

**Town of Ossining Board Regular Meeting**

**June 2, 2020**

**Meeting Transcript**

Video Recording of Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDaczprLW8&t=12s>

In Attendance: Supervisor Dana Levenberg, Councilmember Liz Feldman, Councilmember Jackie G. Shaw, Councilmember Northern Wilcher, Jr, Councilmember Gregory Meyer, Municipal Attorney Christie Addona, Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli, Recreation Superintendent Bill Garrison, Tax Receiver Holly Perlowitz

1 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Okay, so, good evening, everybody.  
2 And welcome to the Town Board of the Town of Ossining work session for  
3 Tuesday, June 2 2020 please rise and join me for the Pledge of Allegiance  
4 and please remain our moment of silence.

5 **ALL:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to  
6 the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with  
7 liberty and justice for all.

8 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Please remain standing. As a  
9 country, we have marked the solemn milestone of hundred thousand lives  
10 lost to COVID-19 and we are grappling with the deaths of, among others,  
11 George Floyd, Brianna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, David  
12 McAtee. Unfortunately, just the most recent murders of black people in  
13 America.

14 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Please join me for a lengthy moment  
15 of silence.

16 **[MOMENT OF SILENCE]**

17 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Thank you.

18 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I'm not sure how many minutes are  
19 long enough at this point. We've got the sun set into my face... that doesn't  
20 really help. All right. We'll try our best. So we have sunshine and so  
21 yesterday, Ossining observed a national day of mourning and honoring  
22 more than over 100,000 lives lost to COVID-19. At 7pm houses of worship

23 throughout Ossining range their bells and residents placed candles outside  
24 their homes. For the past several weeks curbing the spread of this virus  
25 has been priority number one for my colleagues and me in the Town and  
26 Village governments. We've seen so many in our own Ossining family lost  
27 as a result of this deadly virus, and yet following recent events across the  
28 country I have also been constantly thinking of how we can better confront  
29 racism through our personal and professional daily interactions, as I'm sure  
30 many of you have as well.

31 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** As we mourn those we've lost. We  
32 are also forced to reckon with the inequalities in our communities that have  
33 been brought to light as a result of this pandemic. Our suffering has been  
34 on equal, our experiences have been divided by the differences in the color  
35 of our skin, our age and the places we call home. I hope you'll join me this  
36 evening to remember those we've lost to COVID-19 while also recognizing  
37 the uncomfortable truth that this virus has not impacted us all equally,  
38 especially in light of the recent taking of innocent black lives across our  
39 country.

40 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** This brief moment of mourning must  
41 be the start of us tackling this difficult reality head on, hopefully, resulting in  
42 a better future for all. Okay, so I'm going to just also - just launching into my  
43 announcements before I start my announcements. I do want to share a few  
44 words about the devastating murder of George Floyd by a police officer in  
45 Minneapolis while other officers stood by.

46 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** This horror, in addition to the  
47 murders of Brianna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and David  
48 McAtee continues to throw into stark relief, the ugly realities of racism that  
49 our black community members live with. Each of these people should be  
50 alive. When the people in our government who we trust to protect life  
51 instead of take life, when we as a government and government officials fail  
52 to confront our country's legacy of racism or fail to invest in raising up our  
53 community members we fail our public. We cannot allow this. We believe  
54 that Black Lives Matter, black futures matter, we are committed to  
55 amplifying the voices of our black community members who are advocating  
56 for change that is long overdue.

57 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** This weekend young people from our  
58 Ossining community came together to remind us of how important it is to  
59 listen, educate, and advocate against racism. The horrific and violent  
60 actions that lead to Mr Floyd's death cannot go unnoticed anywhere. Here  
61 in Ossining where we strive to be inclusive and recognize the beauty of our  
62 differences, where we celebrate our diversity were meant to live specifically  
63 because they believe this is a place of acceptance. We know we are not  
64 immune. We must fight the scourge by standing up to hate, we must, and  
65 we will continue to assert that we will not tolerate it here or anywhere.

66 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** We understand there may be more  
67 activities advocating for change happening later this week we will plan to  
68 support peaceful demonstrations with peace.

69 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** As your local elected officials, we  
70 know it is our responsibility, even in a Town such as Ossining whose Board  
71 is not the direct policy setting agency for the police department that serves  
72 us, to demand that law enforcement professionals to face the same  
73 accountability to the public as we expect from all our public servants. We  
74 also have a responsibility to challenge racism and root out hate within our  
75 own circles and our own spheres of influence. The town board and I aim to  
76 rise to this challenge. Earlier this year, we announced that we were forming  
77 a Community Equity Task Force with the goals of sharing resources and  
78 beginning the uncomfortable yet necessary conversation surrounding racial  
79 inequality, with the community as a whole.

80 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** The Community Equity Task Force  
81 which is currently comprised of representatives from Town and Village  
82 government. Ossining Public Library, Ossining NAACP, former educators  
83 and members of the faith community will be meeting this week to discuss  
84 ways to galvanize the current climate and move towards real change within  
85 our own community.

86 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** If you or an organization you are  
87 affiliated with or interested in joining this effort, please do not hesitate to  
88 contact me at [dlevenberg@townofossining.com](mailto:dlevenberg@townofossining.com)

89 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** We also look forward to continue to  
90 work with our partners in the Village of Ossining, including police Chief

91 Kevin Sylvester to ensure everyone in our community feel safe and secure  
92 here.

93 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** The Town Board and I shared a  
94 longer message via a press release earlier today, which has been posted  
95 to the town's website. I hope you'll take the time to read what we share and  
96 join us in these efforts, moving forward. As always, I remain so proud of the  
97 Ossining community in the face of extreme challenges. We look forward to  
98 working closely together with our entire community as we look towards a  
99 brighter and more equitable future for all.

100 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** So if you do - are interested in finding  
101 out where any of those other demonstrations are you should just look at  
102 social media and if you do choose to participate, please remember to wear  
103 a mask and be safe for everyone's sake, including your own.

104 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** We're now in week two of Phase One  
105 reopening in the mid-Hudson region of which Westchester is a part along  
106 with our neighbors in Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Sullivan, Ulster, and  
107 Orange Counties. So far, this means that only Phase One businesses,  
108 specifically those in the construction agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting,  
109 contact with retail manufacturing, and wholesale trade industries are  
110 eligible to reopen. Other industries and awesome an authorized to be  
111 opened by the state, including veterinary offices and dental offices.

112 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** However, if everything continues  
113 smoothly. We will likely be able to follow upstate regions by moving on to  
114 Phase Two sometime in the next week or so. I encourage all businesses to  
115 visit [forward.ny.gov](http://forward.ny.gov) to review industry specific guidelines for Phase One,  
116 Phase Two, and essential businesses. All businesses are required to  
117 complete a business safety plan and must read and affirm industry specific  
118 guidelines. The business safety plan must be conspicuously posted at the  
119 business premises and available upon request by the New York State  
120 Department of Health, or local safety and health authorities.

121 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Even though Phase Two business  
122 that are not eligible to reopen now is the time to carefully review and  
123 complete these documents because adequate preparation is key. And I  
124 know that I've already heard from many businesses that are already  
125 looking at Phase Three and Phase Four that are getting ready for that.

126 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** We're in the midst of an election  
127 season with many opportunities to vote: presidential primary, local  
128 congressional primary, village of Briarcliff Board, and School District  
129 Boards, library board and budget votes. Recent events have only  
130 reinforced the importance of being an active citizen.

131 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Voting is a key way to help fight for  
132 equitable resources in our own communities this year the school district  
133 budget and board of education elections for both the Ossining and Briarcliff  
134 school districts are being conducted entirely via absentee mail in ballots. All  
135 qualified voters within the Ossining and Briarcliff school districts should  
136 have received a ballot directly via mail. No need to apply this time and you  
137 have a return pre-stamped envelope. You must complete your ballot and it  
138 must be received in the mail by 5pm on Tuesday, June night.

139 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I know that we're still looking to get  
140 more clarification on why there's no postmark involved. We think it might be  
141 because we're there's a stamp self-addressed envelope. But there's no in-  
142 person voting or voter registration allowed, so please remember that if you  
143 live in Ossining School District. You're also being asked to vote on the  
144 Ossining Public Library budget and Trustee the elections for the library, as  
145 well as the school board.

146 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Both School Districts and the library  
147 have additional information regarding the proposed budgets and their board  
148 candidates on their websites. If you have questions, you can reach the  
149 Ossining School District clerk Lilitana Ortiz at lortiz@ossiningUFSD.org

150 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** And Briarcliff school district clerk by  
151 calling 914-432-8130. Please fill out your ballots as soon as possible and  
152 send them in. Now, to ensure that you do not miss the deadline, and I  
153 believe you're getting very close if you haven't done so already.

154 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Finally, I want to once again remind  
155 you to fill out the 2020 Census, as we reflect upon the events and protests  
156 happening around the country, it remains as important as ever to ensure  
157 everyone is counted. Black and brown communities are traditionally  
158 undercounted and that is simply unacceptable. Census counts directly  
159 impact representation in Congress and allocations of funding. Now is not

160 the time to allow communities to receive disproportionate levels of funding  
161 or have their voices silenced at the federal level.

162 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Please encourage everyone you  
163 know to fill out the census at 2020census.gov. The town of Ossining  
164 response rate has inched up to 63% as of our notes today. The Village of  
165 Ossining is at 58% and the Village of Briarcliff Manor is at 76% but we can  
166 do better. So, with your help, please make sure that that Census is filled  
167 out.

168 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I also understand that people are  
169 going to be going door to door to collect information in August. If you  
170 haven't responded. So let's avoid that additional contact that's  
171 unnecessary. If you do fill out your census in advance and do so now you  
172 can do it online. You can do it by phone, you can do it by mail.

173 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I also have a couple of other - I  
174 wanted to just mention there's an event this Thursday night. The first  
175 Ossining Parent Leadership virtual conference uniting through community  
176 partnerships. Join us will learn the awesome response to COVID-19 and  
177 current available resources and I will be participating in that Panel  
178 Discussion along with Ossining Open Door, Neighbors Link, and Gullotta  
179 House as well as our keynote speaker and who is our Ossining  
180 superintendent Dr. Ray Sanchez. So hopefully we'll be able to join.

181 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** The meeting ID for the zoom meeting  
182 is 835-6662-2180 and the password is Ossining. I think it's a capital O, for  
183 Ossining. That's how it's listed, but there will also be a link added to the  
184 district's website OssiningUFSD.org on the day of the conference so that  
185 you can have easy access. And what was the other...

186 **VICTORIA CAFARELLI:** The unity resolution.

187 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** So I just

188 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Also wanted to emphasize that the  
189 Town had adopted a Unity Resolution some years ago to basically assert  
190 that we are, and always have been an inclusive community. We are going  
191 to continue to refine that, most likely with our Equity Task Force and bring it  
192 back to the forefront of our website. So often as new information becomes  
193 important other information drops to the back, but we obviously know this is

194 more important than ever to remind everybody that we believe and we  
195 assert that we are in fact an inclusive community. So we'll have that backup  
196 on our website soon. And again, know that we will be looking to address  
197 how we can refine it and make it even more representative of what we all  
198 believe.

199 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** So with that, do any of my colleagues  
200 have anything additional that they would like to bring to the community's  
201 attention.

202 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Councilwoman Feldman are you  
203 reaching for your mute button to unmute yourself or not? No. Okay.

204 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Councilwoman Shaw, I know -  
205 Councilwoman Shaw, you've been doing a lot of work with the School  
206 District Equity Task Force as well that you've been on for many years. I  
207 know that you're going to continue to - to share resources with our  
208 Community Equity Task Force. And I think that we might have some other  
209 Members from the school district joining us. I know some young folk have  
210 reached out also to participate in that. So, we hope that we can bring all  
211 resources to bear at doing a better job educating, advocating, and listening  
212 as Jalay Knowles so - put it put it so well Saturday night down at the  
213 waterfront.

214 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW:** Jalay actually - the community – the  
215 School Equity Task Force had an emergency meeting on Monday and  
216 Jalay was kind enough to join us and tell us a little about her experience  
217 and also many of the students that spoke out of the protests were part of  
218 the either the full Equity task force or the Building Equity task force. So  
219 they're confident enough and knowledgeable enough to get out there and  
220 speak their mind. So it was very impressive. And we're very proud.

221 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW:** I know the school is working on  
222 finding ways that to have safe spaces where the children can talk via Zoom  
223 or some other way. So that if anyone is having difficulty or just needs to talk  
224 the school, I know is, is working on ways that staff and students can do  
225 that. So those are some of the things we're working on this week.

226 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Okay, so I guess without further ado,  
227 we are going to launch into our two departmental reports this evening,

228 we're going to be hearing from our Receiver of Taxes honorable Holly  
229 Perlowitz.

230 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Despite the significant challenges  
231 that we all have been facing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic Holly  
232 and her team Patty and Angela have been working tirelessly to ensure that  
233 our taxpayers to not experience any significant change in customer  
234 services while our offices remain close to the public. So Receiver Perlowitz,  
235 you have had quite a busy quarter. We're so grateful to you for joining us  
236 this evening with your report. And I don't know, I think that victory is going  
237 to help with screen sharing, right? Thanks so much.

238 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Yes.

239 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Good evening, everybody.  
240 It's really good to see all your - all of you - albeit in screens. It's really good  
241 to see all your faces amongst all these difficult times. Can you hear me  
242 okay, before I get started?

243 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** We can.

244 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** All right. Okay. Terrific. So  
245 tonight I'm going to be reviewing the most recent collection, which is the  
246 town and county tax collection. And also just overall updating you on the  
247 remaining balances due from our 2019 warrants and also the outstanding  
248 liens.

249 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Related to the 2020 town  
250 and county: I'm pleased to say, well, it was certainly challenging because  
251 the collection occurred right in the middle of the storm of the start of the  
252 coronavirus and our stay-at-home orders or sheltering-in-place are a  
253 number of different things, but we were we were in the midst of getting the  
254 bills out to all of our taxpayers and then of course what followed was the  
255 collection effort and... Honestly, my main goal was to just get, get the  
256 logistics of getting bills out and the logistics of receiving payments certainly  
257 work through. But also just to continue to communicate as much as we  
258 could, with all of our taxpayers.

259 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** It was my goal, not to ever  
260 end a day without an email responded to, or a telephone call responded to.  
261 And I believe that we met that goal, thanks to the help, frankly, of our Town

262 Supervisor who took every opportunity to help me communicate to the  
263 networks that she had, to our town board members as well as Village  
264 Mayor helped as well and I was appreciative of everyone just joining in and  
265 getting information out to our taxpayers, which is always so difficult during  
266 these - during times, people didn't know if they could come into our office  
267 and how they could handle payment with that their inability to actually - for  
268 us to have the public come into our office, but I think we did a good job of  
269 getting the message out. And thank you to everyone who helped.

270 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** So I want to happily report  
271 that as of the end of May we had collected 96.25% of the warrant, which  
272 was a little bit less than last year which was 98.1%. So a you know a drop  
273 of 1.8% from year over year in terms of the percentage that we collected  
274 but given all things considered, I think that was, that was pretty good. And  
275 there are some additional factors to be considered. And that's that the - the  
276 town had offered, along with the County, had offered two programs which  
277 don't actually come to an end until July 15. And just to sort of quickly review  
278 those two programs are for everybody they will reduce penalties. So if you  
279 had paid in the month of May your penalty, which is normally 2% was only  
280 half - was a half a percent.

281 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** And if you pay in from June  
282 one to July 15 the penalty is 1% when it is when it was normally 5% so I do  
283 suspect that some taxpayers are taking advantage of that, the reduced  
284 penalty for everybody. And in addition to that, there was a hardship  
285 program where if you could demonstrate that you had a hardship and were  
286 able to sign a certification that your penalties would be wage until uh - until  
287 July 15. So again, I think that our taxpayers we're thankful for that many  
288 have communicated their thankfulness.

289 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** And just to just to clarify a financial  
290 hardship based on COVID-19.

291 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Correct. Thank you. Dana.

292 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Yes, so many of our  
293 taxpayers have communicated that they're going to take advantage of that  
294 and we're thankful for that opportunity. So again, that 96.25% will probably  
295 climb through - through July 15 so the other things that I wanted to mention  
296 - and we'll come back to this, this slide in a minute. I did want to also

297 mention that over 300 people that, in addition to the normal level of using  
298 our online system, that 300 more people than usual use our online system  
299 and that was wonderful. Myself, along with Patty and Angela, my  
300 colleagues were delighted to walk those who had never used it before  
301 through how to use it. And the feedback I got was very positive. And in fact,  
302 I think there was a lot of surprise at how easy it was. And I'm happy for that  
303 because you know it can be used in the future, and it is quite user friendly.

304 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** So just going back to the  
305 slide for a quick second. You know, I think that it's also important to - I sort  
306 of separated into the first is just our active collection, which is the 2020  
307 town/county collection. And then right underneath that. Thank you for using  
308 your pointer, Victoria, I appreciate it, with it 2019 warrants both the town  
309 and county and the School in the Library lines. So you can see between  
310 those two warrants we've collected 98 point almost 8% of that. And I want  
311 to just draw that to your attention because it is those – those 2019 warrants  
312 which will turn into liens when we - which we were required to do - and be  
313 filed in July with Westchester County.

314 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** So, just again to - to bring  
315 your attention to that. And then further, you can see the delinquent tax liens  
316 that we still have outstanding and, you know, I'm happy to say that we  
317 continued to collect on all of those every month so someone somewhere is  
318 -is paying - paying those as well or 2017 delinquent taxes will go to auction,  
319 should it be permissible, in July or August if taxes are not paid in full by  
320 then. So -

321 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Quick question. In the midst of all  
322 this, um, you'd mentioned about May - I mean you talked about obviously  
323 May is over and you weren't sure if people are going to be taking  
324 advantage of those lower penalties. If you have any May - I didn't, I should  
325 have asked you this in advance - but I'm just curious if you had any May to  
326 May comparison if we know that you know more people paid in May. Or do  
327 we think, just from the feedback that you've gotten that more people are  
328 going to hold off until July 15<sup>th</sup> date.

329 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** The feedback that I've  
330 gotten is that many people are going to hold off. Our May collections were  
331 about consistent with last year.

332 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** I think that was your  
333 question.

334 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Yes. Yeah, it was twofold. But yes,  
335 thank you.

336 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I have an observation – or  
337 kind of a - our total um, warrant for the Town/County is 32... 32 million,  
338 nine hundred - anyway we went down by -

339 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Yes.

340 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** That's right.

341 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** \$200,000?

342 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I like that.

343 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Yeah, we did.

344 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** And we collected - we  
345 collected less taxes from our residents this year. Our warrant was lower  
346 this year than it was last year, just clarifying.

347 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Yes, it was. And it was  
348 lower this year by last year by about - I can give you the exact amount. It  
349 was lower by \$206,000.

350 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Right.

351 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Okay.

352 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Yeah, which is why we use  
353 a percentage, because then your - you know, your- collection efforts... but  
354 yes it was down by two hundred thousand dollars... Right. Are there any  
355 other questions or concerns that you'd like me to address at this point?

356 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I think you're doing a really  
357 great job. I'll be interested to see how many people - I believe you're right  
358 that there are people waiting until July to take advantage of the no-penalty  
359 or lower penalty. So I think this year will be more interesting to see what  
360 happens in July. And then -

361 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I think -

362 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** - so -

363 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Yeah, I think you have other slide so  
364 you're not - we're not done yet, right, right?

365 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** No, I am I am I, yeah, I am  
366 good. Yeah, so I'm... Councilman Feldman, I agree with you. And while I  
367 don't have a scheduled time with the Town Board, clearly I report to you  
368 monthly. So I'll let you know how that goes. As we go into June and July as  
369 well. Right.

370 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Right.

371 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Thank you.

372 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I – I - I just like to add that, you know,  
373 we've sort of been watching all of this in action. And we've been in and out  
374 of the 16 Croton and just seeing how your department has been dealing  
375 with everything and often organizing a lot of the mail that we get on the  
376 third floor. And just, again, answering questions with a smile at a very, very  
377 difficult time and you know being super responsive to our taxpayers. I just  
378 want to give you all a big shout out for that. And just let you know that, you  
379 know, on behalf of all of our taxpayers are very appreciative of that  
380 customer service. I think it's critically important. And I know that it's  
381 absolutely your focus so as bad as it is to collect the taxes. It's certainly  
382 nice to do it with a smile, smiling voice on the other end.

383 **RECEIVER OF TAXES HOLLY PERLOWITZ:** Yes, yes, yes. And thank  
384 you very much. I'm going to pass that along to - to Patty and Angela. And  
385 also, truly, you know, the Clerk's Office acted as a bit - a bit of a welcome  
386 room as well. For the mail, as well as people who knocked on doors and I  
387 was very appreciative of just the whole team at 16 Croton. So thank you.  
388 Thank you for bringing that up.

389 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Anybody else, um, any other council  
390 members would like to...

391 **COUNCILMEMBER NORTHERN WILCHER:** Madame Supervisor?

392 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Yes?

393 **COUNCILMEMBERNORTHERN WILCHER:** I [UNCLEAR] reason for a  
394 Roll Call.

395 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Oh, because we, it's not a Regular  
396 Meetings so we didn't do Roll Call. I don't think we – do we usually do roll  
397 call at our - our work sessions?

398 **[UNCLEAR]:** Yeah.

399 **[UNCLEAR]:** No.

400 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I don't - I don't have to do Roll Call.

401 **COUNCILMEMBERNORTHERN WILCHER:** That's why I put it on Liz.

402 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Okay. Liz it's your fault that we didn't  
403 do Roll Call.

404 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I apologize. I'll work on that.

405 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Okay. Um, okay. Well, in that case  
406 without any other questions once again, thank you so much to our Receiver  
407 of Taxes Holly Perlowitz for your excellent report and all the good work that  
408 you've been doing under very trying circumstances, we're very thankful for  
409 all of that.

410 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Next up we have our Recreation  
411 Superintendent Bill Garrison. Bill has also had quite a busy quarter  
412 navigating changes to our park offerings, which have gone kind of quiet  
413 and figuring out a plan to keep people from being bored online, especially  
414 your kids, regular communication with the public, assisting with our food  
415 distribution, our mask distribution, cleaning our facilities, overseeing a lot of  
416 - a lot of that stuff. Our parks and public spaces have been coveted assets  
417 during this crisis, we've had to deal with signage and a lot of other things  
418 that have just been thrown at us. Bill, thank you so much for your  
419 assistance and we look forward to hearing your report.

420 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Thank you,  
421 Supervisor Levenberg. Good evening Town Council. I guess the big news  
422 of the day is you probably heard that the Governor came out today and  
423 announced that summer day camps can happen starting June 29. Last  
424 week we cancelled the Ossining day camps, so although the governor's

425 approved day camps to operate as a June 9, the State has not given any  
426 guidance to how the day camp should run. Our plan all along was we had  
427 figured that at some point we were going to get some guidance from the  
428 State on how to run programs.

429 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** And once we do  
430 receive that guidance we are going to kind of reinvent how we do summer  
431 camp and we will be implementing summer camp type programs in  
432 Ossining this summer, we just don't know what that's going to look like at  
433 this point until we get the guidance from the state. One of the things, the  
434 CDC has put out guidelines related to camps and they include social  
435 distancing, monitoring the health screening campers and staff on a daily  
436 basis, smaller group settings in the camp. So those are all things that we're  
437 going to have to consider.

438 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** So we're getting  
439 lots of emails and questions right now because of the news of the day and  
440 people want to know if camp is going to be back on. The problem is that  
441 given the CDC guidelines and not knowing what the state guidelines are its  
442 - camp would not look like what it has been for forever in Ossining. So it's  
443 going to look very different. And we've got to figure that out. And that's  
444 going to be on our shortlist to do within the next month. So that we can get  
445 something up and going as quickly as possible.

446 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** So that's - that's  
447 the big news of the day regarding camp and some other news and the  
448 department as Supervisor Levenberg had stated, we started about eight  
449 weeks ago a virtual recreation program called Boredom Busters. Hopefully  
450 you get those emails from us on a daily basis. And what we decided to do  
451 was to put out daily type of activities for people of all ages. Adults, kids, and  
452 things that families could do we have live events such as a nature - a  
453 nature hike educational type of thing we were doing that from Crawbuckie  
454 which is one of the Village parks, but actually tomorrow, it's going to be a  
455 live event from Sally Swope sitting park, one of the town parks.

456 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** We've been getting  
457 about 30 or 40 people online at this Facebook live event for these nature  
458 activities. We also have a live Zumba family Zumba which is on Saturday  
459 mornings, where we're getting about 30 people checking in. And

460 Wednesday evenings we have another live event where it's one of our  
461 pound classes, which is one of our popular fitness classes. So we're  
462 continuing that all these events are free. We also had a live magic show on  
463 and we had over 90 people that had tuned into that. So we also did a pet  
464 photo contest where we had over 100 people submit photos of their pets.  
465 So we've been getting a lot of participation in our virtual online recreation  
466 programs more than I thought we would. So we're continuing to do that.

467 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Our hope is - our  
468 hope is that once we do get more guidance and we move into Phase Four,  
469 which is where Recreation can open we have to kind of keep remembering  
470 that with everything kind of opening and we're eager to start things  
471 recreation is really not supposed to open until Phase Four. So, we're  
472 probably at least a month away from that or so, but we're going to be  
473 prepared to start programs outdoor programs in our parks, taking different  
474 types of fitness programs in our parks, taking what guidance has given to  
475 us from the state so that we can implement a robust program.

476 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** So another thing  
477 that's happening is that the youth Bureau is moving forward. Last month  
478 the County Legislator - Legislators approved Ossining for the youth Bureau.  
479 So we are moving forward with that the Villages moving forward to create a  
480 local law, which would create the youth bureau and youth board. And we're  
481 moving right ahead with that. We also are going to be working with the  
482 Open Door which has a grant that is going to be funding a youth leadership  
483 program this summer that we will be hiring a coordinator for that and  
484 recreation staff will be working to assist in implementing that program.

485 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** And I you know I,  
486 this couldn't come at a better time, I think, for Ossining. Provide some  
487 leadership development skills for our youth and help them have a voice  
488 with all the current events that have been going on over the past few  
489 weeks, so we're looking forward to getting that up and going as well.  
490 Supervisor Levenberg ago some mentioned, we've been heavily involved  
491 with food - food distribution, the recreation staff pack over 900 bags of food  
492 each week, and that food gets distributed out to three different locations.  
493 And we also been involved in getting mask out to the public as well. So  
494 we've had businesses come to the community center to pick up masks and

495 we also have been having masks out at the food distribution food  
496 distribution sites so that people who are in need of those can have masks.

497 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** So even though  
498 the community center is - is not open and all the typical things that we do,  
499 we're not doing we are still very busy in this unprecedented time.

500 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Awesome. I was just gonna say that,  
501 um, as far as the Boredom Busters. Even though we get them every day  
502 we haven't had time to actually look at them, or to or to be bored because  
503 we're so busy –

504 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Right.

505 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** - trying to deal with the new normal  
506 and trying to just keep up to speed, and there's so much information that  
507 gets thrown out - gets thrown at us every day from the governor to the  
508 County Executive to information from our various law firms and it's very,  
509 very - I mean and then interpreting the law, as you mentioned, you know,  
510 the Governor came out today and said “yes summer camps” and “no we  
511 have no guidance” and it's like, how is everybody supposed to plan?

512 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** On – on our county calls, we've been  
513 asking for - for months “what's happening with summer camp? What's  
514 happening with summer camp? Is right any guidance about summer  
515 camp?” and finally, you know, so many communities have just pulled the  
516 plug on their summer camps and now you know today we found out “oh ok  
517 for summer camp but no guidance.” So how are we supposed to deal with  
518 all these things and forgot to even mentioned signage and wrapping our  
519 playgrounds and trying to figure out how to keep things closed. It's a - it's a  
520 very daunting task that you have before you and that we all have before us.  
521 I think right now. So we thank you for all the good work that you're putting  
522 out and trying to figure out how to navigate that these, uh, the lack of  
523 direction and - and again, it's - it's - it's really not to place any blame. It's  
524 just that everybody's trying to figure it out as we go. This is not something  
525 that anybody's done before. So it's hard to know how to do it correctly.

526 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** And I know you know from our own  
527 Business that we do here in the town that, you know, we're always trying to  
528 consider things carefully before just communicating them with the public.

529 So there's so many different things that we have to consider that go into  
530 each decision that gets made, and then. Okay, now we've made the  
531 decision that, how do we tell people? So, you know, even that takes - takes  
532 a lot of time to figure out. So sometimes we don't communicate,  
533 communicate as fast as people would like but we try to at least get it right  
534 when we do.

535 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Yeah. That's def –  
536 definitely- that's definitely the challenge right now because people want to  
537 know, what are we doing, and we don't know because we don't know what  
538 the playfield is or what the guidelines are. So people want to know. I mean  
539 camp is a big piece of childcare for the summer for a lot of working folks  
540 right and we just don't have any answers right now, which is it's - it's  
541 frustrating for all of us.

542 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I spoke to a local business today that  
543 has a summer - summer program and they said, Oh, we can run our  
544 summer program, but we don't think anybody's going to come because who  
545 would send their kids to summer camp. You know, so there's the other side  
546 of it - that while there's a question of who would. There's also the question  
547 of who has to and or is desperate to because they need a place for their  
548 kids to go and be safe and be occupied while they work or, you know,  
549 whatever it is that they have to do.

550 **[BIRDS CHIRPING]**

551 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I do think that we're still –

552 **[BIRDS CHIRPING]**

553 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I don't think we've really gotten any  
554 clear guidance yet on our Spray Park. Victoria? Your birdies are very loud.

555 **VICTORIA CAFARELLI:** Oh, no it's not -

556 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Oh those aren't your birds? They're  
557 someone else's birds?

558 **[BIRDS CHIRPING]**

559 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Who's got very loud birds?

560 **[BIRDS CHIRPING]**

561 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Um. Who's birds are those? They're  
562 not -

563 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** They might be  
564 mine, I'm going to mute.

565 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I think it's Bill. Yeah.

566 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Oh, is your Bills. Okay. Okay. Your,  
567 your birds are louder than Victoria's I think. In any case that - you have to  
568 mute - the Spray Park, I know that we all know that we're going to have a  
569 challenge with our Spray Park, and I think the only way that we would be  
570 able to open it is with some careful monitoring and you know only allowing  
571 certain number kids in at a time. Right now, it's still considered a water  
572 attraction which has not been approved yet by the governor to be open. In  
573 fact, we heard yesterday on our call with the County that only municipal  
574 pools, as far as public pools are concerned, or - or pools general only  
575 public pools have been – bless you – okayed to open and they you know  
576 with - with certain restrictions in place.

577 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Again, I don't know if that's even our  
578 indoor pool or I don't know if our community center pool is captured by that  
579 because it's not an outdoor pool. You're shaking your head no. You don't  
580 think so. So I don't think we even are 100% clear, I know I've been getting  
581 asked by condominiums and you know we have some pool clubs: "What's  
582 the deal with pools?" We've been asking. I just saw some guidance  
583 document that went out today from the county to the steep because they're  
584 on the state calls like we are on the County Calls and then the County is on  
585 State Calls. And they try to consolidate all the questions that they've been  
586 getting from municipalities so my answer on you know clubs, they did say,  
587 "make sure you have the Department of Health combined do the  
588 inspection, have your pool ready to go. So that you don't - that's not going  
589 to hold you up when the State does give the go ahead." But right now,  
590 that's not even out there so...

591 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Also, I know that you know you've  
592 been working with us a little bit. It does look like we're going to try to pull  
593 together a concert - a remote concert series for some Fridays in July. Bill, I  
594 think you were on that one of those calls. Our bathrooms in our town parks  
595 are getting some finishing touches on them in the next couple of weeks,

596 even though we haven't. I don't think bathrooms have been approved to be  
597 open, are you - the Village has not been their bathrooms yet, correct? I  
598 don't know. It's kind of like -

599 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Yeah, no. We  
600 haven't opened our bathrooms. And in fact, I was on a call today with other  
601 superintendents from across the county and that was one of the topics that  
602 we were discussing and lot of people are going towards the porta potties in  
603 the parks, because there's, it's easier to clean. There's less surface space  
604 that's needed to be clean. So that's what a lot of people were saying they're  
605 going to keep their bathrooms locked all summer and just bring in porta  
606 potties.

607 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Right, so we did bring him porta  
608 potties to Engel Park because we were having a lot of unfortunate  
609 situations there and - with all of their use. So we decided to bring some  
610 porta potties and - and also I believe it Gerlach and Cedar Lane, because  
611 we've just seen so much heightened use and our bathrooms are closed  
612 and will remain that way. But meanwhile, we're getting them ready to open  
613 if we need to open them and we feel that that will would be the better  
614 direction to go. So hopefully, again, as I said in the next couple weeks we'll  
615 – we'll be in better shape to share information about that and we'll go with  
616 the guidance that that Bill shares with us as well.

617 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Again, I think the Youth Bureau is  
618 extremely exciting and I know that that partnership with Communities That  
619 Care through Open Door is a great one and very supportive of the youth  
620 bureau and already looking to engage our young - young people.

621 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** In this tremendous set of challenges  
622 that we have before us right now as a country at the - at our local level. So  
623 we're looking forward to hearing more about that from you. And I know that  
624 you've been also in a leadership position taking leadership role with youth  
625 bureau. We appreciate all of that and as far as the live pound class I did try  
626 that once but I think I just don't - I don't have the best drummer sense. So  
627 I'm going to offer other - other a Board of Officers on other days when I – I -  
628 I'm bored. Any anybody else have questions for Bill?

629 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** You're in luck  
630 because tomorrow's boredom Buster is a drumming - or on Thursday is a  
631 drumming lesson.

632 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Oh, okay, that I could probably I  
633 could use that. I need some sticks but I think I used - last time I found a use  
634 some like light weights that I had. But I was going to use chopsticks. I might  
635 go back to chopsticks. Does anybody have questions for our  
636 Superintendent of Parks and Recreation?

637 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW:** I had a quick question, Bill. I was  
638 wondering, since you got such good participation on the online programs  
639 are you going to keep some of those ones things open.

640 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Yes, I think that's  
641 what we're going to do. The question becomes, like some of those um you  
642 know we're not charging for those programs and we are paying instructors.

643 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW:** Right.

644 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** And typically, our  
645 model is that when we did like a pound class in the community center, we  
646 would - we would make we least cover our costs for those programs. So we  
647 have to make a determination at some point, like how much longer can we  
648 just go and run these classes for free. We've been toying around the idea  
649 like, you know, maybe we could we could charge a lesser fee and people  
650 could sign in, or perhaps we offer like a virtual fitness program where we'd  
651 have a bunch of different programs you could participate in for a fee and  
652 you would get a code and you could sign into any of these classes,  
653 whenever.

654 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** So those are all  
655 thoughts that we're thinking about right now. But right now, the plan is to  
656 continue everything as is for the end of this month.

657 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW:** Thanks.

658 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** All right. Anybody else questions for  
659 Bill? Okay, thank you very much for that update and again in trying  
660 circumstances, we appreciate your diligence and hard work and thank you  
661 for helping with the mask distribution. I think we finally got that sorted out

662 that we were giving out five for every one we thought we were giving out  
663 and people are that much we're probably that much happier that they have  
664 few more masks to last them through our pandemic, hopefully. Get out of it  
665 soon, but it doesn't seem likely. But the good news is that I haven't seen  
666 any new additions to our share file in the last few days, so I know that we  
667 know that the numbers are definitely going down. So that's great news.

668 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I just want to see if they had any  
669 other things I wanted to mention... Youth Bureau, concert series  
670 bathrooms, Spray Park, Cedar Lane Art Center at some point if that gets  
671 tied into your - your new plan for - for camp. I know that that some of the  
672 teachers over there have been working hard to figure out ways to have safe  
673 spaces for students from the arts at some point down the line when we're  
674 ready to - to - to start doing that again. So you have lots of great resources  
675 when we can open them and offer them backup to the public. We look  
676 forward to doing so.

677 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I have a question. We have  
678 all those little kayaks and stuff. Would that be a socially distance way to do  
679 something for a camp?

680 **RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT BILL GARRISON:** Yes, absolutely. So  
681 we were talking about that and also using those for that youth leadership  
682 program that I mentioned. You know, a lot of that program will be doing  
683 workshops, but also a lot of is doing activities together. And I think kayaking  
684 is a perfect thing to do that where you can social distance. So we will  
685 certainly be doing that.

686 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I'm not 100% Sure you could do that  
687 safely at Cedar Lane park but I will tell you that we have some news which  
688 is that the dock that we've been working on getting installed at Cedar lane  
689 park to replace the old doc that needed to be dismantled couple years ago  
690 is supposed to be delivered Thursday. So we may have a dock and even  
691 without that dock, you can launch from the far side of cedar lane from the  
692 pond at Cedar Park. So if that's an opportunity in the future, certainly we  
693 look forward to sharing that pond with the public and our camp programs.

694 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Alright, so... I think thank you so  
695 much, Bill for your reports and I, and again, looking forward to an update.  
696 Maybe later on in the summer. Next up I think we are discussing our

697 hopefulness to talk about a revised summer schedule for our board  
698 meetings. I don't know about you, but we have been around the clock zoom  
699 meetings and we think, even though we're not hundred percent sure that  
700 the Governor is most likely going to extend as of June 6th, I believe the  
701 executive order with sunset. He's probably going to extend that he's most  
702 likely waiting to last minute, that was another question that the County  
703 Executive's Office is has in the long list of questions to the State, but we  
704 thought that maybe we could contents are meeting scheduled for the  
705 summer to give us a little bit of a break from zoom.

706 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** In past years, we have made  
707 changes to our main schedule. I'm hoping we could do this team this  
708 summer. So after discussing with my staff. I'm proposing that we cancelled  
709 the July 7 and July 21 meetings which are work sessions as well as August  
710 4 and 18<sup>th</sup>. And that we will hold our regularly scheduled Legislative  
711 Sessions this summer and then tack on Work Session items and  
712 departmental reports as needed.

713 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Hopefully we won't get into crazy  
714 lengthy meetings, I think we have been able to manage pretty well. If it  
715 does get crazy. And we find that the meetings are going so long that we  
716 can keep our eyes open anymore, then we will revert back to our originally  
717 planned schedule and/or just add those meetings back in so I just wanted  
718 to open it up to my board colleagues to see what you thought. And if this is  
719 something that you would support and if so then we can move forward with  
720 planning for that.

721 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Um, I mean, we always have  
722 the option to put it back and notice it if we need it, correct?

723 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Indeed.

724 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** So I think that not a lot of  
725 people honestly sign on to the zoom meetings and a lot of the things we  
726 want to do would require public input so limiting it while we're not really  
727 getting a lot of input does make sense to me.

728 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Again we're - we're not limiting our  
729 work sessions. I mean, we're not living in our legislative sessions, which is  
730 when we get to public input.

731 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Okay, but we're not really  
732 working on any huge hot topics that the public would weigh in on at this  
733 time. I mean, if we are working on that, then I think we shouldn't have  
734 meetings, but...

735 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Right. We're not. In fact we're, you  
736 know, we've been trying to drag our feet a little bit on our comprehensive  
737 plan process, but we are going to probably have a recommendation for the  
738 board at our next meeting from the Comp Plan Committee for our planning  
739 consultant for the competence of plan process. So then we're going to be  
740 working with them as well as PACE Land Use Law Center on developing  
741 public engagement and we will figure out if that's something that we want to  
742 continue to do via zoom or if we want to wait longer until we can have in  
743 person participation. I know that for many Land Use boards and other  
744 boards, they have been getting even better participation on zoom because  
745 people can tune in from the comfort of their own homes. It's sometimes  
746 makes it a little easier than having to go out and bad weather or whatever.  
747 So I know that that's something that is a phenomena and you know, we  
748 may want to capitalize on that. And when we have the opportunity to do so.  
749 Which, we may be able to get a different group of people than would have  
750 normally participated. So I think, you know, I think that that's something that  
751 we need to continue to evaluate and yes, we do see that we haven't had  
752 huge participation in our meetings, but then again we don't generally have  
753 huge participation in our meetings, even when they're live unless there's  
754 something that people are very upset about. In general, I would say. Unless  
755 anybody disagrees with that.

756 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Nope.

757 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW:** As long as we're getting the work  
758 done I think a revised schedule will work and - and as you said, if it's not  
759 working, then we can revert back so I'm fine with it.

760 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** And our other two council members?

761 **COUNCILMEMBER GREG MEYER:** I agree, we can always go back if we  
762 need to.

763 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Council -

764 **COUNCILMEMBER NORTHERN WILCHER:** - | - |

765 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** man – oh go ahead.

766 **COUNCILMEMBER NORTHERN WILCHER:** Sounds good.

767 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** You're good?

768 **COUNCILMEMBER NORTHERN WILCHER:** Sounds good to me.

769 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Councilman Wilcher shared with me  
770 today that he doesn't like these zoom meetings. He wants to be in person  
771 when we can all talk around the table and I have to agree with him and  
772 certainly, you know, we don't have birds chirping in the background and

773 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** I like the birds.

774 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I like the birds too. I - often Victoria's  
775 on these calls and we – we're on, you know, before the whole public is on  
776 with us and variety of us and she's got this whole family of birds living right  
777 outside her window. So I get to hear them all.

778 **VICTORIA CAFARELLI:** I think a few of them flew the coop. So we might,  
779 it might be a little quieter in the future.

780 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** They were tired of the Zoom  
781 meetings, obviously.

782 **VICTORIA CAFARELLI:** They were like "I gotta get outta here."

783 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** So Councilman Wilcher as soon as  
784 we can get back in that room, what we what I know that, You know, I think  
785 the Village Board has also been talking about what options would be I think  
786 that one of the things I, we were meeting at the courthouse is our court  
787 .Looks that like they're getting some directives to start phasing back in  
788 more operations, we've been looking at all of our safety protocols for the  
789 various buildings, even before you know the public gets let in, and while we  
790 were there we were also talking about public meetings, our Town and  
791 Village meanings that take place at the courthouse and I know that the  
792 Village has been talking about may - maybe moving their meetings to a  
793 place where social distancing is easier for the Board as well as the public, if  
794 we are to get back to that point and the community center may be a better  
795 option, you know, as we as we look forward. The see if we can make that a  
796 possibility. Certainly there's more room to spread out there, both on the,

797 you know, at the head table where the board would be, as well as for the  
798 public.

799 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** So we shall keep you posted and we  
800 will follow some of the lead that the Village is taking them on those matters.

801 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Isn't it difficult to do video  
802 from the community center? Isn't that a bigger challenge?

803 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I mean, honestly the challenge to me  
804 from the community center is sound is just not great and -

805 **COUNCILMEMBER ELIZABETH FELDMAN:** Yeah.

806 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** and comfort for – comfort is wanting  
807 at the - at the - for everybody, you know, the chairs and tables for  
808 everybody. I think are mighty uncomfortable, but in and that's the nice thing  
809 - but I, again, maybe, you know, half the chairs are going to be removed  
810 from the courtroom and moved over to community center and, you know,  
811 half the chairs will be spread out there. I don't 100% know yet which rooms,  
812 we would be using, or what rooms are aren't going to be use a community  
813 center as a result.

814 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** You know, these are all questions  
815 that we would have to look into more deeply as we think about public  
816 meetings, which again I don't think anybody is anxious to jump into at this  
817 point in person public meetings, even if we are given the go ahead and  
818 we're going to slowly edge in that direction. Not, not quickly.

819 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Counsel Addona do you have  
820 anything you wanted too add to any of this conversation.

821 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY CHRISTIE ADDONA:** Is meeting, as you  
822 indicated earlier, I'm really depends on the directive from the Governor and  
823 if the, the, he can only by Executive Order issued directives for a period of  
824 days and so the order that originally, I think it was 202.1 there was one of  
825 the first ones issued obviously for St. Patrick's Day or something that  
826 authorized the video conferencing meetings was extended in April, and  
827 then when the three days was up. It was extended again and so that's the  
828 trend to wait close to 30 days so that you get as an Executive Orders on  
829 ones well as possible. And you can administratively extend them.

830 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY CHRISTIE ADDONA:** And so what we've been  
831 seeing with the Executive Orders is that they'll be extended except as  
832 modified by subsequent executive order. You can kind of group a whole  
833 bunch of them together and say that these concepts are extended unless  
834 the Governor has a subsequent order that modifies it and to date. He has  
835 not done that with these zoom meetings. Not specifically zoom meetings  
836 but allowing public meetings under public officers to be held by video or  
837 teleconference except to the extent, then supplemented it by specifically  
838 addressing public hearings and saying that all public hearings can be  
839 suspended. Currently, the same directive until June 6<sup>th</sup> unless they can be  
840 held by video conferencing or teleconferencing then they're allowed to go  
841 forward. So that's what we're working off of right now.

842 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY CHRISTIE ADDONA:** And assuming that stays  
843 in effect. Then, certainly, the board has the discretion to decide if and how  
844 to proceed with transitioning back into in person meetings but you know  
845 that's - that's kind of what we've all been waiting for it to see to confirm that  
846 that's going to happen because it does require planning on the municipal  
847 level because these meetings have to be noticed. And given  
848 circumstances, you know, it might be tough to just walk back into 16 Croton  
849 and all sit around that table so planning has to go into it, especially if when  
850 the boards going to be holding meetings where there were public hearings  
851 are the land use boards they operate by public hearing. So there's a lot that  
852 goes into effect.

853 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY CHRISTIE ADDONA:** But as far as the summer  
854 meeting schedule. You can always re-notice the meetings again. You do  
855 set - set your schedule at the beginning of every year at your organizational  
856 meeting. So we would have to appropriately re-notice that those meetings  
857 are being cancelled. However, you could always re-notice them back in if  
858 need be.

859 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** The thing that freaks me out most  
860 about your statement was St. Patrick's Day. I can't even believe that.

861 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY CHRISTIE ADDONA:** It was when we had that  
862 March 16 meeting when everything kind of... And then that night was the  
863 night that the governor in anticipation, presumably, St. Patrick's Day, shut  
864 down bars and restaurants at eight o'clock that night.

865 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** That's just crazy.

866 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY CHRISTIE ADDONA:** [UNCLEAR] months ago.

867 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** I can't believe it - seems like forever.  
868 In any case, um, okay. So I think that it sounds to me like everybody's in  
869 favor. So, we will move forward in that direction. And again, if you have to  
870 tweak again, we shall. I think that's it so, can I have a motion to go into  
871 Executive Session for personnel, advice of counsel, and contracts?

872 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW, COUNCILMEMBER NORTHERN  
873 WILCHER:** So moved.

874 **COUNCILMEMBER JACKIE SHAW, COUNCILMEMBER NORTHERN  
875 WILCHER:** Second.

876 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** All those in favor?

877 **ALL:** Aye.

878 **SUPERVISOR DANA LEVENBERG:** Thanks so much. Holly. Thanks,  
879 Craig. You guys will sign off from here and go back into our Executive  
880 Session. Okay. Have a great night, everybody. Thanks for joining us, but  
881 don't stop yet, but you guys are trying to join us for our new format for  
882 board meetings and we talked a little bit about the executive order. So, we  
883 will see what happens. We did advocate that extension and we'll see what  
884 happens with that. And we will keep you updated as we learned any  
885 guidelines from the governor's office. Please join us next week, most likely  
886 via zoom for our legislative session next Tuesday, June 9. Have a great  
887 week. Please stay safe. And wear your masks. Wash your hands. Keep  
888 your social distance. Have a great week, everybody. Fill out your [census].