

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF THURMAN HELD MAY 21, 2012 AT THE TOWN HALL, 311 ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL NEW YORK, COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M...**

**PRESENT:     MRS. EVELYN WOOD, SUPERVISOR**  
**MR. LEON GALUSHA, COUNCILMAN**  
**MR. AL VASAK, COUNCILMAN**  
**MRS. REBECCA HITCHCOCK, COUNCILWOMAN**  
**MR. CHARLES BILLS, COUNCILMAN**

Recording secretary: **Cynthia R. Hyde**, Town Clerk

**PLEDGE ALLIEGENCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**6:30 PM OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #1 TO ALLOW THE TOWN BOARD TO SET THE HOURS OF THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**READING OF THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The following people were satisfied with the hours of the Town Clerk's Office and did not feel it was necessary for the Town Board to establish the hours with a local law ~ **Jamiee Ross, Ed Binder, Richard Kline, Mary Eddy, Joyce Eddy, Shirley Wendling, Susan Baker** and **Arron Beadnell**.

The following people were not satisfied with the hours of the Town Clerk's Office and were supportive of a local law to set them ~ **Diane Wood**.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW #1 6:50PM**

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH 3 ELECTED ASSESSORS IN FAVOR OF A SOLE APPOINTED ASSESSOR 6:50 PM**

**READING OF THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The following people spoke in favor of the 3 elected assessor system and against a board appointed assessor ~ **Joyce Eddy, Jim Galusha, Richard Kline, Jamiee Ross, Tim Arnold, Mary Eddy, and Cynthia Hyde.**

The following people spoke against the 3 elected assessor system and in favor of a sole appointed assessor ~ **Richard Morasse**

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ASSESSORS 7:12PM**

**CLAIMS:** On a motion by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, the town board approved payment of 2012-337, 338 and 339 for a total of \$9,205.90.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 AYES ~ WOOD, HITCHCOCK, GALUSHA, VASAK , BILLS**

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by **Councilwoman Hitchcock**, seconded by **Councilman Vasak**, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4 AYES ~ WOOD, HITCHCOCK, GALUSHA, VASAK**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Cynthia R. Hyde  
Town clerk  
May 25, 2012**

**Attached: Reasons for keeping three assessors handed out by Jim Galusha**

# Reasons for Keeping Three Assessors

## Town of Thurman, Warren County

1. Current assessment role is the most fair and accurate that it has been in history.
2. The current 3 assessors are doing more work for a lower hourly wage than an appointed assessor would or could.
3. An appointed assessor would most likely be a part-time employee of the town and as such will require health insurance and other benefits. The current assessors receive no compensation beyond their part-time salaries.
4. These assessors have added a substantial amount of real property to the tax rolls that was not previously on the tax role. That meant that the other residents of Thurman were paying the taxes on those properties.
5. The State of New York's Board of Equalization and Assessment recently completed their assessment of 57 properties in the Town of Thurman. The Town assessors challenged the State's findings on 27 of those assessments and were successful in getting 18 changed. The savings to Town residents under the STAR Program amounts to over \$30,000 per year in school taxes.
6. The current 3 assessors are intimately familiar with the Town's properties. A new assessor will take time to learn the Town and the taxpayers will pay for this learning curve.
7. During the recent State appraisal the State assessor told our assessors that they were the best 3 person assessment team that they had ever worked with.
8. Sharing an assessor with a neighboring town from within the same school district will place Thurman at a disadvantage. There will be no incentive for a shared assessor to challenge state appraisals and any unfair burden in school taxes will not be corrected. A single assessor can not fairly represent two masters.
9. This issue has been before the voters multiple times in the past. They have rejected it each time. Bringing it up again is insulting to the voters and is a bold display of arrogance on the part of our politicians. It suggests that they know better than the voters.
10. Elected assessors are residents of the Town and have the Town's best interests at heart. An appointed assessor may or may not be a resident of Thurman.

