Dartt, Brad Dick, Sam Dick, Fritz Anderson, Andy Dickson, Rhonda Dickson

Michael Volino called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Marge Taft stated that she saw the part time highway employee sitting in a piece of equipment talking on his cell phone. Marge stated that she hoped the Board considered this before hiring a fourth fulltime highway employee.

Minutes: Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept and approve the August 16, 2023 Establishing an Energy Code Public Hearing minutes and the Regular 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 Daniel Gee for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated September 20, 2023 totaling \$7,953.42, the Highway abstract totaling \$75,715.14, and the T&A \$157.00. 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 the Local Law #3 of 2023 vote will happen at a later date. Volino stated that NYS certified Town of Thurston water testing is underway. Volino stated that he would like to schedule a special meeting for October 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the revision progress of Local Law #3 of 2023. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to schedule a special meeting for October 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he needed a Board motion for Richard Gauss, Jr to purchase the 2023 Peterbilt dump truck. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Richard Gauss, Jr to purchase the 2023 Peterbilt dump truck. Put to vote: Noel

Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he received a new estimate from Parkatech for the playground. The new price is \$91,056.70 with the highway crew and volunteers doing the installation. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee for Michael Volino to accept and sign the estimate to lock in the price and set a date for installation in 2024. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he needed to transfer \$35,851.65 from the ARPA-A688 account to account number A1620.2. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to transfer \$35,851.65 from the ARPA-A688 account to the A1620.2 account. 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 Holly Chase to close old business. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: August 2023 monthly deposits were \$1,827.00.00. Dolores Crooker stated she received a letter from the Steuben County Election Board stating that the elections for the year 2024 have already been established.

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported a total deposit of \$1,515.00.

Tax Collector Report: Nothing

Assessor Report: Nothing

Historian Report: Noel Sylvester stated that maybe Mrs. Shirley Burgess may have some information on the building in Risingville.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: 2 building permits were issued. Both were for manufactured homes.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 2 dogs running at large.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the August 2023 report to the Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Volino stated that he attended the September Fire Commissioners meeting. Volino stated that he had complaints about truck traffic on Bonny Hill Rd.

Highway Superintendent's Report: August 2023 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 08/17/23-09/20/23. Washouts on Smith and Lewis roads were repaired. A blind ditch has been installed at the end of Helms road to prevent water from entering the roadway. Four days were spent trucking gravel to the Starr road project. A driveway on Starr road has been extended 10 feet. Quotes from Suit Kote and Vestal Asphalt to oil and stone Bonny Hill and Starr roads were Suit Kote - \$96,348.80 and Vestal Asphalt - \$80,585.84. Vestal Asphalt is available to do the first course on September 20, 2023 and the second course on September 21, 2023. A 50' cross pipe has been replaced on Harrison road. Steuben County highway crew paved 250 feet on Bonny Hill road from the intersection of County Route 11 and

100 feet on Starr road. A tree that fell across Reed Hill road has been removed. 1,263.52 ton of road sand has been purchased from ST Coots. 45 loads of creek gravel have been placed at the bottom of Shauger road and 500 ton of screened gravel from ST Coots has been placed over it. Fall grading is underway and potholes are being patched. The South Hill bridge has passed NYS inspection, there is no weight restrictions, the section of rail that is bad will be replaced. An air chamber has been replaced on the 01 Autocar and the 06 Sterling dump truck. Motion was made by Daniel Gee 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.

New Business: Michael Volino stated that he needs to make a budget modification, Volino needs to transfer some funds. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for a budget modification to transfer some funds. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Michael Volino to transfer \$133.93 from the Contingency Fund to the Assessors Contractual account. 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 Daniel Gee for Michael Volino to transfer \$750.00 from the Contingency Fund to the Legal Ad account. 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 \$635.98 from the ARPA account to the Building Equipment account. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase for Michael Volino to transfer \$695.98 from the ARPA account to the Building Equipment account. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he needed a motion to issue a key to the building for Nick Nolton the Code Officer. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase to issue a key to the basement door of the Town Hall to Nick Nolton the Code Officer. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. The 2024 Tentative Budget was issued to the Board members and the Town Clerk on 09/20/23. Michael Volino stated that budget workshops need to be established. Motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Noel Sylvester to set Oct 4, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. for the first Budget workshop and Oct 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. for the second Budget workshop if needed. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he inquired about the hometown hero program, the information has been emailed to the Board. Michael Volino stated that an advertisement is needed to replace George Whitbred and Steve Smith vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review. 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 Holly Chase seconded by Daniel Gee to move to executive session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss litigation. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to return to the regular Board meeting at 8:21 p.m. Put to vote. Holly Chase, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel

Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Michael Volino to sign a retainer agreement with Earthjustice to represent the Town of Thurston in litigation matters as it relates to Local Law #3. Earthjustice agrees to represent the Town of Thurston at no cost.

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:27 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