

November 04, 2021 Public Hearing

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN, NEW YORK HELD NOVEMBER 04, 2021 AT THE THURMAN TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL, NEW YORK COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM.....

PRESENT: Mr. Ed Brown, Councilman

Mr. Randy Galusha, Councilman

Mr. Douglas Needham, Councilman

Mrs. Susan Shepler, Supervisor

ABSENT: Mrs. Joan Harris, Councilwoman

Councilman Needham arrived at 6:04 pm.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan E. Staples

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

The Hearing was called to order at **6:04 pm.**

Discussion: Supervisor Shepler noted welcome everybody to the Budget Hearing for 2021 for the 2022 Budget. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. **Supervisor Shepler** noted this is a Public Hearing for the Town of Thurman Budget. Would somebody like to start? **Mary**, thank you. **Mary Eddy** noted at the second meeting you said that there were 2% raises for the Refuse and Garbage, and on the Refuse and Garbage how come there is only a .1 and not a .12 also. Because every other Department has a .12 if they have somebody else working there. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that is a great question. We've always (inaudible) a .1 for both of the employees that work there. **Mary Eddy** responded wouldn't it make sense if you do it in one place you would do it in another place. You know keep it all the same way. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I will have to look into seeing if we put a .12 into it. **Mary Eddy** asked would there be any reason you couldn't. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I will have to call the State and ask them. That is a good question. So let me look into it, but as far as the Budget is concerned right now as is going forward I think .12 would be fine, but for the Budget for the 2022 year if we are going to utilize what we have currently. **Mary Eddy** continued noting and you said 2%, but Garbage and Refuse is more than 2 % so why was there a bigger increase in them. **Supervisor Shepler** responded would you like to answer that. **Councilman Galusha** responded I think that at the time that we were talking about that that we were projecting a 2% increase, but I think that were part ways through contract negotiations and they are covered by the Highway Contract. **Supervisor Shepler** noted one is. One member. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting OK one is, and we have.....**Mary Eddy** interrupted noting why is one member and not the other. **Supervisor Shepler** responded because one member was always in the Union, and the other was retired and came to work here from the other Union and isn't a part of our Union. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting so anyhow what we are projecting for pay raises under that contract I think is reflected in here. I am not sure if that entirely accounts for the pay raise. I think one is actually covered by the Contract. I think the other one will probably get a pay raise also just because of the classification of his title. Not, I'm not sure if I am saying this right.....**Supervisor Shepler** noted there is definitely a 2% pay increase for the other party who is not a Union Member, but

we discussed a slight increase for the other one too. Based on the classification. **Mary Eddy** responded say it again. **Councilman Galusha** noted so how do I explain this. It is partly a pay raise due to the responsibilities to the title, but it is also a pay raise to be consistent with the Contract. I can't.....**Supervisor Shepler** responded no you said it. You said it. **Councilman Galusha** noted so I mean it is a combination of things because one of the positions that is covered here is we are trying to make the position consistent with other positions in the Highway than what we were paying other employees and reflect the responsibility because they are responsible for a facility. They are responsible for collecting money. They are responsible for reports and so it's..... And they are supervising an employee so we adjusted that salary to reflect things that that person is doing. So there is a pay raise here. I can't off the top of my head without looking at it say what exactly it was and I hesitate to say that because we haven't completed Contract negotiations so until we actually the Board votes on that I can't actually divulge the exact number because we haven't done it. **Supervisor Shepler** responded and also we did take other contracts from other areas and we did look at it and make a comparison to the Town of Thurman. **Councilman Galusha** interrupted noting we did. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting and I think, and correct me if I am wrong, we found Thurman was significantly below a lot of the other Towns in the area, and we have become more competitive and so God forbid we need to replace people we can attract them to the Town of Thurman. Which we've not been able to do because we have been the lowest paid Town and Highway Department for years. So that is what we were doing in negotiations as **Randy** said. The contract has not been totally ratified yet so we really can't get into minutia of it, but know that that is what we were gauging our information from when we were doing the investigative work. **Mary Eddy** asked what is the Union Contract? Do you have a time frame that that has to be done (inaudible)? **Supervisor Shepler** responded it depends upon the contract that was agreed upon last year. It was a one year contract. It is up on the 31st of December of this year, and the new contract will take effect as of January 1, and we're looking to do a 3 year contract. (Inaudible). **Councilman Galusha** noted I don't think there is a deadline to have the contract done. I think generally you want to have it in place before the beginning of the year. Before the contract, the existing contract expires. **Mary Eddy** responded it would make sense that it would have to be done before the Budget. **Councilman Galusha** noted we were trying to do that, and.....**Mary Eddy** interrupted noting why don't they do that. They never have. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting we have.....We've tried to do that and we potentially have. The Highway Union I believe has ratified the contract and now it is in the Board's hands and at the next meeting we will be going into Executive Session. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting on the 10th. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting to discuss it and we will vote on it at that meeting. **Mary Eddy** noted so back to the Refuse and Garbage. Just what you have explained is all the more reason to have 1.2 to divide it up so the People can see that there is a difference between the 2 and instead of how you have it here. **Councilman Galusha** noted I agree. **Mary Eddy** continued noting and all those reasons that you gave for the person who is in charge of the garbage and all the responsibility it would seem like the **Town Clerk** with all the responsibility that she has would have gone up more. It is an hourly wage. **Councilman Galusha** responded um hm. **Mary Eddy** continued noting and responsibilities it would seem that would have gone up more than just 3,800. **Councilman Galusha** responded I agree. **Mary Eddy** continued noting so is there any possibility.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting **Mary** let me just interrupt you quickly and say we can't fix all of the problems for 2022. **Mary Eddy** responded right, I understand that. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting the taxes to the people of Thurman would just be right through the roof. **Mary Eddy** responded yeah. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting and nobody would be at all happy. The room would be packed with screaming and pitch forks and things like that.

Mary Eddy interrupted noting but they aren't concerned. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well that is fine. **Mary Eddy** noted nobody is concerned, nobody comes. **Supervisor Shepler** responded maybe they are comfortable with what we have done at this point. **Mary Eddy** responded no, they just sit back and listen because all they hear is the fact it is a 61% that you put out first, and they complain about that, but they don't even come (inaudible). **Supervisor Shepler** responded I put out a Budget and then the Budget is worked on by the Board and that is what we have done as a unit. **Mary Eddy** interrupted noting yeah, right, yes. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting and that is what the Board has done as a unit. It is never just the **Supervisor's** Budget. **Mary Eddy** responded right. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting unless it is such a great Budget that everybody agrees with it. So that was the object of putting it out there so that the entire Board could work on it. You know Social Media isn't always a good thing and I think it puts a lot of fear in people and misinformation, and goodness know in the 2 years that I have been in office the misinformation has just been volatile. So, with all that being said there are raises going forward, and people have gotten sometimes more increases than others, but it cannot be fixed all at once. We have to do it slowly. **Mary Eddy** responded oh I realize that, but I just that the **Town Clerk** could.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting she did get a substantial increase this year. It was more than the 2%. **Mary Eddy** responded well yours was too so. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I didn't ask for it. I had put in less. **Mary Eddy** responded you said you would drop it down to 20 last year. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I was also I didn't put in originally for 14. **Mary Eddy** responded um hm. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting on the **Supervisors** and **Randy** wanted to increase it to 23 based on discussions that we had had earlier, and quite frankly yes it is a substantial increase, but the Town of Thurman's Supervisor is also severely underpaid. More so than any other Supervisor in Warren County and that does not include and I am not including what they make at the County which is all the same. **Mary Eddy** responded right, right, what is that now. **Supervisor Shepler** responded it was 7 almost \$18,000.00 this year. **Mary Eddy** noted I had one other comment. Oh you were comparing.....You were going around the Towns and you were comparing salaries. So have you ever gone around to the other towns to see amount of mileage for the Highway and see how many employees they have and how the other Towns work? Whether they do, what do you call it, not just everybody comes in at once. Sometimes like Warrensburg.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting are you talking about Warrensburg. **Mary Eddy** responded yes, staggered hours. That is the word, thanks. **Supervisor Shepler** noted but what I want to say about all of that is I think that is fine and good. The Town of Thurman's manpower is significantly less than some of the other towns in the area, one. Two, we don't.....**Mary Eddy** interrupted noting so you have asked specifically how many men are working in the Highway compared to the mileage. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting we didn't do that together. She continued noting we didn't do that together no, but I had discussions with other Supervisors about that discussion. But I will tell you right off hand also that the Town of Thurman only has it's tax payers to float the bill and we don't have any industry in this town of any sort to help out with the taxes so I think it is fabulous that the other towns in the area can certainly well afford to have the additional manpower and to be able to work the shifts that they do so that it is all not everybody at one time. **Mary Eddy** responded well I understood that Warrensburg had about the same amount. **Supervisor Shepler** responded of. **Mary Eddy** replied of men and mileage. **Supervisor Shepler** replied their mileage is similar. I don't think it is on spot. **Councilman Galusha** responded I have no idea. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I don't think it is on spot because we've also.....I don't know if they have County Roads, and are contracted with the County, and we have County Roads that we are being paid. **Mary Eddy** responded well it would still be the same mileage no matter if it was the County or the Town Roads. If it

was 52 it was 52. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I don't believe it is the same amount of mileage. I do know that Chestertown is considerably larger. **Mary Eddy** responded well it is huge, yeah. Big difference Chestertown. **Councilman Galusha** noted so we are here for a Budget Hearing so the point of your question how does that apply to what we are talking about tonight. I guess I'm not.....**Supervisor Shepler** noted thank you we both got off track. **Mary Eddy** responded well because of the amount that it cost to run these things. **Councilman Galusha** responded OK. So I guess what is your, ultimately what is your question. **Mary Eddy** responded I was asking if you had compared how many people work for the Town because you are employing more people. You said you had just hired one which makes sense because one is out and then you are going to hire another one. So comparatively with the other town you are comparing cost. **Councilman Galusha** interrupted noting OK. Right. **Mary Eddy** continued noting you are also comparing what they are doing and how much they are covering, the mileage, and the amount of people. **Councilman Galusha** responded got ya. **Mary Eddy** continued noting so it's all relative to the Budget. **Councilman Galusha** responded now I understand. So you want, you want an idea if we have a comparable staff for a comparable number of miles. **Mary Eddy** replied yes. **Councilman Galusha** responded or if we are overstaffed for the same number of miles. **Mary Eddy** replied yes. **Councilman Galusha** responded OK so.....**Supervisor Shepler** noted we never rehired when **Jeff** left. **Councilman Brown** responded **Pat** has run them numbers before and when you get the County Roads involved they have a specific timeline that they want them roads cleaned which comes under a lot different than the Town the Village of Warrensburg. I forget exactly how many minutes it is or an hour and a half, 90 minutes per trip. I don't think it would be easy.....**Mary Eddy** interrupted noting what do you mean 90 minutes a trip. For like a mile. **Councilman Brown** responded no, what they are saying is they have to be done in so completed the route. **Mary Eddy** replied oh, OK. **Councilman Brown** noted **Pat** could answer that. **Pat** could answer that question better because we went through this prior years before. And you will find that the County is a little different than the Village because they do have specific guidelines that they are supposed to follow. **Supervisor Shepler** noted is there any other questions **Mary**. **Mary Eddy** responded I think I'm done. **Supervisor Shepler** responded thank you. Does anybody else, **Keith**. **Keith Parent** noted so basically you've got a 2% raise across the Board. With a few exceptions. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting the General Fund people got with a few exceptions a 2% increase. That is correct. **Keith Parent** continued noting I guess what is bothers me this year is that in the past few years we have seen quite a few attacks on certain people and that is what angers me so much is that they are working for less doing substantial jobs that are very important to the Town, and it is consistent and it's attack, attack, attack, attack trying to push these people out or upset them in more ways than.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting you mean the **Supervisor**. **Keith Parent** continued noting in the past. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well since I have been here there have quite a few attacks. **Keith Parent** interrupted noting well I've seen it out of you as well. Not as obvious or severe, but I have seen it happen so what irritates me the most is that you know like this year we are giving everybody a 2% raise. These guys were below salary before and they are only going to get 2% and people who that were up are going to get more just because and that is more on this side. So, I just want to say that you know that angers me to see the fight if you will continue on. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I understand what you are saying and I agree with some of it to a point, but as I explained to **Mary** we cannot rectify everybody in the Town on the General Fund side. **Keith Parent** interrupted noting I get that. He continued noting I get that. I respect what you are saying, but if I'm making \$80,000.00 a year and you are giving me a 2%. Somebody else is making \$20,000.00 a year just using these numbers as (inaudible). Nobody is making \$80,000.00 a year, I hope. Anyway, using that as a figure just to throw out. You give

somebody 2% on 20,000 it is not as much as somebody that is making a lot more, and the unfairness just keeps going. It just keeps going, and oh the promise of maybe later we can fix it is nice, but we have kicked these people in the tail for so long it is just not fair to keep doing it, and that is all I'm going to say. **Councilman Galusha** responded do you have a....Are there particular positions that you are commenting about? **Keith Parent** responded the **Clerk and the Clerk's Office and the Assessors** are the ones that I am talking about as being criticized recently in the past. Maybe I shouldn't say recently over the last four or five or six years. Just because of maybe their political stand or the way they feel about the day. I don't know, but I do know but....**Councilman Galusha** responded so to kind of put a point on it, without what has gone on in the past, forget that for now. Your suggesting that the raises that those positions received this year, the salaries that are being proposed to be paid in this Budget you don't feel are accurate. **Keith Parent** responded I think they should be brought up to what is fair to the rest of the Town. It is all well and good to say you know we want to bring everybody in Thurman up to what the rest of the County is getting as a view point if you will or goal, but the bottom line is you know you need to start with the ones that are lower before we work on the ones that are more. Is what I am feeling. **Councilman Galusha** responded got ya, OK. **Keith Parent** noted the ones that are more were getting more. The ones that were less were getting less. So we are raising you know.... Because like I said you are making more money 2% on your more money to you than what they are going to get at 2%. **Councilman Galusha** responded so your comment is specific to the **Clerk and the Assessors**. **Keith Parent** responded well that is the ones I look at when I see.....**Councilman Galusha** responded got ya. **Keith Parent** continued noting where the criticism has been in recent years. **Councilman Galusha** responded OK. **Supervisor Shepler** responded the **Assessors** are getting a handsome increase. They are each getting \$7,500.00 increase if this Budget passes. That is a handsome increase. **Keith Parent** asked how does that compare to the other Towns. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I um we didn't compare the **Assessors**. **Councilman Needham** interrupted noting other Towns don't have **Assessors**. They have appointed **Assessors** from out of town. **Councilman Galusha** responded we do to. Ours is appointed to a 6 year term. **Supervisor Shepler** noted ours is appointed. **Councilman Needham** replied 6 year term. **Councilman Galusha** noted in some towns Assessors are making \$50,000.00 a year. **Councilman Needham** responded really. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting and you also need to remember when the Assessors were making \$11,000.00 and \$11,220.00 that they had decided that they were splitting it. Originally **Tuck** had been given the full ride and the Clerk was getting a lesser sum and they made the decision to split it. That was not a Board decision. **Keith Parent** responded I don't want to hear about that. As far as I'm concerned that was hogwash from the people before. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well that is fine, but I'm just having.....Making sure that you understand. **Keith Parent** continued noting that was part of the attack, part of the fight to criticize.....**Supervisor Shepler** responded that was before me alright. And then we actually **Randy** looked at increasing the .1 the Chairman, and he wanted to reduce not reduce but he wanted to increase the lesser sum, the .12, the Assessor's Clerk. And quite frankly I spoke up and I didn't want to do that. Because the Assessor Clerk is here more hours than the Assessor is, and I didn't think it was fair to give the Assessor the greater sum and not increase the Clerk at that point in time because she does the Youmans job. **Keith Parent** noted that is fine she was the Assessor she would still be certified as (inaudible) the attack before, but.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting well she (inaudible). Again that was well before my administration. **Keith Parent** continued noting the bottom line is you basically have 2 Assessors in there, basically. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well according to the way it is written we have one Assessor and one Assessor Clerk. **Keith Parent** continued noting no I get it, but basically we have somebody that is qualified well enough to be

an Assessor. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that is fine. **Keith Parent** noted and she is very knowledgeable. So anything that either one of them get and or anybody that is in the **Clerks Office** to me should be much more than what you are giving them to bring them to where they should be had they not been attacked in the past. **Supervisor Shepler** responded as stated we are working on bringing everybody up. The Town cannot financially afford to bring everybody up to where they should be in one year because the taxes would be astronomical. **Keith Parent** responded I can respect what you are saying. **Supervisor Shepler** responded thank you. **Keith Parent** continued noting but I understand also that some things get lost in the sauce and they never happen. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well we gave increases last year. We gave increases this year. Let's hope going forward that it works. **Keith Parent** responded and I hope, I hope that....I hope that these positions do better in the very near future. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I hope so too. I sincerely hope so, but at this point in time..... **Keith Parent** interrupted noting because they are very....Those positions are very important to the Town. **Supervisor Shepler** responded we are not disputing that. **Keith Parent** continued noting and they do in my opinion very good jobs. **Supervisor Shepler** responded we did not dispute that, but we have made the effort to bring people up, and I think you know the Board understands this is and is willing to make....I can't speak for the whole Board, but I know in discussions it appears that the Board is willing to make these increases, but again it cannot be done all at once. **Keith Parent** responded I get that....**Supervisor Shepler** responded thank you. **Keith Parent** continued noting but.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting I understand, thank you. **Keith Parent** responded OK, we agree to disagree to disagree. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well I don't know that we can..... I don't think there is a disagreement. **Keith Parent** responded not that we are disagreeing we just.....**Supervisor Shepler** responded we just agree to agree (inaudible). **Keith Parent** continued noting I don't mean to imply that. I just mean to say that you know somewhere along the line they need to continue to (inaudible). **Supervisor Shepler** responded well you've got a Board, two new Board Members that are being re-elected. You've got one Board Member who is leaving and **Randy** is going to be here and **Ed** is going to be here so I have no doubt in my mind that they will work to do what they can possibly do to bring the Town into a financial reality. **Keith Parent** responded with an inaudible comment. **Supervisor Shepler** responded no, no. **Keith Parent** responded sooner or later you have got to pay the fiddler. **Supervisor Shepler** responded well and we have paid the fiddler this year, thank you. So alright does anybody else have a comment, **Joyce**. **Joyce Eddy** noted this is for the whole Board more than you. Technically I assume you all plan on dying some day and you need a place to lay your head. There is nothing in this Budget for the Cemeteries. How do you account for that? **Supervisor Shepler** responded what do you mean there is nothing.....**Councilman Galusha** responded actually we increased it. **Joyce Eddy** responded where do you have anything in this Budget for Cemeteries? What page, hold on. **Councilman Galusha** responded we increased the cemeteries.....**Councilman Needham** noted the cemetery pay increase to \$4,000.00, \$5,000.00. **Supervisor Shepler** responded page 5, halfway down the page. Thank you. **Councilman Galusha** noted we actually, we were talking about hiring 2 people to work the cemeteries 2 days a week. **Councilman Brown** noted 16 hours each. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting 16 hours each a week from May through August, and we also.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting September actually. You have to include Labor Day in there. **Councilman Galusha** responded OK, and we also budgeted someplace for a mover. **Supervisor Shepler** responded yes that was the .4. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting so we actually, we are actually planning on doing a lot more with the cemeteries in the coming year than what we have done in the past. Because we increased the Cemeteries. They were at \$4,600.00 for the payroll in the past and now they are at \$9,600.00. We

increased the contractual from \$700.00 to \$10,000.00 to cover the cost of a mower. And we are actually talking about doing more than that depending on how we can work it with a mower that is needed at the Transfer Station. **Joyce Eddy** responded so is the Board considering hiring a Maintenance Person to make sure that grounds and the building and everything looks kind of like it used to. **Councilman Galusha** responded there is some money in the Budget for a Maintenance Person, and we are kind of thinking if we can invest in mowers and people can do the cemeteries we might be able to work that into something that a Building and Grounds. **Joyce Eddy** responded because that is very distasteful to people coming in to look at their ancestors and see our cemetery looking.....The fence is down. The whole thing is a disaster. **Councilman Galusha** responded yup, yup I agree. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I will say the Highway Department has been very gracious and has mowed for years the Cemeteries. They have done it.....**Joyce Eddy** interrupted noting yeah the Highway has been taking care of, but there again you are spending what kind of money on Highway wages versus.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting exactly. We couldn't hire anybody. We tried to hire a Maintenance Person. We tried to hire other people along (inaudible), and no one is willing to come to work. **Councilman Galusha** responded one of the other things we have done along those lines is we are increasing the laborer wages so that we can attract somebody that will work for us, and the intention is **Joyce** to actually increase the labor and the contractual for the Cemeteries so we can actually get them taken care of. That is what we are working on. So, we are trying. I hope that we put enough money in here that we can attract somebody to do it next year. Are you done? Do you have something else to say? **Supervisor Shepler** noted **Keith**. **Keith Parent** noted I just want to remind everybody that is here that not too long ago we had some people doing the mowing, and they were released, unfunded. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that was years ago. Again prior to this.....**Keith Parent** interrupted noting it doesn't matter if it was years ago or not. It wasn't very nice back then, and it still leaves a sour taste. You probably would still have those people that worked for very few dollars. **Supervisor Shepler** responded there is no argument here. **Keith Parent** noted they might still be doing it had they not been treated the way they were treated. **Supervisor Shepler** responded no argument. Does the....**Mary**. **Mary Eddy** asked are you going to put the Unexpended Balance on the Summary Sheet. **Supervisor Shepler** responded yes, we, I didn't do that. **Mary Eddy** continued noting does that still.....If you have to change to a Preliminary do you have to have it certified. **Supervisor Shepler** responded we have to modify. That is what we have to do, and then if we choose to move it this evening into the final then it will be with including the modifications made to the Preliminary Budget. Do you have those figures? **Councilman Galusha** responded I do the.....**Supervisor Shepler** noted the General. **Councilman Galusha** responded the General Fund we intended to apply, let me put my glasses on so I don't misread it, we intended to apply \$100,000.00 to the General Fund, and Highway we intended to apply \$199,463.00. **Supervisor Shepler** noted the Fire was unchanged. **Mary Eddy** asked does that change the Tax Rate. **Supervisor Shepler** responded no it is as it shows here. So if you bring it down your total is \$299,463.00 which has already been reflected in the figure. So there is no change to the Tax Rate at this point in time. Does anybody else have any discussion? Yes **Paula**. **Paula Hubert** noted under the Youth Programs you have \$1625.00. Is that money, any of that money going to go toward getting water and the toilet fixed up there. Or is that just for parties that we only had one this year? **Supervisor Shepler** responded no that expense would fall under Buildings. The expense for the toilet, the septic, and the water. Because it is a systemic problem. It is all the building not just the Youth Building. Although the Youth Building currently does not have water what so ever. Anything.....Anytime there is any kind of event there it has to be brought in and taken out. Also there is no heat in the building so that needs to be looked at. So the 1625

is just for the Program itself. **Paula Hubert** asked is there plans to do anything with the Youth Building up there so it can be used (inaudible). Because the water.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting well we have to have water, and you have to have a toilet and anything for the winter months have to have heat. So at this point in time there is no heat. There is no water and there is no toilet facilities. Because you can't utilize it because it is all on the same system. Well it is not on the same system, but it.....**Paula Hubert** interrupted noting it is hard to do anything up there when you don't have water, and we have done even the concerts in the summer. I know that should have, should have some attention up there. **Supervisor Shepler** responded I agree, I agree. Does anybody else have anything else that they would like to say? After noting that no one else had a comment **Supervisor Shepler** noted so then I guess what I would like to make a recommendation is that we.....Where is it. **Councilman Galusha** asked what are you looking for. **Supervisor Shepler** responded the Summary Page where I just wrote it in. It is not here. Unless I have 2 Summary Pages. I do. So that is why, thank you. I would like to make a recommendation to the Board that they accept the Unexpended Balance for the General Fund of \$100,000.00. **Councilman Galusha** noted before we do that we are still in the Hearing. Don't we have to close the Hearing if we are going back on the Budget. We have to close the Hearing....The **Town Clerk** noted you, you. And then you have to open a Meeting. **Councilman Galusha** noted open a meeting. **Supervisor Shepler** responded OK. Then I stand. How can we have a meeting because we didn't advertise for a Special Meeting. The **Town Clerk** responded no, you did not. **Supervisor Shepler** noted so we can't do this. We have to do this tomorrow night then. The **Town Clerk** responded well you have to advertise for a meeting that's.....Tomorrow night was going to be a workshop it wasn't going to be.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting well we....She continued noting right, but we can approve the Budget at the workshop and move it forward. We did that at the last workshop. So, we can do it at the Workshop tomorrow evening. **Councilman Galusha** noted I thought we were free to have a meeting tonight to adopt the Budget. The **Town Clerk** responded I think you are. I know we have done this in the past. We have closed the Public Hearing and gone into a meeting. **Councilman Brown** noted you don't think we should wait until the contract is fully accepted. **Councilman Galusha** responded that wouldn't be until next Wednesday. **Supervisor Shepler** noted that would be the 10th. The **Town Clerk** noted you have until the 20th to do the budget. So you certainly have plenty of time left. **Councilman Needham** made an inaudible comment. **Supervisor Shepler** responded right, that is what he is mentioning. **Councilman Galusha** noted yeah that is what he was talking (inaudible). **Councilman Brown** noted we really shouldn't prior (inaudible). **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting we tried. **Councilman Brown** continued noting I know, but every year we go through this. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting **Randy** will be my witness. I have no control over the Union. **Councilman Brown** responded I know, I understand. I am just saying it happens every (inaudible). **Supervisor Shepler** responded last year we had it in time. This year.....Last year I requested that we have it early enough, and the people that are involved with the Union couldn't get here until.....When was the earliest date? It was ridiculous. **Councilman Galusha** responded at this point the Highway has ratified it. It just up to us to vote on it. So, we haven't scheduled a Special Meeting to do it. We could have done that, so. The **Town Clerk** noted if you are happy with what you have you can go ahead and advance it. **Councilman Galusha** noted I don't see us voting the contract down and ending up with it costing more. We've accounted for what the Tentative Contract is in here. If we vote it down it is going to be for the reason that we want it to be less. So, it is covered by this budget. **Supervisor Shepler** responded so in that regards I don't.....We can vote on the Budget. Excuse me we can vote on the Contract on the 10th as was planned. Because everybody got, with the exception of **Ed**, everybody got an updated contract this evening. Because we had just had

another verbiage change. It was a minor verbiage change, but it was a verbiage change just the same, and it had to be in the contract prior to its approval. So, um, we can vote on that Wednesday night, and based on what you had already said which is all true and factual the contract has been built into this existing budget so there should be no changes going forward. **Councilman Needham** noted we could do all of this Wednesday night. **Councilman Galusha** responded do you mean as far as adopt the budget (inaudible) the Highway Contract. We could. **Supervisor Shepler** responded we certainly could. **Councilman Needham** responded rather than having another meeting, you know let's do it all at our next regular meeting. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that is absolutely fine. **Councilman Galusha** responded yup, that is fair. **Councilman Needham** continued noting we are all in agreement with the Budget and everything so. **Supervisor Shepler** noted alright, but we have to have the amendment and the modification. The **Town Clerk** noted and the Summary Page. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting so let me ask this then can we make the modi....Can I make the amendment and the modification on the Summary Page and pass out a new Summary Page and Budget to the Board Members on Wednesday evening with the proposed changes that we were talking about this evening in here which is just the Unexpended Balance that was left out. It has all been reflected in everything. **Councilman Galusha** responded right, I think what you would do is you have a Preliminary Budget you would give it to the Board and say here are the proposed changes to the Preliminary Budget, and then we would vote whether or not to adopt those modifications at the next meeting. **Supervisor Shepler** responded so we don't have to adopt to approve the modifications this evening. Are you sure? **Councilman Galusha** responded tonight is the Budget Hearing to gather information from the Public. We don't have to act on anything tonight. **Councilman Brown** noted no. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting no, but I know you had wanted to. So, that is why I am asking. **Councilman Galusha** responded well that was the point of avoiding a meeting tomorrow night. I know **Doug** had a conflict or something so. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that is fine. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting so we were going to do that just to get it done. **Supervisor Shepler** replied alright. **Councilman Galusha** responded we can do it next Wednesday like **Doug** suggested. **Supervisor Shepler** responded alright so then I want to make sure I am not going to err here because I don't there to be any mistakes. I am going to the Summary Page with the, what was not put in, put it in. Type it in, hand out a new Budget Page. New Summary Page and should I take off Preliminary at that point. **Councilman Galusha** responded I would identify it as proposed modifications to the certified Preliminary Budget. That way we know what we have. **Councilman Brown** noted (inaudible) Fund Balance 299463. **Supervisor Shepler** responded so excuse me one moment. Proposed...Where it says Preliminary Budget I am to change it to Proposed Modifications to the Certified Preliminary Budget. **Susan** is that.....The **Town Clerk** responded normally you would make a change after at this point it would it would just go into the Adopted Budget Column and then that would be certified as the Adopted Budget. The only thing you are changing here is the Summary Page. **Supervisor Shepler** responded yes. The **Town Clerk** continued noting put another page in that shows the.....And attach it to this so that you have both. So it shows the sheet originally then just add the sheet with the \$100,000.00 and the 199,463. **Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting 463, but my question to you that is I have 2022 Preliminary Budget. When we present it evening it is with high hopes that goes into the Adopted Budget. The **Town Clerk** responded correct. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting so do I take Preliminary Budget out because what you certified at that point is going to be going down to Warren County, and we are.....The **Town Clerk** noted you are going to send the Adopted Budget down to Warren County. You are not.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting yes I am. The **Town Clerk** continued noting the Preliminary. **Supervisor Shepler** responded yes, I am. **Councilman Galusha** noted I think we are

talking about kind of two different things. She is talking about what she is going to give the Board at the next meeting, and how to identify it, and once the Board reviews that and vote on the changes then it becomes the Adopted Budget and then you take that and certify it, go to the County with it. **Supervisor Shepler** noted so then I would make the changes after we've adopted it. **Councilman Galusha** responded yes. **Supervisor Shepler** continued noting and give it to you and you would then certify it and then I would take it down to the County. OK, that is fine. So, does the Board want me to put Town of Thurman 2022 proposed modifications to Certified Preliminary Budget on the next Summary Sheet that is going before the Board on Wednesday evening. **Councilman Galusha** noted it seems appropriate to me. **Supervisor Shepler** responded that, I just. Are you alright with that **Ed. Doug?** Alright so do we need a vote on that or can we just take it as is. Alright so I will put that on there. **Councilman Brown** noted can we talk about the Fund Balance at this meeting. **Supervisor Shepler** responded what about it. **Councilman Brown** replied well I have just had a few people question me about the excessive Fund Balance that we have each year. Instead of using them to improve the Town for anything that we end up using it to buy down the taxes. The people are concerned about that because that is a large amount of money, 299,000. Almost \$300,000.00 dollars there. **Supervisor Shepler** responded but one 100 is coming out of the General Fund and only 199.....**Councilman Brown** continued noting but the total is still the total. The Town of Thurman is almost \$300,000.00 was in a Fund and we weren't using it for something or earmarking it for something, you know. **Councilman Galusha** replied well do you want me to make this even worse for you. The actual Fund Balance that we have the total between the 2 is over \$800,000.00. **Councilman Brown** responded 800. **Supervisor Shepler** noted just the Highway alone is.....**Councilman Brown** noted I am just.....Questions that people come with. **Councilman Galusha** responded well every town should carry.....You should....The Comptroller's Office recommends that you carry two to three months for the budget for the Fund Balance. If you have more than that you should put it in a Reserve Fund where it is designated for something. **Councilman Brown** noted earmarked for something. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting we could create Reserve Funds for Highway Garage and put in the Fund something for the Transfer Station. **Councilman Brown** noted we should start thinking about that. **Councilman Galusha** noted the reality is past administrations and all other, a lot of other towns do this, what happens is they underestimate their revenues. Specifically in our case it is sales tax. We always underestimate it. So, at the end of the year we end with a big chunk of money that goes into the Fund Balance. That is really kind of a poor budget practice. I mean you should have a Fund Balance like we are talking, but you shouldn't have an enormous amount and because you are taking more money in taxes than you should be. **Councilman Brown** noted that is what they are concerned with. **Councilman Galusha** responded so what we need to do is get a.....We need to get better at estimating our revenues and what our appropriations so that we are not creating big Fund Balances. If we want to put money into a Reserve Fund we should identify that in the budget and say this year we are going to raise \$50,000.00 in taxes to put into the Highway Building. **Councilman Brown** noted earmark it for building or whatever. **Councilman Galusha** replied yeah, exactly. **Councilman Brown** responded we need to start doing that. We really do. **Supervisor Shepler** responded but we also need a year without Covid because I would go back and say to you haven just received the 3rd quarter Sales Tax today, the 4th quarter which I told **Randy** doesn't come in until February, for 2021. For 2022 was 110,724 ninety three. Our first quarter for 2021 was only \$87,088.99, but we have to take into consideration we have had how many months of Covid, and a lot of people haven't been, hadn't been coming up and shopping. I am thrilled that they are coming back now and willing to spend their money. The third quarter, excuse me the second quarter was 122,147 thirty six and the check that we just received was

November 04, 2021 Public Hearing

161,635 fifty five. So I mean it is showing a rebound, and, and.....**Councilman Galusha** noted and what was the total again. You told me that earlier. **Supervisor Shepler** responded the fourth quarter that we got in February, the first, the second and the fourth quarter are totaling \$481,595.33, and the fourth quarter for this year will not be out until February of next year. **Councilman Galusha** responded but bottom line is last year we budgeted \$375,000.00 in sales tax. We received 481,000 and change so we actually received.....**Supervisor Shepler** interrupted noting that was this year. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting this year, I'm sorry. So, we actually received \$106,595.00 more in Sales Tax than we budgeted. **Supervisor Shepler and Councilman Brown** both agreed. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting that all goes into Fund Balance. So I mean this year we raised the estimated Sales Tax to 425 so I mean we are getting closer to that. I mean the risk is and this is what we have to be careful is that we don't budget too much for Sales Tax and we don't get it. **Supervisor Shepler** noted that is right then we are short. **Councilman Galusha** continued noting you always want to underestimate it a little bit, but I mean to underestimate it 100 and something thousand is too much. So hopefully next year we will be closer to the mark. **Supervisor Shepler** responded so then does anybody else have anything else to say. Can I have a motion then to adjourn?

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion introduced by **Councilman Needham** and seconded by **Councilman Galusha** the meeting was adjourned at **6:49 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Staple, Town Clerk

November 17, 2021