

| LOMIRA AREA |

Information Regarding a Town of Theresa Referendum

At the Theresa Town Board meeting held on August 8, 2022, an ordinance was adopted allowing for the appointment of the clerk and treasurer. This ordinance was posted at the Theresa Town Hall, Theresa Post Office and TSB Bank. It can also be read on the town's website at www.townoftheresa.wi.gov. The reason for adopting this ordinance is to allow the town board to appoint the most qualified people to be the clerk and treasurer regardless of where they live. The clerk and treasurer are not voting members of the town board.

This ordinance is subject to approval by the town electors in a referendum which will be held at the November 8, 2022 election. The referendum question is "Shall the persons holding the offices of town clerk and town treasurer in the Town of Theresa be appointed by the town board?" A "yes" vote on the referendum is a vote to authorize the Town Board to appoint the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer. This will convert the offices from elected positions to appointed positions. A "no" vote on the referendum is a vote against authorizing the Town Board to appoint the office of the Town Clerk and the

office of the Town Treasurer and the positions will remain as elected offices.

If the majority of electors voting, vote "yes" on the referendum, the Town Board will be authorized to appoint the offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. If a majority of the electors voting, vote "no" on the referendum, the Town Board will not be so authorized. The appointed people would not take office until April of 2023.

The positives and negatives of voting "yes" on the referendum are as follows:

- Appointed clerks and treasurers do not have to be town residents. Elected clerks and treasurers do have to be town residents.

- Appointed officers have their qualifications, job descriptions, and wages/benefits set by the town board as they are essentially town employees hired by the board. Elected officials are answerable to the electorate and cannot be required by the board to hold specific qualifications or obtain training (unless required by state law – such as election training for clerks). They cannot be required by the board to keep set hours at the town hall or be required to work a certain number of hours per week.

- Appointed officials cannot be removed by the board during their term of office, unless there is "cause" for removal (misconduct in office or neglect of duties). This means there would need to be a hearing and other due process protections afforded before someone could be removed from office. That said, once his or her term expires, the town board can simply choose not to re-appoint a clerk or treasurer without having to establish cause. An elected clerk or treasurer can be recalled from office like other elected officials. They can also be removed from office by a majority vote of the board, but only if the reason for removal is continued physical inability to perform the duties of the office or gross neglect of duty.

- Appointed clerks and treasurers can be appointed for a term not to exceed three years at one time. They can be appointed for a shorter term such as six months or one year or whatever the board deems appropriate. The board may also re-appoint the person for successive terms, if desired. And, the town board may enact an ordinance to return the office to an elective position, without a referendum, after two years if they choose.

New Exhibit Coming to Byron Historical Society

A new display of artifacts, photos and documents, along with the 2023 Byron Historical Society commemorative calendar, will be unveiled at the group's annual open house taking place on Saturday, Nov. 12, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This year's theme showcases the clothing, jewelry, and hair styles worn by the men, women and children in the Town of Byron over the years. Uniforms and costumes. Work clothes and "Sunday bests." Graduation portraits and casual snapshots. More than 140 pictures spanning years from the mid-1800s to the present day. How residents dressed and looked reflect the township's history in a uniquely personal way. A Veterans Salute by Lomira's Bintzler-Waehler Post No. 347 and Oakfield VFW Post No. 8092 will be held at 11 a.m. The event is free and open to the public at the Byron Town Hall, located at N3097 Hwy 175 in Byron. Additional information is available by emailing the organizers at byronhistorical@att.net, or by calling 920-922-5351.



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