A regular meeting of the Town Board of Thurston, County of Steuben, and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7578 County Route 333, Thurston, NY on the 19th day of August 2026.

Present: Town Supervisor, Michael Volino
Town Board: Holly Chase, John Hawley, Noel Sylvester, Jennifer Hargrave
Highway Superintendent: Alan Crooker
Assessor: Diana Dixon
Code Enforcement Officer: Nick Lewis-Nolton

Visitors: Dolores Crooker, Sam Dick, Jeff Sweeney, Lisa Hargrave, Tim Hargrave, Jamie Hawley, Mary Schoonover, Wilma Stewart, Richard Stewart, Eva Turner

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment:
Michael welcomed John Hawley to the Board.
Mary Schoonover asked the Highway Superintendent to move the branches that came down during a recent storm on the seasonal part of Tucker Road. Alan Crooker said he would take care of this and said in the future, a winter job would be cutting trees back from some of the seasonal roads.

There being no further public comment, motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by John Hawley that Public Comment be closed. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Minutes:
Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Jennifer Hargrave that the minutes from the July 15 meeting be approved as presented. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Bills:
Michael Volino reported on bills paid for August as follows:

General $9058.68	Vouchers A152-A170
Highway $19,376.26	Vouchers DA112 – DA127
Trust and Agency $185	Voucher TA8

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that after review, the bills be ordered paid and charged to the proper accounts as noted. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Town Clerks Report:
Sue Conklin reported collecting $100.00 for certified copies, $50.00 for building permits, $25.00 for culverts, $156.00 for dog licenses. Of that $331 was kept by the Town.
The Town Clerk reported that most items have been collected for the Fall newsletter and sent to the designer. It is hoped this will be sent out in early September.
Historian: Nothing this month.
Assessors: Diana Dixon said that the 2026 tax roll is complete and files have been pulled for the school taxes. Also, they have updated the parcel land inventory to match the deeds.
Justice: The Town Justice reported no collections this month.
Dog Control: Five calls were reported for the month with one impound resulting in redemption fees collected. The Fall Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for September 19 from 10 to noon.

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Code Enforcement: Nick Nolton reported two permits issued with $200 in fees; 3 violations issued for no permits; letters sent to property owners who need to clean up their property. He reminded residents that a demolition permit is required any time a structure is removed. It was noted this also helps with property owners assessed value as this will ensure their structure is removed from the property tax. This will also be put in the newsletter.

Highway Superintendent: Alan Crooker offered the following for highway activity from July 16 to August 18:

1. Attended Superintendent meeting at the Hornby Fire Station on 7/16/26.
2. Cleaned up limbs and down trees from a windstorm on 7/18/26.
3. Found an injured person on Cottage Rd and called 911. Stayed with injured person until emergency crew showed up.
4. Cleaned ditches, graded shoulders, repaired bad spots on Bonny Hill and Harrison roads. Cleaned ditches on Dixon Rd. Replaced 8 driveway pipes on Harrison Rd. Ditch dirt went to residents on Bonny Hill Rd. Put a driveway extension pipe in on Tucker Rd. Fixed potholes on Eddy, Cottage, and Shauger roads.
5. Repaired 4 tires on the excavator. Repaired mower head on mower. Cleaned up the old loader, getting it ready to paint. Replaced old plywood on the salt barn. Cleaned and painted the V plow in front of the Highway Shop. Preparing to replace the box on the Stirling dump truck to mount the 3200-gal water tank.
6. Cleaned up 2 dump trucks and the grader for the Community Day parade.
7. Trevor York gave his two weeks' notice on August 3, 2026.

Supervisor: Michael gave the following information about his activity over the last month:

1. Submitted the Comprehensive Grant Application on July 27, recipients will be announced in December 2026.
2. The month end closing for July was completed and sent to the Town Board.
3. The 2nd CHIPS reimbursement of $21,755.51 was submitted on August 6th
4. The heat pump water heater has been installed at the Town Hall and the rebate submitted
5. PERMA Slip Simulator Training was held on August 18
6. The Town Attorney continues to work on the ATV Local Law, and it is hoped a draft will be available for review at the September meeting.
7. The 2027 Tentative Budget will be ready for the September meeting.
8. Michael met with Labella and Southern Tier Central on the CDBG and 3 of the 5 projects are near completion.
9. Michael noted that we will be starting the phone upgrade with a meeting with Ring Central on Tuesday.

Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave and seconded by John Hawley that the reports be accepted as presented. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Unfinished Business:

Local Law # 6 of 2026: Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Jennifer Hargrave that Resolution # 33 adopted as noted:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Thurston would like to give officials the ability to participate in meetings while absent during emergency situations using videoconferencing technology

AND BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Thurston has a policy in place to clarify what an emergency is,

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Town of Thurston wishes to pass Local Law # 6 to authorize the Town Board to use this videoconferencing technology as needed with the Local Law to be effective upon filing with the State of New York.
Put to vote, Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; John Hawley, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Unanimously passed.

Resolution for submission of CDBG application for 2026: Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that Resolution #32 of 2026 be adopted as noted:
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THURSTON OF STEUBEN COUNTY, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRORAM APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF HOMES AND COMNUNTY RENEWAL; AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO ACT AS THE TOWN OF THURSTON'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTER PERTAINING TO THE TOWN OF THURSTON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.
WHEREAS the need exists within the Town of Thurston for housing rehabilitation and other housing needs, and the Town of Thurston desires to apply to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program to obtain funding for a Single-Family housing Rehabilitation Program; and
WHEREAS the Town Board has held one (1) public hearing for public input and comment on August 19th during the 2026 application process; and
WHEREAS the Town Board finds that there is a significant need to conduct the Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program to provide health, safety, and welfare to the community; and
WHEREAS the Town Board determines that the Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program meets the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program.
NOW, THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF THURSTON, NEW YORK, THAT

1. The Town of Thurston is hereby authorized to prepare and submit a Community Development Block Grant application to the New York Department of Housing and Community Renewal for the Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program;
2. That the Town Board of Thurston directs and designates the Town Supervisor as the Town's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative to act in all matters in connection with this application and the Town of Thurston's participation in the New York Community Development Block Grant Program;
3. That Town of Thurston officials and staff are directed to do any and all acts necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution;
4. That the phased application amount be for $400,000.00 of grant funds to carry out the Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Put to vote: Holly Chase, aye; John Hawley, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye. Unanimously passed by the Town Board of Thurston on August 19, 2026.

Veterans Day Dinners: The Town Board would like to show their appreciation to Thurston Veterans for their service to our country by offering a free meal around Veteran's Day. King's Market in Savona has offered Chicken and Biscuit Dinners for $12.00 per meal. Information on this will be put on the town webpage and in the newsletter for Fall. It was suggested that we request a list of those folks who receive a Veteran's

exemption from the Assessor and contact them with a letter prior to that time. If meals must be delivered, some elected officials will assist with that if a person is housebound. Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Holly Chase, that we purchase dinners from Kings Market at $12.00 per meal. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion carried. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave and seconded by John Hawley that we serve this dinner on November 7th from 11am to 1 p.m. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion carried.
It was noted we will take reservations over the phone and Michael Volino and Sue Conklin will accept the reservations.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that unfinished business be closed at this time. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion carried.

New Business:
5-Year Capital Plan: Michael discussed the reason for the five-year plan and noted it is a good reference tool and mostly addresses replacement needs for equipment and road maintenance and the funding sources available. It also will address the need for a Highway Shop upgrade to commercial. This Capital Plan will be reviewed and updated annually as necessary but is a good starting tool. Another year will be added after each annual review.
Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that Resolution # 34 of 2026 be adopted effective immediately:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Thurston wishes to establish a Five-Year Capital Plan to maintain infrastructure and address the Town's needs, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Five-Year Capital Plan will be reviewed and updated annually,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Town of Thurston adopt the 2027-2031 Town of Thurston Capital Plan as presented by the Highway Superintendent and Town Supervisor. (Attached to official minutes).
Put to roll call vote: Holly Chase, aye; John Hawley, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargarve, aye. Unanimously passed.
Budget Modifications:
Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave and seconded by John Hawley that Resolution # 35 of 2026 pertaining to budget modifications be adopted as follows:
Debit Unallocated Insurance Contractual (A1910.4) and credit Town Hall Equipment (1620.2) in the amount of $1704.04 for the water heater and sidewalk addition;
Debit Grant Writing Services Contractual (A8668.4) in the amount of $1700 and credit Cemeteries Contractual (A8810.4) for stump grinding in Aldrich Cemetery and tree removal in Risingville Cemetery;
Debit General Repairs Contractual Surface (DA5110.42) in the amount of $15000 and credit Machinery Contractual (A5130.4);
Debit Sales of Equipment (DA2665) in the amount of $8593.15 and credit Interest Grader (DA9730.72).
Put to roll call vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; John Hawley, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Unanimously passed.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that New Business be closed at this time. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

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Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Jennifer Hargrave that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Conklin, Town Clerk.