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 21st[h] day of October 2026.

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

Visitors: Dolores Crooker, Samuel Dick, Ruth Schoonover, Eva Turner, Jeffrey Sweeney, Lisa Hargrave.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment. Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Jennifer Hargrave that public comment be closed. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Board Minutes: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester and seconded by John Hawley that the minutes from the September 2026 meeting be accepted as presented. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the following bills be paid as noted on Abstract 10 of 2026:
General Fund: $7058.19 Vouchers A186-A208
Highway Fund: $61,171.59 Vouchers DA143-DA153
Trust and Agency $185.00 Voucher TA10.
Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Holly Chase, aye; John Hawley, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye. Carried.

Department Reports:
Town Clerk: Sue Conklin report collecting $175 in Building Permits, $350 in Town Hall Room Rentals, $276.00 in dog license fees, $90,00 donations from rabies clinic, and $3.59 Town Share of hunting licenses sold. She noted the new phone system (Ring Central) is now on-line and working.
Sue noted we received information from a sign company for a new sign in front of the Town Hall but it isn't what we are looking for. We will continue working on this project.
Historian: Nothing this month
Assessor: Diana Dixon reported the following activity over the last month:
- all sale and transfer activities are up to date and the files are set for property tax bill creation
- she attended the October Steuben County Assessor Meeting
- reported the NYS Assessors Association regularly does trainings and webinars which we can take advantage of as we are members. We get discounted rates on these trainings. She said she takes the ones on exemptions whenever possible and she has signed up for one on AG exemptions later this month.
- the Assessors are about 1/3 of the way through the inventory of parcels and are also updating the system for known areas of concern that aren't necessarily inventory issues. They have updated the inventory acreage to match the parcel acreage which is the assessment base and are cleaning up the public description data as well.

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Department Reports continued:

Justice: The Town Justice reported collecting $500 in fines and fees for September 2026.

Dog Control: Michael said Randy Akins had three reported dog calls.

- He noted 79 animals were vaccinated at the September clinic and we collected a total of $181 in donations.
- Michael said that our current Kennel Contract has been cancelled and the owner noted the expense was too high to meet NYS requirements. He said Canisteo has a kennel and will let us contract with them. We now have a key and they will not charge us for the rest of this year. In 2027 there will be a fee of $1000 and a cost of $15 per day for impounded dogs. He said the state will fine us if we have no shelter.

Fire Department: Desiree Fisk said the department held their budget public hearing on the 20th and it was passed. Michael noted there was one large fire in the town and the family lost everything. The family has applied for a grant to assist them in rebuilding.

Code Enforcement: Nick Nolton noted he issued one permit and collected a fee of $75.00.

- noted we are good on the pro-housing certification for CDBG funds expended
- three of the CDBG projects are almost done – one is done, and the last one should be started and completed by the end of the year.

Highway: Alan Crooker reported the following activity September 11 – October 16

- Cleaned ditches on McIntosh Rd, built up a low-lying area with creek gravel, and graded in 4 loads of item 4.
- Cleaned ditches on Tucker, Strait, and Griffin roads. Ditch dirt went to residents on McIntosh and Tucker roads. Graded 6 loads of item 4 gravel into Griffin Rd.
- Trimmed brush and trees and mowed road sides on Forty Dollar Rd. Graded 15 loads of item 4 gravel into bad areas, stone raked, and rolled it in.
- Fixed a bad area on Starr Rd with 9.5 ton of hot asphalt. Graded 3 loads of item 4 gravel into Rising Rd on the corner near the Campbell town line. This area was oil and stoned also.
- Graded 6 loads of item 4 gravel into a couple areas on Dee Rd and this area was oil and stoned.
- Graded 2 loads of item 4 gravel into John Rial Rd.
- Graded Bonny Hill Rd and Harrison Rd intersection. Put 2 layers of oil and stone on the intersection. Put 2 layers of oil and stone on a quarter of a mile of Harrison Rd.
- Oil and stoned the end of Strait Rd near Tucker Rd.
- Replaced a cross pipe on Eddy Rd. Cleaned ditches and graded 9 loads of item 4 gravel into Shauger Rd. Cleaned under guiderails on Shauger Rd with newly fabricated push bar. Shauger Rd residents got ditch cleanings.
- Cleaned ditches on Yost Rd, graded, stone raked, and rolled. Yost road ditch dirt went to locations on Yost Rd.
- Took the first 2025 Peterbilt dump truck to Owego for warranty work. Engine light was on, no air ride, and they fixed the brakes.
- Took the 2nd 2025 Peterbilt dump truck to Owego for warranty work to replace passenger side mirror and replace missing screws on the passenger side faring.
- Put new cutting edge on the grader.
- Still working on a flatbed to mount water tank on the Stirling dump truck.
- Fabricated a push bar to clean under guiderails.
- Sold the 2012 Hyundai loader for $46,000.00. Purchased a street sweeper for $3,625.00.

DRAFT

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- Went back to 5 - 8-hour day work week the first full week of October. All employees attended CPR training.
- Washed the 2nd 2025 Peterbilt dump truck and the new JD Loader. Undercoated both with fluid fill rust proofing.
- Started hauling deicing sand from Dalrymple Gravel at a reduced sale price.
- Said paving will start on Forty Dollar Road next weekend.

Supervisor: Michael reported on the following over the last month:
- Fiscal stress score for 2025 is 26.7 leading to a "no designation" which is a good score
- completed and filed the 3rd quarter 941 and NY45
- CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant # 2 has been submitted by Southern Tier Central
- submitted 3rd quarter PERMA payroll audit
- completed municipal data collection for the County's Comprehensive EMS System Plan upon request on call volumes
- completed the Insurance Renewal Packet for NYMIR and their agent will be at the December meeting to discuss the quote for 2027
- the month end closing for September has been completed and sent to the Town Board
- budget workshop was held on November 7
- CPR and AED training was held for town officials and employees on October 12
- met with Labella and STC noting project status: disbursement # 6 was requested.
- working with Southern Tier and Cameron on applying for the NYS Local Efficiency Grant to cover Code Enforcement expenses for the next three years.

- Veterans Lunch: Jennifer Hargrave said we are finalizing plans for the upcoming free Veterans lunch on November from 11 to 1pm. She asked the Fire Department to post it on their signs and said reservations have been coming in.

Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Noel Sylvester that the department reports be approved as presented. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Unfinished Business:

2027 Budget: Michael said the preliminary budget has been completed and will be put on the website. The tax levy is a 1.9% increase. There is expected to be $25,000 left in the Fund Balance from 2026 and $20,000 in reserve. Elected officials expense stayed fairly flat, the highway employees will get a $1.00 an hour raise. Highway debt service was reviewed.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2027 budget has been reviewed and completed and is now in its preliminary stage,

BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing will be scheduled as required and publicized accordingly noted elected official wages;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the preliminary budget be accepted as developed.

Put to roll call vote, Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; John Hawley, aye; Holly Chase, aye; Michael Volino, aye. Carried.

DRAFT

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Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that the **public hearing** to receive comments on the preliminary **budget** be held on November 11, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

New Business:

Newsletter: Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Noel Sylvester that a December Town Newsletter be published to highlight and note events over the past year. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried. Submissions should be in to the Town Clerk by November 15th.

Knowles Road Name Change:

Due to several mix-ups when Emergency Vehicles are responding to Knowles Road since there is one in Campbell and one in Thurston, discussion has been held regarding a name change for this road. The Supervisor asked the Campbell Town Supervisor if they would change the name of the Campbell side Knowles Road and they were not interested. There are seven residences on the Knowles Road in Thurston and they will be notified by Michael to get their thoughts and let them know of our decision. The Board discussed changing the name to Tompkins Road. Michael will request a resolution from our Attorney to start the process and hopefully have it ready for the November meeting.

Budget Modifications:

Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Holly Chase that the follow resolution be considered:

BE IT RESOLVED that budget modifications need to be made to balance the budget at this time and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be made:

Debit A1650.4 Advertising Contractual and credit DA5132.42 Highway Shop Contractual in the amount of $1500 for Highway Shop Garage Door Repairs, and

Debit DA2665 Sales of Equipment and credit DA5130.2 Machinery Equipment $35,734.47 for John Deere Loader Payment and Street Sweeper purchase.

Put to roll call vote: Holly Chase, aye; John Hawley, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Michael Volino, aye. Unanimously Carried.

Michael noted on November 11 at 6:45 we will have a public hearing on the budget and 7:00 is the regular meeting.

Motion was made by John Hawley and seconded by Holly Chase that new business be closed. All those present, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase and seconded by John Hawley that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Put to vote, all those present, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue E. Conklin, Town Clerk

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