



**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
86-88 SPRING STREET
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE COURT FACILITY
OSSINING, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
7:30 P.M.**

**SUPERVISOR
Dana Levenberg**

**COUNCILMEMBERS
Karen M. D'Attore Elizabeth R. Feldman
Kim L. Jeffrey 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 September 12, 2017 at the Birdsall-Fagan Police Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street Ossining, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Dana Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Northern Wilcher, Elizabeth R. Feldman and Karen D'Attore. Councilmember Kim Jeffrey was absent. Also present were Town Counsel Steven Silverberg, Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz and Town Clerk Mary Ann Roberts.

Supervisor Levenberg asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence—this past Wednesday, Margaret “Pegge” Langlois, Ossining resident and mother of former Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly, passed away at the age of 92. Mrs. Langlois was an incredibly accomplished woman who will be fondly remembered by her 4 sisters, 6 children, 9 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and her many friends in the community. Please join me in a moment of silence for Margaret Langlois.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

• **Ossining Junior Little League Team and Coaches**

Supervisor Levenberg stated that we will begin tonight with a special presentation to our JCYS 13 and 14 year Ossining Juniors Little League team, who, along with their coaches, are fresh off another exceptional season. Our Ossining Juniors were New York State Champions this year, and went on to play in the East Regional tournament, which includes teams from Maine to Maryland, where they came in second place. Just to put that in perspective, out of 1,000 teams in the country who participated, Ossining was one of the top 10, with a record of 11-2 overall. You guys continue to make us proud year after year, and we, along with Trustee John Codman from the Village of Ossining Board and New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, who I'm sure you all know well, want to properly honor you tonight and say thank you for making Ossining look so good!

Assemblywoman Sandra Galef congratulated the team as well as their coaches for a wonderful and successful year. She presented certificates to each team member as well as each coach.

Village Trustee John Codman on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees commended the team for their collective effort and what they accomplished together. In days to come you will realize that you did something cool. Today is your day in the Village of Ossining. Trustee Codman gave certificates to each member of the team as well as the coaches.

Supervisor Levenberg also gave certificates to each team member as well as the coaches.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announce the following:

I want to start off tonight by thanking the Ossining Fire Department for organizing last night's touching and special event last night along with the Ossining and Briarcliff Manor Police Departments, the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corp, and the Briarcliff Manor Ambulance Corp, for their participation. We all joined together at Louis Engel Park to commemorate the events of 9/11. Although the horrible events of that day sixteen years ago are fresh in our minds, what many of us remember just as clearly is the bravery of our selfless first responders, who put our lives before their own that day and every day since. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us.

Also, as a reminder, today is primary day. If you are registered to either the Independence or Democratic parties, you have a primary to vote in. Polls are open until 9pm. Please remember to exercise your democratic right to vote and participate in your government. Vote at the polling place you usually vote at on election day in November.

Work started yesterday, Monday, and will continue on Route 134/Croton Dam Rd at Route 9A, where the NYS DOT is replacing an underground culvert which has necessitated a detour. Details on how to avoid the intersection can be found on the Town's website as well as the Ossining Police Department Facebook page. Our Town Highway Department is also in the mix, replacing a stormwater pipe, and their work is expected to be done this week. However, the State work will probably continue at least another week, and perhaps until the end of the month. As part of the project they will be replacing aging Town sewer and water lines as well. Thank you for your patience as we work with the State on this important and long-awaited project, which will ultimately benefit all of us. We will keep you posted on details as the projects progress.

We had an action-packed weekend down at the waterfront—Marc Berger & Ride, who had been scheduled to perform back in August as part of the Summer Concert Series, were able to take the stage on Friday evening and played an incredible set. On Saturday evening, Jigsaw held a special benefit concert for the family of our dear friend Phil Ishmael, who passed away unexpectedly last year. Sue Radparvar of Studio 95 also held a free Zumba class as part of our Mind, Body, Spirit Ossining initiative, and I am proud to say I jumped in and got a great workout with some new friends. The weather was on our side for sure, and everyone enjoyed a great weekend at Engel Park. Don't forget, we have another concert coming up at the Waterfront this Saturday, September 16th, when Ossining High School's Junior States of America will be holding a concert benefiting their scholarship fund beginning at 6PM, so be sure to stop by, participate in the raffles, check out the food trucks, and enjoy some great live bands.

This coming Thursday, September 14th, Senator David Carlucci in conjunction with Assemblywoman Sandy Galef will be hosting a Senior Fair at the Joseph G. Caputo Community Center between 10AM and 1PM. If you are a senior, or have a senior in your life, be sure to stop by this free event and learn about the variety of services and resources available to you in Ossining and in our surrounding area. The Town of Ossining will be well represented—representatives from our Senior Nutrition program and our Assessor's Office will join me to share information with the attendees about our senior programming and exemptions, and our new Receiver of Taxes Holly Perlowitz will join the Town table to introduce herself as well as answer your questions.

That very same evening, Thursday September 14th, will be a very big and busy night in our community. The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series will be

screening “Awake”, which follows the peaceful protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. The screening will begin in the Ossining Public Library’s Budarz Theater at 6:30PM and will be followed by a panel discussion. All are welcome to this free event.

Across town at Richard Wishnie Park, which you may know as the fountain park next to Chilmark, the Friends of Richard Wishnie Park will be hosting a Garden Soiree beginning at 6PM, with all proceeds going to benefit the Friends. Tickets are \$75 each or \$100 per couple—join us around the fountain for wine and beer tastings from Chilmark Wine and Liquors and 6 Degrees of Separation, small plates from some of our favorite Ossining eateries, and music by Mike and Miriam Risko.

On Saturday, September 16th the Village of Briarcliff will serve as host with the Briarcliff Manor Fire Department of the 11th Annual Westchester County Volunteer Fireman’s Association Convention, which will culminate in a parade on Saturday, September 16th at 1PM. The parade will start on Pleasantville Road and head down to Law Park, where the marchers and onlookers will be met by a live band. We look forward to celebrating this great honor with the Village of Briarcliff Manor.

Also on Saturday, September 16th, the Ossining Public Library will be hosting the Ecuadorian Consulate between 9AM and 5PM, who will be there to assist with issuing and updating passports, consular cards, and other documentation for residents of the Ossining community and beyond. I want to thank the Ossining Library for once again organizing this visit and offering such a broad spectrum of programming and services to our diverse community.

Saturday Night, WCT is hosting their 5th annual Gala Fundraiser at Shattemuc Yacht Club on Westerly Rd. from 6-10. Go to their website at WCTheater.org for more information. World renowned jazz vocalist Alexis Cole will be performing. Also on Saturday September 16th, join the Garden Party @ Campwoods Grounds from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm • Rain or Shine. This is a FUNDRAISER TO HELP RESTORE THE WWI MEMORIAL on the property.

The Garden Party will take place at Campwoods Grounds in Ossining, which is 37 Campwoods Grounds on your GPS, from 11am to 4pm (rain or shine). The family event will feature period music and dancing with renowned fiddler Henry Chapin! It will include arts & crafts for the kids, entertainment, games, a parade around the grounds, and a ceremony honoring the WWI Memorial located on the site.

Food will be available for purchase or bring your own for a picnic on the grounds. Vendors will include:

- [The Blue Pig](#) Ice Cream
- [6 Degrees of Separation](#) Beer
- [Walter's Hot Dogs](#)
- [Popcorn and Cotton Candy](#)

All ticket holders are automatically entered for a variety of raffle items including prizes such as tickets to the Bronx Zoo, a digital camera, gift certificates to local businesses, gift baskets, and many more! Campwoodsgrounds.weebly.com . Please find street parking outside Campwoods Grounds.

And on Sunday evening, September 17th, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., please consider attending the annual Ossining Food Pantry fundraiser. This year it will be a little different and will take place at The Briarcliff Manor on Studio Hill Rd in Briarcliff. There is always a wonderful selection of foods as well as silent auction items for this very worthy cause.

Also, please mark your calendars for a very important event coming up-- the Westchester Library System is hosting “Criminal Justice- Yesterday and Today” at

6 libraries across the county this fall, and the program comes to the Ossining Public Library on Thursday, October 5th. In collaboration with the Sing Sing Prison Museum and funded by the Westchester Community Foundation, this presentation by Ossining Village Historian Dana White will take a look back at the prison's history and fast forward to what has changed, and what hasn't, about how we view incarceration in modern society. I hope you will join me in welcoming panelists Cheryl Roberts from the Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice, Roger Panetta of Fordham University, and our very own Sean Pica of Hudson Link for what promises to be an informative and fascinating evening. This free event will begin at 7PM in the Budarz Theater, but getting there a few minutes early is advisable.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- **Town Comptroller, Thomas Warren**

Town Comptroller Thomas Warren presented a departmental report. He thanked the Supervisor and Town Board for inviting him to present a mid-year Town financial review, and to discuss the status of the Munis accounting system implementation project. Mr. Warren discussed reasons as to why late July/August/early September period was a good time to review Town finances, and discussed the nature and timing of the major revenue categories and expenditure categories.

Mr. Warren discussed the Town's Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) borrowing of \$2,675,005 in August for the Dale Cemetery improvements (\$390,000) and heavy equipment and machinery (\$127,275) – both new issue borrowings in 2017 – and for the rollover of prior years' borrowings of \$2,157,730 (after the reduction of \$311,666 that was included in the 2017 budget for debt service payment) for prior year capital projects for: assessment revaluation, Spray Park recirculation pump, LED streetlighting project, and Old Albany Post Road dead-end improvements. When the Town opened the bids for the sale of the BAN, we received six competitive bids, five of which were closely grouped with net interest rates ranging between 1.29% and 1.59%, and one very low bid, from Sterling National Bank, for 0.87% net interest cost, which we accepted and awarded. And since the BAN was just a one-year borrowing, no bond rating from Moody's Investors Service was necessary, which saved money by not having to pay for a bond rating. The Town still has an underlying bond rating of Aa2, which is in the "excellent credit" category, and is reflective of the six bids with low interest rates offered.

Mr. Warren reviewed the status of the three major revenue types (property taxes, mortgage tax revenues, and sales tax distribution revenues). While property tax collections remain strong and are consistent with last year's collections, the final revenue determination cannot be made until an analysis is made sixty days after year-end. Mortgage tax revenues (now Town-wide General Fund and Town Outside General Fund) are very strong this year, \$599,950 for the first half year (\$500,000 budgeted for the entire year), as compared to \$621,644 revenues for all of 2016. Sales tax distribution revenues continue strong, at \$396,983 year-to-date (56.7% of the \$700,000 amount budgeted for the year), and up 2.26% over last year's revenues for the same time period.

Mr. Warren concluded that for 2017 so far, expenditures by category (such as personal services and contractual expenses) are generally trending as expected, with no unforeseen challenges for the Town. That, plus the good revenue trends so far in 2017, makes Mr. Warren conclude that the Town is still in excellent financial condition, and the Town should end the 2017 budget year in very good shape financially.

On the Munis accounting system, Mr. Warren stated that the Village and Town started the implementation of the general ledger, budget, and purchasing modules in March 2016, and went live with these modules effective 1/01/2017. The budget module will become visible to the department heads, Town Board members and general public as we work to develop the 2018 Tentative Budget. We started the

Payroll module implementation in July of this year, and will go live on 1/1/2018. We intend to work on the Water billing module implementation in 2018, and Property Tax Collection module in 2019. Mr. Warren stated that so much credit for the success of the Munis implementation is due to the hard work of his Deputy, Dale Ferreira. For Payroll, Dale is building the payroll tables and inputting all of the pay type and deduction type items herself, which will keep the cost of the Munis implementation down. Additionally, Mr. Warren said that he insisted that Munis' project manager stick to the signed contract for the number of Payroll implementation days, and to use as many go-to-meeting webinar sessions as possible in order to reduce travel expenses so that we would stay within budget.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

VI. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting

Councilmember D'Attore moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the August 22, 2017, Minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B. Approval of Minutes-Special Meeting

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember D'Attore that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the September 5, 2017, Minutes of the Special Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

C. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember D'Attore that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated September 12, 2017 in the amount of \$ \$461,887.68.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that we have a rather large report this week, but it includes some significant bills—a new Ford F550 for our Highway Department ordered back in February, our August IMA payments to the Village of Ossining, and some significant work at our Mystic Pointe sewer lift station.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

VIII. MONTHLY REPORTS

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby accepts the following monthly report for the month of August 2017:

- Town Supervisor's Office
- Town Clerk's Office

- Tax Receiver’s Office
- Town Building Department

Motion Carried: Unanimously

IX.VISITOR RECOGNITION

X.ADJOURNMENT-EXECUTIVE SESSION-LEGAL ADVICE –PERSONNEL

Supervisor Levenberg thanked everyone-very short meeting this week. We will be back at 16 Croton Avenue next Tuesday, September 19th, for our regularly scheduled Work Session. I look forward to seeing everyone then.

At 8:42 P.M., Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the Regular Meeting be adjourned to Executive Session.

At 9:07 P.M., Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher to leave Executive Session.

At 9:08 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher motioned to leave Exec and Councilmember D’Attore that Executive Session be adjourned.

Approved:

Mary Ann Roberts Town Clerk