

MAY 18, 2010

MINUTES OF THE FISCAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD MAY 18, 2010 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, FISCAL MEETING COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M., REGULAR MEETING COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: **MR. CHARLES BILLS**

 MR. LEON GALUSHA

 MR. JAMES LIGON

 MR. LAWRENCE [RED] PITKIN

ABSENT: **MR. AL VASAK**

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

The meeting was called to order by **Supervisor Lawrence [Red] Pitkin**

FISCAL MEETING: The Town Board reviewed all claims.

REGULAR MEETING:

Pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: On a motion by **Councilman Ligon**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the minutes from the Fiscal and Regular meeting were approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ **GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, PITKIN**

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS : On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the claims were approved with further investigation into the Curtis bill.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ **GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, PITKIN**

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MEETING WITH EMS: A future meeting will be scheduled with the EMS.

NEW BUSINESS: Due to the resignation of **Nancy Beadnell**, because of health issues, a new Bookkeeper will be hired. Discussion ensued regarding the qualifications the board would be looking for when considering candidates. **Supervisor Pitkin** apologized for not obtaining training for Nancy.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: The final drawings for the handicap access are almost ready. Work will commence when they are finished.

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN LIGON: YOUTH ~ Pre- registration for youth program is June 28, 2010 at 10:00 am. This year's program should be lots of fun. Please see the wish list posted on the town hall doors. All donations are appreciated.

FIRE CO. ~ The Fire Company had successful fundraisers during the garage sale weekend. Burning permits are now available until March 14, 2011.

Cemeteries ~ Issues with the cemeteries need to be addressed at the June regular meeting.

Occupancy Tax Committee ~ The next Occupancy Tax Committee meeting is July 4, 2010 10:00 am at the Glen Lodge.

LETTER FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: (See attached) Discussion took place on what should be done with the Harris House.

NATURE TRAIL: **Councilman Ligon** said that grant money was being held until the nature trail is developed and that this issue needed to be looked into.

RESOLUTION #46: To oppose DEC restrictions on outdoor wood boilers. On a motion by **Supervisor Pitkin**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ **GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, PITKIN**

WOOD CHIPS: **Councilman Ligon** said that the playground needed new woodchips, if possible less course than the ones used last year.

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN GALUSHA : Councilman Galusha gave a report on the highway. There was discussion about paving. The chips money hasn't come through yet so this year's paving hasn't commenced. If chips money doesn't come in funds would have to be pulled from the fund balance. **Supervisor Pitkin** asked if roads could be paved one at a time. **Highway Superintendent Pat Wood** said that when they have the paver (from the county) every road (slated to be paved) needs to be done. **Councilman Galusha** suggested waiting another month to make a decision. **Supervisor Pitkin** stated that the town board would commit to making a decision next month.

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN BILLS: Dick Needham and Ernie smith will be grooming the cemeteries this year.

RESOLUTION #43: Tabled – this was to be a resolution to accept dredging from Harris Bay at Thurman Landfill for a fee. Because of concern voiced by **Bruce Tvrdik and Jim Mosher** further investigation into possible toxicity of the dredged material is being conducted before agreeing to accept it.

RESOLUTION #43:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHANGE OF RESOLUTION #35
(PAYMENT TO THURMAN SNOWMOBILE CLUB) TO RESOLUTION #43**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Thurman hereby authorizes that previously passed Resolution #35 (Payment to Thurman Snowmobile Club) be changed to Resolution # 43 in order to correct a numbering error.

On a motion by **Councilman Ligon**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, PITKIN

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RESOLUTION #44:
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF OCCUPANCY TAX MONEY
FOR THE THURMAN FALL FARM TOUR

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Thurman hereby authorizes an Occupancy Tax grant in the amount of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) for the Thurman Fall Farm Tour.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**

LETTERS: The Town Clerk read letters from Town Justice Filomena Riviello, Dexter Baker, a resignation letter from Nancy Beadnell and a letter from Ruth Keller.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: There was discussion regarding the EMS and when there would be another public meeting. Recently the EMS has been responding to calls and seems to be working better. Some in attendance were concerned that this improvement may not be sincere and would like to see some staying power.

RESOLUTION #: (No number was given) On a motion by **Supervisor Pitkin**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, the Town Board voted to move the fiscal meeting to Mondays at 6:30 pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, PITKIN

MORE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: The Town Board was asked if they would revisit the possibility of a sole assessor. There was some interest in putting this on the ballot. Supervisor Pitkin said he would like to give this idea some thought.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business on a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Ligon**, the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, PITKIN

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia R. Hyde, Town Clerk

MAY 18, 2010

Dexter Baker

450 High Street

Athol, NY 12810

Town of Thurman

303 Athol Road

Athol, NY 12810

Dear Thurman Board and Residents,

I have written several letters in regards to the EMS issue to others and I have heard from several of them and wanted to share that information with you.

From Mountain Lakes I received word from the director of this council, Dr. Guy Goodell and he informed me of the following. First he suggested questioning the Town Board in the funding of this agency, as they were violating By-Laws and Constitutional rights and if he were a board member this would be a troubling issue. He also suggested contacting the Attorney General and Department of Health. In closing, he felt one would have to commit a serious act in order to be prohibited by the squad to be on any property that serves the community and is funded by taxpayer money. Senator Betty Little's office suggested contacting the Attorney General as well.

Aside from these individuals, I also conferred with Mountain Lakes in regards to the comment made at the Board meeting in April by the squad stating all money was required up front to take the EMT Basic course. Mountain Lakes denied this, stating as long as the person is a member of an agency and does not drop out past the deadline or fail the written exam; all costs are supported by the state and not the agency.

Thus at this time I am inquiring of the Town Board as to whether they have received the letter from the squad stating they will not be denying medical coverage to anyone in town, as my family has still not received clarification from the squad in regards to the letters banning us from their property. Also, I would like to know if the Town Board has heard from the EMS in regards to the mediation idea, as this was recommended by the Supervisor. Therefore I will continue to urge the Town Board to investigate these issues. Thanks very much,

Sincerely,

Dexter J. Baker – 5-18-2010

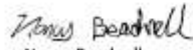
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5-18-10

To Supervisor Red Pitkin & the Thurman Town Board,

Two weeks ago I was diagnosed with De Que Veins in my right hand, which requires treatment and therapy for the next 5 weeks. If it is not successful, then I will have to have surgery. Due to this unexpected development, I feel it is in the best interest of the Town to invest bookkeeping training costs on a new hired individual since it has not been spent on me yet. I would not want taxpayer money wasted on me under these circumstances that I am currently facing. Please hire a trained bookkeeper or a person who can receive the proper training as soon as the position is filled. I wish to thank Cynthia Hyde for all her time helping me with the Impact software that she was very familiar with, and also to Ronda Thomas of Stony Creek for her advice several times. I will help you out until you have someone in place so as not to cause you any inconvenience. I have enjoyed serving the Public again. Thank You!

Sincerely Yours,


Nancy Beadnell

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May 12, 2010

To the members of the Thurman Town Board and the residents of Thurman

I felt compelled to submit a letter and wish it to be documented in the minutes to the May meeting.

I have made a few attempts to get information on the progress of Thurman's AUD which is a crucial report due to the State Comptroller's office by the end of January of this year. That report was not completed and therefore the state gave Red Pitkin an extension with the deadline of May 1st.

As you all know, my main concern has always been how our tax dollars are spent and I have followed the "money trail" with these report for several years. After several attempts for an answer as to the completion date for this report I received one response from Red and that was to blame Nancy for it not being completed due to a very recent health issue. I was appalled by the lack of concern from our Supervisor as to this report not being ready for his constituents not to mention the State. I would also like to state that without proper training that was never provided to Nancy it would be absolutely ridiculous to think she could be responsible for this report not to mention that the Secretary/Bookkeeper is NOT appointed as Chief Fiscal Officer. I would think that in the future if that responsibility is placed on their shoulders they would be **appointed** as CFO and compensated for that title.

According to the Town Law Manual the Supervisor is responsible for this report and as a tax paying resident I would expect that our Supervisor would make it his priority to complete as soon as possible.

Now to comment on the "Officials at odds over mistake" article that appeared in the May 6 edition of the Post Star.

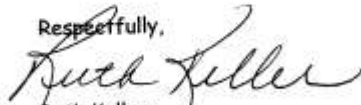
It has been my experience that Red Pitkin doesn't always research the "facts" before putting information out to the public. As a matter of fact,

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Red has, on numerous occasions while I worked with him admitted to not being a person who likes to read and prefers getting his information from others. Mr. Pitkin claimed in that article that he specifically asked Frank about the surplus before making it public knowledge which resulted in the public being told we had a surplus of 3 million dollars in the county budget from last year. Mr. Pitkin has often asked the wrong question which led to the wrong answer being given.

In closing, I would like to add that Mr. O'Keefe has been the County Treasurer for many years with the utmost integrity and honesty and would NOT back pedal or falsely place blame on others.... I wish I could say the same for Red Pitkin.

Respectfully,



Ruth Keller

Ruth Keller

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**THE JOHN THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 7
ATHOL, NY 12810**

Town of Thurman
PO Box 29
Athol, NY 12810

For the Thurman Town Board:

The John Thurman Historical Society is interested in entering into an agreement with the Town of Thurman for the use of the Harris House. Our vision would have the House used as a seasonal display site for collected Thurman-related artifacts, and a place to host our monthly meetings and public presentations. Our intended usage would not require the building be heated in the winter.

Before we invest funds on the interior façade, we feel the Town needs to correct the structural and electrical problems in order to make the building safe for the public. Because we will be making improvements we would also like a 5-year commitment from the Town that they agree to maintain the building.

We understand the process can be a lengthy one and we are not seeking an immediate commitment. We would like to know your intentions so that we can plan our future.

Respectfully,

The John Thurman Historical Society
Executive Committee

From Hon. Filomena Rivello -

5/14/2010

To: Thurman Town Board.

Members,

I am requesting that the Court office System be connected to the Town Hall power back up system (Guardian generator). Our last power outage caused our computer monitors to fail. We have been using a borrowed monitor for the time being. I fear that future power interruptions might cause irreparable damage to our Computer Systems.

Thank you
Filomena Rivello