

# TOWN OF ORANGETOWN TOWN BOARD REORGANZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES January 10, 2024

This meeting was opened at 7:10 pm. Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny presided and Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk, called the roll.

Present were: Councilperson Paul Valentine Councilperson Jerry Bottari Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny Councilperson Brian Donohue

Also Present:

Allison Kardon, Supervisor's Confidential Assistant Carmel Reilly, Director of Economic Development & Tourism Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk Joseph Thomassen, Deputy Clerk Robert Magrino, Town Attorney Jeff Bencik, Finance Director James Dean, Superintendent of Highways Eamon Reilly, Commissioner of DEME Aric Gorton, Superintendent of Parks, Recreation & Building Maint. Bob Urban, Human Resource Coordinator Matthew Lenihan, Computer Network Specialist Brendon Carton, IT Department Donald Butterworth, Police Chief James Acheson, Police Captain Michael Shannon, Police Captain Denis Troy, Deputy Supervisor

## **Entry of Colors:**

Boy Scout Troop #55 and Cub Scout Pack #55 Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States led by: Sharyn McTigue (Youngman)

"The Star-Spangled Banner" performed by: BridgeMusik musicians

Keith Buterbaugh, voice Tanya Witek, flute Danny Mui, clarinet Lukas Witek, violin Annamaria Witek, cello

Invocation: Rabbi Daniel Pernick, Beth Am Temple

"America the Beautiful" performed by: BridgeMusik musicians

Keith Buterbaugh, voice Tanya Witek, flute Danny Mui, clarinet Lukas Witek, violin Annamaria Witek, cello Honorable Judge Richard C. Finning administers the Oath of Office to: Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk Patrick J. Loftus, Town Justice

Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk administers the Oath of Office to: Teresa M. Kenny, Supervisor Gerald Bottari, Town Councilman

Billy Dean Valentine, Esq. administers the Oath of Office to: Paul Valentine, Town Councilman

Cheryl Dean Ward administers the Oath of Office to: James J. Dean, Superintendent of Highways

Retirement of Colors: Boy Scout Troop #55 and Cub Scout Pack #55 Color Guard

2024 STATE OF THE TOWN SPEECH: (Exhibit 01-10-A)

Town of Orangetown Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Benediction: Rev. Ravikiran Dasari

# RESOLUTION NO. 1 OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Director of Finance, Jeffrey Bencik, to approve Official Undertaking to be filed in the Rockland County Clerk's Office for elected and appointed officials, officers and employees as the Town Board may require for the faithful performance of their duties and the prompt and proper account for paying over all money received by said employees in their official capacities.

Councilperson Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2 2024 / MARRIAGE OFFICERS

**RESOLVED,** that the following are designated as Marriage Officers effective January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024, at no salary:

Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny Councilman Paul Valentine Councilman Gerald Bottari Councilman Brian Donohue Town Clerk, Rosanna Sfraga

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

#### RESOLUTION NO. 3 2024 / OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby designates the Journal News as the official newspaper of the Town pursuant to NYS Town Law Section 64 (11), and the Journal News and the Rockland County Times, for additional notices as the Board may determine necessary or advisable, on a case by case basis.

Councilperson Brian Donohue offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### RESOLUTION NO. 4 2024 BANKING DEPOSITORIES

**RESOLVED**, that the following banks are designated as the banking depository for the Town of Orangetown:

J. P. Morgan Chase Key Bank Webster Bank Connect One NYClass

Councilperson Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

# RESOLUTION NO. 5 2024 TOWN CLERK FOR COLLECTION OF TAXES / BANKING DEPOSITORIES

**RESOLVED**, that the following banks are designated as the banking depository for the Town Clerk for Collection of Taxes:

J. P. Morgan Chase Webster Bank

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

# RESOLUTION NO. 6 REAPPOINT / REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS / ROSANNA SFRAGA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

**RESOLVED,** that Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk, is hereby reappointed Registrar of Vital Statistics, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 6 - Continued**

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 7**

REAPPOINT / RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (RMO) / ROSANNA SFRAGA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

**RESOLVED**, that Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk, is hereby reappointed Records Management Officer (RMO), effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Councilperson Brian Donohue offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 8**

REAPPOINT / RECORDS ACCESS OFFICER (RAO) / 2024 / DEPARTMENT HEADS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board reappoints each Department Head as Records Access Officer (RAO) for their Department records, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 9**

REAPPOINT / DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF VITAL STATISTICS / TERESA ACCETTA-PUGH & RIMA DEL VECCHIO / EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Town Clerk, Teresa Accetta-Pugh and Rima Del Vecchio are hereby appointed Deputy Registrars of Vital Statistics with a stipend of \$4,000 each, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Councilperson Brian Donohue offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 10**

# REAPPOINT / 1ST DEPUTY TOWN CLERK / COLLECTOR / JOSEPH THOMASSEN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby recognizes and reaffirms the reappointment of Joseph Thomassen by the Town Clerk to the position of First Deputy Town Clerk / Collector, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Councilperson Brian Donohue offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### RESOLUTION NO. 11 INDEMNIFICATION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

**RESOLVED**, that the provisions of Section 18 of the Public Officers' Law concerning defense and indemnification shall apply to the officers and employees of the Town of Orangetown who are named defendants in any action arising out of the proper performance of duties to the fullest extent permissible by law, including, but not limited to, punitive damages, and the benefits of Section 18 shall extend to all such employees, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that all necessary and reasonable costs for providing this benefit shall be a proper Town charge.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### RESOLUTION NO. 12 AUTHORIZE TOWN ATTORNEY TO INSTITUTE AND DEFEND ACTIONS

**RESOLVED**, that for the year 2024, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Attorney to take all necessary steps to institute actions on behalf of or defend any proceedings brought against the Town of Orangetown, its agencies and employees, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution is hereby made retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Councilperson Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

### RESOLUTION NO. 13 APPOINT ROBERT V. MAGRINO / TOWN ATTORNEY / JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to the provisions of Town Law §20 and Town Law §24 the Town Board hereby reappoints Robert V. Magrino as Town Attorney, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025, at the annual salary of \$152,000.00 for 2024.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

### RESOLUTION NO. 14 ADOPT TOWN OF ORANGETOWN PROCUREMENT POLICY 2024

WHEREAS, Section 104-b of the General Municipal Law requires the governing body of every municipality to adopt internal policies and procedures governing all procurements of goods and services not subject to the bidding requirements of GML Section 103 or any other law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board having previously adopted a procurement policy pursuant to Town Board Resolution #17 of 2023; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board does hereby adopt the procurement policy annexed to this Resolution and identified as the 2024 Orangetown Procurement Policy which is intended to apply to all goods and services which are not required by law to be publicly bid.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### RESOLUTION NO. 15 TOWN OF ORANGETOWN / TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE POLICY 2024

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the Town to adopt a "Travel and Conference Policy" which will establish guidelines for the reimbursement of town business related travel and out-of-town travel expenses by officers and employees; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board having previously adopted a Travel and Conference Policy pursuant to Town Board Resolution #18 of 2023,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board does hereby adopt the Travel and Conference Policy as annexed hereto.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

## RESOLUTION NO. 16 ACCEPT / RESIGNATION OF THOMAS DIVINY / TOWN COUNCILMAN / TOWN BOARD / EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2024

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board acknowledges, with regret, the resignation of Town Councilman Thomas Diviny from the Town Board, effective January 2, 2024.

Councilperson Brian Donohue offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny, Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### RESOLUTION NO. 17 AUTHORIZE TOWN ATTORNEY TO SETTLE CERTAIN CLAIMS

**RESOLVED,** that the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to settle liability claims against the Town for amounts up to SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500.00) without the necessity for further Town Board resolution.

Councilperson Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Brian Donohue and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 18**

#### APPOINT BRUCE BOND / ALTERNATE MEMBER / ORANGETOWN PLANNING BOARD / 1-YEAR TERM / 2024

**RESOLVED**, that BRUCE BOND is hereby appointed as an ALTERNATE MEMBER to the Orangetown Planning Board for a period of 1-year, commencing January 1, 2024 and expiring on December 31, 2024.

Councilperson Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny, Councilperson Brian Donohue

Councilperson Brian Doi

Noes: None

### RESOLUTION NO. 19 PAY VOUCHERS

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Director of Finance, Jeffrey Bencik, the Finance Office is hereby authorized to pay vouchers for a total amount of six (6) warrants (attached) for a total of \$9,753,889.39.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

## RESOLUTION NO. 20 ADJOURNED / MEMORY

**RESOLVED**, at 8:08 pm, the Town Board adjourned in memory of: **Ruth Dizzine**, Resident of Tappan and Mother of Parks Employee Judi Smith-Linderman; **Frank Fornario**, Resident of Blauvelt and Former Rockland County Legislator; and **Vera Lowry**, Mother-In-Law to Supervisor's Office Employee Carmel Reilly.

Councilperson Brian Donohue offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 4 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny,

Councilperson Brian Donohue

Noes: None

Rosanna Straga, Town C



## TOWN OF ORANGETOWN TOWN CLERK 26 W ORANGEBURG ROAD

26 W ORANGEBURG ROAD ORANGEBURG, NEW YORK 10962 www.orangetown.com

#### ROSANNA SFRAGA TOWN CLERK

TEL: 845.359.5100 x 5004 FAX: 845.359.5126

email: townclerk@orangetown.com

January 9, 2024

Rockland County Times Rockland Journal News WRCR Radio News 12 Hudson Valley Rockland County Business Journal Rockland Video editor@rocklandcountytimes.com metro@lohud.com mail@wrcr.com news12hv@news12.com ttraster@RCBizJournal.com mlieb@rocklandvideo.com

Please take Notice, due to the impending storm, we are postponing tonight's Re-Organizational Meeting to Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully yours,

Rosanna Sfraga Town Clerk

Cc Supervisor Town Board Town Attorney Post (2)

#### Teresa Pugh

From:

Teresa Pugh

Sent:

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 4:21 PM

To:

editor@rocklandcountytimes.com; metro@lohud.com; mail@wrcr.com;

news12hv@news12.com; ttraster@rcbizjournal.com; mlieb@rocklandvideo.com

Cc:

Town Board; Department Heads; Allison Kardon; Kimberly Allen

Subject:

Re-Organizational Meeting Postponed

**Attachments:** 

01-09-24 - Postponed.pdf

Good afternoon

Please see the attachment.

Teresa Pugh, Deputy Registrar of Vital Records & Principal Registry Clerk Orangetown Town Clerk's Office 845-359-5100 X5004



# 2024 STATE OF THE TOWN Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

I am happy to report that Orangetown continues to maintain a strong financial position due to conservative budgeting practices and oversight of expenses, and I am proud that the Town has the highest bond rating in the County at Aa2.

In addition, the NYS Comptroller's office evaluated the fiscal stress for the Town's finances and awarded it the best possible score of 0.0 on a scale of 0-100 (no designation for stress). The Town's transparency with its finances is also important and, to that point, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the year ending December 31, 2021. It was the 16th year in a row that the Town achieved this national award and we are the only municipality in Rockland County to do so.

Looking to 2024, the Town Board passed a budget that stayed under the 2% tax cap, despite increases in salaries from the new PBA and CSEA contracts and \$1 million in additional debt service for the new Town Hall. Thanks to a strong performance from both golf courses and higher interest income and fees, as well as appropriation of \$3.5 million from fund balance, we were able to offset some of those costs and stay under the tax cap, while still maintaining a healthy fund balance.

However, 2023 did have some unique challenges, starting in May with a call from NYC Mayor Adams wherein he told me that NYC planned to house 340 single, male migrants in a hotel in Orangetown, requiring the Town Board to take swift action to obtain a Temporary Restraining Order to prevent NYC from unilaterally and blatantly violating the Orangetown Zoning Code.

While the Town is currently in litigation as a result of these actions, we stand behind what we did, not just because it stopped illegal housing in an Orangetown hotel, but because it sends a message that in Orangetown we do not ignore violations of our Town Laws. That the Town is ready, willing and able to take all necessary and appropriate enforcement actions to protect and defend our laws - no matter who is doing the violating.

We also had a setback when Governor Hochul vetoed the Special Legislation needed to allow Orangetown to move forward with a Community Preservation Fund. While I was disappointed with the veto, I was angry at her stated reason why.

And I quote, "There have been well-documented tensions in the region between local officials and members of the Hasidic community. Similar tensions exist in the nearby town of Blooming Grove and resulted in litigation in the Town of Chester."

I have a message for Governor Hochul, there have been no such tensions in Orangetown, documented or otherwise, and Blooming Grove is not a nearby town. That statement, made without any basis in fact, simply took a broad brush of antisemitism and painted it over the people of Orangetown. I reject this premise outright and state with 100% certainty that the purpose for the legislation was exactly as stated in the bill – for the preservation of community character, which includes:

1) the preservation of open space; 2) the establishment of parks, nature preserves, or recreation areas; 3) the preservation of lands of exceptional scenic value; and 4) preservation of public access to lands for public use including stream rights and waterways, to name just a few.

But we are not going to give up. We will seek this special legislation again, and take a more aggressive approach to get our messaging out. I will personally reach out to religious leaders, so they too understand why we want this legislation. And, I will ask all of you to send letters of support. With that, I hope the Governor will reconsider her position and approve the legislation later this year.

And finally, in the last weeks of December, we were faced with the task of having to move out of the old building, one which the Town occupied for 62 years, and into this one. Not an easy thing to do, especially during the holidays. So, I want to thank the employees who helped to make the move a "mostly" smooth one. I know how much work it was, with long hours for many of you. And, even though I am not naming you individually tonight, please know that it was noticed and very much appreciated.

But, it was worth it, and I am happy that the residents of Orangetown now have a Town Hall that they can be proud of, with improved handicap accessibility, security, and energy efficiency – and very much improved aesthetics. Sometime this spring, when it is 100% finished, I look forward to having a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony and hope that many of you will join us.

We also had important accomplishments this year, including the completion of what seemed like the never-ending Update to the Orangetown Comprehensive Plan.

In addition, despite several days of almost typhoon-like weather, we had a hugely successful farmers market in Pearl River. I want to thank the Pearl River School District for allowing us the use of the Central Avenue Field. I know that I speak for many when I say that I am very excited that it will be back again this year.

And, we even managed to have some fun along the way:

- 1) Thanks to Carmel Reilly, we had the first ever Orangetown Senior Citizen Prom and an Orangetown Night at Clover Stadium. Both were huge successes and, knowing Carmel, they will be even bigger and better this year;
- 2) We had the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of the splash pad and pickleball courts at Veterans Memorial Park;
- 3) We had a fun project with art students from the Tappan Zee High School, where they painted murals on the walls of the underpass on the rail trail. Thanks to the students, the school district, their teachers and parents who allowed the kids to do this for us. It is really a testament to how great the youth here in Orangetown are.

But 2023 is over and it is time to look to 2024.

I strongly believe that there is more that can be done to keep a line on Town taxes. While I am happy that we have stayed under the tax cap, the total tax burden on our residents is no longer sustainable.

In addition, more needs to be done to address the problem with truck traffic in the Town, particularly on Route 303. In the near future, I will be proposing a short-term moratorium on any new warehouse applications on the Route 303 corridor to give the Town Board time to study the issue and to see what can be done to address it.

Before I finish, I want to recognize and thank the Orangetown employees, because everything that is accomplished in the Town is done so only with their help. They are the people who work every day to keep your local government running.

I also want to thank those who serve on the Land Use Boards and Town Committees, as I know it is often a thankless job. So, thank you for volunteering your time to see that Orangetown remains a great place to live.

And, I want to congratulate the recently elected officials, Councilmen Jerry Bottari and Paul Valentine, Superintendent of Highways Jim Dean, Town Clerk Rosanna Sfraga and Town Justice Patrick Loftus - I look forward to working with all of you for another two years.

I also want to congratulate Dan Sullivan, who will be appointed to the unexpired term of Tom Diviny at the next Town Board meeting.