



**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE/COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET
OSSINING, NEW YORK**

**DECEMBER 28, 2010
7:30 P.M.**

**SUPERVISOR
Catherine Borgia**

**COUNCILMEMBERS
Geoffrey Harter Michael L. Tawil
Peter Tripodi Northern Wilcher**

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

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on December 28, 2010 in the Police/Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street in Ossining. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Catherine Borgia. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Michael Tawil, Peter Tripodi and Northern Wilcher were present. Councilmember Geoffrey Harter was absent. Also present were Town Attorney Wayne Spector and Deputy Town Clerk Ann Marie Rocco.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Borgia announced that the inauguration ceremony will take place on January 1, 2011 at the Birdsall-Fagan Police Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street beginning at noon.

Councilmember Tripodi thanked everyone who volunteered at the Baker-Collyer event.

Supervisor Borgia advised that if any one wishes to contribute to the Baker-Collyer fund they can still do so by sending payments to the Supervisor's Office at 16 Croton Ave. 3rd Floor.

Councilmember Tawil thanked the Highway Department for their hard work in keeping the roads clear and safe from our most recent winter storm.

Councilmember Tawil reminded everyone not to drink and drive and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

IV. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Wilcher 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 December 14, 2010 Minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B. Approval of Minutes-Special Meeting

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the December 21, 2010 Minutes of the Special Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

C. November 16, 2010 –Work Session

Councilmember Wilcher 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 Minutes of the November 16, 2010 Work Session as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

D. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated December 28, 2010 in the amount of \$221,471.45

Vote: 4-0-1

Voting Aye: Wilcher,
Harter, Tawil, Borgia

Voting Nay: Tripodi

Councilman Tawil read the statement below:

In municipal government, we pay the bills for essential service, such as employee salaries and benefits, pension, road salt, food for the elderly, tax reductions, street lights, electricity, office supplies, truck parts, and all manner of things that go into the making of a Town by passing what are called “Voucher Detail Reports”. These Voucher Detail Reports are The Town of Ossining paying its bills necessary to operate its day to day functions. In this Voucher Detail Report, for example, we are paying for such things as life insurance premiums for our police officers, our ongoing Stormytown sewer line project, office supplies, and tax refunds for several taxpayers who overpaid their school taxes.

On December 2, 2010, I received an e-mail from Mr. Tripodi. Attached is a copy of the e-mail. In that e-mail, Mr. Tripodi stated that he would be voting against the Voucher Detail Report of 12/28/10. Mr. Tripodi has in the past voted against each and every Voucher Detail Report, with the exception of the Voucher Detail Report that included a property tax reduction for his parent’s house. Mr. Tripodi has in the past justified his no vote, by claiming that he is against what he claims is unjustifiable spending. However, it is clear that this is not the case; this vote shows that it has never really been the case. The Voucher Detail Report which we have voted on today was not even prepared until three weeks after Mr. Tripodi committed to vote against it. However, Mr. Tripodi stated in writing on December 2, 2010 that he would be voting against the town paying our bills today, without even knowing what those bills were, what they were for, how much they were, and who they were being paid to. Mr. Tripodi, who I am told has worked in the debt collection industry, should know that not paying your bills is not sound fiscal policy, and does not in the long run save taxpayer money. It is clear that these votes, and all of the other votes, except when his parents got a tax cut, are politically motivated. I believe that this action by Mr. Tripodi is a total abrogation of our sworn duty to be fiduciaries for the public trust and a betrayal to the taxpayers of this town.

Councilmember Tripodi added that he has abstained more than once on the Voucher Detail Reports. He has asked that the Voucher Detail Reports be posted on the Town's website for everyone to view. Councilmember Tripodi added that the Town has a tenant that owes \$17,000 in rent and feels that we should get the monies that the Town is owed. Councilmember Tripodi stated that he consistently votes no because he believes that the Town Board should work on looking at these figures a little more closely. Councilmember Tripodi takes offense to Councilmember Tawil's statement because he did not vote yes to the Voucher Detail Report that gave his parents a tax refund.

Councilmember Tawil added that the tenant that Councilmember Tripodi is referring to Blueberry Pond and the Board is actually looking into their situation and exploring other options.

Supervisor Borgia advised that the Voucher Detail Report is prepared by the Supervisor's office and the Finance Department and we are looking at putting it on our website. If anyone is interested in reviewing the Voucher Detail Report, the Supervisor's office is happy to pull the report and discuss it further. Supervisor Borgia provided more detail on Blueberry Pond's situation and the Board is looking into other options for the theater such as forming Senior Groups and to try and attract new members. The Board is working with them during this difficult time.

E. Authorizing Clerk to advertise for Bids-Dale Cemetery Columbarium

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for bids for the Dale Cemetery Columbarium, to be returnable no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 in the office of the Town Clerk, 16 Croton Avenue, Ossining, New York.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

V. MONTHLY REPORTS-None

VI. VISITOR RECOGNITION-None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58 P.M. Councilmember Tawil moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

From: Peter Tripodi <ptr.tripodi@gmail.com>
To: Catherine Borgia <CBorgia@townofossining.com>
Cc: Geoffrey Harter <gharter@pace.edu>; Town 3-7 [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Roberts, MaryAnn <MRoberts@townofossining.com>; Wayne Spector <[REDACTED]>; Connie Cerny <CCerny@townofossining.com>; Jane E. Kanning <JKanning@townofossining.com>
Subject: Re: December 28 meeting proposal
Date: Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:38 pm

I will attend but will vote no on the voucher detail reports, i do not want to miss a meeting, even if it is for the voucher detail reports. Please inform me of the time

On 12/2/10, Catherine Borgia <CBorgia@townofossining.com> wrote:
> I'd like to recommend that we cancel the evening board meeting during
> the week between Christmas and New Years (Dec 28), and have a short
> meeting during the day to approve the voucher detail report. I'll need
> 4 members to do this, so that the Town's bills can get paid.

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>
> What's your opinion of this idea and availability during the day of
> 12/28?

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> Thanks,
> Catherine

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> *****
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> Sign Up for Town Updates, News, and Alerts
> <http://www.townofossining.com/info/forms/email_signup.htm>

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> Catherine Borgia
> Supervisor, Town of Ossining
> 914-762-6001
> 914-262-8873 (cell)
> cborgia@townofossining.com

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Peter J. Tripodi IV
(914) 774-0373