

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD OCTOBER 21, 2008 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 7:00P.M.

PRESENT: **MRS. RUTH KELLER**

MR. LEON GALUSHA

MR. CHARLES BILLS

MR. JAMES LIGON

MR. JOHN HASKELL

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Birdsall, Assessor, Susan Baker, Assessor, Jeff Ackley, Deputy Highway Superintendent, and Paula Hubert, Deputy Town Clerk .

ATTENDING PUBLIC: Loren and Joyce Eddy, Karma Smith, Lillie Cameron, Bob Florance, Peggy Florance, Carolyn Grotevant, James Desourdy, John Schroeter, Brian Hall, Pierre Cyr, Terry Beadnell and Ed Binder

The meeting was called to order by **John Haskell, Supervisor**

Roll call of Town Board members by the Town Clerk

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

A moment of silence for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

On a motion by **Councilman Ligon**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, that the minutes of the September Regular Town Board meetings be approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, it was moved that the claims be paid on abstract #92 general fund and abstract #41 highway fund. **Councilwoman Keller** approved all payments except #20080842. The reason is that money was spent on a badge when it was known that an ID badge was available for free from the county.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

SNOW MOBILE CLUB:

The Thurman Connection snowmobile club requests a variance to build a pole barn, for storing groomers, on a one acre lot on Bear Pond road.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha** seconded by **Councilwoman Keller**, it was moved that the Thurman Connection Snowmobile club be granted a variance for a pole barn on a one acre lot on Bear Pond road.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

UNIFORMS:

Supervisor Haskell read a letter from Unifirst containing a proposal for floor mats and shop towels.

YEARBOOK AD:

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha** seconded by **Councilman Bills**, it was moved that the Town Of Thurman would take a ¼ page ad in the Warrensburg Year book.

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

1 ABSTAIN ~ KELLER

COMPUTERS:

There was discussion about off site data storage and an additional user license from Harris.

FOOD PANTRY:

Brother Jim from North Country Ministries advised the board on applying for a grant to benefit the Thurman Food Pantry.

On a motion by **Councilwoman Keller** seconded by **Councilman Ligon** it was moved that the Town of Thurman would apply for this food pantry grant.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

MEALS ON WHEELS:

Supervisor Haskell read a letter from **Bob Florance** expressing interest in the meals on wheels driver position.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha** seconded by **Councilman Bills** it was moved that the Town Board would hire **Bob Florance** to fill the meals on wheels position.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN LIGON:

Councilman Ligon reported on the Occupancy Tax meeting that was held October 21, 2008. Following is a list of recommended spending

Country Christmas Bazaar \$800.00

Thurman Maple Days \$5,000.00 [This includes funding for the Jack Wax Dinner]

Thurman Townwide Sale \$700.00

Cooks Septic \$200.00

General Publicity \$1,500.00

Sign Labor \$50.00

The next Occupancy Tax meeting is January 16, 2009 10:00 A.M. at the Town Hall

Councilman Ligon proposed computer training for town employees so that everyone using town computers would have basic skills.

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN GALUSHA:

Councilman Galusha stressed that when the Town Hall roof went up for bid that repairs needed on the Harris House also be on there.

REPORT FROM COUNCILWOMAN KELLER:

The Youth Committee is having a Halloween party. **Councilwoman Keller** asked that everyone pass the word about the community Bargain Basement. The donated clothing is downstairs at the town hall and people are asked to help themselves. **Councilwoman Keller** would like

to thank the highway guys for a job well done. **Keller** said that Planty's Salvage is interested in getting Thurman's metals and she purposes that the board accept their offer. **Councilwoman Keller** stated that a computer virus was found on one of the town computers and **Andy Knoll** fixed it. She would like to see Andy hired as Thurman's computer technician. **Keller** is interested in seeing the Thurman Tax Rolls on the web.

Councilwoman Keller will write a contract for Planty's salvage and check on their insurance.

COMPUTERS:

The Board discussed hiring **Andy Knoll** as Thurman's computer technician. **Supervisor Haskell** said that **Councilman Ligon** was one of the ones who always insists on advertising and wondered why, now that we have this high paying position he doesn't want to advertise. **Councilman Ligon** said that it was an emergency situation and **Councilwoman Keller** explained what the issues were. **Supervisor Haskell** said that he was sorry he rubbed **Councilman Ligon** the wrong way but that's how he wanted to do business up until today. The board decided to authorize an hourly rate not to exceed what was being paid to Tech II.

On a motion by **Councilwoman Keller** seconded by **Councilman Ligon** it was moved that the Town Board would authorize an hourly rate to pay a computer technician, not to exceed the amount paid to Tech II.

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

1 NAY ~ HASKELL

Supervisor Haskell asked that this position be advertised, and said that if every other job opening is advertised, then this one should be also.

Councilwoman Keller suggested that **Andy Knoll** be paid for the work that he did and is doing to help in an emergency situation. For future work she agreed that an ad for computer technician be put in the paper.

TAX ROLLS ON THE INTERNET:

Councilwoman Keller wants to see Town of Thurman Tax Rolls on the Warren County Real Property Tax Services web site [www.co.warren.ny.us/rp/rolls.php] where the tax rolls for most Warren County towns are located. She has received many calls from residents who would like the Thurman assessment roll to be on the web. Both of Thurman's Assessors were present, **Mr. Thomas Birdsall**, Chairman and **Mrs. Susan Baker**. **Birdsall** does not want the Tax Rolls on the web because he believes they contain personal information and can be viewed by anyone including those who might not have people's best interests in mind. **Baker** explained what information is contained in these rolls. Both Assessors felt that public access to this personal information could pose a threat to Thurman's residents especially Thurman's elders. **Mr. John Schroder** said that the tax rolls are public knowledge and in this day and age to say one must go to the clerk's office or the tax collectors office is not being open. **Schroder** also said that public information should be as public as it can be. **Mr. Loran Eddy** said that putting the tax rolls on the internet could set residents up for nuisance calls. **Mrs. Joyce Eddy** said she was not interested in computers being used for prying into other people's business. **Pierre Cyr** said that the tax rolls are public information and that they are

available at the Warren County Municipal Center. **Cyr** said that it isn't easy for a working person to get to the municipal center or to the assessor's office and that it was unfair to not make this public information accessible. **Brian Hall** stated that the Assessor's Office hours are limited and that people shouldn't have to drive to the municipal center. He also said that Allstate Insurance had his property assessment details and that they had bought it. **Pierre Cyr** stated that this information wasn't personal because if it was, it wouldn't be out there. **Birdsall** suggested making extra copies of the Tax Rolls for people to take out like a library book. **Councilwoman Keller** said that the assessors were creating hysteria over nothing. **Assessor Birdsall** said that the three Towns not online have remote areas and he fears that web access to these towns assessment rolls could be used by people for negative reasons. **Keller** said that the assessors were creating a false fear for the seniors. **Birdsall** said that he disagreed but that they would consider the arguments and think it over.

RESOLUTION # 31:

A resolution to authorize budget adjustments.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Ligon**, it was moved that Resolution #31 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

RESOLUTION # 32:

A resolution to authorize the town clerk to advertise for bids.

On a motion by **Councilwoman Keller**, seconded by **Councilman Galusha**, it was moved that Resolution #32 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

RESOLUTION # 33:

A resolution authorizing the town justice to apply for a grant.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, it was moved that Resolution #33 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ KELLER, GALUSHA, BILLS, LIGON, HASKELL

HANDICAP ACCESSABLE VOTER'S ENTRANCE:

Bill Montfort applied for a grant to make a handicap accessible entrance to the Thurman Town Hall for voting purposes. The Town will be responsible for the initial monetary outlay and will then be reimbursed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Town Clerk read a letter from **Matthew Mattson** about opening a law firm in Thurman.

Discussion:

Thomas Birdsall thanked **Councilman Ligon** for his help with the assessor's computer.

Councilwoman Keller asked **Mr. Birdsall** if he was aware that elected officials need to keep track of their hours for ninety days. **Keller** also wanted to know what the assessors were doing now. **Assessor Susan Baker** said that they were working on new owner information, backup rolls, sending lists to star, sending in forms for star rebates, building permits, zoning compliance forms and dealing with APA problems.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Bob Florence wanted to give an "ATTA boy" to the highway department for their good work. **Councilman Ligon** talked about the heat gadget that the Fire Department got with grant money. **Ligon** said that this gadget could detect heat in walls or could detect a child hiding or someone passed out. **Councilwoman Keller** commented on the beautiful job done on the **Fire Department** building. **Councilman Ligon** wanted to know if a schedule was in place for finishing the nature trail. **Supervisor Haskell** said that the nature trail is scheduled to be finished in December and that **Jim Lakatos** has the schedule. **Councilman Ligon** wanted to know when the clearing and clean up would be done. **Supervisor Haskell** said that it depends on the weather but that it should be completed by December.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business on a motion by **Councilman Galusha**,
seconded by **Councilman Bills** the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M. .

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Hyde, Town Clerk

November 3, 2008

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Abstract approval form**
- 2. Letter from Thurman Connection**
- 3. Letter from Unifirst**
- 4. Letter from North Country Ministry**
- 5. Letter from Bob Florance [meals on wheels]**
- 6. Resolution 31**
- 7. Resolution 32**
- 8. Resolution 33**
- 9. Letter from Matthew Mattson**
- 10. Grant update**
- 11. Secretary's report**

