



**MINUTES**  
**TOWN BOARD**  
**TOWN OF OSSINING**  
**OCTOBER 6, 2020**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**7:32 P.M.**

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING ONLY**  
**Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 202.1 dated March 12, 2020**

**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 Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on October 6, 2020 via video conference, pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 202.1 dated March 12, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Supervisor Dana A. Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Jackie G. Shaw, Elizabeth R. Feldman, Northern Wilcher, Jr., and Gregory G. Meyer. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona and Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

Today, Team Ossining gathered to kick off Organ Donor Enrollment Day, which is scheduled for this Thursday, October 8. For the fifth year in a row, the Town is partnering with LiveOnNY for this one day event with a single goal in mind – to register as many willing New Yorkers as organ donors as possible. One organ donor can save up to eight lives, and countless others with lifesaving tissue donations. Unfortunately, New York State has some of the lowest numbers of registered organ donors in the country, but also has some of the highest need. Together, we can change this. In fact, polls show that most New Yorkers support organ and tissue donation, so now they can put their check box where their heart is! This Thursday is the day! This year, we have dreamed up a special totally virtual way to connect with people, instead of our usual tabling events around town. We are hosting a self-titled Zoom-a-thon highlighting personal stories of organ donation recipients, organ donors, and their families, as well as musical interludes from some of our terrific local musicians, coordinated by Mike Risko Music (thanks again for your community support!). YOU can register to become an organ donor online, this year, for the first time ever. If you do, and we are hoping you DO, be sure to use Team Ossining's exclusive link at <https://donatelife.ny.gov/ref/LiveOnNYDD139/>. We are the only local municipality in our area spearheading a community-wide effort, so let's do what we can to make sure Team Ossining secures the highest number of enrollments out of all the teams in New York participating this year!! C'mon folks. Ya can't take it with you!

Also happening this Thursday, our competition (LOL), County Executive George Latimer will be sharing his state of the County address on the Westchester County Government Facebook Page. If you need more information about getting access to it on your computer or if you do not have a Facebook account, fear not! The County will walk you through how you can access the live

**stream. And if you get distracted, you can hop over to our Organ Donor LiveStream to sign up!**

**This Friday, October 9 is the last day to register for something else critically important: To vote in the November General Election. It is easy to register online, just visit [citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com](http://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com). If you are not sure if you are registered to vote, you can also check your voter registration status on that webpage. Don't wait until it is too late!**

**For this November's election, New York voters have several options: voting by absentee ballot, voting in-person early starting on October 24, and voting in-person on Election Day. Visit the Board of Elections website, again [citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com](http://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com), for a complete list of early voting locations and to check what your polling place will be on Election Day. All voters in Westchester County can go to any of the 17 early voting sites across the county, but on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned polling place. Please note your polling place may have changed this year, so check the Board of Elections website to confirm your correct polling place or keep an eye out for a postcard in the mail with your information. Hours vary for early voting and we will be sharing out that information as we get a bit closer.**

**If you are planning to vote by absentee ballot, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot online, postmark, e-mail or fax is October 27. You can apply in-person for an absentee ballot up to the day before the election, November 2. To return your ballot, you have a few options – via mail if postmarked by November 3, hand delivering to the Westchester County Board of elections by November 3, or by bringing it to an early voting location from October 24 through November 1 or a poll site on November 3.**

**Regardless of your political leanings, I think we can all agree this is going to be one of the most important elections in our lifetime. Make a plan today to vote, and ensure your voice is heard in this historic election.**

**Thankfully, COVID cases in our area continue to remain low, but we are starting to see a slight uptick here, and also spikes in areas not too far away from us, including in New York City, Rockland and Orange Counties. As we get into the fall season, it remains as important as ever to wear your mask whenever you are in close proximity to others, wash your hands frequently, and get tested if you have been exposed to a positive case. You can also download the new "COVID Alert NY" app, which is available for download on your phone's app store. This app uses Bluetooth technology to alert users if they have been in close proximity to a positive case. This app is voluntary, anonymous, and does not use location services, GPS, or geographical information. No personal information will be shared. This app is an easy and savvy way to remain informed of potential exposure, allowing you to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce potential exposure to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others. You must be 18 years or older to use the app. Learn more at [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny](http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny).**

**And finally, you thought I was done with the 2020 Census! Since our last meeting, a federal judge in California ruled that Census operations must continue through October 31. We expect the federal government to continue to appeal this decision, so do not wait to respond to the 2020 Census, the deadline could potentially change on us at any time! Unincorporated Ossining currently has a 69.8% self-response rate – just 0.1% away from our 2010 response rate! Now that we have a few extra weeks to get our numbers up, let's do whatever we can to do better than we did 10 years ago. Ossining lost \$2500 per year since 2010 for every resident that did not complete the last Census. We do not want to leave any money on the table for the next 10 years. Share posts about the importance of the Census, call friends, ask your extended family members. The Census is a count of all residents, regardless of immigration status, age, or race.**

**It takes only 10 minutes to complete, and is available in many languages, so if you have not filled it out yet, there are no excuses! Please do whatever you can to make sure Ossining is accurately counted in this Census!**

**III. BOARD RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Approval of Contract – Sparta Cemetery Grave Repair**

**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 authorizes the Supervisor to sign an agreement with the Ossining Historic Cemeteries Conservancy, Inc. (OHCC) and Robert Carpenter, Yonkers, NY for the repair of gravestones in Sparta Cemetery at a cost of \$1,250 to be paid for by OHCC, at no cost to the Town.**

**Motion: Carried**

**B. Approval of Retainer – Special Counsel**

**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 authorizes the Supervisor to sign a retainer agreement dated October 1, 2020 with Leventhal, Mulaney, & Blinkoff, LLP, Roslyn, NY to provide legal services to the Town upon its request.**

**Motion: Carried**

**C. Appointment – Seasonal Intermediate Clerk**

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

**Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining appoints Jeaneth Guinansaca, Cortlandt Manor, to the seasonal position of Part-Time Intermediate Clerk in the Town Clerk’s office at an hourly rate of \$15, effective October 6, 2020.**

**Motion: Carried**

**D. Approval of Contract – Wellness in Nutrition Program (WIN) & Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP), Program Year 2020-2021**

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

**Resolved, the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes the Supervisor to sign a contract with the Westchester Department of Senior Programs and Services for the purposes of receiving funding for the Wellness in Nutrition Program (WIN) and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) for program year 2020-2021, at an amount not to exceed \$50,069, comprised of \$38,633 for WIN and \$11,436 estimated for NSIP.**

**Motion: Carried**

**E. Contract – Multi-Modal Capital Project Agreement**

**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 authorizes the Supervisor to sign a Multi-Modal Capital Project Agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation for the purposes of receiving \$120,000 in grant funds to support the Morningside Drive Repaving Project, subject to approval by Counsel to the Town as to form**

**Motion: Carried**

**IV. ADJOURNMENT – WORK SESSION**

**At 7:46 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn to Work Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.**

**Motion Carried: Unanimously**

**At 8:40 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel, advice of counsel, and contracts and Councilmember Wilcher seconded.**

**Motion Carried: Unanimously**

**At 9:34 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher motioned to adjourn the Special Meeting and Councilmember Shaw seconded.**

**Motion Carried: Unanimously**

**Approved:**

  
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**Susanne Donnelly, Town Clerk**