

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND FISCAL TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD AUGUST 18, 2009 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, FISCAL MEETING COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M. AND REGULAR MEETING COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. LEON GALUSHA

MR. JAMES LIGON

MR. LAWRENCE [RED] PITKIN

MR. ALBERT VASAK

ABSENT: MR. CHARLES BILLS

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

The meeting was called to order by **Mr. Lawrence Pitkin, Supervisor**

FISCAL MEETING: Supervisor Pitkin said that the four young men that worked with the highway crew this summer [under the tutelage of Ed Brown] had perfect attendance, arrived early every morning and did an outstanding job.

Supervisor Pitkin reminded the board that approval was needed for **Witz Roofing** contingent upon procurement of a certified payroll.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: The Town Board reviewed all claims. On a motion by **Al Vasak**, seconded by **James Ligon** payment of claims from abstract **#43** General fund [**\$10,010.66**], and **#69** Highway fund [**\$27,325.91**] was approved.

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

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING:

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

Roll call of Town Board Members by the Town Clerk

A moment of silence for our troops.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2009 MINUTES:

On a motion by **Leon Galusha**, seconded by **Al Vasak** the minutes were approved.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: The public hearing for **Robert Merchant** commenced at 7:03 P.M. **Supervisor Pitkin** read the subdivision plan and **Councilman Vasak** asked questions. The public hearing was left open for the time being.

Councilman Galusha reported on the EMS meeting that he along with **Supervisor Pitkin** attended. The **Thurman Ems** does not have enough volunteers to provide around the clock coverage. Currently daytime calls will be answered by **Warrensburg EMS** and night time calls will be answered by the **Thurman EMS**.

There was discussion about “soft billing” [*brought up and discussed by the attending public*] which apparently is practiced by the **Warrensburg EMS**. What happens is that the patient’s insurance company is billed; the unpaid amount is then billed to the patient. Evidently the amount due can be high [state mandated EMS equipment is very expensive]. If the patient pays the bill the EMS gets their money. If the patient does not pay their bill it is not pursued or sent to collections; it is dropped.

Whether or not one's record for payment or for nonpayment will affect the ambulance service they will receive in the future is anyone's guess. The bottom line is; if we [residents of Thurman] don't volunteer we can expect to pay for EMS service to our town.

The next topic discussed was becoming an EMS volunteer. **Councilman Ligon** wanted to know what kinds of volunteers were needed. **Suzie Baker** [EMS volunteer and treasurer] said that EMT'S were needed. **Baker** explained it takes 120 hours of training, which needs to be renewed every three years, to become an EMT. Training is often offered in places easily reached by more than one town. **Baker** also said that once training is complete the state will reimburse all of the costs. **Councilman Vasak** felt that stringent state mandates discouraged people from pursuing EMT training.

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN LIGON: **Councilman Ligon** reported that the youth program had finished up for the summer. **Ligon** said that current youth activities were Saturday night movies on the hill, the Nature Explorers Club [limited # of members 3 openings left] and the **LARAC** Youth Search and Rescue.

The next **Occupancy Tax Committee** meeting is September 25, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the Glen Lake Lodge.

SUBDIVISION: **Loren Eddy** asked **Mr. Merchant** questions regarding his subdivision.

On a motion by **Lawrence [Red] Pitkin**, seconded by **Leon Galusha** the Town Board approved the subdivision proposed by **Robert Merchant**.

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

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was terminated at 7:34 P.M...

ATV: The Town of Thurman has had some problems with ATV's; this has led to complaints about the local ATV club **S.A.F.E.** **Supervisor Pitkin** and club member **Joan Harris** have researched this issue and found that **S.A.F.E** club members have been responsible and law abiding.

Supervisor Pitkin stated that it was unfair to group the **S.A.F.E** club with other abusive riders. **Joan Harris** said that **S.A.F.E** needs to use the pavilion [as indicated in the letter from **S.A.F.E** read at last month's meeting] and asked if the board would give their approval. **Councilman Galusha** said that **S.A.F.E** would be responsible for any damage. **Joan Harris** agreed that **S.A.F.E** would be responsible just as any other group would be that rents the pavilion. **Harris** felt that one group shouldn't be singled out and asked different questions. **Paula Hubert** asked who had been invited to this ATV event. **Harris** answered that outsiders had been invited for guided trial rides. The next day of the event private trails would be available for a fee. **Harris** added that **S.A.F.E** would have a booth at the **Fiddler's Jamboree** designed to promote safety. **Loren Eddy** wanted to know if these people could continue to use the trails in Thurman. **Harris** replied that the use of private ATV trails in Thurman was a benefit belonging to club members only. **Councilman Vasak** commented that town folks were probably afraid that once these outsiders use the trails they will know where they are and then use them without permission. **Harris** said that **S.A.F.E** has cameras on the trails and that rules were enforced.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERVISOR:

Supervisor Pitkin discussed the possible new [and expensive] time clock system that the county was looking at [and the board of Supervisors would vote on]. **Pitkin** said that the sheriff department offered up an alternative system and then went on to explain the pros and cons of both. **Pitkin** stated that studies found the new time clocks saved money but he felt that he would need more information before deciding which way to vote.

Supervisor Pitkin commended **Perky Granger** and **Cheryl Kenyon** for the work they put into the **Thurman Farmers Market**.

Discussion turned to the train and why it wasn't coming to Thurman. **Supervisor Pitkin** said that the train would come to Thurman Station if there was something marketable such as a gift shop. **Pitkin** surmised that the train station was an embarrassment.

RESOLUTION #79:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE UPGRADES TO THE TOWN HALL

The Town Board authorized the release of up to \$12,000.00 from the capital reserve fund in order to hire a temporary, full time carpenter and to hire **Bruce Tvrdik** for an additional 16 hours per week for the duration of the following jobs. Pay scale to be \$13.00 per hour.

1. Building a records storage room in the basement of the town hall.
2. Repairing previous sheet rock and insulation from water damage on the main floor of the town hall.
3. Renovating the second floor of the town hall to include new insulation and sheetrock.

On a motion by **James Ligon**, seconded by **Albert Vasak** the board approved resolution # 79.

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

Supervisor Pitkin explained that the town hall building needed some repairs due to water damage and some remodeling to accommodate the new town court area and assessor's office. **Pitkin** said that he would supervise the work and that he felt this plan was cost effective.

Money for the new roof will come out of the capital reserve fund and a grant would pay for the installation of a new court area.

Use of the **Harris House** was offered to the **John Thurman Historical Society**. **Supervisor Pitkin** said they weren't open to the idea at this time. **Pitkin** said that the **Harris House** could be closed up for the time being and its future contemplated.

Councilman Vasak wanted to know the anticipated time frame for completion of work on the town hall. **Councilman Galusha** was concerned that the town could be responsible for unemployment benefits to these short term workers. **Supervisor Pitkin** said that work on the town hall wouldn't take that long.

Councilman Vasak noticed that resolution #79 read 12 million rather than 12 thousand. **Supervisor Pitkin** said resolution # 79 would be corrected.

Loran Eddy suggested using the highway crew for some of the work at the town hall. **Supervisor Pitkin** said **Pat Wood** [Highway Superintendent] offered to help. **Pitkin** said his concern was the time

element and thought that the highway crew could pitch in if the construction took longer than expected.

Loran Eddy and **Supervisor Pitkin** discussed the handicap entrance. **Pitkin** said that he thought the back entrance was an insult.

DUMP TRUCK BIDS: The following sealed bids were received for the purchase of a 1995 Ford C-9000 tandem dump truck with a 64" head plow, flow and dump box.

From **John Studer** \$5,100.00

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak** seconded by **Councilman Galusha** the town board accepted the bid from **John Studer** in the amount of **\$5,100.00** for the purchase of the 1995 Ford C-9000 tandem dump truck

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

S.A.F.E.: Every year **S.A.F.E.** requests the use of sections of road connecting their private trails. Approval was granted with certain stipulations. **S.A.F.E.** followed the rules and has proven to be a respectable club. **Joan Harris** from the **S.A.F.E.** ATV club asked to now have these sections of road open to their club without the need for yearly approval. **Harris** said that **S.A.F.E.** would inform the town board when sections of road were no longer needed.

Supervisor Pitkin was concerned that the poker run [the event that **S.A.F.E.** wants the use of the youth field for] could drum up business and it may be difficult to police these trails. **Harris** said that anyone experiencing problems with other ATV's should call the police. **Harris** felt that **S.A.F.E** should not have to seek approval every year.

Supervisor Pitkin stated that the board should look at the agreement with the snowmobile club. If the snowmobile club was afforded an ongoing agreement the same should be offered to the ATV club.

COURT CURTAIN: **Supervisor Pitkin** asked everyone's opinion on the color of the new court curtain.

LETTERS: The Town Clerk read a letter from **Sally Joe Wallace** expressing interest in volunteering for the youth commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by **James Ligon**, seconded by **Al Vasak** the **Town Board** went into executive session at 8:28 P.M.

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

On a motion by **Leon Galusha**, seconded by **Al Vasak** the **Town Board** came out of executive session at 8:54 P.M.

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

BACKGROUND CHECKS: On a motion by **Lawrence [Red] Pitkin**, seconded by **Leon Galusha** the board made the decision to conduct a background check on anyone that volunteers for the youth commission.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business on a motion by **Councilman Ligon**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha** the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m...

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

AUGUST 18, 2009 TOWN BOARD MEETING

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Hyde, Town Clerk

September 4, 2009