

*Draft- not yet approved* **TOWN BOARD MEETING**

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Town of Ulysses

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May 13, 2024

*The meeting was held in person at the Town Hall at 10 Elm St., Trumansburg NY as well as via Zoom videoconference. Notice of Town Board meetings are posted on the Town's website and Clerk's board.*

*Video recordings of meetings are available on Youtube at  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWVIs--q9CpHlxdk9YxZyPw>.*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**ATTENDANCE:**

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

Board members- Mary Bouchard, Michael Boggs, Liz Weatherby

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

*Absent: Rich Goldman*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In person-

Roxanne Marino, Delia Yarrow (Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS))

Via Zoom-

Linda Liddle , Anne Koreman

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion:**

Ms. Olson- DD8 not 9, also New Business, Establishment of Std Workday resolution. Ms. Weatherby- 2 resolutions under 8a

Mr. Boggs moved to approve the agenda as amended. This was seconded by Ms. Weatherby and passed unanimously.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

*(none)*

**PUBLIC HEARING- POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATION OF TOWN JUSTICES FROM 2 TO 1:**

Ms. Olson noted that the hearing was duly advertised, that the town will not be taking action on this issue tonight, and the hearing is not a requirement for the board to make this change. The board is considering consolidation of Town Justice positions from two to one for various reasons previously discussed.

Mr. Boggs made a motion to open the hearing at 7:06pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

Ms. Olson asked twice if anyone in-person or on-line who wanted to address the board on this topic.

Ms. Parlato noted that comments were received from Ms. Thomas, Ms. Mannino, Judge Dresser, and Court Clerk Champion.

Ms. Olson inquired again whether anyone in-person or on-line wanted to address the board. Hearing none, Mr. Boggs made a motion to close the hearing at 7:08pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION: ITHACA NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES:**

Ms. Yarrow noted that INHS engages in various home ownership improvement projects. In Ulysses, it owns the trailer park, Compass, and is part of the new housing project on South St. They also help homeowners with down payments and repair.

She wanted to let the town know that they are working on state funding that would help folks who qualify with repair or construction on an accessory unit for long term rental or family. She noted that with the City of Ithaca's new laws around short term rentals, it is hard to find viable projects in that area so she is looking to other municipalities who have laws that support this.

She will share more information as she gets it and will need to know whether the town would be in support of this type of program.

**MUNICIPAL BOARD & STAFF REPORTS:**

Ms. Koreman said that she has worked with INHS and is grateful to have them in community. She further noted that the county is in favor of increased housing opportunities.

She shared the following updates from the Tompkins County Legislature:

- Budget retreat- shooting for 2% levy increase due to renegotiations with unions, materials costs increase, paying staff decent wages- will need to make some cuts to keep it at 2% increase
- Rapid response- going well- got some funding for next year. Thinks it will be too cumbersome to figure out how to have munis pay into it. Will just need to keep providing service for various reasons.
- Trying to find additional shelter for unhoused persons. 80-100 people don't qualify for shelters
- TC Parks grants open – up to \$5K to be allotted
- Security issues at county bldgs.- also Cayuga Med Health is seeing daily assaults
- Programs to prevent/stop kids vaping
- New assessment info
- Sales tax down from last year

Ms. Olson thanked Ms. Koreman for advocacy on the Rapid Response program.

Ms. Koreman- Historic Ithaca working on trying to preserve historic bldgs as much as makes sense.

Ms. Olson inquired about the cause of assaults. Ms. Koreman thinks not enough support for homelessness, financial issues, mental health and drug/alcohol.

Ms. Marino shared the following:

- Attended TC EMC- discussed open space planning, railtrail
- Qualified for CEC \$60k grant, will need to make funding proposal within 90 days once we get confirmation.
  - Maybe something at the town barn?
  - Wants to encourage board to get an EV

Ms. Liddle:

- Staff changeover for NY Rural Water has slowed the Water Committee's plan creation
- DOH water testing in planning – over 100 homeowners were interested

Ms. Weatherby:

- CPSC- talked through consultant interviews. People seem split on which of the 2.

Mr. Boggs:

- The Barangus property is still for sale. Many of the town's development districts are defunct.

Ms. Olson:

- Youth Commission considered insurance for skate park. There is not a viable location at this time. For it to be on Village land would require a contract with Village and skate park contact.
- Camp Barton- still waiting on a closing date for the transfer from Boy Scouts to NYS.
  - Discussion of a planner/consultant to get programs up and running in the space. This will be in the town budget next year.
  - Has hired a bookkeeper, auditor, got 501c3 status so can fundraise. Will hire contractor for maintenance.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **RADIO METER OPT-OUT READING**

#### **RESOLUTION #83 OF 2024: ESTABLISHMENT OF RADIO METER OPT OUT FEE**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses has been undertaking the replacement of the water meters with radio water meters to improve efficiency, accuracy, and safety of meter reading in Water District 3; and

WHEREAS, the significant majority of property owners have allowed the Town access to replace these radio heads; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works and Town Clerk's Office has calculated the amount of time and expense needed to read the non-remote meters directly and import that data into the water billing software; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses has the ability to establish a reasonable fee and modify it periodically to cover the provision of these additional services to property owners who have opted not to switch to the radio meters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board establishes the Radio Meter Opt Out Fee; and be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board sets the 2024 fee at \$18 per meter per quarterly reading; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board directs the Town Clerk to add these fees, as appropriate, to the Water District 3 water bills.

Moved: Ms. Bouchard                      Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Mr. Boggs- doesn't think fee is punitive enough because DPW staff could be spending time in other ways, and radio waves have been proven to be harmless.

Olson	aye
Boggs	nay
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	absent
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 3-0

Date Adopted: 5/14/24

**DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 9 – RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING BOARD, TIMELINE**

The Planning Board has recommended a change to Development District 9 for Moore's Marine project. Ms. Olson will introduce this language at the 5/28 Town Board mtg and schedule a Public Hearing for June 11 as this will require a local law change.

**YOUTH SERVICES – SPRING PROGRAMMING**

Ms. Olson announced the newly- hired Rec Specialist, Zak Kozlowski, started last Monday and will do a soft opening of progs in the next few weeks.

In the Civics Engagement program, kids led focus groups in their classes. Rachel Kennedy has been doing college/ post highschool field trips. Mr. Kozlowski will focus on middle school programs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH CONSORTIUM RESOLUTIONS (moved and voted on together)**

**RESOLUTION 2024-84: DESIGNATING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses having complied with all application requirements to become a Participant in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium has been accepted as a Participant, and WHEREAS, in order to activate membership the {Municipal Corporation} must provide additional information to complete and activate its membership in the GTCMHIC, now therefore be it RESOLVED, That the following individuals

are hereby designated to serve as the Director and Alternate to the GTCMHIC Board of Directors: Elizabeth Weatherby (Delegate), Rich Goldman (Alternate).

**RESOLUTION #85 of 2024: APPROVAL OF THE 2024 AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses is a Participant in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (the "Consortium"), a municipal cooperative organized under Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law, and

WHEREAS, the municipal participants in the Consortium, including this body, have approved and executed a certain Municipal Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement"; effective date of October 1, 2010), and

WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law (the "Insurance Law") and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Financial Services set forth certain requirements for governance of municipal cooperatives that offer self-insured municipal cooperative health insurance plans that requires any amendments or restatements thereto, shall be subject to Board review and upon acceptance of any new Participant hereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Cooperative Agreement requires that amendments to the agreement be presented to each participant for review and adopted by a majority vote by its municipal board, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses is in receipt of the proposed amended Agreement and has determined that it is in the best interest of its constituents who are served by the Consortium to amend the Agreement as set forth in the Amended Municipal Cooperative Agreement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon receipt and review of the amended Agreement, the Town of Ulysses approves at a meeting of the governing body held on May 14, 2024 and authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign the 2024 Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium as recommended by the Board of Directors.

Resolutions 84-85 Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson	aye
Boggs	aye
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	absent
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 5/14/24

Ms. Parlato shared that a meeting was held on 5/6 and the group began discussion of a maintenance plan. The spring guided walk will take place on Sunday at 1pm with Marc Devokaitis, bird expert, and Marvin Pritts, the plant expert.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD WORKDAYS FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR AND TOWN COUNCILPERSON**

**RESOLUTION # 85 OF 2024: ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD WORKDAYS FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR AND TOWN COUNCILPERSON**

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board hereby establishes the following standard workdays for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement based on their record of activities.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Standard Work Day</i>	<i>Record of Activities result</i>
Katelin Olson	Town Supervisor	6 hrs.	20.67
Elizabeth Weatherby	Town Councilperson	6 hrs.	2.00

Moved: Mr. Boggs                      Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson                      aye  
 Boggs                      aye  
 Bouchard                      aye  
 Goldman                      absent  
 Weatherby                      aye

Vote: 4-0  
 Date Adopted: 5/14/24

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 27 – Town Buildings Closed for Memorial Day  
 May 28 – Regular Meeting, 7pm @ Town Hall  
 June 6 –Training (Public Officials/Staff mandatory training 8:30am-10:30am @ Town Hall and via Zoom)  
 June 11 – Regular Meeting, 7pm @ Town Hall

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION #86 OF 2024: APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approve the meeting minutes as presented from 4/23/24 Regular Meeting.

Moved: Mr. Boggs                      Seconded: Bouchard

Olson                      aye

Boggs            aye  
Bouchard       aye  
Goldman        absent  
Weatherby      aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 5/14/24

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLUTION #87 OF 2024: PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board has reviewed and approves payment of claims for vouchers numbered 190-276 in the amount of \$153,187.36.

Moved: Ms. Olson                      Seconded: Bouchard

Olson            aye  
Boggs           aye  
Bouchard       aye  
Goldman        absent  
Weatherby      aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 5/14/24

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (3 min limit per person):**

Ms. Marino praised the expansion of youth services and wondered how to reach youth in the Ithaca School District who live in the town.

**ADJOURN:**

Ms Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 8:52pm. This was seconded by Ms. Weatherby and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk  
5/22/24*

**APPENDIX:**

*(See the following pages)*



## Carissa Parlato

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**From:** Elizabeth Graeper Thomas <liz.graeper.thomas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 7:25 AM  
**To:** Carissa Parlato; Katelin Olson; Michelle Wright  
**Subject:** consolidating justices

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Town Board

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consolidation of the justices from two to one. As part of a task force reviewing the court system throughout Tompkins County ([final report](#)), I heard from justices, attorneys, and legal system advocates and reviewers about how the justice system in NYS and in particular, Tompkins County, functioned. During the review, I became aware of how important redundancies are in the system in order to ensure that justice is as speedy and flexible as possible.

I am advocating to keep two justices, knowing full well that the state does not bear the majority of the burden of the cost, but indeed, the state keeps the majority of the income from tickets--an unfair and unfortunate balance.

Having two justices:

- Allows the system to function when one justices is unavailable due to sickness or vacation or at work.
- Allows those before the court some flexibility on when to appear, for example in the past there has been a court that convened during the day and one at night. Many of those before the court have no car so attending court in the evening becomes a huge and expensive challenge.
- Allows a reasonable workload for each justice. Assuming the workload has not recently changed significantly for the justices, the responsibilities for each justice were manageable. Combining the two positions into one creates more work, but not enough to be full time i.e. enough to live on. Keeping two positions allows the job to be done as a supplement to other employment which opens up the position to more people to serve. Consolidating into one will make an awkward part-time position that only few will run for, essentially guaranteeing the outcome of the election for the incumbent.
- Provides the only check and balance. The justices are elected, but reviewing their performance is almost impossible for the electorate to determine to inform their vote. While the justices don't officially oversee each other, they are somewhat aware of each other's work. It's essentially the only check and balance in a weirdly insulated system.
- Provides different perspectives. Depending on their background, justices have different perspectives on the cases before them. This is good. A person before the court with a drug addiction problem can benefit from a justices with experience in this area.

Yes, having two justices is expensive. I advocate for keeping two justices in order to provide the fairest and timely justice for people before the Ulysses court. I also advocate that TCCOG and the County advocate to be able to keep a bigger percentage of the income from tickets to help cover the costs of the court rather than the state taking such a huge share.

With respect,  
-Liz Thomas

p.s. didn't cc the whole board because I seem to have the old email addresses and am not sure exactly which to use. Please forward on (and have a good day!)

***Ulysses Town Court***  
**10 Elm Street Trumansburg, NY 14886**  
**Voice: (607)387-5411 Fax: (607)387-3728**

*Hon. Mark R. Dresser*  
*Town Justice*



*Angela Champion*  
*Court Clerk*

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April 16, 2024

Dear Supervisor Olson and members of the Ulysses Town Board:

Over the last few years, there have been dramatic changes in the operations of the town court system. Due to COVID-19; Bail Reform; Raise the Age Legislation; Integrated Domestic Violence Court; along with the creation of Centralized Arraignment Part (CAP) Court; this court has seen a reduction in the number of criminal and vehicle and traffic cases as compared to when I first became a Town Justice twelve years ago.

In consulting with Court Clerk, Angela Champion, we agree that, considering the fiscal responsibilities of the Town of Ulysses, consolidation of the Ulysses Town Court from a two-justice position to a one justice position is an appropriate measure to assist in the reduction of the cost of court operations.

Please keep us informed as this process moves forward.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark R. Dresser', written over a horizontal line.

Mark R. Dresser, Town Justice

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela Champion', written over a horizontal line.

Angela Champion, Court Clerk

## Carissa Parlato

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**From:** Cynthia Mannino <paintdog35@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 3:45 PM  
**To:** Carissa Parlato  
**Subject:** I'm support of Court consolidation

Hello

I am writing I support of court consolidation for all the reasons listed by Town Supervisor Olson.

Respectfully  
Cynthia Mannino  
124 Tamarack Lane

Sent from my iPhone