

AUGUST 08, 2017

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 08, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M...

PRESENT: MRS. CYNTHIA HYDE, SUPERVISOR
MR. MICHAEL EDDY, COUNCILMAN
MRS. KATHY TEMPLETON, COUNCILWOMAN
MRS. JOAN HARRIS, COUNCILWOMAN

Recording secretary: Susan E. Staples, Town Clerk

BOARD MEETING: The regular town board meeting was called to order by Cynthia Hyde, Supervisor.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

OTHERS PRESENT: JIM LEIBERUM" WARREN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Leiberum gave a presentation on Hazardous Mitigation. He explained what Hazardous Mitigation is and the proper ways to enact a plan. A proper plan in place can lessen the impact from flooding, ice storms, severe storms, wildfire, earthquake and infestation such as beavers. He spoke of the need for each Community to have a comprehensive plan in place. That plan also needs to be renewed every five years. Failure to do so can result in loose of funding in the event there is a disaster. Copies of information about this are available in the Town Clerk office or at local libraries.

An announcement was made about a **YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING** that is to be held at the Youth Center Thursday August 10, at 6 pm. Any interested volunteers were invited to attend.

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REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

COUNCILWOMAN TEMPLETON gave a report on the **Whitespace** project. Please see the attached report.

COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS spoke about questions she has received from townspeople regarding the need for a Youth Commission. She explained that the program is covers those who are pre-birth through the age of 21, and is requested by the County. She said that there are presently 8-9 people who are interested in the working on the Commission. She spoke of the benefits that the youth in town receive by participating in the program.

She also noted that the contract for the Highway Department had not been signed to date. She noted that they are in the process of talking to their Union Rep and will contact the Supervisor when they ready to meet with the Board.

The recycling center is operating well under Charlie Bills. She also noted that there was no first aid kit at the recycling center, and that one had been ordered for the facility as well as one for Ernie Smith to have in his vehicle because he is out on the road. Also noted was the work to get a dispatch for communication with EMS or Warren County at the center.

SUPERVISOR HYDE reported that Northway Communication would be at the Recycling Center either Saturday or Sunday to change the settings on the radio putting them on the same band as the Highway Department to restore their use. She also reported on the progress of the Alternative Water Project being done by Sheehan and Sons. The project is on track for completion by the end of August. Both systems and all water lines have been pressure tested and disinfected. All water mains installation is complete. The contractor will discuss with each home owner a time frame for service installation in order to minimize any disruption in service to their homes. Paving has started on Athol Road.

A decision is being delay until next month on the Comprehensive Emergency Plan for the Town. **Amy Hirsch** from **Warren County Emergency Services** is reviewing the plan that **Councilwoman Templeton** has compiled. She has submitted some notes for review for this.

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NEW BUSSINESS: The Dog Inspection Report was completed on 7-24-2017. This report pertains to Agriculture and Market Laws and Regulations and Dog Officer Services. The report was Satisfactory. Also the Mine Report at both the Irving Baker Road Pit and the River Road Pit were both in compliance, and reports are in the Town Hall. A quote from Michael Glebus was received for work to be done to correct problems with electricity at the Youth Building and the Bandstand. A new line and conduit will need to be installed to repair a line that was nicked during the construction for the Alternative Water Project. The quote was for \$1360.00 for his service.

OLD BUSSINESS: The board is still planning a Workshop with Mr. Engelman on the Whitespace program. Both Mr. Engelman and the board are still compiling information for this workshop. **Councilwoman Harris** spoke about concerns of citizens about the cost to taxpayers, the fact that not enough people have signed up for the service to produce the revenue required to maintain the system as is required. There were supposed to be 93 subscribers on the list originally, and that would have covered the cost of the network. However, there are only 30 subscribers that signed up for it. Is there a need for contracts or to raise the rates for residents who have this service? There are complaints from taxpayers that they are helping to subsidize a service that they don't have. She asked for suggestions to be submitted if anyone had ideas to help either with signing up new subscribers or ways to make it run more cost effectively. To date the program has never produced the revenue needed to cover the expenses of operating the system. Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance cost of the system as well as hiring and or training someone to do the upkeep on the service. The Supervisor has been in contact with Anna Rua from the office of Empire State Development discussing the Whitespace program. She was under the impression that the Town Board was doing nothing to make the project work. After talking with the Supervisor she was pleased with the work and effort that is being done to keep the system up and running. She suggested paying Mr. Engelman for the work that he did on the redesign of the system. The Supervisor told her that the Town had done so, and she was pleased to hear that.

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Councilwoman Templeton spoke about the Fireworks for the Concert series. It was noted that we are a customer in good standing, and that they would not require a deposit for the show. **Supervisor Hyde** related that the **Thurman Fire Department** had been contacted and that they would be on site for the fireworks display as required for safety concerns.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Privilege of the floor was granted.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION # 129

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilman Eddy**

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT TEMPORARY MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY PERSON

The town board of the Town of Thurman appoints Harry Alger as temporary meals on wheels delivery person on an as needed bases. At a pay of \$9.70 per hour. Mileage at a rate of 53.5 per mile to be paid by the county.

Motion Carried: Ayes"4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION #130

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Eddy** and seconded by **Councilwoman Templeton**

Resolution to appoint Sanitary Landfill Attendants

In order to be in compliance with civil service as it pertains to job titles and descriptions of duties the town board of the Town of Thurman appoints Charles Bills and Ernie Smith as part time SANITARY LANDFILL ATTENDENTS with no benefits. The job description is as follows:

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Adopted, Warren County Personnel, 3/7/73

SANITARY LANDFILL ATTENDANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Performs routine duties in the maintenance and care of a town/village sanitary landfill. This is simple routine work involving responsibility for keeping a town/village sanitary landfill clean and level and to prevent the unloading of unauthorized waste material. Work is performed under a prescribed routine.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Directs the unloading of trash and refuse in certain selected areas of a sanitary landfill;

Keeps ashes, trash and rubbish in particular zones;

Polices area to prevent the unloading of garbage;

Contacts a town/village officer when the sanitary landfill must be leveled off or operates equipment to keep sanitary landfill area leveled;

Prepares and keeps simple records as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions; ability to secure the cooperation of others; ability to perform manual tasks; ability to operate automotive equipment used in a sanitary landfill area; industry; dependability, physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: None is required but some experience in heavy manual labor is desired.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION #131

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Templeton and seconded by Councilwoman Harris

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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BURNHAM BENEFIT ADVISORS TO ACT AS TOWN OF THURMAN INSURANCE BROKER

The town board of the Town of Thurman approves using Burnham Benefit Advisors as the town's health insurance broker and authorizes the supervisor to sign the Burnham Benefit Advisors broker of record letter.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays-0

RESOLUTION #132

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilwoman Templeton**

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH WARREN COUNTY FOR SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL AND MOWING OF COUNTY ROADS IN THE TOWN OF THURMAN

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Thurman agrees to a 2018 Roadway Maintenance agreement with Warren County and authorizes the town supervisor to enter into this intermunicipal agreement with the county. The amount of the 2018 roadway maintenance agreement for the Town of Thurman is \$241,851.07 for snow and ice removal and \$3,714.20 for mowing.

Motion Carried: Ayes~ 4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 133

On a motion made by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilwoman Templeton**

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RESOLUTION TO PAY CLAIMS

The town board of the Town of Thurman approves Vouchers 1107 thru # 1169

General Fund - \$20,826.44

Highway Fund - \$29,618.74

Enterprise Fund - \$9,502.09

Capital Fund Alternative Water Project \$147,384.71

Motion Carried: Ayes-4, Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays-0

RESOLUTION # 134

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilman Eddy**

RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION #122 JULY II, 2017

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The town board of Town of Thurman approves the following amendments to resolution #122 a resolution to pay claims.

Subtract from the general fund total of \$11,869.64

- 1. Voucher # 1047 check # 13372 from A6989.4 for Wilbur Pixley (July 3, 2017 Monday night concerts band) \$450.00 (voided band did not play at concert).*

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 135

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilwoman Harris**

RESOLUTION TO PAY SANTORE'S WORLD FAMOUS FIREWORKS, LLC
FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AUGUST 28, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Thurman approves payment to SANTORE'S WORLD FAMOUS FIREWORKS, LLC FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AUGUST 28, 2017 in the amount of \$3,500.00 out of A6989.4.

Motion Carried: Ayes 4~Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 136

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilwoman Templeton**

July - 2017 Resolution to Approve Highway Budget Adjustments

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INCREASE			DECREASE		
DA5110.4	10,000		DA5120.2	5,000	
DA5142.1	1,250		DA5140.4	5,000	
DA5197.2	43,500		DA9055.8	1,250	
DA5142.4	54,000		DA917	97,500	
TOTAL	108,750		TOTAL	108,750	

The \$43,500 is for the Viking box, the money was in last year's budget and rolled over into the fund balance because it was not spent by the end of the year. We need to re-appropriate it and place it back in the budget to correct the 2017 budget.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 137

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilwoman Harris**

RESOLUTION TO SEEK WHITESPACE OPERATOR

The Town of Thurman Town Board is seeking operations and management Services for the Town of Thurman Whitespace internet System services include but are not limited to

- Authentication, authorization and accounting (AAA)
- Subscriber management; billing and reporting
- Network monitoring and management services
- Remote diagnostics, trouble resolution and network security reviews
- On site repairs or adjustments as necessary to maintain performance
- Configuration and installation of replacement radios and network equipment
- Maintain compliance with applicable FCC regulations regarding radio equipment

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Motion Carried Ayes 4~ Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 138

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilman Eddy**

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GENERAL FUND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

The town board of the Town of Thurman approves the following adjustments

INCREASE		DECREASE	
A1420.4	2,968	A1220.4	4,107
A1620.4	1,139		
A1320.4	2,575	A1990.4	2,575
A4025.4	500	A7510.1	500
A8389.4	2,000	A1620.4	2,000

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 139

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilwoman Harris**

RESOLUTION TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN COMBS ROAD

WHITESPACE EQUIPMENT

Resolution to hire Anthony Porter (former vendor of whitespace build out, Porters Corners) to replace faulty equipment (Ubiquiti Networks Rocket radio M900-us 900 MHz purchased by Town of Thurman), ethernet cable (if necessary) and trim branches in the way of signal. Price quoted is \$175.00 per hour. Repair and maintenance is expected to take 3 to 5 hours.

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Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 140

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Templeton** and seconded by **Councilwoman Harris**

RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE RADIO FOR COMBS ROAD WHITESPACE POLE

The town board of the Town of Thurman approves the purchase of an Ubiquiti Networks Rocket M900-us 900MHZ Rocket M900 2x2 MIMO and an Ethernet cable for the Combs Road Whitespace pole.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 141

On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilwoman Templeton**

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT

Resolution to authorize the supervisor to sign agreement between the town of Thurman and gfk9 and Warren County SPCA

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

RESOLUTION # 142

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On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilman Eddy**

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT CEMETERY MAINTENANCE HELPER

The Town Board of Thurman appoints Teddy Beaudet to help Ernie Smith maintain the cemeteries of Thurman part time no benefits rate of pay \$9.70 per hour.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilwoman Templeton** the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Hyde, Eddy, Harris, Templeton, Nays~0

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan E. Staples

Town Clerk

08-15-2017

Attachments

PRecently we were contacted by Ana Rua with the ESD due to a flood of calls to her office regarding what appeared to be this boards lack of maintaining the system. The supervisor explained to Ms. Rua that we have been keeping the system going as best we could; when it went down in late May Mr. Engelmann was contacted immediately and at his first availability came out to remedy the issue, at no charge to date to the taxpayers or subscribers.

All affected subscriber's services was restored on 27 May 2017 and the keys that were used to gain access to the equipment in the locked cabinets clearly worked on 27 May; hence the restore.

13 June 2017, the Supervisor, myself and Mr. Engelmann had a meeting discussing a possible workshop and what was required and available for optimal maintenance, upkeep and running the system.

Between that time and present the town bookkeeper has worked up a spreadsheet (see attached) describing the revenue coming in from subscribers and the expenses going out. Those numbers do not equal, or even come close.

The Supervisor further explained to Ms. Rua that on 17 July 2017 the subscribers on Combs Rd. had lost service and that I, (Councilwoman Templeton) had been assigned as liaison to the Whitespace project and had been to the Combs Rd pole numerous times.

- 22 July 2017, I received directions from Mr. Engelmann as to trying to resolve the issue on Combs Rd. I went to the Combs Rd pole with the keys that had opened the fiber pole 2 months ago and they did not work;
- 23 July 2017, I returned with all the keys contained in the Supervisor's office and tried each key 3 times, then my husband did the same and none of the keys worked;
 - o We then reported our findings to the supervisor and drove to Warrensburg to purchase grinding wheels for my husband's grinder to cut the locks off;
 - o When we returned we plugged the grinder into the GFI outlet and discovered it was tripped, reset it and nothing happened. It was visibly wet and rusted. After spending nearly 6 hours, on a Sunday, trying to gain access to the pole to try to resolve the problem to no avail, we retired for the evening;
- 24 July 2017, I made a phone call to National Grid to see if repairs to the GFI outlet was our responsibility or theirs. Being that it is their utility I thought it best to go straight to the source and not offer a liability risk;
 - o I was told by the repair/service department that that would be something we, the town, would have to do;
- 25 July 2017, I contacted any of the affected Combs Rd subscribers that I hadn't

previously, and gave them an update to the situation;

Whitespace Repo

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- 26 July 2017, a new GFI outlet was purchased and installed at the Combs Rd Grinder was plugged in to cut the lock and it still did not work;
- 27 July 2017, I went to the Combs Rd pole again. A subscriber saw me drive past and offered to use his bolt cutters to remove the lock from the National Grid power box to gain access to electricity to power the grinder to grind off the lock on the Whitespace box (which bolt cutters cannot be used on). A neighbor's employee was on the grounds and they had offered power if we failed with our mission. We gained access to both, I followed Mr. Engelmann's instructions and reset the software. I asked the subscriber to go home and check to see if it had worked;

The neighbor's employee and I started conversing about the Whitespace project and stated that he saw a "young guy" change the lock on the Whitespace box and put a lock on the National Grid power box about 2 months ago. I asked if he could remember exactly when and he said it was just after the Whitespace went out back in the end of May. The subscriber came back to tell me that the reboot had not worked. I tried rebooting the system again and while we were waiting I told the subscriber what the neighbor's employee had told me and he said "yeah, it was right after you guys fixed the Whitespace the last time." I told this man that the Supervisor nor I had ever been at this pole before, had not authorized anyone to be at this pole and certainly did not instruct anyone to change/put locks that we did not have keys for on to these poles.

- 28 July 2017, I went to the Valley Rd pole (aka the fiber pole) and tried the keys that the Supervisor and I had used at that pole to restore Whitespace in late May and found that they no longer worked;
 - o I made various calls to Combs Rd subscribers, Supervisor, Board Members and Mr. Engelmann;
- 29 July 2017, I met Fred Engelmann at the Combs Rd pole. After several attempts to reboot and changing out equipment in the Whitespace box it was determined that the radio on the antenna was no longer working;
 - o Mr. Engelmann had an identical set of keys for the Whitespace poles and gave them to me and we parted;
 - I drove to each pole with the exception to Mr. Groff's pole as he prefers notice prior to accessing his property. One of the keys Mr. Engelmann had worked on the fiber pole National Grid power box and the rest no

longer work;

- While at the Mountain Rd pole and Fiber pole I turned the power switch off then back on as Mr. Engelmann had asked. The air conditioning units on these two poles are not functioning properly and will need service very soon;

- 30 July 2017, I called the NYS Police Department, after speaking with each of the Board Members individually over the telephone describing the apparent tampering at the various Whitespace poles, an Officer responded to my home and took down the information so it is documented — to date I've heard nothing back.

Friday, 4 August 2017, the Supervisor arranged a conference call for Monday, 7 August 2017 with she, Ms. Rua and myself for 10:00 am. Shortly before 10:00 am it was rescheduled for 2:00 pm. Repeated phone call attempts to Ms. Rua went unanswered.

- Tuesday, 8 August 2017, I received a return phone call from Mr. Engelmann regarding the company, Twin State; the company where the radio is to be purchased. They had inquired as to whether we would need them to install the radio or just deliver to site. Mr. Engelmann did not believe they (Twin State) had the equipment to do so.
- Shortly after that conversation with Mr. Engelmann, a representative from Twin State called back and told me she was going to check and see if the company could install it (the radio) and if they had access to a chain saw to trim a few tree branches around the Combs Rd pole that require trimming, but she did not believe they did. We exchanged email addresses and I am awaiting their quote(s).
- I then received a call back from Anthony Porter; Anthony had done pole work and antenna installation during the initial setup of the project. I asked him if we got the equipment by the end of this week or beginning of next how quickly he could be here to repair the Combs Rd equipment and he said he could do it by the end of next week. He would require a team of two (2) and would charge \$175/hr.; that price includes the fee for the use of his bucket truck.
- Replacement antenna will cost \$196.24 plus shipping for one. Unsure if we would get a discount if we purchased two or more, but of course that would drive the shipping costs up as well.

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