



MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE/COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET – OSSINING, NEW YORK
JANUARY 28, 2020
REGULAR MEETING
7:31 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg

COUNCILMEMBERS
Elizabeth R. Feldman Gregory G. Meyer
Jackie G. Shaw Northern Wilcher, Jr.

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

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on January 28, 2020 in 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 Jackie G. Shaw, Elizabeth R. Feldman, Gregory G. Meyer, and Northern Wilcher Jr. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona, Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli, and Deputy Clerk Martha C. Quituisaca.

Supervisor Levenberg made the following statement: Please remain standing after the pledge for a moment of silence. Yesterday, Alfonso DeCesaris, passed away. Mr. DeCesaris was a prolific painter of Ossining – we are surrounded by his work here in the Courthouse and in so many of our offices and public spaces in Ossining. We thank Mr. DeCesaris for capturing the beauty of our community, and being so generous with his works by donating them to the Ossining Historical Society, Ossining Public Library, and municipal offices. He will certainly live on in his work for many years to come.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg made the following announcements:

We received and shared an update on Friday from the Village of Ossining Water Department regarding the smell and taste issues many residents have been experiencing in recent weeks. The Village of Ossining Water Department also services the unincorporated Town, so I want to be sure everyone heard this update:

Beginning on January 8th, in response to reported taste and odor issues, Ossining began drawing 100% of the community's water supply from the Indian Brook Reservoir. Since that time, we have contracted for and initiated the design of a Powder Activated Carbon System that will address these and similar issues in the future. Powder Activated Carbon (PAC), used in many home filtration systems, is added to the water at the beginning of the treatment cycle and is then removed during the filtration process. Residents can expect for this new treatment process to be fully operational within six weeks.

We have been continuously monitoring the Indian Brook Reservoir levels and have now tapped the Reservoir to 50% capacity on this site. We are thankful to have had this water source as a backup while the system flushed itself out.

Starting at midnight on Sunday, January 26th, we will be reintroducing the Croton Reservoir water back into our system. During this time, you may continue to detect taste and odor issues. However, within the next six weeks, we

anticipate significant improvements concurrent with the use of the Powder Activated Carbon System.

This taste and odor condition has never been experienced during the 33 years of the water treatment plant operation. Further, this is not an issue specific to Ossining but rather one that has affected all municipalities that draw from the Croton Reservoir. Despite the taste and odor, the water has been and remains safe to drink.

We appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience. Please contact the Indian Brook Water Filtration Plant with any questions at 914-941-0128.

Thank you to the Village of Ossining, especially Water Superintendent Andy Tiess and Village Manager Karen D'Attore for keeping us updated regarding this situation.

Yesterday I joined County Executive Latimer and many local elected representatives from Westchester municipalities for an official kick-off of US Census 2020. As we have discussed at our first work session of the year, the Census is mandated by the US Constitution to take place every 10 years. Over \$880 billion federal dollars are distributed based on Census figures, and I do not believe that even includes what happens at the state and County levels. Also, our representation in the County, and in New York State and Washington is determined by the census count. Aid to schools also uses the census count as a part of the formula. So it is critically important that when you get your letter in the mail in March, you respond and answer the 9 simple questions you will be asked. Stay tuned for lots and lots of reminder from us as we work to get the Count right.

And speaking of reminders, here's another one: we are down to the last few days of School Tax Collection! Your second half School Taxes for the Ossining and Briarcliff School Districts are due on January 31st. You can make payment in person, by mail (make sure you witness the postmark) or online at townofossining.com. Do be wary of online bill pay services from your bank -- those mail pieces are not postmarked and if your check is received after January 31st, you will have to pay a penalty. You can also use the dedicated mail slot at the Ossining Post Office. The Tax Office will be open extended hours this Thursday, January 30th and Friday, January 31st from 8am to 6pm. Please call (914) 762-8790 or e-mail Receiver Holly Perlowitz at hperlowitz@townofossining.com. This is a tax payment you do NOT want to be late on as the penalty is 10%! Holly and her team are happy to help you come up with a strategy to ensure your payment is made timely. You can also sign-up for direct messages from Holly at our website.

The Ossining School District's Saturday Explore and Learn series continues this Saturday, and it has been extremely popular. Check out the many fun offerings they have for the whole family at ossiningufsd.org.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's annual Town Meetings kicked off last weekend and will continue with a meeting to be held locally at the Briarcliff Manor Library on Thursday, February 6th at 7pm.

Think you know everything about Ossining? Test your Ossining knowledge at the Ossining Trivia at Sing Sing Kill Brewery on Wednesday, January 29th starting at 7:30pm, hosted by Village Historian Dana White. I hear Town Historian Scott Craven will also be making a special guest appearance with some questions focusing on Hudson River trivia. This event is free to enter and is sure to get pretty competitive!

The Ossining Parent Leadership Group is hosting a Unity Through History Family Conference for All on Friday, January 31st from 6pm to 8:15pm at Park

School. If you are interested in attending, contact Marcela Levin at 762-5850 x6365.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Shaw attended the Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting last night. During the meeting the committee talked about the new Recreation Supervisor hired and the new Sunday hours of the Community Center

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

V. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes—Regular Meeting – January 14, 2020

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the January 14, 2020 minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion: Carried
Abstain: Wilcher

B. Approval of Minutes—Special Meeting – January 21, 2020

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the January 21, 2020 minutes of the Special Meeting as presented.

Motion: Carried

C. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated January 28, 2020 in the amount of \$ 629,646.07.

Motion: Carried

D. Stormwater Management System Maintenance and Easement Agreement – Artis Senior Living

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: This agreement is one of the conditions that was part of Artis Senior Living's site plan approval. It has been reviewed and blessed by our Town Engineer, Dan Ciarcia, so it is good to go.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute a Stormwater Management System Maintenance and Easement Agreement with Artis Senior Living Holdings of Briarcliff Manor, LLC.

Motion: Carried

E. Resignation – Ethics Board

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We recently learned that Chris Komosa, who had served on our Ethics Board for many years is moving out of town and can no longer continue to serve in this role. We thank him for his years of volunteer service to our community and wish him and his family well on their move.

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

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby accepts, with regret, the resignation of Christopher Komosa from the Town Ethics Board, effective January 28, 2020.

Motion: Carried

F. Appointment – Ethics Board

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Luckily, we found an excellent candidate to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Komosa. Daniel and his family recently moved to Ossining, where his wife had grown up, and his professional background as an attorney specializing in ethics issues relating to Federal employees makes him an excellent fit for this board. I'm sure our community will greatly benefit from his volunteerism.

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby appoints Daniel Collado to complete an unexpired term on the Town Ethics Board, ending December 31, 2023.

Motion: Carried

G. Letter of Intent to participate – Westchester County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We were invited to participate in this multi-jurisdictional planning effort, funded by a grant to Westchester County. I believe the first round of this plan was introduced after Hurricane Sandy, and we recently signed on to be part of it. We are now embarking on the next iteration. We know this will help, should we be faced with unexpected disaster, to receive a lot of practical and hopefully financial resources in the event of a hazard.

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign a Letter of Intent to Participate in the Westchester County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion: Carried

H. Resolution Condemning Anti-Semitism and Hate in the Town of Ossining

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: This is a late addition to the agenda, but given that yesterday was Holocaust Remembrance Day, we felt it was most appropriate to include this resolution as part of tonight's meeting as opposed to our first legislative session in February. Now, more than ever, it is important for us all to affirm our commitment to inclusivity and do all in our power to combat hate, all forms of religious discrimination, and

xenophobia. To that end, we are working with our partners in the Village of Ossining, Ossining Public Library, and the NAACP to form a Community Equity Task Force, and we look forward to announcing programming and other initiatives in 2020. We must all do our part to ensure Ossining remains a welcoming place for everyone.

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

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on the principles of religious freedom and the right of all people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, contrary to those principles there has been a significant increase of violent anti-Semitic attacks throughout the United States and particularly New York State's Hudson Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, the FBI notes that nationwide in 2014 609 anti-Jewish hate crime incidents were reported. By 2018 that number increased nearly 40%; and

WHEREAS, the FBI reports that nationally in 2018 there were 7,036 single-bias related incidents that involved 8,327 offenses. Of those, 59.5% stemmed from a race/ethnicity/ancestry bias, 18.6% were motivated by religious bias, and 16.9% resulted from sexual-orientation bias.

WHEREAS, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) which tracks anti-Semitic and other hate incidents, reported that anti-Semitic incidents were at historic levels in the United States in 2018. Occurrences of assaults alone were up 105 % from 2017 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, the ADL states that preliminary analysis of 2019 data shows that New York will have recorded the most anti-Jewish hate crimes since 1992; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2019 five people were tragically stabbed at a Hanukkah celebration in Monsey, NY, in neighboring Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, here in 2019 in Westchester County we were enraged and heartbroken that on the eve of Yom Kippur, the highest of holy days of the Jewish faith, anti-Semitic materials were discovered at the County's Holocaust Garden of Remembrance; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County communities have a long history of standing up, speaking out and protecting Human Rights, and here in the Town of Ossining Town and Village of Ossining are beginning a process to form a Community Equity Taskforce of concerned stakeholders to develop a plan of action focused on sustaining Ossining's culture of compassion and kindness and responding effectively to actions which impact the comfort and safety of all residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ossining is appalled by the anti-Semitic attacks here at home and on our Rockland County neighbors. We stand in solidarity with the people of Yorktown and Monsey and in rejecting all forms of bigotry, hatred, or discrimination of any kind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that hate will have no home in the Town of Ossining. We are committed to promote openness, inclusion, freedom and mutual understanding by ensuring all people who live, work and visit, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or immigration status may live free from violence, harassment or

prejudice. Our Town will make every effort to ensure that our community is one where all people are welcome, included and respected; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town will work with other levels of government and community groups to root out hate and promote understanding. We encourage fellow municipalities to join this resolution and to join forces in ensuring that the vile history of anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance in New York and around the world, ends now and ends here; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Westchester County Board of Legislators and Executive's Office and all those deemed necessary and proper so that the intent of our elected leaders is widely known.

Motion: Carried

VI. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

VII. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to speak

Stanley Dorsinville from Senator Carlucci's Office announced that the Student Advisory Council happening will be on February 6, 2020 at the Ossining Public Library. A Free Naloxone training session will be happening tomorrow January 29, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Ossining Public Library.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to enter into Executive Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:09 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher motioned to leave Executive Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 9:09 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher motioned to adjourn Executive Session and Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously