

SPECIAL MEETING

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
16 CROTON AVENUE
OSSINING, NEW YORK 10562
DECEMBER 15, 2009
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR

Catherine Borgia

COUNCILMEMBERS

Geoffrey Harter Michael L. Tawil
David Krieger Northern Wilcher

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

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on December 15, 2009 in the Municipal Building, 1st Floor Conference Room, 16 Croton Avenue, Ossining, New York. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Supervisor Catherine Borgia. Other members present were: Councilmembers Geoffrey Harter, David Krieger, and Michael Tawil. Councilmember Wilcher was absent. Also present were, Wayne Spector Town Attorney, Connie Cerny, Budget Officer, and Ann Marie Rocco, Deputy Town Clerk.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember-elect Peter Tripodi stated that he understands that the Finance IMA meeting has been pushed to January 2010. He also commented that board salaries should be cut further to \$6,000/year for the Councilmembers.

Mr. Tripodi also stated that the total fire department budget is \$729,277 and that the town's portion is \$463,000 which is well over the proper amount and this is not necessarily quite fair.

Supervisor Borgia said that one of the goals of the IMA committee is to try to make the logic and structure of all the IMAs more clear. The group is currently working on the finance/IT IMA and will move on to the others, such as Fire Department and Parks and Recreation IMAs. Supervisor Borgia stated that they are taking a collaborative approach to the long-term needs of the municipality. The Village Corporation Council and Town Attorney have worked very hard on the IMA template. This should smooth the IMA process.

Mr. Jack McPhillips, President of CSEA Westchester Local 860 was present to speak about the Assistant Assessment Clerk position that was recently eliminated due to budgetary constraints. Mr. McPhillips stated that any job elimination is devastating. Mr. McPhillips added that it was the policy of CSEA that current contracts could not be re-opened and the request by the Town that CSEA members take eight furlough days in 2010 was also not possible.

Supervisor Borgia stated that the Town had discussion with all employee groups, including CSEA, Teamsters, PBA, and managers and non-union employees, since Spring of 2009 to determine how to meet the anticipated \$1 million revenue shortfall in 2010. As a result of those talks, the Town had layoffs with the Teamsters and other concessions from the PBA. Town managers/non-union employees agreed to an eight day furlough for 2010. The town understood CSEA's position regarding not opening current contracts; however, the town was asking for concessions for 2010, which is after the current contract's expiration date of December 31, 2009.

Supervisor Borgia stated that the Town had hoped to avoid further layoffs, and regrets the loss of any job and realizes that this will affect the reduction in services.

Supervisor Borgia did confirmed that a Chauffer position will also be eliminated in 2010. She commented that the decision regarding which positions to be eliminated was not made to target a specific individual, but were made solely on the basis of economics and operational considerations. The board looked at which positions in which departments would be least impacted operationally by the position eliminations.

Supervisor Borgia asked Deputy Town Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco to read the letter from CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO dated December 3, 2009. –See Attached letter.

Mr. Michael Duffy was present to speak about the Assessor's Assistant position that was recently eliminated. Mr. Duffy defended his wife as she is a dedicated worker and realizes that she is a thorn in the town's side. Mr. Duffy advised that this situation does bother her because of the way it came about. The Board Members are all elected officials and they do their term and then they leave. Mr. Duffy stated that Mrs. Duffy cared greatly for her job and was good at it, this was her livelihood.

Supervisor Borgia stated that we are in a terrible economic situation. All non-union personnel agreed to an eight day furlough. Non-union personnel have also taken 10% salary reductions. We asked the Union to give a little and we are very sorry that it came to a layoff.

Mr. Michael Duffy Jr., President CSEA for Village employees, thanked the Board for letting him speak. Mr. Duffy is highly disgusted to hear that there are so many layoffs when the Town already contracts ¾ of the Town's services. Mr. Duffy also stated that there are rumors about more layoffs in the Town Highway Department.

Supervisor Borgia confirmed that this is not the case. The two layoffs were completed earlier in 2009 and there are no discussions of further layoffs in the Highway Department for 2010.

Mr. Duffy stated that he is approached on the street by residents stating what a great job my Mom does in the Assessor's office. Mr. Duffy reiterated how disgusted he was on how this situation was handled. Mr. Duffy reminded the Board that when you consolidate the services between the Village and the Town, it does need to go through the Union first.

Councilmember Elect, Peter Tripodi would like to move forward with consolidation. We need to chip away at some of the fees. For example, the annual fee for id's at the recreation center is \$25 for non resident and \$2 for resident. The train station parking is \$380 for resident and \$500 for non-resident. The Town needs to be treated more fairly. The purpose of the IMA's is to voice the important points and to reduce redundancies and work efficiently with the department who owns the work.

III. ADOPTION- 2010 BUDGET

Councilmember Krieger moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Tawil that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the 2010 Budget for the Town of Ossining. Total appropriations for the 2010 entire Town (10) Fund are \$4,843,653. Total appropriations for the Unincorporated (20) Fund are \$3,908,229 and total appropriations for the Highway (31) Fund are \$2,269,803. Total appropriations for the Water and Sewer Funds are \$559,145. Total appropriations for the Fire/Light/Refuse Funds are \$1,231,375. Total appropriations for the Ambulance District is \$485,032.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Councilmember Harter
Councilmember Krieger
Councilmember Tawil
Supervisor Borgia

Councilmember Tawil stated that this budget process was not done in a haphazard way. The Board gave careful consideration to this budget. Tawil stated that the board felt that this is a solid budget and a good budget to weather this storm that is continuing right now.

Supervisor Borgia thanked all the staff members that helped craft the 2010 budget. Every department faced cuts and had to make some very painful choices and decisions in this budget. During these economic times, residents are having a difficult time paying their taxes, and municipalities must be very careful with taxpayer dollars. Borgia commended the excellent group of people who work for the Town and expressed confidence in their abilities to continue their high level of service while working with the limited resources they have in their departments.

IV. ADJOURNMENT –REGULAR WORK SESSION

At 8:00 P.M. Councilmember Tawil moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Harter that the meeting be adjourned to regular work session.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

**CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Town of Ossining Unit # 9182
Revised Contract Proposals
December 3, 2009**

This proposal is submitted as a package deal.

1. Term: 4 year Agreement: January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013.
2. Effective January 1, 2010, Unit members giving up 8 days of lag pay by reducing the bi-weekly pay checks by ½ day over 16 pay periods. Lag pay to be paid to employee at time of separation from employment with the Town of Ossining. No other reductions in the terms and conditions or benefits of the current Agreement or the lay off of the chauffer or any other bargaining unit employees for the remainder of 2010.
Note: Lag pay proposal is contingent on the requirement management and non-represented personnel also taking 8 furlough days in 2010.
3. Effective January 1, 2011, deferred wage increase of 3%. Deferred wage increase to be paid in equal amounts in the next two years. The deferred wage proposal is contingent on 0% wage increase for management and non-represented personnel. If management and non-represented personnel are given wage increases, the same percentages will be given to CSEA bargaining unit members. In that case the deferred amounts for years three and four will be reduced by the percentage of the wage increase.
4. Effective January 1, 2012, wage increase of 3% plus 1 ½ % deferred from 2011.
5. Effective January 1, 2013, wage increase of 3% plus 1 ½ % deferred from 2011.

TOWN OF OSSINING
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