

11-19-2024

**SPECIAL MEETING TO ADOPT THE 2025 BUDGET, TOWN OF THURMAN NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Thurman, County of Warren and the State of New York was held at the Thurman Town Hall, 311 Athol Road, Athol, New York on the 19th day of November 2024.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Debra Runyon Supervisor
- Randy Galusha Councilperson
- Charles Bills Councilperson
- Ed Brown Councilperson
- Doug Needham Councilperson

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- Patrick Wood Highway Superintendent
- Cynthia Hyde Town Clerk

Supervisor Runyon called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm with the pledge to the flag.

**ROLL CALL**

**DISCUSSION:** Discussion ensued regarding the budget.

**RESOLUTION 78-2024**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 BUDGET**

On a motion of Councilman Galusha, seconded by Councilman Brown, the following resolution was **ADOPTED** **ROLL CALL:** Runyon-**YES**, Galusha-**NO**, Bills-**YES**, Needham-**YES**, Brown-**YES**

**WHEREAS** the Town Board has completed the Public Hearing and discussion regarding the 2025 Budget and is satisfied that the Budget presented at the November 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting which modified the Preliminary Budget should now be considered the Final Budget, be it

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board hereby adopts the 2025 Final Budget and authorizes the Supervisor to submit this budget to Warren County.

**RESOLUTION 79-2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE TWO FBNO INVOICES**

On a motion of Councilman Galusha, seconded by Councilman Brown, the following resolution was **ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Runyon, Galusha, Bills, Needham, Brown

Nays 0

**WHEREAS** the FBNO invoice for both General Fund and Highway Fund did not come in before the November meeting, which was held a week early, and this invoice is due before the next meeting

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date, be it

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board hereby authorizes the payment of the two FBNO Invoices in the amount of A Fund \$2,507.72 and DA Fund \$568.70 as reflected in the attached vouchers.

**RESOLUTION 80-2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BARKS AND REC INVOICE**

On a motion of Councilman Needham, seconded by Councilman Bills, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Runyon, Galusha, Bills, Needham, Brown

Nays 0

**WHEREAS** the Barks and Rec invoice just came in on 11/18/2024 and is due before December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and

**WHEREAS** the invoice states that if payment is not received by December 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a termination of Dog Control Services for the 2025 year, be it

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board hereby authorizes the payment of the Barks and Rec invoice in the amount of \$2,500 so that the payment can be received prior to the termination date.

**RESOLUTION 81-2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT INVOICE**

On a motion of Councilman Needham, seconded by Councilman Galusha, the following resolution

was **ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Runyon, Galusha, Bills, Needham, Brown

Nays 0

**WHEREAS** we received a letter in the mail today from Waste Management regarding an unpaid past due amount from August in the amount of \$524.31.

**WHEREAS** Waste Management has told us that if this is not paid within the next two weeks our service will be cut off, be it

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board hereby authorizes the payment of the Waste Management invoice in the amount of \$524.31.

**RESOLUTION 82-2024**

**RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE LETTER FROM BRIAN HALL IN THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Brown, seconded by Supervisor Runyon, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Runyon, Galusha, Bills, Needham, Brown

Nays 0

The Town Board of the Town of Thurman approves the inclusion of Brain Hall's letter to the town board in the 11-19-2024 special meeting minutes. **SEE LETTER ATTACHED**

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**ADJOURN:** On a motion of Councilman Needham, seconded by Councilman Bills, the town board adjourned the meeting at 5:06 pm

**MOTION CARRIED** Ayes 5 Runyon, Galusha, Needham, Bills, Brown  
Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cynthia Hyde, Town Clerk  
November 26, 2024

Thurman Town Board:

Couple questions....

Refuse/Garbage PS A8160-1 2024 Adopted Budget \$26,465 22 hrs @ \$20.36 x 52 weeks= \$23291.84 (extra \$3173.16 - > 7 weeks of salary-yet out of money early October)

Refuse/Garbage PS-2 A8160.12 \$21,548 22 hrs @ \$18.25 x 52 weeks= \$20878.00 (extra \$670.00)

Who supervises the Recycling Center Superintendent? Who approves all the extra hours billed before they come up annually as a several thousand dollar budget adjustment after they were paid out?

That is why a board member shouldn't be in a position in which the board oversees. Clearly a conflict of interest as reflected by the hours billed the town (taxpayer money).

At the October 17,2024 meeting it was stated that the A8160-1 position worked 32 hours per week. 32 hrs x \$20.36 x 5 pay weeks in Oct '24 = \$3257.60 yet \$4338.16 was paid. (42.61 hours/week)

A8160.12 22 hrs x \$18.25 x 5 weeks = \$2007.50 Paid amount \$2135.25 (23.4 hrs/week)

Adding 5 hours to the dump hours didn't correct the over budget issue, it worsened it. The extra 10 hours claimed as picking up trash after events are questionable. The income from the landfill does not justify the salaries/hours being paid. Fewer hours at the landfill would help in keeping the losses (over \$100,000 in the red past two years) down. Seventeen hours were sufficient for many years. The revenue didn't increase with the additional hours. I understood the elimination of one part time employee in the tentative budget to be a cost saving measure, not an \$11,535 increase for the remaining employee.

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Now that the hours have been moved to Buildings-PS it is a \$13,000 increase. I am guessing that the \$1060.90 spent on code A1620.1 was for the cleaner, so what was the need to increase the \$3000 to \$5000 in the tentative 2025 budget?

Wouldn't it be more prudent to advertise for a maintenance man as opposed to awarding a third job to a current two job holder? His over budget amount would pay the Youth Director, Code Enforcement and Animal Control Officer.

Stony Creek pays the maintenance man \$19.36/hour. The budget adjustment at the November 14, 2024 meeting to increase Buildings-PS \$10,500 for 2024 is also questionable.

I realize everyone is laser focused on the new highway garage, but there doesn't seem to be any effort to save any money for it to defray the cost to the taxpayer, as evidenced by the NYClass Account entitled Highway-Garage, as specified in the January 24, 2023 resolution establishing a Fund Balance Policy, which set aside money for that intended purpose that now cannot be used for that intended purpose. How did that happen?

C&D still will need to be closed by April 4, 2032, possibly at hundreds of thousands more than being budgeted for. The road I live on still needs to be repaired, as do others per the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

I seriously worry what this town will look like a few years down the road with the debt you are willing to incur.

Posting the revised preliminary budget online 49 minutes before the Budget Hearing was held on November 7, 2024 was a great disservice to Thurman taxpayers. There was not one line item that would have made the (not approved at that time) Union Contract known to the public. It should have been available along with the Notice of Public Hearing .

Who represents the interest of the Thurman taxpayer?

Town Clerk- Please include this letter in the minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting.

Brian Hall

