



MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE/COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET – OSSINING, NEW YORK
NOVEMBER 26, 2019
REGULAR MEETING
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg

COUNCILMEMBERS
Elizabeth R. Feldman Gregory G. Meyer
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 November 26, 2019 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 Jackie G. Shaw, Elizabeth R. Feldman, Gregory G. Meyer, and Northern Wilcher Jr. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona, and Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz. Confidential Secretary Victoria Cafarelli was absent.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE MATTER OF

At 7:31 p.m., the Public Hearing opened.

- The Town Of Ossining’s 2020 Preliminary Budget

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We have several public hearings tonight, so we will begin with the 2020 Tentative Budget for the Town of Ossining. We have met with most of our department heads, and last week we heard the budget presentation by our amazing Budget Director, Maddi Zachacz. The budget is not slated for adoption until our December 10th meeting, so even if tonight’s hearing is closed, we continue to look for public feedback until the very last moment.

Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz spoke about the way the different way the debt is going to be displayed in the 2020 Budget.

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

At 7:33 p.m., the Public Hearing opened.

- Local Law #7 of 2019 – Amendments to Chapter 74 of the Town Code entitled “Dogs” to Regulate Registration for and Use of the Town’s Dog Parks.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Next up, we are revisiting the public hearing on our dog park local law, which has been open since the summer months. We had some administrative issues to work out with both the Village of Ossining and the Village of Briarcliff, as this law contains some provisions that will affect residents of both jurisdictions. The snag with the Village of Ossining has since been worked out and the Village of Ossining passed a resolution which effectively takes them out of the dog licensing business, so we will continue to fulfill that role for Village residents through

our Town Clerk, but now more officially. As for Briarcliff, it seems they would like to keep things as is, and just have anyone in the Village of Briarcliff come to our Town Clerk to receive a permit tag. That person would need to present proof of their annual license, and then come back when the permit time has expired. If we can figure out an easier way to coordinate this, we will.

Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona discussed the Village of Ossining resolution that was passed that authorizes the Clerk's office to administer dog licenses to the Town of Ossining. The Village, however, has not amended their code in regard to dog licensing.

At 7:37 p.m., Councilmember Shaw moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that the Public Hearing be adjourned to December 10, 2019.

At 7:38 p.m., the Public Hearing opened.

- **Local Law #9 of 2019– Reduction of Speed Limit on North State Road**

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Finally, our 3rd public hearing tonight is in reference to the speed limit on North State Road. As you may remember, the town is in the process of re-striping North State Road to accommodate a bike lane, with grant funding from NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program. We have been working closely with our consultants Zeke Mermell and Michael Flynn at Sam Schwartz Engineers on this project, and one of the recommendations they made to help make the roadway safer for bicyclists, pedestrians, and ultimately cars as well, was to reduce the speed limit on North State Road from 30 mph to 25 mph. We consulted our police department and other first responders, and Police Chief Kevin Sylvester was supportive of this change. Tonight we are opening the public hearing on the local law to change the speed limit on North State Road. Before I open this up to the public, I would like to note that we have received suggestions from residents and members of the Town Board to not only consider North State Road for a speed reduction, but other roadways as well. I have reached out to the Police Chief about this and they are embarking on a campaign for safer roads, so we will be coordinating with them on that effort.

Kim Jefferey of Ossining expressed her concern over building a bike path on both side of the streets on North State Road. She spoke against reducing the speed limit on North State RD.

Marissa Caruso of Ossining asked if speed reduction would only be applied to the Town portion of North State Road. Supervisor Levenberg said that for now yes but that the Town is working with the County to reduce the speed limit on the rest of North State Rd.

Supervisor Levenberg spoke about North State RD business owners' concern over the speed limit.

At 7:45 p.m., Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the Public Hearing be adjourned to December 10, 2019.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

Happy almost Thanksgiving! I hope everyone has a chance for some downtime to enjoy a peaceful holiday with family, friends and loved ones. Town and Village offices will be closed on Thursday (November 28th) and Friday

(November 29th) in observance of the holiday, and we will be back to serve you bright and early Monday morning. The Town Board will not be holding a formal meeting next week, but we will be convening on Tuesday evening (December 3rd) to celebrate the contributions of all of our volunteer boards and committees. We will reconvene here on Tuesday, December 10th for our Regular Meeting at 7:30PM, where we plan to adopt the 2020 Budget.

There is not a whole lot going on over this weekend for obvious reasons, but here are a few events scheduled for next week that you won't want to miss.

Ready to enter shopping mode? This weekend, make sure to stop by the 4th Annual Ossining Public Library Holiday Market, part of the Northeast Etsy Artists Collective. All kinds of handmade gifts, like ceramics, jewelry, stationary and more will be proudly displayed for sale—buying from local artisans helps folks right in our community, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Ossining Public Library, it's a win-win-win. Check it out on Friday between 11AM and 5PM and Saturday between 10AM and 4PM.

The Library is just one place to shop local this weekend. Small Business Saturday is November 30th this year, so make sure to get out there and buy your holiday gifts right here in town. Melita's Home Furnishings on Main Street in the Village of Ossining is also hosting her 5th Annual Shop Small Saturday with an Artisan Market of local shops and handmade vendors. Between Melita's, and Penny and Ting in downtown Ossining, the restaurants on North State Road and the shops on Pleasantville Road in Briarcliff—there are tons of great options right here in our neighborhood!

On Tuesday, December 3rd, join Founder/President of Hudson Fusion Cindy Penchina and Founder/Executive Director of Rehabilitation Through the Arts Katherine Vockins at "Meet the Entrepreneur Next Door" – Sing Sing Kill Brewery will host from 7-9PM. Learn more about how to start your own business from those who have walked the path, and get to know the founders of Ossining Innovates.

On Thursday, December 5th, join the Ossining Historical Society for a Wine Tasting at 196 Croton Avenue between 6PM and 8PM. There is a \$20 admission fee and a percentage of wine sold will benefit the Ossining Historical Society Museum. RSVP by emailing ohsm@optimum.net.

Then, make sure to be local on the evening of December 6th—the Village of Ossining will be lighting the Market Square tree at 6:30PM, followed by the appearance of the Santa and his team. The Mike Risko Band will there to play some holiday tunes, and free hot chocolate and cookies for all. What more could you ask for on a Friday night? That same weekend, starting on Sunday December 8th, the shop windows along Croton Avenue will be getting a seasonal makeover—the Ossining Girl Scouts will be making things festive with some cheerful winter scenes.

On Saturday, December 7th, visit the Ossining Historical Society Museum again for "Military History Genealogy", a presentation by Joyce Sharrock Cole. Starting at 1PM, learn how to develop and execute a research plan for obtaining the military records of family members, as well as how to navigate obstacles on your journey.

Finally, at this time, the Ossining Lights Trolley Tour all but sold out, but you can give your own version a try! Make sure to stop by Jenkins Court for a light display that will blow your mind—you can even set your car radio to a certain station and see the lights dance along with you! Opening night is this Saturday, November 30th at 5PM—just drive right up Havell Street, you can't miss it.

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Feldman announced that the Ossining Boat Canoe Club is starting its holiday toy drive. People can drop of toy donations at the Mike Risko School, OVAC, Bob's Army Navy, the Town Municipal Building, and other places around Ossining.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

VI. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes—Regular Meeting – November 12, 2019

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 hereby approves the November 12, 2019 minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion: Carried
Abstained: Wilcher

B. Approval of Minutes—Special Meeting – November 19 , 2019

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 hereby approves the November 19, 2019 minutes of the Special Meeting as presented.

Motion: Carried
Abstained: Wilcher

C. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

Supervisor Levenberg said the following in regard to the resolution: In this check run, we have the November IMA payment to the Village of Ossining, as well as the December medical bill, the paving and milling work at Studio Hill Road and Haymount Terrace performed by our annual paving bidder, and some bills for our legal and appraisal assistance on the Sleepy Hollow golf course tax certiorari.

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 hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated November 26, 2019 in the amount of \$760,839.99.

Motion: Carried
Abstained: Wilcher

D. Flexible Benefits Plan—Increase Health Care Maximum for 2020

Supervisor Levenberg said the following in regard to the resolution: We offer a flexible spending plan to our staff, fully funded by the employees themselves, and the limit to which they can contribute has gone up this year. This is a great way for all of our employees, whether or not they choose our health insurance, to use pretax dollars for out of pocket medical expenses and so, a higher limit is ok by us.

Councilmember Shaw 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 to sign an amendment to the Plan Document with Stirling Benefits Inc. to increase the maximum allowable annual Health Care Maximum deduction to \$2750 for the 2020 plan year.

**Motion: Carried
Abstained: Wilcher**

E. Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program Round 15 Approval

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

Whereas, the Town of Ossining completed a town-wide tree inventory of street trees in all town right-of-ways and trees in Dale Cemetery, Sparta Cemetery, and all town parks; and

Whereas, the results from the inventory and corresponding management plan indicated a number of trees throughout Louis Engel and Ryder Parks, town-owned parkland within the Town of Ossining, necessitating removal or pruning in the immediate future; and

Whereas, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Urban and Community Forestry Program provides grant funding to support tree maintenance projects, specifically for tree removal and pruning, with a required match of 25% of grant funding; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the submission of an application to Round 15 of the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program for a tree maintenance project to be completed on town property located at 1 Westerly Road (Louis Engel Park) and 43B Morningside Drive (Ryder Park) requesting \$50,000 in grant funding with \$12,500 local match; and

Be it further Resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor's office to submit this grant application on the town's behalf.

Motion: Carried

F. Renumbering of Solar PILOT Local Law

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

WHEREAS, at the Town Board's November 12, 2019 meeting it adopted Local Law No. 7 of 2019 entitled Amendments to Chapter 180 of the Town Code entitled "Taxation" to Implement the Solar Energy System PILOT Law of the Town of Ossining, New York,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, for the purposes of filing this Local Law with the Secretary of State, this Local Law shall be renumbered Local Law No. 4 of 2019.

Motion: Carried

G. Board of Ethics- Re-Appointment

Supervisor Levenberg said the following in regard to the resolution: We have several spots on our volunteer boards that we will need to fill for 2020— please keep your eyes peeled for an email from the Town announcing upcoming vacancies and opportunities to get involved in the next few weeks.

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

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby re-appoints Christopher Komosa, Ossining, to a five year term on the Board of Assessment Review, retroactive to January 1, 2019 and set to expire on December 31st, 2023.

Motion: Carried

VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

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 October 2019:

- **Town Supervisor's Office**

Motion: Carried

IX. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to speak

Kim Jefferey of Ossining expressed her concern over the proposed 2020 Comprehensive Plan. She discussed the River Knoll Project and the formerly known Local Laws #4, 5, and 6. She asked the Town Board to rethink having a 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher motioned to enter into Work Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:15 P.M., Councilmember Shaw motioned to move into Executive Session and Councilmember Wilcher seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:48 P.M., Councilmember Shaw motioned to adjourn Executive Session and Councilmember Wilcher seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously