

February 10, 2015

**MINUTES OF THE FISCAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2015 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M...**

**PRESENT:     MRS. EVELYN WOOD, SUPERVISOR**  
**MR. MICHAEL EDDY, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. LEON GALUSHA, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. DANIEL SMITH, COUNCILMAN**  
**MRS. GAIL SEAMAN, COUNCILWOMAN**

Recording secretary: **Cynthia R. Hyde**, Town Clerk

**FISCAL MEETING:** The Town Board reviewed all claims.

**BOARD MEETING:** The regular town board meeting was called to order by **Evelyn Wood, Supervisor.**

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR GILBERT WOOD**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the minutes of the January 20, 2015 special meeting were approved with the addition of resolution numbers.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**REPORTS:**

**Councilman Smith** had questions about heating the Harris House.

**Councilman Eddy** asked about the water pipes freezing at the Harris house.

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**Councilman Galusha** gave the Warrensburg EMS report. He reminded everyone that WEMS asks that house numbers be well marked.

**Councilwoman Seaman** gave a report on the Youth Commission and said that the Easter party would be held March 28, from 1-3 and that 250 eggs will be boiled. Also The Jack Wax party will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. **Councilwoman Seaman** also reported that over 100 valentines for vets were made.

### **Supervisor's Report:**

Still looking into guidance on reducing the road repair reserve and will report back to the board on that.

Thank you to **Charlie Dingman** on the good job he is doing on the landfill logs.

Thank you to **Debra Runyon** for putting on the highway appreciation luncheon.

The supervisor is working on the summer concert lineup.

The tax collector computer is in need of replacement when the season is over.

White space is ready to turn on. CPE's are being ordered in batches of 5. **Fred Engelmann** will supply a list of addresses that are in range.

The ADK Journal called to see if the town board wanted to run a congrats to Jacobs and Toney turning 100 ad, the board said no.

The state has new regulations on electronic disposal to prevent electronics from going into the trash.

AATV

Gleaning inventory

### **CORRESPONDANCE:**

Letters were read from **Winefred Martin, Sally Jo Wallace, Joan Harris and Joyce Eddy**. Attached

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD VACANCY:**

**Supervisor Wood** said that Warren and Washington County are having a joint Board of Assessment Review training April 22 from 6-10, anyone interested in this position should send a letter of interest.

**MAINTENANCE POSITION:**

**Supervisor Wood** said that there was one applicant for the maintenance position, I put his resume in your packets.

**Councilman Smith** asked if this (job) had been posted in the paper at all.

**Supervisor Wood** stated that no it's exorbitantly expensive to post in the paper so we put it on the town web page and then I put it on my facebook page and some folks were nice enough to post it on Thurman Happenings. The last help wanted ad we ran, it was only for like a day or so it was over \$200.00.

**Councilman Smith** asked if we're not legally required to do so.

**Supervisor Wood** said that there weren't any legal requirements that I'm aware of that we have to advertise, it's helpful if you do, so anyway we have one applicant. **Supervisor Wood** said that we did have a couple of other people, one person I even emailed the application to so they could fill it out but they never brought it back., there were some other inquires but no one else returned them.

**Councilman Smith** asked how long ago did you mail (email) the other one.

**Supervisor Wood** said that I can go and have a look but I'm going to say it was probably at least 3 weeks ago, it was right after the last board meeting, there was an inquiry and they asked if I could email and I said yes so we scanned and emailed a copy for them but it was not brought back into the town hall.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the town board went into executive session at 7:37pm to discuss the employment history of a particular unnamed individual.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

On a motion by **Councilman Seaman**, seconded by **Councilman Eddy**, the town board came out of executive session at 7:42pm with no action being taken.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Glens Falls Animal Hospital Contract:** Up for renewal and is the same as last year

Discussion ensued regarding Bear Pond Road. **Supervisor Wood** had several letters, some confidential, some not. **Supervisor Wood** read a letter from Deer Creek Hunt Club and a letter to Deer Creek Hunt Club from **Loren Eddy**.

**Supervisor Wood** said that the issue raised here is that there is a board member with a financial interest that should not participate in the discussion. To illustrate that fact the supervisor read from the town code of ethics section 4. The supervisor received a letter from **McPhillips, Fitzgerald and Cohen, LLP** regarding Bear Pond Road. **Councilman Smith** had a letter on the matter from **Mrs. Moeller** and gave a copy to the supervisor. **Supervisor Wood** also had a letter from **Donald P. Moeller** regarding Bear Pond Road. **Supervisor Wood** said that it would be best if the town Attorney responded directly. **Supervisor Wood** stated that the question at hand is correcting the highway inventory. **Supervisor Wood** said that these letters would not be included in the minutes.

**Councilman Smith** asked if the Supervisor had heard anything about Jay Zullo's fence. **Supervisor Wood** said that she had not heard back yet.

**Councilman Eddy** asked if the Warrensburg EMS filed an annual report in the town clerk's office as directed in the contract.

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**POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Maple days are coming up.

Donations for the Jack Wax Party would be greatly appreciated.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

The following people spoke during privilege of the floor. Joan Harris, Sally Wallace, Mary Eddy, Winefred Martin, Jerry Cameron and Joyce Eddy.

**RESOLUTION #20:**

A resolution to authorize the contract with Glens Falls Animal Hospital.

**Resolution to Authorize Contract**

*WHEREAS the Town of Thurman contracts with Glens Falls Animal Hospital, and*

*WHEREAS the rates for the 2015 contract will remain the same as the rates for 2014,*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes a contract with Glens Falls Animal Hospital for the year 2015, and authorizes the supervisor to sign the contract.*

On a motion by **Councilman Smith**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution #20 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**RESOLUTION #21:**

A resolution to amend the contract with TSA.

**Resolution to Authorize Amendment to Contract**

*WHEREAS the town Board has authorized a contract with the Thurman Station Association for the year 2015, and*

*WHEREAS it is suggested that the wording in section four of the contract to remove the phrase "right of any kind" and replace it with "intellectual property right" would be agreeable to both the TSA and the town's attorney, and*

*WHEREAS the contract will also be updated in regards to mailing address and authorized signature for the TSA, be it*

*RESOLVED that the town board authorizes these changes to the 2015 contract.*

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On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution #21 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**RESOLUTION #22:**

A resolution to accept the LARAC grant and to authorize the supervisor to sign necessary documents.

**Resolution to Accept Grant and Authorize Contract**

*WHEREAS the Town of Thurman has applied to LARAC for grant funding for the 2015 Summer Concert Series, and*

*WHEREAS the Town has been awarded a total of fifteen hundred dollars from LARAC, be it*

*RESOLVED that the Town Board accepts the grant and authorizes the supervisor to sign an necessary documents.*

On a motion by **Councilman Smith**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution #22 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**RESOLUTION #23:**

A resolution to authorize the renewal of the contract with Jaeger & Flynn for the administration of COBRA benefits.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Smith**, Resolution #23 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**RESOLUTION #24:**

A resolution to authorize the appointment of a part time maintenance person at a rate of \$10.00 per hour.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Eddy**, Resolution #24 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilman Smith** requested some discussion on the Cedarwood.

**Supervisor Wood** said that no, that was just supplied to us; it's pretty much what was in the earlier one.

**Councilman Smith** asked where we stand on this.

**Supervisor Wood** stated that as I understand the well drilling is due to start on the 16<sup>th</sup> and they are going around speaking to the homeowners about each homes specific requirements and so they are in the process of speaking to the home owners and working out the details and we should be hearing back shortly.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

On a motion by **Councilman Smith**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the town board approved vouchers #'s 2015- 85 thru 2015-121 for a highway, general and capital reserve fund grand total of \$202,948.00.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**MINUTES:**

On a motion by **Councilman Eddy**, seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the January 13, 2015 minutes were approved. **Supervisor Wood** asked for the following amendments. **Councilwoman Seaman** is to be given credit for the following information given during the supervisors report. *Problems with trash pickup (ACE Carting) call Jerry Potts 221-8603.* **Supervisor Wood** noted that the discussion about approving the 2014 minutes came before the vote not after. **Supervisor Wood** asked to include reducing the reserve, transferring funds and establishing a machinery reserve to the old business discussions about how to pay the 2014 leftover highway bills and in approval of the not yet approved 2014 minutes (end of the meeting) **Supervisor Wood** said that "I do think that we should probably note that Mr. Galusha voted no first and then changed his no to abstain, just for the record." The Town Clerk said that she didn't remember it that way.

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**Supervisor Wood** said that “He voted no originally and you (town clerk) said would you like to abstain and then he said yes he’d like to abstain.”

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, EDDY, SMITH, SEAMAN**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Cynthia R. Hyde**  
**Town clerk**  
**02/23/2015**

**Attached:**  
**WEMS report, letters from Winefred Martin, Joan Harris, Sally Wallace and Joyce Eddy**



February 10, 2015



Stephen W. Emerson  
Operations Manager

Phone ~ (518) 232-0817  
Fax ~ (518) 623-3651  
Email ~ tek910@nycap.rr.com

*Our Patients Are Our First Priority  
Our Members Are Our Greatest Asset*

February 10, 2015

Thurman Town Board Members,

Attached you will find the run totals for January 2015. We handled a total of 8 calls in Thurman in January and our average response time was just over 14 ½ minutes to arriving on-scene. Five (5) of those calls were ALS and two (2) of the calls were BLS. One (1) of those calls was a transport from Glens Falls Hospital to back home in Thurman.

I just wanted to remind everyone to please make sure that your homes are well marked so all emergency responders can find you when you need us. Also, if there are "landmarks" of any kind near you, please let the dispatcher know so they can relay that information to us. If you need help with this please let me know.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I can be reached on my cell phone at 232-0817. I would like to thank the Town Board and the Thurman residents for their continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stephen W. Emerson*

Stephen W. Emerson  
Operations Manager  
Warrensburg EMS, Inc.

**THURMAN CALLS HANDLED BY WARRENSBURG EMS  
JANUARY 2015**

DATE	PCR #	PRIORITY	CHIEF COMPLAINT	DISPATCH TO ENROUTE TIME	ENROUTE TO ONSCENE
1/2015	15-00090	BLS	FALL	3 MINS	13 MINS
3/2015	15-00267	BLS	HIP PAIN	3 MINS	16 MINS
4/2015	15-00412	ALS	GENERAL ILLNESS	1 MIN	13 MINS
13/2015	15-01537	BLS	TRANSPORT HOME FROM GFH	NO TIMES	NO TIMES
19/2015	15-02225	ALS	SICK PERSON	4 MINS	15 MINS
24/2015	15-02917	ALS	FULL ARREST	1 MIN	18 MINS
28/2015	15-03289	ALS	ABDOMINAL PAIN	3 MINS	13 MINS
31/2015	15-03682	ALS	CARDIAC ISSUES	3 MINS	15 MINS

OTHER
PT NOT TRANSPORTED
BLS~ ON HIGH ST
DON POTTER RD

Warrensburg Emergency Medical Services Inc.  
PO Box 157  
Warrensburg, New York 12885

February 10, 2015

Thurman Town Board  
PO Box 29  
Athol, NY 12810

February 9, 2015

To the Thurman Town Board,

The official records of our Town Board Meetings are the Town Clerk's minutes. Our Town Clerk and Supervisor have emphasized this during several of the Town Board meeting. Some of the 2014 board minutes have not been approved due to errors, and according to Supervisor Wood our town attorney advises that these minutes not be approved as they are incorrect. I am concerned that minutes containing errors will be approved.

At the January board meeting, Councilman Eddy asked for approval of all the minutes in 2014. Councilman Eddy did not question nor did he show concern over the errors these minutes contained.

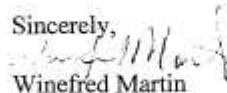
During discussion, Supervisor Wood did not have all of the issues at hand, but she was able to recall a couple errors; she had more information in her office.

Councilman Smith stated he had gone over most of, but not all of the minutes. He had no problem with the minutes; he voted to approve them all.

Councilman Galusha indicated he would like corrections made and voted, "no," but he changed his vote to, "abstain," after being questioned by the Town Clerk. (What authority does the Town Clerk have to question/suggest/correct board members when voting?)

I have questioned to our Town Clerk in the past about some of her minutes. She pointed out that the board had approved them. Her implication was clear: the final responsibility for the accuracy of the minutes was with the board. So again, the question must be asked, "What business is it of the Town Clerk to question council members when they are casting votes?"

Since these minutes are the official record of our Town Board meetings I hope that the board is concerned only about accuracy and votes to approve only when the minutes are correct.

Sincerely,  
  
Winefred Martin

Note:

Looking at last month's minutes, I find the amount of coverage and detail given to the security camera issue and the issue involving errors in the 2014 minutes absurd. Over a page was dedicated to each when in fact each discussion lasted less than 10 minutes. At the same time only a short 5-line blurb was used to report the lengthy discussion on the \$100,000 highway fund issue.

Please include this in the board meeting minutes.

February 10, 2015

February 6, 2015

Thurman Town Board

PO Box 29

Athol, NY 12810-0029

Dear Town Board members and friends,

I agree with Wini's comment on showing courtesy to fellow co-workers to a point; it should be at all times whether anyone else is around or not.

Working with every Town Supervisor since Don Smith, and working for the Post Office in the capacity of arbitrator between craft and management; courtesy and respect is a must. It is a known fact that it takes two people to have a volatile situation and there are two sides to every situation.

When a Town Supervisor makes a possible character assassination comment to another elected officer in public and doesn't mention the proof, and further more gavel or not allow the recipient to make a reply in defense; might also be called a possible Job harassment case. Certainly it is not professional. Needless to say the Town Board did not agree with the importance of such a statement made by the Town Supervisor concerning past minutes mistakes, because those minutes were not corrected in a timely matter nor challenged by the Board until January 2015. One board member didn't even think they were important enough to read, but another did ask to have a list of items that the Supervisor spoke about. At least two board members tried to offer a compromise that was refused. This February meeting hopefully will have settled the situation and can allow the Town Board to move on and improve their management skills and manners.

Let me discuss the Town Supervisor's use of fear to control a meeting and the residence of Thurman.

The infamous post card, of the doom of the town of Thurman, I received stands as an example. The message caused fear and concern that the town was going to disappear if immediate actions were not taken. After making a few phone calls and finding out, that some of the people knew, what the meeting was about, I calmed down and figured it was a mind game. It turned out to be a showcase of whipping her boys into shape. Let's not forget the Supervisor has one vote and one opinion in her power over the board. The other board members have the same power. Some of the older people who received the card really were scared of what was going on, and not knowing the truth was no help.

Let me mention the surveillance cameras. Per the encyclopedic Dictionary definition of surveillance is "close watch over one, as a prisoner or suspect" seems a little harsh treatment of the people of this town of Thurman. Which one of you on the town board really thinks any one in an audience would physically harm you? You're not that important, that anyone in this room would jeopardize their

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freedom for jail time. Who gets to see the videos and how, why and where are they documented? The Supervisor states fear, and paid out of her own town allowed money, for such a contraption without board approval, allows me to think there is a big ego problem involved. Under the guise of public safety doesn't buy it either; we all are neighbors and friends even if we disagree on certain points. It seems to be more of a personality/power clash between two strong women. Yes, in the past we have had troopers in full regalia and armament watching to provide respect for a family member, knowing nothing physical was going to happen. The police were not asked to hide out back or across the road, and it was a personal show not professional show of support.

Another matter of correct use and purpose of surveillance equipment attached to a public building has now caused the board to have spent valuable time to back track again to correct a possible wrong caused by the Supervisor.

One more thing concerning monthly meeting minutes; anyone can question Town Board decisions of acceptance and demand truthfulness, including the Town Clerk. An audience participant's impression, opinion and judgment of body language concerning an action or statement are allowed, even as my opinions are.

Ultimately it is the action or reaction of the Town Board that matters. Their job is to protect the young and old and provide safety in the town which includes E.M.S., Fire, and roads.

But let's talk about body language, have you noticed the change, for the better, of the Town Supervisor since the cameras have been in effect. I think that is one positive credit to the cameras. Now if the Supervisor can improve her condescending "showing conscious courtesy toward inferiors" attitude and language toward her board and fellow officers, we would have a better situation and less division among friends and governing boards.

So yes Wini and town board members, courtesy and professional manners should be the rule of the day, let's see if yours and mine opinion really helps. If not we can go the old fashion way. Put the responsible culprits in a barn, since most are farmers, let them slug it out and may the best woman wins. Might even make some money on it!!

I support Cynthia Hyde; she is elected and it is hard working with a micromanaging dictatorial form of management. This type of management has proven to kill creativity and progress and causes the above mentioned problems. This governing management has been placed in power by their creator to bless us or punish us; it is going to be interesting to see the results. One more thing Evie, you only won this position by 23 votes more than a felon. What does that say? Self-importance is dangerous to one's self.

Thanks for listening and including this letter in the town board minutes of this meeting;



Joan Harris

February 10, 2015

SALLY JO WALLACE  
254 MOUNTAIN RD.  
ATHOL, NY 12810

Thurman Town Board  
PO Box 29  
Athol, Ny 12810

ATTN: THURMAN TOWN BOARD MEMBERS:

1/20/2015

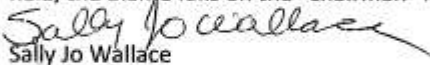
This letter is in response to a letter read at the Town Board Meeting on 1/13/2015. It was written by Winefred Martin concerning the "Professionalism" of the Town of Thurman "Officials". She wrote "officials" but only named our Town Clerk Ms. Cynthia Hyde in a derogatory manner.

My question for the board, and members of the audience, Is it "Professional" for the 2 women of our board to makes "Faces" and "roll" their eyes while certain people are talking during the Town Board Meetings? How about the "Chairman" of the board cutting certain people off in the middle of a Question? Or how she "dances" around answering a Question? Ms. Martin mentioned she believed Ms. Hyde to be "Bias" in her minutes. I believe the "Chairman" of the board is "Showing" bias in her actions.

As far as "Professionalism" the only times that our Town Clerk "Speaks up" is when she is spoken to in a Disrespectful manner and only interrupts when Ms Wood cuts her off while answering our Supervisors Questions. Yes, she does "demand" answers, only when she is "accused" of something.

Ms. Martin also wrote concerning the mannerisms of how our Town Clerk reads the letters to the board. Unlike Ms. Martin I **have** read the duties of the Town Clerk and there was not a word concerning the specifics on how the letters are to be read to the board.

In ending this letter, the only "Official" of these meetings that is "Responsible" for how they are ran is the "Chairman" of the board. If anyone is unhappy with how the Board Meetings are held, the blame falls on the "chairman" Ms. Evelyn Wood.

  
Sally Jo Wallace

Please include a copy of this letter in the minutes.

Ms E Wood  
Supervisor  
Town of Thurman

Feb 10 - 2015

Jan 31st 2015 10:30 AM  
Thurman Town Hall

I found the Handi Cap entrance  
with 3-4 in snowfall.

10 in of ice on overhang of Handi Cap  
Entrance

The 2 front entrances were also covered  
with snow and becoming slippery.

I call town Board member Dan Smith  
and he came and sanded the 3 areas

Thank you Dan

Mike Eddy removed the ice from the  
overhang Thank you Mike.

I was appalled that not any  
recognition was given by  
the Supervisor to Beleta Walters  
on her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

It was disrespectful and Shabby  
to say the least.

Joyce Eddy

Please include this in the minutes