



**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE/COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET
OSSINING, NEW YORK**

**JUNE 23, 2015
7:30 P.M.**

**SUPERVISOR
Susanne Donnelly**

**COUNCILMEMBERS
Geoffrey Harter Eric P. Blaha
Kim L. Jeffrey Northern Wilcher**

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

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on June 23, 2015 in the Police/Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street in Ossining. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Deputy Supervisor Eric Blaha. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Northern Wilcher, Kim Jeffrey and Geoffrey Harter. Supervisor Susanne Donnelly was absent. Also present were Town Attorney Wayne Spector, Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz and Town Clerk Mary Ann Roberts.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:35 P.M., the Public Hearing was opened.

- Public Hearing in the Matter of Local Law #4 of 2015, entitled “Community Choice Aggregation”.

Town Attorney Wayne Spector stated that there have been multiple meetings on this subject. This has been passed in numerous communities. Resident are not forced to comply with this program. The State requires adoption of this local law.

Glenn Wineberg from Sustainable Westchester was present at the meeting in order to respond to any questions from the public or the Board.

Dana Levenberg, Emwilton Place, requested a confirmation of the description of this program. Mr. Wineberg provided a brief overview of the program which includes being able to opt out of the program and returning to Con Edison for gas and electric. If you have a different provider, you must review your contract about opting out from them and going to the new provider. This is an energy procurement program which will bring in competitive rates. Ms. Levenberg does support this program.

Liz Feldman, Underhill Road, questioned if it was only for Con Edison customers? If you have another supplier you must abide by the contract of the other suppliers.

At 7:40 P.M., Councilmember Jeffrey moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Harter that the Public Hearing be closed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Supervisor Blaha made the following statement: Welcome to the June 23, 2015 Legislative Meeting of the Town Board. Supervisor Donnelly is unable this evening and I Deputy Town Supervisor Blaha have been called upon the chair the

meeting. It is a great honor and privilege to service the Town and this Community and to conduct this meeting. I will now review the proposed resolutions as follows: **Resolution B (Voucher Detail Report):** This report is on the Town's website. You are welcome to review the Town's day-to-day expenditures. **Resolution C (Call for a Public Hearing on Revisions to 2002 Town of Ossining Comprehensive Plan).** The Town's Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a fluid document that evolves over time with the changing and growing needs of our community. With the expert assistance of the Town's Planning Consultant David Stolman, and with feedback from community members, our Town Board members have participated in numerous meetings and revisited many sections of the Plan. Please review proposed revisions to the Town's comprehensive Plan on the Town's Website and join us at the upcoming Public Hearing to share your thoughts. **Resolution D (Authorizes Establishment of a Capital Project to Finance Street Paving in the Town of Ossining in 2015).** Highway Superintendent Michael G. O'Connor, in consultation with outside road experts assessed conditions of Town roads and created a comprehensive list of road most need in repair. This Board remains focused on maintaining and improving Town infrastructure. In the case of road repairs and repaving, the funds dedicated to this Paving Project in 2015 will not only enhance the driving experience in our Town, but is also reduces wear and tear on Town Vehicles, and your vehicles, saving money and inconvenience; and most importantly, newly paved roads and newly lined roads will improve the safety of our residents and guests. **Resolution E (Proposed Local Laws #5 through #9 of 2015: Referral to Town Planning Board)** Is specifically updating local laws regarding amending tree protection; amending wetlands protections; amending steep slope protection and providing higher levels of notice to neighbors of proposed planning changes. To enhance Ossining we should "Think Globally, Act Locally!" Therefore, these proposed amendments to the Town's local laws to hand-in-hand with the careful review of the Town's Comprehensive Plan described above. We thank Town Attorney Wayne Spector and Town Planning Consultant David Stolman. Tonight we will refer these proposed new laws to the Town Planning Board for review and comments. These local laws put into action environmental protections that address the ever increasing public awareness, of how our human activities can harm the natural world around us if not handled with care. By adding protections for trees, wetlands and steep slopes, and enhancing notice to neighbors of possible disturbances of these natural resources, we not only preserve the natural features that make Ossining a unique and special place to live, which of course is very important, but we also collectively do our to minimize and even reduce the burdens on our global environment. **Resolutions F and G (Finance – Audit – Town of Ossining 2014) and (Town Court – Audit 2014)** which are verifications of distribution and consideration of the Financial Audit of the Town for 2014 as well as the Town Court Audit for 2014. Our auditors once again have given the Town a very positive report on the financial condition of the Town. We the Town Board budget responsibly, in large part thanks to the diligent efforts by our Town Budget Director Madeline Zachacz. Thanks Maddi. The Town's expenditures are allocated with precision and carefully monitored by the Department heads. We could not continue to provide excellent services to Town residents without proper budgeting and careful spending by our Department heads. In light of this year's favorable audit report 2014 we thank our Comptroller Tom Warren , Dale Ferreira and staff; Town Clerk Mary Ann Roberts and her staff; our Tax Assessor Fernando Gonzalez and his staff; our Receiver of Taxes Gloria Fried and her staff; our Superintendent of Highways Michael G. O'Connor and his staff' our Building Department led by John Hamilton and his staff including Planning Secretary Sandy Anelli; our Parks and Recreation Department led by Foreman Mario Velardo and Chris Soi for Town and Parks; our Town Court with Chief Justice Nancy Koba; Justices John Fried and Michael Tawil and the amazing court staff with Ann Malone. We also thank Senior Nutrition Department Kathy Asaro. Thanks are also extended to our Town Attorney Wayne Spector, Deputy Town Attorney Mark Reisman and their staff who strategies in the 17/20 dispute led to a successful conclusion of a lawsuit by the Village of Briarcliff Manor and saved tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. Due to State mandated tax obligations our Town Department Heads are continuously challenged to find efficiencies to reduce spending. With their persistent commitment to reduce costs we are able to increase

and enhance existing services to our residents. They continue to rise to the occasion. This has been proven by the audit that shows another year of increased fund balance by hundreds of thousands of dollars. In sum, The Town's Independent Auditors have verified that your hard earned tax dollars are hard at work.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

V. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the June 9, 2015, Minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

Councilmember Harter moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated June 23, 2015 in the amount of \$188,860.61.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

C. Calling for a Public Hearing in the matter of Revisions to the 2002 Town of Ossining Comprehensive Plan

Councilmember Jeffrey moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby calls for a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 14th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Police/Court facility, 86-88 Spring Street in Ossining, in the matter of the Revisions to the 2002 Town of Ossining Comprehensive Plan.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

D. Finance- Capital Project #2015-2193 "2015 Street Paving Project 2193"

Councilmember Harter moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes establishment of Capital Project #2015-2193, entitled "2015 Street Paving Project 2193" in the amount of \$448,430, to be funded by CHIPS funding, Contingency and Highway Funds.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

E. Proposed Local Laws #5 through #9 of 2015: Referral to Town Planning Board

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey that the following be approved:

Whereas, the Town of Ossining and its residents have participated in a series of meetings regarding the 2002 Adopted Comprehensive Plans and have suggested

some changes and additions to the Town Code to support those recommendations; and

Whereas, these revisions have been vetted by the Town's engineering consultant and the Town Attorney;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Town Board hereby refers the drafts of the following Local Laws to the Town Planning Board for mandatory review and comments:

Local Law #5 of 2015- Amending Notification Provisions of the Town Code

Local Law #6 of 2015- Amending the Tree Protection Chapter of the Town Code

Local Law #7 of 2015- Amending the Freshwater Wetlands, Watercourses and Water Bodies Protection Chapter of the Town Code

Local Law #8 of 2015- Amending the Steep Slope Protection Chapter of the Town Code

Local Law #9 of 2015- Amending the Subdivision of Land and Zoning Chapters of the Town Code

Motion Carried: Unanimously

F. Finance- Audit- Town of Ossining 2014

Councilmember Jeffrey moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following be approved:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby acknowledges that in accordance with Section 35 of the General Municipal Law, the 2014 Audit of the Town of Ossining Financial Statements and Supplementary Information has been distributed to and reviewed by the Town Board and said report shall be filed with the Office of the Town Clerk.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

G. Town Court- Audit 2014

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Harter that the following be approved:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby acknowledges that in accordance with the Unified Court System's Action Plan for Justice Courts, the 2014 Audit of the Town of Ossining Justice Court was conducted as required and said Audit has been distributed to and reviewed by the Town Board of the Town of Ossining.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

VII. MONTHLY REPORTS

VIII. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Bobby Williams, Spring Street, announced that it was a pleasure for him to be the Town Board Meeting. He has been out of circulation for a couple of years.

Supervisor Donnelly prepared an announcement regarding the Capital Project for paving.

Deputy Supervisor Eric Blaha's closing remarks are as follows: This past Saturday, down at the Hudson River, the Town dedicated the Boat Ramp at Louis Engel Park to Bryan J. Johnson. Bryan Johnson was a young Ossining resident who lost his life too early in a boating accident. His tragic loss hassled to legislation in Albany requiring boat operators to take courses in boating safety. At the dedication of the

Bryan J. Johnson Boat Ramp, we heard from State Representatives Senator David Carlucci and Assemblywoman Sandra Galef that statistics show this law has already begun to increase safety awareness and save lives of New York boaters. Class of 2015: Saturday, June 20th was cause for celebration on the graduation of the Ossining High School Class of 2015. On behalf of the Town we congratulate the Graduates and wish you success, happiness and health as you venture out beyond the Award-winning Ossining High School. Class of 2019: And we also congratulate the 8th graders from Anne M. Dorner Middle School who celebrated in a moving up ceremony at PACE University. Former AMD 8th graders, including my son, Charles Blaha, will begin Ossining High School next September as the Class of 2019. Congratulations to the families of all graduates. Sun was Father's Day – Happy Father's, we hope it was a special day for all you fathers out there.

Town Upcoming Events include the following:

June 30, next week, there is no meeting of the Town Board, as it is the 5th Tuesday in June. So next week you will have to tune in to re-runs of your favorite Town Meetings.

July 2, Thursday, Fire Works at Louis Engel Park. Bring chairs and a blanket. Get there early and find a good spot, we will not have access to Harbor Square Lawn as we did in recent years. Enjoy food including the national award winner Wobble Café and dance and sing to the music of the Mike and Miriam Risko band. Enjoy a spectacular fireworks display with your family and friends. One final note, remember school is out. Please, please, please don't drive distracted, keep your eyes on the road. Drive safely and enjoy your summer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58 P.M., Councilmember Jeffrey moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Harter that the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:

Mary Ann Roberts Village Clerk