

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN, NY HELD JUNE 13, 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL, NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM....

PRESENT: Mrs. Brenda Ackley, Councilwoman
Mr. Douglas Needham, Councilman
Mrs. Gail Seaman, Councilwoman
Mrs. Cynthia Hyde, Supervisor

ABSENT: Joan Harris, Councilwoman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan E. Staples

The meeting started at 6:30 with the reading of the claims.

The meeting was called to order at **7pm**.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

The **Supervisor** called a Special Meeting for **7:00pm Thursday June 14, 2018**. The **Supervisor** was advised by **Dan Stec's** office that a resolution was needed to advance with the bills that need to be passed in the Senate and the Assembly. The **Supervisor** noted that she had talked to the Board, and was not sure whether they could make it or not, but that she was told that this had to be taken care of on Thursday. **Councilwoman Seaman** wanted the record to show that she had requested to see the resolution before, and Cynthia refuses to forward it to us. The **Supervisor** then asked the **Town Clerk** to confirm that the meeting had been requested.

REPORTS: There were no reports from the Board.

OLD BUSINESS: **Councilwoman Seaman** asked if the phone had been hooked up at the **Landfill**, and when will it be hooked up? The **Town Clerk** explained that it was supposed to be hooked up today, that they were working on it today, but that the work had not been completed. **Councilwoman Seaman** than asked why the **Town Clerk** was doing this. The **Town Clerk** replied that because you as **Landfill Liaison** did not offer to do it, nor **Doug** as **Building and Maintenance** did not offer to do it. So I stepped up and did it. **Councilwoman Seaman** then asked if the clerk knew she was not allowed to enter into any

contracts. The **Town Clerk** stated that she had not entered into a contract, that she had only arranged for service.

NEW BUSINESS: The Supervisor noted that the next new business was **Whitespace**. She noted that she had handed out letters from **Mr. Engelmann**, and was going to read them at his request. **Councilwoman Seaman** stated that the Board has not said that you can read those. **The Supervisor** then stated that the letter was sent on Saturday June 9th. She noted that on Friday the Town passed a resolution. She then stated that in response to their resolution she had called **Mr. Engelmann**. She then read the following letters.

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

From: Fred Engelmann
Sent: Saturday, June 9, 2018 7:24 PM **To:**
Thurman Supervisor
Subject: Network Maintenance and Repairs

Dear Supervisor Hyde,

Thank you for your call today requesting assistance to maintain and repair the Town's Internet access network. I understand the Town Board passed a resolution Friday calling for you to request assistance from me.

When available, please send me the written version of that resolution, preferably verbatim; or a link to published video containing the full resolution. I will seek my counsel's advice on how best to proceed.

Also note that in the January organizational meeting, the new Town Board removed the bidding exemption for professional services. The Town is now required to go out to bid for professional services including network maintenance and repairs, so you may wish to seek advice from the Town's counsel as well.

Sincerely,

Fred Engelmann

Rainmaker Network Services
Adirondack Internet /Public Access

Chestertown, NY

518 494-0123

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

From: Fred Engelmann
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 12:33 PM **To:**
Thurman Supervisor
Subject: Network Maintenance and Repairs

Dear Supervisor Hyde,

I was pleased to be able to occasionally assist you and the 2017 Town Board with network outage resolution, installer training and the addition of five new subscribers. This was done on an ad-hoc basis at my discretion, as I found you and the previous Board both professional and competent.

We did not, and do not, have any agreement or contract for network operations, written or verbal. The Town has not had a qualified network operator since 28 April 2016, when then-Supervisor Evelyn Wood unilaterally terminated my operations income, without Board approval or public discussion.

We have reviewed the video of the most recent meeting on 8 June. On advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline the opportunity to engage in any business with the Town of Thurman, as represented by the current Town Board.

Further, I am reminded that Mrs. *Seaman* was a member of the 2016 Town Board which refused to review or discuss my topology redesign claim in any public meeting; initiated a Sheriff's investigation under false pretenses; and brought me to the NYS Supreme Court on demonstrably false affirmations which the Court declined to accept.

I wish you the best, and care about your subscribers, but can not risk a repeat of the previous harassment, slander and libel.

Sincerely,

Fred Engelmann

After the **Supervisor** had finished reading the letters **Councilwoman Seaman** wanted to say the everything **Fred Engelmann** said was half truth and mostly inaccurate. She then asked for her statement to be taken verbatim, and was reminded by the **Town Clerk** that we have had several discussions about a verbatim request. She then went on to note that in **2016 Fred Engelmann** refused to sign a contract with the town to operate the system. He did not sign a contract. We asked him too. He then had to be removed from the system because he was taking money from the townspeople, and not turning it into the town. With no contract you can not collect money from townspeople. The **Supervisor** stated that she hoped **Councilwoman Seaman** could prove all this . **Councilwoman Seaman** replied oh yes. I can. Absolutely.

Rainmaker Network Services
Adirondack Internet /Public Access

Chestertown, NY

It's in the record. We do have a copy of the contract **Fred Engelmann** wanted us to sign and we asked him to sign. However I don't have it with me, but I will forward that so it can be included in the minutes. So it will show that **Fred Engelmann** at that point because he refused to sign had to be removed from the system. However, I guess he did leave a back door because he was obviously able to get into the system in 2017 when then Board Member **Kathy Templeton** stated in a meeting that **Fred** had called her because he knew the system was down, and the only way that he could know the system was down remotely was if he was in the system. That he had told the judge he had not access to. (As she spoke **Kathy Templeton** stated to **Councilwoman Seaman** to make sure you quote me exactly Mrs. Seaman). The **Supervisor** noted that

this did not address the problem, and asked what the Board had in mind. **Councilwoman Seaman** noted that she was making statement, and that she was being interrupted. At that point there was laughter from the floor which prompted **Tom Randall**, a reporter from the Sun, to ask for order here so reporters can hear what is going on. **Councilwoman Seaman** proceeded to speak. When a resident (**Jean Coulard**) continued to speak **Mr. Randall** responded by saying shhh shut up. This prompted the resident to ask who the hell do you think you are. **Mr. Randall** replied shh I can't hear the board. I can't hear the board. The **Supervisor** said do not tell the people of Thurman to shut up. Do not talk to these people that way. Do you understand? **Mr. Randall** replied she's talking she's yelling my ear. Whereas the resident replied I'm not yelling in your ear. You are yelling in my hearing aide and don't you dare tell me to shut up. **Ms. Coulard** had put her hand on **Mr. Randall's** arm as she had said this. **Mr. Randall** replied ok I can do what he wants to. **Ms. Coulard** said mind your own business. **Councilwoman Seaman** then said no town person has a right to strike a reporter, and do not do that because I saw you strike a reporter. And you do not throw anybody out. She hit him. **Mr. Randall** replied I'm all right. **Councilwoman Seaman** stated I know, but that is uncalled for. **Ms. Coulard** said she saw me strike a reporter? And **Councilwoman Seaman** said yes, I saw you strike him. Where did I strike him Ms. Seaman? Ms. Couillard asked. I did not strike him. In the arm with your hand she (**Seaman**) replied. **Mr. Randall** then asked if we could have some order so we could have a meeting, and **Ms. Coulard** replied that you could not with her (**Councilwoman Seaman**) around. **Councilwoman Seaman** went on to say that in 2017 the Board decided to give **Fred Engelmann** money that he was not entitled to per the contract for the build of the system for Whitespace. We've been over this ad nousium. He gave a bid price to build the system. It was accepted. It was a bid price all inclusive. He was supposed to bill monthly which he did. Then at the end of that billing he presented another bill. Not for 8,000 some hard dollars for 4,000. Because he said part of it half of it was in kind services. However, a redesign was not done on the system because he went back again for work he had already done in June, July and August. Which was totally against the contract which stated that he was to bill monthly for everything, and in those bill it shows that he billed for the design work and everything else. And yes it can be proved I handed all this to **Joan Harris** and she proverbially threw it in the garbage. So that you were well aware when this happened. **The Supervisor** noted that that everything she said was false and that she had never proven anything. The **Supervisor** told

her that she wanted proof at the next meeting of all the things you've said. **Councilwoman Seaman** said that she already had it. She then went on say that she (the Supervisor) had paid him \$8,000.00 that was not entitled and not owed to him. **The Supervisor** noted that it was owed to him. **Councilwoman Seaman** asked if she was going to let her finish. Then went on to say no it wasn't, but you didn't pay a provider who did supply a service and did present a bill, itemized for the service. **The Supervisor** stated that he had not provided the service. **Councilwoman Seaman** said he obviously did, however he did not want to work with the Board that he was going to have to. She went on to say the bottom line is Fred has been ad hoc as he puts it servicing the Whitespace. As long as it was political payback whatever he got paid for the 8,000 he wasn't owed. She then went on to read a portion of the grant asking that it be entered into the minutes. **The Supervisor** noted that nowhere in there did it state it was the responsibility of the Supervisor to run the **Whitespace** system. **The Supervisor** then said sorry Gail that holds no water at all. What are you three going to do with Whitespace? Now that it gotten to the point the **Mr. Engelmann** refuses to work for you what is your answer to the Whitespace. **Councilwoman Seaman** said she was going ask the Supervisor what her answer was. **The Supervisor** said no, no, no. You made the problem not the Supervisor. We had things going very nicely. **Mr. Engelmann** didn't quit because of me. He quit because of what the three of you decided. So you three need to figure out what's going to happen next. Not me. Well that's your job **Councilwoman Seaman** stated. **The Supervisor** noted that you are the ones who insisted on going out to bid and replacing him. You did it you fix it. She then said that until that happens that there is nothing she can do to help. The people out there that have Whitespace want to keep it. You need to come up with a plan. I had a plan. The Town Board of 2017 moved forward. We got 5 new subscribers. We were in the red, we got in the black. **Councilwoman Seaman** then asked for documentation of that revenue because she had not seen documentation. **The Supervisor** continued to ask what her plan was, and she continued to ask for documentation of that revenue and what her plans were for Whitespace. **The Supervisor** noted that you didn't go with the plan that was in place so what is your plan B? What is your solution? **The Supervisor** noted that they seemed to have no plan so we should move on. **Councilwoman Seaman** wanted the record to show that when we went out to bid it was because people who work for towns and municipalities are suppose to have a contract so you can plan what the expenditures are going to be in the budget. However, you only had a verbal

contract that he would bill, and we would pay. Not how much. So you couldn't gather. So when we went out to bid it was not to fire anybody because nowhere in that did it say we were firing him. We asked for bids for contracts so that they could contract with the town for services just like any other bid would contract with the town. He could have put in a bid. Obviously he didn't want to. As with all other municipalities and with all other business' just because we out to bid doesn't mean that we fired the person doing the job now. It mean we are looking at our options. **Supervisor Hyde** noted that she thought **Mr. Engelmann's** letter explains what he says. **Councilwoman Seaman** responded that it was totally partisan, and you were helping him do it on Saturday.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Seaman wanted to bring up some resolutions she had prepared. **The Supervisor** told her no that we are doing resolutions

Resolution Requesting Comptroller Audit

later in the meeting. **Councilwoman Seaman** replied that this is new business. **The Supervisor** told **Councilwoman Seaman** that we are supposed to have

WHEREAS the Supervisor has refused to furnish vital financial information to the Town Board privilege of the floor before resolutions **Councilwoman Seaman** said we can do them at any time, so I would like to bring forth a resolution. **Supervisor Hyde** then noted that people of the town have expressed to the Town Board in the past that they like to have resolutions brought after privilege of the floor so that they could comment on them. **Mrs. Seaman's** resolutions are written by her not me (Hyde), and I won't bring my resolutions up until after privilege of the floor to give you (taxpayers) the opportunity to have a comment on them before they are passed by the Board. Since **Mrs. Seaman** is a Board Member she feels it's necessary to bring these resolutions without allowing you to comment then that is her choice, and we will let her proceed with her resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution # 71

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilwoman Ackley**

despite resolutions directing her to do so, and

WHEREAS there have been numerous inappropriate activities conducted by the Supervisor that do not comply with Town Law or Board resolution or Town policy including but not limited to:

Failure to prepare the AUD, monthly reports, financial statements, making cash withdrawals from municipal bank accounts, expending funds including payroll and benefit expenses in defiance of board resolutions, and finally refusing to answer questions regarding the above, and WHEREAS the Town Board has received numerous concerns and complaints, and

WHEREAS the Town Board is also concerned about the inability to obtain financial information and the Supervisor's refusal to comply with Board direction, and

WHEREAS individual Board members have reached out to the NYS Comptroller office to express their distress regarding their inability to obtain financial information regarding the Town Tax dollars, and

WHEREAS the Comptroller's office has also received concerned inquiries from the public but has taken no steps to assist in ascertaining that the towns tax dollars are being handled appropriately

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Thurman now hear by officially request that the NYS Comptroller's Office provide an audit to the Town so that the Board and its citizens can obtain a clear understanding of the Town's current financial state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to provide certified copies of this resolution to:

Thomas P. Di Napoli Office of the NYS Comptroller, Albany

Barbara Underwood New York State Attorney General

Elizabeth Little, New York State Senator

Daniel Stec, New York State Assembly Representative

During discussion of the resolution the **Supervisor** noted that she didn't have a problem with an audit from the Comptroller's Office, but since they just came in 2016 my guess is they probably wouldn't audit us again so quickly. However, I don't agree with any of the accusations and allegations in this resolution they are false and they are not true. Like I said I think an audit is a great thing. I would have a forensic audit if it was my choice, but it cost a great deal of money. I have no problem with an audit, but I will not be able to support this resolution because it contains a great deal of false information.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~3 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Nays~1 Hyde

The **Supervisor** wanted it noted for the record that she supports audits. However, she does not support the false allegations contained in this resolution.

Councilwoman Ackley asked how they were false if you won't give us what we are asking for. The **Supervisor** responded by stating how many times do I have to tell you, you have been invited to come into this Town Hall and view anything that you want. The fact that you choose not to bother I can't help. OK. You both have been told numerous times that you could come in. She has been told the **Town Clerk** will show her anything she wants. The fact that none of you have bothered to come in is your own fault not mine. **Councilwoman Seaman** stated that you have been instructed to provide this information according to resolution. The **Supervisor** responded that you are not my boss, and you do not instruct me to do anything. To which **Councilwoman Seaman** replied by resolution we do. The **Supervisor** then asked her to get on with her resolutions.

Resolution # 72

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilman Needham**

Resolution of No Confidence

WHEREAS the Thurman Town Board has made multiple request and Resolutions for financial information from the Supervisor, and

WHEREAS the Supervisor refuses to provide answers or information to the Board preventing the Board as the governing body from having a complete and accurate understanding of the Town finances, and

WHEREAS the Town Board feels strongly that it is vital to have utmost care in how the tax dollars are spent, and

WHEREAS the Supervisor continues to withhold this financial information and the financial impact and ramifications of the current situation regarding the BAN that is now due and the potential impact of a Bond on the Town tax rate in the coming years

THERE FOR BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Thurman here by passes this Resolution as a vote of No Confidence in the Supervisor and calls for her immediate resignation

Discussion: The Board had no discussion on this resolution stating they thought it said it all. The **Supervisor** wanted it noted for the record again that this resolution is full of false accusations. I do not support this resolution. First of all it isn't a proper resolution. It isn't even anything that a Board should do, and that it is entirely filled with false allegations. I would like that for the record. She then asked for a Roll Call Vote.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called

Motion Carried: Ayes~3 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Nays~1 Hyde

Resolution # 73

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilman Needham**

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to perform an inventory of Keys and of all individuals with access to which locks within the Town Hall, the Landfill, all town offices within the town hall, the Youth Building, the youth storage shed, the Harris house, veterans memorial field electrical shed, and the red barn near the Harris house to be completed and certified and given to the Board for the July 11, 2018 board meeting.

Section 30 Powers and duties of town clerk

Town (TWN)

11. The town clerk shall have such additional powers and perform such additional duties as are hereafter may be conferred or imposed upon him by law, and such further duties as the Town Board may determine, not inconsistent with law.

Discussion: After asking if there was any discussion, and being told no, the **Supervisor** said she had something to say. The Town Board has no right to direct the clerk to do any such thing. In order to impose duties on the **Town Clerk** they would need a local law, and to take duties away they would need a local law. She also noted that often times changing duties of the Clerk would require a Mandatory

Referendum. Also for the record this again an absolutely embarrassing resolution to bring to the floor at a public meeting. She then asked for a Roll Call Vote.

Councilwoman Seaman said she had something for the record. Absolutely this is in the powers of the Board to do because it is in the Clerk's Law Manual that we shall do these things. So that being said I would love a Roll Call Vote.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken

Motion Carried: Ayes~3 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Nays~1 Hyde

Resolution # 74

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilman**
Resolution to Seek Proposals of Legal Services

WHEREAS THE Town Board of the Town of Thurman would like to seek proposals for legal services for the Town,

BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board would like to receive sealed proposals for legal services to be received in the Town Clerks office no later than the close of business on Wednesday, July 11, 2018. These sealed proposals will be opened at 7pm on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 during the Board meeting,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals

Needham

and directs the Town Clerk to take the appropriate steps for publication for the bid proposals.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Hyde, Nays~0

Resolution # 75

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilwoman Ackley**

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board recognizes Susan Shepler as the head of the Youth Commission and directs that she be given working keys to the Youth building and the Youth storage shed, and that no locks are to be changed without prior Board approval in regard to these buildings.

Discussion: The **Supervisor** questioned why **Susan Shepler** needed to have keys all year long to the youth building. **Councilwoman Seaman** wanted to know why not. She's the head of the Youth Commission, and they need to get to their stuff. The **Supervisor** noted that she represents the Town of Thurman down at the Warren County Youth Commission. And she directs all youth activities **Councilwoman Seaman** added. **Supervisor** noted that in the past when people did this that they got the keys as they needed them. No they had the keys all the time always have **Councilwoman Seaman** replied. You will have to take that up with Joan the **Supervisor** said. I don't have to we are passing a resolution **Councilwoman Seaman** noted.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~3 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Nays~1 Hyde

Resolution # 76

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilwoman Ackley**

Resolution to Suspend Payment of Claims

WHEREAS the Supervisor has not provided to the Board her legally required monthly reports or any financial documentation from the accounting system to enable the Board to have a true understanding of the status of the towns accounts and budget, and

WHEREAS the Town Board has a legal obligation to ensure that no account is overdrawn to amend the budget and to make sure there is sufficient funding to pay the bills and operate the town,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board will not approve the payment of claims until such time as the supervisor provides the Board with actual statements of revenue and expense for each fund as is required to be completed by law, all documents must come directly from the accounting software system.

Discussion: The **Supervisor** stated that apparently the Board had not looked in their meeting packets because they have that information. **Councilwoman Seaman** responded that if it was in the packet that it was the first time you ever put one in. Because you have never put it in before. The **Supervisor** responded that that was not true. If this is what you are talking about **Councilwoman Seaman** asked. It's been a spread sheet in the past **Councilwoman Ackley** noted. The **Supervisor** responded that that is attached to a resolution to show why we need a budget adjustment at Pat's request. You do not know what you are looking at. That is not a report. It is not meant to be a report. **Councilwoman Seaman** then asked why she would ever give it to us. The **Supervisor** then helped the Board Members locate the Operating Statement in their packet. As she was pointing this out and that it contained the monthly amount, it show the budget, it shows the variance. **Councilwoman Seaman** said that this was the first time she had ever done one. Now we can actually see one and try and go backwards. The **Supervisor** went on to note we have an Operating Statement, and we have a Treasurers' Report.

Councilwoman Seaman asked the other board member's if they had seen these before. The **Supervisor** responded you have seen them before, you just didn't know it. If you throw it in a pile when you get home. The **Supervisor** wanted to make sure that it was noted that the board had been provided with reports. She then asked if they were paying the claims. **Councilwoman Seaman** said just call the vote. So this is a resolution to deny payment of any claims. **Councilwoman Seaman** replied yeah because we have to have everything, and until I actually get a chance to look at that I'm not going to believe that it is correct. You've never given us any of these documents and we have asked you since January she said. **Supervisor Hyde** then said OK let's see who is going to vote to not to pay the town bills.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

During the vote the **Supervisor** stated that yes she believed town bills were very important to pay. **Councilwoman Ackley** asked if that was a yes or a no. Yes, the **Supervisor** responded. The **Town Clerk** started to clarify the resolution for the **Supervisor** when **Councilwoman Seaman** said that the clerk was not allowed to do that. The **Supervisor** then clarified her vote saying no I want the bills paid. **Councilwoman Seaman** stated that the town clerk is not allowed to give votes. She changed her vote because of the **Town Clerk**. The **Town Clerk** replied that she (the **Supervisor**) had misunderstood, and I believe that that had happened to you in the past also Gail. The **Supervisor** wanted to make sure that it was understood she was voting to pay the town bills, and she would never vote not to pay them. The vote then continued.

Motion Carried: Ayes~3 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Nays~1 Hyde

Discussion: There was a resolution that **Councilwoman Seaman** had prepared regarding the Summer Concert Series. Discussion ensued on this matter, and it was decided to table the resolution.

The Supervisor wanted it noted for the record that **Councilwoman Seaman** had not shared her resolutions with the **Supervisor** or the public ahead of time.

Councilwoman Seaman stated that her resolutions were passed out at the meeting. The **Supervisor** stated not ahead of the meeting. **Councilwoman Seaman** said yes that they were given out. They were handed out just prior to the start of the meeting. The **Supervisor** noted that these were not emergency resolutions, and that they should have been on the Town website. That she had not been given them ahead of time, and the public should have been given notice. She went on to note that **Mrs. Seaman, Mrs. Ackley, and Mr. Needham** seem to keep breaking the

rule of notifying the public. They keep bringing resolutions up. These were written. The other ones at the last couple of meetings weren't even written. They were drawn up on the floor. It seemed to be to me that the three of them knew about it, but nobody else. This is not appropriate. I just want you to know that. It is not appropriate, and not how things are supposed to be done. **Councilwoman Seaman** noted that it was appropriate. That any resolutions can come from the board at any time. The **Supervisor** replied I would say an emergency resolution, not your silly resolutions. Nope any one replied **Councilwoman Seaman**.

New Business: None was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE: **Supervisor Hyde** stated that she had a letter from Mark Schacner, who was our legal counsel and who is very well respected in the entire state of New York, who was fired by them. She then read the following letter.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurman Town Board

FROM: MILLER, MANNIX, SCHACHNER & HAFNER, Town Counsel

DATE: June 12, 2018

RE: Town Legal Representation

We acknowledge receipt of Town Board Resolution No. 65 of 2018 pursuant to which the Town Board obviously seeks to terminate our role as Town of Thurman Legal Counsel. We also understand that we have supposedly been given a 30-day Notice "as provided for in our contract with the Town".

Just for the record, we do have a Legal Services Contract with the Town and it runs through December 31, 2019. In addition, it does not contain any termination provision upon 30-day Notice or otherwise. However, nonetheless, we have no interest in challenging this decision when a majority of the Town Board obviously does not wish our services. The Resolution seeking our termination states the reason that we are essentially unwilling to represent one portion of the Board in efforts against another and that is entirely true, as we believe it would clearly be unethical and inappropriate for us to do so.

We have worked for the Town of Thurman for almost 10 years and we have enjoyed doing so. We believe we helped the Town achieve numerous accomplishments over the last decade. We wish the Town good luck in its future efforts.

After the **Supervisor** finished reading the letter **Councilwoman Seaman** went on to state No Cynthia, just for the record where **Mark Schachner** writes that it would be unethical and inappropriate for him to represent one Town Board Member against the other. Please let me make sure that everybody knows that it wasn't unethical of him to represent one Board Member against the other in December of 2015 going into January of 2016 when he represented one Town Board Member against me. Trying to get me thrown off, and it is well documented. **Mr. Goot** wrote an article I believe on it. Since we are doing this we are choosing where our ethics lie. Just because **Cynthia** has put in a bunch of articles that are not supposed to be added into the minutes. However, she adds them in any way from a publication that is not exactly above reproach. I am going to add these to publication because we need to give equal time into the minutes. One from the **Sun** and one that came from the **Poststar**, and I would like these included into the minutes. That has nothing to do with town business **Supervisor Hyde** stated. Absolutely it does replied **Councilwoman Seaman**. **The Supervisor** again stated that has absolutely nothing to do with town business, and it's available online. **Councilwoman Seaman** responded that the articles from that publication are available online and you are putting them in the minutes, and then they are requesting money for them. You are soliciting for a private publication. What are you talking about the **Supervisor** asked? **Councilwoman Seaman** responded you should know, you put them into the minutes. When the **Supervisor** again stated she didn't know what was being referenced **Councilwoman Seaman** noted **June Maxam's** articles. That was a letter. It was a letter to the Town Board the **Supervisor** replied. Those are not letters.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: The following people spoke on the following topics. **Jean Coulard** spoke about rude behavior of the Board. As she was trying to speak she was repeatedly interrupted by **Councilwoman Seaman**. **Paula Hubert** spoke about reports not being given. **Kathy Templeton** voiced her concern about the Board not paying the bills this month. **Albert Cortez** asked who would take the position of Supervisor if the Supervisor resigned. He also expressed his opinion that the **Supervisor** was putting in a lot of time on the job, and that he would like to see Board Members put more time into their work for the town. **Mary Eddy** wanted to know how having a Highway Department employee working at the Landfill was saving the town money. **Mathew Seaman** inquired about the IRS fine.

RESOLUTIONS:

A resolution to Accept Street Lighting Audit was tabled.

A resolution to Approve and Sign Agreement relating to Highway Law section 284 was tabled.

Resolution # 76A

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Ackley** and seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TRAINING

The Town Board of the Town of Thurman authorizes Joanna Cummings to attend training in Potsdam, NY on July 17 & 18, 2018 and authorizes that Joanna submit a voucher for room, meals and mileage.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Ackley, Needham, Seaman, Hyde, Nays~0

A resolution seeking letters of interest for a part time Landfill attendant was tabled.

A resolution to approve a budget adjustment for the Highway Department was tabled.

Resolution # 76B

On a motion to amend the resolution was introduced by **Councilwoman Seaman** and seconded by **Councilwoman Ackley**.

RESOLUTION TO NAME PRIVATE DRIVE

The town board of the Town of Thurman adopts the road from Drexel road to camps, formally the Wilbur Baker driveway as a private drive and names it Braley Boulevard.

**Motion Carried: Ayes~3
Ackley, Needham, Seaman,
Nays~0, Abstain~1 Hyde**

A resolution seeking letters of interest for a part time Landfill attendant was tabled.

A resolution to approve a budget adjustment for the Highway Department was tabled.

The **Supervisor** noted that she had called a Special Meeting for tomorrow night at 7:00pm to do a resolution for the Home Rule for the Senate to validate what we are doing.

ADJOURNMENT: After asking for a motion to adjourn and not receiving a response the **Supervisor** left the meeting. A motion to adjourn was then made by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman** the meeting was adjourned at **8:47 pm**.

Attachments:

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E Staples, Town Clerk

June 26, 2018

Pledge to Reduce Road Salt

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENTS IN THE ADIRONDACKS REGARDING
THE APPLICATION OF ROAD SALT FOR WINTER
MAINTENANCE AND DE-ICING**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to describe an agreement among the municipal governments in the Adirondack Park regarding a program to address the levels of chlorides in Adirondack ground and surface waters by reducing the application of road salt for winter road maintenance and de-icing practices. This MOU is not a binding commitment, but is rather a pledge of intent of the municipalities signing this document to work in good faith to create an effective program to reduce the levels of road salt application in recognition of the following:

- WHEREAS, there has been a measureable increase in the use of road salts in the Adirondacks to assist in winter road maintenance and de-icing; and,
- WHEREAS, within the Adirondacks there are a total of approximately 10,555 lane miles of local, county, state and federal roads and an estimated 192,700 metric tons of salt is used per year; and,
- WHEREAS, there are numerous studies documenting the significant increases in road salt in Adirondack surface waters resulting from road runoff; and,

WHEREAS, median lake chloride concentrations in watersheds without paved roads were nearly identical to background (natural, untouched) concentrations and lakes in watershed with paved roads show chloride concentrations that are, on average, 14 times higher than watersheds without paved roads; and,

- WHEREAS, recent concentrations of chlorides in many Adirondack lakes are at thresholds that can alter the composition of the phytoplankton, periphyton and macroinvertebrate communities altering the food web and hence potentially changing the biological productivity; and,
- WHEREAS, continued increases in salt loading in the watershed may also affect the physical circulation of the lake by increasing vertical density gradients that are more difficult to mix; and,

- WHEREAS, elevated salt concentrations in potable water is a health concern to individuals who drink water from private wells in some parts of the Adirondacks because increased sodium consumption is linked to high blood pressure and if salt levels are allowed to continue rising at the current rate, within the next one to two decades, the lake's water will become a health hazard; and,
- WHEREAS, road salt application is linked to leaching of calcium and magnesium from soil, which makes Adirondack lakes more hospitable for aquatic invasive species colonization; and,
- WHEREAS, some of the most obvious toxic effects of road salt are observed in roadside vegetation where high concentrations of salt accumulates and persists and damage is observed with the browning of foliage, premature defoliation, suppression of flowers and die back of terminal roots and the erosion problems that occur when vegetation is affected; and,
- WHEREAS, road salt is responsible for the increased corrosion of road infrastructure and vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties recognize the significant adverse impacts of excessive application of road salt for winter maintenance and de-icing; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties intend to reduce the salt loading into Adirondack Lakes through the reduced application of road salt; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will curtail the increase of road salt through proven methods of road salt application (as demonstrated in New Hampshire and Vermont) and through utilizing Best Management Practices); and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will, subject to research supporting their use, consider alternative de-icing materials that minimize the application of road salt; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties help to document the effectiveness of alternative road salt materials and/or substitutes; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will investigate and consider equipment to better manage and monitor the application of road salt; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will have highway department superintendents, collect data using consistent methods on the quantities and application rates of road salts within their jurisdictions, as well as truck loading and route distribution information in using this data for improved application methods and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will have highway department supervisors assess and tailor road salt application rates based on level of surface, road grades and proximity to water bodies and runoff systems; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will establish an education and training program for all highway department employees on the impacts of road salt in the Adirondacks and proven methods to reduce road salt application; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties intend to designate sections of public roads as "Priority Abatement Areas" where roads are located along or in close proximity to Adirondack Lakes and/or tributaries that are determined to be critical runoff areas impacting water quality; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will participate in an annual "Road Salt Summit" to discuss new technologies, application methods, best management practices and research aimed at minimizing the usage of road salt for winter maintenance and de-icing; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will together achieve road salt reductions that through ongoing scientific monitoring; and it is further

AGREED that this Memorandum of Understanding may be signed in counterparts.

By: _____

Date: _____



ADKACTION

Part of AdkAction's Adirondack Road Salt Working Group, an effort to reduce road salt in the Adirondack Park.



* Funding provided by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Any opinions, findings, and/or interpretations of data contained herein are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the opinions, interpretations or policy of Rochester Institute of Technology and its NYS Pollution Prevention Institute or the State.

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

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For printing at 8.5"x14" Legal paper size.

| Date | Address | Town | Nature | Parties | Intake Notes | Action | Status | Resolution | Officer Notes | Officer |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|--|------------|--------|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 05-16-2018 10.05am | 886 Glen Athol Rd | Thurman | AHC Animal Health Concerns | n/a | His tenants on the property have been arrested & there is a dog & cat in the trailer since Monday 5/14 No one has come to feed or tend to the animals Two dogs have been barking for three hours. They are outside in a cage The owner has not been there for two days. The dogs do not appear to have food or water Caller walked down and knocked on the door but there was no answer Barking was also occurring last night until 12:30a. | Phone Call | Closed | No further action needed | Landlord says tenants were arrested monday, worries no one has been taking care of the animals Officer Ostrander called warren co sherrifs and state police for more information Tenants Jaqueline smith and Jacqueline Phelps have court date tomorrow at 9am. Nancy timhck at 880 glen athol road has keys to trailer and has been taking care of the animals Landlord has given the ok for Nancy to be there for the time being so the animals can be taken care of -5/18/18 5:42pm officer Fitzgerald foll. | Katelyn Ostrander |
| 05-06-2018 10 17pm | 266 Bowen Hill Rd | Thurman | AHC Animal Health Concerns | Nia | Two dogs have been barking for three hours. They are outside in a cage The owner has not been there for two days. The dogs do not appear to have food or water Caller walked down and knocked on the door but there was no answer Barking was also occurring last night until 12:30a. | Phone Call | Closed | No further action needed | NA nvm Chester Pd has been called and did welfare check also | Darlene Hayes |

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

For printing at 8 5"x14" Legal paper size

| | | | | Officer Notes | Officer | Animal | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 7 10pm | | | mouth and injured paw | looks like a mini Rottr, blk and brown, maybe 14 inches in height | | Hayes | |
| 05-24-2018 1 38pm | 1147 Mud Street | Thurman | LO- Lost Dog Her dog is rrusmq, a brown & white male husky, about 8 months old named Brutis. No collar Was at home before he went missing. | Responded to Scene | Closed | Don't have this animal Looked, have not seen her | Jim Fitzgerald Husky |
| 05-23-2018 11 30am | n/a | Thurman | t: when calling Informatronal her back she is at ext 103 | over due licenses Returned Phone Call | Closed | Spoke to caller KO to sign tickets at 1 pm She w1tt write them (Katelyn gong forward and email me to have officer Ostrander come sign | |
| 05-19-2018 6 58pm | 1262 Mountain Road | Athol | LO Lost Dog n/a | Her dogs went missing around 8am this morning 5/19 One ,s a Chihuahua and the other 1s a rottweiler mix | Returned Phone Call Closed | Spoke to caller Do not have this dog, told caller to try calling local animal hospitals to see if anyone has called or brought him In. Caller had posted pictures and will continue checking Facebook. | Katelyn Ostrander |

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

| DATE | PCR# | PRIORITY | CHIEF COMPLAINT | DISPATCH TO EN ROUTE | ENROUTE TO ONSCENE |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5/10/2018 | 18-15860 | BLS | PT RMA | 3 MINUTES | 11 MINUTES |
| 5/14/2018 | 18-16281 | BLS | BHU TRANSPORT | 4 MINUTES | 13 MINUTES |
| 5/17/2018 | 18-16650 | ALS | UNRESPONSIVE | 2 MINUTES | 19 MINUTES |
| 5/18/2018 | 18-16824 | BLS | MVA- PT RMA | 2 MINUTES | 7 MINUTES |

June 15, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

Re: Seaman needs to take responsibility for her own Lack of Oversight

Date: 4/24/2018 9:47:05 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: keithlparentsr@aol.com

To: keithlparentsr@aol.com

To The Editor,

Since our January Board meeting, our disrespectful, trouble making Town Board Member Mrs. Gail Seaman has been very busy. Seaman has been all over social media criticizing our Town Supervisor Cynthia Hyde.

Seaman feels, her job as a Board Member, is to come to the meetings and tell our supervisor what and how to do things! Last I knew it was "Supervisor Hyde" and Board Member Seaman!

One topic Seaman keeps referencing is the garbage bags, stating it was the fault of our then Town Clerk Mrs. Hyde. This is really no more than a distraction attempt, to further discredit Supervisor Hyde.

It just so happens, that two State Audits were completed before the 2017 election. One was concerning the garbage bags. I would suggest, Seaman reread those reports / audits.

What I read from those documents went something like this: "The lack of oversight from the Town Supervisor" then (Mrs. Evelyn Wood) "and or The Town Board" at the time Mrs. Seaman was Board Member "was to blame."

Seaman's continuing rant's, accuses Supervisor Hyde of wrong doing. In fact: when Mrs. Hyde became aware that, the new supply of bags had been sitting on the Highway Dept. floor, did she leave them there, no, she took it upon herself and ensured they were secured.

It was the lack of oversight and the lack a simple policy to address these issue's. At the time the Town Clerk's responsibility was to sell and distribute the bags. Then turn over the receipts and the money to the bookkeeper.

The people of Thurman should thank Supervisor Hyde for going above and beyond.

Shame on Seaman and those who join her for passing the blame onto someone else! It is time for Seaman to accept responsibility.

Thank you.

Keith L. Parent Sr.

Thurman. 518-

623-2140

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

Subject: **Attack on "The Thurman Town Hall" continuing (March)**

Date: 4/4/2018 9:45:10 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: keithlparentsr@aol.com

To: keithlparentsr@aol.com

To the Editor,

The attack on the Thurman Town Hall has continued into the March board meeting! It would appear the rebellious board member Mrs. Gail Seaman came to the March meeting feeling that no one here can do anything right and she has to tell everyone how she wants it done! More Showboating and Grandstanding.

One of Seaman's rant's was concerning the "Summer concert series." Seaman wait's until meeting night to put on her show and accuses everyone else of being incompetent.

Our Town Supervisor, Mrs. Cynthia Hyde has found a member of our community to volunteer to handle the planning duties for this event He was present at the March meeting to share his plans to date, only to be verbally assaulted by Seaman, yes, instead of asking question's and giving suggestions, Seaman could not contain herself, she quickly managed to incite a very heated argument with this man. He stood his ground, Seaman's B.S. did not sway him.

It appears to many, that Seaman's vengeance has no limitation's, she will attack everything and anyone! Seaman's attacks are making it difficult, if not impossible to accomplish anything positive.

I fail to understand why Seaman treat's everyone this way. It is just wrong, why does she to continue to act like this. Seaman should be held accountable for her behavior.

Seaman has said "we are in finial distress" and in her next sentence, "I want fire works."

Oh yes, Seaman has also stated, she want's to make sure we are having fireworks at the end of the concert series! Seaman has said "we are in financial distress" and her next sentence, she say's "I want fireworks."

Can we really afford "Thrills for Board member Mrs. Gail Seaman" Please come to the board meetings and see Seaman's antic's for your seff.

Thank you.

Keith L. Parent Sr.
Thurman 518-623-
2140

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

Subject:
Date: 10/16/2017 5:54:55 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: keithlparentsr@aol.com keithlparentsr@aol.com
To:

To the Editor,

In response to a recent letter from Winefred Martin dated Wed. 10-11-2017 and recent disruptions at the Thurman Town Board meetings!

I will agree, everyone has a right to voice their opinion. We have a time set aside for that, it is called "Freedom of the floor". This time is when a person can address the Town Board Members with your concerns.

Recently, you and a few others have decided to disrupt our Board Meetings to further your agenda. You talk of wasted spending of thousands and sloppy booking. You make comments and offer no documents to back them up. The outside Accountant was hired to straighten out the previous books!

Let us not forget, the two Audits performed in 2016. These Audits clearly addressed several areas of concern. I read those documents with great interest.

The audit found that -

1) The Town Supervisor "at the time" did not inform the rest of the board members about the important issues. and consistently acted alone, without board approval.

3) lack of oversight from the Supervisor & Town Board.

4) Over paying the White space electrician who's final bill was 3 or 4 times the original estimate! No change orders were found to support the cost overruns.

You complain about "out of control spending" of "thousands of dollars". Our current board has decided to pay an outstanding bill for the "White space". A system you use and praise. The man that designed this system has returned to keep the system up and running for nothing. And a generator for the town Hall, which will benefit all of us.

You were silent as our previous supervisor spent our reserve fund balance to dangerously low numbers. Now you want to go back that kind of governing.

Not me! Yes I am concerned.

Thank you.

Keith L. Parent Sr.
P.O. Box 52
Athol / Thurman
518 - 623 - 2140

June 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
Subject: "Attack on Thurman Town Hall" 5/6/2018

Date: 6:23:25 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: keithparents@aol.com
To: keithparents@aol.com

To The Editor,

At April's monthly Board meeting, our Supervisor Mrs. Cynthia Hyde stated that we needed to have an operator to run the Service known as "White Space."

After a short discussion it seemed the Board was in agreement. Supervisor Hyde said we need to follow proper procedures, this must go out to bid. Supervisor Hyde said I have a copy of the original "Bid" and I feel it clearly explains what we will need from any one applying to handle the service.

Supervisor Hyde suggested the Board members take the time to review the document before they continue. At this point Board member Gail Seaman said No, no, no, we don't need all that! All we need to say is "The Town of Thunnan needs someone to run the system known as White Space" (14 words) Seaman continued saying, have you ever herd the saying "KISS" keep it simple stupid." Supervisor Hyde shows tremendous restraint with Seaman's continued assaults!

The discussion continued with, Supervisor Hyde saying to do it right the bid need's to spell it out clearly so that the people submitting bid's would understand exactty what is required of them. We want to get qualified people to run this system."Seaman, argued saying no we can do it this way."

I know from experience when a Town organization is going out to bid they need to be very clear as to what they are looking for!

I fear, if the Town Board continues to follow Seaman's plan then, many of the bidders will not be qualified. Time will be wasted, but if they follow Supervisor Hyde's plan the Board will only have qualified bidders to select from.

I would suggest, Seaman, is not looking out for the Town or it's residents! It is sad, sett serving Seaman doing her best again!

Thank you.
Keith L Parent Sr.
Thurman 1-518-
623-2140

Subject: **Gail Seaman's disruption's**
Date: 4/15/2018 8:20: 17 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: keithlparentsr@aol.com
To: kmoore@poststar.com, ktingley@poststar.com, letters@poststar.com

To the Editor,

Our Board meeting last week Wed. 4-11-18 went rather well, all the way through committee reports from the board members!

At which point Our Supervisor Cynthia Hyde started to deliver her report. It was then that our very own rebellious Board member Mrs. Gail Seaman started her interruption's! Seaman stated: if the supervisor wanted to use the bookkeeper to assist with the presentation the rest of the board needed to approve, written copy's before the presentation would be allowed!

Supervisor Hyde, attempted to proceed with the supervisors report. With Seaman's nonstop interference *it* was very difficult to do the presentation. It was very disrespectful toward everyone in the room! Seaman even started hovering around the bookkeeper "apparently trying to intimidate" Very careful not to remove the paper's from the bookkeeper's hands without her permission.

Later on, Seaman stated that she wanted certain letters removed from previous board meeting minute's! During her previous time as a board member she voted to not read letters at meetings and only attach them to the minute's when the writer made that request. An attempt to "sweep under the rug" the opinion's of others. Now Seaman wants to further silence the voices of those who attempt to speak against her and her bad behavior! Seaman, during her report, read a letter from a resident, clearly violating her own policies!

At every opportunity, Seaman uses her authority as a board member to further her agenda and with a vengeance she attack's the different offices at the town hall. Seaman attacks the public when she disagrees with them, now she wants to silence them!

Talk about abuse of power! Seaman should, be removed from meetings when she is disruptive!

Gail Seaman, is nothing but a schoolyard bully, she needs to resign immediately!

Thank you.

Keith L. Parent Sr.
Thurman
1-518-623-2140

