

DECEMBER 15, 2009

MINUTES OF THE FISCAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD DECEMBER 15, 2009 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. LAWRENCE [RED] PITKIN

 MR. AL VASAK

ABSENT: **MR. JAMES LIGON**

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

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

FISCAL MEETING: The Town Board decided to look into ways to cut down on veterinary bills possibly with a resolution or local law holding dog owners more accountable.

Councilman Galusha called National Grid and found out they would replace our street light with a more energy efficient bulb. **Galusha** is going to look into ways to save energy in the Town Hall possibly with the help of National Grid.

The Board questioned which highway truck the Shaw bill was for.

Two vouchers the Board had questions on are 20091071 and 20091073.

The Highway Department put in a request for two sets of tires.

REGULAR MEETING:

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

A moment of silence for our troops

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, the **November 17, 2009** minutes were approved.

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

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: On a motion by **Councilman Bills**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak** payment of claims from abstract # 71 General fund[\$10,653.92], and abstract # 88 Highway fund [\$206,138.69] were approved.

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

NEW BUSINESS: The Assessors won't be moving into the Town Hall until the handicap ramp is installed, probably in the spring.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: The County has cut the budget and is looking at a 6.1% increase in county taxes.

The 1% hike in Warren County sales tax was approved by the Board of Supervisors, however **Supervisor Pitkin** voted **NO** on the increase. **Pitkin** said he couldn't vote for the increase because the Board of Supervisors didn't put any teeth [stipulations designed to prevent irresponsible spending of this extra income] into the sales tax hike.

Supervisor Pitkin said that he was back in his office and that Bruce was finishing up the remodeled 2nd floor.

REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN VASAK: **Councilman Vasak** has done some sleuthing of area landfills. **Vasak** compared our landfill operation with others to see if it could be improved or if we should proceed as is. **Vasak** thought there could be some minor fee increases. He also wondered if people went to the landfill in the dead of the winter when it was dark [Saturday evenings, the landfill is open until 5:00 pm].

The Board decided to look into changing the trailer load price, the senior citizen discount and whether anyone goes to the dump in the dark.

COUNCILMAN BILLS: Councilman Bills asked the board for permission to hold a benefit [for Donald Vopleus] at the town hall and asked if the board would be willing to waive the fee. The Town Board agreed.

RESOLUTION #101: A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT a contract with Warren County for snow and ice removal in 2010.

On a motion by Councilman Galusha, seconded by Councilman Bills

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

RESOLUTION #102: A RESOLUTION TO enter into a contract with lakes to locks passage, inc. for the Warren County Quadricentennial program.

On a motion by Councilman Bills, seconded by Councilman Vasak

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

LETTERS: The Town Clerk read a resignation letter from Susan Shepler and one from Eileen Baker.

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

RESOLUTION #103: A RESOLUTION TO accept Susan Shepler's resignation as part time accounts clerk effective December 17, 2009.

On a motion by Councilman Galusha, seconded by Councilman Vasak

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

RESOLUTION #104: A RESOLUTION TO accept Eileen Baker's resignation as Tax Collector effective December 11, 2009.

On a motion by Councilman Bills, seconded by Councilman Galusha

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

RESOLUTION #105: A RESOLUTION TO appoint Robin Croissant to replace Eileen Baker and complete the term of office for the Tax Collector term that ends December 31, 2011.

On a motion by **Councilman Vasak**, seconded by **Supervisor Pitkin**.

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

RESOLUTION # 106: A RESOLUTION TO authorize Occupancy Tax expenditures.

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

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

RESOLUTION #107: A RESOLUTION TO absorb duties of part time accounts clerk into those of the supervisor's secretary.

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

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

Discussion ensued regarding the new position, explaining that the Town Board would hire for this position instead of leaving it for the whim of the supervisor.

DSL: The Town Board authorized the change from Hughesnet to Verizon DSL for highspeed internet.

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak** Verizon DSL was approved.

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

VOUCHERS: The Town Board agreed to discontinue the purchase order system and go back to vouchers starting December 16, 2009.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Discussion took place regarding the 1% sale tax hike and county decision making.

DECEMBER 15, 2009

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by **Councilman Galusha**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak** the Town Board went into executive session at 8:02 pm

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

On a motion by **Councilman Galusha** seconded by **Councilman Vasak** the Town Board came out of executive session at 8:18 pm.

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

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business on a motion by **Councilman Galusha** seconded by **Councilman Vasak** the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 P.M...

MOTION CARRIED: 4YES ~ GALUSHA, BILLS, PITKIN, VASAK

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia R. Hyde, Town Clerk

DECEMBER 15, 2009