

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – Present
Jo-Ann Hite – Present
Ray Robinson - Present
Jimmy Barber – Present
Garry Boring – Present
Lowell Hite – Present
Mary Boring – Present
Aaron Reedy – Present

Mary asked if any visitors wished to speak.

Henry Loucks of 7943 Moline Drive was present to discuss the shut-off notice for his water service. He is asking Council for an extension because he recently became unemployed. Michelle said the February bill in the amount of \$97.06 is the minimum that needs to be paid right now. Henry said he is waiting on unemployment benefits from the State.

Jo-Ann made a motion to allow him to pay his bill as soon as he gets his unemployment check and to work with Michelle on that. Ray second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Zeke McClurg of 2202 4th St. was present to discuss his past due water amount. He bought the property back in November of 2008, but was not aware that there was money due even when the water was shut off (the water has been shut off all this time). Some of this past due amount has already been assessed to his property taxes. Jimmy made a motion to wave the water portion of the bill (\$350.91) since the water was never on, and there was a breakdown in communications. Ray second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried. Council agreed the deposit to turn on his service could be paid out of the credit he is owed.

Michael Betts from GGC Engineers was present to discuss several projects. He presented Council with a sample material of what the interior and exterior of the tank will be coated/painted with. Interior will be a 15 mill epoxy. It is currently grease that will be power-washed off. The exterior will be 3 layers and is rated for 15 – 20 years. He said the county will send us a work agreement. The project needs to go out for bid by April 15th. The village will get a copy of the bid specs.

Michael discussed the Street Repaving project that was sent to the OPWC. It has been sent to the small government commission for consideration. He said he needs a copy of the estimate of Revenues. Aaron will e-mail that to him. It all needs to be in by April 9th, and we should know something by the end of May.

Michael asked about the status of the water plan with Baltimore. He hoped the information he provided helped. He had to make some assumptions, and would need more detailed information to get a better number. If we need him for anything on this, he's available.

Michael said in the CDBG formula there is money available in the form of a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant, which is based to spread money around a community. Grant is up to about \$300,000. It covers things such as sidewalks, streets, water/sewer, playground, etc. Mary said getting new remote-read water meters is very important. Michael said Thurston and Pleasantville are the only two communities eligible for this money in Fairfield County. The Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission would like to meet with each community and

look at their project lists. Michael said before we meet with the RPC, we need to have a good project plan and be prepared. The CDBG applications are due April 16th. Council decided to have a special meeting at 7pm on March 16th, 2010 to discuss projects we would like to submit to the RPC. We would then meet with them in the following weeks.

Jimmy made a motion to waive Council pay for the February 27, 2010 special meeting. Robert second. Roll Call vote: All YES, except Jo-Ann voting NO. Motion carried.

Jimmy made a motion to approve the February 2010 regular meeting minutes. Garry second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Ray made a motion to approve the February 27, 2010 special meeting minutes. Jimmy second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Ray made a motion to approve the February 2010 financial statement. Garry second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Final Reading - Resolution 2010-2 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF THURSTON CLERK-TREASURER TO REIMBURSE VILLAGE EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS FOR CERTAIN TRAVEL IN THEIR PERSONAL VEHICLES. Jimmy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-2. Robert second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Business from Fire Chief – Jim Hite was present and presented his report. Jimmy made a motion to hire Andrew Beaver, Patrick Redd, and John Wieber as volunteers to the Thurston-Walnut Twp Fire Dept. Garry second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Jim said they are still working with the insurance company on the damaged rescue. Looks like they may try to repair it instead of replacing it.

Jim requested that council give the chief a salary of \$6,000 instead of counting him as part of the volunteer point formula due to all the work done, and the meetings that he is required to attend. Council discussed the subject at length. Jimmy made a motion to pay the fire chief a salary of \$6,000 per year. Garry second. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried. Aaron believes this will have to be passed as legislation, and will take this vote to the Solicitor to create the legislation.

Jim presented Council with some line items in the Fire fund that he would like to increase appropriations for. Council agreed. Aaron will prepare the legislation for the next meeting.

Business from the Safety Committee: Didn't meet

Business from the Service Committee: Garry said that the Service Committee is recommending to Council that we finalize the working of the Income Tax legislation and back-date the effective date to January 1, 2010, if the solicitor agrees that is permissible. If not, then make it effective July 1, 2010.

Ray made a motion that verbiage be added to the Income Tax legislation that states the income tax cannot be used for pay increases for elected officials. Jimmy second. Jo-Ann said she thinks it shouldn't be used for any employees, not just elected officials. No one else agreed. Roll Call vote: All YES, except Jo-Ann voting NO. Motion carried.

Jimmy asked if it could be passed as an emergency, waiving the three-reading rule. Aaron said probably, but it's his opinion that you don't want to do that with legislation of this sensitivity. It might seem like we're ramming it through. Aaron will confirm with the Solicitor.

It was discussed that verbiage should be added to the Income Tax legislation that would limit how much of it could be used to fund a Village Police Department. Ray didn't agree with that. Garry made a motion that verbiage should be added to the Income Tax legislation to limit the amount that can be used to fund a Village Police Department. Robert second. Roll Call vote: Jimmy, Jo-Ann, Lowell and Ray voted NO. Robert and Garry voted YES. Motion not carried.

Garry said they discussed the ruts on High St. that need filled. Garry called the township, but has not received a reply yet.

Garry said shingles on the Municipal Building need replaced. He is going to get some quotes for that work (and to replace the soffits).

Business from the Finance Committee: Didn't meet.

Business from the Rules Committee: Didn't meet.

Business from Regional Planning Representative: Robert shared some numbers as to where Regional Planning was spending money in grants.

Old Business –

Jimmy asked if anyone had looked into billing software for the Village to do their own utility billing yet. Aaron said he and Michelle have done their due diligence and were prepared to share what they found.

Aaron shared with Council several reasons why it would be better for the Village to take over their utility billing from Walnut Creek Sewer District. Michelle had visited Millersport, Pleasantville, and Carroll to check out their billing software. Aaron got prices for those software packages and shared them with the Council (ranging from \$2,2600 to \$9,000). Aaron also shared some other items that will have to be considered if we were to take over the billing process.

Aaron shared that the Village of Pleasantville took over their billing from Walnut Creek Sewer District last year due to some of the same issues we are having. Council discussed the issue at length.

Jimmy made a motion for the Village of Thurston to start doing their own utility billing, and take that responsibility away from the Walnut Creek Sewer District; to accept the proposal from Frey & Company for \$2,589.00 and purchase their software. The effective date of this change will be determined after the training is received for the software. Ray second. Roll Call vote: Jimmy, Robert, Ray, and Garry voted YES. Jo-Ann and Lowell voted NO. Motion carried.

Council discussed the issue of the Thurston representatives on the Walnut Creek Sewer District not getting information back to the Village Council or being responsive to the Mayor. Mary said WCSD records their sessions, and she is going to get copies of those recordings.

New Business –

Ray said that Michelle Shumaker, the Village Secretary needs a raise. She has not received one in over 3 years (July 13, 2006 was the last raise @ 35 cents more per hour.) Most folks thinks she's doing a tremendous job. Jimmy made a motion to approve a 5% raise (44 cents per hour) for the Village Secretary, Michelle Shumaker. Ray second. Roll Call vote: Jimmy, Robert, Ray, and Garry voted YES. Jo-Ann and Lowell voted NO. Motion carried. Aaron will have the solicitor prepare the legislation.

Jimmy brought up discussion regarding the lawn care services we get from C&C Lawn Care. Jimmy said Jimmy Carroll does a great job, and goes above-and-beyond the typical performance when it comes to doing jobs for Thurston. Most on Council agreed. He asked if there have been any complaints about his service. Chief Hite said he is very happy with his service at the firehouse. Lowell and Jo-Ann said they get lots of complaints about his work, especially in the cemetery. Aaron asked Michelle if she's ever gotten any complaints about the cemetery. She said no. Aaron said he's never gotten complaints, or heard anything negative. Most others on Council agreed.

Jimmy made a motion to allow C&C Lawn Service (Jimmy Carroll) to continue providing the village with lawn care service for 2010 at the same rates as 2009. Ray second. Roll Call vote: Jimmy, Robert, Ray, and Garry voted YES. Jo-Ann and Lowell voted NO. Motion carried.

Aaron asked Council if they had any problem with changing the PDF format of the minutes he puts on the website. They would still be secure, but it would make it easier for people to copy directly from the PDF Document. No one on Council had a problem with this.

At 9:12pm, Jimmy made a motion to adjourn. Garry second. Roll Call vote: All YES, except Lowell voted NO (jokingly). Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron L. Reedy, Clerk