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 16th day of September 2026.

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

Visitors: Dolores Crooker, Sam Dick, Mary Schoonover, Eva Turner, Jim Feldman

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment:
- Mary Schoonover spoke regarding an article in the newsletter under Code Enforcement that she took exception to.
- A letter from Resident Jeffrey Sweeney was read expressing his concern over the problem with the name of Knowles Road and emergency responders not knowing which Knowles Road to attend to. There is a Knowles Road in Campbell and also one in Thurston, with some residences having the same address. With both having a Campbell 14821 mailing address this has become confusing to emergency responders. Alan Crooker said he would meet with the Tony Harris of Campbell and see what can be done to correct this situation.
-Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that public comment be closed. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion Carried.

Board Minutes
Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the minutes from the August 19 public hearings and regular meeting be accepted as presented by the Town Clerk with no changes requested. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion Carried.

Bills:
Michael presented the following bills on Abstract 9 for approval:
General Fund Vouchers A171 – A 185 in the amount of $5245.10
Highway Vouchers DA128-DA142 in the amount of $20,076.69
Trust and Agency Voucher TA9 in the amount of $185.00
Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by John Hawley that the bills be paid and charged to the proper accounts as presented. Put to vote, Noel Sylvester, aye; Holly Chase, aye; John Hawley, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Motion Carried.

Department Reports:
Town Clerk:
- The Town Clerk noted she received a total of $602.00 during August with $23.00 going to Ag & Markets and $579.00 staying with the Town. Of this $100 was for certified copies, $200 for Building Permits, $40.00 for landfill tickets, $50.00 for Town Hall rentals, $114.00 for Dog Licenses, and $75.00 for a dog redemption fee.

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- It was noted that all Local Laws to date have been received and filed by the Department of State as required.

Town Clerk continued:
- Sue Conklin said we are working on setting up a new phone system through Ring Central and are just waiting for the new phones to arrive.

Historian: Nothing to report this month.

Assessors: Diana Dixon reported we are starting our new tax year and are working on normal tasks at this time. Exemption renewals will be mailed in November.

Justice: Reported $488 collected in August.

Dog Control:
- Randy Akins reported that that the large number of dogs running at large and owned by Philp Sutton continue to be a problem. Mr. Sutton indicated that he is working on a structure for the dogs. The SPCA in Bath has offered to take some of the dogs.
- A pit bull was picked up and transported to the SPCA in Bath
- Two dogs were reported running at large on County Route 12 – the owner was contacted and said she was in the process of moving and the dogs had escaped from their kennel
- Reminded residents a Rabies Clinic will be held on September 19th from 10am until Noon at the Highway Department.

Code Enforcement:
Nick Nolton said he issued two new permits, collected $175.00 in fees, closed six permits for a value of $99,000; issued two no-permit violations, and did 4 inspections for the CDBG funds. Michael noted that Nick also did some pre-inspections for the upcoming recipients of the next round of CDBG funds.

Highway Superintendent: August 16 – September 11, 2026
All employees attended PERMA Slips and Falls Safety meeting.
Installed a 7'X30' culvert in Hamilton Rd creek. Replaced and extended a driveway pipe on Hamilton Rd.
All employees attended the annual clam bake at the Campbell American Legion.
Cut brush along Tucker and McIntosh roads, removed dead trees on Tucker Rd.
Removed a driveway pipe, cleaned it, and reinstalled it on Tucker Rd. Cleaned ditches on Tucker and McIntosh roads. Installed a cross pipe on McIntosh Rd.
Ditch dirt went to residents on Tucker and McIntosh roads.
Installed a blind driveway and children playing sign on Waters Rd. Installed a moving tractor sign on Dee Rd.
Purchased 4 ton of Unique Paving cold patch to fix potholes on Hanrahan and Tucker roads. Purchased 8 ton of type 7 hot asphalt to fix bad areas on Waters Rd.
A Teitsworth Auction representative came and took pictures of the Hyundai Loader to list on the online auction.
Lewis Doors fixed the overhead doors at the shop to operate remotely.

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Did storm cleanup – removed trees and a dead deer.
Looked at a road sweeper at Steuben County that will be in the County auction.

Highway continued:
All equipment and vehicles have been washed and all equipment has been serviced. Fixed 2 oil leaks and replaced a hydraulic hose on the excavator. Replaced a hydraulic hose on the loader.

Town Supervisor: Michael Volino reported the following activities for August – September:
- Submitted his month end closing to the Town Board
- Attended the County Town Supervisors Meeting on Sept 2
- Continued meetings with Labella and STC – three of the 5 projects are almost ready for closeout – the 4th one is started
- Met with STC to submit the CDBG grant for additional funds. There are four projects planned for the next round of funding.
- Said Campbell attended the Slip and Fall class put on by PERMA and that PERMA has given the Town crew 4 pairs of ice cleats for winter.
- The second CHIPS payment has been received in the amount of $21,766.51.
-Thanked Bruno, Matt and Shannon of the Nowicki family for installing the cemetery sign at the Aldrich Cemetery.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the reports from the departments be accepted as presented. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business:
Michael Volino said we have to declare our **housing rehabilitation project** as a Type II Action for NYSDEC. This is the last item to be passed before STC can submit our application next week.
Resolution # 36 of 2026 determining that proposed action is a Type II action for purposes of the New York State Environmental Quality Review act (SEQRA)

WHEREAS, the Town of Thurston will conduct a single-family housing rehabilitation program to provide housing rehabilitation to low-to-moderate income qualifying residents of the Town (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Thurston desires to comply with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York, being 6 NYCRR Part 617, as amended (the "Regulations") with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is not subject to review under SEQRA since it involved maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility and replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading building to meeting building, energy, or fire codes unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part; both of which are listed as "Type II Action" under 6 NYCRR Section 617.5(c)(1)(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Thurston declares that the Project constitutes a "Type II Action" under 6 NYCRR Section 617.5(c)(1)(2) and that no further action under the SEQR Act and the Regulations is required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Noel Sylvester that Resolution #36 be adopted. Put to vote: Holly Chase, aye; John Hawley, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Resolution unanimously adopted.

-**Hyundai Loader:** Michael asked the Board to authorize Alan Crooker to accept the final bid price from Teitsworth Online Auction for the 2017 Hyundai Loader as long as it meets or exceeds our reserve bid of $65,000. Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that Alan Crooker be authorized to accept the bid price as noted. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion Carried. It was noted the bidding closes on September 22, 2026.

-Walden Sweeper: Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Holly Chase that Alan Crooker be authorized to bid up to $5000 on a Walden Sweeper that is listed on the Teitsworth Online Auction that closes on September 22. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Motion Carried.

-Local Law # 7 Proposed: Michael Volino said our Town Attorney has drafted a Local Law which would regulate the use of all-terrain vehicles on Thurston Town Roads. He said the Local Law would not set fees for registering an all-terrain vehicle as that would be done as a resolution at another time. The Sheriff of Steuben County is in support of this proposed local law. Holly Chase asked if there would be an expiration date or date range for registration of the vehicles and would we have a way for law enforcement to check to see who has registered. Michael said we have to submit a referral form to the Steuben County Planning Department, and an Environmental Assessment Form. The following **Resolution #37 of 2026** was presented to the Board for action:

WHEREAS, the Town Board is required to hold a public hearing in connection with the adoption of the proposed Local Law pursuant to the requirements of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the matter in the context of the State Environmental Quality Review Act reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is required to submit the proposed Local Law to the Steuben County Planning Department for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of the New York Town Law and New York General Municipal Law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the Local Law is scheduled for **October 21st 2026 at 6:30 pm** and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to publish notice of the public hearing in accordance with all applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to refer the Local Law to the Steuben County Planning Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (1) the Local Law is an Unlisted Action for State Environmental Quality Review Act purposes; (2) the Town Board adopts the Short Environmental Assessment Form attached hereto; and (3) the Local Law will proceed with an uncoordinated environmental review.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that **Resolution #37 of 2026** setting up a public hearing for Local Law # 7 be adopted as presented. Put to vote: Noel Sylvester, aye; John Hawley, Holly Chase, aye; Michael Volino, aye, Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Motion Carried. The public hearing will be advertised in two local newspapers.

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

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NEW BUSINESS:

Budget 2027: Michael noted the tentative budget has now been developed. The Town Clerk presented this tentative 2027 budget to the Town Board at this time. The Board will be moving forward to complete the preliminary budget prior to scheduling and holding a public hearing. Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Holly Chase that a budget workshop be held on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried. Michael said at this point we are under the 2% state cap for an increase.

Budget Transfers: Michael said he needs authorization to make a budget modification. **Resolution #38 of 2026** was presented as follows:

Be it Resolved that there is a need to debit Contingencies Fund A1990.4 for $1660.60 and credit Town Hall Equipment A1620.2 for $1200.00 and

Be It Further Resolved this is for the installation of a Heat Pump Water Heater Installation and

Be It Finally Resolved that Town Hall Contractual A1620.4 will be credited in the amount of $460.60.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that these transfers be authorized as presented. Put to vote, John Hawley, aye; Holly Chase, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, absent. Motion Carried.

Michael noted there is a Safety Committee Meeting on October 21 starting on October 21. Alan Crooker, Randy Akins, Diana Dixon, Noel Sylvester, and Michael are on this committee.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that New Business be closed. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue E. Conklin, Town Clerk.