

The Theresa Town Board held a regular meeting December 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office at 215 Riverside Ave. and the following were present:

Steven Marcinkowski	Supervisor
Timothy Busler	Councilman
Kevin McCarthy	Councilman
Jamie Papin-absent	Councilman
Kristopher Ryder	Councilman
Kim Delles	Town Clerk
Mark Savage	Highway Superintendent

Others present: Lynn Brown, Steve LeRoy, Rebecca Oblender, Donald Harris, Aimee Martini, Greg Parmes, Mike Howard, Desiree Howard, James Wilson, Michael Campbell, Jody G. Denner, Jessie Jones, Taylor Jones, Eileen Kaleel, Vickie Colvard

Discussion:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Marcinkowski at 6:00.

Discussion:

Christian Oblender stated he was video recording the meeting. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that he will have to make a phone call to see if legally can record. Councilman McCarthy said that it was awkward and that he felt that Mr. Oblender was confronting the Board. Mr. McCarthy that it would have been a courtesy to request ahead of the meeting. Mr. Oblender stated that he heard their concerns but was still going to record and not waive his first amendment rights. Lynn Brown said that there is a concern over the chance of meetings that are recorded being manipulated.

Reports received and placed on file:

Town Clerk's & Building & Zoning November 2023 report  
Transfer Site November 2023 report  
Supervisor's November 2023 report  
Judge Robert's November 2023 report  
Judge Oblender's November 2023 reports (LATE) received 12/12/23  
Jefferson County Dog Control Quarterly Report

Res. #83

Motion by: Timothy Busler  
Seconded by: Kristopher Ryder

**Resolved**, that the minutes of November 8, 2023, be accepted as read.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. #84

Motion by: Kevin McCarthy  
Seconded by: Steven Marcinkowski

**Resolved**, that the following bills be paid:

Voucher #524-526;528-569 Total **\$30,496.63**

General	\$18,326.00
General O/S	\$39.76
Highway	\$12,130.54

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Town Board meeting held December 13, 2023 cont'd.

Res. # 85

Motion by: Timothy Busler  
Seconded by: Kristopher Ryder

**Resolved**, that the Town Board appoint Vickie Colvard as Deputy Town Clerk effective immediately and ends December 31, 2023.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. # 86

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski  
Seconded by: Kevin McCarthy

**Resolved**, that the Town Board appoint Vickie Colvard, for a two-year term, as Town Registrar effective January 1, 2024.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. # 87

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder  
Seconded by: Steven Marcinkowski

**Resolved**, the Town Board appoint Kim Delles, for a two-year term, as Deputy Town Registrar effective January 1, 2024.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. # 88

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski  
Seconded by: Timothy Busler

**Resolved**, that the Theresa Town Board accept Brad Millett's resignation as Town Assessor effective December 31, 2023.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. # 89

Motion by: Kevin McCarthy  
Seconded by: Kristopher Ryder

**Resolved**, that Supervisor Marcinkowski be appointed as the Town of Theresa's Delegate/Representative at all official Town functions.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. # 90

Motion by: Kevin McCarthy  
Seconded by: Kristopher Ryder

**Resolved**, that the Supervisor be authorized to transfer \$3,644.00 from General Fund Appropriation Contingency, Contractual, A-1990.4 to the following General Fund Appropriation Accounts:

Town Board meeting held December 13, 2023 cont'd.

A-6410.4	Publicity, Contractual	\$1,200.00
A-7140.2	Recreation, Equipment	\$944.00
A-8810.1	Cemetery, Personal Service	\$1,500.00

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Supervisor Marcinkowski told the Board that a new Bookkeeper was hired. Katherine Hunter, who lives in the Village, started a couple of weeks ago. She will work (32) hours a week. Amy Vaadi took another job and is slowly phasing her way out.

The Supervisor asked the Board's opinion on whether the Town should replace the Assessor with a new Town Assessor or go with the County on a yearly basis? The County would cost the Town approximately \$41,000/year and a County Assessor would work in the Town Office (1) to (2) days a week. There are (2) Assessors interested in the position. Councilman Busler would like to keep in house if possible. Councilman Ryder and McCarthy both agree to keep in house. Mr. Ryder asked if the new Assessor would cover more hours. The Supervisor did not know because they both work for other Towns. Mr. Marcinkowski will advertise the position.

The Supervisor informed the Board that he has requested a Town wide revaluation. The County cannot schedule one until 2025. Mr. Parmes would like to know what that means? The Supervisor explained it meant every property would be looked at and assessment assessed and changed if needed. The Town is at 88% assessed value.

Res. #91

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski  
Seconded by: Kevin McCarthy

**Resolved**, that the Town of Theresa schedule a revaluation of Town properties, with the County's assistance, for 2025.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

The Supervisor asked the Town Board their thoughts on going to one justice position for the new election cycle. The Town had previously made the decision to go to (1) Judge but after the election decided to rescind the decision. Supervisor Marcinkowski said that he would like to see it go to one. Councilman Busler said it depended on the workload of the Judges. Judge Oblender was asked her opinion if it could be done by one Judge, and she said she would rather not answer. She stated it should be up to the Town Board. Mr. Parmes thought the Board should be able to inquire from the Judge her opinion. Lynn Brown said that the Town had previously discussed that revenue was down in that department. Steve Leroy asked if arraignments were done now at the County level. Supervisor Marcinkowski said that all arraignments are done at the County. Councilman McCarthy will call some Judges from other Towns and ask their opinions. The Board to table until next meeting.

A letter from DOT stating that an investigation regarding the request to reduce the speed zone on a portion of NYS Route 37 was completed and a decision was made that a reduction in the speed limit is not warranted at this time. (see attached letter) Supervisor Marcinkowski told the Board that the Town Historian asked Channel 7 news to do a story on the issue and they came out to interview the Supervisor. Steve said that what was on the news was mild compared to what he told the reporter and that he felt like it was a fluff story. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> rejection from the State, but the Town is not giving up.

A letter from DOT announcing a 5-year capital program for BRIDGE NY was discussed. (see attached letter) Superintendent Savage said that he had already looked into the grants to replace culvert pipes. There is a culvert pipe on Dano Road that could possibly be eligible.

A letter from Hyde Lake Preservation Alliance was discussed. Hyde Lake has one of the highest concentrations of reported harmful algae blooms in New York State. (see attached letter)

Town Board meeting held December 13, 2023 cont'd.

Update of Highway Dept.:

- Ready for winter.
- A resident on Snell Road called Mr. Savage reporting that people are dumping furniture and garbage at the old Sunoco on NYS Route 411. Mark told her that it is a zoning issue, and that the Town highway would not be able to clean it up.
- The last new hire did not work out. A new hire started yesterday. He has juggled around some employees, and it is working well.

Update Park & Rec.:

- Amber Murphy is going to be the director for winter recreation.
- Councilman Ryder met with Amber last night and went over applications.
- There are approximately (20) pairs of skates that can be used at the rink. Mr. Parmes thinks he can get more at the secondhand store in Alexandria Bay.
- Mr. Ryder has been discussing the new playground with Miss Amato and they are starting to bring people together to discuss.

Mr. Parmes said that the Progress Group is dormant for the winter. The Highway will plow the food pantry this winter.

Supervisor Marcinkowski will give Councilman Ryder all the feed back that has been emailed to the Town about the RV law. The RV committee will look over the emails. Councilman Busler thought should be done sooner than later. The Board will fine tune and then set a February tentative date to hold a public meeting at the firehall.

Councilman Busler thanked everyone to do with the Christmas parade last weekend. He hadn't seen that many people in Theresa in a long time.

Christian Oblender thanked the Board for listening to him. The minutes were posted online Monday or Tuesday of this week.

Mr. Oblender financially driven to reduce the Judges to one? Councilman McCarthy stated that is would be out of line to make that decision because of money. The case load is why it is being looked at.

Steven Leroy said that he was the Supervisor of the Town of Sodus that has a population of 10,000 people. He said that he would like the people of Sodus to come to the Town of Theresa to learn how to plow. He said the Town's highway department does a great job.

Councilman Ryder thanked Kim, Kevin and Shookie for their service to the Town.

Res. # 92

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski  
Seconded by: Timothy Busler

**Resolved**, that the Town Board hold a special meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to pay bills and for any other business that arises.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. #93

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski  
Seconded by: Kevin McCarthy

**Resolved**, that the Town Board go into executive session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Town Board meeting held December 13, 2023 cont'd.

Res. #94

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski

Seconded by: Timothy Busler

**Resolved**, that the Town Board end executive session at 7:27 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Res. #95

Motion by: Steven Marcinkowski

Seconded by: Timothy Busler

**Resolved**, that the meeting be closed at 7:27 p.m.

VOTE: Mr. Busler - aye, Mr. McCarthy – aye, Mr. Papin – absent, Mr. Ryder – aye  
Mr. Marcinkowski – aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim A. Delles  
Town Clerk