

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Mary Barber. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Ed Vanek – Present
Warren Simpson – Present
Vickie Carroll - Present
Detria Hiles – Present
Ray Robinson - Present
Jo-Ann Hite – Present
Mary Barber – Present
Aaron Reedy – Present

Mary asked if any visitors wished to speak. None did.

Marsha Hall and Tony House from the Village of Baltimore were present to present a water contract to the Village of Thurston. Marsha said the subcommittees representing each village had met quite a while ago to discuss options. They would like Council to review their proposal then we can decide the next steps to take.

On a separate issue, Marsha said the Village of Baltimore received funding from EPA by grants and loans for installation of a second water tower in Baltimore. They have determined it best to put it on the East side of Baltimore. It would 500,000 gallons storage per day. It would help pressure for Thurston and for Baltimore. She said the engineer also thinks we would no longer need our pump house, and might be able to put it out of service.

The engineers for the Village of Baltimore would like to “flow” the hydrants in Thurston to test current pressure. She would also like for Council to allow them to attach back to our main somewhere around the Sakas area. Lowell Hite said the chlorine from Baltimore is gone by the time it hits Route 37, so the pump house is needed to add chlorine. Tony thinks it should be okay. Lowell asked about the main meter. Marsha said that issue is to be determined.

Detria made a motion to allow Baltimore to do flow tests on hydrants in the Village of Thurston. Warren second. All yea, with Vickie abstaining. Marsha said Baltimore is having their service committee meeting next Monday at 7:00pm, and everyone is invited to attend.

Detria made a motion to approve the February 2008 minutes. Vickie second. All yea, with Ed abstaining.

Detria made a motion to approve the February 2008 financial statement. Warren second. All yea, with Ed abstaining.

Ed made a motion to approve the December 2007 meeting minutes. No further action taken on that motion.

Detria made a motion to approve the December 2007 meeting minutes with the changes suggested back in January. Vickie second. Detria and Vickie voted yea. Jo-Ann, Ray and Ed abstained. Warren was opposed. Brian Zets, Village Solicitor, was present. He said the December 2007 meeting minutes will now remain unapproved.

Mary asked if there was any legislation. Aaron said there were two pieces.

Ed made a motion to waive the three-reading rule and declare an emergency for Resolution 2008-5 A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds and the Declaration of an Emergency. Detria second. All yea.

Warren made a motion to adopt Resolution 2008-5 A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds and the Declaration of an Emergency. Jo-Ann second. All yea. Aaron explained that we will not need to transfer funds any more before the purpose of making the October USDA debt payment until after that payment is made.

Ed made a motion to waive the three-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2008-6 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement for legal services with Wiles, Boyle, Burkholder and Bringardner CO LPA to server as Village Solicitor and the Declaration of an Emergency. Ray second. All yea.

Ed made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-6 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement for legal services with Wiles, Boyle, Burkholder and Bringardner CO LPA to server as Village Solicitor and the Declaration of an Emergency. Vickie second. All yea.

Report from Fire Chief – Jim Hite was present and presented his report.

Personnel – Jan Smathers and Jamie Carroll received the 2008 Knights of Columbus Blue Coat Award on March 10, 2008. Jan Smather's grandson received his in his honor.

Maintenance – Medic 621 in for service for the 02 Senor (recall). Rescue 621 went back to Bridgeport on 3/4/08. Using anti-freeze, tested it and said the radiator cap was bad. Will be monitoring the antifreeze, one month left on the warranty.

FYI – Breakfast at Thurston Fire house this Saturday March 15 2008. Ordered 5 sets of fire gear through Fire Safety Service.

Chief Hite said the Village should be careful what it allows Baltimore to do to the hydrants because a flow test can possibly blow the lines. Detria asked if the Village of Baltimore would cover any damage resulting from this test. No one knew. Jim said they also have to notify the public that this testing is going to be done. Brian Zets suggested we tell Village of Baltimore to check with their engineer to make sure they company doing the flow test will be liable for any damage.

Detria made a motion to rescind her original motion to allow Baltimore to perform the flow tests. Vickie second. All yea.

Detria made a motion to allow Baltimore to perform flow tests in the Village of Thurston upon receipt of written proof of liability on their behalf. Jo-Ann second. All yea.

Report from the Service Committee: Minutes attached.

Report from the Safety Committee: Didn't meet in March.

Report from the Finance Committee: Didn't meet in March.

Report from the Rules Committee: Didn't meet in March.

Report from the Village Administrator: Michelle said she got a fax from Fairfield County EMA stating they are having a County Debris Management meeting, and they need a representative from our Village. It's March 20th at the Liberty Center. Ed made a motion to appoint Michelle Shumaker as the representative from Thurston. Ray second. All yea.

Michelle said the township submitted a verbal bid for filling potholes in the Village. There would be a cap of \$1,500 for the year, if it goes over, they will check with us before doing any work. They said last year it cost about \$500 - \$600 per incident. Michelle said the Loss Control Specialist from our insurance company said we should not agree to the liability clause in the snow removal contract we have with the township now, so we should watch for it in this contract, too. Council agreed to have Michelle tell them to send a tentative proposal.

Michelle said the flow meter had been sent to the manufacturer for repair estimate. They said to repair the old one, it would cost \$840, plus shipping/handling, and that would have a 9-month warranty. If we were to purchase a new one, it would cost \$1,400, plus shipping/handling, plus we would need new valves at about \$300 a piece, for a total of around \$2,000. This would give us a 12-month warranty.

Ed made a motion to purchase a new meter and new valves. Vicki second. All yeah, with Jo-Ann and Ray opposing.

Detria brought up a couple of issues that Council needed to address, and have her written notes to Ed. She said she would forward her typed minutes to the clerk for addition to the Council minutes.

Ed said GGC Engineers came to the meeting and gave us a scope of project and associated costs for repairing/replacing water lines throughout the Village. The total scope cost was just over \$1.8 million. The Mary said she was concerned that we need to know what the true problems are before we go with a solution. She is also concerned about where we would come up with the money for the matching funds. Council discussed options and possibilities.

Detria made a motion that we have GGC apply for increased capacity for fire hydrants and for new meters for everyone. Jim Hite said several hydrants are not up to requirements. Ray second. All yea.

Mary asked if we wanted a "backup" project to apply for. Ed mentioned that Maple Street needed reconstructed. Jo-Ann said there are several roads throughout the Village that need repaired. Council decided that we should try for a grant for resurfacing several streets, with Maple Street being first.

Ed said Ernie Harter mentioned Thurston United Methodist Church wants to clean up the cemetery. They want to straighten up stones, put a fence next to the apartments, and do some tree removal. Ed made the motion to allow this. Detria second. All yea.

Old Business – Aaron brought up the engagement letter that Council approved the Mayor to sign last month. Aaron said he inadvertently gave the Council incorrect information and wanted to give them the correct information so they could make a good decision and vote. After discussing the details, Warren made a motion to accept the engagement letter and allow the Village Administrator to sign on behalf of the Village. Ed second. All yea, with Jo-Ann abstaining.

Aaron said that last month, Council voted to to adopt the contract with GGC Engineers for 2008, on the contingency that the 2008 billing rates are the same as 2007 (Ordinance 2008-4). Aaron received the 2008 rates from GGC, but can't find any of those rates in the contract that was signed for 2007. Does Council want him to request the 2007 rates from GGC, or just go ahead with this contract.

Detria made a motion to rescind the motion from February 2008 to adopt Ordinance 2008-4. No one responded. Detria rescinded her current motion.

Mary said she will ask GGC for the 2007 rates.

New Business – Aaron passed around a form from Julian & Grube to each Council member. The form asked if each wanted a formal meeting with the auditing firm once the audit is complete.

Martin Crow and Lee Backulich asked about what Council was going to do about the water drainage problems on the private road past the Prather's house on Long Street. The Village Solicitor's opinion is that this is not the Village's responsibility. Solicitor Zets went over the issue of the private drive and advised Council against getting involved in any issue between two private entities. Mary advised the property owners to contact the seller of the properties regarding the issue.

Aaron said he received a proposal for lawn care from C&C Lawn Care. Council would like to get more proposals.

Warren made a motion to adjourn. Ray second. All yea.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron L. Reedy, Clerk

Thurston Service Committee Minutes
March 5, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM. Chairman Ed Vanek, present, member Ray Robinson was present and member Vicki Carroll was absent.

Guests included: Mayor Mary Barber, council members JoAnne Hite, Detria Hiles and Warren Simpson, Water Supt/VA Michelle Shumaker; Brian Zetts of WBBB, Martin Crow of Long Street, Michael Betz and Mike Carder of GGC, Terry McGrath, Ernie Harter and Lowell Hite.

One change was requested of Brian Zetts of WBBB regarding the contract to be signed by Council; it should read: ...information requested by Village Council.
Brian has already spoken with Aaron and is working on items listed in February minutes as being discussed by Council.

Martin Crow of Long Street:

He is within Village limits

Passage to his house from Long Street is deemed a driveway and not Long Street.

Water & Sewer billed by Thurston

Storm sewer drain problem, last 5 houses, said not installed & inspected properly

GGC was present to get questions answered about the overall scope of the water project we are proposing when applying for the grant.

The Service Committee recommends to Council that "Project #2" be designed and implemented.

That project includes the repair of all Village lines and increase size for fire protection throughout the village and replace all meters.

Also discussed was options for further assistance, ie: Issue 2 money, low interest loans, etc.

Ernie Harter represented Thurston UM Church Men's Group. He requested permission for the men to clean the cemetery and remove the Yukka plants. He has talked with the Fairfield Foundation regarding a grant to help restore some of the damaged stones.

Service Committee recommends that Council give authorization for the TUM Men's group to clean 13 of the 15 rows.

Detria Hiles was contacted by Bill Arnett, to meet with him and Tony Vogle of Fairfield County Utilities. Will report on any affects plans may have on Thurston.

Terry McGrath – was questioned about the scope of the position of Village Administrator, authority, etc. He will meet with Michelle and come to next council meeting.

Michelle said that a 'sure-shot' camera will be used in the storm sewer line for \$200. Mayor Barber gave permission to have the job done.

Flow meter was sent off. Estimated \$840 to overhaul with 9 months warranty, or \$1500 new. Michelle will find out warranty info, this price includes flow output meter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.