

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD NOVEMBER 18, 2008 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: **MRS. RUTH KELLER**

MR. LEON GALUSHA

MR. CHARLES BILLS

MR. JAMES LIGON

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

The meeting was called to order by **Leon Galusha, Deputy 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 October 20, 2008 Regular Town Board meetings be approved.

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

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

On a motion by **Councilman Ligon**, seconded by **Councilman Bills**, it was moved that the claims be paid on abstract #98 general fund and abstract #45 highway fund.

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

CORRESPONDANCE:

The Town Clerk read a letter from **Helise Flickstein** about a road sign and a letter from **Charles Dingman** [including a note from his doctor] regarding returning to work after his injury.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

Councilman Ligon announced the Christmas party at the Town Hall would be

Councilman Bills said that a stop sign is needed on Dippikill Road. **Bills** asked to be removed from the landfill committee.

Councilwoman Keller spoke with National Grid and resolved the meter access problem. **Keller** said that Planty's will provide a contract regarding metals from the landfill and revenue the town will receive from these metals.

Councilwoman Keller asked that **Councilman Bills** return his landfill key.

Councilman Bills stated that he had an issue with Planty's and wanted the other board members to take over.

Councilwoman Keller said that she did not know that Bills had demanded a certain price from Planty's, Keller said that Planty's salvage would pay the going rate.

Councilman Ligon stated that the clothing drive was going well.

BUDGET 2009:

Councilman Leon Galusha said that the tentative budget had a 62% increase, the board reduced the budget to reflect a 25% increase.

Uncontrollable factors such as salt and fuel were cited as reasons for the increase.

Councilman Ligon made a motion to adopt the budget and **Councilman Bills** seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: AYES 3 ~ **Galusha, Ligon, Bills**

ABSTAIN 1 ~ Keller

RESOLUTION # 34:

A resolution to authorize **Leon Galusha** and **Cynthia Hyde** to cosign town checks.

Councilwoman Keller made a motion to approve RESOLUTION #34 and **Councilman Bills** seconded it.

MOTION CARRIED: AYES 4 ~ **Keller, Galusha, Ligon, Bills**

RESOLUTION #35

A Resolution to authorize budget adjustments.

Councilwoman Keller made a motion to approve RESOLUTION #35 and **Councilman Ligon** seconded it.

MOTION CARRIED: AYES 4 ~ **Keller, Galusha, Ligon, Bills**

RESOLUTION #36:

A resolution to authorize entering into contracts with bands and a firework company paid for with occupancy tax money,

Councilwoman Keller made a motion to approve **RESOLUTION #36** and **Councilman Ligon** seconded it.

MOTION CARRIED: AYES 4 ~ Keller, Galusha, Ligon, Bills

SPECIAL MEETING:

Deputy Supervisor Leon Galusha asked the town clerk to advertise the available supervisor position. Those interested should submit a letter to the town clerk and attend the December 5, 2008 6:00 P.M. meeting at the town hall. Letters of interest regarding the computer technician position will also be open that night.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Eileen Baker [Tax Collector] wanted to know why **Councilman Galusha** wasn't going to be supervisor; she also said that if the board appoints a supervisor then the people have nothing to say about it.

Robert Anthoine asked if **John Haskell** submitted a letter of resignation. **Anthoine** said that he suggests, demands as a citizen, for our own stability, to stop going on this roller coaster ride that the board asks for **Mr. Haskell's** written resignation. This will mean the position is open; once we have that we don't care what his sentence is, we don't care what the judge does, the point is he is gone. **Robert Anthoine** said that he is waiting to hear some kind of expression of remorse from the town board or from **Mr. Haskell**. **Anthoine** feels this town is a disgrace and asked the board to ask for a letter of resignation so we have some

clarity, some stability, so we can move forward. He suggested that **Mr. Haskell's** political and legal operatives could convince the Supreme Court to set aside the conviction prior to sentencing.

Councilman Galusha said that the board had been advised by the Association of Towns attorneys that the supervisor office is vacant and that it wasn't necessary to get a written resignation. **Galusha** said that the board's job was to continue on.

Eileen Baker said that there wasn't a full board and that the town needed a full board to make decisions.

Councilman Galusha assured her that according to the law the board could operate in its present position.

Eileen Baker said that we lived in Thurman all of our lives, all of us here. I live in a little old cabin up on the hill, you know. What the h___ has happened to this town?

Councilwoman Keller asked who are you blaming.

Eileen Baker stated that I'm blaming everybody. We work together, us locals work together.

Councilman Galusha replied, that is what everyone was trying to do work together.

Eileen Baker stated that, we're not all locals.

Robert Anthoine said that at **Mr. Haskell's** Trial two board members testified for Mr. Haskell, the jury looked at the evidence and said that you were part of this drama. This town has no credibility; they convicted him of a felony. **Mr. Galusha** if I were you I would resign.

Councilman Galusha replied that he had not done anything illegal and that if he had he would have been brought up on charges. **Galusha** said that until that happen he had a job to do and would do it to the best of his ability.

Mr. Anthoine stated that if you think that special prosecutor is gone you better think again.

Councilman Ligon said that the state comptroller suggested we appoint a person to occasionally review the town payroll; a board member could do it.

Councilman Galusha suggested a full board could look over the payroll at the monthly fiscal meeting.

Councilman Ligon agreed it could be done at the fiscal meeting and **Councilman Galusha** stated that then there will be no mistakes.

Carolyn Cyr said that WCS fourth graders have collected books for babies and are donating about 250 books to the town.

Councilman Ligon brought up the need to change the locks on all town buildings.

Eileen Baker strongly said that don't you trust us people, you know we're not going to steal from our own town.

Councilman Ligon said that the locks are old and the list of people authorized to have keys need to be updated.

Eileen Baker stated that so you need locks that will cost money.

Councilman Ligon replied that our town records are in here; we have had a problem with one of the town computers being unprotected

which meant that anyone could walk in and get personal information about anyone employed by the town.

Eileen Baker said that she wanted to thank everybody body for voting for her for tax collector. She also said “I hope you all go the right way with our town, it is our town.” [Amen and a light round of applause was heard from the crowd].

Councilwoman Keller asked Ms. Baker if she condoned breaking the law.

Eileen Baker said that she did not condone breaking the law but that she didn’t feel one person had the right to run the law.

Councilwoman Keller asked who the person that’s.. [Keller gets interrupted by Eileen Baker]

Eileen Baker said “well it seems to be you”

Councilwoman Keller said in surprise I’m running the law!

Councilman Galusha called time out.

Councilwoman Keller said that she wanted to clear the air.

Eileen Baker said never mind clearing the air I see it all all the time.

Councilwoman Keller continued to say that a complaint came to me from the previous owner [of Haskell’s property], I would have been neglectful not to act on his concern.

Eileen Baker stated that no you wouldn’t because you’re not from around here.

At this point the room erupted with many people talking at the same time in an agitated way.

Richard Morasse said that we are all tax payers.

Councilman Galusha said that this was not the time to argue.

Eileen Baker said “why not”.

Councilwoman Keller said that she would like to clear the air, when that man came to me and explained what happen. Keller then said to **Eileen Baker** please don't give me that look I don't deserve that.

Eileen Baker replied I'll give you any kind of look I want to give you.

There was discussion on having someone change the locks.

Richard Morasse asked **Ruth Keller** how the situation[with the land that Haskell owned adjoining town property] came to her attention.

Keller said that the previous owner called her just after she had taken the oath of office; he said that he had heard through the grapevine that the new owner had received a right of way across town property. I told him absolutely not, I attended that meeting and the supervisor only asked for a utility easement. Because of that complaint I looked. When I started seeing the discrepancies, listening to the tape, going down to the county and looking at the documents; I realized there was something wrong with the whole picture.

There was a loud round of applause for **Councilwoman Keller**.

Councilman Ligon brought up the roofing job that needs to be done. He and **Councilman Galusha** discussed checking with the association of

towns on the need for an engineer and decided to address this at the December regular meeting.

Pierre Cyr said that he would like to thank the town board for working together in a positive manner.

Highway Superintendent Pat Wood asked about the letter written about Charles Olds road. He said that there were no plans to pave this road and that he was not authorized to put up speed signs.

Councilman Ligon suggested the board appoint someone to look for a new town attorney with municipal law experience.

Councilman Galusha said that they would need to appoint an attorney at the January Organizational meeting and that he would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business on a motion by **Councilman Ligon** seconded by **Councilman Bills** the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M. . .

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Hyde, Town Clerk

November 26, 2008