

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Scott Whited. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present	JoAnn Hite – present	Garry Boring - present
Scott Whited – present	Lowell Hite – present	1 Open Council Seat
Mary Boring, Mayor – absent	Aaron Reedy, Fiscal Officer – present	

Since the Mayor was not present, Council President Scott Whited lead the meeting. Visitors: No visitors wished to speak. Steve Martin was present to be appointed to the open Council seat. Garry made a motion to appoint Steve Martin to the open Council position. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Scott swore Steve Martin in as Council Person.

Robert made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Garry made a motion to approve the May financial statement. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Business from the Fire Chief – Chief Bob Price was present. He requested some PO’s be approved. Robert made a motion for the following PO’s and new vendors to be approved: \$30,500 for a vendor to be determined for turnout gear; \$2,250.00 for Fire Catt for hose and ladder testing; and \$2,000 for Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners for repairs. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Chief Price said buying a new Engine is not the priority of the fire department at this time. He said there’s at least 5 good years left on the current Engine. He said it is the best pump out of all trucks in the district. He also identified \$40,000-50,000 worth of items on the quote that we did not need. He said the current priority is staffing. There’s no sense in having an expensive truck if there’s no one to staff it. He’ll check but thinks the NFPA guidelines state a truck should be good for 25 years and the current Engine is 20 years old.

Chief Price explained the need for an ice machine at Station 3. They found a good one that will do the job at 230 lb. capacity for \$800. Garry made a motion to approve the PO for an ice machine, vendor to be determined, for \$800. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Chief Price said there would be a big Luke Bryant concert on David Miller’s property just north of town on September 17th. There will be 25,000-30,000 attendees. This is going to affect traffic and EMS resources.

Chief Price discussed the future of the Fire Department and its proud beginnings. He discussed the staffing needs and importance of passing the fire department to the township. Council and he discussed the importance of openness and honesty between all the entities involved. They discussed the status of the contract talks (currently in the hands of the Thurston Solicitor), the need for better communication, and the need to make this an attractive department for individuals to want to work for. Aaron shared a few items that have been a thorn the last several months and how some weren’t true, and some people are stirring the pot. Aaron asked Council if there were any issues that Council needed to get on the table to ask questions about. Chief Price stated that he has required all his officers (below Asst. Chief level) to put in 36 hours a month in shifts, or they must give up their position. There were no other issues that Council brought up.

Chief Price said he’s waiting to hear on the grant for the SCBA tanks. Round 1 will be awarded some time after June 12th. SCBA’s are probably not part of the first round.

Business from the Safety Committee – No Business.

Business from the Service Committee – No Business.

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 solicitor got the updated contract from the Township solicitor late Friday afternoon. He's going to review it by the end of this week. Robert asked about who was paying for the sidewalk work in the Village. Garry said the state hired Shelly Company to put in handicapped ramps at the intersections as part of a repaving project.

Scott said the Village wished to thank Jamie Carroll and Jimmy Barber, Jr. for putting up the flags/flag poles around town. Also to thank Robert Amiet for the fix of the small water leak in the municipal building.

New Business – Aaron explained there needed to be new water meter pits installed for the Moyer property and the Walnut Creek Sewer District property for different reasons. These would be installed at the cost of the property owners. Garry made a motion to allow it. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

A previous resident has requested a waiver of the interest charges on her back-bill for income taxes due to medical hardship. Council discussed. Garry made a motion to waive the \$1,321.12 interest charges for Katie Sluder if she paid the rest in full. Steve seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Aaron shared an e-mail from the solicitor about the pending police contract with Baltimore. There's an issue on how the mayor's court in Baltimore can handle Thurston issues. Discussions will continue. Aaron shared the draft water ordinance with Council and asked them to read/review it before the next committee meetings so it can be discussed. This would replace all previous water rates ordinances that we've been amending over the last 32 years.

JoAnn made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by,

Aaron Reedy, Fiscal Officer