



MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING ONLY

FEBRUARY 15, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg

COUNCILMEMBERS
Elizabeth R. Feldman
Angelo A. Manicchio **Gregory G. Meyer**

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

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on February 15, 2022 via video conference, pursuant to Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 signed into law on September 2, 2021 by Governor Hochul. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Dana A. Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Elizabeth R. Feldman, Gregory G. Meyer, and Angelo A. Manicchio. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona and Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli.

A moment of silence was held in memory of William Oakley, former Police Chief of the Town of Ossining.

II. SUPERVISOR AND TOWN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

I hope you all had a very Happy Valentine's Day and could feel the love we have for all of you! Also, for you Bengals fans, hopefully you will have another shot next year!

In COVID news, as you may have heard, earlier this week Governor Hochul announced the next phase of the State's COVID response, in response to rapidly decreasing case counts. The new developments include the following: The statewide indoor business mask-or-vaccine requirement was lifted last week, and will remain optional for businesses, local governments and counties to enforce. Westchester County announced that they would also lift their mask mandate. In the Town and Village, we ask that if you are visiting our buildings, please continue to wear your mask in common areas, such as hallways, lobbies, and restrooms, as well as any office spaces where people cannot socially distance. Mask requirements will remain in place in certain high-density settings. All health care settings regulated by the Department of Health and other related state agencies will continue to require masks. Masks will also be required in nursing homes, adult care facilities, correctional facilities, detention centers, homeless shelters, and domestic violence shelters, public transit and transportation hubs, as well as trains, planes and airports in accordance with federal regulations.

Masks will continue to be required in schools for the time being. The school mask requirement will be re-evaluated in early March, after the midwinter break, to ensure that students can continue learning in-person. The state plans to distribute two tests to every K-12 student before midwinter break, and will distribute more afterward.

We are grateful to see numbers decreasing, and hope that will continue to be the case for the rest of the spring and summer. Please continue to exercise caution, and be respectful of requests from business owners or others around you who may not be ready to drop their masks quite yet. It has been a challenging few years for us all, so let's all try to just be kind to each other as we adjust to our latest new normal.

The Ossining Recreation Program is offering an American Red Cross Lifeguard Course during the February school break. The minimum age to participate is 15 years old, and this is a great opportunity to kick start a high school career in lifeguarding. Last summer, so many entities were looking for lifeguards so it is a great idea to get your certification now. Register at www.villageofossining.org, classes are next week, February 22-25 from 8am to 3pm.

Tonight, unfortunately right now as our Town Board meeting is underway, the Ossining School Board is presenting Christopher Boswell and his family the Hester Bateman Spencer Hines Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Jean Lorraine Ackerman Boswell. Mrs. Boswell was a teacher in the Ossining Schools for 32 years, and was one of the first African American female schoolteachers to be hired at the elementary school level at the time she started teaching. She was a dedicated educator, and was committed to providing her students with a culturally rich education. We are grateful for that dedication and proud to join the Ossining Schools in posthumously recognizing Mrs. Boswell with a proclamation. Thank you to Acacia Mauriello from our Community Equity Task Force for presenting this proclamation on behalf of the Town, while all of us are here and many of the other Equity Task Force Executive Committee members are participating in the Ossining NAACP Chapter meeting tonight too. It is clearly a busy Black History Month!

Starting tomorrow, the Parks Department will start the demolition of the Reuben House in Cedar Lane Park, which was condemned by our Building Inspector and demolition authorized by the Town Board at our last legislative session. Unfortunately, as we discussed at our last meeting, this was the only path forward for what was once a beautiful house in our Town Park. We hope to find ways to acknowledge this lost treasure in some way following demolition. In order to keep parkgoers safe, the Dog Park will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, February 16, Thursday, February 17, and Friday, February 18 from 7:30pm to 5pm while our crew is working. The dog park will be re-opened every evening once our crew has left for the day and secured the site. Please exercise caution while our crew gets this work done.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

IV. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Appointment – Town Board

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Manicchio that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining appoints Jennifer Fields-Tawil, Ossining, to the Town Board of the Town of Ossining for the remainder of the first year (to end December 31, 2022) of the four year term left vacant by the resignation of elected Town Councilwoman Gabrielle Hamilton at a pro-rated annual salary of \$12,206, effective February 16, 2022.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: For this next resolution, I am going to be abstaining as Ms. Fields-Tawil serves as the treasurer for my Town Supervisor campaign, Friends of Dana Levenberg. I am going to ask Deputy Supervisor Feldman to please lead us in the vote.

Deputy Supervisor Feldman said the following: Thank you. We are happy to be considering this resolution tonight to appoint Jennifer Fields-Tawil to the vacant position on the Town Board, so we can now be a fully constituted Board. As noted in the resolution, this appointment is only for the remainder of the first year of the four year term left vacant by the resignation of elected Councilwoman Gabrielle Hamilton, which we accepted with much regret. This seat will be up for election at the 2022 General Election in November, and the successful candidate from that election will serve the remainder of Councilwoman Hamilton's term. We are thinking of Gaby Hamilton, and wishing her well as she continues to battle cancer.

Motion: Carried
Ayes: Meyer, Feldman, & Manicchio
Abstain: Levenberg

B. Stipulation of Agreement – Teamsters

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

BE IT SO RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Town Supervisor, the Stipulation of Agreement between the Town, IBT Local 456, Michael Blanco, and John Orlando, is hereby ratified and approved.

Motion: Carried

C. Stipulation of Settlement – Luis Arevalo

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Stipulation of Settlement with Luis Arevalo relating to proceedings before the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, Case No. 21-22465 and Adv. Proc. No. 21-07076; and be it

Further Resolved, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any documents reasonable and necessary to facilitate the agreement set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement.

Motion: Carried

V. ADJOURNMENT – TOWN HALL MEETING

At 7:41 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn to the Town Hall meeting and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:58 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for advice of counsel and personnel, and Councilmember Manicchio seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:38 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn the Executive Session and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:

L. Day