

AGENDA
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
IN PERSON AT THE
1ST FLOOR BOARDROOM
16 CROTON AVE – OSSINING, NEW YORK
AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

June 4, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Elizabeth R. Feldman

COUNCILMEMBERS
Gregory G. Meyer Angelo A. Manicchio
Jennifer Fields-Tawil Matthew J. Weiss

I. CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-ROLL CALL

The Special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on May 28, 2024 at the Municipal Building, 1st floor, 16 Croton Ave. – Ossining, New York, 10562 and via video conference. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Elizabeth R. Feldman. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Gregory G. Meyer, Jennifer Fields-Tawil, Matthew J. Weiss (ZOOM) and Angelo A. Manicchio. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona.

II. SUPERVISOR AND TOWN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Spray Park at Louis Engel Waterfront Park is now open on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) through the end of school. Beginning on June 27th the Spray Park will be open every day through Labor Day Weekend with exceptions. Normal hours are 12:00 noon – 7:00pm. Wednesday, July 3rd the Spray Park is closed for fireworks setup. The Spray Park will be open 3:00pm-7:00pm on the following Wednesdays – July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and August 7th.
- The Ossining Pride Flag Raising will be Wednesday, June 5th at 4:00pm in Market Square.
- The MTA has begun running the Haverstraw to Ossining Ferry 9:30am-9:30pm on the weekends at discounted fares. Check the MTA website for more details.
- Opening Night Kickoff of the LGBTQ+ Listening Library at Bethany Arts Community will be Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. The Listening Library will be on display through July 31st.
- Also on Wednesday June 5th, there is a fundraiser for the OHS Band trip to play in Hawaii at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Day Parade. 10% of what you spend at the following restaurants will be donated to the band trip:
 - Brothers Fish & Chips, Capri Pizza and Pasta, Cravin, DD’s Diner, El Rey Salvadoreno, Maya Riviera, Melike, Richie’s Kitchen, Scarduzio’s Deli, Squire’s Briarcliff, Starionery, and Wanna Empanada.
- Friday night at 7:00pm, Hudson Valley Books for Humanity will host author Fawzie Afzal Khan speaking about her new book “Traveling Feminista: A Modern Muslim Woman Travels Through the World.”
- Teatown will celebrate Pride Month with “Out and About at Teatown” Saturday June 8th at 10am.
- The Ossining Children’s Center SPRING GALA is Saturday, June 8th at Traveler’s Rest. Event begins at 6:00pm.

- Also Saturday, Westchester Collaborative Theater, here in Ossining, will have another “Music in the Box” starting at 7:30pm and featuring the music of Conigliaro Consort.
- The Gullotta House 9th Anniversary Party will be Sunday June 9th, 2-5pm at J.P. Doyles Beer Garden in Sleepy Hollow. Check the Gullotta House website for more details.
- Risko Music will hold the Rock Showcase Night next Tuesday, June 11th at 7:00pm at Maya Riviera in Briarcliff Manor.
- Calling all musicians and venues. June 21st will be Make Music Day, presented by Mike Risko Music. If you are interested in performing or hosting, get in touch with them at 914.762.8757.
- The New York State Department of State Office for New Americans has released a free English language learning tool called Cell-Ed that helps new Americans learn English at their own pace and on their own time. Simply Google “New York State Cell-Ed.”
- New York State has announced a new service -- their Address Confidentiality Program or ACP. It allows residents who have experienced domestic violence, stalking, sexual offenses, human trafficking, and reproductive healthcare services (including patients, volunteers, providers and their employees) to get a free Albany PO Box. This PO Box is secure and can be your official mailing address. New York State will privately forward your mail to your home address. See the New York State Department of State website for more information.
- As always, our Ossining Public Library will be hosting a bevy of events including movies, craft events, meditation, tutoring and homework help, yoga, book clubs and more. Please see their website at ossininglibrary.org.
- There are many fun and interesting events being held locally, and you can look at my weekly Supervisor’s Update on the Supervisor’s webpage to see them.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address the Board on any of the resolutions on the agenda.

IV. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Request for Special Law for Hotel Occupancy Tax

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Manicchio that the following resolution be approved.

WHEREAS, the unincorporated portion of the Town of Ossining consists primarily of residential properties and does not have many commercial properties to contribute to its tax base; and

WHEREAS, there is opportunity for certain properties within the unincorporated Town to be developed or repurposed to include a hotel use, including one property that was formerly owned by General Electric for a corporate conference center use and was recently sold to an entity that is considering implementing a hotel use utilizing the existing dormitories; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement a hotel occupancy tax in the Town a special law is required from the State, which legislation has previously been passed for several neighboring municipalities, including the City of Peekskill and the Towns of Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant and North Castle – as well as many of the Villages therein; and

WHEREAS, Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg has proposed Bill A10405 to allow the Town to adopt a local law to implement a hotel occupancy tax of 3%; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pete Harckham has proposed Bill S9773 to allow the Town to adopt a local law to implement a hotel occupancy tax of 3%; and

WHEREAS, the 3% cap on the proposed hotel occupancy tax is consistent with the special laws passed for the neighboring municipalities; and

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, for the reasons set forth above, the Town Board hereby expresses its full support of Bills A10405 and S9773 as drafted and requests that the State Legislature and Governor take prompt action in enacting a special law to this effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to send a letter to Assemblywoman Levenberg and Senator Harckham to this effect.

Motion: Carried

V. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address the Board on issues not relating to the Agenda, but of relevance to the common good of the Town.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – WORK SESSION.

At 7:39 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to leave Special Meeting and to adjourn the work session and Councilmember Manicchio seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

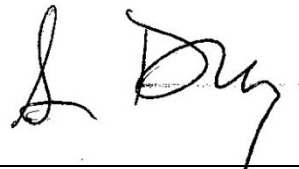
At 9:20 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for Advice of counsel, and Contract, and Councilmember Manicchio seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 10:04 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to leave Executive Session and Councilmember Manicchio seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:



Susanne Donnelly, Town Clerk