A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Thurston, County of Steuben, and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7578 County Route 333 on the 18th day of February 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Present:	Town Supervisor:	Michael Volino
	Town Council:	Daniel Gee, Noel Sylvester
	Highway Superintendent:	Alan Crooker
	Assessor:	Diana Dixon
	Code Enforcement Officer:	Nick Nolton
	Fire Department Secretary:	Desiree Fisk
Absent:	Town Council:	Jennifer Hargrave, Holly Chase

Visitors: Darlene Chase, Desiree Fisk, Jeff Sweeney, Lisa Hargrave, Tim Hargrave, Eva Turner, Neil Henshaw, Rick Loucks Jr., Mary Marseglia, Dolores Crooker, Sam Dick

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. following the two public hearings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Neil Henshaw asked the Board to consider removing some cement blocks that are on the left-hand side of the playground as they present a hazard. Michael noted we will look at this when we do our spring cleanup. Neil Henshaw said the playground is an asset to the community.
There being no further comment, motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that public comment be closed. The motion was passed unanimously by all members present.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the minutes from the January 21 public hearing (Spectrum Franchise), the January 21 regular meeting, the February 4 public hearing (Moratorium), and the February 4 special meeting be approved as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by those members present.

BILLS PAYABLE: Michael Volino presented the following bills for payment. He noted that at a recent training it was recommended that each council member present sign the Abstract of Audited Vouchers at each meeting after reviewing it. A copy of the abstract is sent to them via email prior to the meeting.
General: $15,164.72 listed on Vouchers A27 – A49
Community Development: $103,393.08 lister on Vouchers A32-24
Highway: $550,453.98 listed on Vouchers DA13-DA31
Trust and Agency: $165.00 listed on TA2

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by Dan Gee that the bills for the month of February 2026 be paid as presented above. Unanimously passed by all members present.

Town Clerk:
- noted she collected $478 during January with $60.00 for landfill tickets, $250 for town hall rental, and $168.00 for dog licenses;
-noted the Tax Collector has received payment for 741 out of 1002 total bills leaving 261 outstanding bills. She has cut four checks to the Supervisor in the total amount of $804,310.96.
- noted she has received the 2025 Fire Department Call list and has posted it to the Town Website.

Historian: Nothing this month

Assessor: Diana Dixon said the deadline for exemptions is March 1, 2026.

Justice: Nothing to report this month as there was no court in January.

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Dog Control: Randy Akins reported 5 calls during January.
- The Spring **rabies clinic** has been scheduled for April 23, 2026 upon confirmation from the Vet.
- Noted once the new shelter passes inspection, we can house dogs there

Fire Department: Nothing this month.

Code Enforcement: Nick Nolton reported 4 permits issued with $250.00 in fees, we are waiting on $150.00 for two more permits, and had one permit renewal.

Highway: Alan Crooker reported the following activity for January 19 – February 15:
- All roads have been checked 15 times plowed and sanded 12 times. Plowed and sanded the Town Hall parking lot 5 times and the Fire Dept parking lot 5 times. Cleared Town Hall sidewalks of ice and snow 10 times. Pushed snowdrifts back with the excavator 11 times.
- Fixed potholes on Tucker, Dee, and Reed Hill roads. Need to fix the intersection of McIntosh and Tucker roads.
- Six loads of scrap steel went to Weitsman's Recycling in Hornell.
- Two loads of scrap tires went to Steuben County Landfill at no charge to the Town.
- Installed the replacement window in the 2009 JD Grader. Put cutting edges on the snow plows. Undercoated the frame on the 2022 Chevy pickup and installed a new box, bumper, and new brake pads. Scott's Repair mounted four new tires on the 2022 pickup. Mobile Tech fixed the radio in the 2022 Peterbilt. Kenworth Tech fixed the turbo actuator on the 2025 Peterbilt dump truck. Parts were under warranty but the service call was not. Fixed the turbo air leak on the Sterling dump truck and replaced 2 U-bolts in the rear of the rearend. Changed air and fuel filters on the Topkick and added fuel treatment.
- 01/23/26 Attended the Highway Superintendent Training class at the Raddison Hotel in Corning.
- 01/27/26 All employees attended Sexual Harassment & Work Place Violence training.
- 2026 JD Grader was delivered on 01/30/26. Mobile Tech removed the radio from the old grader and installed it in the new grader.
- Looked at Jim Morse, Jr.'s mailbox and post. It was determined that the snowplow did not hit it.
- Cleaned up the Western Star water truck and the 2009 Grader for pictures on (02/04/26) to be placed on Auctions International. Also, 10 cases consisting of (6 gallons) paint and supplies will be placed on Auctions International.
- Met with Pelham Electric for an estimate for electric service at the highway shop.
- Bradley Supply delivered 2 torch carts with center divider required by PERMA.
- Hired Trevor York for the part time MEO. Trevor will begin work on March 2, 2026.

Town Supervisor: Michael Volino reported the following activity since the last Board meeting.
- Attended NYAOT's Newly Elected School (10 credits)
- Completed Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment training
- We were not awarded funding for Comprehensive Planning, he met with STC and NYS officials to discuss an application for 2026 – there were 84 applications and the top 14 were chosen, Thurston was # 15
- The month end closing for January was completed and sent to the Town Board
- project list has been submitted to the County for the Hazard Mitigation plan, draft plan for April
- Thurston cemeteries registered for National Wreaths across American Day 2026
- the Parks Grant for 2026 has been submitted

Town Supervisor continued

- Met with Labella & STC re CDBG, down payment on five projects has been paid but we are waiting for it to come in
- completed annual cyber training
- requested residents complete the County Hazard Mitigation and Town Capital Planning Surveys by 2/26
- noted submissions for the spring newsletter need to be emailed to Jennifer Hargrave by March 15

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by Dan Gee that all reports be accepted as presented. Unanimously passed by all those present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Local Laws:

Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the following resolution #7 of 2026 regarding **Local Law # 2** of 2026 be passed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Thurston wishes to provide real estate tax relief to qualified residents and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Local Law # 2 of 2026 entitled "a local law providing for partial exemption from taxation of real property owned by Senior Citizens with limited incomes" will provide this tax relief,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Local Law # 2 of 2026 will be effective upon filing with NYS as required.

Put to roll call vote: Dan Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Holly Chase, absent; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Unanimously Passed.

Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the following resolution # 8 of 2026 regarding **Local Law # 3** of 2026 be passed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Thurston wishes to provide real estate tax relief to qualified residents and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Local Law # 3 of 2026 entitled "a local law providing for partial exemption from taxation of real property owned by persons with disabilities and limited incomes" will provide this tax relief,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Local Law # 3 of 2026 will be effective upon filing with NYS as required.

Put to roll call vote: Dan Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Holly Chase, absent; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Unanimously Passed.

Solid Waste Management Facility Local Law:

Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that Resolution # 9 of 2026 introducing Local Law # 4 of 2026 be considered and that a public hearing regarding such Local Law be held on March 18 at 6:45 p.m. at the Town Hall:

WHEREAS:

1. This resolution introduces a proposed local law. When adopted, this law will prohibit the construction, operation, or maintenance of a solid waste management facility.
2. The local law is proposed pursuant to the authority and power granted to the Town Board and the Town by the New York State Constitution, Article I, Section 19 and Article IX, Section 2(c), Section 10 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law, Section 130 of the New York Town Law, Section 10 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments and Section 27-0711 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law.
3. The purpose of the local law proposed in this resolution is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the Town of Thurston by banning any solid waste management facility.
4. In anticipation of the introduction of this local law, we directed Earthjustice, the Town's special counsel, to prepare for the Town Board's review an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), Part 1 pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The legal team at

Earthjustice has prepared the EAF Part 1 and presented it to the Town Board for our review and consideration.

5. Pursuant to New York Municipal Home Rule Law Section 20, "Local Law No. 4 of 2026, A Local Law Prohibiting the Construction, Operation, or Maintenance of a Solid Waste Management Facility" was received by each member of the Town Board 7 days prior to this meeting via email.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

Section A. For the reasons set forth in this Resolution, and pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law Section 20, the Town Board hereby introduces Town of Thurston "Local Law No. 4 of 2026, A Local Law Prohibiting the Construction, Operation, or Maintenance of a Solid Waste Management Facility" A copy of the proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2026 is attached as Exhibit A to this Resolution.

Section B. Pursuant to provisions of SEQRA the Town Board hereby determines to classify the adoption of the proposed local law (the "proposed action" in SEQRA parlance) as a Unlisted action.

Section C. The Town Board further determines that it will be the only agency with approval authority over the proposed action. Accordingly, the Town Board hereby declares itself to be the Lead Agency for the conduct of the environmental review of the proposed action under SEQRA. The Town Board further identifies the Steuben County Planning Department as an interested agency.

Section D. The Town Board hereby accepts the SEQRA EAF Part 1 for the proposed action that has been prepared by Earthjustice. A copy of SEQRA EAF Part 1 is attached as Exhibit B to this Resolution.

Section E. The Town Board hereby directs that the proposed law be referred to the Steuben County Planning Department for its review and for an advisory opinion pursuant to Section 239-m of the New York General Municipal Law. The Town Board directs Earthjustice to make the referral in conformity with the applicable provisions of New York General Municipal Law Section 239-m.

Section F. In accordance with New York Municipal Home Rule Law Section 20(5), the Town Board hereby schedules a Public Hearing on said Proposed Local Law for March 18, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. to be held at the Thurston Town Hall, located at 7578 County Route 333, Campbell, New York 14821. The Town Board directs the Town Clerk to provide notice to the public of the public hearing in accordance with the requirements for same set forth in the New York Municipal Home Rule Law, and directs the Town Clerk to cause publication of the annexed legal notice in the Town's official newspaper not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the Public Hearing.

Section G. The Town Board also directs the Town Clerk to post a copy of the proposed Local Law on the Town's website, and to make a paper copy of the proposed Local Law available for review by the public at the Town of Thurston Town Hall, located at 7578 County Route 333, Campbell, NY 14821.

Put to roll call vote: Daniel Gee, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, absent; Holly Chase, aye. Unanimously carried by those present.

Departmental Audits

Michael Volino said it is mandatory that the Town Clerk, Budget Officer, and Town Justice have their books audited each year by the Town Board. Noel and Holly completed the 2025 audit of the Town Clerk and Budget Officer and found no discrepancies. Noel and Dan completed the 2025 audit of the Town Justic books and found no discrepancies.

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Thurston, County of Steuben, and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7578 County Route 333 on the 18th day of February 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Departmental Audits continued

Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that it be resolved that the 2025 Audit Reports for the Town Justice, Town Clerk, and Budget Officer be accepted as presented. Put to vote, Dan Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Holly Chase, absent; and Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Unanimously carried by those present.

UTV travel on Town Roads

Dan Gee said that some time ago a resident brought up the matter of driving ATV's/UTV's on Town Roads. It was noted that these are required to be insured, although NYS only requires ATV's to be registered at this time. The Town Board will continue to review this matter.

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by Dan Gee that unfinished business be closed. Unanimously carried by those present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Certificate of Need – Steuben County EMS

Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the Town of Thurston pass the following resolution #10 of 2026 supporting the application of Steuben County Emergency Medical Services for a Permanent Certificate of Need:

WHEREAS the Steuben County Emergency Medical Services, a division of the Steuben County Office of Emergency Services is seeking to transition from a municipal declaration to a permanent operating certificate, and

WHEREAS due to a decline in volunteerism and the closing of transporting agencies as well as a reduction in services at local hospitals, the Steuben County Legislature has decided to begin providing ambulance transport and paramedic intercept services,

WHEREAS the Town of Thurston understands the definition of "Public Need" and believes that Steuben County Emergency Services satisfies that requirement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town of Thurston would like to go on record as supporting the Steuben County Emergency Services in their application for a Permanent Municipal Certificate of Need. Put to roll call vote, Dan Gee, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, absent; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Unanimously carried by those present.

Jeff Sweeney noted that recently an ambulance was called to Knowles Road and there was confusion as there are two Knowles Roads. He asked the Board to consider changed the name of the one in Thurston.

Electric Quote for Work at Highway Shop:

There is extensive electrical work to be done to upgrade the highway shop, some required by PERMA. A local contractor had planned on doing this however the scope of the work has changed. The amount of funding required is under the bid threshold. Pelham Electric, another local contractor has indicated a willingness to complete this work in a timely manner. Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that Pelham Electric of Bath NY complete the electrical work to be done at the Highway Shop in the amount of $9560.00. Unanimously carried by all those present.

Worker's Comp and Comp Alliance

Michael said he spoke with Comp Alliance at a recent training session and they indicated they would carry the Town's Worker's Comp at a rate of $13,000 which is $8000 lower that PERMA. If the Board decides they wish to change carriers, the County must be informed by March 31 as we use their carrier. He will continue to research this for the next meeting.

Pavement Management Summer Intern Program

Cornell Local Roads has notified us they have a program whereby a paid intern will come to our Town and help with inspection of roads and the development of a five-year plan. Alan Crooker said he feels we should participate as it is a good program. The intern would be here for 10 weeks and we would pay this student minimum wage during that time. Michael spoke with a NYS municipality who used this program and they said it was beneficial. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by Dan Gee that Michael write a letter of intent to Cornell indicating we are considering participation. Unanimously carried by those present. We can change our mind if in the future we feel it would not be beneficial to do so.

250th Anniversary Celebration

New York Association of Towns has requested we participate in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States. We have budgeted $750 for this. Jennifer Hargrave and Darlene Chase have offered to be point people for this local celebration.

Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by Daniel Gee that we designate August 1 during Thurston Community Days to celebrate this and that the following resolution # 11 of the Town of Thurston in Support of the American 250 Commemoration and Authorizing Related Expenditure be considered:

WHEREAS the United States of American will commemorate its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, marking a historic milestone in our nation's history: and

WHEREAS on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, asserting the American colonies' freedom from British rule and laying the foundation for principles of democracy and self-governance; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, known as the America 250 Compassion (america250.org) was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and coordinate the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS the New York State 250th Commemoration Commission was created to lead statewide efforts to commemorate the founding of the United States and New York's pivotal role in the nation's formation and development; and

WHEREAS Town Law authorizes the town board to appropriate funds for the proper observance of patriotic and historical events (Town Law § 64[12], [14]), and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law § 57.07 further authorizes local governments too appropriate and expend funds for historical purposes within their jurisdiction, including the erection of markers and monuments, their preservation of historical materials, and cooperation with local historical organizations; and

WHEREAS these statutes provide the legal authority for towns to engage in and support commemorations that are educational, patriotic, and historical in character, including public programming, exhibits, community events, and historical preservation activities connected to America 250; and

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WHEREAS the Town of Thurston recognizes the importance of America 250 as an opportunity to reflect on our community's contributions to the American story, honor the achievements of past generations, and inspire renewed civic engagement.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Thurston hereby expresses its support for the America 250 Commemoration and authorizes the town board and appropriate departments to plan, promote, and participate in programs and events consistent with the purposes of Town Law §64 and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law §57.07; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such activities may include, but are not limited to educational programming, historical exhibits, patriotic decorations, community celebrations, and collaborations with local schools, libraries, and historical societies, provided that all expenditures serve a proper public purpose and comply with applicable discal and procurement requirements.
Put to roll call vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Holly Chase, absent; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Unanimously carried by those present.

Playground Upgrade:
Michael noted that we can purchase 20 – 25 yards of playground mulch from The Coal Shop for a decent price. He said if we do not use it all we can store it at the Highway Shop for future use. We have $1000 budgeted for this expense. Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the Town of Thurston purchase 20 to 25 yards of certified playground mulch from The Coal Shop in Springwater for $35 a yard. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Unanimously passed.

Announcements:
Michael said the next regular meeting is March 18 at 7:00 p.m. preceded by a public hearing at 6:45 to review Local Law # 4.
The next Safety Committee Meeting will be April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that New Business be closed at this time. Unanimously passed by all those present.
Motion was made by Dan Gee and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the meeting be closed at 8:00 p.m. Unanimously passed by all those present.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Sue Conklin, Town Clerk