

Village of Thurston  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present      JoAnn Hite – present      Jimmy Barber, Jr. – present  
            Garry Boring – present          Lowell Hite – present      1 OPEN COUNCIL SEAT  
            Mary Boring – present          Aaron Reedy – present

Mary asked if any visitors wished to speak. Jeremy Mummey from 8140 Elm St. said he had a problem with the kids in the neighborhood putting hose on their outside water spigot and turning on water, causing them a higher-than-normal water usage. Susan suggested to him letting Council know. He would like for his account to be credited for the excessive water usage. Mary said she will refer the situation to the service committee. Jeremy also reported there's been a number of break-ins in the area. He said kids are being used to break-in. He said the older folks in the trailer court are scared. He suggested there should be a curfew. Councilman Boring said the Village already has a curfew in place, but no way to enforce it. Councilman Barber explained that the possibility of a police presence in the Village is being investigated.

Shane Ucker of 2249 Fourth St. said he is concerned about the safety of the community. He's had problems with noisy cars blaring music and causing problems. He feels something needs to be done. He wants to be on the record. He's just trying to protect his family and property.

Trent Cochenour of 8140 Elm St. is interested in knowing what can be done. He supports paying for a solution and doing footwork in the Village to get support for police protection. For as small as the Village is, there seems to be a lot of crime.

Nick Garner was present about starting an auxiliary police force for Thurston. He feels he can start it with zero budget. He said fees will start coming in to pay for the police department. Nick was present the previous week at the Safety Committee meeting and made a case for a force in the Village. Mary said council still needs to discuss and review the idea. Aaron said there is no money for a police department and would hold Nick accountable to his "zero budget" statement. Aaron said he would get with the village solicitor to see what it would take to start a police force for the Village with all auxiliary officers.

Archie Robinson was present regarding his apartment property on Main St. One of the tenants was not paying the water bill and it got shut off. They then turned the water on themselves. This was caught, a \$500 tampering fee was assessed to the account, and the service was turned back off. Archie said he is in the process of evicting the tenants and would like to ask council to waive the \$500 tampering fee. After some discussion, Lowell made a motion to waive the \$500 tampering fee on account # 51(Tamela Watkins). Jimmy seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to put a hold on property assessments for account #51. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to approve the February 2013 meeting minutes. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to approve the March 2, 2013 special meeting minutes. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES, with Jimmy abstaining. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive council pay for the March 2, 2013 special meeting. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES, with Lowell and JoAnn voting NO. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to approve the March 5, 2013 special meeting minutes. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES, with Jimmy abstaining. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive council pay for the March 5, 2013 special meeting. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES, with Lowell and JoAnn voting NO. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive council pay for the January 15, 2013 and January 19, 2013 special meetings. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES, with Lowell and JoAnn voting NO. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to approve the February 2013 financial statement. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

**Business from Fire Chief** – Chief Jim Hite was present and submitted the report. He said he needs to find out who has authority as Solicitor for the Fire Department for business inside and outside the Village. An issue came up about a possible case. Aaron called the village solicitor, Brian Zets, and he said he has the authority. Chief Hite asked about the hydrants on the new line along Route 256. They aren't covered by bags, so it's assumed they can be used. Chief Hite said he will contact the Baltimore Village Administrator to find out.

**Business from the Safety Committee** – No business to discuss.

**Business from the Service Committee** –

Garry made a motion to send a nuisance letter to 8279 High Street regarding cleaning up the building/shed in the back of the property that fell down – it needs to be removed. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to send a nuisance letter to 8349 High Street regarding cleaning up the property. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to send a nuisance letter to 8050 High Street regarding cleaning up the property in and around the garage. Jimmy second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

**Business from the Finance Committee** – Didn't meet.

**Business from the Regional Planning Representative** – Robert said there was nothing that concerned the Village.

**Old Business** – Aaron said the Phil Eichhorn has sent the tap abandonment form abandoning the tap to the property at 7640 Lancaster-Newark Rd (old Brenda Sue's). Aaron asked if the account (#310) could be credited for \$22 so there would be no balance and we could close the account. Garry made a motion to credit account \$22 so there would be no balance for zero usage. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Aaron said a letter had been sent certified mail to Jenna Straits regarding the rental properties she manages. She has failed to update the information as required by the municipal income tax ordinance. It was due in December.

Aaron said he sent a letter to Becky Elam, at Council's request, regarding her request to donate the cemetery part of her property to the Village. It spelled out what Council required in order to make it happen.

Mary asked for a motion from council to have the building at 2231 Main St. torn down as that it is condemned, and is a public nuisance. Jimmy made a motion to have the building at 2231 Main St. torn down as that it is condemned, and is a public nuisance. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES, with JoAnn abstaining. Motion carried.

**New Business** –

Jimmy made a motion to continue using CC Lawncare for mowing services in the Village at the same rate as last year. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES with Lowell and JoAnn abstaining. Motion carried.

Mary said we put bids out for the executive work for the grant, and we received 1 at \$29,000. Robert made a motion to allow the mayor to enter into a contract with CDC of Ohio for grant administration work. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Jim made a motion to hire Nick Garner to be police chief for the Village of Thurston, pending speaking with the solicitor to find out the appropriate method to create a force, with a 1-year probation period for \$1.00 per year. Garry second. Roll call vote: Jimmy and Garry YES; Lowell, JoAnn and Robert voting NO. Motion not carried.

At 8:03pm, Jimmy made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation with the Fire Department. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

At 8:18pm, Jimmy made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to discuss, JoAnn made a motion to adjourn. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Time is 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully prepared by,

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Aaron Reedy