

## Town of Ossining Board Work Session

February 2, 2021

### Meeting Transcript

Video Recording of Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baAzfddSB8s&t=5435s>

Attendance: Supervisor Dana Levenberg, Councilmember Liz Feldman, Councilmember Jackie G. Shaw, Councilmember Gregory Meyer, Councilmember Northern Wilcher, Jr., Municipal Attorney Christie Addona, Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli, Town Staff Carina Scordia, Ossining PTA Council President Miriam Risko, Melanie Carnsew, Antonia Simao, Michael Conway, Town Planner Valerie Monastra, Gregory Gibbons

1 Dana Levenberg: Okay so with that welcome everybody, good evening and  
2 welcome to our Town Board of the Town of Ossining work session for  
3 Tuesday February 2nd.

4 ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to  
5 the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with  
6 liberty and justice for all.

7 Dana Levenberg: Okay, so... I have a few announcements to make and  
8 then we'll get into the meat of our meeting. Oh good, we do have Miriam.  
9 Miriam, you made it, okay, glad to see you. Hi. We sure got walloped this  
10 week with winter storm Orlena and it already sounds like we may be getting  
11 another round of snow early next week and I know some of you probably  
12 already know that. The snow seems to have started up again this this  
13 afternoon and into the evening, I know that our guys are out there on the  
14 road salting this evening so hopefully everybody is staying in their homes  
15 and staying safe.

16 I have to admit it is really beautiful outside can't deny that it's a lot of snow  
17 but it's really pretty and I didn't get to make my snow angel yesterday, but  
18 hopefully I'll get to do that tomorrow. As many of us are still shoveling out  
19 some who weren't able to help out at home because they were here in  
20 Town keeping our road safe, and still are, deserve a big thank you. That is,  
21 of course, our Highway and Parks Departments. Our crews were out

22 starting on Sunday night to prepare the roads and keep them clear for  
23 emergency vehicles. Also, we know that asking police department was out  
24 and about helping people who may not have heeded the warnings and  
25 whose cars got stuck or who had to go to work or who had other snow-  
26 related difficulties and our volunteer fire department and volunteer  
27 ambulance corps we're both on hand to respond to calls. I want to extend a  
28 very special thank you to the Town and Village employees who braved the  
29 cold and blustery wind, to help everyone this weekend, including our Tax  
30 Receiver Holly Perlowitz and her team. And Dale Brennan's Village of  
31 Ossining and finance team who came in, on Saturday to help residents pay  
32 their taxes before the storm. They were trying to keep them from coming up  
33 on Monday, but guess what they also came in again yesterday for any last  
34 minute taxpayers who somehow made it to Town Hall. They also worked all  
35 day and night answering calls and emails from taxpayers needed help  
36 navigating the online payment system. Huge thanks to our Town Clerk Sue  
37 Donnelly, who volunteered to help take temperatures and she helped Holly,  
38 Dale, and their teams with the COVID screenings for visitors and also big  
39 thanks to our Highway Superintendent Pete Connolly for making sure that  
40 Holly and Sue made it to and from the building safely, even with all of the  
41 snow that we got. The Ossining Police Department kept us apprised of the  
42 road clearings with regular Facebook live updates as well, and they are  
43 Policia de Ossining social media pages, where they also shared helpful  
44 storm or - information for our Spanish speaking neighbors I hope everyone  
45 is now home safe and warm.

46 Of course, the snow has not stopped our fight against COVID many eligible  
47 residents continue to struggle to gain access to getting the COVID-19  
48 vaccine administered. Eligibility requirements have not been expanded yet,  
49 but if you qualify under the 1a or 1b criteria, you should register even it is if  
50 it is for a month or two out from now. Over 7 million new Yorkers are now  
51 eligible for that vaccine eligible groups include but are not limited to doctors  
52 and nurses and healthcare workers people age 65 and over, first  
53 responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and  
54 public safety workers. Vaccines are available at pharmacies hospitals and  
55 through local health departments statewide. Please contact your provider of  
56 choice to schedule your vaccine appointments. You can use the state  
57 website for scheduling an appointment at a New York state run site only to

58 determine eligibility and schedule appointments at one of these sites use  
59 the “Am I Eligible?” app which is available on that New York state website  
60 remember both vaccines require two doses for effectiveness. Appointments  
61 are not transferable. If you have questions about the vaccine New York has  
62 a hotline to help you get information 1-833-NYS4 – the number four – VAX.  
63 You can also visit the New York state COVID vaccine website at  
64 COVID19vaccine.health.ny.gov or call 211 for local information. There are  
65 some vaccine scams out there which you can report by calling 1-833-VAX-  
66 SCAM. The vaccine the vaccines are in high demand, so the number of  
67 scams is increasing as a reminder, the vaccine is free, and you cannot pay  
68 to hold your place in line or skip ahead of others. Also, many state run  
69 vaccination states were closed yesterday and today due to the storm,  
70 including the Westchester County Center site, which is a state run site. If  
71 you had an appointment yesterday or today, you will be contacted to  
72 reschedule for later this week.

73 Last week, Governor Cuomo rescinded his yellow zone designation for the  
74 portions of Ossining that had been in that zone, which is very helpful for our  
75 local businesses. It does not, however, mean that we are out of the woods  
76 testing appointments were delayed this week because of the storm, so  
77 please do contact your provider to reschedule. There are a number of local  
78 testing sites available for residents. COVID 19 tests are free. Also, like the  
79 vaccine. Residents can use the New York state website feature called “Find  
80 a Test Site Near You” to help schedule appointments at Open Door, CVS,  
81 HealthSmart pharmacy and many other local sites, you can also schedule  
82 an appointment at Star of Bethlehem Church on their website StarBethB -  
83 as in boy - C -as in cat – dot org. Our thoughts and prayers go out to  
84 Reverend Jones who, after helping so many people in the midst of this  
85 pandemic himself did get sick, we are thinking of him and wishing him a  
86 speedy recovery.

87 The Ossining Center opened as a Warming Center during Monday storm,  
88 this is just another example of some of the extended services our  
89 departments, local organizations, and volunteer services offer. Later tonight  
90 we're going to hear a little bit about our little free libraries in Ossining which  
91 were converted into mini food pantries for the winter food distributions have  
92 continued across Town. Resource centers are helping residents navigate  
93 this difficult time and prepare for the future. I continue to be impressed by

94 this Town's dedication to its neighbors and anyone who needs a helping  
95 hand.

96 February is black history month and we are so excited that we have many  
97 events in and around Town taking place to celebrate here are just a few.  
98 Bethany Arts Community is hosting Ossining Village Historian Joyce  
99 Sharrock Cole for their exhibit and titled Ossining Black History and  
100 Culture; Resilience, Dedication, Excellence. The webinar starts at 2pm on  
101 Saturday and information for joining is on the Bethany Arts Community  
102 Facebook page, and I think you can also go there in person. Bethany is  
103 hosting a number of other great black history month events in February,  
104 including musical performances a closer look at the art of the Harlem  
105 Renaissance and artists talks I encourage you to check out their website  
106 and Facebook page to register. February 13 from five to six, they are  
107 sponsoring an artist talk entitled Table Wizard Spinney Spin and the  
108 Separate Five Emcees; the untold story of the beginning of Ossining hip  
109 hop culture with Spencer Thomas. It sounds fascinating and you can tune  
110 in from the comfort of your own home just register for free at  
111 [BethanyArts.org](http://BethanyArts.org).

112 The Sing Sing Prison Museum's Justice Talk Series is holding a  
113 conversation on Ossining's Black History on February 18 at 6pm. The  
114 event will take a look at prominent business owners, women leaders, and  
115 those who are employed by Sing Sing Prison. You can register through the  
116 Sing Sing Prison Museums Facebook page or website.

117 This week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week and we are proud to  
118 honor a request from Moms Demand Action, a group that advocates for  
119 gun safety and regulation with a proclamation from the Board in recognition  
120 of Gun Violence Survivors Week - sorry in – in - yes, in recognition of gun  
121 violence survivors week as a reminder that COVID 19 is not the only threat  
122 that we are facing in our society. An astounding number of Americans have  
123 been affected by gun violence and every year, nearly 39,000 Americans  
124 were killed in acts of gun violence. This proclamation serves as a reminder  
125 that gun ownership is a serious responsibility and that common sense  
126 safety laws can prevent tragic outcomes. And just a couple of highlights, I  
127 know I already told you 39,000 Americans were killed in acts of violence  
128 and nearly 85,000 were shot and wounded. And by early February more

129 Americans are killed with guns, then, are killed in our peer countries in an  
130 entire calendar year. 58% of American adults, including 68% of black and  
131 Latino Americans for someone they have cared for have experienced gun  
132 violence in their lifetime demonstrating the reach and impact that gun  
133 violence has on communities across America. And whereas firearms are  
134 the leading cause of death for children and teens and Americans and  
135 communities across the nation are working to end the senseless violence  
136 by advocating for common sense gun safety legislation; and whereas by  
137 commemorating national gun violence survivors week February 1 through  
138 the seven cities and Towns across America will raise awareness about gun  
139 violence and honor the lives stolen by gun violence; now, therefore, be it  
140 resolved that the 10 of us in New York declares February 1st to the seventh  
141 to be National Gun Violence Survivors Week and we encourage all  
142 residents to support their communities efforts to prevent the tragic effects of  
143 gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

144 And now on some little bit happier subject, which is that Teatown's week  
145 long virtual eaglefest continues with many events for the whole family. Visit  
146 Teatown.org slash events slash eaglefest 2021 for tickets and more  
147 information. Eaglefest looks different than in previous years of what is  
148 equally informative. And fun well, maybe not quite as fun, but it's still fun.  
149 Learn virtually with Teatown, then get outside and see if you can spy some  
150 eagles on the banks of the beautiful Hudson River.

151 And that is it for me, is there anybody um any of my colleagues that have  
152 any additional announcements? Any board members with additional  
153 announcements? Anything you want to share? Alrighty. Hearing none we're  
154 going to move into our work session agenda. Up the first, we are going to  
155 be talking about the donation of little free library -

156 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]

157 Dana Levenberg: - for Gerlach Park -

158 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]

159 Dana Levenberg: - and hear a little bit about the little free libraries program  
160 and Ossining -

161 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]

162 Dana Levenberg: - um which -  
163 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]  
164 Dana Levenberg: - is gonna be –  
165 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]  
166 Dana Levenberg: - which is an update -  
167 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]  
168 Dana Levenberg: - from the Ossining -  
169 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]  
170 Dana Levenberg: - PTA.  
171 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]  
172 Dana Levenberg: Northern can you mute? You want to hit mute on your on  
173 yours? Or not?  
174 Northern Wilcher: Beg your pardon?  
175 Dana Levenberg: Do you want to – can you hit mute? Just - just because  
176 I'm hearing a lot of background noise coming from your...  
177 Northern Wilcher: No, I'm - I'm – I'll keep out the noise. I'm okay.  
178 Dana Levenberg: Okay. Alright. Okay, so today we have Miriam Risko  
179 who's the President of the Ossining Council of PTAs as well as school  
180 district parents Melanie Carnasu and Antonia Summa Sou. Melanie and  
181 Antonia are neighbors in the Gerlach Park area of Town and they had  
182 approached the Ossining PTA about setting up a new little free library at  
183 Gerlach Park. As many of you know, we do have a couple of little free  
184 libraries that had been put into two of our other parks Ryder Park and  
185 Engel Park at the waterfront, and these have been homes to books and  
186 they'll you'll hear a little bit more information about what's been happening  
187 in them recently from Miriam. So she's going to give us a little bit of an  
188 update remind everybody what the program is about how it evolved and  
189 then we'll hear from Melanie and Antonia about what their plans are to help  
190 us upkeep the one at Gerlach should the board choose to accept the  
191 donation. So with that I'm going to turn it over to Miriam Risko.

192 Miriam Risko: Thank you. Oh. Sorry, there we go, okay. Hi. You got the  
193 video right? Because I don't have it ready to screen share so you guys  
194 have it I'm assuming right?

195 Victoria Cafarelli: Yeah so just let me know when you want to play it -

196 Miriam Risko: Okay sounds good, so I am Miriam Risko and I'm here today,  
197 not as Miriam Risko Music, but as Miriam Risko Ossining PTA Council  
198 President. And I'm here to talk about the little free libraries. So I've been  
199 working with the PTA Boards on add the auditing school district on this  
200 project for many years. We started in 2019 and we put in - the PTA paid for  
201 it and the school district installed for little free libraries, one at Park [Early  
202 Childhood], one at Brookside [Elementary School], one at Roosevelt  
203 [School], and one at Claremont [School]. If you're not familiar with what a  
204 little free libraries it's a cute little - it looks like I'm like a little cabinet on a on  
205 a post and they're very cute and they have like - it's a company called little  
206 free libraries it's just where we get them from and we also added one  
207 actually at our music school too, because I felt that it's a great initiative and  
208 I thought it would be a nice thing to have there also. And then there are  
209 also two other ones in the Town, there's one at Ryder and one at Engel, so  
210 when we first put these libraries in they picked up a lot of traction. The PTA  
211 started hosting all kinds of really interesting events there we started doing  
212 like monthly readings and we had different kinds of activities and things that  
213 we did there - the Girl Scouts came. We had all kinds of school district  
214 people reading books and we were even kind of forward thinking, because  
215 we were trying to broadcast them on Facebook Live little did we know that  
216 this would turn into our whole world after that and we'd be doing everything  
217 that way. And you'll see it in the in the video that we're going to show but  
218 then all of a sudden, of course, the pandemic hit and we for a while the little  
219 libraries were kind of quiet, you know, everybody was sort of afraid to  
220 venture out and we weren't really doing anything with them over the course  
221 of that whole time when we were shut down. And then, when people  
222 started to come out again we started to hear about this thing called the little  
223 free pantry initiative which people were changing libraries over to pantries.  
224 And by pantries it wasn't just about food, it was about just any kind of  
225 pantry item that you might need. You know, people would like we were  
226 trying to fill it up with non-perishable foods, but things like soap and  
227 shampoo and just whatever paper towels toilet paper anything that people

228 might want to just grab and go if they needed it and this it really took off. It  
229 was a really nice community kind of initiative. The PTA boards were  
230 amazing, everybody got really involved and started putting committees  
231 together and all the people on all the Boards we have four PTA boards,  
232 they just started really working together and people were taking ownership  
233 of these libraries and filling them and we have little drop areas where, if you  
234 couldn't get to a library, you could bring food directly to like the Tasty Table  
235 and Logrea Dance and drop off, and we would bring it to the libraries. So  
236 then, this, this has been going on for since December and we were going to  
237 end this pantry initiative at the end of January, but we decided to keep it  
238 going, because the libraries are really getting used a lot now. So we're  
239 going to extend it through February 13 and then after that we're going to  
240 start transitioning back to libraries. We are going to be putting signs up on  
241 the libraries of where people can get food and any items, they need, so  
242 they know that you know it's not the end of that they're still availability in -  
243 around Town. But we have a lot of exciting things planned for the libraries,  
244 as we transition them back to libraries. And I think that they play a very  
245 important role in the Community people love to venture out and take their  
246 little kids to them and pick up a book everybody loves to drop off a book at  
247 them. One of the things we want to do going forward is something called  
248 the - an action book club where. We kind of work with the school district on  
249 this and participants plan they read and discuss a book and then take part  
250 in a service project to benefit the community. So we thought that would be  
251 kind of a nice thing to do, I know that right now it's really tough for kids to  
252 get community service hours with everything that's going on. So that might  
253 be a nice way to offer kids that opportunity to do that, while interacting and  
254 also reading, which is a big piece of this. We were very excited when  
255 Melanie came to us and said that she and her group were interested in  
256 putting another one in. Because, ideally, I think it would be great if they  
257 were all over Town - they're the cutest little thing they are so like little  
258 stress, they just promote Community there are so many opportunities to  
259 create collaboration with them. It's - I - I actually wrote down, something  
260 that off the website that I could read to you about what they are so it says.  
261 'The goal of the little libraries to get is to get books into people's hands.  
262 Little Libraries compliment public libraries and increase access to books.  
263 They create collaboration and turn - and become an - a fun outdoor  
264 landmark where readers can gather and it offers endless collaborative



265 opportunities, complementing all the services at schools and public  
266 libraries.' So they're just nothing but positive. And the greatest thing about  
267 them is they're not even permanent structures, you know you dig a hole  
268 and put them in so if ever it didn't work out if you just take them out and put  
269 them somewhere else. So eventually, I think it would be really nice to put  
270 them in more places so they're warm and inviting and they just really - they  
271 – they encourage people to gather. So if you want to show that video it'll it  
272 kind of tells our little story about the little libraries and how the PTA was  
273 involved, and all that so...

274 **[Video plays]**

275 Dana Levenberg: Awesome, I just wanted to mention that there's also one  
276 at the corner of Emwilton and Walden Road so not too far from the High  
277 School - my neighbor put one in, I think early on, so it's very – they're,  
278 they're every place. It's great video.

279 Miriam Risko: Thank you well I'm happy to answer any questions if you  
280 before you talk to Melanie if you want, you know.

281 Dana Levenberg: Yeah why don't you guys talk a little bit about what you're  
282 proposing, and then we can ask questions to all three of you. If guys want  
283 to talk about what you're thinking about for Gerlach.

284 Melanie Carnsew: Sure. Miriam my friend Antonia's is here representing  
285 our neighborhood as well. I met Miriam. A couple weeks ago, when I was  
286 donating some pantry items, because I read that that the little conversion  
287 was going on in the libraries and then we got chatting about how - how  
288 much of a network and a community, the little libraries really are and I just  
289 got excited and wanted one that in my neck of the woods. So I reached out  
290 on a local Gmail group and Antonia got excited and we received probably  
291 well over 13 responses for um to help fund it. And we think it's great that  
292 we can share books, with each other, promote literacy. Get rid of our kids  
293 books when it's time and then you know kind of declutter in a very  
294 sustainable function and share our wealth of reading with our neighbors.

295 Dana Levenberg: Awesome. Antonia do you want to say anything?

296 Antonia Simao: Yeah I just want to piggyback on Melanie um - when she  
297 sent the email out to our community, there were several neighbors that  
298 were very eager and willing to jump in and support this initiative, I have a

299 five year old, similar to Melanie I really love the idea of early literacy,  
300 helping students find their love of learning. I had mentioned to her a little  
301 while ago, prior to this that we were going to be talking about this, and she  
302 said 'Mama, you're going to put in a library?' So you know I could see the  
303 excitement in her eyes, especially because we haven't been able to go to  
304 the public library during this pandemic she is tired of reading the same  
305 books with me every night, there are tons of books that we are ready to  
306 share with others who, you know, can just go and grab a book so I'm  
307 excited I think that it's a great way to build community, and I know from the  
308 outpouring of support from our neighbors that it'll be well loved and used  
309 within our Community.

310 Dana Levenberg: Awesome. So just a couple of comments that I wanted to  
311 just add in and you guys can respond to a little bit. We, unfortunately, a  
312 couple of the libraries and our parks had been vandalized a few times so  
313 we've had to replace parts for them, a couple of times, which you know isn't  
314 a big deal but It just seems to be unfortunate that it's taking place and also  
315 the school districts originally had proposed the two in the park to us and  
316 had said that their - their bookmobile would be replacing and kind of  
317 monitoring them and it might have just been a little bit of a challenge,  
318 obviously, you know everything's a challenge this past year, but you - I  
319 talked to both of you about that and communicated with you and Miriam in  
320 an email, and you had had a proposal about that. So did you want to just  
321 talk about that a little bit, how are we going to keep up with the with the little  
322 free library at Gerlach.

323 Melanie Carnsew: Or, so I think that we as a way of really keeping  
324 ourselves responsible, we would - not elect - but we would we would  
325 choose ambassadors to the library of for like a volunteer time period of say  
326 one or two years and then, we those ambassadors would be responsible  
327 for just doing a real drive by making sure it's not empty, making sure the  
328 doors hasn't been left open. And, if any, repairs were needed, which  
329 hopefully that wouldn't happen. You know, enlisting some one of our handy  
330 neighbors to help us with the carpentry work. And then, at the end of our at  
331 the end of our ambassadorship, then we would get new people to come in  
332 and step up. So there would always be somebody sort of in charge of  
333 overseeing the library without just kind of petering out of interest or if

334 somebody moved away, they could transfer their responsibility to a new  
335 person, and it would just kind of keep the - keep the enthusiasm alive.

336 Dana Levenberg: Great and just again for my board, colleagues, I did  
337 speak to our purse foreman about where we might situate this and  
338 originally I thought he had suggested the pavilion, but upon further  
339 discussion I think he was a little confused and it seemed like he was  
340 thinking. It would be better by the larger parking lot like outside just outside  
341 of the baseball field, so that it would be more accessible, certainly at times  
342 like this - that that little pull-in area at Gerlach, that's closer to the pavilion  
343 playground isn't quite as conducive I don't think too easy access so that  
344 seems to be the better place and just set back enough so that it wouldn't  
345 get pushed over by a plow or a whole bunch of snow like today. So  
346 hopefully that makes sense to everybody.

347 Melanie Carnsew: Yeah I think there's a lot more people traffic in the upper  
348 part of the park. Because everyone parks there when they're playing  
349 soccer and then then they'll make their way down to the pavilion and the  
350 play area but...

351 Dana Levenberg: Right.

352 Melanie Carnsew: ... if that makes sense...

353 Dana Levenberg: Great. So with that I'm opening up to board colleagues,  
354 to see if you have any questions or thoughts or suggestions. Um -

355 Miriam Risko: If I can I just add one thing. I just want to let you know you  
356 know, once the libraries picked up traction. They were sort of self-sufficient  
357 like once people heard about them, they - they just started filling them up  
358 with books and. You know I know the one at - at Ryder and at Engel were a  
359 bit of a different story because they weren't like part of this family of  
360 libraries, but now that they are and we've made this map and stuff I, like  
361 our library at our music school people drop the most amazing books in  
362 there and take books and I rarely even have to put books in there. So I feel  
363 like also that's just something it takes a little while for people to know where  
364 they all are, but they kind of like you know. They really work on their own,  
365 so you know it does require like our - our handle fell off the other day. But I  
366 don't think it was vandalism I think it just fell off. So they require people to  
367 look at it, but it's - it's not a whole lot of work, I really -

368 Dana Levenberg: Mmhmm.

369 Miriam Risko: It's like the easiest, best, little - I don't, just cute and little it's  
370 great it's so.

371 Dana Levenberg: They are really cute yeah I have admit. And actually one  
372 of the - the two that are in the park I think we're built donated time by Tom  
373 Clements, who is the husband of one of the teachers in the district, or  
374 maybe she might be retired I'm not 100% sure, but he's also actually doing  
375 work right now on our - on our Cemetery - Superintendents Cottage Dale  
376 cemeteries and excellent contractor slash carpenter slash all around good  
377 guy so we're grateful for that as well, I don't know if any my work  
378 colleagues wanted to ask questions or have any kind of discussion about  
379 this, while we have our friends here?

380 Jackie Shaw: Liz did you want to go? I see your mouth moving.

381 Liz Feldman: Yeah I'm trying to - I'm trying to unmute myself. I'm having  
382 technological difficulties today. One, first I'd like to say I think it's an  
383 amazing program. I loved it as a little free library. I dropped off on my kids'  
384 books. I see a lot of kids in the park actually reading, you know, under a  
385 tree after they've been in the spray park. I think it's wonderful. And I'm even  
386 more thrilled that it turned into the little pantries. It seemed to be helping an  
387 awful lot of people, you know I'm one of the Community Members - and I  
388 know many people have donated food and the next day it's just gone so  
389 there's a lot of food insecurity and just, for this is a simple way for all of us  
390 to be able to help. I'm so thankful to Miriam and the PTA I'm super excited  
391 to have another one coming, and I think it's just great. I do have one  
392 question, though, on the ones that are parks, is our park department able to  
393 dig them out when it snows?

394 Dana Levenberg: Are they able to?

395 Liz Feldman: Are - are they doing it?

396 Dana Levenberg: I can't tell you the answer to that question, since I think  
397 that probably haven't given it much thought since until today. I do think they  
398 are not as easily accessible in snow in our parks, right now, and I don't  
399 know that lots of people were going there, but we can certainly look into it.

400 Liz Feldman: Okay, great. Thank you.

401 Miriam Risko: We can put you know, the way the PTA sort of worked this  
402 out was we put like ambassadors on each library, and so, even today, we  
403 were messaging and reminding people to dig it out themselves so, you  
404 know, we hope that that's sort of what catches on so that it's not extra work  
405 obviously for anybody to dig out. But if people are taking ownership of it,  
406 maybe we can sort of encourage that more as we go so.

407 Dana Levenberg: Very great.

408 Jackie Shaw: I think it's a wonderful idea, thank you all for getting so  
409 involved in the community, my kids are a little older now older teenagers  
410 but it would have been wonderful to have it at a park where you know my  
411 son's playing soccer and my daughter can either grab a book or give a  
412 book so it's wonderful, so thank you so much.

413 Dana Levenberg: Anybody else? Councilman Meyer, I can't tell if you're  
414 leaning over not.

415 Greg Meyer: No, I think it's great. My two year old loves going through new  
416 books as much as possible, so I think it's terrific so thank you.

417 Dana Levenberg: I definitely have some books to donate there's no doubt. I  
418 just haven't - I haven't finished into that yet, but we'll do I just I love giving  
419 books as gifts like that's my favorite baby gift is to give tons and tons of  
420 books so. Anything that we can do to encourage literacy, you know we're  
421 very involved in the basics program a few years ago and I'm not exactly  
422 sure where that is right now, but the - again, the idea is just read read read  
423 and listen to your kids and talk to them about books, so the seems to  
424 encourage that to happen. Councilman Wilcher, do you have any thing that  
425 you wanted to add or any questions about it? I know, you have to unmute  
426 now that's the tricky part. Do you know how to do that? After we muted you  
427 now, we have to unmute you... Jesse? If you scroll around you see  
428 something that says mute on the bottom left - if you click on that. You have  
429 to kind of move the mouse around.

430 Victoria Cafarelli: If you also hit the spacebar and hold it down.

431 Dana Levenberg: Oh spacebar. Trick key. Okay. As soon as you unmute  
432 we're going to come right back to you. Okay? I should never have  
433 suggested, you mute him.

434 Northern Wilcher: Unmute.

435 Dana Levenberg: Oh, here we go. Hi.

436 Northern Wilcher: Okay. All right, what are only thing I was gonna say is  
437 that I thought there was a good idea from the beginning and it seemed to  
438 be catching on. And I know I'm gonna check on some books myself and I  
439 guess is mostly for uh no - no, certain age is it?

440 Dana Levenberg: That's a good question is it for certain age, or only for  
441 children?

442 Miriam Risko: it's for anybody so like even just as an example, I walked -  
443 before we switched over to pantries I happen to be looking in our little  
444 library and there's a great cookbook - the silver palette cookbook I'm not  
445 sure if anybody's familiar with it - but somebody put a brand new one in our  
446 box. And I love that cookbook so it's for anybody, and I think it's really nice  
447 it's - it's just inclusive of anybody, and you know you can even do. Little free  
448 libraries does a lot of they send out a lot of newsletters and suggestions of  
449 different kinds of activities and things you can do with it and you could have  
450 different theme months and - and highlight different things that are going on  
451 in the Community so it's really whatever - whatever you make of it.

452 Northern Wilcher: Okay, well, thank you.

453 Dana Levenberg: I think we have consensus that we're going to accept this  
454 donation. So do you know what the timing is in terms of when you might be  
455 getting in? That's my only other question.

456 Melanie Carnsew: um I don't know what the lead time once you order from  
457 their site.

458 Miriam Risko: I think it's like about four weeks or something and with some  
459 of them, they don't all you have to order the post with it or be made,  
460 because I know what the school district - I can't remember I think they may  
461 have made them. But we ordered ours, and it was very easy to put it  
462 together and to put it in so. And then just make sure you register it with a  
463 little library site, because it comes out on their map like, if you look up little  
464 free libraries you'll see Ossining is now on the map as like home of a whole  
465 lot of little free libraries.

466 Dana Levenberg: Awesome. Well thank you so much Miriam for bringing  
467 this to Ossining. And I think it's a great initiative, and you know it's great to  
468 see that it's taking off and then it's having many, many kinds of legs, with  
469 the pantry is also and I appreciate the entire community stepping up and  
470 helping fill them for those who need and just being there. It's fantastic and  
471 also just supporting literacy.

472 Miriam Risko: Thank you -

473 Dana Levenberg: So much again thanks for coming tonight for the  
474 presentation and we'll just stay in touch about when it comes in. We'll make  
475 sure that it gets placed in that we're on board, where that isn't won't have to  
476 officially accept the donation at a – a - upcoming meeting. Okay?

477 Miriam Risko: Thank you -

478 [UNCLEAR]: Thank you -

479 Dana Levenberg: Thank you so much. Alright, so up next we have our  
480 proposed battery energy storage system at 381 North Highland Avenue,  
481 which is St. Augustine's church. At last week's legislative session, the Town  
482 Board approved a local law to regulate installations of battery energy  
483 storage systems in the Town of Ossining. Verengo Solar has been before  
484 the planning board for a few months now for a proposed system on the  
485 property of St. Augustine's. Which is on North Highland her the new local  
486 law, the Town word will now have the opportunity to a to approve a floating  
487 zone for this property, so we thought now would be a good time from  
488 Verengo go to come to the Town Board and discuss their proposal. Council  
489 Tomm Addona, do you have anything to add before I hand it over to the  
490 folks from Verengo? Or Valerie Monastra, our Planner? Either one of you.

491 Christie Addona: No, I think you pretty much sums it up the Town Board  
492 adapt to the local law last week, so now it's formally on the books. So  
493 because the applicant is still going through the review process, they are not  
494 vested in the prior zoning so this will apply to their property, which means  
495 that because it's a tier two battery energy storage system, like the board  
496 does with the solar energy systems, the applicant makes the application to  
497 this board to have that floating zone applied to this specific property and,  
498 since it will be related to this proposal, it seemed like good timing, to have  
499 the applicant come talk to this board, because the planning board is going

500 through the speaker view. And that way this board can provide any  
501 comments you may have before the planning board were to issue a  
502 determination on [UNCLEAR] I which point it would come back to this  
503 board for a public hearing, because you would have to adopt a local law in  
504 order to put that zoning in place.

505 Dana Levenberg: All right then. Fantastic. Valerie anything else you want to  
506 add?

507 Valerie Monastra: No, I mean, I just wanted to touch base with the Town  
508 Board just let you know where we are in the process. As Christie said, it's in  
509 front of the planning board. It is still working on finishing the SEQR process,  
510 specifically they're waiting for completion of the archaeological studies for  
511 the site. But I just wanted to note that the planning board, so you can just  
512 have an idea of like some of the due diligence that has been already put  
513 forth in this project, the planning board already conducted a site visit with  
514 the Environmental Advisory Council. And the Environment Advisory Council  
515 also provided comments, which were worked into the overall site plan that  
516 you have been provided. The fire department and building inspector have  
517 also reviewed prior site plans and those comments have also been  
518 incorporated into the most current version of the site plan specifically  
519 dealing with the grading of the driveway access to the battery storage  
520 system. So - and this project was also submitted to Westchester County  
521 before per of the referral process, and we also received a response from  
522 the county with a determination of local jurisdiction. So that's kind of been  
523 pretty much brings you up to speed as to what has been done since then,  
524 and the comments that have been incorporated into the current site plan  
525 that you're being presented tonight.

526 Dana Levenberg: Excellent. Okay so with that Verengo. Who is here from  
527 Verengo? And floor is all yours.

528 Michael Conway: So from the Verengo team, good – good - good evening  
529 for the Verengo team we've got a couple folks tonight. My name is Mike  
530 Conway our director of business development for energy storage. We've  
531 got Greg Gibbons on the line as well who's our civil engineer, who's in  
532 charge of the entire permitting process and how we bring projects through.  
533 Through various approvals - various authorities' approvals like - like your  
534 Town and also analyze Carina Sulleiss she's our product developer for the



535 project. So I'll just give it a quick introduction before I hand it off to Greg  
536 who really knows, most of the nuts and bolts about how the process works  
537 and can speak to those a lot better than I can. Uh so we've got a five  
538 megawatt proposed standalone battery energy storage system at St.  
539 Augustine's property. We - we approach the Church **[PRESENTATION**  
540 **STARTS]** about a year and a half ago, as we were responding to a new  
541 program that was being released by the State of New York's Energy and  
542 Research Arm NYSERDA and - and Con ED and under that program, we  
543 are you know they're looking for uh location locations for energy storage  
544 that as sort of a new technology can work in in coordination with - with  
545 other clean tech or renewable technologies, though there is no solar or  
546 wind at this facility, but sort of they work in concert throughout their - their  
547 coordination where - in other areas where they're located in in New York  
548 electrical system. To together help clean up the mix of - of resources that  
549 we use to - to power, our electrical system, and specifically for energy  
550 storage, the major thing there is to - to replace some of the - the dirtier  
551 peaking power plants that that don't run for very often, only run a couple  
552 times a year because they're not very economical, but when they run are  
553 among the - the greatest polluters in the state and some of the older ones  
554 closer to the city are some of the worst polluters in the country. And so we -  
555 we came across the St. Augustine's property by looking through Con Ed's  
556 maps and - and doing an analysis of some of the parts of Con Ed's system  
557 that were there were appropriate to connect sort of smallish battery system  
558 like - like this one, at five megawatts. And where we're now under lease  
559 agreement with the Church for this battery that sort of up behind - behind  
560 the church, behind the school sort of set back on - on their property where -  
561 where we think you know it's a pretty appropriate location for and doesn't -  
562 doesn't bother too many people out there. Thanks - Greg's got that  
563 rendering up there, so it's yeah it's up an accessory and it said pretty -  
564 pretty far back there, so we think it's a pretty ideal scenario here where it's  
565 in a location where electrically it can do a lot of good for the system and, as  
566 far as the aesthetics of the system it's - it's going to be about as well screen  
567 does anything we we've developed so far and pretty well tucked back there  
568 and not - not very visible from - from - from any of the new points that we've  
569 analyzed with the - with the help of the planning board. So I think that I'll  
570 pass it off to Greg.

571 Gregory Gibbons: Yeah, thanks Mike. Yeah I'll just piggyback on that a little  
572 bit more. Mike covered some of what I've got written down here for bullet  
573 points but, you know, basically it's the battery storage area is tucked back  
574 in the back of the site it's this area, right here, you can see there's  
575 individual modules battery modules surrounded by a fence. The fence is  
576 the standard seven foot high fence. You know, it's about a 60 by 110 foot  
577 area and that is fed by a 20 foot wide gravel access road. It does slope  
578 downhill at 10% this was uh - this meets the standards of the Town, and it  
579 has been reviewed by the fire department as well as the building inspector.  
580 And they have given us that a go-ahead on that the - the utility  
581 interconnection, so the batteries are over here then there's an underground  
582 feeder line which runs we'll have to install that along the edge of the St.  
583 Augustine's loop - ring road runs along the road and then feeds over onto  
584 the eastern side of the site which connects to Route 9A or North Highland  
585 via the three phase power on that side. We have uh coordinated with the  
586 planning board in the church to provide extensive landscaping that's what  
587 I'm showing right here is landscaping plan from our landscape architect,  
588 Saratoga Associates. This landscaping plan should provide visual buffer –  
589 s-Substantial visual buffer in addition to how well hidden it already was the  
590 planning board members wanted us to show a little bit more. We thought it  
591 was good to for the Church and the Church agreed so we came up with a  
592 landscaping plan which is actually honeybee friendly, deer resist – some -  
593 deer resistant, nothing is fully deer resistant but somewhat deer resistant.  
594 The Church actually has a like a honeybee farm back behind the rectory  
595 which is kind of cool.

596 Dana Levenberg: We know.

597 Gregory Gibbons: Okay cool. Then. You know, feeding off what Mike said,  
598 you know, the better storage is used to supplement you know the high end  
599 peak energy demand. This allows you know Con Edison or any you know  
600 any power provider to reduce the new infrastructure and upgrades which  
601 would be required. Otherwise, to beat the same demand, so you know we  
602 save us a lot less new installations of - of large equipment and energy  
603 equipment that that taxpayers basically end up having to pay or you know,  
604 through your utility bills and some other - other various ways that we end  
605 up paying in the long run, and then you know the system was designed to  
606 meet the recently passed better – battery energy source storage system

607 model law which Valerie mentioned, which we did review the code before  
608 the when it when it was in a draft state, and I think what was passed we  
609 meet all the items for that. And you know if we don't it should be something  
610 minor that we can maybe tweak to - to make sure we do meet it and I'm  
611 interested to know more about applying for that application for the - the  
612 blanket waiver - I didn't write it down - but the basically whatever we have  
613 to apply for the Town Board to get to get the approval to install the system.

614 Dana Levenberg: Floating zone, yes.

615 Gregory Gibbons: Loading zone, yes, thank you.

616 Dana Levenberg: Similar to a blanket waiver, yes, at the same time as we  
617 approved the battery energy storage, we also approved beekeeping  
618 legislation, just so you know. This was something –

619 Gregory Gibbons: Oh okay.

620 Dana Levenberg: This was something that came to our attention that that  
621 the bees had been there for some time and we didn't really have a local law  
622 in place to make that legal, so we do so, see how you lifts all ships here.  
623 Okay, are you guys, do you have more parts of your presentation?

624 Gregory Gibbons: Um, not really I mean if - if people have questions we're  
625 happy to answer them at this time I mean I've got a couple simulations here  
626 this one already showed this one is another view that looks toward with the  
627 Hudson and Croton River come together. But in general that's - that's about  
628 it.

629 Dana Levenberg: Okay, I will allow or encourage my Town Board  
630 colleagues to now ask some questions. I'm sure I'm going to get - I'm going  
631 to guess that there are a few of them. So maybe I don't know if we should  
632 we stop screen sharing for a second or do you want to leave that up?

633 Gregory Gibbons: Sure -

634 Dana Levenberg: Let's just -

635 Gregory Gibbons: - up to you.

636 Dana Levenberg: Yeah.

637 Gregory Gibbons: Just, Mike, can you stop it?

638 Dana Levenberg: Let's just leave it up for a second until –

639 **[SCREENSHARE ENDS]**

640 Gregory Gibbons: Oh.

641 Dana Levenberg: No that's fine. Let's see who has questions first.

642 Liz Feldman: I have a not so serious question. That's where they shoot the  
643 fireworks from. Will that be safe?

644 Dana Levenberg: So funny I was thinking the same thing.

645 Gregory Gibbons: We're not taking up all the space, I don't I wasn't aware  
646 of that, I don't know if Mike was, but there is a good, we're only taking up  
647 about half the space at that open area, so I don't - I don't see why they  
648 wouldn't be able to, but that might you know -

649 Dana Levenberg: The question is more when

650 Gregory Gibbons: be an issue.

651 Dana Levenberg: the stuff is falling down, the burning embers come falling  
652 down you don't know where.

653 Liz Feldman: Or backfire.

654 Dana Levenberg: Or backfire. It's - I don't think it's so much about that they  
655 wouldn't have enough space to shoot them off, but we're just I think that  
656 that was funny that's one that was definitely one of my questions, the  
657 reason I think we're also curious as because we installed a spray pad down  
658 at our Park where we shoot off fireworks and we co - we thought to cover it  
659 but we're - really wasn't as effective as we would have hoped those burning  
660 embers are real. So just you know I don't know if St. Augustine's might  
661 have to forgo fireworks in the future, I don't know if they realize that, but  
662 you might want to think about if that's kind of some be something that's still  
663 stay for them to do or not take on have to rethink that.

664 Liz Feldman: Or thinking about fireproofing the design.

665 Michael Conway: It - certainly we'll discuss it with them.

666 Liz Feldman: They're not giving up the fireworks.

667 Michael Conway: But joking aside, fire safety is a - is a major component of  
668 a battery energy storage systems, something that the industry takes really  
669 seriously it's - it's typically something we worry about from the inside out  
670 rather than from something on the outside. Mostly they're you know metal  
671 containers, that are not - that are pretty well sealed up so it's - it's unlikely  
672 that something like a hot ember coming down from a firework that didn't.  
673 That didn't blow in time would - would have would have an issue or  
674 something like that, but it's combustion is certainly concerning right, so if  
675 there was a it was a malfunction and something didn't get off the ground  
676 and there's you know, a sort of mechanical event that they could have  
677 some mechanical damage that that it's certainly something that we want to  
678 prevent anywhere. In the area of the batteries, so will - will we haven't  
679 discussed that yet with the Church, but we certainly will now that we know  
680 that it's something that they do at least once a year, I would suppose.

681 Dana Levenberg: Yes, or maybe [UNCLEAR].

682 Liz Feldman: At least.

683 Dana Levenberg: At least. Okay, so I do have a couple questions, but I  
684 want to see the main colleagues have any questions before I ask. No? No,  
685 no? Okay, so one of the things that is still somewhat elusive to me about  
686 this is, I know that this is sort of part of the Climate Action Plan for the state  
687 to introduce more of these, and I know that they're supposed to help offset  
688 the reliance on you know sort of more fossil fuel based energy and but  
689 you've said specifically that this isn't connected to a solar system it's not the  
690 wind system and somehow it's helping reduce peak - peak performance,  
691 which is why I'm he introduced these systems in the first place, but for this  
692 particular one can you explain a little bit how - what you know how that  
693 works, just so we have a better understanding of it as well.

694 Michael Conway: So specifically how this system will operate is that it's a  
695 battery so it - it charges and then it discharges it, you know takes energy in  
696 and then it stores it and then at some point, at whatever point you tell it to  
697 it'll put that energy back into the system, and so the strategy with, that is,  
698 you can manage the stress on the distribution system and the stress on the  
699 electrical system in general, by taking power off of the grid when there's no  
700 traffic when things are very easy so mostly the middle of the night we'll be  
701 charging the batteries up when no one else really is using very much

702 electricity save for a couple things and then during those high traffic hours  
703 early afternoon usually hot summer days that's when we turn the batteries  
704 on and when those batteries discharge they're effectively reducing the work  
705 that the rest of the generation system has to do. That generation - because  
706 we're serving that power from the batteries - it doesn't have to be taken in  
707 from other places and that's where the sort of replacement of some of the  
708 dirty or fossil fuel plants comes in, is that those plants um –trying to say, a  
709 moment ago, those plants only really run during the summertime during  
710 really peak events when sort of everyone in New York, has their air  
711 conditioner on it - at you know 4pm on July 15th or something like that, and  
712 if that load during that peak time – 4pm on July 15 let's just say - if we're  
713 serving that load with our battery then that fossil generator doesn't need to  
714 turn on. And so it's not because our because this battery is quite small it's  
715 not exactly a one for one it's sort of an aggregate sort of impact, where you  
716 know we install one of these in - in Ossining and we install one a couple  
717 Towns over in Yorktown or whatever it may be, and then together those  
718 distributed assets as a - as a group, are able to prevent that one traditional  
719 fossil generator from needed from needing to operate. And so it's - it's a  
720 little bit of a sort of a team effort on - on these with these sort of smaller  
721 battery systems to - to - to fully replace one of those older peaking fossil  
722 plants.

723 Dana Levenberg: Is there any direct benefits that Community like similar to  
724 like Community solar or you know, having this you know facility in Town like  
725 if we were to find ourselves in a bind during a weather event or something  
726 like that, is there any way for the Community to - locally to benefit?

727 Michael Conway: So a couple things there I'll address the weather one first.  
728 What these batteries don't do is provide backup generation like you would  
729 for with a generator at your home. And so, if an event has already  
730 happened it's not going to get you through a blackout. What they're meant  
731 to do is help prevent blood, be a preventative measure from a black or  
732 brown happening in the first place by reducing the stress on the system,  
733 and so there is a there's a benefit in that, in that the evening what Greg  
734 was getting at earlier is as... Take batteries out of it for a second. As low  
735 growth on the distribution system continues to grow in your communities or  
736 whatever, Con Ed continues to upgrade their system with bigger and better  
737 stuff so that you don't experience brownouts. And that stuff raises your

738 electrical rates when kind of makes those improvements. Having systems  
739 in your Community means that content doesn't have to install those new  
740 upgrades to keep up with the growing load of things like more air  
741 conditioning and electric cars, and you know so additional like electrical -  
742 electrification - that's - that, that is sort of happening generally in society,  
743 right now, as we sort of try to move away from more fuel based have more  
744 for fuel based economy - economy to a more electric based economy. So  
745 that's the blackouts versus you know they don't help you recover from a  
746 blackout, they help prevent a blackout. Going back a moment to the what  
747 else is there in it for the Community, the way these projects are monetized  
748 is - is a lot like a Community Solar project in that they create bill credits and  
749 there is some recipient of those bill credits, who is going to get reduction of  
750 their energy bill, and so, when this product is ready to go into construction,  
751 we will be signing up electric customers to be participants in this project,  
752 exactly as if it were a Community Solar project. It's the same program and  
753 – and – and a crediting mechanism that the Community solar program uses  
754 it's just a different. Physical asset producing those credits.

755 Dana Levenberg: Got it, and I mean, so you can target low income  
756 households, renters, etc. with that.

757 Michael Conway: We could. The setup of the battery program is a little bit  
758 different in that the Community solar sort of needs to be made up a certain  
759 percentage of individual Community DG prescribers, then you can have  
760 subscribers and then you can have like one larger anchor tenant that's like  
761 a Town or a major business decision electrical user. The it's a little more  
762 open ended for a battery system, because we are we're able to either were  
763 kind of able to do with what we what we want with that in terms of the mix  
764 of those two things, so we could either have a power purchase agreement  
765 with you know, a Town that takes up 100% of the batteries obligation for  
766 those credits or a private business or we could spread it out to – to - to end  
767 use custom - smaller end-use customers as well. It's sort of open ended  
768 and we haven't gotten to that point with this project, but I think we're  
769 certainly open to all instructors if the Town - if the Town has more electrical  
770 appetite for something like a BPA we'd certainly be interested in discussing  
771 the Town with that or if the Town, would like to you know broker something  
772 for its residents that was essentially a funnel to get resident into a

773 subscribership for this type of products, I think we'd be interested in having  
774 that discussion as well.

775 Dana Levenberg: Excellent very cool. And is there was there ever a point  
776 when you consider this location for solar? Just out of curiosity since we're  
777 solar - solar company?

778 Michael Conway: Yeah not - not our organization specifically and it's just a  
779 business model thing. That we are - we just go after bigger solar projects  
780 and so there's not - we sort of need like 50 acres to get one of our product  
781 developers to roll out of bed so. This site wasn't a good fit for that, but - but  
782 that doesn't mean that the church may not pursue that at some point in the  
783 future with another organization. I - I'm not sure we haven't discussed that  
784 with them at all.

785 Dana Levenberg: Got it. Because we're just - yeah we're just getting ready  
786 to hopefully have a canopy... solar storage site at one of our other  
787 churches so just you know be interesting to pair with that - with that. I don't  
788 know if that's possibility down the road, but you know wouldn't be  
789 interesting. Okay um, I think, and then, finally, I know that there were some  
790 questions about the... how close you are to our Croton River [and] Hudson  
791 River. And as we're seeing sea level rise, I want to have an understanding  
792 of your familiarity with the maps and the 80 year sea level rise I don't think I  
793 think this is how - how, what is the lifespan of your facility is like is it 20?  
794 15- 20 years?

795 Michael Conway: 35 years, but the battery itself, we expect that lifetime to  
796 be 25.

797 Dana Levenberg: Okay, and I know that there are a lot of pieces that are  
798 built in for decommissioning. So you know, should you guys go down, out  
799 of business there's a lot of pieces that are required for you as part of not  
800 only part of our model local law, but part of the local law we just adopted,  
801 but also I know as part of your application as well, so you know that's just  
802 critical to make sure that this doesn't have a negative impact on the  
803 environment when we're trying to actually do the opposite, but also that it's  
804 that we're protecting our precious waterways.

805 Gregory Gibbons: Yeah I think, just to speak to that, we you know the - this  
806 site, we are elevated I think 60 to 65 feet above the Hudson river flood or



807 you know [UNCLEAR] plane. However, when we also are observing that  
808 hundred foot setback, we aren't having any impact within the allotted for  
809 step back. Even though we are so high that horizontal setback is still  
810 relatively close to our system, but you know this type of batteries they don't  
811 have it's not like a lead acid battery whether it's like fluid in it all the  
812 batteries are solid state, so, if anything, did happen to it. Say you know, I  
813 can't even really think of something that would happen to it but there's  
814 nothing to like leak out of it and, like cause some sort of damage it's not like  
815 a typical car battery or anything like that so it's - it's not going to you know  
816 infiltrate into the water it just physically couldn't do that, so we you know  
817 we're pretty comfortable that there won't be any impacts, to the Hudson  
818 River or the Croton River.

819 Dana Levenberg: Okay. Any other questions from my colleagues haven't  
820 heard my name once?

821 Northern Wilcher: I have a question.

822 Dana Levenberg: Okay.

823 Northern Wilcher: Do you have any literature on this?

824 Gregory Gibbons: Yeah, what type of literature you looking for?

825 Northern Wilcher: Whatever you talking about here.

826 Gregory Gibbons: Yeah we.

827 Northern Wilcher: I don't understand a whole lot of what was just said.

828 Gregory Gibbons: Sure.

829 Northern Wilcher: So if you could get it to Dana –

830 Dana Levenberg: Victoria.

831 Northern Wilcher: - I would appreciate it.

832 Dana Levenberg: Okay.

833 Gregory Gibbons: Yeah we –

834 Dana Levenberg: We'll get it – get it.

835 Gregory Gibbons: We submitted a site and safety memo to the Town,  
836 which I think is pretty comprehensive. [It] describes you know the civil end

837 of things and also describes the better technology and safe – a lot of safety  
838 elements are involved in that and we'll be happy to share that with you.

839 Dana Levenberg: Maybe you have the one or two paged version? I think  
840 that was like a 60 page? I don't know, maybe, maybe in November I know,  
841 there was a very lengthy application, though.

842 Gregory Gibbons: Yeah -

843 Northern Wilcher: Well if its 60 pages, I don't need it.

844 Dana Levenberg: We might have a shorter – the [UNCLEAR].

845 Gregory Gibbons: We've got an eight pager that's, you know, by the end of  
846 it, you probably don't want to know more. But you know, eight pages is  
847 reasonable.

848 Northern Wilcher: That's better.

849 Dana Levenberg: Okay. Is that if any other questions everybody basically  
850 feeling good about moving this to the next stage, theoretically? Just a...  
851 consensus wise? And Councilman Wilcher when you get a little more  
852 information and Councilman Meyer was at a head shake in the right  
853 direction? Okay?

854 Greg Meyer: Sure.

855 Dana Levenberg: Okay. Okay, great. So let's just go to either Valerie or  
856 Christie for next steps, for I know that it's your continuing through the  
857 SEQR process with the planning board. This was just to get a sense of  
858 where we would stand in terms of approving a floating zone, which is  
859 similar to that blanket application - wet blanket approval - that we were  
860 discussing. That would be the... you know I think the next step for the  
861 Town Board but we're not exactly sure when we would be doing that, so  
862 you did mention it earlier but.

863 Christie Addona: So tonight, you know, the board's not making a decision  
864 tonight –

865 Dana Levenberg: Right.

866 Christie Addona: - this is just a preliminary for the board to - obviously it's a  
867 work session - so this is just very preliminary for the board to kind of hear

868 about it and - and get a feel for it because of zoning - zoning text  
869 amendment or a zone change is a legislative act, it's discretionary. So just  
870 to make sure that the Board was comfortable with moving forward, because  
871 the planning board is still doing SEQR this board couldn't take action, even  
872 if you wanted to until SEQR was complete. Because you didn't really come  
873 in as an involved agency under SEQR until the local law was passed. What  
874 I would recommend to put on for a resolution next week is consenting to  
875 the planning board being lead agency, just so that that process can  
876 continue going forward. One thing the board may want to discuss tonight,  
877 are there any specific environmental issues that you want to have  
878 conveyed to the planning board before they wrap up their SEQR review? If  
879 there are, then you know we can either do a memo or Valerie can convey it  
880 to the planning board at their next meeting, but that - that's pretty much  
881 what you're focused on right now, which is SEQR and then, once the  
882 planning board does presumably issue a [UNCLEAR] but make some  
883 SEQR determination ending that process, then it would come back to this  
884 board for a public hearing on the local law. So as far as environmental  
885 issues is there anything specific that the board wants to have conveyed to  
886 the planning board?

887 Dana Levenberg: I mean, I feel like there's a lot of those pieces I've - I've -  
888 just be cognizant of whatever the EAC in their due diligence had -  
889 comments that they'd had. I know that you know there's there are going to  
890 be a lot of trees planted I know we have a big native plant specialist on our  
891 planning board, and so I would hope that you would make sure to heed the  
892 wisdom of that person, as well as any of the other people who are very  
893 protective of our waterways - also on our planning board - because those  
894 are you know, obviously critical issues for the Town, to make sure that we  
895 do protect those. I know I did again I did review a lot of the planning  
896 documents, and it did seem like a lot of those pieces were already in place,  
897 and I appreciate that, and the same with you know the roadway obviously  
898 getting out there and making sure that we're not - we're not creating more  
899 problems while trying to solve others, so I think that that you know those  
900 are sort of the critical pieces and, in my opinion, I don't know what the - if  
901 the rest of the Board have has anything else.

902 Liz Feldman: I have a lot of confidence with our planning board, especially  
903 with our two very Green Members um... I see that they're already

904 addressing pollination and the screening in a – in a big way so I'm - I'm  
905 confident that board can handle it.

906 Dana Levenberg: I feel the same.

907 Christie Addona: Okay, so then we'll put a resolution on for next week for  
908 the Town Board to consent to the planning board being lead agency, just  
909 so that they don't have to go through the procedural hoops of sending out  
910 recirculating the notice and waiting 30 days, so it will just allow them to  
911 continue on as the process has been going, and then the applicant will  
912 come back to the Town Board once planning board is done with SEQR.

913 Dana Levenberg: I would like to know where in the process, the  
914 [UNCLEAR] negotiating how the... I guess for lack of a better word public  
915 funding process takes place and how we might be part of that conversation,  
916 and also a little bit of an understanding I'm not sure I have a total  
917 understanding yet. If you have for battery energy storage, the same type of  
918 property tax benefits that the solar installations have? And, if so, you know  
919 that's we had we had adopted a pilot local law to - solar pilot local law to  
920 allow us to negotiate a payment in lieu of taxes it's you know for certain  
921 size. Solar systems and that's something that again it's small so I'm not  
922 sure if it is relevant, but it might be something worth discussing and just like  
923 to understand where in the process that would take place.

924 Michael Conway: Discussion on the real property tax law 487 - the pilot  
925 exemption thing – I ,we, I believe we've already sent one of the two letters  
926 to which the Town is required to respond to - to opt out of the exemption,  
927 which would then begin the discussion of the pilot.

928 Dana Levenberg: Yes.

929 Michael Conway: And we're happy to start that discussion with you as - as  
930 early as practical. For you guys I you know our sense is, you know, usually  
931 a jurisdiction likes to see us get to just about the finish line with the  
932 planning board, to know that the product is going to get real before starting  
933 to discuss – it - just you know before taking people's time for those types of  
934 conversations. If that works for you guys, we can do that, we can we can  
935 start that conversation earlier if you'd like to as well, I think. You know our  
936 we're about a quarter of an acre, and so our site is a bit smaller than a  
937 solar site, so I don't... It's generally not going to produce the same type of

938 tax revenue this solar facility would, so I think it's out of the... in the interest  
939 of drinks very transparent just want to get that out there. Though yeah we'll  
940 follow your lead on that. If you guys want to want to start having those  
941 discussions, and certainly the discussion about whether the Town is  
942 interested in the billing benefits of the product as well I'm more than happy  
943 to start that as soon as you're ready.

944 Dana Levenberg: Fantastic. Okay. We'll talk.

945 Christie Addona: Yeah, but that's not really the purview of the planning  
946 board so if that that would be for the - for the Town Board to focus on.

947 Dana Levenberg: I understand that, but just in terms of approving a project  
948 it's not clear to me like if you know you if that's part of the approval process  
949 - even though it might exactly be part of the planning board approval until  
950 you know you don't want the whole thing to be finalized until you're you  
951 have all your ducks in a row. That's kind of my point and I don't exactly  
952 know how that works with it within the scope of the process. So I did it's  
953 been explained to me so I'm good now. Okay. So I think that's it unless  
954 somebody else has any questions, I thank you very much for your  
955 presentation and we look forward to working together on next steps.

956 Gregory Gibbons: Thank you.

957 Michael Conway: Good night.

958 Dana Levenberg: You too. Alright, so we have two more items for  
959 discussion. And our presentations are going to both be from - from our staff  
960 from Supervisors Office. We're - right now we're going to be talking about a  
961 potential local law for filming in the Town of Ossining. The Town has had a  
962 long standing practice of reviewing and approving requests to film on public  
963 and private property in the Town usually through the Supervisor's office.  
964 However, the process has not been officially codified, and there are some  
965 opportunities to improve the process as well, to make it easier and more  
966 appealing for both the Town and the applicant. For our next local law of  
967 2021 it seems to make sense to review our existing practice and look for  
968 opportunities to improve so we can be a more film friendly Town which  
969 helps with our economic development goals. Carina Scordia from my office  
970 has been doing research on how other communities handle film permitting.

971 So I am going to hand it over to Carina to review her research and to guide  
972 us through our discussion. Carina, the floor is yours.

973 Carina Scorcia: Hello everybody.

974 Dana Levenberg: Good evening.

975 Carina Scorcia: I'm going to do a quick screen share here. [SCREEN  
976 SHARE PRESENTATION BEGINS] Okay, so Dana pretty much summed it  
977 up perfectly for what this will cover so I'll jump right in. Ossining's proximity  
978 to the city means that production companies are kind of already  
979 considering our area when it comes to filming. Significant portions of  
980 Ossining fall within the - it's called the New York City film zone and that's  
981 essentially workers' unions related to production companies consider  
982 anything that's within 30 miles of New York City to basically be New York  
983 City for some reason... So a significant portion of Ossining fits inside this  
984 film zone, notably North State Road is in the film zone. Significant portions  
985 of Cedar Lane Park, most of the Town of Ossining. Notably, Teatown falls  
986 outside that zone. But basically what this means is that it's cheaper for  
987 production companies to stay within this zone and so they're already  
988 looking at neighborhoods like ours when they're considering projects.

989 So our current procedure is about five steps before a project can - can be  
990 on location. We wait for residents and production companies to guess our  
991 procedures though and that's kind of where we lose a lot of time. Most of  
992 our requests are received by email and those requests come in with basic  
993 questions: 'do we allow filming, how much does it cost, what are the  
994 requirements from the Town to move forward with a project.' After we get  
995 that initial request like I said, usually by email, then we give them an  
996 application, and then we try to follow up with them in a while. But apart from  
997 asking for a copy of their insurance, which is what we asked for with the  
998 return of the application, steps one and two really sort of cover the same  
999 general process. They're the same questions it's just in a different format.  
1000 It's whether they're getting back and forth and phone calls or lots of emails  
1001 or whether they are directly - directly putting it on paper and requesting it  
1002 from us. Okay, so I just - I guess I'll read through the steps here I'm not  
1003 sure if you guys have [UNCLEAR]. Here, so the first one is just that  
1004 informal request. The second one is when we - we provide that application  
1005 and we request the insurance. Third, then we actually have the application

1006 in front of us. I'm going to suggest that we move this third step to sort of  
1007 cover the first two and give us a little bit more time in the beginning. The  
1008 fourth step is we have to go and decide whether the permit would be  
1009 accepted - with the application will be accepted. And that's you know  
1010 chatting with the police department, parks department, highway - make  
1011 sure that you know, there are not closing down roads and stuff like that.  
1012 And then the last step is just whether or not we give the yes or no.

1013 Okay, so this just covers how people find information on filming. If you look  
1014 at our website it's very difficult to find general information. You have to  
1015 search the right word. And then find it buried in other posts, it is a three  
1016 page application and the fees are all the way at the end, so it isn't until  
1017 someone has decided that they want to apply and have read through the  
1018 whole application that they get any sense of how much this costs and even  
1019 at that point, they still have no understanding of our procedure in terms of  
1020 how we accept film permits. Oh, and the other thing about this is because  
1021 it's difficult to find on the website, we do get applications sometimes to the  
1022 supervisors office, sometimes through the clerk's office, and I know of one  
1023 that moved through the police department first because it makes sense if  
1024 you're thinking of being on public space, maybe you call the police first and  
1025 ask them. So we really want to make sure to introduce a point of contact for  
1026 them and let them know really our procedure, so that people don't have to  
1027 guess.

1028 This is our current fee schedule like I said it's at the end of that application  
1029 it doesn't account for any special circumstances and we only have two fees  
1030 that we make public and that's for filming - in general - in the Town of  
1031 Ossining and then an additional fee if they're on Town property- like at the  
1032 municipal building or one of our parks.

1033 Okay, so moving forward tonight we're discussing codifying our long  
1034 standing practices. This would be for commercial filming - not like filming a  
1035 commercial - but you know not private filming so someone making a tik tok  
1036 in the park still doesn't have to bother everybody. And you know we have a  
1037 student film program through the Ossining High School and you know they  
1038 wouldn't need something like this, either we would keep things very flexible,  
1039 a lot of the other local municipalities have something on the books. It  
1040 basically just allows you to revoke a permit and requires people to sort of

1041 be in contact in terms of scheduling. It does seem like a really helpful thing  
1042 to have for, especially those two practices. I just put a portion of Briarcliff's  
1043 because theirs very straightforward. Some people['s] are much more  
1044 simple, to it is pretty flexible and almost all of them say you know 'this is at  
1045 the discretion of the Town Board or Town Supervisor' and it keeps things,  
1046 flexible and kind of... it keeps things flexible for the administrations.

1047 So the second piece we're suggesting to make us be more film friendly  
1048 would be to update the fee schedule. So again it doesn't have to be super  
1049 complicated or nuanced it just said something in stone publicly that says  
1050 how much people can expect to pay, it can still be flexible. But by burying it  
1051 we lose a lot of people right at the beginning, when they asked how much it  
1052 costs, because even though we're unwilling to negotiate, they have no  
1053 sense of that and it can seem overwhelming, I think, you know that  
1054 someone like if - if North State Pizza wants to film a local commercial at - at  
1055 first glance, it looks like they would be paying the same prices, you know  
1056 when Madam Secretary filmed in Town, so you do want to give them a little  
1057 bit more space or you don't have to, but you want to give them a little bit  
1058 more in terms of options. And then flexibility like I said it's really key so  
1059 people start with base fees and some of the municipalities and then add  
1060 things on. I'll just show here you know, some - some different fees, whether  
1061 it's public property or private property, whether it's on public land, overnight  
1062 production, pyrotechnics, you know and it - it sort of lays out what we what  
1063 would be - what we feel would impact residents, or what can kind of be  
1064 done more quietly and privately.

1065 The third suggestion... oh is just to make information more easily  
1066 accessible, the Town has a lot of really great sites and just pictures from. In  
1067 general, the Supervisors Drive. There's a lot of great things out there and to  
1068 just list a few makes it a little bit more friendly and familiar for scouts.  
1069 Location scouts who already have a sense of what they're looking for and  
1070 there isn't so much of a guessing game. And then lastly I'd like to suggest  
1071 that we make the application available digitally. And that would be - so the  
1072 Clerk's Office uses seamless docs to use something like that this way that  
1073 initial conversation where questions go back and forth. If you have a  
1074 location scout or a local business, who knows exactly what they want, they  
1075 can simply apply and then by the time we reach out, we have that piece of  
1076 paper in front of them and we're clarifying instead of getting an initial read



1077 on the information. And I'm going to stop sharing. [PRESENTATION  
1078 ENDS] So I know that was a lot but that's just a general overview and if you  
1079 have any questions, I guess.

1080 Dana Levenberg: Great well Thank you so much, Carina for all the work  
1081 that you did, and the research, as well as compiling some best practices. I  
1082 think that you know, one of the things we did learn - I'm pretty sure the  
1083 Village of Ossining doesn't have anything different. We have very - I think  
1084 we have the exact same application as the Village does not sure that they  
1085 have anything digitally available, either at this point, maybe, maybe they do  
1086 and it's probably a little easier to find on their website, because they have  
1087 updated their website, a couple years ago. But I do think that you know,  
1088 certainly, whatever we can do to make it easier for film companies to not  
1089 only be attracted to the sites that we have here in Ossining that are  
1090 possible for filming but also to navigate in an easy you know, with some  
1091 very easy searchable terms to find the information that they seek would be  
1092 better. And having a flexible fee schedule, so that is more conducive to  
1093 different types of productions, whether they're documentaries or  
1094 commercial productions or you know anything else - film, you know still -  
1095 still shoots - photo shoots etc. And we have had, you know all different  
1096 kinds of productions approach us over the years, some recently. We did  
1097 also look around other you know again other communities other Towns and  
1098 Villages and cities even do go through like the Supervisors Office or the  
1099 Manager's Office and they get quick approval and a lot of times you know  
1100 they do have these very tight turnaround times. I think that you know the  
1101 critical piece, though, is that we don't really have anything that codified this  
1102 again in our law. And there you know we could do something very easy like  
1103 Village of Briarcliff has, which is just sort of simply saying you know we just  
1104 want to have something on the books to say that this is how it goes and - or  
1105 we can do something much more elaborate like Town of Orangetown has  
1106 you know, like three page local law spelling everything out. You know, if we  
1107 want to be sort of a little bit more lean and mean, I think we might want to  
1108 do something more simple. But I do think that it makes sense to put  
1109 something in place in our code to acknowledge that this is something that  
1110 we allow and that we have a process that has been in place for many years  
1111 that we want to codify. And then obviously improving the process along the

1112 way. So let's go around with questions or suggestions or thoughts on - on  
1113 this initiative slash local law.

1114 Jackie Shaw: Thanks Carina for pulling all that, all together, and showing  
1115 us the different applications from the different municipalities. I went through  
1116 a couple of them, and now I don't remember if ours, had a - a line that  
1117 asked about parking because I know with - there was some filming at IFCA  
1118 there were like a lot of trucks cars that kind of thing. So I just want to make  
1119 sure there's something in application that makes a provision, where are  
1120 they going to park how many cars is it's going to be that kind of thing, so  
1121 we know that it's going to be somewhere or at least someone's thinking  
1122 about it, and we know that cars are going to be in this spot that'll be  
1123 blocked off, or something like that. And I also liked Briarcliff's - part of their  
1124 application where they had the indemnification agreement it was just  
1125 looked really simple. And that they had a - they have a notification letter for  
1126 residents and things like that. So it made it really simple, so you could just -  
1127 if you're the filming company it's kind of like this is the package.

1128 Dana Levenberg: mm hmm

1129 Jackie Shaw: So I like that as well.

1130 Dana Levenberg: Absolutely, I like that, too. I like the notification of  
1131 neighbors just being built right into - the expectation of it. Councilwoman  
1132 Feldman, do you have?

1133 Liz Feldman: Yeah I was just looking at the fee schedule and our current  
1134 fee is 1400 dollars a day for if you're in the Town and 1400 dollars a day, in  
1135 addition, if you're on cam property and this one said \$5,000 a day for a  
1136 bigger commercial production. Um are we going to increase it for a bigger  
1137 commercial production, are we talking... Is a bigger conversation that we're  
1138 about to have.

1139 Carina Scorcia: What was the, you said, there was a \$5,000 fee?

1140 Liz Feldman: Didn't it say 5000? Maybe I saw that wrong - for a commercial  
1141 - the last page fees that you put up. Did I read that wrong.

1142 Carina Scorcia: I'm sorry, let me just check.

1143 Dana Levenberg: Maybe that was an example. I don't know, did you have  
1144 the fee schedule I can't remember you included that.

1145 Victoria Cafarelli: Yeah I think –

1146 Dana Levenberg: I know you did come up with something.

1147 Victoria Cafarelli: I think um in the Town of New Castle if you're a major  
1148 commercial production on public property it's \$5,000 a day.

1149 Liz Feldman: Ah, it might have a New Castle's fee, okay –

1150 Victoria Cafarelli: That might have been what you were looking at.

1151 Greg Meyer: On that point, how's our fee compared to other municipalities?

1152 Carina Scorcia: It's - it's really pretty different between every single place.  
1153 You know, there are some that go down to \$10 or \$50, and then there are  
1154 some that are much higher than ours - around \$3000 or like New Castle  
1155 much higher. So it's - it's you know we're fairly competitive.

1156 Victoria Cafarelli: I - I went to a seminar, about a year or so ago with the  
1157 County about filming and I think the City of Yonkers has no application fee.  
1158 You just have to pay like if you're using City Hall there's this much money  
1159 for City Hall. If you're using a street it's this. But to get the application itself  
1160 they've made it zero dollars, which was interesting. I think they're probably  
1161 the only ones that do that, but there is there's a lot of varied practices in the  
1162 county for sure.

1163 Carina Scorcia: There are also some municipalities that require a bond to  
1164 be put up, first. I guess, in case you break things along the way.

1165 Dana Levenberg: We do have somewhat hefty, I think we - did we send it  
1166 to our insurance agent yet to review? And we're just waiting for feedback, I  
1167 know that you know, one of the things that we want to make sure is that  
1168 Jim Duffy does take a look at - at the insurance requirements he's shared  
1169 with us the expect - expectation for insurance requirements when we've  
1170 had had film companies that we always go through him to make sure that  
1171 we're covered - that the Town is covered and that's always, you know I  
1172 can't think of anybody who didn't provide insurance -

1173 Victoria Cafarelli: That's right.

1174 Dana Levenberg: At some point, even at this level um...

1175 Victoria Cafarelli: Yeah and that might be something the Board may want to  
1176 consider allowing for some flexibility on. Because I do know you know,  
1177 having worked with Jim Duffy and some other situations, that if he reviews  
1178 something and sees that there's something that's extraordinary about the  
1179 project or not extraordinary about the projects, he can adjust the limits,  
1180 accordingly. So that might be something to consider in the local law to be  
1181 able to you know either protect us when somebody's coming to us with  
1182 some crazy requests like they're blowing something up or doing something  
1183 crazy. And a little bit less so, if it's you know just a student production or  
1184 some sort of smaller films that's something we should probably consider, as  
1185 part of the process to ensure some - some flexibility, depending on the  
1186 situation.

1187 Dana Levenberg: And that was actually something that you reminded me of  
1188 the Town of Clarkstown had something special for pyrotechnics. Like they  
1189 needed a special approval if there were pyrotechnics involved. Obviously  
1190 you know every production is different and has different requirements and  
1191 you know, we do have really nice cemeteries that people like to film in and  
1192 lots of other beautiful spaces, but you know if they want to do a car chase  
1193 and DL cemetery like that's going to be, you know, challenging, so we  
1194 really want to make sure that that all of that was vetted. I'm not saying  
1195 they're going to do that Councilman Feldman, just [UNCLEAR].

1196 Victoria Cafarelli: It's like a very slow car chase.

1197 Dana Levenberg: Very slow car chase, yeah. I think –

1198 Victoria Cafarelli: Maybe with like a bicycle or something.

1199 Dana Levenberg: Making S turns and everything – like a BMW making a...  
1200 Okay, in any case, so are we basically an agreement, though, that this is  
1201 something that we think we should codified in a local law and that we  
1202 should try to sort of come up with? Something that matches maybe some of  
1203 our other neighboring communities. And then we can tweak the fee  
1204 schedule. To something that's you know somewhat flexible again I think  
1205 that's like I think that's key is 'predictable but also flexible.' Right, so that it's  
1206 something that you no is easy to achieve, but 'yes it's not that hard to film  
1207 in Town Ossining', easy to find the information, you know what you got to  
1208 do if you want to film here and then yes we're flexible within you know  
1209 certain parameters but you know we want you to film here because let's -

1210 let's - let's face it, when film companies come here for longer periods of  
1211 time, you know, not only do they necessarily do they bring cachet with their  
1212 film shoot, but they also bring money and they do spend money locally and  
1213 that's a good thing, and they and even if they don't spend it immediately  
1214 sometimes they come back again because they like our Town so much.  
1215 And we want - we want them to do that.

1216 Liz Feldman: And to Carina's point, having difficulty finding it on the website  
1217 seems to be a challenge, so I hope we can work on that.

1218 Dana Levenberg: Yes, and that's something that we can obviously work on  
1219 much more quickly and hoping to have some proposal for a new website in  
1220 the not too distant future. So that's you know, obviously, something that  
1221 we've been talking about for a while and we feel like we need to move  
1222 forward with that this year. Okay, so we'll continue in that direction and I  
1223 think our next steps would be just to come up with maybe drafting some  
1224 proposed local law and an attached fee schedule. And we do have a  
1225 couple good examples that we can use so we're probably going to toss it to  
1226 our Council. Yes? No?

1227 Christie Addona: Well, I mean. If there's specific terms, you know I mean  
1228 predictable but flexible, that's not really a law so...

1229 Dana Levenberg: I'm going to send you I'm going to send you Clarktown's,  
1230 because I, even though it's a lot more detailed than Briarcliff's – Briarcliff is  
1231 really simple and it was up on the screen so it's simple, as can be and then  
1232 all of the other stuff goes into the - basically, into the application, but if we  
1233 want to put some more stuff in our local law, we can look at Clarkstown  
1234 maybe find a balance.

1235 Christie Addona: Do you want to put more stuff in your law? I mean I -  
1236 that's the direction that I need from the Board to know. I mean, we could  
1237 start with Clarkstown and then whittle it down. Or you know start simple,  
1238 but then you know if you don't know what's in it. You don't know what you  
1239 could put on it so it's kind of like if you have any guidance on what the  
1240 starting point should be it would make it easier for me to present something  
1241 to the board.

1242 Jackie Shaw: I like to start with Clarkstown and whittle it down. So we can  
1243 start with more than I think we need and then get to something not too  
1244 simple but not too complicated.

1245 Liz Feldman: I'm okay we're starting with Clarkstown, but I don't want to  
1246 end up with a complicated one.

1247 Dana Levenberg: Okay

1248 Christie Addona: Great.

1249 Greg Meyer: Yeah, I would like it to be simple too. My question, I guess  
1250 Christie is do we have to specify reasons for potential denial? In...

1251 Christie Addona: Well that that's certainly something and - and that's you  
1252 know because... You have to - you have to treat them - there has to be  
1253 equality and how these are treated regardless of you know content or  
1254 message. And so there have to be content neutral grounds, if you're going  
1255 to be denying these types of applications, so I understand wanting to be  
1256 flexible, but there, there also has to be some - some concrete basis for how  
1257 they're being assessed, so that there can be any claim of arbitrary  
1258 application. But that's great that's something that we would have to look at  
1259 when we're drafting.

1260 Greg Meyer: Thank you.

1261 Dana Levenberg: All right, okay so we'll send you over Clarkstown's and  
1262 Briarcliff's and you can take a look and.

1263 Christie Addona: yeah I can just pull them off the eCodes.

1264 Dana Levenberg: Okay, great.

1265 Christie Addona: I just, you know, I don't - I don't want to do something and  
1266 then you know send it to the board and it's - it's not at all the direction  
1267 you're thinking of going in, so this is helpful.

1268 Dana Levenberg: Okay, great. Alrighty. So next up and last up for this  
1269 evenings work session is the Town of asking Public Employer Public Health  
1270 Emergency Plan. In September, Governor Cuomo signed into law  
1271 requirement that all public employers, develop a Public Health Emergency  
1272 Plan to plan for any future health crises like a pandemic, for example,  
1273 knock on wood, we never have to have or go through something like

1274 COVID-19 again, but I have a feeling unfortunately that's probably not the  
1275 case. So this is a good exercise that will undoubtedly assist us and future  
1276 Town administrations in any sort of an emergency situation. I am going to  
1277 turn it over to Victoria Cafarelli who wears many hats in the Town, including  
1278 as our de facto Human Resources Director to present a brief overview of  
1279 our draft plan and next steps.

1280 Victoria Cafarelli: Okay I'm going to share my screen now too...  
1281 **[SCREENSHARE BEGINS]** Okay, [UNCLEAR] do that. I can't see... Oh  
1282 whoops nope sorry, that Carina's presentation one moment please, too  
1283 many PowerPoints up. Okay, can you see -

1284 Dana Levenberg: Mmhm.

1285 Victoria Cafarelli: - this -

1286 Dana Levenberg: Yes.

1287 Victoria Cafarelli: - right now? . This okay, okay now I just need to, sorry,  
1288 find myself here.

1289 Dana Levenberg: Slides?

1290 Victoria Cafarelli: Okay it's, just like the screen was too small. Okay, so  
1291 thank you very much, so I'll try to go through this pretty quick since we're  
1292 getting a little late. But yeah so tonight we're presenting our public  
1293 employer public health emergency plan. As the Supervisor shared the  
1294 governor signed this into law in September. It was a law requiring that all  
1295 public employers adopt a plan for operations in the event of some sort of  
1296 public health crisis like a pandemic, so that we have certain things in place  
1297 and plans in place for dealing with this sort of situation in the future. When  
1298 we found out, we had to do this we sort of turned to our Town Ossining  
1299 COVID safety plan, which we had developed in May of 2020 with our Town  
1300 Ossining Reopening Operations Task Force, which included  
1301 representatives from all town departments and also our justice court.  
1302 Where we came together and sort of identified where were some areas of  
1303 potential risk areas that we need to improve before we re-open to the public  
1304 in June. And this was again a good exercise this wasn't something we were  
1305 necessarily required to do by New York State law. This was required for  
1306 private employers and now obviously you have this other this requirement  
1307 for public employers, but it was a good exercise to sort of identify some of

1308 those areas where we could make sure that our staff means healthy and  
1309 safe, especially our essential employees during a situation like COVID. So  
1310 we were provided with the template from our Labor Council and then  
1311 Carina also helped with sort of diving into that template and pulling out the  
1312 relevant information from our previous plan. And it identifies a couple  
1313 different items, first with our - identifying what are essential functions of the  
1314 Town and are essential - essential positions which I'll sort of go into more  
1315 detail a little later. But also identifying how we can reduce risk to remote  
1316 work in staggered shifts, which is something that we did employ during  
1317 COVID. So it just identifies that certain you know department has can  
1318 determine which employees can work effectively from home. And the Town  
1319 will obviously provide all these employees with whatever materials they  
1320 need to work from home, which again we did during COVID. So we sort of  
1321 have a pretty good system set up for allowing for remote work, as well as  
1322 staggered shifts, which is something we did use in our Highway  
1323 Department at the beginning of the pandemic which was effective at  
1324 keeping them safe and healthy. It also describes how we will purchase  
1325 protect personal protective equipment, store it, make it available for all  
1326 employees. Right now, we have it available to employees at 16 Croton  
1327 Avenue, which is sort of a central location for everybody. We have also  
1328 given each department sort of a store of - of PPE as they need, but you  
1329 know, we were able to secure that through - through some help with some  
1330 of our other local municipalities purchasing that for our staff. And also  
1331 identifies how to deal with staff exposure in cleaning, which is something  
1332 we've sort of unfortunately had to put into practice, during the COVID-19  
1333 pandemic. Basically, running that process, out of the Supervisors Office in  
1334 coordination with the Village Personnel Director in the event that it's an  
1335 employee who works in a Village building or has contact with Village  
1336 Ossining employees, which is important for us to identify if somebody  
1337 works in a building owned by the Village of Ossining, they are responsible  
1338 for the cleaning disinfecting. In some of our Town-owned buildings, we  
1339 have a contractor that provides that service for us. It also identifies  
1340 employee leave which specific to COVID, we have implemented the New  
1341 York state emergency paid sick leave, as well as the Federal Emergency  
1342 paid sick leave and emergency effect family medical leave when it was  
1343 applicable. So the statement and the plan is sort of general because we  
1344 don't really know what would come in the future, but that we would provide



1345 employees with their contractually obligated leave, as well as anything that  
1346 may come down the pike from the state or federal government in whatever  
1347 future situation may occur. It also identifies that work hours and work  
1348 locations may change in the event of a public health emergency which  
1349 again is something we employ during COVID. We've obviously reduced our  
1350 public access hours at 16 Croton Avenue and some of our other buildings.  
1351 And it also identifies if we needed to provide housing for our essential  
1352 employees, we obviously have great resources with the County to assist us  
1353 if we ever needed to put up essential employees at a hotel or other sort of  
1354 satellite location, so that they could report to work if we needed them to do  
1355 so.

1356 Okay, so now for our essential work and our positions on the plan identifies  
1357 what the essential functions of the Town are. Obviously, primarily  
1358 emergency services which we receive through an IMA through the Village  
1359 of Ossining as well as Village of Briarcliff and through the MID Hudson  
1360 ambulance district so even though that is obviously of utmost importance  
1361 it's not really something we control but it's still identified in the plan as  
1362 something that's very important for us to maintain during an emergency like  
1363 this. Similarly, with it, managing our - our databases and computers and all  
1364 that stuff is very important, we do also receive those services through not  
1365 an IMA with the Village, but it is very important. Then management  
1366 communications: Communicating with the public, we also added health and  
1367 welfare of the Community, which includes our senior nutrition program  
1368 which provides, food assistance to homebound seniors - which has been  
1369 an extremely important to the pandemic. And they also worked with  
1370 Feeding Westchester for food distributions for the community, so they really  
1371 are essential employees to the Town. Also, our Cemetery which is sort of  
1372 something we didn't quite think of as essential until this unfortunately, but it  
1373 is important that our cemetery remains operational during a situation like  
1374 this. And then finally services required by law, so: tax collection our tax  
1375 receiver our Town clerk they have to issue vital statistics which are death  
1376 certificates, birth certificates, marriage certificates, things that continue, no  
1377 matter what's going on in the world and, as well as our justice court which  
1378 is obviously governed by the office of court administration with the state  
1379 and has to follow certain protocols from their office. But if we are required  
1380 to operate those functions that is essential. And I also just want to touch on

1381 something that we may not all think about with when you hear the word  
1382 essential: what this plan is asking us to do is identify the people who are  
1383 essential to the function of the Town, but it's also essential that they report  
1384 to work, so we have other employees who are just as important, just as  
1385 essential to us continuing these operations, but they can do that remotely.  
1386 Not so much for a senior nutrition program they can't cook meals for  
1387 seniors out of their own kitchens so it's very important that they actually  
1388 report to work and we need to make sure that those employees remain  
1389 safe and healthy during a potential emergency situation.

1390 Dana Levenberg: I think Councilman Feldman just offered her kitchen for  
1391 cooking those meals.

1392 Victoria Cafarelli: Oh, you did, okay? Sounds good we'll add that to it:  
1393 'Councilman Feldman will cook everybody's meals.'

1394 Dana Levenberg: No, no just offer her kitchen. I didn't say she'd need to  
1395 cook them.

1396 Victoria Cafarelli: The kitchen, okay, alright well we'll send over the nutrition  
1397 programs okay um so for some next steps. Obviously, there was just some  
1398 highlights of the plan I think these are a lot of things we've been discussing  
1399 at length, through this whole process is going to be really great to have this  
1400 documented and available to both the public and our employees and future  
1401 administration's that might have to deal with this, and now they have a  
1402 playbook based upon what we've sort of experienced over the past couple  
1403 of months. So the next step is for us to present it to our department heads,  
1404 we have a staff meeting tomorrow morning, so we'll be sharing this draft  
1405 with them, but of course what we base it on was a lot of input from them  
1406 and a lot of teamwork over the course of the past year, basically dealing  
1407 with this COVID situation. Then we also have to provide our draft plan to  
1408 our collective bargaining units - so CSEA and teamsters by February 4<sup>th</sup>  
1409 for them to have an opportunity to review our draft plan and provide us with  
1410 any recommendations or questions or whatever. And then finally by law,  
1411 the Town Board will have to adapt the plan by April 1<sup>st</sup> and we have to  
1412 provide it to our employees post it in the work locations as well on our  
1413 website, so the general public, could also see what is, in our plan. So that  
1414 is basically... that is basically it I'm going to stop sharing for a minute and  
1415 see if anybody **[SCREENSHARE STOPS]** has any questions.

1416 Dana Levenberg: And I would just like to give a shout out to Carina for  
1417 putting this draft plan together we did have some help from our Labor  
1418 Council Craig Allievo at Bond Schenick and Victoria who pulled the original  
1419 emergency plan for COVID together. So thank you all for your work, putting  
1420 this into a draft document that we can all comment on. So with that, I would  
1421 just like to open it up to the Town Board for your comments, suggestions  
1422 thoughts recommendations or criticisms even. We'll take them.

1423 Liz Feldman: I think it's a great you know draft plan, I think it will be easily  
1424 adaptable, I think it covers all the bases um. I mean having lived through it,  
1425 you know what's important and what you've already had to do. So this is  
1426 what the State wants from us just basically to codify?

1427 Victoria Cafarelli: Correct yes, so the template we're working off of was you  
1428 know directly addresses all the items that are in the law so it was a helpful  
1429 tool to have so we make sure we cover all those bases.

1430 Liz Feldman: it's a great time to make it when you're living through it. Now,  
1431 you know what you need.

1432 Victoria Cafarelli: That is very true really.

1433 Dana Levenberg: Absolutely.

1434 Liz Feldman: Looks good, thank you for your work.

1435 Victoria Cafarelli: Thank you.

1436 Dana Levenberg: Anybody else?

1437 Northern Wilcher: I just would like to say that Victoria you did a great job.  
1438 Dana you know you know who picked to do the right job right, so...

1439 Dana Levenberg: We have a good team, we have a good team.

1440 Northern Wilcher: Keep her on her toes, she's doing well.

1441 Victoria Cafarelli: Thank you, thank you.

1442 Dana Levenberg: Yes, we have great presentations tonight and great work  
1443 behind the scenes getting to this point, so very appreciative of both Victoria  
1444 and Carina. Thank you. Anybody else have any other comments,  
1445 questions, concerns? Anybody else developing their own plan that they  
1446 think is better and they think we should work, some of those items into it?

1447 Jackie Shaw: I have the opposite; I'm going to be adding some stuff from  
1448 this one into mine.

1449 Dana Levenberg: I was thinking of you Jackie. I was hoping you're gonna  
1450 add whatever if you had, any good things. Okay, fantastic, okay so with that  
1451 will present it to our department heads tomorrow and then we'll send it off  
1452 to our unions on Thursday and wait for feedback and hopefully we'll be able  
1453 to adopt it in the not too distant future prior to our deadline April 1st. All  
1454 right, so guess what? That's it. Except that I would like to take a motion to  
1455 adjourn to executive session for personnel, advice of counsel, and  
1456 contracts - don't worry I haven't forgotten you Steve Dewey and Fernan -  
1457 Fernando Gonzalez. Is there anybody here would like to make such a  
1458 motion.

1459 Liz Feldman: So moved.

1460 Northern Wilcher & Jackie Shaw: Second.

1461 Dana Levenberg: All those in favor?

1462 All: Aye.

1463 Dana Levenberg: So I forgot to mention it's groundhog's day today, so you  
1464 know any get enough of this meeting, once you can watch it again and  
1465 again and again on YouTube. And I want to just thank everybody for joining  
1466 us tonight in the middle of this snowstorm and pandemic. Our next meeting  
1467 will be Tuesday February 9 at 7:30pm and the governor did extend I think  
1468 'til I won't say March 22 maybe – is that right? The, or maybe it's February  
1469 22 - maybe we're just talking to the right one... In any case so extended the  
1470 - our ability to have meetings via zoom or similar and you can meet us and  
1471 find us via zoom or dial in by phone. Information for every meeting is  
1472 posted on our website each Friday and included in my Supervisors Update  
1473 so hope you all have a great night and stay safe out there. Bye bye.