



**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
REGULAR MEETING
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET – OSSINING, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

7:30 P.M.

**SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg**

**COUNCILMEMBERS
Karen M. D’Attore Elizabeth R. Feldman
Jackie G. Shaw Northern Wilcher, Jr.**

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

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on December 11, 2018 in the Birdsall-Fagan Police Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street, in Ossining. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Dana A. Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Elizabeth Feldman, Jackie G. Shaw and Northern Wilcher, Jr., Councilmember Karen D’Attore was absent. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm Addona, Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz and Interim Town Clerk Victoria Cafarelli.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE MATTER OF:

(Visitors shall be accorded one (1) three (3) minute opportunity to address the public hearing)

At 7:30 pm, the Public Hearing was opened.

- Local Law #5 (formerly Local Law #4) Leaf Blowers

Supervisor Levenberg stated that we will begin this evening with the re-opening of two Public Hearings on our local laws, the first being our Leaf Blower local law. We are hoping to join many other municipalities in Westchester to soon adopt common sense restrictions for gas powered leaf blowers during the off season. We have listened to the community and believe have reached a compromise in the wording of this proposed local law. We hope this will help improve public help, act as a launch pad for an education campaign for property owners to improve the quality of their own lawns, and also as an environmental sustainability initiative of the Town

Town Counsel Christie Tomm Addona explained that there was one modification that was made to this law in section A4 and it stated that the Building Inspector may grant permits with reasonable and appropriate conditions as determined by the building inspector for a period not to exceed 7 days.

At 7:33 p.m., Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the Public Hearing be closed.

At 7:33 pm, the Public Hearing was opened.

- Local Law #6 Solar Energy

Supervisor Levenberg stated that we will re-open the public hearing on our proposed Solar Code local law. Again, we are hoping this will make it easier for those in the community to install solar panels on their roofs, as well as larger ground mounted installations, while acknowledging best practices for community solar

installations and smaller ground mounted installations that respect the neighborhoods and the environment as practicable.

Town Counsel Christie Tamm Addona explained that we sent the law to the Town County Planning Board for their review and they advised that there isn't anything to address as far as the County Planning Board is concerned.

At 7:35 p.m., Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the Public Hearing be closed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

- **Earlier this evening, I attended a Champions meeting about the Ossining Basics campaign. It was exciting to learn about how many Hudson Valley Communities are signing onto this collective impact campaign to help parents and caregivers of young children, ages 0-3 prepare our babies and toddlers to be ready to hit the ground running when they get to be pre-school and school aged. That involves 5 simple principles: This month's focus is on the 1st basic. Maximize Love, Manage stress. Babies thrive when the world feels loving, safe and predictable. Caregivers that are affectionate and responsive help children develop a sense of security and self-control. Basic number two is Talk, Sing and Point because babies learn language from the moment they are born. They learn through loving interactions with their caregivers. Eye contact, pointing and real words teach the most about communication—much preferred over tvs or phones.**
- **Basic number three, count, group and compare helps little minds that are born wired to learn, understand numbers, patterns, sizes, shapes and relationships of one to another. What babies learn, whether it's how many apples you put in your shopping cart or how many spoonfuls of oats you put in their mouths, adds up to big gains when they start math in school. Basic number four, explore through movement and play is all about tapping children's natural-born curiosity for the world and all its stimuli. If we pay attention to the signs infants and toddlers give through their facial expressions, body movements, etc., we can help them learn through play and exploration. Finally, read and discuss stories is the fifth basic. The more we read to young children and help them follow along, the more prepared they will be to enjoy reading on their own when they get to school. Starting at birth reading to children so they can enjoy shapes and colors and see how to turn pages is a surefire way to instill a love of books in little ones. It's never too early. We should be sure to discuss the pictures, characters and stories for maximum benefit. Look around town in some of our local markets, in the Recreation Center and at special events for more information about this important campaign to help raise the ship for our entire community. By making sure our youngest are the most prepared they can be when they reach school age, we increase benefits to our entire community, making us smarter, healthier and more financially sustainable. That's why we are all participating in this effort. Make sure you become an Ossining Basics expert too!**
- **It is certainly a blustery winter day out today. It was exciting to see the fruits of the community coat drive today at Park School when many of the coats that were collected around town through the Ossining School Parents and the Ossining Police were distributed when the Feeding Westchester truck as well as the United Way also passed out bags of fresh produce and gifts to our families. If you still have some coats or layering pieces that aren't being used it is not too late! There are groups in our community that would love to take them off your hands! [IFCA Thrift Shop](#) takes clothing donations year round, and the Village of**

Briarcliff Manor PBA will be collecting coats through this Friday, December 14th at their headquarters at 1111 Pleasantville Road. The Briarcliff PBA is also hosting its annual toy drive through Friday as well-- unwrapped toys only please! All toys will be delivered to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital on December 16th. We also have boxes here at 16 Croton Avenue to collect unwrapped toys to send to local children, sponsored by the Ossining Boat and Canoe Club, and the Ossining Police host a Toys for Tots box as well right next door, so if you are out shopping locally this weekend, or purchasing on line, please consider purchasing a few extra gifts for families in need in our community.

- Last week, the Ossining Recreation Department released their Winter 2019 Online Catalog, and some of the classes coming up look fantastic! Check out POUND!, a group fitness class that uses lightly weighed drumsticks to give you a killer cardio workout, or learn how to play Pickleball (as I did on a recent holiday away with family). There's something for everyone, so head over and take a look. I would especially encourage you to take a look at the many wonderful classes being held at the Cedar Lane Arts Center, including drawing, painting, sculpting with clay and so much more. There should be a corrected brochure up soon with the ages some of these classes are offered to fixed, so please do check back if you have children who you think might like to attend. The gift of art classes would also be a wonderful present for loved ones this holiday season-- what better way to encourage special people in your life to relax and explore their creative side?
- Next week, join Ossining Matters for a Family Holiday Shopping Stroll through downtown. Get your shopping done while helping out a great local cause—if you buy an OM Holiday Helper Pass, you will get 10% off of your purchases at Penny & Ting, Hot Societe, Vaza, Adegas Wines, and Melita's between December 13th and 16th. The kickoff will take place this Thursday the 13th between 6PM and 8PM, and during that time, you can also get 10% off at Good Choice Kitchen and First Village Coffee. Purchase your pass at www.ossiningmatters.org. Also, you can pick up Ossining Bucks around town courtesy of the Village of Ossining. This is to encourage you to shop locally, even though the meters are not turned off for the holidays. You can find a list of participating stores who honor the \$5 Ossining Bucks coupons on the Village of Ossining website as well as the Greater Ossining Chamber's Website. Speaking of which, I had the pleasure of joining the Ossining Chamber sponsored event this morning to hear County Executive Latimer's Chief of Staff present the recently approved Westchester County Budget. We are grateful to the county for moving towards healthy and sustainable budgeting practices while also staying within the 2% levy limit and hopeful that with this, some of our local programs will be supported moving forward. Thanks also to our County Legislator Catherine Borgia for advocating for the Sing Sing Prison Museum project as well as help for our bicycle lane connectivity we have been working on with the Villages and the Town of New Castle.
- On Friday, December 14th, join Bob Fetonti and the Briarcliff Manor Scarborough Historical Society (BMSHS) at 7PM for "The Many Lives of the Briarcliff Train Station" at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library. Come learn about the rich history of the spot and learn the long list of "travelers of note" who have stopped there. Learn more by contacting Donna Pesce at dpesce@wlsmail.org.
- Save the date for Breakfast with Santa at the Ossining Community Center on Saturday, December 15th—get a small gift from Santa and drop off your Christmas list to the big man in person. Visit Ossining Recreation page at www.villageofossining.org and sign up for either the 10AM or 11AM seating and hurry—only 100 tickets for each seating are sold.

- Next Thursday, December 20th, the Greater Ossining Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 2nd Annual Holiday Lights. I understand they are sold out, but it sounds like those who signed up will have a great night travelling on an old fashioned trolley taking a tour through Ossining—to see some of the great light displays being assembled this very minute throughout our town. It wraps up with songs, cookies and hot chocolate by a bonfire, at The Boathouse, I believe, so maybe you can catch up with everyone there.

Councilmember Shaw advised residents that the Recreation Center is going through some renovation on their roof and restrooms.

Councilmember Feldman the Toy Drive will continue through December 22, 2018.

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VI. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the November 27, 2018 minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B. Approval of Minutes-Special Meeting

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following resolution be TABLED.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the December 4, 2018 minutes of the Special Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: TABLED

C. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated December 11, 2018 in the amount of \$1,010,421.40.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that Yes, you heard that right. We have a very large voucher detail report this week, but I urge you to keep in mind that the last two check runs were very small. This batch includes 2 months of IMA payments to the Village of Ossining, along with the re-paving of Hawkes Avenue, our second half Medicare reimbursements to our retirees, the payment to the Village of water levies that we collected on Town tax bills, and many of the bills for the Haunted Hayride.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

D. Stipulation of Agreement between Town of Ossining and Steven White

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following resolution be approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Town Supervisor, the Town Board hereby ratifies and approves the Stipulation of Agreement regarding Steven White between the Town and Local 456, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America AFL-CIO, effective December 11th, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the Stipulation on the Town's behalf.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

E. Approval of the 2019 Budget

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the 2019 Budget for the Town of Ossining. Total appropriations for the 2019 entire Town (100) Fund are \$5,628,792. Total appropriations for the Unincorporated (200) Area Fund are \$3,776,898 and total appropriations for the Highway (310) Fund are \$2,639,604. Total appropriations for the Water and Sewer Funds are \$514,967. Total appropriations for the Fire/Light/Refuse Funds are \$1,443,928 Total appropriations for the Ambulance District are \$656,546.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that after months of hard work with our Finance staff and our department heads, we are finally ready to adopt the Town of Ossining Budget for 2019. Not only did we remain under the tax cap, we also continue to give the residents of the entire Town, and the Unincorporated town, a great deal on municipal services. The average Town General tax bill will be about \$327 per household, up \$6 from last year. And the Unincorporated Town is seeing under a ½% rate increase and all but one of our special districts are even seeing a rate decrease. Special thanks to our Budget Director Maddi Zachacz and Deputy Town Comptroller Dale Ferreira for the many hours of work they put in to make sure our budget is comprehensive, thoughtful, and pro-active. The budget will be posted tomorrow on the Town website, look for the budget page if you want to see all of the details. Pay special attention to the capital plans so you can see how we plan to continue to upgrade our infrastructure.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

F. Contract with Mid-Hudson Ambulance District

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the Supervisor, on behalf of the Mid Hudson Ambulance District, to enter into a contract with the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps. (OVAC), 8 Clinton Avenue, Ossining, for provision of emergency ambulance and general ambulance services to the District for the years 2019- 2021, in a form acceptable to Counsel to the Town.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that almost ten years ago, former Town Supervisor Martha Dodge was instrumental in the creation of the Mid Hudson Ambulance District, a taxing district covering all of the Village of Ossining, all of Unincorporated Ossining, and a small portion of New Castle, meant to provide exceptional emergency medical support in an affordable and efficient manner. In

less than a decade, the MHAD has become a model of emergency medicine provision and a shared service to be proud of throughout our region and also statewide, and we owe much of that to our vendor, Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps. As the Town of Ossining makes up 93% of the District, we will be the ones to sign the renewal contract with OVAC. We are proud to continue to support this shared service that serves so many of us. As a reminder, the Mid Hudson Ambulance District accounts for less than a third of OVAC's annual operating budget. The rest come from fundraising, insurance reimbursements, and private donors. Thanks go to Nick Franzoso and his team for operating this community asset.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

G. Resolution Declaring Equipment as Surplus and Authorizing Disposal

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining declares the following equipment as surplus and authorizes the equipment's disposal in accordance with New York State law by sale or otherwise "as is:"

45 Automatic Voting Machine Corporation Election Machines.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that this is a very exciting resolution and one that I am incredibly anxious to vote on. For several years, we have been in possession of these voting machines which we have not been legally allowed to use, per state law. We have finally been given the green light from Westchester County that we no longer need to maintain or store them. Thanks to the staff in our Clerks' Office for doing the research necessary to get these machines out the door! As an aside we, anticipate that our Fire Department is interested in utilizing one additional machine to the three they have been storing and using to date. We plan to attend to that in a near future meeting.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

H. Extension of Hudson River Valley Greenway Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following resolution be approved.

Whereas, the Town of Ossining was awarded a Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for a project entitled "Planning for Open Space/Bike Lane/Commerce Connectivity Corridor;" and

Whereas, Contract #2016-W-03 was signed by the Town Supervisor associated with these grant funds for a contract term of October 26, 2016 to December 12, 2018; and

Whereas, although the Town has made significant progress on the project, the project will not be completed prior to the end of the contract term on December 12, 2018; and

Whereas, the Town requested and was granted a two-year contract extension by the Hudson River Valley Greenway; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hudson River Valley Greenway to extend the contract term of contract #2016-W-03 until December 12, 2020.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that this is a resolution to accept a 2 year extension for a grant that we've already been awarded through the Hudson Valley Greenway to plan and implement striping for bicycles on North State Road. This resolution will buy us another two years, as the extension will now bring us to December 12, 2020.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

I. Memorial Plaque at Cedar Lane Park

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the placement of a small memorial plaque at Cedar Lane Park remembering the life of Brian Irving, a longtime employee of the 52 Association, at a location in the Town Park as approved by the Supervisor.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that last week, she was approached with a request from the former co-workers of a gentleman who, for many years as a teenager, worked for the 52 Association, or as its now known, Cedar Lane Park, and who died very suddenly earlier this fall. We have been assured that there will be no expense to the Town to install or maintain this plaque, and it sounds as though it will be a very small and unobtrusive way to remember someone who loved Cedar Lane Park so very much. The Rec Advisory Board heard last night from Mr. Leslie about this and supports the plaque with the recommendation that it be installed on a park bench by the Town.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

J. Agreement-Auditing of Financial Statements

Councilmember Shaw moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the firm of O'Connor Davies LLP be appointed Auditors for the Town of Ossining for the audit of the 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Financial Statements in accordance with their contract letter dated December 10th, 2018 at a fee not to exceed \$51,000 for fiscal year ending 12/31/2018, \$52,000 for fiscal year ending 12/31/2019, \$53,000 for fiscal year ending 12/31/2020, and \$54,000 for fiscal year ending 12/31/2021.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that The Town has been working with O'Connor Davies for many years now and, while the Town has gotten proposals from other companies, the Board and our finance team are regularly impressed by the quality of work produced by our auditors, and they agreed to enter a 4 year deal with us at a very reasonable price. I look forward to working with them again soon—the preliminary work for our audit of 2018 finances is scheduled to begin in January.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby accepts the following from the Town Planning Board:

- October 3, 2018 meeting minutes
- November 7, 2018 meeting minutes
- Resolutions adopted dated November 7, 2018

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VIII. MONTHLY REPORTS

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby accepts the following monthly reports for the month of November 2018:

- **Town Clerk's Office**
- **GE Helicopter Report**
- **Town Tax Receiver's Office**
- **Town Building Department**
- **Town Supervisor's Office**

Motion Carried: Unanimously

IX. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Daniel Cohen Director of Constituent Services Senator David Carlucci's office was present to formerly introduce himself to the Board and to the public. Mr. Cohen reminded everyone to use Senator Carlucci's office as a resource whenever possible.

Supervisor Levenberg thanked Senator Carlucci for helping the Town get the money for our spray pad at Louis Engle Park and there will be a ribbon cutting in the Spring-2019.

X.ADJOURNMENT-ADVICE OF COUNSEL

Thanks everyone for a great meeting—we will see you next Tuesday, December 18th, for our Town Hall Meeting at the Ossining Public Library where we will an update from the Ossining School District's equity task force. For your information, please note that the Assessor's office will be closed from 12-4:30 tomorrow for their annual Assessor's regional holiday luncheon. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, January 17th, 2019-- that evening, we will be joined by our consultant Michael Conte to discuss the results of [Project Forward!](#) and continue to take your feedback. We are planning far in advance to make sure we have as much participation as possible, so we hope you will plan to join us! Until then, stay warm and have a good night.

At 8:05 p.m., Councilmember Shaw moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:32 p.m., Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw to leave Executive Session.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:33 p.m., Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman to Adjourn.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:

Interim Town Clerk Victoria Cafarelli