



**TOWN OF ORANGETOWN**  
**RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 05, 2021**

This meeting was opened at 7:02 PM. Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny presided and Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk, called the roll.

Present were:

Councilperson Thomas Diviny  
Councilperson Paul Valentine  
Councilperson Denis Troy  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari  
Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

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  
Jane Slavin, Director of OBZPAE  
Eamon Reilly, Commissioner of DEME  
Aric Gorton, Superintendent of Parks, Recreation & Building Maint.  
Anthony Bevelacqua, Director of Automated Systems  
Matthew Lenihan, Computer Network Specialist  
Donald Butterworth, Police Chief

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**  
**Councilman Denis Troy**

**2021 STATE OF THE TOWN SPEECH: Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny**

Welcome to the Town Re-Organization meeting of 2021 and for allowing me to say a few remarks about the State of our Town.

So, 2020, where do I start? Exactly one year ago, I was sworn in as your Town Supervisor. If someone had told me that in a mere 10 weeks I would be declaring a State of Emergency due to a worldwide global pandemic, I would have told him or her that they were watching too many horror movies. Unfortunately, with the arrival of COVID, our world changed forever – and what I expected from my first year, changed almost overnight.

During COVID we all experienced loss. Whether it was the heartbreaking loss of someone we loved or knew, loss of employment, loss of being near or with our loved ones, or the loss of revenue for so many of our local businesses struggling to keep their doors open.

However, speaking for myself, I also learned a lot from COVID. Specifically, that even during the worst of times, Orangetown is a great place to live because of the people that live here.

I saw our residents and businesses step up to donate both their time and their money to help neighbors in need; we literally had more names of volunteers than we knew what to do with. They offered to deliver food, medicine, masks, or anything else we asked of them.

## **2021 STATE OF THE TOWN SPEECH: Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny**

I watched as local organizations, such as the GAA, AOH, American Legion, the Nyack Center and the Pride Center – just to name a few – stepped up to establish food pantries. This is an appropriate time to recognize Carmel Reilly for her work organizing the Orangetown Virtual 5k Race, which raised over \$12,000 for these local food banks.

I saw residents, some of whose own businesses were struggling, step up to volunteer on the Kickstart Orangetown Committee. These volunteers donated their time and resources to try to help local businesses get back up and running; And while some of it did not work as we planned, it showed our business community that we cared about them, were thinking about them and were doing what we could to help them get back up and running.

I also want to offer thanks to the Orangetown employees and Department heads who worked to keep Orangetown open to service the needs of the residents. With a special shout out to the Town Clerk and her staff, as they were the first point of contact for residents visiting town hall throughout the pandemic (and who had a record number of marriages in 2020 – most taking place right outside my window) and to the Orangetown Police, Sewer Plant Operators and other front line workers who were not able to work from home or be away from their work sites, for working through it to keep us safe and our sewers working.

In addition, during COVID I had the opportunity to work closely with the other Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. I spoke with them regularly, and during the height of the pandemic, it was often daily, if not more. We all shared the common goals of wanting to keep our residents and employees safe and informed; it meant a lot to me to know that I could reach out to any one of them and ask for advice at any time.

Most important for me, however, was how this Town Board come together to work as a team. I am proud of the work that we did during COVID to keep both our employees and residents safe. To be sure, we did not always agree on everything – but we knew that each one of us was trying to do what we thought was best for our residents, employees and families – so we worked together and found common ground. I am not shy about saying that I think we did an awesome job during COVID, including the work we did on the budget. Faced with a budgetary crisis due to the pandemic, the Town Board made hard choices but did what we needed to do to keep the budget under 2%.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and to say how exciting it was for me to have the first vaccine developed right here in Orangetown. I want to thank the volunteers that participated in the clinical trials and the Pfizer employees – some of who are our very own Orangetown residents.

Unfortunately, the horror movie known as “2020” - that started with COVID in March - did not end there:

Two months later, on May 25<sup>th</sup> the death of George Floyd sparked civil unrest, protests and rallies, and Governor Cuomo implemented Executive Order 203, which mandated all municipalities to perform a comprehensive review of its police policies and procedures and to submit a plan to the public and the State. Chief Butterworth and I convened a committee from a cross section of our town to hold meetings and review our police policies. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is working on the committee, including Councilman Denis Troy and PBA President Nick Whalen, to tackle this very important mission.

However, 2020 was not done with us yet. In early August, Tropical Storm Isaias swept through NY and unleashed tornadoes, high winds, and heavy rain that resulted in extended power outages, including to my own home, which was without power for 5 days. The Town Supervisors were besieged with phone calls from distressed residents and seniors. Afterward, we banded together and complained to Governor Cuomo about the less than satisfactory response from Orange & Rockland. We have made it a joint mission to ensure that Orange & Rockland does better by the residents of Rockland County and, from the response to the storm on Christmas Day, it appears that our message was heard.

## **2021 STATE OF THE TOWN SPEECH: Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny**

Then in December, just as 2020 was nearing an end, the Village of South Nyack residents voted to dissolve the 142-year old village. I will have a little more to say about this in a minute.

### **BUT 2020 IS FINALLY OVER:**

For me, I am looking forward to 2021 with hope; optimism and a plan to do all that I wanted to do in 2020. Here, in no particular order, are a few of the highlights for 2021:

1. The proposals from planners for the Orangetown Comprehensive Plan are in and the Town Board will be reviewing them in the coming weeks. This is an important first step for the future of Orangetown, it is a process for developing a master plan for how we – and by we, I mean the all of us - want to see Orangetown for years to come;
2. An All-Inclusive Playground at Veteran’s Park. Allison Kardon of my staff worked tirelessly with volunteer Lauren Domitrovis to make sure the replacement playground at Veteran’s Park will be fun and accommodating for Orangetown children of all abilities. The design is now complete and we are waiting on the grant money that was promised from NYS so that we can get the project started, hopefully as early as this Spring;
3. The Town issued the Request for Expression of Interest for the HNA and it is currently out. We are optimistically anticipating proposals from some top-notch developers, and hoping to get some exciting proposals that will enhance the area and bring in clean tax ratables to the town;
4. South Nyack Dissolution. Over the next year, the Town Board will work closely with the Village Board to make the dissolution of the Village and the transition to the town as seamless as it can be. As I stated in my Facebook post, it is time to put aside the divisive language that I so often see on social media – the “we” versus “them” - and to work toward making Orangetown an “us.” Being in unincorporated Orangetown does not make a hamlet lose its unique personality. South Nyack will remain South Nyack, with its distinctive qualities and characteristics, even after the dissolution. I look forward to working with Mayor Christian, the Village Trustees and the Town Board to ensure that this happens.

I want to close with thanking you for placing your trust in me to be your Town Supervisor. It is not something that I take lightly and, while it has been a challenging year to say the least, I am proud of how we, as a Town, persevered. It has been an honor to serve you and I look forward to a much better, productive and healthier 2021.

(Supervisor’s note: while I wrote this before the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, I continue to hope and pray that 2021 is going to be a kinder year to all of us).

### **SUPERVISOR'S APPOINTMENTS:**

**Jeffrey Bencik, Finance Director**  
**Carmel Reilly, Director of Economic Development and Tourism**  
**Allison Kardon, Confidential Assistant to Supervisor**  
**Mary Cardenas, Town Historian**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

### **OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS / 2021**

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Director of Finance, Jeff 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

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 - Continued**

performance of their duties and the prompt and proper account for paying over all money received by said employees in their official capacities

Councilperson Thomas Diviny offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Denis Troy and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 2  
2021 / MARRIAGE OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED**, the following are designated as Marriage Officers effective January 1, 2021– December 31, 2021, at no salary:

Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny	Councilman Thomas F. Diviny
Councilman Paul Valentine	Councilman Gerald (Jerry) Bottari
Councilman Denis Troy	Town Clerk, Rosanna Sfraga

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

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 3  
2021 / 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 Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Denis Troy and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 4  
2021 BANKING DEPOSITORIES**

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

J. P. Morgan Chase	Key Bank	Sterling National	Connect One
--------------------	----------	-------------------	-------------

Councilperson Thomas Diviny offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Denis Troy and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy, Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 5  
2021 BANKING DEPOSITORIES / COLLECTION OF TAXES**

**RESOLVED**, that the following banks are designated as the banking depository for the Collection of Taxes (Town Clerk's Office):

J. P. Morgan Chase                      Sterling National

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

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 6  
REAPPOINT / REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS / ROSANNA SFRAGA / 2021**

**RESOLVED**, that Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk, is hereby reappointed Registrar of Vital Statistics, effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Councilperson Denis Troy offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 7  
REAPPOINT / RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (RMO) / 2021 / ROSANNA SFRAGA**

**RESOLVED**, that Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk, is hereby reappointed Records Management Officer (RMO) for 2021.

Councilperson Paul Valentine offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Thomas Diviny and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 8  
REAPPOINT / RECORDS ACCESS OFFICER (RAO) / 2021 / DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board reappoints each Department Head as Records Access Officer (RAO) for their Department records, effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Councilperson Denis Troy offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Jerry Bottari and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 9  
REAPPOINT TERESA ACCETTA-PUGH / RIMA DEL VECCHIO / DEPUTY  
REGISTRARS OF VITAL STATISTICS / 2021**

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Town Clerk, that Teresa Accetta-Pugh and Rima Del Vecchio are hereby appointed Deputy Registrar(s) of Vital Statistics for 2021.

Councilperson Thomas Diviny offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 10  
REAPPOINT / JOSEPH THOMASSEN / 1ST DEPUTY TOWN CLERK / COLLECTOR /  
2021**

**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 for 2021.

Councilperson Thomas Diviny offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 11  
TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE POLICY 2021**

**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 2020-18,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board does hereby adopt the Travel and Conference Policy as annexed hereto (Exhibit 01-B-21).

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Denis Troy and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 12  
PROCUREMENT POLICY 2021**

**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

**RESOLUTION NO. 12 - Continued**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board having previously adopted a procurement policy pursuant to Town Board Resolution 2020-17

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board does hereby adopt the procurement policy annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit 01-C-21 which is intended to apply to all goods and services which are not required by law to be publicly bid.

Councilperson Thomas Diviny offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Paul Valentine and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 13  
ADJOURNED**

**RESOLVED**, at 7:19 pm, the Town Board adjourned the Re-Organizational Town Board Meeting.

Councilperson Jerry Bottari offered the above resolution, which was seconded by Councilperson Thomas Diviny and was Adopted:

Motion: 5 - 0

Ayes: Councilperson Paul Valentine, Councilperson Thomas Diviny, Councilperson Denis Troy,  
Councilperson Jerry Bottari, Supervisor Teresa M. Kenny

Noes: None

---

**Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk**