

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2012 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 5:00 P.M...**

**PRESENT:     MRS. EVELYN WOOD, SUPERVISOR**  
**MR. AL VASAK, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. ROBERT HITCHCOCK JR., COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. CHARLES BILLS, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. LEON GALUSHA, COUNCILMAN**

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

The Special meeting was called to order by **Evelyn Wood, Supervisor.**

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

This meeting was called to vote on the 2013 Budget

**LETTER:** A letter was read from the **Warrensburg EMS Operations manager Steve Emerson. See attached**

**BIDS:** On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, the town board requests RFP's (bids) for River Road and Dippikill road.

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

**RESOLUTION #56:**

**Resolution to Adopt the Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby adopts the Town Budget for fiscal year 2013.

**Discussion: Councilman Galusha** advised the town board to think long and hard before passing this budget. **Galusha** said that he had received many phone calls from residents concerned with this budgets lack of funding for ambulance service.

**Councilman Vasak** asked **Councilman Galusha** where were the funds suppose to come from.

**Councilman Galusha** said that he felt ambulance service was a viable reason to raise taxes.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Hitchcock**, the town board approved the 2013 Budget.

**ROLL CALL**

**GALUSHA - NO, BILLS – NO**

**HITCHCOCK - YES, VASAK - YES, WOOD – YES**

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the town board adjourned at 5:10 pm.

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

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Cynthia R. Hyde**

**Town clerk**

**11/19/2012**



Stephen W. Emerson  
Operations Manager

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

November 16, 2012

Thurman Town Board Members,

I am deeply concerned about your decision not to assist Thurman EMS with funding for 2013. The residents of Thurman voted you into office and trusted you to make sound decisions on their behalf. You may have saved them a few hundred dollars next year but at what cost?

Another concern is that you will now expect other Towns and their respective agencies to provide a service to your town for free. Putting that expense on the backs of other towns is not right or fair. I can assure you Warrensburg EMS cannot and will not guarantee any type of service to the Town of Thurman.

Supervisor Wood, as the chairperson of the Warren County Public Safety Committee: What kind of precedent are you setting? How do you think your decision will sit with your committee? More importantly, how will it sit with the Public with whose Safety you have been entrusted? What about the overall impact that your Town's decision will have on Public Safety and Emergency Medical Services in Warren County? Have you spoken with your neighboring Towns regarding your decision and the potential impact that this could have on them? I do not want to speak for them but I am reasonably certain that they would not be very happy with this either. More importantly, have you truly made an effort to meet with your own squad to try to understand the financial burdens carried by an emergency squad? Thurman EMS has done everything that you have asked of them.

To say that you are withdrawing your support to your local squad in the name of fiscal responsibility is absurd. You are correct, the taxes would have to go up for you to help the squad, but what price do you put on a life? While you have no "legal" obligation to provide EMS for your Town, you do have a MORAL obligation. I remember hours and hours of "discussions" concerning your Town's garbage service and yet you pull the funding from EMS with very minimal discussion and apparently little to no thought.

Unfortunately, in this day and age it does cost a LOT of money to provide quality EMS service at any level. While the quality and quantity of lifesaving interventions provided by the crews is ever increasing, the amount and availability of volunteers is steadily declining. Having paid staffing to compliment the volunteers has become a necessity, especially in rural areas. Having nothing in place to protect your Town and residents, you should seriously reconsider your thoughts. Supporting your local EMS is a win-win for you and the community. Pulling your support is just wrong, period.

Respectfully,

Stephen W. Emerson  
Operations Manager  
Warrensburg EMS, Inc.

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

Special 11/16/2012