



**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
OSSINING MUNICIPAL BUILDING
16 CROTON AVENUE-1ST FLOOR BOARD ROOM
OSSINING, NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 5, 2019
SPECIAL MEETING
7:30 P.M.**

**SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg**

**COUNCILMEMBERS
Karen M. D'Attore Elizabeth R. Feldman
Jackie G. Shaw Northern Wilcher, Jr.**

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 5, 2018 in the Police/Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street in Ossining. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Supervisor Dana A. Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Karen M. D'Attore, Elizabeth R. Feldman, Northern Wilcher Jr. and Jackie G. Shaw. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona and Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that tonight, she would like to observe a moment of silence for Gregory Jackson who passed away due to a violent altercation in the Village Of Ossining.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that this week, we learned of the tragic death of one of our young people. Gregory Jackson lost his life following a violent altercation in our Village, and we are all without words as we contemplate this senseless act of violence. We have full confidence in the Ossining Police Department to bring the perpetrator to justice, but in the meanwhile, we remember Greg as so many knew him-- a bright, energetic, happy young man, who was beloved by so many. We are all keeping his family and his many, many friends in our thoughts and prayers. Please join me in a moment of silence for Greg Jackson, one of our own.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

Earlier today, I attended a press conference in Portchester with the Westchester Municipal Officials Association and the NY Conference of Mayors to protest the Governor's cutback of AIM (Aid and Incentives for Municipalities) funding in the state budget. The roughly \$152,000 in AIM funding that the Town receives each year is on the chopping block, which would equate to a 4% increase to the General Fund tax rate for 2020, just to maintain the status quo. AIM funding accounts for the little bit of unrestricted aid we receive from New York State, and that amount, based on population, has been frozen for almost a decade. We agree with the Governor—we should do whatever possible to keep the lid on rising property taxes. However, as we continue to comply with the tax cap, this situation feels like we are being squeezed from both ends in what appears to be yet another unfunded mandate from New York State. I plan to go to Albany early next week to stand alongside my colleagues in local government and tell the Governor that we rely on this funding to keep taxes low in Ossining, and we deserve more, not less, to keep our communities affordable, safe and maintain the quality of life New Yorkers have come to expect.

Tomorrow evening (Wednesday February 6th), join IFCA and the Ossining Micro Fund for a Home Ownership Workshop presented by the Credit Smarts program, between 6 and 8PM-sponsored by a generous grant from the Westchester Community Foundation. If you are considering buying your first home and don't know the first thing about how to finance it, this program is for you! If you are already a homeowner, please pass this information along— these organizations offer approachable support people and digestible presentations and information for folks looking to explore homeownership in Ossining.

This Thursday, February 7th at 6:30PM, the Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series will be hosting a screening of "I Am Not Your Negro," a film based on James Baldwin's last work before his passing that examines the decades-long struggle of American Blacks. At this moment, when emboldened racists are gaining power and acceptance, this film is more important than ever. Stay after the screening for a thoughtful panel discussion moderated by our very own Councilwoman Jackie Shaw. All are welcome to this free event in the Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theater.

Our Town Historian, and former OPD Captain Scott Craven, will be leading tours at this year's Eaglefest, scheduled for this Saturday, February 8th in Croton. He promises lots of new adventures this year, so make sure to get your tickets now! This is one of my favorite events of the year, you don't want to let this one slip through your talons. Go to www.teatown.org to secure your spot today.

After you work up a sweat spotting eagles around town, you are invited to the "Friends of 49" Annual Pasta Dinner and Basket Raffle, sponsoring Boy Scouts of America Troop 49, between 6 and 8PM. On February 9th and held at St. Augustine's School on Route 9, enjoy a pasta dinner and great conversation for just \$10 per adult and \$6 per child, and don't forget to participate in the raffle! Proceeds go to benefit the scouting program-- call Jack Reilly at 941-7407 with questions.

Then on Sunday, February 10th between 4 and 7PM, come down to Demeter's Tavern & Sports Bar in Tarrytown and test your knowledge against other teams (bring your own team or come ready to make some new friends!) Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, and all proceeds go to benefit the Ossining Children's Center. Visit www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org to learn more and get your early bird tickets.

The snow squall last week caused the cancelation of the Westchester County Housing Needs Public Forum, which County Executive Latimer has rescheduled for Monday, February 11th at the Community Center, so please consider attending. Co-sponsored by IFCA and Neighbors Link, the CE wants to hear what you think about the availability, accessibility and affordability of housing in Westchester County. This forum will take place between 6PM and 8PM. Be sure to come and make your voice heard by Westchester County as they draft their housing needs assessment.

While Thursday, February 14th is Valentine's Day, don't forget that February 13th is known to some as "Galentine's Day," a chance to give some love to the special ladies in your life! Looking for someplace to celebrate? Bella Maiya Day Spa in Briarcliff Manor has your back. For just \$10 per person, come for chair massages, an eyebrow shape-up, collagen eye treatments, and even a smoky eye application while you snack on appetizers from the Tasty Table and sip wine. What could be better? Spoil yourself for a change, right here in town. Call 236-3711 to save your spot for this fun Girl's Night Out on Wednesday the 13th.

As for Valentine's Day plans, go no further than North State Road for the fantastic restaurants right here in Ossining! Have a cozy supper with your sweetie at Terra Rustica or Flames, enjoy a hearty dinner at The Briars, or split a decadent fried ice cream at Maya Riviera—trust me on this one. There are so many wonderful options on Pleasantville Road in Briarcliff or in downtown Ossining, why not try someplace

new? Wherever you plan to sidle up to your loved ones, be sure to make reservations ASAP, you will be in good company!

I hope you will join me as I plunge into the mighty Hudson River on Sunday, February 16th for the Gullotta House 2nd Annual “Escape from Sing Sing” Polar Plunge. At 12PM, weather permitting, we will be running into the river to benefit local families in need and Scholarships for OHS students. Teams and individuals can register at www.gullottahouse.org.

Finally, I am excited to share that the Village of Ossining has invited the Town to take part in a water saving initiative that could help you buy a high-efficiency toilet with a \$200 voucher. To see if your property is eligible, visit www.villageofossining.org/TRP.

Councilmember D’Attore reminded residents that if they need help with their income taxes please call IFCA at 914-941-5252 and schedule an appointment.

My Brother’s Keeper will have a mentor program at the Anne M. Dorner Middle School on Wednesday night. This organization is also collecting clothes that you can drop off at the Supervisor’s Office.

II. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Contract- Interstate Fireworks

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Interstate Fireworks Inc., PO Box 260, Rowland, Pennsylvania, to furnish a display of fireworks on July 3rd, 2019 and with a rain date of July 8th, 2019, for a contract amount totaling \$28,900.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that we are excited to be thinking about warmer weather and also to be working with Interstate Fireworks again in 2019. Although their price did go up nearly 10% this year, we know we are still getting an exceptional deal for our Independence Day Celebration.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B. Appointment- Working Foreman-Highways, Town Highway Department

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby appoints Kevin Moore, MEO, to the probationary position of Working Foreman-Highways in the Town of Ossining Highway Department effective April 1, 2019, at an annualized salary of \$92,014.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that at the recommendation of our Superintendent of Highways, the Town Board has agreed to promote our Motor Equipment Operator Kevin Moore into the position of Working Foreman for the Town Highway Department. Last summer, we were officially notified by our current foreman, Matteo Velardo, that he would be hanging up his neon vest at the end of March 2019, and we are going to miss him terribly. However, we know that Kevin has worked very closely with Matteo, and with his predecessor John Martin, for almost 2 decades and that he is up for the challenge. Kevin is here tonight with us, and we are excited for him to step up into this vital role for us here in Ossining. Our Unincorporated residents love their Highway Department, and we are confident that Michael G., Kevin and their crew will not let you down.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

C. Finance- Capital Project #2019-5213 – 2019 Freightliner-Town Highway

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes opening a 2019 Capital Project #2019-5213, entitled “2019 Freightliner” for the Town Highway Department, with a project budget of \$218,032. The project will be funded from bond proceeds.

Increase:	3705110.200.5213	\$218,032 – 2019 Freightliner-Town Highway (Expense)
Increase:	370060.5710.5213	\$218,032 – Serial Bond Funding (Revenue)

Supervisor Levenberg stated that you may remember that a few weeks back, the Town Board passed a bond resolution for the purchase of five new trucks— 2 for our Parks Department, 2 for our Highway Department, and 1 for Dale Cemetery. We are opening these capital projects tonight so that we can begin the ordering process—one of them will take more than a year to build, but we should have the rest of them in operation by mid-March. Fingers crossed for no more snow until then--- or until December! Special thanks to our Town Comptroller Tom Warren and Deputy Comptroller Dale Ferreira for their work with our bond counsel and setting up these accounts, and to our department heads and our mechanic for helping us determine which trucks in our fleet, several of which are more than 20 years old, needed to rise to the top of the list for replacement.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

D. Finance- Capital Project #2019-5214 – 2018 Dodge Ram 3500 -Town Highway

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes opening a 2019 Capital Project #2019-5214, entitled “2018 Dodge Ram 3500” with a plow and crane for the Town Highway Department, with a project budget of \$71,518. The project will be funded from bond proceeds.

Increase:	3705110.200.5214	\$71,518 – 2018 Dodge Ram 3500-Town Highway (Expense)
Increase:	370060.5710.5214	\$71,518 – Serial Bond Funding (Revenue)

Motion Carried: Unanimously

E. Finance- Capital Project #2019-5215 – 2018 Dodge Ram 3500 -Town Parks

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes opening a 2019 Capital Project #2019-5215, entitled “2018 Dodge Ram 3500” with a plow for the Town Parks Department, with a project budget of \$56,112. The project will be funded from bond proceeds.

Increase:	3707110.200.5215	\$56,112 – 2018 Dodge Ram 3500-Town Parks (Expense)
Increase:	370060.5710.5215	\$56,112 – Serial Bond Funding (Revenue)

Motion Carried: Unanimously

F. Finance- Capital Project #2019-5216 – 2018 Dodge Ram 4500 -Town Parks

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes opening a 2019 Capital Project #2019-5216, entitled “2018 Dodge Ram 4500” with a plow for the Town Parks Department, with a project budget of \$96,081. The project will be funded from bond proceeds.

Increase:	3707110.200.5216	\$96,081 – 2018 Dodge Ram 4500-Town Parks (Expense)
Increase:	370060.5710.5216	\$96,081 – Serial Bond Funding (Revenue)

Motion Carried: Unanimously

G. Finance- Capital Project #2019-5217 – 2018 Dodge Ram 4500 -Town Cemetery

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 authorizes opening a 2019 Capital Project #2019-5217, entitled “2018 Dodge Ram 4500” for the Town Cemetery Department, with a project budget of \$63,029. The project will be funded from bond proceeds.

Increase:	3708810.200.5217	\$63,029 – 2018 Dodge Ram 4500-Town Cemetery (Expense)
Increase:	370060.5710.5217	\$63,029 – Serial Bond Funding (Revenue)

Motion Carried: Unanimously

III.ADJOURNMENT –WORK SESSION

At 7:54 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Shaw that the Special Meeting be adjourned to Work Session.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:51 P.M., Councilmember D’Attore motioned to enter into Executive Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 11:21 P.M., Councilmember D’Attore motioned to adjourn Executive Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:

**_____
Victoria Cafarelli Interim Town Clerk**