

August 09, 2011

**MINUTES OF THE FISCAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD AUGUST 12, 2011 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. REBECCA HITCHCOCK, 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**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**: On a motion by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**, the minutes were approved.

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

**Supervisor Wood** said that the Occupancy Tax Committee requests an advance of ½ of the Fall Farm Tour funds. Also noted were some changes with Youth program bus drivers resulting in several vouchers being voided (20110459, 2011460 and 20110461 were voided) and a new voucher 20110512 for the same amount being created.

**CLAIMS**: On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, payment of vouchers # 20110538 thru 20110553 also 20110555 thru 20110560

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Highway fund for a grand total of \$37,334,21 and vouchers 20110516 thru 20110537 also 20110554 General fund for a grand total of \$34,513.42.

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

**REPORTS:**

**Food Pantry: Councilman Vasak** said that the food pantry was getting low. The gleaning program had been cut; therefore some of the food coming from Community Action was being used for gleaning.

**Landfill: Councilman Vasak** gave an approximate amount collected by the landfill.

**Youth:** See attached

**Highway:** None

**Cemetery: Councilman Bills** said that **Ernie Smith** and **Dick Needham** were keeping up the cemeteries.

**Supervisor's report: Supervisor Wood** said that...

The county had started working on the 2012 budget and that the goal was to keep it flat.

Other avenues (pertaining to FEMA) were being explored. **Congressman Chris Gibson** was working hard for Thurman and would be here for the Monday night concert August 22, 2011.

She (Supervisor Wood) and bookkeeper **Les Losaw** would attend civil service training, reporting training and advanced accounting training.

Utility bills were being scrutinized in an effort to save money.

It was possible that an electronic copy of the town budget would need to be submitted to the NYS Comptroller's office prior to being passed by the town board.

CHIPS money is being applied for.

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Highway department cash flow is going to fall short.

**Highway Superintendent Pat Wood** is looking over highway expenses.

The Highway department has been excellent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Thurman Highway Contract is complete.

A contract has been signed between the Town of Thurman and the Warrensburg EMS.

The town attorney is working on the animal control law.

In an effort to cut down on heating costs the assessors will be moving to the town hall.

**Supervisor Wood** asked for a list of active Thurman Youth Commission members.

**LETTERS:** The Town Clerk read a letter of interest from **John Santasier**, a letter from **Michael Eddy** and a letter from **Stacey Eddy Dunkley**. (See attached)

**RESOLUTION #89:**

**Resolution to Allow Town Justice to Apply for Grant**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thurman Town Board authorizes Judge Filomena Riviello to apply for the 2011 JCAP grant. On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**.

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

**RESOLUTION #90:**

**Resolution to Advance Occupancy Tax Funds for the Fall Farm Tour**

**WHEREAS**, the Occupancy Tax Policy of the Town of Thurman authorizes the Town Board to extend funds in advance of an event to assist with necessary event funding, and

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**WHEREAS** this money is a portion of the amount already approved for the Fall Farm Tour and the appropriate receipts will be included in the Fall Farm Tour's Final Report.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Thurman Town Board authorizes a check in the amount of \$3539.90 payable to the Thurman Station Association, to be used on expenses for the Fall Farm Tour.

On a motion by **Councilman Bills**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**.

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

**RESOLUTION #91:**

**Resolution to Update Employees Handbook and Policies**

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to periodically review and update the policies and procedures of the Town of Thurman,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thurman Town Board accepts the attached revised Handbook, which includes the policies and procedures of the Town of Thurman.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this handbook shall be distributed to all employees of the Town of Thurman.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**.

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

**RESOLUTION #92:**

**Resolution to Establish Credit Card Policy**

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to have a policy on the use of the Town's credit card, and

**WHEREAS** no such policy has been established,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Thurman's Credit Card Policy shall be as follows:

The Town's credit card shall be acquired and used by the Supervisor for the purchase of items in the course of municipal business. The purchasing limit shall be \$1,000.00, and all claims shall be audited to ensure proper documentation and that the appropriate individual is using the card. The card may not be used for personal purchases and any purchase which is not for municipal purposes must be fully reimbursed to the town along with any interest or fees.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**.

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

**RESOLUTION #93:**

**Resolution to Apply for DEC Grant for Salt Storage**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is authorized to apply for a DEC Grant pertaining to the building of a salt shed.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha** seconded by **Councilman Vasak**

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

**RESOLUTION #94:**

**Resolution to Rates**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the rates for copies shall be as follows:

Photocopies: .25 per page

Faxes: .25 per page

CDs: \$5.00 per disk

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the rate for Transcripts of Vital Records shall be \$5.00.

On a motion by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**

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

**RESOLUTION #95:**

**Resolution to Apply for DEC Grant**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is authorized to apply for a DEC Grant for Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**

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

**RESOLUTION #96:**

**Resolution to Install Keyless Entry**

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to have the Town Hall secure, and  
**WHEREAS** quotes have been received for the installation of a keyless entry system at the Town Hall,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Foresight has submitted the lowest estimate for the installation of the keyless entry system, in the amount of \$1,373.51, to be paid from A1620.4, Buildings – Contractual.

***Resolution # 96 was tabled.***

**RESOLUTION #97**

**Resolution to Reorganize Town Offices**

**WHEREAS** the town can recognize savings by centralizing its office in the Town Hall and closing the Harris House,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that all Town Offices will be located in the Town Hall, and necessary modifications to accommodate the reorganizing of the offices shall be made to the Hall.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**

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

**Councilman Bills** asked if the old truck ( the 1997 Ford F-250 pickup) that was sold to the highest bidder had been picked up. **Supervisor Wood** said that if the truck didn't get picked up it would be awarded to the next highest bidder.

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**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Mike Eddy, John O'Neill, Carolyn Grotavant, Barb Farrell, Joyce Eddy, Erin Beadnell and Loren Eddy** spoke against the contract between the Thurman Town Board and the Warrensburg EMS, their preference would be to contract with Thurman EMS. **Delbert Chambers** added that since the Thurman EMS is a separate organization the Town Board isn't responsible for them.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Supervisor Wood** called an executive session. On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the Town Board went into executive session at 7:35 pm.

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

With no action being taken, on a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**, the Town Board came out of executive session at 7:48 pm.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Cynthia R. Hyde, Town Clerk**

**Attached: Youth commission report, letters from John Santasier, Michael Eddy and Stacey Dunkley.**

## **Thurman Youth Commission Report for August 9, 2011**

The Youth Commission summer program is going very nicely. There are 20 to 25 children attending daily. They have gone on three trips so far and from all reports everyone had a good time. The commission has done two food booths at the music on the hill on Monday night. They had Trish Markey the director of The Wild Life Institute of Eastern NY come with birds that are rescued and then rehabilitated back to the wild. The next meeting is September 2, 2011 at the Town Hall at 7pm.



I am submitting my name  
as a member of the Town  
Planning Board.

John Staussier  
67 Bear Pond Rd  
Athol, N.Y. 12810

518-623-3490

Thurman Town Board  
311 Athol Road  
Athol, NY 12810

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To The Thurman Town Board:

Have you ever heard the saying "You don't know WHAT you don't know"?

Supervisor Wood, if you haven't had an experience of instantly needing emergency service for a trauma or tragedy for your children, spouse, sibling or parents perhaps you don't realize how imperative it is to have immediate response. That would come under the saying, "You don't know WHAT you don't know" ?

Mrs. Hitchcock has personally experienced the necessity of immediate, urgent response and the difference in seconds or minutes that seem interminable. This makes the decision of the board to do away with Thurman EMS extremely hard to comprehend.

The following is directly from the Thurman April Special Meeting minutes: "Mr. Farrell explained that every call starts out as a BLS (basic life support) and then sometimes escalates to an ALS (advanced life support). Therefore every call requires Basic Life Support. Farrell also reiterated that Warrensburg has a CON (**Certificate Of Need**) to cover Thurman. Warrensburg EMS's territory IS Warrensburg **AND** Thurman (When a call comes in from Thurman, Warrensburg EMS IS responsible for answering it, now, today)." This statement and paragraph was from Mr. Farrell in the Thurman April Special Meeting minutes.

The following is directly from the Thurman April Regular Meeting minutes: "Warrensburg EMS recommended discussing a contract between the Town of Thurman and Warrensburg EMS if Thurman EMS goes belly up. \$15,000.00 was the amount suggested by Warrensburg EMS for covering the Town of Thurman." This past paragraph was in the Thurman April Regular Meeting minutes.

Therefore, it seems you generously gave Warrensburg the 6 months

contract for \$25,000.00 when they said they were always responsible to answer because of their CON and Thurman had not been paying them. Also, they specifically stated in April that they could cover Thurman for \$15,000.00, which would have been longer than the 6 months.

There have been at least 2 calls into Thurman that took 40 minutes for a response since Warrensburg EMS was contracted. Would all of you be able to wait patiently that long and be understanding? Is this to be the new normal expectation for sections of Thurman?

Within the last week there was a call for Warrensburg EMS near Exit 23. It took 40 - 45 minutes for help to arrive. Warrensburg EMS was Not able to respond. Removing one ambulance and EMS service, as you have, reduces the possibility of efficient response.

What is your plan for the coming year if Warrensburg demands an increase and you don't have any recourse because Thurman no longer has a Certificate of Need? Did you do everything in your power to promote and work with the current local EMS volunteers?

When was there a discussion among the Town Board to specifically contract with the Warrensburg EMS?

In the July minutes under Old Business: Supervisor Wood said that the contract with Thurman EMS was up June 30, 2011. Wood suggested that the board consider contracting with Warrensburg EMS as Thurman EMS was unable to fulfill the stipulations of their contract. There wasn't any other discussion among the board at the meeting of pros or cons. Then the board went into executive session for contract negotiations and hiring personnel. Was this when you discussed the Warrensburg EMS contract? When you returned no action was taken.

Taking into consideration that Resolution #84 was already printed - Resolution to contract with Warrensburg EMS - Was it a done deal before the meeting?

Is this another example of behind closed door government that you all professed to be above in your campaign promises?

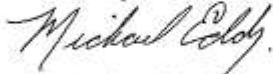
Why are only 3 board members deciding our fate and the Thurman EMS fate? This may effects each and every residents at some point in time. Why is this major decision not placed before the public for a vote? There

was a petition with 240 signatures requesting a public vote submitted by the Thurman EMS, December 21, 2010. The voting populace of Thurman that actually exercises their right to vote is between 300 and 450 out of the total voters registered. As a Town Board you ignored this request.

In the Thurman Town Board, December 21, 2010 minutes, Supervisor Wood stated that the Town Board had made the decision to negotiate with Warrensburg EMS and that when it came time to sign a contract the FULL board would be present to vote. That was not the case at the July 2100 Board meeting.

Are you, the current Thurman Town Board members, ready to accept on your conscience the results of a fellow residents' tragedy or death because of your decision and the Response that was not in a timely manner?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Eddy".

Michael Eddy & Family

FROM THE DESK OF  
STACEY DUNKLEY ON AUGUST 9TH, 2011

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Thurman Town Board

Athol , NY 12810

Dear Thurman Town Board,

I am writing to you in regards to what you, the Town Board, have decided to do about the Thurman EMS Squad.

It saddens me that the board has decided to get rid of an infrastructure that has been a part of the Town of Thurman for many years over "YOUR OWN PERSONAL ISSUES AND GREED".

Being a past Thurman resident for more than half my life, I can not believe you are getting rid of the Thurman EMS Squad who puts their lives on the line to come and save lives, be it your MOM, DAD, GRANDPARENT, YOUR CHILD OR YOURSELF who may need help one day and have to wonder - Will Warrensburg get to YOU or them IN TIME or NOT AT ALL?!

I know from personal experience, while being on the squad for a short time, how important it is to have a local Squad near by that can respond QUICKLY and EFFICIENTLY like the THURMAN SQUAD has and will. They were also there to save my nephew who may not be alive if we had had to wait for Warrensburg to respond!!!! So, I hope when you made this "HUGE LIFE CHANGE " for the Town of Thurman that you truly were thinking of THE PEOPLE that live in THURMAN and on the out skirts.

REMEMBER IT COULD BE YOU! AND WHO'S GOING TO COME?!

So, I hope that you don't choose money over lives, GIVE THEM a chance and reconsider your decision to work with the current EMS personnel to keep the infrastructure in place.

Sincerely yours,



Stacey (Eddy)-Dunkley

WORK STREET WORK CITY, WORK STATE WORK ZIP