

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING ONLY

September 6, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg

COUNCILMEMBERS
Elizabeth R. Feldman Gregory G. Meyer
Angelo A. Manicchio Jennifer Fields-Tawil

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

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on September 6, 2022 via video conference, pursuant to Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 signed into law on September 2, 2021 by Governor Hochul and Executive Order 11.9. 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, Angelo A. Manicchio, and Jennifer Fields-Tawil. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona and Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli.

II. SUPERVISOR AND TOWN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

Happy back to school and day after labor day. We are so grateful to all of the school staff who prepared the schools for our students and who are now kicking off the school year and welcoming them with open arms. We are also thankful for all those who labor on our behalf every day, whether in the schools or throughout our community. I hope everyone had a chance to shout out our labor force yesterday. We are grateful!

Although I don't have a concert to announce tonight, I wanted take time to acknowledge what an incredible summer of RiverJam we have had! A big round of applause for the amazing team that has made this Friday night waterfront summer series possible. To our Ossining RiverJam partners – Mike & Miriam Risko, Eric Gearity of Sing Sing Kill Brewery, Gayle Marchica and Johnny G of the Greater Ossining Chamber of Commerce, Jermain Smith of ENU Builds, Brian Sheridan of Hothouse Design, Recreation Superintendent Bill Garrison, our fantastic sound guys Keith Heilmann and John Chocianowski, our very own Town Parks foreman Mario Velardo and his crew, and Victoria Cafarelli and Acacia Mauriello for the PR, coordinating, and oh so much more -- a million times, THANK YOU! Our fabulous first responders, the Ossining Police Department and OVAC, deserve a very big shoutout for keeping us safe as we had fun. And another huge THANK YOU to our event sponsors: New York Presbyterian, Gracelane Kennels, Bigfoot Creamery, Coral Sea Pools, Seiden Real Estate Team, Matero Fine Jewelry, PKF O'Connor Davies Accounting, who join the Town, Mike Risko Music, Sing Sing Kill Brewery, the Chamber of Commerce, and Ossining Recreation in providing the funds and services that make this event possible. We'll be counting down the days until RiverJam 2023!

There's more fall fun on the horizon as we prepare for Car Free Week - yes, week! We are hard at work with Green Ossining, the Village, 511NY Rideshare, the Ossining Schools and the local business community planning a fun suite of

forward-looking, sustainable activities for the days surrounding Car Free Day. Car Free Week will begin on Saturday, September 17 and run through the official Car Free Day, September 22. Take the pledge now to reduce or eliminate your car usage for at least one day during Car Free Week by visiting www.511nyrideshare.org/car-free-day, and be sure to follow @townofossining on Facebook and/or Instagram to enjoy all the car-free/car-lite fun! Last year, Ossining won the prize for most signups of any municipality in New York, and was also acknowledged for innovative programming. We're looking to repeat that feat this year, with everyone's help!

There is still time – just a few more hours! - to give us your input on Ossining's climate adaptive shoreline! Please review the proposed designs and provide your input at the Shoreline Revitalization Project virtual open house website at www.greenossining.org before the survey closes end of day today. You do not need to have any special expertise to participate; all you need is approximately ten minutes to review the designs and share your opinions on them.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has informed us that beginning next week, they will begin to draw down water levels in the New Croton Reservoir to allow for routine operational inspections of the New Croton Dam and spillway. As DEP begins lowering the water level of the reservoir, there will be significant increases in the flow of water into the Croton River. Members of the public should be extra cautious while the increased water is released,. Activities such as wade fishing and kayaking are discouraged, as the fluctuating flow in the river could make them unsafe. DEP will initiate the increased release starting on or about today, September 6th and continuing until approximately September 27th. More details in the message below.

There is so much to do this Saturday! September 10 is Briarcliff Manor Community Day with fun activities scheduled all day, starting at 12noon for one last afternoon by the pool, with a performance from the Mike Risko Band, races and contests and special attractions starting at 4pm, information about community groups and local businesses displayed throughout, the annual family dancing extravaganza at 7pm, and finally, the annual fireworks show at 8:30pm. It is sure to be a fun day in Briarcliff!

The NYSATA Region 7 Annual Art Show is taking place starting now through September 30 at Bethany Arts Community, with the reception scheduled this Saturday, September 10 from 12-2pm. The 2021-22 Art Educator Award Winner will be announced at the reception – make sure to cheer on your favorite Ossining Art Teacher!

Also at Bethany Arts Community on Saturday, September 10 will be a Poetry Slam with Art in the Basin from 5-7pm. Join in for a slam of contemporary poets in heated elimination rounds of spoken word. Tickets are \$10.

The Gerry Malkin Jazz Collective will also be performing at Westchester Collaborative Theater on Saturday, September 10 at 7:30pm. For more information, visit www.wctheater.org.

Sunday is September 11, the 21st anniversary of the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001. The Ossining & Briarcliff annual remembrance ceremony will take place on Sunday, September 11 at 5:30pm at Louis Engel Waterfront Park. This annual ceremony is our community's way of pausing and remembering those we lost on that tragic day 21 years ago, while also celebrating and thanking our local emergency service workers who serve our community daily to ensure we stay safe. I hope you will join us.

The County and Volunteer New York have also teamed up to create a really robust weekend of programming for the 9/11 Day of Service. You can learn more by visiting www.volunteerny.org/service.

III. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Tax Payment Plan – 18 Knoll View

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

Whereas, the Town of Ossining is required to collect Town, County and School taxes for the municipality, with the onus on the Town to make whole the County and School District for any uncollected taxes; and

Whereas, the Receiver of Taxes has been approached by a property owner requesting a short-term payment plan for the property at 18 Knoll View, Tax Parcel Designation ID# 97.15-2-16./903; and

Whereas, the Town Board, pursuant to Article 5 of the Ossining Town Code, as authorized by section 1184 of the New York Real Property Tax Law, before entry of a final judgment, may withdraw a parcel for which payment of real property taxes is delinquent, from a foreclosure proceeding and enter into an installment plan for payment of all delinquent taxes, as well as interest and penalties, and does occasionally grant such a plan and has the discretion to accept or reject any proposal by a residential property owner, providing the owner meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 180-17 of the Town Code and the payment plan conforms to the requirements for such a repayment plan set forth in section 180-18 of the Town Code;

Now, therefore be it Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby grants the aforementioned payment plan, which terms comply with the Town Code, to this property owner, who has been determined to be eligible, with the understanding that this sets no precedent going forward for this or any other property in the future.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We are so grateful to our Tax Receiver, Holly Perlowitz, for coming to the Board to seek solutions like tax payment plans to ensure that property owners can maintain their ownership, while paying off taxes owed to the Town.

Motion: Carried Unanimously

B. Personnel – Resignation

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 accepts, with regret, the resignation of Nicholas Ferrao from the part-time position of Laborer in the Town Highway Department, effective September 2, 2022.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Nick has worked for the Town for a few seasons now in the Highway Department, and we wish him the best of luck in his next chapter.

Motion: Carried Unanimously

C. Personnel – Appointment – Seasonal Laborer

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 appoints Keith-Aaron Sanchez, Ossining, to the seasonal position of Laborer in the Town Highway Department at an hourly rate of \$15, effective September 7, 2022.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Keith just finished working a few months as a seasonal employee in the Village of Ossining, so we are happy to welcome him to Team Town to help out during the fall leaf season.

Motion: Carried Unanimously

D. Appointment – Planning Board

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 appoints Jason Mencher to an unexpired term on the Town Planning Board, to expire December 31, 2024.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We are happy to be appointing Jason Mencher, who has served on the Town Planning Board as an alternate member for a few months now, as a full member of the Planning Board to fill an unexpired term on the Board. Jason also volunteered as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, we are very grateful for his continued volunteerism in our community!

Motion: Carried Unanimously

E. Contract – CDBG-CV Grant for WiFi in Ossining Parks

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 an agreement with Westchester County for the purposes of receiving \$57,644 in CDBG-CV grant funding for WiFi in Ossining Parks.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Some time ago the Town learned that we had been awarded funding under CDBG specifically for COVID-19 response to fund a WiFi in the parks project at Louis Engel and Gourdine parks. We are very excited to get started!

Motion: Carried Unanimously

IV. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to speak

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn to Work Session and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

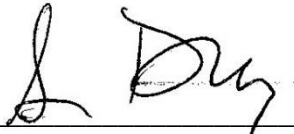
At 8:22 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for advice of counsel, personnel, and contracts, and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:22 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn the Executive Session and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:



Susanne Donnelly, Town Clerk