

December 10, 2013

MINUTES OF THE FISCAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD DECEMBER 10, 2013 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M...

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

ABSENT: MR. CHARLES BILLS, COUNCILMAN

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

THANK YOU:

Cake, punch and coffee were served as a thank you gesture to outgoing board members **Al Vasak** and **Charles Bills**.

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 **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the minutes of the November 12, 2013 meeting were approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

December 10, 2013

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the minutes of the November 06, 2013 meeting were approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

LETTERS:

Letters were read from **Mary Eddy** and **Richard Bardi**. Attached

Supervisor Wood said that she had a question for **Mrs. Hyde**. **Supervisor Wood** stated that the Town Board rejected those bids unopened and asked if that was correct.

Town Clerk Cynthia Hyde's reply was, excuse me.

Supervisor Wood stated that the original two bids, because the date was advertised incorrectly, were rejected unopened by the town board, is that correct.

Town Clerk Cynthia Hyde said yes.

The Town Clerk started to say something else when **Supervisor Wood** interrupted saying. "No, no, I'm not open to discuss it. "

Town Clerk Cynthia Hyde said that she wasn't sure what the question was.

Supervisor Wood answered that it's very simple, that night we rejected the bids unopened. We did not unseal the bids; we rejected all the bids unopened.

Town Clerk Cynthia Hyde answered yes.

REPORTS:

Food Pantry:

Councilman Vasak said that a financial donation was made to the food pantry by the Thurman Station Association.

A private party donation to the food pantry was made in appreciation of **George Chonko** for his help with the gleaning program.

December 10, 2013

A donation from Santa was made to the food pantry (donator unknown).

Highway: The Bridge on Dippikill road is complete.

EMS: Councilman Galusha read the Warrensburg EMS report. Attached

Youth: Councilwoman Seaman said that **Myrna Keeler** has everything ready for the Christmas party to be held December 14, 2013.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Wood reported on ...

The Adirondack association of Towns membership meeting

The ADK 103 proposal

An ATV mapping project

Sitting on the board of directors of the Adirondack Association of Towns

Being part of the Inter County Committee

The Supervisors office being busy getting ready for the end of the year

TOWN COURT:

Supervisor Wood said that the town court is looking to buy a Seagate external Hard drive.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Organizational meeting and swearing in ceremony was set for January 06, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

None

December 10, 2013

RESOLUTION # 55:

Resolution Requesting Bids on Project

BE IT RESOLVED that the Thurman Town Board hereby directs that the attached equipment for the Thurman White Space Project be placed out for bid, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bid due date shall be December 20, 2013 at 4 pm. The Town Clerk shall log the receipt of any and all bids. The Town of Thurman reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or proposals. Bids/proposals must comply with all applicable local, state, and Federal laws.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 55 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 AYES ~ WOOD, VASAK, SEAMAN 1NAY ~ Galusha

Discussion:

Councilman Galusha said that he wanted to hold off because if this doesn't work we'll still have to pay for it.

Councilman Vasak said he understood why Galusha felt uncomfortable.

Councilwoman Seaman stated she wouldn't be comfortable losing a 200,000.00 grant because if we lose it this town can't come up with \$200,000.00 to ever do it.

Supervisor Wood agreed that anytime you turn back grant money and do not proceed in the time line, it's hard to get going again to be able to finish in time.

Councilman Vasak said that it was another step in the process.

Supervisor Wood said that when the bids come in they will have to be evaluated and they will take some serious reading over.

Councilwoman Seaman asked if there were certain provisions in those bids that guarantee a certain level of service.

Supervisor Wood said that yes a certain level of service is required.

Councilman Galusha said that was from Frontier, correct?

Supervisor Wood stated that the grant has a five year term and everything including Frontier is set to coincide with the grant.

Councilman Galusha said that the service quality isn't guaranteed from white space is it.

Supervisor Wood stated she wasn't sure what Galusha was asking.

Councilman Galusha asked who guarantees white space from the towers to the houses.

Supervisor Wood answered that the internet operator guarantees the system.

Councilman Vasak said that the people using the system are paying the expenses.

Councilman Galusha said if you have enough people using the system.

Councilman Vasak answered that we have all those signatures of people (who want internet) and we should get enough people using the system. **Vasak** agreed that it might not work, but having been through 5 different internet companies and now back to using dial up, he's willing to pay to try something different.

RESOLUTION # 56:

Resolution to Authorize Contracts

WHEREAS the Town of Thurman enters into contracts for various services each year, and

WHEREAS the Town wishes to renew certain contracts which will commence in 2014, be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign and enter into the following contracts in the amounts listed for each contract.

Contracts for 2014

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Warren County</i> | <i>Road Maintenance</i> | <i>\$163,753</i> |
| <i>Community Action</i> | <i>Senior Transport</i> | <i>\$4,800</i> |
| <i>Warren County</i> | <i>Transportation</i> | <i>\$1,797</i> |
| <i>Thurman Station Assn.</i> | <i>Publicity</i> | <i>\$20,000</i> |
| <i>Warren County</i> | <i>Snowmobile Trails</i> | <i>\$27,000</i> |

December 10, 2013

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Thurman Fire Company</i> | <i>Fire Protection</i> | <i>\$74,500</i> |
| <i>Thurman Connection</i> | <i>Snowmobile Trails</i> | <i>\$27,000</i> |
| <i>Miller Mannix, Schachner, & Hafner</i> | <i>Legal Representation</i> | <i>as per contract not to exceed \$170 p/hr</i> |
| <i>Sugarloaf Senior Citizens</i> | <i>Senior Programs</i> | <i>\$1,000</i> |

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Seaman**, Resolution # 56 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

Supervisor Wood alerted the board that she expects the amount for road maintenance to go up.

RESOLUTION # 57:

Resolution Authorizing Training

WHEREAS members of both the current and incoming Town Board have not yet had the opportunity to attend training in relation to the position of Town Councilperson, and

WHEREAS the Association of Towns will be offering a Newly Elected Officials Training School in Albany, New York from January 15 – 17, 2014, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Daniel Smith, and Michael Eddy are authorized to attend the Newly Elected Training School at a rate of \$150 per person which includes registration, breaks, and lunches.

On a motion by **Councilwoman Seaman**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**, Resolution # 57 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

RESOLUTION # 58:

Resolution to Increase Highway Budget

WHEREAS the State of New York increased CHIPS funding to the Town of Thurman in 2013,

BE IT RESOLVED that the highway budget be increased as shown below to reflect the added funding received by the town.

Increase 3501 State Aid/CHIPS in the amount of \$27,994

December 10, 2013

Increase 5112.2 Permanent Improvement in the amount of \$27,994

On a motion by **Councilwoman Seaman**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, Resolution # 58 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

RESOLUTION # 59:

Budget Adjustment for General Fund

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the following budget adjustments:

| <i>Decrease</i> | | <i>Increase</i> | |
|-------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1990.4 Contingent | \$3,227 | 1111.1 Justices PS-2 | \$500 |
| | | 1410.2 Town Clerk EQ | \$127 |
| | | 5132.4 Garage | \$1,200 |
| | | 6989.4 Tourism | <u>\$1,400</u> |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | \$3,227 | | \$3,227 |

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, Resolution # 59 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

RESOLUTION # 60:

Resolution to Adjust Highway Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the following adjustments be made to the Highway Fund:

| <i>Increase</i> | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5112.2 Permanent Improvements | \$10,092 |
| 5130.2 Machinery EQ | \$ 4,000 |
| 5130.4 Machinery CE | \$60,500 |
| 5148.4 Serv. To other Governments | <u>\$16,563</u> |
| | \$91,155 |

December 10, 2013

Decrease

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5110.4 General Repairs | \$ 5,000 |
| 5120.2 Bridges EQ | \$ 5,000 |
| 5120.4 Bridges CE | \$ 1,306 |
| 5140.1 Misc Pers. Service | \$ 5,000 |
| 5148.1 Serv. To Other Governments PS | \$50,000 |
| 5142.1 Snow Removal PS | \$ 8,000 |
| 5142.4 Snow removal CE | \$ 4,500 |
| 9010.8 State Retirement | \$ 7,861 |
| 9060.8 Medical Insurance | <u>\$ 4,488</u> |
| | \$91,155 |

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 60 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

RESOLUTION # 61:

Resolution to Authorize Contract for Electronic Waste Recycling

WHEREAS the Town of Thurman has been using Rochester Computer recycling and Recovery LLC to provide electronics recycling to the residents of the town, and

WHEREAS it is necessary to enter into a contract for services in order to continue to offer electronics recycling to the residents of the town,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves entering into a contract with Rochester Computer Recycling & recovery, LLC for the year of 2014 and authorizes the Supervisor to sign the necessary documents.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 61 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

December 10, 2013

RESOLUTION # 62:

Resolution Requesting Electrical Services Proposals

BE IT RESOLVED that the Thurman Town Board hereby requests proposals for the electrical services for the Thurman White Space Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposal due date shall be December 20, 2013 at 4 pm. The Town of Thurman reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or proposals. Bids/proposals must comply with all applicable local, state, and Federal laws.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 62 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 AYES ~ WOOD, VASAK, SEAMAN

1 NAY ~ GALUSHA

RESOLUTION # 63:

Resolution Requesting System Operation Proposals

BE IT RESOLVED that the Thurman Town Board hereby requests proposals for the operation of the white space internet system for the Thurman White Space Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposal due date shall be December 27, 2013 at 4 pm. The Town of Thurman reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or proposals. Bids/proposals must comply with all applicable local, state, and Federal laws.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 63 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 AYES ~ WOOD, VASAK, SEAMAN

1 NAY ~ GALUSHA

RESOLUTION # 64:

Resolution Authorizing Contract with Frontier Communications

WHEREAS the Town of Thurman has undertaken a project to bring high speed internet to an unserved area of the community, and

WHEREAS this project is known as the Thurman White Space Project, and

December 10, 2013

WHEREAS the project requires a backhaul connection to existing infrastructure for the white space system, and

WHEREAS Frontier Communications has the ability to provide the appropriate Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) for a term of five years at a rate of \$940 per month with a nonrecurring charge of \$12,100 for set up and access, be it

RESOLVED that the Town of Thurman hereby authorizes the contract with Frontier Communications and authorizes the Supervisor to sign any necessary documents.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 64 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 AYES ~ WOOD, VASAK, SEAMAN

1NAY ~ GALUSHA

RESOLUTION # 65:

Resolution Authorizing Tree Removal

WHEREAS the Town of Thurman maintains certain cemeteries within the Town, and

WHEREAS there are a number of trees which are in danger of causing damage or injury to persons or property on cemeteries in the Town, be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes removal of any trees necessary to insure the safety of both people and property for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, Resolution # 65 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

The opening date for bids received will be January 06, 2013 at 7pm.

Discussion:

Councilman Vasak asked if there was a way people could see the resolutions before the meetings. **Vasak** said that he watches people in the audience when the resolutions are read and can tell they don't know what we are talking about.

Councilman Vasak said that he doesn't know what is being talked about

sometimes because he doesn't see the resolutions until the night of the meeting. **Vasak** felt that the accessibility of the resolutions and the minutes is a problem.

Supervisor Wood stated that the meeting packets are available the Friday before the meetings to the extent practicable. **Wood** said that the Town Clerk often makes copies of these items for people and in fact anyone here at the hall would be happy to copy meeting packets for people.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the town board approved vouchers #'s 2013-750 thru 2013-795 for a highway fund total of 26,317.75, a general fund total of \$73,610.43, a capital projects fund total of 110,916.73 and a grand total of \$210,844.91.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Delbert Chambers was unclear about the resolution on the tree removal he asked if the budgeted price was per tree or per cemetery. **Chambers** also wanted to know what happens to the trees and could they be offered to wood burners.

Supervisor Wood said that it was the total budget and that if more was needed the board would have to decide whether to add funds. **Wood** stated that what is done with the trees depends on their size and location and that sometimes they are chipped. **Supervisor Wood** said that she would look into using the wood for emergency use and that she will inquire of other towns on that matter.

Marilyn Youngblood asked who wrote the first letter read at this meeting.

The town clerk said that Mary Eddy wrote that letter.

Jim Mosher thanked **Al Vasak** for the time he put in as councilman for the Town of Thurman.

Brian Angell asked if privilege of the floor could also be held at the beginning of the meeting.

Supervisor Wood said that we could consider it and that it is done in the Town of Minerva.

Richard Bardi commented on the construction of the whitespace network going forward in the Town of Thurman. **Bardi** noted that a bid from Asa Network (which was rejected unopened last September) turned out not to be a bid but a letter warning the board that the current design may have problems and advising the town board against installing it. **Bardi** was concerned that once the grant money was gone we would be stuck with this system whether it works or not. **Bardi** felt the board should seek technical advice and perhaps invite a debate between experts.

Councilwoman Seaman said that she had a question for **Mr. Bardi** and asked how did he know what was in a sealed bid that wasn't opened.

Richard Bardi said that the bid was opened.

Supervisor Wood stated that no, the bids were sealed and rejected and that the board never authorized the opening of the bids.

Richard Bardi said that he got the bids from the Town Clerk and then followed up with a call to Mr. Steve Berlin from Asa Networks.

Councilwoman Seaman said that we better stop right here.

Supervisor Wood stated "at this point we better not have any further discussion regarding this until I've consulted with the town's attorney. These are sealed bids."

Mary Eddy spoke up and said that **Mr. Freeman (Chairman on the Committee for Open Government)** said it was allowed.

Cynthia Hyde, Town Clerk said that she spoke to the association of Towns...**Supervisor Wood** stopped the town clerk from finishing her sentence by pounding her gavel. **Supervisor Wood** said "No we are not going to do this; we are going to have a good meeting because it's the last meeting of the year".

Supervisor Wood said "I'm going to consult with the town's attorney regarding

December 10, 2013

the appropriateness of this. **Mr. Freeman** is not the town's attorney. The Association of Towns does not advise in specific legal matters. This is why we employ **Mr. Shachner** and **Mr. Shachner** and I will have that discussion tomorrow."

Mary Eddy said "freedom of information".

Supervisor Wood stated that she was familiar with freedom of information law. **Supervisor Wood** said "we will have that discussion with **Mr. Schacner** tomorrow and I will ask for his guidance in this matter". **Wood** said that until then we'll not have any further discussion regarding the white space because the board is not privy to any of this information, therefore we cannot make comment upon it.

Councilwoman Seaman said that the supervisor or anyone else was not privy to this information because it was not lawfully obtained.

Supervisor Wood stated that our attorney advised us not to open the bids and in fact to reject the bids, we did that on the advice of counsel.

Mr. Bardi asked if the resolutions could be rescinded.

Supervisor Wood said that the board has already resolved to enter into a contract. **Wood** stated that she would prefer if we did not impinge upon the dignity and basically the honor of the board and that the board members have no personal interest in these things. **Wood** said that she would appreciate it if **Mr. Bardi** had any further questions, not about whitespace, to ask them so we could move on to someone else.

Richard Bardi said that there are issues that need to be resolved (pertaining to white space).

Supervisor Wood said that she found it fascinating that if so many people are so very interested in the white space project why absolutely none of them have come in to ask any questions.

Mary Eddy spoke out saying she asked 3 times and Wood said there was no paper work in the office.

Supervisor Wood said “No Mrs. Eddy I would ask that you not shout out in the middle of these meetings”. “No you are shouting out in the middle of my meeting and if we have to continue this Mrs. Eddy you will lose your right to speak publically at these meetings.”

Supervisor Wood said that her office is open if people have questions regarding White Space. **Wood** stated that if people wish to make an appointment to come in and have a dignified conversation she would be happy to do so. **Wood** added that this is a complex thing, there are many fine points in grants that can be confusing and that she had to ask many questions and talk to many people to understand what was going on.

Supervisor Wood said that we had multiple meetings for 2 years now and that Mr. Englemann has come in and made multiple presentations.

Supervisor Wood said “for those of you concerned about ASA technologies, I met with them well over right about now probably about a year and a half ago. They did come up, they did speak to the town and we had a nice conversation with Mr. Berlin and Mr. Mcgaggy.” “They did stop in we had discussions with these, we have talked with many providers”.

Supervisor Wood said that simply because you have a question does not mean that you have to go about not knowing the answer. **Wood** said that you can always come in and sit down and have a chat with somebody.

Supervisor Wood stated that it’s very easy to read these contracts or any contracts; it’s easy to read and not understand.

Supervisor Wood said that rather than have a 40 minute conversation about whitespace at a board meeting where we don’t have things (supportive documents) with us, it would be better to come during the day to discuss whitespace. **Wood** explained that it would be better to point things out, look at studies, graphs and timelines, all of which aren’t available at a board meeting.

Wood added that any of the board members would be willing to do this also.

Supervisor Wood said that she hopes people continue to be interested in whitespace.

Supervisor Wood stated that at this point we're not going to take any more comment about the project until I've consulted with the attorney because it seems that unopened bids have been released. **Wood** added that the board does not have this information and it's not appropriate for us to comment on it.

Richard Bardi asked for the results of Rain Makers's tests.

Supervisor Wood said that he could come in and have a look.

John Haskell said that when he stopped in to congratulate the Supervisor on her victory he asked when the well would be drilled and wondered if it had been drilled yet.

Supervisor Wood said that the well driller came twice but it was too muddy to get across the field without wrecking it. It was decided to wait until the end of the week when the temperature is supposed to drop and the ground will harden.

Winnie Martin said that she wanted to thank the Town Board for moving ahead with White Space. **Martin** stated that she was pleased that the board is doing it, appreciates all the work they've done and she can't wait to have it.

Councilman Vasak declared that he hopes it works.

Joyce Eddy asked if the survey for the youth commission discussed at last month's meeting had been done.

Supervisor Wood answered that it had not been done as the youth commission was busy getting ready for the Christmas party.

Supervisor Wood thanked Al **Vasak** and Charles Bills for many years of service.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilwoman Seaman**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, GALUSHA, VASAK, SEAMAN

December 10, 2013

Respectfully Submitted:

**Cynthia R. Hyde
Town clerk
12/24/2013**

**Attached:
Warrensburg EMS report
Letter from Mary Eddy
Letter from Richard Bardi**

December 10, 2013



Stephen W. Emerson
Operations Manager

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

December 10, 2013

Thurman Town Board Members,

Attached you will find a list of the calls that WEMS responded to in the Town of Thurman during the month of November 2013. Warrensburg EMS handled six (6) calls in the Town of Thurman and our average response time was just under 11 minutes. Five calls were 911 emergency calls and 3 calls were ALS and 2 were BLS. The other call was an ALS transport home from Glens Falls Hospital. There was 1 call that we were not able to respond an ambulance to as our first ambulance was on a call so Johnsbury EMS was dispatched immediately and a Warrensburg EMT first responded (from Thurman) and provided patient care until Johnsbury EMS arrived. Warrensburg EMS responded to a total of 71 calls in November and 5 of those calls were second out calls.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please let me know. I can be reached by cell phone at 232-0817 Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen W. Emerson

Stephen W. Emerson
Operations Manager

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

December 10, 2013

Thurman Calls Handled by Warrensburg EMS
November 2013

| DATE | PCR | PRIORITY | CHIEF COMPLAINT | ENROUTE TO ON SCENE |
|------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 11/8/2013 | 5-0003046 | ALS | UNRESPONSIVE | 12 MINUTES |
| 11/9/2013 | 5-0003050 | ALS | ALLERGIC REACTION | 11 MINUTES |
| 11/10/2013 | 5-0003109 | BLS | LEG PAIN | 8 MINUTES |
| 11/11/2013 | 5-0003112 | BLS | BACK PAIN | 9 MINUTES |
| 11/18/2013 | 5-0003130 | ALS | WEAKNESS | 14 MINUTES |
| 11/22/2013 | 5-0003138 | ALS | TRANSPORT HOME FROM GFH | 0 MINUTES |

December 10, 2013

MARY EDDY
P. O. Box 9
Athol, NY 12810

Thurman Town Board
P. O. Box 29
Athol, NY 12810

December 9, 2013

Dear Evelyn and Town Board Members,

As you were contemplating the end of the garbage household pickup service you stated at the meetings, several times, "that it was not fair for taxpayers that did not generate garbage to be taxed for those that did." The second phrase, to that supposed logic was, "that if a taxpayer had several pieces of property they were assessed for garbage pickup several times more than the household that owned only one piece of property."

So, Thurman household door to door garbage pick up was stopped.

How does that logic of taxpayers paying for something, not receiving direct value relate to the whitespace broadband? How many households will actually use this? How many already have Verizon DSL? How many have satellite internet service contracts? What will be the ratio of people that pay the extra taxes for this experiment and not receive any benefit versus the few that may receive the broadband service?

A letter from Empire State Development to Evelyn, dated March 21, 2013 informing the Town that it was awarded the \$200,000 grant states that a contract will need to be signed to outline project & funding requirements, disbursement terms, minority & women owned business hiring goals, and other conditions required to execute the contract.

We have been told that it is a reimbursement grant. You spend it you get it back. Why hasn't the other aspects of the grant requirements been discussed at the town board meetings?

According to a letter to the Supervisor and Town, dated August 30, 2013, from NYS Broadband Program Office the wording is changed from \$200,000.00 Grant to \$200,000.00 of Incentives with another application fee of \$250.00. It states that the total cost of the project is \$250,300.00. \$50,300.00 will be required contributions. Our town taxes.

Another item in the award letter stated: "expenses prior to the date of the award announcement will Not be eligible for reimbursement." Thurman purchased propagation equipment for \$7,919.00 from Carlson Technology

December 10, 2013

in May 2012. This does not go toward the \$50,300.00. it was purchased before the March 2013 award announcement. Our taxes used for who's benefit?

The total bid from Rainmaker was \$205,266.00. That is more than the grant received.

The contract with Frontier Communications to be approved tonight requires \$940.00 per month for 5 years plus \$12,100.00 for set up. That is \$68,500.00 over the 5 years. Why wasn't any of this included in this years budget?

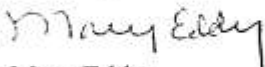
There are resolutions for 3 more broadband bids with tonight's meeting packet. One bid for attached equipment, a bid for electrical service and one for systems operation. More Thurman taxes required.

There was in-kind service of 4.18% proposed and submitted with the grant application. It was also proposed in the application and Rainmakers bid that Thurman Highway employees be involved with the project as part of the costs.

Remember this administration next year and future years when the N. Y. S. 2% tax cap can not be maintained in Thurman.

Please attach to board meeting minutes.

Sincerely,


Mary Eddy

Page 2

10DEC13

Town of Thurman

PO Box 29

Athol, NY 12810

Madam Supervisor and Town Board members:

I have recently become aware of the results of some of the White Space propagation studies performed by Rainmaker Network Services. A cursory search of the internet confirms my concern that the poor signal quality Rainmaker obtained in their propagation studies will not provide reliable, or fast, internet service.

Another wireless network service provider, who has actual experience using the same Carlson brand White Space equipment being proposed for installation in Thurman, informs me that they have experienced performance issues even though their equipment is mounted on towers that are higher, in an area less mountainous than proposed in Thurman. I spoke with Steve Berlin; his company, ASA Networks, LLC has a White Space installation in Gallatin, Columbia County, NY.

ASA Networks, LLC, submitted a bid proposal to Thurman in response to the first advertisement for bids—the Town Board found an issue with the advertisement for bids and decided to reject the two bids received. In its bid proposal, ASA wrote:

Our analysis of the proposed network architecture has uncovered what we consider to be discrepancies in your stated goals and the data provided from your field tests. This includes the Signal to Noise (SNR) ratios, modulations used and overall network architecture.

This opinion is further reinforced by our experiences with nearly one year of utilizing the same TVWS equipment you're requesting.

From a purely technical standpoint, we do not feel the project is viable in its current configuration.

And, regarding the quality of the signal reported by the Rainmaker tests, ASA cautions that internet service provided at those low signal levels would be **“virtually unusable”**.

As ASA stated in their bid proposal:

December 10, 2013

In our real-world experiences, a network link with SNR ratios below 25 would not sustain connectivity, nor provide proper throughput, specifically under the modulations the tests were conducted.

From the data we've been provided, only a few of the locations meet the proper criteria. As evidence of this, your data shows proof of packet loss in locations that don't meet these SNR criteria.

The packet loss referred to would stop pages from loading, and cause the connections to stall out.

That is NOT the result Thurman wants, and there is no good reason to accept, or settle for, incompetent internet service.

The purpose of conducting a "study" is to determine the feasibility of a proposed plan. So a plan was proposed; then the Town paid for a propagation study to test that plan; and now the results are in showing that the proposed plan is flawed. That is a Red light to Stop, and not proceed with the installation of an unworkable plan.

Empire State Development has given the Town two years to implement its internet installation [starting from September 6, 2013]. The Town Board needs to obtain factual, competent, technical advice before proceeding with the White Space project.

A system that works properly is the goal --- there is no point in wasting any of our Grant money to start construction before a truly workable design is in hand. There are no shortcuts to competent results; once we have a proper design, there will be plenty of time to construct it.

Accordingly, I suggest the Board reject the bid submitted by Rainmaker Network Services as not meeting the Town's requirements for reliable, broadband internet service.



Richard Bardi

PS: ASA Networks has indicated a willingness to consult with the Town Board on this matter.

December 10, 2013

December 10, 2013

Thurman Calls Handled by Warrensburg EMS

November 2013

| DATE | PCR | PRIORITY | CHIEF COMPLAINT | ENROUTE TO ON SCENE |
|------------|-----|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 11/8/2013 | | 5-0003046 | ALS UNRESPONSIVE | 12 MINUTES |
| 11/9/2013 | | 5-0003050 | ALS ALLERGIC REACTION | 11 MINUTES |
| 11/10/2013 | | 5-0003109 | BLS LEG PAIN | 8 MINUTES |
| 11/11/2013 | | 5-0003112 | BLS BACK PAIN | 9 MINUTES |
| 11/18/2013 | | 5-0003130 | ALS WEAKNESS | 14 MINUTES |
| 11/22/2013 | | 5-0003138 | ALS TRANSPORT HOME FROM GFH | 0 MINUTES |