

April 08,2020 Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN, NEW YORK HELD APRIL 8, 2020 AT THE THURMAN TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL, NEW YORK COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM.....

PRESENT: Mr. Ed Brown, Councilman

Mr. Randy Galusha, Councilman

Mr. Douglas Needham, Councilman

Mrs. Susan Shepler, Supervisor

ABSENT: Mrs. Joan Harris, Councilwoman

ALSO PRESENT: Gail Seaman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan E. Staples

DUE TO THE COVID 19 VIRUS OUTBREAK, AND A MANDATORY 5 PERSON LIMIT IN BUILDINGS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

The meeting started at **6:30 pm** with the reading of the claims. The **Town Clerk** called 911 after she had requested that **Gail Seaman** be removed due to the fact that she is not a Board Member or the Town Clerk, as well as the limit of 5 people and no public in the building. An Officer arrived and spoke to the **Supervisor, Town Clerk and Gail Seaman**. After completing the review of claims it was decided to call the meeting to order at **6:53 pm** since there was no one else expected due to the meeting being closed to the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Shepler noted I have a rather lengthy Supervisor's Report. Town of Thurman Supervisors Report. The Town of Thurman declared a State of Emergency on Thursday March 19, 2020, at 4:00 pm. This declaration shall remain in effect for 30 days or until it is rescinded by the Supervisor or may be extended. During these trying and fluid times it is very important for everybody to maintain a positive attitude that this too shall pass, but also keeping in mind that this virus is very serious. We all need to remember to keep a six foot distance from your neighbor. Do not gather in a group of people or not at all, and always wash your hands and if you are ill stay home. You should only go out if necessary. There have been 25, 29 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Warren County to date. That is as of today. While there were 6 precautionary quarantines and 93 mandatory quarantines. There is a new Warren County Face Book page with up to date information from the County that I would recommend that all visit. Information and links are on the Thurman Town webpage www.thurmanny.com. I along with the **Warren County Chairman Frank Thomas**, and the Warren County Public Health Department would strongly encourage the second home residents that have fled New York City, Westchester, Long Island, New Jersey and other areas to register with the **Warren County Public Health Department** at 518-761-6580, and self-isolate for the recommended 14 day period. This does not mean going out to the local convenience store, grocery store, Wal-Mart. This means you should have a ride prepared to self-isolate to avoid any possible additional spreading of the virus. **Glens Falls Hospital** and **Warren County Public Health** are going to open a **Covid** testing site. **Covid** testing will be available to residents of

Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Hamilton and Essex Counties. Anyone who believes they should be tested should contact their medical provider. The site will be open for drive up public testing on for those who have obtained medical authorization. The site is scheduled to open on Thursday April 9, 2020. Those wishing to have a test performed will need to get an order from their health provider who will then contact **Warren County Public Service** to arrange for a time for the test. The testing site will be able to handle 50 or so test per day between 9 am and 1 pm Monday through Friday. And I would like to put the address in. It is going to be at the Municipal Center located off Route 9 exit 20 of the Northway, and there will be electronic signs posting for people who are not familiar with the area and how to get there. They are asking everyone to enter the Municipal Center through Glen Lake Road. Testing will continue until further notice. Results through the State Laboratory will take 3 to 5 days. The Town of Thurman hosted the **Annual Jack Wax Party** on March 14, 2020. We worked with the **Warren County Public Health Department, the County Administrator and the Department of Health** to assure that we were working within the margin of compliance. The people who attended were pleased that we were still going forward with the event. Everyone in attendance had a good and safe time. While the **Jack Wax Party** made \$1,002.00 those proceeds went to the American Cancer Society. The Town of Thurman has also hosted the **Warrensburg Central School District** so they can distribute the breakfast and lunch programs to the Thurman students that are qualified along with additional homework that needed to be distributed to Thurman students. The **Thurman Food Pantry** is and has been open on Tuesdays from 9 am to 1 p.....From 11 am to 1 pm to serve the residents of Thurman. We have also served anyone who has come in on any of the other days. The **Thurman Gleaning** hours are the first Monday of the month from 12 noon till 2 pm. We have asked those who come to wait outside observing the 6 foot social distancing, signing in and the Gleaning volunteers will get you the food needed. The Thurman Landfill is and, has been open on Wednesdays from 11 am till 2 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 am till 3 pm. The Thurman Landfill will be closed on Easter Sunday April 12, 2020. Again the Thurman Landfill will be closed only on Easter Sunday April 12th. It will be open on Saturday, and then back to its normal business the following Wednesday. To the keyboard warriors of Facebook please be advised that you are doing a disservice to the residents of the town of Thurman when you post false and misleading information, especially without checking the facts. If you are uncertain of the information please feel free to contact my office 518-623-9649 X101. The Town Offices with the exception to the Town Court are an have been open for business, but would ask that you please call for an appointment for the time being to make sure the person you wish to see is actually at the Town Hall since most of the departments have reduced hours. Your continued support during these unprecedented times is appreciated. Please stay at your home unless it is absolutely necessary to go out, and be well. Thank you. On to the Resolutions. Do I have someone who is willing to introduce a Resolution to Town Finance School?

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution # 34

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Councilman Brown**

Resolution to Attend Town Finance School

Whereas, the Town of Thurman Supervisor and Bookkeeper need to remain current regarding the local government finances an ever changing mandates and policies

Be It Further Resolved that the Supervisor and Bookkeeper will attend the Town Finance School, in May for two days, in Saratoga Springs, NY. At a cost of \$200.00 per person and it will be coming from budget code A1220.4.

Discussion: **Supervisor Shepler** noted it is not an overnight. It is a day course. Can I please have a Roll Call? Oh, any discussion? Sorry. **Councilman Galusha** asked so is this an acknowledgement that **Gail** is actually the Bookkeeper now? **Supervisor Shepler** responded she has never not been. **Councilman Galusha** responded I just recall before the first Organizational Meeting you told me that you were going to do the books. She was just going to be Secretary. **Supervisor Shepler** replied well she is Secretary Bookkeeper. **Councilman Galusha** replied OK. **Supervisor Shepler** noted any further discussion. Can I please have a Roll Call from the top down please?

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Brown, Galusha, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0

Discussion: **Supervisor Shepler** stated let the record show that **Joan Harris** is absent please. Thank you. Do I have someone who is willing to introduce a Resolution to reimburse **Susan Staples**?

Resolution # 35

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Brown** and seconded by **Supervisor Shepler**

Resolution to Reimburse Susan Staples

Whereas, Susan Staples, Town Clerk requesting reimbursement for Hotel Expenses and mileage to and from Hotel at attend Newly Elected Training in Albany January 15-17, 2020

Be It Resolved that the Town of Thurman will reimburse Hotel expenses for two nights total of \$248.00, and for 137 miles round trip at 0.58 per mile, totaling \$79.46. Grand total is \$327.46, from budget code A1410.4.

Discussion: **Supervisor Shepler** asked do I have any discussion. **Councilman Galusha** noted I think she had a voucher that actually included some other mileage other than this. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting she did. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting and we are not addressing that. **Supervisor Shepler** stated we are not. **Councilman Galusha** replied can I ask why. **Supervisor Shepler** responded because I have asked the **Town Clerk** to please make the corrections necessary. **Councilman Galusha** asked and what would those be. **Supervisor Shepler** responded one the Town does not pay for any employee to go from home to work, and from work to home. And I have given her the Town policy, and I have also given her back the paper that she gave me from the **Comptroller's Office**. **Councilman Galusha** replied OK. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting so I have asked her she has stated that it was going to stand as is, and she wasn't going to change it. So I know for a fact that she was at the Newly Elected Officers Training. **Councilman Galusha** stated yeah I don't think that is in dispute. **Supervisor Shepler** noted it is not at all in dispute so I don't see the reason to note pay her for something she is due, but I have asked her, and I will ask her again to please make the corrections on that. **Councilman Galusha** responded right it's just that this has been separated out of a voucher that she submitted. Did you have guidance that supports what you are requesting? The **Town Clerk** interrupted noting yes I did. I went online to the Comptroller's Office, and checked with guidance for charging mileage, and everything else. And they follow the Federal guidelines which I am very familiar with, and that is what I used going

forth this year. I used to charge just one mile which she complained about, and after I checked I realized I should be charging from my house to my duty station, to my second duty station back to this duty station back to my house which is what I charged. **Supervisor Shepler** noted this is the primary duty station. The **Town Clerk** replied correct, and when I go to the Post Office it is a change of duty station. That entitles me to get mileage from my house to here, to the second duty station, back to this duty station and back home. That is the way the regulations read. **Councilman Galusha** asked can you provide that so we can have it. The **Town Clerk** interrupted noting I did. I gave it to everybody actually. I gave a copy to every Board Member a couple of meetings ago, and I do have another copy handy I can get it for you. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well let me just correct something and say that.....The **Town Clerk** interrupted noting you can go on to the Comptroller's Office, and get the information. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting I did contact the Comptroller's Office. I did contact the Lawyer, and we are not paying because the Town does have a policy stating it does not pay for it is considered commuting. To go from home to here and here to home. The **Town Clerk** noted you can't have a law that is inconsistent with State and Federal Law. **Supervisor Shepler** replied the Town Law will supersede, and it does supersede at this point in time and we cannot override it. If I have to pay her mileage for commuting then I am going to have to pay every single employee in the Town of Thurman for commuting. The **Town Clerk** stated you are not commuting. You are not paying for commuting. You are paying me because I changed my duty station. That is what you don't seem to understand. **Councilman Galusha** asked when you say you changed your duty station how did that come about. The **Town Clerk** responded when I go to the Post Office that is a different location. That is considered a different duty station. It doesn't matter what the location is. How far away it is. I used to work at grain elevators the same distance away so I know this like the back of my hand. **Councilman Galusha** noted so let's act on this, but at some point in the future let's revisit this, and see if we can't clear it up. **Councilman Brown** noted we've got to. **Supervisor Shepler** stated that is fine. So this is on the table, and I am looking to reimburse her of the expenses of the Newly Elected Training in Albany for \$327.46 from budget code 1410.4. Is there any other discussion? May I have a vote please from the top down?

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Brown, Galusha, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler noted we are going to go on to the payment of claims now. **Councilman Galusha** noted since these are in writing do we need to actually sit here, and read every single one of them. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well the idea is the public likes to know what we pay. **Councilman Galusha** noted these are going to be attached to the minutes so. **Supervisor Shepler** responded no those are never attached to the minutes. The **Town Clerk** noted the Abstract no. **Supervisor Shepler** noted they are never attached to the minutes. **Councilman Galusha** responded OK. It is painful I know. I apologize, but it is for the public. The Supervisor then read the claims noting the following totals: General Fund \$8,079.73, Highway Fund \$6,589.80, Enterprise Fund \$1,175.83. Total of all claims for April 8, 2020 is \$15,845.36.

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler noted before we adjourn I have one.....**Councilman Galusha** noted we have to vote on this. **Supervisor Shepler** replied sorry. I do not like voting on it. I'll sit here and read it. I will bore you to death, but I'm not going to.....I don't like to vote on it. **Councilman Galusha** noted I will make a motion. **Supervisor Shepler** replied thank you. As soon as I.....**Councilman Needham** stated I will second it. **Supervisor Shepler** replied thank you. **Councilman Needham** noted we want to get out of

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here don't we. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I know. I know. So do I. So this was motion by **Councilman Galusha** . **Councilman Galusha** noted me seconded by **Doug**. **Supervisor Shepler** noted **Randy**. Second, **Doug**. All in favor? Any discussion? All in favor? A Roll Call from the top down please.

Resolution # 36

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Galusha** and seconded by **Councilman Needham**

Payment of Claims

Total of Abstract 004: General Fund, April 82020 \$8,079.73

Total of Abstract 004: Highway Fund, April 8, 2020 \$6,589.80

Total of Abstract 004: Enterprise Fund, April 8, 2020 \$4,175.83

Total Claims for April 8, 2020 \$15,845.36

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Brown, Galusha, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler stated I just want to make a quick note. At our last Board Meeting the Town had voted to reinstate the position of **Deputy Town Supervisor**. And I have made a decision and made an appointment, and the member has been sworn in. It is **Douglas Needham**. And I would like to welcome him. Thank you. **Councilman Galusha** stated congratulations **Doug**. **Councilman Brown** stated yeah **Doug**. **Supervisor Shepler** asked do I have a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: On a motion introduced by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Councilman Brown** the meeting was adjourned at **7:22 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Staples, Town Clerk

April 15 2020

Attachments

Susan Staples

From: Joan Harris [sakolady@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:44 PM
To: ThurmanTownClerk@verizon.net; toadhillmaple@gmail.com; dougneedham248@gmail.com; eddawg1965@gmail.coms
Subject: Tonights meeting 4-8-20

Thurman Town Board :

I will not be attending the town board meeting for obvious reasons. The covid 19 and the many rules that applies. My other reason is I have not been given a meeting packet and therefore can not be prepared to respond to whatever is brought up for discussion. I have been told that the Town Clerk has not prepared the abstracts, if any are presented. { Town law119}. therefore not legal
I have not received the copies of monthly accounting for January -March. Red Flag when accountability is withheld. What is the Supervisor's office hiding?
The Supervisor said she had used Williamson Law and loved it. Why is the Supervisor not entering accounting information into the program and sharing it with the Board?
How many more accounting classes going to be provided to Gail Seaman by Williamson Law or others?
Many calls about seeing past bookkeepers {Loscar and Sally F.}
I could go on about red flag problems but it would be a waste of my time.

Next I have a report concerning the Meals on Wheels program. It took only 1 day to solve the problem concerning delivery of meals in Thurman. I want to thank Harry Alger and Sara Hall for their dedication and willingness to put their safety on line to see it got done. Thanks to both of you for finding a person to do the job until such time as you may return to doing the home deivery.

I request and expect this note to be read to the board members present and attached to the minutes.

Thank you and be safe.

Joan Harris

Thurman Town Elected Board Member

Town of Thurman Supervisors Report

The Town of Thurman Declared a State of Emergency on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 4:00pm. This Declaration shall remain in effect for 30 days, or until it is rescinded by the Supervisor, or may be extended.

During these very trying and fluid times, it is very important for everyone to maintain a positive attitude that this too shall pass, but also keeping in mind that this virus is very serious. We all need to remember to keep a six foot social distance from your neighbor, do not gather in a group of people or not at all and always wash your hands and if you are ill STAY HOME. You should only go out if necessary!

There have been 29 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Warren County to date. While there are 6 Precautionary quarantines and 93 Mandatory quarantines.

There is a new Warren County Face book page with up to date information from the County that I would recommend all to visit. Information and links are on the Thurman Town Web page, www.Thurmanny.com

I along with the Warren County Chairman Frank Thomas, and the Warren County Public Health Department would strongly encourage the second home residents that have fled NYC, Westchester and Long Island, New Jersey, and other areas to register with the Warren County Public Health Department at 518-761-6580, and self-isolate for the recommended 14 day period. This does not mean going out to the local convenience store, grocery store, or Wal-Mart, this means you should have arrived prepared to self isolate to avoid any possible additional spreading of the Virus.

Glens Falls Hospital and Warren County Public Health to open COVID testing site. COVID-19 testing will be available to residents of Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Hamilton and Essex counties, anyone who believes they should be tested **should contact their medical provider. The site will be open for drive up public testing only for those who have obtained medical authorization.** The site is scheduled to open on Thursday, April 9, 2020. Those wishing to have a test preformed will need to get an order from their health provider, who will then contact Warren County Public Health Services to arrange a time for the test.

The testing site will be able to handle 50 or so tests per day between 9am and 1pm, Monday through Friday.

Testing will continue until further notice. Results through a state Laboratory will take 3-5 days. The Municipal Center is located on Route 9 in Queensbury, NY, off Exit 20 from the Northway. Follow the electronic signs to Glen Lake Road entrance,

The Town of Thurman hosted the Annual Jack Wax Party; on March 14, 2020, we worked with the Warren County Public Health Department, the County Administrator and the Department of Health, to assure we were working within the margin of compliance. The people who attended were pleased that we were still going forward with the event. Everyone in attendance had a good and safe time. While the Jack Wax Party made \$1002.00, these proceeds went to the American Cancer Society.

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The Thurman Gleaning hours are the first Monday of the Month from 12noon till 2pm; we will be asking those who come, to wait outside observing the six foot social distancing, signing in and the Gleaning volunteers will get you the food needed.

The Thurman Landfill is and has been open Wednesday from 11am till 2pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8am till 3pm.

The Thurman Landfill will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

To the keyboard warriors of Face Book, please be advised that you are doing a disservice to the Residents of the Town of Thurman when you post false, and misleading information, especially without checking the facts. If you are uncertain of the information please feel free to contact my office, 518-623-9649 X101.

The Town offices with exception to the Town Court are and have been open for business but would ask that you please call for an appointment for the time being to make sure the person you wish to see is actually at the Town Hall. Since most all the departments have reduced hours.

Your continued support during these unprecedented times is appreciated. Please stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary to go out and be well!



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Warren County Health Services

Visiting from Out of Town?

In response to COVID-19, if you are visiting from outside the Capital Region and will be staying in Warren County, Warren County politely asks that you contact **Public Health**.

We want to make sure while you are in our area that you remain healthy and should any questions arise, you have the number to our local department!

518-761-6580

SOCIAL DISTANCE ERRANDS



Why is social distancing important right now? It is crucial because by increasing physical space between individuals, we can also avoid the spread of illness.

SOLO ERRANDS

We know many families want to get out of the house, even if that just means a trip to the grocery store, post office, pharmacy etc., but the more family members we bring with us, the less we are socially distancing and the more **we are putting people at risk**. So please, consider **SOLO ERRANDS**. If you need someone to help you with shopping, please consider **only bringing one** other person with you.

PRACTICING SOLO ERRANDS HELPS US
PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT
INCREASED RISK.



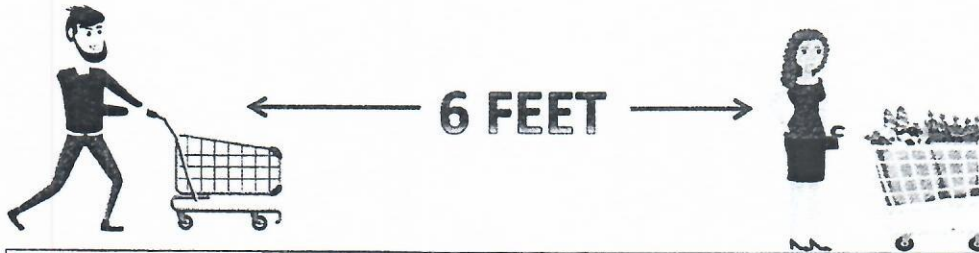
Please, do your

errands

Solo!



SOCIAL DISTANCE SHOPPING



Why is social distancing important right now? It is crucial because by increasing physical space between individuals, we can also avoid the spread of illness.

SHOP SOLO

We know many families want to get out of the house, even if that just means a trip to the grocery store, but the larger families shop together, the less we are socially distancing and the more **we are putting people at risk**. So please, consider shopping **SOLO**. If you need someone to help you with shopping, please consider **only bringing one** other person with you.

PRACTICING SOLO SHOPPING HELPS
US PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY
MEMBERS AT INCREASED RISK.



Please, Shop
Solo!



Important Statement from Warren County on COVID-19 Response

Due to the prioritization of scarce testing supplies nationwide, our reality has changed and we are no longer able to utilize testing to diagnose everyone with symptoms or to fully monitor and contain COVID19 activity in our community.

The process has worked up until now. We have saved lives. But we must now shift our mindsets. In absence of available testing, treatment and vaccine, this now becomes about each person taking responsibility to protect the health and safety of others and themselves, following recommendations from the CDC, NYSDOH, Local Public Health Department, and healthcare providers.

It is critically important to stay home and isolate from others if you are symptomatic. Your new assumption must be that if you are sick, you have COVID19. Stay home, take care of yourself, and you will recover. If you are too sick to stay home and you need hospitalization, our hospitals can and will accommodate you.

If you have been in close proximity to somebody who believes they have the virus, the safest thing to do is stay home, and stay away from others. Relax and monitor yourself for symptoms. Use a calendar. If 14 days go by and you don't get sick, you do not have COVID19.

If you are well, it is critically important to stay away from those who are sick. Keep your distance from people in public even if they look healthy. Practice good personal health habits. Visit the CDC or NYSDOH websites and read their tips on what to do to keep yourself safe.

There is a very simple rule of thumb: stay home. Unless it's necessary to leave, stay home. Try to relax and spend time with your family.

Please ask yourself a question. Do I have a loved one who depends on me to take care of them? That could be a child, a parent or grandparent, a family member with a health condition. Think about that person. You need to keep yourself healthy so you can be there for that person.

Most people with COVID19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and will recover at home. Those with more severe symptoms or with underlying medical conditions should seek medical advice and attention. When you call for assistance, make sure you notify them what symptoms you are experiencing. First responders and healthcare workers will help you. They know how to keep themselves safe from the virus.

Contact your provider or public health department with any questions you might have. We are here for you and we will help you.

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

NYS Department of Health: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

Warren County Health Services: <https://www.warrencountyny.gov/healthservices/>