

The Theresa Town Board held a regular meeting February 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office at 215 Riverside Ave. and the following were present:

Kristopher Ryder	Supervisor
Timothy Busler	Councilman
Jamie Papin	Councilman
Lynn Brown	Councilwoman
Aimee Martini	Councilwoman
Vickie Karg	Town Clerk
Mark Savage-absent	Highway Superintendent

Others present: Katherine Hunter, Greg Parmes

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Ryder at 6 p.m.

Reports received and placed on file:

Town Clerk's & Building & Zoning January 2026 report
Transfer Site January 2026 report
Town Supervisor January 2026 report
Town Justice Savage January 2026 report

Res. # 8

Motion by: Timothy Busler
Seconded by: Jamie Papin

Resolved, that the minutes of January 14, 2026 be accepted as read.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

Res. # 9

Motion by: Lynn Brown
Seconded by: Aimee Martini

Resolved, that the following bills be paid:

Voucher # 28-36, 38-75 **Total \$ 302,610.24**

General	\$ 53,740.26
General O/S	\$ 1,044.60
Highway	\$ 58,255.38
Highway O/S	\$ 20,020.00
Fire Department	\$ 169,550.00

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

Res. # 10

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Jamie Papin

Whereas, the Town of Theresa created a General New Construction Capital Reserve Fund to build the new Highway Salt Barn and budgeted \$213,000 over a (3) year span from 2018 to 2020 to fund it and

Whereas, the State Funding Grant share for the project increased from 50% to 75% and the design was changed for building the base of the Ice Barn, therefore the bid was lower than originally expected and the Town has \$98,732.83 remaining in the New Construction Capital Reserve Fund and

Whereas, the Town Board does not foresee any new building projects in the near future, but has several repairs to Town building projects planned and

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Whereas, the Town Board would like to transfer \$98,732.83 from, and subsequently close, the General New Construction Capital Reserve Fund to the General Repair Capital Reserve Fund and

Whereas, pursuant to New York Local Finance Law, this transfer is subject to a permissive referendum,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Town Board authorize the Town Supervisor to transfer \$98,732.83 from, and subsequently close, the General New Construction Capital Reserve Fund to the General Repair Capital Reserve Fund and

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution shall not take effect until 30 days after its adoption, during which time a petition signed by the required number of qualified voters of the Town of Theresa may be filed with the Town Clerk requesting that the matter be submitted to a vote of the electors, pursuant to the provisions of New York Local Finance Law.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

Res. # 11

Motion by: Timothy Busler
Seconded by: Jamie Papin

Resolved, be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Theresa that the proposed Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c for the 2027 budget be introduced and be it

Further Resolved, that the Board holds a Public Hearing on March 11th, 2026 at 6:05 p.m. for the adoption of the Local Law.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

Res.# 12

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Timothy Busler

Resolved, that Councilwoman Lynn Brown be added to the Community Bank accounts as the Deputy Supervisor.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

Discussion:

Lynn Brown would like it on record that the request of the certificate of insurance and the year-end report from IRAS. Contractually they should send us the year end report.

Supervisor Ryder did some research about the \$98,732.83 that was sitting in a new building account, knowing the Town of Theresa wouldn't be building any new buildings any time soon, he called Jim Burrows about moving the money to see if it could be used for building repairs instead. Jim Burrows found the old paperwork from the grants that were given for the salt barn, Kim did all the research and there is a permissive referendum so that the money can be moved to repairs. There are a lot of little projects that could be done and finished up. There are quite a few things at the rink that could be done, as it has never been updated since it opened. The courts were resurfaced in 2025 but Lynn Brown wonders what a couple of quotes would look like for stripping. The roof on the Town Office really needs to be updated and replaced as the ice dams are very large.

Resolutions:

- Appoint Christopher Wicks to the BAR
- Appoint temporary Court Clerk

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Res. # 13

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Timothy Busler

Resolved, that the Town Board appoint Christopher Wicks to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term, retroactive to October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2030.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

Res. #14

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Lynn Brown

Resolved, the Town Board has approved Lindsey Myers to be a temporary court clerk effectively immediately with a cap of 100 hours at a pay rate of \$21 per hour.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder-aye, Timothy Busler-aye, Jamie Papin-aye, Lynn Brown-aye, Aimee Martini-aye
Motion carried.

- ❖ Councilwoman Brown and Supervisor Ryder met last night with Judge Savage and it seems that the Court is worse and worse and every time a drawer gets open it's even worse. Everything between Lindsey and Isabelle is completely organized, Supervisor Ryder states that it's quite impressive considering where it started from. January, she had 56 current tickets and upward of 20 or more people on Court nights. Lynn Brown states that she was a little emotional, and had she known what she was walking into, she might have reconsidered. Lynn Brown also states that it could take up to a year to get this resolved. Lynn Brown and Kristopher Ryder talked with Isabelle about what it would take to dig the court out of the hole. Kristopher Ryder and Lynn Brown encouraged her and states that she is doing a really great job. Lynn Brown states that as a Board we learn through trial and what we can look at, yes, they were doing year end reconciling and looking at what we asked but not the overall and didn't know about cases and could have gotten help. Something more will have to be done other than the \$10,000 for the entire year that was budgeted for Isabelle because she already has 95 hours in for the month of January and 50 of those hours was just getting things organized. Many of the cases were done but not closed in the system so she has to hand check each one because it remains open. Isabelle is going to have court every Tuesday until about June to get things done and close out.
- ❖ Aimee Martini states she is cleaning up a mess that needed to be cleaned up and that's amazing and difficult but remembers coming to meetings and things in the past and the Judges weren't reporting or turning in reports on time. She would like to know how this type of situation is avoided and not something that needs to be talked about tonight. Vickie Karg states that as things have progressed and have learned points of contact and information that there should have been phone calls or emails sent to Fifth Judicial asking questions about how to proceed and that communication is a big asset in this situation because if they don't know they can't fix it. Supervisor Ryder states that we are all learning and figuring out what is needed to get things resolved and we are all communicating to get it fixed. Councilman Busler states that problem is there is not a lot of control over the Justice, if they sit and lie, how do we know? The Court has been a mess for years.
- ❖ Supervisor Ryder submitted Rebeca Oblender's report for December because she didn't do it, so then the comptroller and we do have a certain oversight rule, and the comptroller walked him through it and easy that it was 0 because she didn't turn anything in. Councilman Papin asking if a full-time court clerk should be looked at so this stuff doesn't happen again? Councilman Busler states that if we got one clerk and one Judge and they do a good job then we would be ahead of the game. Lynn Brown states that Isabelle is advocating on behalf of the Court and it's not there to make money and if you come out ahead then great but it's what we must provide as a community. Just for the first couple of months, she has over 90 new cases. When Isabelle went to training in December about two thirds were attorneys. There is no doubt Isabelle and Lindsey will get this back on track.

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Use of facilities:

Theresa Progress Group- Stuff Sale- May 13-19th, 2026- Board Approved

Parks & Rec.: Ice rink update:

Ice rink is doing well again, with lots of ice and lots of kids using it. Another good season.

Audits of Town and Court:

Supervisor Ryder wants to apologize first, but he called some places and one of them sent a quote of \$18,600. Councilman Busler asked if there is anything through the State? Supervisor Ryder hadn't looked to the State yet other than the Court. We have Williamson's everything goes through that program and the AFR. Supervisor Ryder states that he thought it was good to have a clean slate, but the price is substantial. We have changed the way that we look over and sign vouchers. There are more checks and balances. If anyone feels we should move forward with this, we will, if not we will hold off.

Lynn Brown states that it's a roundabout way to ask if there is missing money. When Lynn thinks about terms of an audit it's not because we are looking to find something wrong with the numbers but working to prevent to make sure nothing can happen with the numbers, so it's really an oversight opportunity but if we have something from the people that we work with that gives us protocol and standard of operating procedure and we are following it. Councilman Papin states that there is other places to spend that money and if there were red flags then yes do it but if not then don't. The Comptroller will do an audit of the Court as soon as they can get us on the list.

Cashless payments-

Transfer site:

Town office:

Website:

- Vickie Karg states that we had a demonstration for Elavon and for Converge to put a hyperlink on the Town Clerk page for people to be able to make payments online as we have had a lot of calls asking if we have a way to pay online.
- As for the transfer site, they have a handheld device or a mobile device to try to take some of the cash offhand at the transfer site and to also have another option of convenience so it would be a tap option, QR code option, or the Ipad with the newest version of IOS17
- The only concern is for the transfer site to be as easy and as quick as possible. With the handheld it would be swiping the card twice and it would definitely take too much time for that, so it would be the Ipad with the Mobie device for tap. Supervisor states that basically using the internet that we already have, purchasing an Ipad and the \$89 Mobie device and we will be accepting cashless payments, but we still have to accept cash per legislation.
- The Town Board has approved Vickie to get the hyperlink and meet with Mark Savage about the option he would like for the transfer site and decide whether to absorb the 3% fee or move price?

Move the April meeting to third Wednesday:

The Board approves moving the April 8th meeting to April 15th at 6 pm at the Town of Theresa Office 215 Riverside Ave., advertise on the website, Facebook page and possibly the newspaper.

Vickie received an email about land grants- see attachment.

Kristopher Ryder suggests that maybe apply for grant by April 15th, possibly try to buy the property for sale behind the Town Barn that would need flood mitigation and turn it into walking trails and things for kids, families and adults to do. Comprehensive plan in motion.

Aimee Martini has a follow up about the 100% disabled Veteran's legislation and did some research at home and to the best of their abilities that if they were all 100% disabled it would be about \$29,000. This is just an estimate for the Town of Theresa. More information to be gathered for this.

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Res. # 15

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Timothy Busler

Resolved, that the Town Board go into executive session at 7:05 p.m.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder- aye, Timothy Busler- aye, Jamie Papin- aye, Lynn Brown- aye, Aimee
Martini- aye Motion carried.

Res. # 16

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Lynn Brown

Resolved, that the Town Board ends executive session at 7:13 p.m.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder- aye, Timothy Busler- aye, Jamie Papin- aye, Lynn Brown- aye, Aimee
Martini- aye Motion carried.

Res. # 17

Motion by: Kristopher Ryder
Seconded by: Lynn Brown

Resolved, that the meeting be closed at 7:14 p.m.

VOTE: Kristopher Ryder- aye, Timothy Busler- aye, Jamie Papin- aye, Lynn Brown- aye, Aimee
Martini- aye Motion carried.

Respectfully yours,

Vickie Karg
Town Clerk