

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN, NEW YORK HELD MARCH 11, 2020 AT THE THURMAN TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL, NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM.....

PRESENT: Mr. Ed Brown, Councilman

Mr. Randy Galusha, Councilman

Mrs. Joan Harris, Councilwoman

Mr. Douglas Needham, Councilman

Mrs. Susan Shepler, Supervisor

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Sullivan, Richard Library

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan E Staples

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

The meeting started with a review of claims at **6:30 pm**. The meeting was called to order at **7:01 pm**.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Supervisor Shepler stated we would like to have a moment of silence please for one of our residents, **Mr. George Baker** who passed.

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler noted we are going to start off with the Supervisor's Report this evening. On January 1, 2020 I and two new Board Members were sworn into office at the Thurman Town Hall by Justice Flannigan, there was a nice reception and a warm welcome by those who attended the ceremony.

I have attended the Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting in January and February, and have been place on nine, as of today it is now ten, committees. I am sharing some information that was brought forward at the last County Board of Supervisors meeting.

1. Is a release from the Warren County Public Health Department on "Corona virus Key Points". Please understand that this is an extremely fluid disease, and it is changing constantly what is going on. I do suggest that you read the information, and there is phone numbers on there for the Health Department, and there is a, a.....You can also refer to the CDC on the bottom of the sheet for the most current information, but you need to understand that this changes rapidly. There is also included on the packet a Warren County Public Health Department release on Rabies Clinics for 2020.

At the February Town of Thurman Board Meeting the Board approved a resolution for the Highway Department to purchase a 2003 Gallion Grader.

Also, there was a Resolution passed to hire a cleaner and maintenance person for the Town Hall.

Saturday March 14, 2020 the Town of Thurman will be hosting the timed honored Jack Wax Party from 3 pm until the last person is served. All money collected will go to the American Cancer society Please help support this tradition. And enjoy the 3 weekends of Maple Days here in Thurman that follow.

Discussion: **Supervisor Shepler** noted we are going to go on to the Resolutions. When we do the Roll Call Votes can I please ask that you do them from the top down on all of them? Instead of.....The **Town Clerk** noted it is my option as to how I call them out. **Supervisor Shepler** stated I am requesting that you do it top down please. The **Town Clerk** repeated it is my option. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I have a request. I think that we should do Privilege of the Floor before we do the Resolutions so that they will know what.....We can get their opinions as we are doing the job for them. **Supervisor Shepler** replied well what I would like to do is hold off on the privilege of the floor until after our speaker has spoken this evening. That way they can address him also with any question that they may have. OK.

Councilwoman Harris noted yes, but if we pass a Resolution, and they objected to it, or don't want or have an opinion on it, it would be to late. **Supervisor Shepler** stated it is not their decision.

Councilwoman Harris replied so we could have the presentation. Then the Resolutions. Then the privilege of the floor. Then the Resolutions. I think they.....I think they have to have a right to say what they want about a Resolution, but not after it is voted in. **Councilman Needham** stated I believe the Supervisor has the say in which goes (inaudible). **Councilwoman Harris** asked the Supervisor what.

Supervisor Shepler noted the say he said. **Councilwoman Harris** noted no I don't believe so. The Boss has the say, and that is everyone one of them sitting in their seat out there. **Supervisor Shepler** replied well **Joan** this evening.....**Councilwoman Harris** interrupted noting you are the boss, we are under them. So they should have the privilege of the floor to say what they want to say about the Resolutions.

Supervisor Shepler interrupted stating they are going to have the privilege of the floor. **Councilwoman Harris** replied but not before we vote on it. Is that true? **Supervisor Shepler** noted replied we are going to go through the Resolutions as stand now, and then we are going to have the presentation by Mr.

Sullivan from Richards Library. **Councilwoman Harris** noted so you are going to do the Resolutions. You are going to pass the Resolutions.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted stating I am. **Councilwoman Harris** continued noting and then they are going to say I don't want it or I (inaudible as she was interrupted).

Supervisor Shepler interrupted stating they can say they don't want it, but it is the Boards decision.

They don't vote. **Councilwoman Harris** replied yes, but they might have really good things that we want to hear about. **Supervisor Shepler** replied well. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I think this is backward here because you are not allowing the public to give their opinion on Resolutions before we vote on them. How can we represent them if I don't know what they want? Several residents said thank you.

Councilwoman Harris continued noting we represent them when we pass these Resolutions. How can I represent them if I haven't heard what they said before we pass it. I think it is only courtesy to the public. **Councilman Galusha** stated it seems logical. **Councilwoman Harris** agreed and logical. A resident noted good job. **Supervisor Shepler** responded excuse me. There is no comments from the floor. Thank you. The resident stated my apologies. **Supervisor Shepler** replied thank you. Um.....**Councilman**

Galusha stated it just seem that what **Joan** is asking for is that we become informed before we vote.

That is all. **Supervisor Shepler** noted it's fine. Well that is fine I thought we would allow privilege of the floor to go after the presentation by Mr. Sullivan. **Councilman Galusha** replied after the presentation by Mr. Sullivan, but before the Resolutions. **Councilwoman Harris** also noted but before the Resolutions.

Supervisor Shepler responded I, I don't see a reason for it. The Board is the one voting on the Resolutions. Nor the public. **Councilwoman Harris** replied the reason is we are representing the public, and we need to know what they think about it. So how can we vote representing the public? **Supervisor Shepler** stated fine, this evening, this evening I will do this, but I will not change the agenda in the future alright.

Councilwoman Harris responded no. It is not alright. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that is the way it is going to be **Joan**. **Councilwoman Harris** stated you don't want the public to say what they want

to say until after we have voted it in. **Supervisor Shepler** stated **Joan** I am not having this discussion at this point, thank you. **Councilwoman Harris** noted we should have this discussion. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well we are not, thank you. **Councilwoman Harris** asked you don't want to talk about.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted her noting **Joan** we could have had this earlier, alright. **Councilwoman Harris** noted well, but (inaudible) other things. This is part of the meeting. I just want to say. **Supervisor Shepler** noted there is no.....Please there is no comments from the floor until.....There is no comments from the floor until we have privilege of the floor. Mr. Parent you've got two warnings. One more warning, and I am going to have to ask you to remove yourself from the Town Hall. Thank you. **Councilwoman Harris** noted so we are going to have the presentation. Then we are going to have the Privilege of the Floor, and then the Resolutions tonight. **Supervisor Shepler** replied tonight we will do it that way. **Councilwoman Harris** replied thank you. **Supervisor Shepler** noted I, I, I am not in agreement with this, and I would like it be known please. **Councilwoman Harris** interrupted her noting we won't be in agreement. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting please put it in the minutes that I am not in agreement with it, but I am bending this evening. Thank you. **Councilwoman Harris** stated have it in the minutes that I made that statement. **Supervisor Shepler** stated please. The **Town Clerk** noted you know I do them basically verbatim. Everything will be in there. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting verbatim. Then alright. The **Town Clerk** continued stating and that's to cover everyone. **Councilwoman Harris** noted OK, so we have the moment. **Supervisor Shepler** noted thank you. For this evening we will allow **Mr. Sullivan** to go ahead from **Richards Library** and give his presentation. Then we will have privilege of the floor, and then we will do our Resolutions. **Councilwoman Harris** replied thank you. **Supervisor Shepler** stated **Mr. Sullivan** would you like to come up please. This is **Mr. Sullivan** from **Richards Library**. He has asked to come and give a presentation to the Board.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Sullivan stated good evening everyone. He then gave the Board information. He continued my name is **Mike Sullivan**. I am the director of the **Richard Library**. Every year I do a yearly report which has to be presented to the Town Board. Not only here in **Thurman**, but in **Warrensburg** since both **Thurman and Warrensburg** are on our charter. Before I get started going over the talking points you can read those reports at your leisure. I brought some information, it is going to be put here in the Town Hall, considering....About the 2020 census that is coming up. Everyone needs to be counted. The census will take three forms this year. You can either do it online. A standard paper form or in certain areas they have designated hard to reach you will have the census takers. So there will be three options. The Federal Government is, would like to have everybody do it online. We know up here there is no internet. The library is open. We have computers. Once the census starts you can come down, and do the online version of the census on our computers, OK. We will be there to help. They have instructed us to tell everyone it is very simple. I have also included in my packet for the 2020 census a sample form of what the paper census actually looks like. Now for why I am really here. As you read the report you'll see one of the big things that will stick out is that there has been a drop in attendance at the library. **Richards Library** is not unique in this. Every library in the **Southern Adirondack Library** system, **Mohawk Valley Library** system, and every system in New York State and across the country has seen a drop in attendance at the Library. Reason. We don't know. We honestly don't know. Libraries are usually most used when economic times are tough. Past few years, past eight years times have been pretty good so people are.....Most people are making that disposable income they want to do other things with their family, their kids. Library kind of gets pushed to the side. It has been recognized as a problem, and every library is working trying to provide a solution to this to get more people in. On a attachment from my report I gave you is a Strategic Plan. The Board of Trustees and myself got together,

and developed this Strategic Plan, and basically what we try to do is identify certain weak areas that the library needs to correct in both Warrensburg and Thurman. And the Strategic Plan covers this year, next year, and the year after. So that is 2020 through 2022. One of the things we want to make sure is that we haven't forgotten you here in Thurman. So every other month there will be a representative from the Board of Trustees here at the meeting, OK. If you have any questions about the library they will be the person. We want to raise our profile here within the Town of Thurman. A couple of good things, excuse me, a couple of good things that have happened we are just finishing a three year program that was given by a grant from the Califa Group called Pushing the Limits. This is a.....Basically it is a book club to get older patrons interested in science, technology, engineering and math, STEM. You have probably heard of that. We were one of 110 libraries throughout country to get this grant, and we are finishing up. We also received a grant from the Preservation League of New York State. We have performed an existing survey.....An existing conditions survey on the library windows and front entrance. We have also received a \$5,000.00 construction grant from the Southern Adirondack Library System. We will be doing an existing conditions survey on the rest of the building at the end of this month. What we are looking to do is combine both surveys, and possibly get another library construction grant. The addition has been around basically since 2008. It sat empty for a lot of years before it was finished, and during the course of those years things have happened as buildings do age. So we are looking at what the priorities would be. These two surveys will give the Board a view of what will be happening. What needs to be done to the library to maintain its structure, and it's viability to the community. We also just received a grant from the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council, and later on this month I'll start advertising. We will be having basically a community program. Arts program. What we are looking at to do is to get in the range of 15 to 20 people from Warrensburg and Thurman, Lake Luzerne, Lake George, Chestertown, Bolton, and we are going to create a Community Adirondack themed quilt. It will be three classes. One class will be for basic art. The second class will be to create a sample quilting square, and the third class will be creating the quilt. This will happen throughout the month of May. So you will be seeing advertising for that. And I would like to have.....Amateur, professional we just want to get to get people from Warrensburg and Thurman together to do a community arts project. So more on that later or later in the month. One thing we would like to do, we have discussed this and once you read the Strategic Plan you will see that Thurman is mentioned a lot of times in there. What we would like to do, we know communication, advertising is very bad. That is one of our weak points we found out. So what we would like to do is.....One of the easiest things that we felt, the simplest thing to do to get the word out of what is happening at the library is we would like to have permission from the Board to put up a small bulletin board that will be just for the Richards Library, and we can advertise. We will come up here once a week or twice a month, and advertise our upcoming programs. **Supervisor Shepler** noted we do have a bulletin board that is available to the public in the vestibule that you are more than welcome to post on. **Mr. Sullivan** replied we would like to have our own. It is about this big. **Supervisor Shepler** replied alright. **Councilwoman Harris** asked on the inside not on the outside. **Mr. Sullivan** responded on the inside right. **Supervisor Shepler** asked on the inside here or in the vestibule. **Mr. Sullivan** replied where ever there is room available. I'll come up and hold it if that is what it happens. And the reason why we are doing this is we know that the big problem is you don't have internet up here, and I do a lot of the advertising on our Facebook page, and our own web page. Unless we have.....Unless we follow a simple way to get the information out to you.....That seemed to be the simplest. We are also going to be advertising a lot more in the Sun, the Chronicle, the PostStar up and down. But we want to let you know we haven't forgotten about you. We want you to know that. We want you to join us at the **Richards**

Library for some of these programs. And in the future you will see us here. Hopefully we will have representatives here at the Jack Wax Festival. Anything that happens in the Town **Richards Library** will be here. And again if you have any questions you can always call me at the library or the next time we have that we will be here is May. We will be here every other month the intervening months we will be down at the Warrensburg Town Hall. So someone will be here every other month from the library. And that is my presentation. I want to thank you very much for allowing me to do this. Does anybody have any questions? **Councilwoman Harris** replied yes I do. Our Town is divided in Post Offices. North is 12885, south is 12810. Now when it comes to the census, and the census determines how money you sometimes can get so can you clarify how 12885 of Thurman is going to get on with 12810 Thurman? **Mr. Sullivan** noted no I can't. I am not a census.....I am not even associated with....What I understand.....**Councilwoman Harris** noted (inaudible) Oh, I thought you were doing it. **Mr. Sullivan** replied what we are is a contact point for the census. **Councilwoman Harris** noted so they can go there. **Mr. Sullivan** noted that question might be answered by the actual census taker, and that also might be answered on some of these flyers that I have here that can be put out here in the Town Hall. **Councilwoman Harris** noted the last time that they had it they said they would clarify it or clean it up or something I don't know they used the word. **Mr. Sullivan** noted well with the government it has been 10 years so you will probably get the same answer. **Councilwoman Harris** made a mostly inaudible comment. **Mr. Sullivan** replied I wish I could answer. I just don't have that specifically. **Councilwoman Harris** noted yeah, well I just thought that this year everybody would be notified. **Mr. Sullivan** noted the paper census.....Everybody is going to get a paper census that has a mailing address, and I know that they have update their database with all the addresses in the United States supposedly, but I can't guarantee anything. But the paper form of the census will also have the website, and a special code for people to do it online, and that is what they are really pushing is the online. And if people are scared of the internet I understand that, but that is why we are down at there at the library. We can help you with that. But if you want to do the paper census do the paper census. If you want to wait for the census taker wait for the census taker. It is just another option. We wish that you would come down, and use the library for that. If not we understand. Any other questions? **Councilwoman Harris** noted I have been trying to get everybody to put down Thurman 12885. Because that is the same zip code they have. **Mr. Sullivan** noted for Warrensburg. **Councilwoman Harris** noted so if you are going to advertise or live in Thurman, and are proud of it put down Thurman 12885 as your address that is legal. **Mr. Sullivan** noted OK, we can do that. That is an easy fix. **Councilwoman Harris** replied that might be an easy fix. OK, just wondering. **Mr. Sullivan** asked any other questions. Thank you very much. **Supervisor Shepler** noted alright, so now we are doing Resolutions. **Councilwoman Harris** stated no. **Supervisor Shepler** replied no, we are doing privilege of the floor now **Joan**. **Councilwoman Harris** replied correct. **Supervisor Shepler** responded OK, we will do privilege of the floor this evening, and each person will have two minutes to speak, and they need to speak on the topic of this evenings business which.....Do I have anybody that is interested in anything to say.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Privilege of the floor was granted and the following people spoke on the following topics. **Mary Eddy** had a question about fuel oil being billed to the right code, and did the Supervisor go to New York City. Also did **Mr. Needham** do the audit also. **Kathy Templeton** asked are there any preparations to sanitize the Town Hall before and after the Jack Wax Party. **Wes Ramsey** are you using a Porta Potty, and would there be a hand washing station. Are there going to be hand washing stations for Maple Days? **Paula Hubert** noted the Town of Thurman volunteers are doing it. **Gail Seaman** noted the Town of Thurman is the host of it. **Joyce Eddy** asked about cleaning the building. Perhaps it

should be canceled, and if there were permits that you have requested in the past for the septic system. **Carolyn Cameron** asked about the Deputy Supervisor's position. **Wes Ramsey** noted there were Covid 19 cases in the County. **Wini Martin** asked about the procedures for the Occupancy Tax money this year. **Debbie McIlrath** noted it was nice to have privilege of the floor restored. Privilege of the floor was closed at **7:38 pm**.

RESOLUTIONS:

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler stated we are going on to the Resolutions. I would like to have somebody please introduce a Resolution to except the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on January 17th. The ones that were posted. The **Town Clerk** stated those are not official minutes. Those were not done by the Deputy. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting thank you. The **Town Clerk** stated well I am going to make sure the Board knows what they are voting on. Those are not official minutes. They will not be in the book. They will not be.....They can pass them if they want, they still not the official minutes. **Supervisor Shepler** noted thank you **Susan**. **Councilwoman Harris** stated we have the regular minutes from the **Town Clerk** so I think that should be noted here. **Supervisor Shepler** replied well why don't we talk about it in discussion. OK. So can I get somebody to introduce it? Do you want to introduce it.

Resolution# 27

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

Resolution to Accept the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting

January 17, 2020

Whereas, it is recommended that the Town Board of Thurman review and accept the minutes of each Town Board meeting

Be it Resolved that the Town Board of Thurman accepts the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on January 17, 2020

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler stated the minutes that we are referencing here are the minutes that were taken by **Gail Seaman**. The**Mary** was not able to take minutes because her duties were limited. The **Town Clerk** stated that is not true. That is not correct. **Supervisor Shepler** stated they were limited by the previous Board. The **Town Clerk** stated that is not true. **Supervisor Shepler** replied yes it is. She is a second Deputy, and her duties are assigned by the Board. Thank you. The **Town Clerk** asked what does the book say about who does the minutes. The Law Book specifically says the **Town Clerk** or her **Deputy**. You don't get to appoint someone else because you don't like the Deputy. **Supervisor Shepler** responded excuse me. **Susan** we are not having this discussion thank you. **Councilwoman Harris** stated well we are having the discussion because she.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted stating she can't but we can. **Councilwoman Harris** stated OK. **Mary Eddy**, I asked **Mary Eddy** to take the minutes because she is the **Deputy Town Clerk**. **Supervisor Shepler** noted oh you asked her. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I did. **Supervisor Shepler** replied oh good. **Councilwoman Harris** continued noting well right after you said **Gail** pranced across the room I said we have a **Deputy Town Clerk** in the audience. Therefore she needs to take the minutes not the secretary. **Supervisor Shepler** replied the **Town Clerk** may appoint up to three Deputies all of who serve at the pleasure of the **Town Clerk**. The **Town Clerk**

sets the duties of the first **Deputy Town Clerk**, and may authorize the first **Deputy** to act on the **Town Clerk's** behalf. The **Town Board** has the authority to set the duties of the second and third **Deputy Town Clerk**. However, in the event that the **Town Board** does not let's see.....In the event that the **Town Board** does not do so the **Town Clerk** may set the duties of the second and third **Deputy**, page 23. So when **Mary** was appointed in 2019 the **Board** set her duties. The **Town Clerk** stated well she was reappointed again this year, and the **Board** has not set them. **Supervisor Shepler** stated well she wasn't reappointed at that time. The **Town Clerk** replied yes she was. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting because she told me that she had 30 days to be appointed. **Councilwoman Harris** stated no she had 30 days left. The **Town Clerk** stated 30 days to take her oath of office. She had already been appointed. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well her duties carry forth unless the **Board** changes them. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I still don't think **Gail** can do the minutes. The **Town Clerk** stated I am telling you what State Law says, and I have already checked with the **Committee on Open Government** specifically about this situation, and the **Committee on Open Government** has advised me that **Mary Eddy's** are the official minutes of record. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting thank you **Susan**. Thank you. The **Town Clerk** continued noting not **Gail Seaman's**. **Supervisor Shepler** responded the meeting that we are discussing at this point in time are the minutes that were taken by **Gail Seaman**. Do I have a motion.....Actually would you please do a Roll Call Vote from the top down? The **Town Clerk** responded as I have told you I can call them at my leisure, as I feel.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~3 Brown, Needham, Shepler, Nays~2 Galusha, Harris

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler noted it passes. The **Town Clerk** stated it doesn't matter they will not be official. **Councilwoman Harris** noted they are not legal (inaudible). **Supervisor Shepler** stated you cannot make that determination. The **Town Clerk** replied yes I can. That is my job. That is my job to make that determination. **Supervisor Shepler** noted alright do I have a motion to get the Resolution on the floor to reappoint the Board of Assessment Members.

Resolution # 28

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

RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT BOARD OF ASSESMENT REVIEW MEMBERS

Whereas, The Town Board of the Town of Thurman currently has two vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review, an need to fill them.

Be it Resolved that the Thurman Town Board reappoints Charlotte Needham, and Shirley Wendling, to the Board of Assessment Review for the term of 10/01/2019 thru 09-30-2024

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked do we have any discussion. **Councilman Galusha** noted I am going to have to recues myself because I am related to one of the people being appointed. **Supervisor Shepler** replied alright. Thank you. Abstain. **Councilwoman Harris** replied no, recused. There is a difference. **Supervisor Shepler** asked do I have any further discussion.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Brown, Harris, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0, Recuse~1 Galusha

March 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Resolution # 29

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Councilman Galusha**

Resolution to Appoint Cleaning Person for the Town Hall

Whereas, the Town Board of Thurman was seeking to employ a cleaning person at the Town Hall

Be it resolved that the Town has hired Donna Knickerbocker, at a rate of \$11.80 an hour for 8 hours a week. From budget code A 1620.1

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked do we have any discussion. **Councilwoman Harris** replied yes. It says here has been hired. You didn't have the right to hire her. We passed a Resolution to advertise for it. So I would think you change (inaudible) to another word. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I called **Donna**. I went over the particulars. I went over the rate of pay with her. **Councilwoman Harris** noted hmm, hmm. **Supervisor Shepler** continued and the hours that she would be working, and I asked her if she would be interested in the job, and she said yes. I said great because I would like to bring it before the Board, and it is a formality. **Councilwoman Harris** replied so be it resolved that the Town Board might hire or.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noted we are not mincing words tonight **Joan**. **Councilwoman Harris** replied well it makes it sound when we go back in history, it makes it sound like you already hired her. And I know you didn't. So it is just a minor detail so call for a vote. **Supervisor Shepler** asked any further discussion. **Councilman Galusha** asked did we receive any other applications. **Supervisor Shepler** replied we received one other very early on, but the person who applied works during the day, and the stipulation for the job was that it be done during the day. We didn't want any night cleaners in here, alright. **Councilman Galusha** replied OK. **Supervisor Shepler** asked would you please do a Roll Call Vote.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~5 Brown, Galusha, Harris, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked do I have somebody who is willing to introduce the Resolution reinstating the Deputy Town Supervisor. The **Town Clerk** noted I don't have that Resolution. **Supervisor Shepler** noted there is a packet left there. The **Town Clerk** noted oh I see it. I've got it. **Supervisor Shepler** noted you got it OK.

Resolution # 30

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Brown** and seconded by **Councilman Needham**

Resolution to reinstate the position of Deputy Town Supervisor

Whereas, The Town of Thurman has historically had a Deputy Town Supervisor, who can act in the absence of the Town Supervisor

Whereas, this appointment is made at the discretion of the Current Town Supervisor, and

Be it Further Resolved, that this position will take effect immediately upon swearing in

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked do I have any discussion. **Councilwoman Harris** replied yes. Historically that was back when **Evie** was in, and after that the position was taken off the agenda, and it was decided that anybody.....You're not here we would just take a vote for the Town Board. **Supervisor Shepler** noted that was the previous Board. Yes, historically it does go back as far as **John Haskell** because he did have Deputy Town Supervisors under his.....OK. **Councilman Galusha** asked will this be a paid position. **Supervisor Shepler** noted no, it is a non paid position. **Councilman Galusha** responded OK. **Supervisor Shepler** asked any other discussion. Can I please have a Roll Call Vote?

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Brown, Galusha, Needham, Shepler, Nays~1 Harris

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked can I please have someone introduce a Resolution for a budget adjustment for 2020.

Resolution # 31

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Supervisor Shepler**

Resolution for a Budget Adjustment for 2020

Whereas, the Town of Thurman is required to return funds not used to the Office of Justice Court the following budget adjustment is made

The following Budget Adjustment from:

General Fund: Increase

Decrease

A110.4 Justice CE \$4600.00

A8810.1 Cemeteries PS \$4600.00

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked do I have any discussion. **Councilwoman Harris** asked why are we taking it out of cemetery when we had so many complaints about how the cemetery is being taken care of as it is. We are taking all their money. **Supervisor Shepler** replied the **Highway Department** has been taking care of the cemetery. **Councilwoman Harris** asked do we have.....I don't know that **Pat** has ever said to us that he would take care of the cemetery. We had cemetery people. If he was why didn't he take care of it last summer when everyone was complaining. **Supervisor Shepler** noted I do believe that they were taking care of it **Joan**. **Councilwoman Harris** responded but they weren't taking care of it well enough because we got a lot of complaints. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well you know what **Joan** I don't mean to sound flippant about it, but I am going to, and I am going to tell you straight up I wasn't on the Board last year. If we have complaints this year it will be addressed. I knew nothing about it. **Councilwoman Harris** asked and has **Pat** told you that he would do it. **Supervisor Shepler** replied yes he has. **Councilwoman Harris** asked what are you so ugly about. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I am sorry I just, I just.....**Councilwoman Harris** interrupted noting smile when you talk to me. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting I just you know. I wasn't on the Board last year. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I know you wasn't. **Supervisor Shepler** stated I had..... I had no control over.....And I was actually unaware of. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I am just saying you shouldn't have taken the money out of cemetery.

Supervisor Shepler noted well at this point in time, because we are not mowing at this date, it worked well. And if we have to make adjustments for cemeteries because the **Highway Department** all of sudden decides not to do it then we can do that, but right now that was where we could take the money from with the greatest ease to be able to pay this bill. It has to be paid to the Justice System.

Councilwoman Harris noted not the Justice this is cemeteries. Oh it is the Justice System. **Supervisor Shepler** noted the Justice System. **Councilwoman Harris** continued noting so we are paying the Justice System from the Cemetery because **Pat**. **Supervisor Shepler** noted it has nothing to do with **Pat**. **Councilwoman Harris** noted it does have to do with it because he is the one who is volunteering to do that. **Pat** volunteered to do that? **Supervisor Shepler** responded alright. I neglected to put everybody's name down. Can you do a Roll Call from the previous listing of names for me?

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~4 Brown, Galusha, Needham, Shepler, Nays~1 Harris

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked do I have somebody that would introduce a Resolution to refund JCAP unused funds.

Resolution # 32

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

Resolution to Refund JCAP Unused Funds

Whereas, the Town of Thurman is holding \$6660.26 in Justice Court Assistance Program grant funds and

Whereas, the Justice Court is requesting that the Town refund the unused money to the Office of Justice Court Support in full.

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Thurman will reimburse the Office of Justice Court Support the sum of \$6660.26, from the following account code A1110.4, made payable to Commissioner of Taxation and Finance

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler asked discussion. **Councilwoman Harris** replied yes, the **Harris House** happens to be a facility for the Town of Thurman, and it needs to be taken care of by the Town Board, and make sure that repairs are done. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting that has nothing to do with the Resolution **Joan** so. **Councilwoman Harris** replied just a second. The Justice had the money to do the work at the **Harris House**. Did she say that she is giving up her money, and returning it back from the, to the grant because what I've been told it is the lack of being able to get this Board to help use the money over at the **Harris House**. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well that is not totally true **Joan**.

Councilwoman Harris replied huh. **Supervisor Shepler** replied that is not totally true. She was asked by the Justice Court to refund the money. **Councilwoman Harris** replied sure because she can't go it over there. **Supervisor Shepler** continued not so, and it has been quite a few years, and there has been no action taken. So she is being asked to refund the money. **Councilwoman Harris** noted so you are going to do the same thing the last Board did. Continue to ignore the **Harris House**? You can't do that.

Supervisor Shepler replied no, this has nothing to do.....This.....**Councilman Galusha** noted can we.....This is the first time seeing this, and so I really know.....**Supervisor Shepler** noted it was in your packet. **Councilman Galusha** replied I understand the Resolution is in the packet I mean I just don't know the history of it is what I am saying. **Supervisor Shepler** replied alright. **Councilman Galusha**

continued noting so could you just walk me through.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting I can't, oh I can. I apologize. **Councilman Galusha** noted OK so what was the grant for, and why. **Supervisor Shepler** responded Justice had applied for a grant. She has actually applied for two grants, and on this particular grant she had applied for and she replaced the heater in the basement of the **Harris House**. And then she wanted to do some work over there to make the Court um, um.....So that she. I want.....**Councilwoman Harris** noted secure. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting it was more of a living room. She needed to do some serious work in there to make sure that the building was secure for her. Physically secure, and camera wise and so forth. And for whatever reason she didn't go forward with it, and this is going back about 5 years. And she never acted on it, and now that the Office of the Justice Court Support System is asking for the money back. And apparently they asked for it back last year too, and it didn't occur. It has to be returned or else we are going.....We and the Judge could end up in trouble, and I would like to avoid any unpleasantness if at all possible by paying it. **Councilwoman Harris** noted yes, the money was for the **Harris House**, but the previous one, and I guess you didn't even try this time to see whether or not we would (inaudible). **Supervisor Shepler** responded well she doesn't have that opportunity available to her. **Councilwoman Harris** noted she (inaudible) can't do it. **Supervisor Shepler** replied no, she has to return the money. She came to me, and asked if we could. **Councilwoman Harris** stated I know that she did. **Supervisor Shepler** noted she didn't ask if we could use it at the **Harris House**. She asked to have it returned. **Councilwoman Harris** noted she wants.....Because she figures we won't be able to use it at the **Harris House** so I know she has to send it back. I am just saying why she is doing it. You could of.....All this money could have been used in the **Harris House** if the previous Board and this Board had done anything to do it instead of writing the House off over there, and saying ah forget it. **Supervisor Shepler** replied **Joan**, it has been in existence for 5 years if she wanted to do something with it she has had 5 years in which it could have been done. **Councilwoman Harris** spoke over her noting I know. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting so at this point in time she has approached us, and asked that we please refund the money to the Justice System. Is there any further discussion, and did I answer your question at all? **Councilman Galusha** noted your fine. **Councilwoman Harris** noted you answered my question, but you didn't tell me where I was going to get money to put into the **Harris House**. **Supervisor Shepler** replied because the **Harris House** isn't in discussion right now. Do you have any discussion down here? Both responded no. **Supervisor Shepler** asked can I please have a Roll Call Vote.

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

Motion Carried: Ayes~5 Brown, Galusha, Harris, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler noted thank you it passed. I will notify the Justice. We are going to do the payment of claims. The General Fund.....**Councilman Needham** asked do you have to introduce this. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I am not doing that yet I am reading the payment of claims first then yes it will need an introduction. Thank you. Alright the General Fund. She then read the claims for the General Fund noting a total of \$78,702.25. She then read the claims for the Highway Department noting a total of \$37,711.43. She then read the claims for the Enterprise Fund noting a total of \$1,1195.86. She then noted a claim of \$79,590.00 for the Fire District Fund with a total of all Abstracts totaling \$197,199.54. Can I please have a motion to adjourn? **Gail Seaman** replied no, you have to pay the bills. **Supervisor Shepler** replied oh. **Councilwoman Harris** stated gotta pay the bills first. I don't blame you. **Councilman Needham and Councilman Galusha** noted you need to introduce it. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I sure do, and I told you that. I apologize. You think I am anxious to go home? **Councilman Needham** made an

inaudible comment. **Supervisor Shepler** asked can I please have somebody introduce the payment of claims.

Resolution # 33

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Councilman Brown**

Payment of Claims

Total of Abstract 003: General Fund, March 11, 2020 \$78,702.25

Total of Abstract 003 Highway Fund, March 11, 2020 \$37,711.43

Total of Abstract 003 Enterprise Fund, March 11, 2020 \$1,195.86

Total of Abstract 003 Fire District Fund, March 11, 2020 \$79,590.00

Total Claims for March 11, 2020 \$197,199.54

A Roll Call Vote Was Called.

The **Town Clerk** was calling the vote when **Gail Seaman** interrupted noting **Sue**, you have to read the numbers again. I'm sorry. Because you didn't read them. The **Town Clerk** stated nothing from the audience please. **Gail Seaman** made another comment. The **Town Clerk** continued to call the vote. **Supervisor Shepler** stated I will reread the numbers again that was my error, and I apologize for that. She then reread the totals for the Abstracts. Can we please have a Roll Call Vote. The **Town Clerk** noted we already voted on this. **Councilwoman Harris** noted we already voted on it. **Supervisor Shepler** stated well I would like to have the Roll Call Vote again please because it was my error in not including the numbers. The **Town Clerk** noted it doesn't make any difference. **Councilwoman Harris** replied OK. **Supervisor Shepler** asked can we please take a Roll Call Vote again. The **Town Clerk** replied Roll Call Vote again, and called the vote.

Motion Carried: Ayes~5 Brown, Galusha, Harris, Needham, Shepler, Nays~0

Discussion: Councilman Galusha noted before we adjourn a couple of things. Before the next meeting, or by the next meeting, can we get can we get copies of bank statements and financials and so forth. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted stating I am having an issue, and I have been advised not to give out bank statements to anybody. Because of all the problems that we have had at the bank with the bank statements, and **Councilman Galusha** interrupted asking even Board Members. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting and the fraudulent checks. I would have to redact them extensively. I will invite you in to come look at them if you want to, but.....The **Town Clerk** interrupted stating that is not true. They still have to give them out, and I have a FOIL request for them for them, and I am waiting for them for the FOIL, and I would redact them as always. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting thank you **Susan**. Thank you **Susan**. **Councilman Galusha** noted one is the bank statements what about the financials. **Supervisor Shepler** noted we are getting the (inaudible) **Joan** she had asked for a lot of the financials, and as I explained to her we are putting the final, I believe it is the final stage of the **Williamson Law** together where we take all of the checks and the bank account information, and we put it all in there, and we were supposed to have been able to have done it today, but something happened with the trainer, and he wasn't available to do it so we are trying to make res.....An appointment to do it on Friday. We are

trying to do it. **Councilman Galusha** noted so. **Supervisor Shepler** stated so by the next Board Meeting I am anticipating being able to give you financials. **Councilwoman Harris** made an inaudible remark. **Councilman Galusha** asked is it possible that you could email them to us when they are available. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I would prefer not emailing them. I honestly....I will call you, and let you know they are available, and then you can come in at your leisure and pick them up. **Councilman Galusha** asked and has any progress been made on resolving the issues with Clerk's access.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted stating at this time no. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting access to the bookkeeping system, and the website where we passed a Resolution so that she can post minutes. **Supervisor Shepler** replied no. **Councilman Galusha** asked are we going to take steps to make progress to get that done. **Supervisor Shepler** responded it is out of my hands, and in her ballpark and.....The **Town Clerk** interrupted stating that is not true. **Supervisor Shepler** stated as soon as we can get the IT company in here to hook her up then we can get the Williamson Law on her system for her. **(Clerks note: Williamson Law is already installed on the clerk's computer. When Williamson Law tried to get the Clerk's software running on January 30, 2020 it was unable to do so because I have no access to the server which the Supervisor removed. The Supervisor was notified.)** **Councilwoman Harris** asked which IT company. **Supervisor Shepler** replied StoredTech. The one that the Board voted on. **Councilwoman Harris** replied well we passed a Resolution that she was to be given certain things, and as far as the accounting papers then you wanted a system that closed up every single month. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting yes we did. **Councilwoman Harris** continued noting you must have January's and February's posted. **Supervisor Shepler** stated no I don't because it hasn't all been put together yet. It is a process putting this together. It is not just here you go. It is pieces and, we have to go through and we have to.....**Councilwoman Harris** asked you just don't hit a button on your computer, and print out a page. **Supervisor Shepler** responded no **Joan**. **Councilwoman Harris** asked that is where the ledger is, is on the computer right. **Supervisor Shepler** stated it will be. **Councilwoman Harris** noted it is not on there yet. **Supervisor Shepler** replied it will be on there, yes. **Councilwoman Harris** replied it is two, it is three months. **Supervisor Shepler** responded it had to be built **Joan**. That is nothing new or.....**Councilwoman Harris** interrupted asking StoredTech had to build it. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted stating no StoredTech isn't building it. **Councilwoman Harris** noted Williamson Law (inaudible). I thought it was already on the computers. **Supervisor Shepler** replied we have it on there. We are able to do payroll. We are able to pay our bills, but in order to start anew we had to go through, and we had to reconcile the checkbooks from the previous year, and we had to be able to bring the numbers forward, and (inaudible) from last year. **Councilwoman Harris** asked nothing was backed up. **Supervisor Shepler** stated it was never reconciled. **Councilman Galusha** asked can I ask one more question. **Supervisor Shepler** replied you may. **Councilman Galusha** noted with regards to the bank statements what would need to be redacted so that **Board Members** can review them. **Supervisor Shepler** replied all the account numbers. **Councilman Galusha** replied those are on every check that we send out. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I understand that, but I have been advised that every, um every statement needs to be redacted before it leaves my office. And that is.....I know what you are saying, and it is. It is out there the moment you send somebody a check, but.....**Councilman Galusha** interrupted noting everyone we do business with. **Supervisor Shepler** replied and I totally agree with you, and I.....**Councilman Needham** made an inaudible comment. **Councilwoman Harris** noted I wouldn't think that you redact it for the Town Board. **Supervisor Shepler** responded yes, you do. The **Town Clerk** noted no you don't. **Supervisor Shepler** replied yes you do, and I will redact them for you, and I will let you know as soon as they are available. Alright. **Councilwoman Harris** replied we need it soon. **Supervisor**

March 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Shepler noted you are very welcome. You are going to get it as soon as I can get it to you **Joan**. **Councilwoman Harris** asked you said we are going to get it next month. **Supervisor Shepler** replied I will give them to you as soon as I can physically get it to you, thank you very much. **Councilwoman Harris** replied you are welcome very much. **Supervisor Shepler** asked alright, can I get a motion to adjourn. **Councilwoman Harris** replied definitely. **Supervisor Shepler** asked can I have a second. **Councilwoman Harris** replied definitely. The **Town Clerk** noted you do them both. Who second it, **Doug**. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted asking again can I have a second. **Councilman Needham** agreed to second it. **Supervisor Shepler** noted **Doug** seconded it, **Joan** initiated it. All in favor?

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion introduced by **Councilwoman Harris** and seconded by **Councilman Needham** the meeting was adjourned at **8:17 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Staples, Town Clerk

March 30, 2020

Attachments:

Town of Thurman Supervisors Report

On January 1, 2020, I and two new Board members were sworn into office at the Thurman Town Hall by Justice Flannigan, there was a nice reception and a warm welcome by those who attended this ceremony.

I have attended the Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting in January and February, and have been placed on nine committees. I am sharing some information that was brought forward at the last County Board of Supervisors meeting.

1. A release from the Warren County Public Health Department on "Coronavirus Key Points" please be aware that the situation keeps evolving daily, so refer to the CDC address on the bottom of the sheet for most current information.
2. A Release from the Warren County Public Health Department on "Rabies Clinics 2020"

At the February Town of Thurman Board meeting the Board approved a resolution for the Highway Department to purchase a 2003 Gallion Grader.

Also, there was a resolution passed to hire a cleaner and a maintenance person for the Town Hall.

Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Town of Thurman will host the timed honored Jack Wax Party from 3 pm till the last person is served. All monies collected will go to the American Cancer society. Please help support this tradition. And enjoy the 3 weekends of Maple Days here in Thurman!

Thurman Town Court

PO Box 134
311 Athol Road
Athol, NY 12810

Sheila A Flanagan
Town Justice
February 18, 2020

Phone: (518)623-9660
Fax: (518)623-9678

Susan Shepler
Town Supervisor
Town of Thurman
311 Athol Road
Athol, NY 12810

Refund of unused JCAP Grant Funds

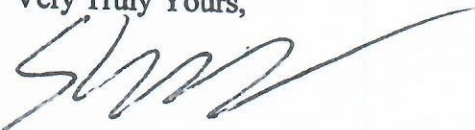
Dear Ms. Shepler,

As we discussed, the remaining unspent JCAP funding of \$6660.26 which had been allotted for the town court, but was never spent on the Harris House, must be returned payable to Commissioner of Taxation and Finance and mailed to the Office of Court Administration, Office of Justice Court Support, Attention: JCAP, 187 Wolf Road, Suite 103, Albany, NY 12205.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter. Please let me know when the funds have been returned so I can advise the court to look out for them. Also, if there are any impediments that slow down the process of returning these funds, please advise so I can alert the State of New York if there are any problems.

Again, thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,



Hon. Sheila A Flanagan
Thurman Town Justice

Coronavirus Key Points

Novel Coronavirus (nCoV), now also referenced as COVID-19 is a respiratory illness with pneumonia or influenza like symptoms that has spread from China since December 2019. Currently (as of 3/2/2020) there have been 88 confirmed cases in the United States, including the first confirmed case in New York State. Also to date, there have been two deaths in Washington State attributed to Coronavirus. While we are seeing cases of community spread on the West Coast, the majority of cases still remain among those who have traveled to areas of concern (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>)

- First and foremost, this is a rapidly changing situation, numbers and information changes almost daily
- While those most at risk continue to be travelers from China, risk is also associated with travel to/from any geographically affected area within the last 14 days or have had prolonged exposure to a person who has tested positive for nCoV (most commonly a household relative).
- While this situation poses a very serious public health threat, CDC believes the immediate risk to the U.S. public is low at this time. Illnesses, such as the flu, are more of a concern in the United States.
- There are precautions you can take to decrease your chance of getting sick (with any illness), which include:
 - Social distancing yourself when you are sick or someone you are frequently around is ill
 - Proper hand hygiene
 - Staying home from work when sick
 - Respiratory etiquette (cover your cough, sneeze, etc.)
 - As with any Public Health emerging issue, it is critical to follow the directions provided by officials should the virus come to our area. By ensuring proper protocols are followed everyone is doing their part to help contain spread.
- The CDC is NOT recommending the general public to wear masks; healthcare professionals who are providing care to a PUI (person under investigation) or a confirmed case are recommended to wear masks.
- Should an individual who meets below guidelines be concerned or begin to fall ill, prior to them showing up at a hospital or health center they should call BEFOREHAND so that the health care agency can properly quarantine the individual upon arrival and staff can address proper PPE prior to entering their room. Also, should they call 911 the ambulance should be notified as well in regards to the concern of nCoV.
- Travelers from China, Italy and South Korea will be screened prior to boarding flights, as well as when they land in America for symptoms. Those traveling from China or those who are symptomatic will continue to go automatically into quarantine when they arrive at their destination in the U.S.
- Up to date information can continue to be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Clinical Features		Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including healthcare personnel ² , who has had close contact ³ with a laboratory-confirmed ⁴ COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas ⁵ , within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) requiring hospitalization and without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza). ⁶	AND	No identified source of exposure

****Please note, Public health is happy to take any phone calls with questions surrounding Coronavirus and we will do our best to answer with the most up to date available information we have been provided with. 761-6580**



WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RABIES CLINICS 2020

Pets must be 3 months of age to receive their first immunization, which will afford them protection for one year. The next shot (booster) will afford protection for 3 years and is required one year after the first shot was given. From then on every three years a booster should be given to protect your pet. Both initial and booster shots will be given at all clinics scheduled by Warren County Public Health.

Saturday	February 29	Queensbury Community Center 742 Bay Road	10:00-Noon
Saturday	March 14	Warren County DPW 4055 Main Street, Warrensburg (State RT 9)	10:00-Noon
Saturday	April 4	Chester Fire House State RT 8	10:00-Noon
Saturday	April 25	Glens Falls Kennel Club 474 Corinth Road, Queensbury	10:00-Noon
Saturday	May 2	Lake George Fire House Ottawa and Amherst Streets	10:00-Noon
Saturday	May 16	North Creek Dog Park at Ski Bowl Park	10:00-Noon
Saturday	May 30	Glens Falls DPW, Dix Avenue	10:00-Noon
Saturday	June 20	Thurman Fire House	10:00-Noon
Saturday	July 11	Brant Lake Fire House	10:00-Noon
Saturday	July 25	Lake Luzerne Pavilion Park (<i>new location</i>) Lake Ave.	10:00-Noon
Saturday	August 8	Stony Creek Town Hall	10:00-Noon
Saturday	August 22	Hague Fire House	10:00-Noon
Saturday	September 12	Chester Fire House State RT 8	10:00-Noon
Saturday	September 26	Glens Falls DPW, Dix Avenue	10:00-Noon
Saturday	October 17	Bolton Fire House, Main Street	10:00-Noon
Saturday	October 24	Queensbury Community Center 742 Bay Road	10:00-Noon
Saturday	November 14	Warren County DPW 4055 Main Street, Warrensburg (State RT 9)	10:00-Noon

A \$10.00 donation is requested for each pet. No one is turned away due to financial hardship. Please bring dogs on leashes and cats or ferrets in carriers. Call Warren County Public Health at 761-6580 with questions.



PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM RABIES EXPOSURE



What is rabies?

Rabies is a virus that affects the brain and nerves in mammals.

How is rabies spread?

The rabies virus is spread through the saliva of a rabid animal usually because a rabid animal bites or scratches another person or animal. The virus may also get into the body through open cuts or wounds, or through eyes, nose, or mouth.

What animals can spread rabies?

Rabies is spread mostly by wild animals. In the United States rabies is usually found in raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and bats. Domestic animals and farm animals can get rabies from wild animals. This is why it's so important to vaccinate pets and livestock. These are the animals that people are around the most. Pets and stray animals can be the link between wild animals and people. Any mammal can get rabies. Although it is possible for rodents to get the disease, animals like mice, rats, and squirrels almost never carry rabies.

How can I tell if an animal has rabies?

You can't tell if an animal has rabies. When an animal is sick with rabies, it may behave strangely, but a rabid animal may also appear healthy or even tame. The only way to tell if an animal has rabies is by testing it in a laboratory, or for some pets and livestock, by a quarantine to see if rabies develops.

What can I do to prevent rabies?

- Vaccinate your pets!
- Do not attempt to stop fights between your pet and a wild animal.
- Do not feed or handle wild animals. Teach children that although a baby skunk or raccoon may look cute and friendly, it can be very dangerous.
- Do not feed or touch stray animals and avoid all sick, strange-acting, even friendly animals.
- Cover your garbage cans and don't leave pets' food outside where it can attract wild animals.
- Do not keep wild animals as pets. Not only is this dangerous for you and the animal, it's against the law.
- Do not touch or pick up dead animals.
- Leave bats alone.
- Never handle a bat, especially with bare hands. Use thick gloves, tongs, or a shovel to remove a dead bat, or call in bat removal experts. Don't crush the bat with a tennis racquet or other object.
- Do not let your pet play with bats.
- Report dead bats to your County Public Health office.
- Keep bats out of the house or other buildings by closing or covering the attic or other dark sheltered areas. Put screens on windows.

What should I do if my pet or I am exposed to an animal that might have rabies?

If you have been bitten, scratched, or exposed to an animal's saliva:

- Wash the wound right away with soap and water for ten minutes.
- Call your County Public Health office.
- Get a description of the animal that bit or scratched you.

If your pet has been bitten, scratched, or exposed to an animal's saliva:

- Try to find out what type of animal bit or scratched your pet. **Do not touch the attacking animal.**
- Use gloves or a hose to wash your pet's wound. **Do not touch your pet with your bare hands.** There may be saliva from the rabid animal still on your pet even if you don't see a bite or wound.
- Call your veterinarian.
- Call your local animal control officer. He or she will know the right steps to protect you and your pet.

What about bats and rabies?

Bats can be carriers of rabies and their bite or scratch may be too small to notice. In fact, people sleeping in the same room where a bat is found, or children who have been alone in a room with a bat, should contact your County Public Health office.

What do I do if I find a bat in my house?

- Close the windows, closet doors, and the door to the room.
- Turn on the lights if the room is dark and wait for the bat to land.
- Wear thick gloves and cover the bat with a coffee can or other hard container. It may be necessary to use a fly swatter or tennis racquet to stop the bat and knock it to the floor.
- Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat.
- Tape the cardboard tightly to can.
- Contact your County Public Health office to determine if the bat needs to be tested.

Any live or dead bat that may have had contact with a person should be captured and reported to your County Public Health office.



Thurman Station Association, Inc. / Thurman Community Association
P.O. Box 145, Athol, NY 12810
www.VisitThurman.com

March 10, 2019

Dear Thurman Supervisor and Town Board,

Since 2014 the Thurman Station Association/Thurman Community Association (TCA) has been given various levels of responsibility for administering the Occupancy Tax (OT) funds allotted by Warren County to Thurman. Some years, more, other years less. For example last year the town contracted with the TCA to administer the OT funds for event promotion including the Summer Music Program and other years, not. But, regardless of the amount, the town typically has delivered the funds to the TCA in the first quarter of the year and in turn the town is reimbursed when they receive OT funds from the county each October.

The Occupancy Tax is collected from only one place in Thurman; the Glen Lodge. The hotel and lodging businesses that collect and tender the OT to the county do so to promote tourism in the county with, of course, the understanding that more tourism means more "heads in beds". Occupancy Tax money does not come from the pockets of residents; it comes from visitors who pay the tax on their lodging bill.

If and when the town provides the funds to the TCA this year, the TCA will once again provide the advertising and promotion of the events and businesses that draw tourists. In any case, this year, the TCA has used budgeted OT funds from 2019 and money raised from TCA fundraising events to do as much event promotion as those funds will allow. As a result, TCA will provide promotions for two 2020 events: Thurman Maple Days and the Jack Wax Dinner.

The TCA proudly promotes business and tourism in the town of Thurman along with other community service events. If you have questions or concerns about how we execute our mission, we'd love to hear from you. Call us. And, when you do, state your first and last name and that you are calling about the TCA.

Vice-President Winefred Martin, 518-623-9595
President Perky Granger, 518-623-9305

Please include in the Town Board Minutes