



**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE/COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET – OSSINING, NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 19, 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 19, 2018 at the Birdsall-Fagan 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, Northern Wilcher Jr., Elizabeth Feldman and Jackie G. Shaw. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona and Budget Officer Madeline Zachacz.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE MATTER OF *Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to speak on each public hearing.*

At 7:31 p.m. the Public Hearing was open.

- 2019 Cabaret License Renewal for Maya Riviera

Supervisor Levenberg stated that since we have not heard any objections and the Police and Building Department have given their OK, unless my Board colleagues have any questions or concerns, I would like to propose that we add a resolution to continue this Cabaret License for our meeting next Tuesday, February 26th.

No one came to speak on this matter.

At 7:33 p.m. Councilmember Shaw moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that Public Hearing be closed.

At 7:34 p.m. the Public Hearing was open.

- Petition for Extension of the Ossining Consolidated Sewer District- 111 Hawkes Avenue

No one came to speak on this matter.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that our 2nd public hearing of the evening is in consideration of a sewer district extension for the property at 111 Hawkes Avenue. As a reminder, the Board’s role is solely to give permission to the property owner to connect to our system. The expense of engineers, contractors and other specialists are to be borne solely by the applicant.

Again, unless there is some cause for concern from the Board, I would like to propose that we also add a resolution to approve this extension for our meeting next Tuesday, February 26th.

At 7:35 p.m. Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that Public Hearing be closed.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

We have certainly been busy since we have seen you last! The Town Board Meeting and Work Session scheduled for last Tuesday was canceled due to icy road conditions and we held a short Special meeting to pay our bills on Friday morning. Speaking of the weather, we are expecting some snow and ice again tomorrow starting around 12 noon—we are hearing 1-3 inches of snow tapering off into a wintry mix around 8PM. Please check the Town of Ossining website and Town Facebook page for any weather related delays or closures tomorrow or Thursday.

Also last week, we welcomed back Town Clerk Mary Ann Roberts, who has been out on medical leave. We are very glad to have her back in action, and we want to thank her staff, along with Interim Town/Village Clerk, Victoria Cafarelli, for holding down the fort in her absence.

And then, on Saturday, I plunged into the Mighty Hudson with a few dozen friends and neighbors to raise money for Gullotta House and other worthy community organizations. I am proud to say that, at last count, the event raised nearly \$12,000. Special thanks to Matt Gullotta for organizing and to Gareth Hougham, our Town Parks Department, and everyone else who donated or helped out on the day of the event. I am especially proud that a portion of the proceeds was dedicated to the Emergency Shelter Partnership, which provides a warm meal and a safe place to sleep for those individuals among us going without. As donations continue to trickle in, I'm sure I'll have more updates, but I am especially proud to be able to turn over this check to IFCA, who helps to coordinate the Emergency Shelter Program in Ossining.

GIVE KAREN THE CHECK!

Both yesterday and today, I, along with several of my Board colleagues and members of Town staff attended the Association of Towns Annual Meeting in Manhattan. This is a great opportunity for us to learn from the experts, as well as exchange ideas with our neighbors in municipalities from Long Island and Buffalo and everywhere in between. Over the next few weeks, we plan to have a conversation about all that we learned in a Work Session, but one major takeaway for all of us was the potential elimination of AIM funding to local governments. The Town of Ossining receives roughly \$152K annually which offsets some of the spending in our General Fund budget, and the Governor's budget has proposed taking it away. This is problematic for several reasons, the least of which being that we budget on a calendar year and the State does not, which means we will have, in good faith, budgeted for a large revenue source that may not materialize. There is also the fact that this is one of our largest streams of non-property tax revenue, and any reduction will mean a property tax increase for our residents without any corresponding additional services or value. We are feeling squeezed from both sides - while the tax cap is a good idea in theory, it is making us get more creative every year doing more with less. If the State is going to, at the same time, cut the very small stream of revenue they provide to us, they are in effect forcing us to raise property taxes on the local level to make up for the loss. We have many advocates at the State level who are pushing for a restoration of this funding, but so far, the compromise offered will effectively be pitting us against our county to get our fair share. I am hopeful that the folks fighting for us up in Albany will help to bring this to a positive resolution, but this is something we will be watching very closely over the coming weeks.

Two weeks ago, we shared with you that the Village’s Toilet Replacement Program would now be available to Town residents. 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, go to villageofossining.org, find the “Departments” tab and click on “Public Works” to find more information on the TRP program.

As part of their Health and Wellness Series, the Ossining Public Library will be hosting Beverly "Aminata" Spencer for an hour of relaxation and sound healing on February 23rd at 11AM. Check out this ancient approach to health that is regaining popularity in the modern age-- all you have to lose is a little stress!

I want to remind everyone that the Town Board meeting next Tuesday, February 26th, will include a few important items that I want to highlight. We will be having a presentation on the progress of the McCarthy Drive Restoration project, and for that we will be joined by Town/Village Engineer Paul Fraioli, our Highway Superintendent Michael G. O’Connor, and members of the team from our consulting engineer Dolph Rotfeld Engineering. Additionally, we will be opening three very important Public Hearings on Local Laws 1, 2 and 3 of 2019, each of which will be calling for a referendum to eliminate one elected Town position, including Town Clerk, Receiver of Taxes, and Town Superintendent of Highways. We received a grant from the Department of State to get public input on some potential ideas for restructuring departments, some of which we used to hire a consultant who created an informational website about this potential project that we are calling, Project Forward. We asked residents to take a look at some of the proposed ideas and fill out a short survey about what they thought. We also held two Community Conversations at the Ossining Public Library, where we asked to hear from our residents about their impressions of the ideas we’d presented. Calling for these public hearings is a necessary step to take if the community has any desire to go forward with these referenda, as there are certain time restrictions and deadlines at play. The conversation is not over—if you have thoughts on the proposals and have not had a chance to reach out yet, you can email us at TC@townofossining.com with thoughts or questions. If this is the first you’re hearing, I welcome to you check out www.projectforwardtoo.com to read up on the ideas—while the survey is closed, you can still email or call us with your feedback. We look forward to hearing from you on what you think about these ideas that we project will not only make our government more user friendly, but also save our taxpayers some money in the process.

Finally, we want to remind everyone here and watching live that at 10:30AM tomorrow (Wednesday, February 20th), Indian Point will be conducting a full-volume test of their sirens—if you aren’t expecting that sound, it can be quite jarring to say the least.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

VI. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Finance- Capital Project #2018-5218 – Ryder Park Caretakers Cottage Rehabilitation-Town parks

Councilmember Wilcher moved and it was seconded by Councilmember D’Attore that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes opening a 2018 Capital Project #2018-5218, entitled “Ryder Park Caretakers Cottage Rehabilitation”

for the Town Parks Department, with a project budget of \$40,000. The project will be funded from a transfer from General Fund Balance.

Increase:	3707110.200.5218	\$40,000 – Ryder Park Caretakers Cottage
Rehabilitation-Town Parks (Expense)		
Increase:	370050.503110.5218	\$40,000 – Transfer from General Fund-(Revenue)
Increase:	1009901.905	\$40,000 – Transfer to Capital Fund (Expense)
Increase:	100060.4795	\$40,000 – Transfer from Fund Balance (Revenue)

Supervisor Levenberg stated that a project that has been in the Town’s Capital Plan starting in 2018 is the work on the Caretaker’s Cottage at Ryder Park. As we have already expended some funds on asbestos remediation and some hardware, we are backdating this Capital Project to 2018 and will be re-classing the bills we have thus far. The reason for doing this is being able to capture the full cost of a project in one place without having spikes in our operating budget—the same is true of the next resolution, which is a vehicle purchase. Thanks to our Parks crew for working so hard on this project, which will help the Town to be more energy efficient in both the short and long term.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B.Finance- Capital Project #2019-5219 – 2019 Chrysler Pacifica Van-Town Nutrition

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 #2019-5219, entitled “2019 Chrysler Pacifica Van” for the Town Nutrition Department, with a project budget of \$38,400. The project will be funded from a transfer from General Fund Balance.

Increase:	3706772.200.5219	\$38,400 – 2019 Chrysler Pacifica Van-Town Nutrition (Expense)
Increase:	370050.503110.5219	\$38,400 –Transfer from General Fund-(Revenue)
Increase:	1009901.905	\$38,400 – Transfer to Capital Fund (Expense)
Increase:	100060.4795	\$38,400 – Transfer from Fund Balance (Revenue)

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VII.CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

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 hereby accepts the following:

- **Zoning Board of Appeals resolution dated December 17, 2018**

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VIII. MONTHLY REPORTS

IX. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Matthew Gullotta founder of the Gullotta House thanked the Town Board for approving the 2nd annual Polar Plunge at Luis Engle Waterfront Park. Mr. Gullotta stated that this was a huge success and as of now we have raised \$11,310.

On February 20, 2019 we will have our family fun night with the Westchester Knicks. All the children are free and the food is free.

On February 22, 2019 hot meals will be served to families in need at the Family YMCA in Tarrytown.

X.ADJOURNMENT-WORK SESSION

At 7:50 P.M., Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher that the Special Meeting be adjourned to Work Session.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:28 A.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to enter into Executive Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:57 A.M., Councilmember Shaw motioned to leave Executive Session and Councilmember Wilcher seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:

Mary Ann Roberts Town Clerk

- **SUNY NEW PALTZ-Homestead Study-Review & Discussion**