

May 14, 2013

**MINUTES OF THE FISCAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD MAY 14, 2013 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M...**

**PRESENT:     MRS. EVELYN WOOD, SUPERVISOR**  
**MR. CHARLES BILLS, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. LEON GALUSHA, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. AL VASAK, COUNCILMAN**  
**MRS. GAIL SEAMAN, COUNCILWOMAN**

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

**FISCAL MEETING**: The Town Board reviewed all claims. Vouchers #2013-267 thru 2013-326, general fund total \$11,000.52, highway fund total \$5,178.35 and a grand total of \$16,178.87.

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

On a motion by **Councilwoman Seaman** , seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the minutes from the March 12, 2013 regular meeting, the April 08, 2013 Public Hearing and the April 09, 2013 Regular meeting were approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, BILLS, VASAK, SEAMAN**

**LETTERS**: Letters from **JD Lakatos** and **Maria Ligon** will be entered in the minutes.

**REPORTS:**

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Report on food pantry, gleaning and highway department from **Councilman Vasak** ~ Attached

Report on Warrensburg EMS from **Councilman Galusha** ~ Attached

**Councilman Bills** said that **Ernie Smith** has been working on the cemeteries and with help from the highway department they will be ready for Memorial Day.

**Supervisor's Report:** Attached

**WHITE SPACE INTERNET:**

**Supervisor Wood** gave an update on the White Space internet project. **Wood** said that she had a meeting today with **Mr. Engleman** and officials from Frontier (a communications company whose fiber optic lines will be needed for white space). Testing of the White Space internet should be completed by the end of May. The final design should be up and running in 90 days.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

FEMA closeouts

Fire inspections were done. Crash bars for town building doors were recommended.

A white elephant sale has been organized to raise money for Wolf Pond Stables.

**Supervisor Wood** received an email about an economic project plan survey from the APA. See information on this survey attached

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Occupancy Tax Committee has requested additional funds to cover expenses for the Bicentennial re enactor and portable toilets for the yard sale.

**RESOLUTION # 26:**

*Resolution to Approve Occupancy Tax Expenditure*

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*WHEREAS the Thurman Station Association has applied for grants some costs for events in the town during 2013, and  
WHEREAS those grants were not awarded, and  
WHEREAS there are also expenses for the Bicentennial re enactor and the portable toilets for the Town Wide Sale, and  
WHEREAS there is \$2290 remaining on Occupancy Tax funds from the year 2012, now therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the following expenditures from occupancy tax funds:*

*Town Wide Sale Restrooms - \$150*

*Bicentennial Re Enactor - \$225*

*Thurman Station Association for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Showcase and Fall Farm Tour - \$1915*

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, Resolution #26 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, BILLS, VASAK, SEAMAN**

**RESOLUTION #27:**

*Resolution to Approve Training*

*WHEREAS the Town of Thurman is a member of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, and*

*WHEREAS there will be a membership meeting June 1 & 2, 2013,*

*BE IT RESOLVED that Evelyn Wood is approved to attend the meeting.*

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 27 was approved.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, BILLS, VASAK, SEAMAN**

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the town board approved vouchers #'s 2013-267 thru 2013- 326 for a highway and general fund grand total of \$16,178.87.

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**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, BILLS, VASAK, SEAMAN**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

**John Haskell** asked for a moment of silence for **Rebecca Hitchcock**. **Mr. Haskell** wanted to know if the water had been tested. **Mr. Haskell** also remarked that it might be more fiscally responsible to hire cemetery workers instead of using the highway crew to groom the cemeteries.

**Supervisor Wood** said that due to tax cap restraints, the highway crew was used to ready the cemeteries for Memorial Day.

**Winnie Martin** thanked the town board for the occupancy tax funds that they approved.

**Joan Harris** asked the board if they knew where the historian office would be.

**Supervisor Wood** said that with the recent shift in offices, they were taking one step at a time.

**Mary Eddy** asked about the floor refinishing.

**Supervisor Wood** said that the floor could not be sanded so it had been washed and then coated with a hard poly finish.

**Mary Eddy** wanted to know about the salt shed and well.

**Supervisor Wood** stated that she could not discuss the salt shed and well as the town was still working with the DEC on this matter.

**Richard Kline** said that he would like to see the town board pass a resolution to hire within the town.

**Supervisor Wood** replied that she thought that might be illegal.

**Barbara Farrell** asked why the correspondence couldn't be read out loud at meetings.

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**Supervisor Wood** said that it was the will of the town board to decide about letters and that the letters are attached to the minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED:** 5 AYES ~ **WOOD, GALUSHA, BILLS, VASAK, SEAMAN**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Cynthia R. Hyde**  
**Town clerk**  
**05/20/2013**

**Attached:**

Supervisor's report, Councilman Vasak's report, Councilman Galusha's report from the Warrensburg EMS, letters and info on an APA survey.

Supervisor's Report

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- The court office move has occurred; the Judge and Court Clerk are very pleased.
- On April 16<sup>th</sup> we began the final closeouts of the large projects for the storm damage from Irene. The representative who came to do the inspections and check out records has complimented the Town on our thoroughness and was pleased that he would not need to make repeat trips in order to get more information.
- APA Local Government Day had excellent classes this year; I would encourage the Board to consider attending next year. Examples of sessions include Infrastructure opportunities, land use legal rules, using State Forest Preserve and Easement Lands for Economic Development, and Emergency Preparedness in response to extreme weather events.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> was the local NRA dinner, Congressman Gibson was there and he sends his regards to the Town and was extremely happy to hear that our efforts with regard to Broadband service were moving forward. Over \$3600 was raised for the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

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- On April 30<sup>th</sup> the Broadband Office contacted me and asked if I would be willing to do a radio interview along with David Salaway, which I agreed to do. The interview went well and was heard throughout the State.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> was the Broadband Grant Informational meeting, held in Albany which Mr. Losaw and I attended. We received much information with regards to how we should be tracking expenses and other requirements of the grant. My office will be doing the majority of this work. One of the first things we are assembling is the information for the office of Contractor and Supplier Diversity which we will be submitting tomorrow. Often times the State gives only a week to assemble fairly intricate reports so we have to be ready to respond quickly to requests.
- On May 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Losaw and I also attended the local Health Care Forum which was held in response to many of the changes the Health Care Laws will be seeing as we move towards 2014. There were a number of changes that will have to be made to Town Policy and the Employee handbook as well as decisions regarding how we offer coverage. Higher deductibles and Co-insurance are expected.
- Finance school was May 2 & 3 covered Monitoring the Budget, the new Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, Capital Planning, Managing & Securing Public Funds, Shared Services, and Funding Available for Town Projects.
- Fire Company had its annual dinner, as always it was a very nice event, this year Cub Parker who has decided to retire from the Fire Company was honored for his 43 years of service.
- The annual Crime Victims Rights breakfast was April 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was Warren County's year to host and it is always a very inspirational morning.
- The Town Hall will be closed Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day
- The plaque in honor of Mrs. Hitchcock has been hung in the Town Hall.

## **Adirondack Park Economic Development Strategy & Plan to Advance Key Projects**

**We are asking for your assistance to identify key projects that are regional, multi-municipal or focused on community revitalization and quality of life in your community. The projects will be considered for inclusion in the Adirondack Economic Development Strategy and possibly offered technical assistance from the \$150,000 Fund to Advance Key Projects. By taking this survey you can help to ensure that we have considered all potential projects from across the Park. Organizations and municipalities are welcome to submit. The survey closes June 1, 2013. To complete the survey please go to the following web link:**

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ADK-Economic-Strategy-Key-Projects-Step-One-Nominations>

May 14, 2013

I would like this read at the town board meeting tonight 4/9/2013 also I would like this added to the minutes

To Supervisor Wood and the Thurman Town Board

This letter is of concern. Noticing a presences of a Warren County Sheriff at our meetings concerns me. The last meeting in March a officer was there but did not have a hand gun. At the Public Meeting concerning the EMS contract 4/8/2013 a officer was present with a hand gun strapped to his waist, was that hand gun loaded I am assuming so. The officer was on alert when people stood up going towards the crowd with his hand on his gun. The concern is why do we need a Sheriff armed at our meetings I would think a billy club pepper spray or a taser would be enough to control a physical out burst. If our town board and Supervisor is that concerned of someone killing them or harming them besides voicing their concerns as taxpayers I would suggest a pat down before entering or the Sheriff stand behind the Supervisor instead in the back armed and dangerous to taxpayers!! This I believe has gotten out of control I do not believe it is only two of our board and I do not believe anyone that comes to these meetings is armed except with their voices and concerns. If anyone has ever seen what a 38 bullet could do to a human this concern will be magnified. What next I asked a bullet proof window they can sit behind and a swat team coming to meetings.

Maria Ligon



May 14, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I formally request that the following letter be read into the minutes of the May town of Thurman Board Meeting:

In the interest of full disclosure, it is incumbent upon me to preface this letter regarding Thurman Town governance with a few bullets points:

- I attended the Public Hearing of Monday last, undecided regarding the efficacy of one EMS plan over another, and remain so undecided.
- I am chairperson of a committee strategizing the replacement, in November's election, of the current Supervisor.
- I am more interested in the statement of truth and that "Democracy, like a precious jewel, shines most brilliantly in the light of an open government."

Sad to say, I saw restricted and edited forms of open governance at last night's meeting.

Opening the meeting was a lengthy and informative statement read by representative of the Warrensburg EMS (WEMS), data no doubt already provided to the Board but none the less important for the citizenry to hear. However, no such invitation, nor courtesy was afforded to a representative of the Thurman EMS, for the sake of balance of information to those attending.

And yet the Board voted to sign the contract with WEMS.

As each citizen spoke, they were asked to provide statement regarding their position as "for" or "against the pending contract with WEMS. An obvious request as one would think these data would provide the Board with insight and guidance. To my count 82.1% (23 speakers) were "against", 14.3% (4 speakers) were "for", and 3.5% (1 speaker) undecided.

And yet the Board voted to sign the contract with WEMS.

The Supervisor stated that she "received tons of phone calls" regarding this issue, yet with the discussion being so important, she did not keep a log of the calls "for" and the calls "against", to accurately account for the desires of the citizenry. Important to note, three board members did not speak regarding receiving calls and one noted that he did not receive *any* calls.

And yet the Board voted to sign the contract with WEMS.

In answer to a question from the audience, a Board member admitted having received the final version of the contract with WEMS at the beginning of the meeting and was verbal about being confused about content: Final vs Draft. This begs the questions; Was he reviewing the contract while the citizen were voicing the opinions he should have been listening to? Did he not read the final contract? Had he made up his mind before the citizenry spoke? Or is he just a really good multi-tasker?

And yet he voted to sign the contract with WEMS.

So goes Thurman's current version of open government.

Sincerely,  
JD Lakatos

May 14, 2013



Stephen W. Emerson  
Operations Manager

Phone ~ (518) 232-0817  
Fax ~ (518) 623-3651

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Thurman Town Board Members,

Attached you will find a list of the calls that Warrensburg EMS responded to in Thurman for the month of April 2013. We responded to 7 calls altogether; 3 BLS and 4 ALS. Our average response time was just over 13 minutes with a shortest time of 9 minutes and a longest time of 18 minutes. The call that took us 18 minutes to get to was during the snow/ice storm that we had on April 4<sup>th</sup>. In April WEMS responded to a total of 84 calls; 7 of those were 2<sup>nd</sup> out calls.

Warrensburg EMS is holding an Open House on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the building. I would like to personally invite all of you as well as any and all residents of Thurman to please stop by and visit with us and let us show you our facilities and meet some of the WEMS Members. The Open House will also be the start date of our Quilt Raffle. Lilly Cameron has graciously donated a quilt to raffle off as a fundraiser for WEMS. As you all know, Lilly does absolutely beautiful work. The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the Bicentennial Celebration at the Warrensburg Recreation Field.

EMS Fact of the month:

New York State is in the process of adopting the National Standard Curriculum. This is being phased in over the next 3 years. New York State EMTs and Paramedics will receive the same training as the rest of the country. It means longer classes and more requirements. The EMT class will be increasing by approximately 40 hours from 150 hours to 190 hours; the Intermediate class will also be increasing 40 hours from 160 to 200 hours; and the Paramedic course will increase by 200 hours to 1200 hours. These are just classroom didactic hours. This does not include mandatory hospital and ambulance intern time. For the EMT that can add an additional 40 additional hours. For the Paramedic, hospital and intern time can add more than 900 hours to total more than 2000 hours of training.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please let me know.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen W. Emerson  
Operations Manager

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



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## Highway Report 5-14-13

Working on curtain drain behind the garage.  
Graded and raked all the gravel roads except W. Stony Creek.  
Cleared more ground at the river rd. mine and have been  
crushing gravel.  
Replacing culverts on River Rd and the lower end of Mud St.  
Began cemetery cleanup on Monday.  
Cleaned out sediment traps around town.

LAND FILL + WASTE MANAGEMENT  
No Report

Food Pantry + Gleaning  
Gleaning - Monday May 6 - 40 sign-ups  
next gleaning first Monday in June - 1 PM  
Food Pantry - 15 people serving about 45 people  
signed up - Tuesdays 9-11