



MINUTES
Village and Town of Ossining
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN COUNCIL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING,
Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 202.1
dated March 12, 2020

Monday, May 24, 2021
7:30 PM

MAYOR
Rika Levin

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Robert M. Fritsche Omar Lopez
Dana White Manuel R. Quezada

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 Village of Ossining Board of Trustees and Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on Monday May 24, 2021 via video conference pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 202.1 dated March 12, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Rika Levin and Supervisor Dana A. Levenberg.

Members Present: Trustee Omar Lopez
Trustee Manuel Quezada
Trustee Dana White
Councilmember Elizabeth R. Feldman
Councilmember Jackie G. Shaw

Also present were: Village Manager Karen D'Attore, Assistant Village Manager Madeline Zachacz, Corporation Counsel Stuart Kahan, Project Manager Jaimie Hoffman, Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli, and Deputy Village /Town Clerk Martha C. Quituisaca.

Trustee Robert M. Fritsche, and Councilmembers Northern Wilcher, Jr. and Gregory G. Meyer were absent.

II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION - MAYOR LEVIN AND SUPERVISOR LEVENBERG

Supervisor Levenberg said the following:

Good evening, thank you Mayor Levin and members of the Village Board of Trustees for collaborating with us this evening to host this meeting to benefit Ossining's local non-profits. We are holding this meeting tonight to provide these dedicated non-profits the opportunity to fulfill their public engagement requirements as part of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

applications. Looking at the agenda, I can't wait to hear more about these exciting projects for our most important stakeholders! The Town and Village are proud to be active participants in Westchester County's Urban County Consortium, which allows municipal and non-profit entities in our community to access these federal dollars through the Westchester County Planning Department. Although we are not going to be discussing them in detail tonight, the Town and Village are pursuing projects of our own for this cycle, and in the Town, our projects will focus on improving the infrastructure at our beloved Louis Engel Waterfront Park which serves so many. Please stay tuned for our Town Board meetings in June as we expand on the details of our applications. CDBG allows each applicant to apply for up to \$1 million in grant funding each four year round, so collectively, we have the potential to receive up to \$5 million in grant funding for Ossining, and with our match, up to \$10 million invested in our community. While we know we would likely never receive the full amount, this illustrates the importance of this grant program and our collective potential for our community. Before we move ahead with the agenda, I want to take a moment to introduce the Town's representative to the County's Community Development Advisory Group, Honorable Richard Wishnie. Richard is here tonight, along with Katherine, to "certify" that all of you have satisfied your outreach requirements. Richard has quite a bit on his plate now, with his recent appointment as Acting Commissioner of Emergency Services for Westchester County, so we are very grateful he is here with us tonight to participate in this important meeting.

Mayor Levin echoed Supervisor Levenberg's comments and spoke about how local governments work with nonprofits to help communities.

III. NONPROFIT CDBG APPLICATIONS

A. IFCA (Interfaith Council for Action), 138 Spring Street, Ossining NY 10562

IFCA is a nonprofit organization that provides a range of affordable housing development, property management and supportive services to low and moderate income people. IFCA owns and manages affordable apartments in Ossining and Tarrytown, NY.

Executive Director Jackie Shaw presented on the following Capital Improvement Ossining projects IFCA is applying for in their CDBG application:

1. 2 James ST - Roof Renovations to the building that houses 5 units. The estimate total cost of the project is \$28,000
2. 65 Hunter Street - Roof, chimney, and retaining wall repair to the building that houses 3 units. The estimated cost for the roof and chimney repairs is \$38,000 and \$12,000 for the retaining wall repairs. In total the project is estimated to cost \$50,000.
3. 223 Spring ST - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) repair for each of the 6 units in the building. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$65,000.

In total IFCA is requesting for \$400,000 for all 3 projects in their CDBG application.

Supervisor Levenberg asked if IFCA has considered the Energy Smart Homes project for the HVAC project on 223 Spring ST.

Executive Director Shaw said that they are exploring the Energy Smart Homes project and that IFCA is still finalizing project prices.

Trustee Lopez asked if there is any sense of prioritizing with these projects and what contractors IFCA will be using.

Executive Director Shaw discussed using funding to help repair Tarrytown buildings first and then fixing the roof at James ST. IFCA is still working on what priority three and four will be. IFCA does not have firm final numbers on the cost

of projects due to them working on getting three estimates for each project. CDBG funding is over three years and no contractor is likely to hold their price for three years. As a result, IFCA needs to have at least an idea on who they would like to use. They would then be getting an estimate based on current pricing for 2022, 2023, and 2024 for the different projects.

B. Ossining Children's Center, 32 State Street, Ossining NY 10562

The Ossining Children's Center (OCC) is one of the oldest daycares in the country and is one of a handful of children centers that has gotten a four star rating. The center provides care and education to infants, toddlers, and school age children from kindergarten through sixth grade. The center provides afterschool as well as summer programs. The OCC has recently moved into their new facility in State ST. Part of the OCC's mission is to make childcare programs affordable for all working families.

OCC's Director of Development Shawn Cribari presented on the following 2 Public Service projects that the OCC is applying for in their CDBG application:

1. Child care tuition assistance for low and moderate income families - Asking for up to \$225,000 (up to \$75,000 annually for three years) for tuition assistance. The OCC is planning to contribute matching funds from DSS child care subsidies.
2. Enrichment programming for children from low and moderate income families - Asking for up to \$75,000 (up to \$25,000 annually for three years) for enrichment programming. The OCC is planning to use Corporation contributing matching funds from private donations to OCC's annual fund. The enrichment program will help youngsters participate in programs like art classes, live theater, and gardening.

Trustee Lopez asked how many families the first project will help.

Director of Development Cribari estimated that a \$5,000 scholarship per family will help 15 families.

Supervisor Levenberg asked if the projects are separate applications.

Director of Development Cribari said that they are sperate proposals.

C. Gullotta House, 72 North State Road #175, Briarcliff Manor NY 10510

Gullotta House is a nonprofit that aids Westchester County residents who face financial or other hardships with anything they need. The COVID-19 pandemic shifted the Gullotta House's focus to giving out meals every Tuesday and Friday to residents in need of food. The Gullotta House receives funding from donations and fundraising events.

President/ Founder Matt Gullotta presented on the following Ossining projects that the Gullotta House is applying for in their CDBG application:

1. Meals to senior/ homebound/ quarantined residents- \$700/week (\$5/meal)
2. Grab-and-go meals- \$1800/week (\$8/meal)

From March 2020 to December 2020, Gullotta House was giving out meals in Stop & Shop every Friday to residents in need of food. Since January 2021, Gullotta House has been giving meals every other Friday. Gullotta House is asking for \$85,000 in their CDBG application to distribute meals in Ossining every other Friday and when needed.

Supervisor Levenberg asked how Gullotta House will be matching the money received from CDBG and how they will prove the income of the population they help.

President/ Founder Gullotta said that Gullotta House will be using grant money to match the money received from CDBG. Gullotta has the addresses of people they delivered meals to that show that they help people in low income communities.

Councilmember Feldman asked how many restaurants help Gullotta House.

President/ Founder Gullotta said that Gullotta House gets help from six restaurants in Ossining that charge them \$8 per meal. He talked about how the price of food containers and chicken have gone up.

Councilmember Shaw and Director of Development Cribari thanked Gullotta House for giving out meals to families in Ossining who were in desperate need of it.

Mayor Levin thanked Stop & Shop for serving as a location to distribute food.

Supervisor Levenberg thanked Gullotta House for helping the Senior Program during the pandemic.

- D. Richard Wishnie and Katherine Quizhpi thanked the nonprofit organizations for presenting their CDBG applications. They wished them luck in funding their projects and asked them to please reach out to them if they need help with the application.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address the Board on any of the resolutions on the agenda.

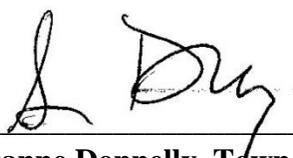
V. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 P.M., Trustee Lopez moved and it was seconded by Trustee Quezada to go into Executive Session for reasons of personnel regarding a specific person.

At 8:12 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn the Special Meeting and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:



Susanne Donnelly, Town/Village Clerk