



SPECIAL MEETING

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
16 CROTON AVENUE-1STFLOOR BOARD ROOM
OSSINING, NY 10562
DECEMBER 4, 2012
7:30 P.M**

**SUPERVISOR
Susanne Donnelly**

**COUNCILMEMBERS
Geoffrey Harter Eric P. Blaha
Peter Tripodi IV Northern Wilcher**

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

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on December 4, 2012, 16 Croton Avenue, 1st Floor Board Room, Ossining. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Susanne Donnelly. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Geoffrey Harter, Eric Blaha, Peter Tripodi IV and Northern Wilcher. Also present were Town Attorney Wayne Spector, Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz and Deputy Town Clerk Ann Marie Rocco.

II. Public Hearing in the matter of -2013 Preliminary Budget

At 7:31 P.M., the Public Hearing was opened.

Supervisor Susanne Donnelly announced that since there was inclement weather predicted during the last public hearing regarding the 2013 Preliminary Budget on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 the Public Hearing was not closed. The 2013 budget will be

No one came to speak at this Public Hearing.

At 7:35 P.M., Councilman Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilman Blaha that the Public Hearing be closed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Donnelly read the following statement into the record:

Tonight we will complete our discussions concerning the budgets for 2013. We have listened to the public, especially the residents of the unincorporated area, concerning household garbage pickup. As I stated last week, we wanted to give options after we heard that other municipalities were seeing increases in cost when they went out to bid, as well as the fact that we are doing such an excellent job at recycling. Our bids came back very favorable for both options, but we still wanted to hear from the residents. After hearing from most residents that the Unincorporated area still would like a 2 day pickup schedule, the Board awarded the contract with the pickup schedule remaining the same, and the bid happened to be from the same sanitation company as we currently use.

Another item discussed was moving the cable franchise fees from the Town General budget to the unincorporated budget. After much discussion, we will be making that adjustment for the 2013 budget. The auditors agree that, with the changes to the contract for Cablevision, we could move this revenue into the 20 fund from the General Fund. However, we will be moving these funds into contingency for the time being, because we have not yet accounted for our police officer who is out on

disability, referred to as 207-C. While we had thought we had an agreement for him to retire before the end of 2012, we do not have a signed document as of today.

One sticking point is that the Town agreed to pay the difference between his current salary and the Social Security disability & retirement he would be receiving. The Town refuses to pay the difference between his retirement and his salary, while also pay for his social security benefit. Should this be settled, the monies from what would otherwise go to pay this officer's salary would go into fund balance (rainy day fund) and if there is no need to use it, it can be returned to the taxpayers in the budget for 2014.

The Town-wide budget would have increased, especially because of our low tax percent rate, but we believe that we have cut and accumulated enough overages and savings in different lines to enable us to hold down the tax increase for 2013, resulting in just a small increase over the tentative budget.

Tonight we will also be discussing the SRO in the Police budget, the outstanding issue in which our constituents have shown the most interest. We will also have several department heads here to discuss lines and several employees of in their departments.

This Board, as well as the Department Heads, have worked diligently on this budget, and we are committed to ensuring that you receive the services you are accustomed to, while holding down the expenses with realistic revenue projections.

IV. ADJOURNMENT-WORKSESSION

At 7:40 P.M. Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Blaha that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:

Mary Ann Roberts Town Clerk