



MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
IN PERSON AT THE
BIRDSALL-FAGAN POLICE/COURT FACILITY
86-88 SPRING STREET – OSSINING, NEW YORK
AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

February 11, 2025

REGULAR MEETING
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Elizabeth R. Feldman

COUNCILMEMBERS
Gregory G. Meyer Angelo A. Manicchio
Jennifer Fields-Tawil Matthew J. Weiss

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

The Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on February 11, 2025 at Birdsall-Fagan Police/Court Facility 86-88 Spring Street – Ossining, New York, 10562 and via video conference. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Elizabeth Feldman, Members of the Board present were: Deputy Supervisor Gregory G. Meyer, Councilmembers Jennifer Fields-Tawil, and Angelo A. Manicchio. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona, Budget Officer Martha C. Quituisaca and Deputy Town Clerk Jeaneth V. Guinansaca. Councilmember Matthew J. Weiss was not present at the meeting.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- **Local Law of 2025: Regulations regarding Rental of Town Park Areas**

Public Hearing opened at 7:32 PM.

No Comments.

At 7:32 PM Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Manicchio that the Public Hearing be closed.

III. SUPERVISOR AND TOWN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Feldman said:

- **February is the start of Black History Month. Please be sure to enjoy the many events throughout the community, including the offerings at the Ossining Public Library and Bethany Arts Community among others.**
- **Bethany Arts Community is currently running the “Black History & Culture: Eyes Wide Open” art exhibit through March 14th. The Gallery is open Monday-Saturday from 10am-4pm, with curator walkthroughs available on February 15th and 19th at 7pm.**
- **On Saturday February 15th the Ossining Public Library will be hosting “An Afternoon of Live Theater with Sarah Bracey White”. This inspirational show will take place from 2pm-4pm in the Budarz Theatre.**
- **The Westchester County Executive Special Election is today, Tuesday February 11th. You have until 9pm to vote at your regular polling place. If you don’t know where that is please visit the Westchester County website.**

- We are looking for public input regarding possible locations for E-Bike stations in the Town. Please complete the survey online to let your voice be heard. The survey can be found in my supervisor's update or on the Town of Ossining Facebook page.
- Registration for Muscoot Farm's Summer Camps opens tomorrow February 12th. Head over to parks.westchestergov.com for more information on how to register.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation invites everyone to participate in the first Free Fishing Days of the year. This Saturday February 15th and Sunday February 16th anyone can enjoy the freshwater fishing opportunities in New York without a fishing license. For more information, please visit their website at dec.ny.gov
- Join Town Historian Caroline Curvan at Sing Sing Kill Brewery for the continuation of the Craft Cocktails and History program. This program will focus on local historical figures Frederick Philipse III, Thomas Storms, Irvin S. Cobb, and Wooten Wright Hawkes (who the street is named after) on Saturday February 15th at 8pm.
- Teatown is starting up the "Sugaring Days" Events! Learn and experience everything from Tapping to Bottling, open on Saturdays and Sundays starting on February 22nd. If you want your own bottle of syrup from Teatown's own maple trees then join the "Rent-a-Bucket" program. Members will get their own 8-ounce bottle and two tickets to the annual Pancake Brunch on Saturday, March 15th! More information can be found at Teatown.org.
- Westchester Collaborative Theatre is continuing its "Music in the Box" program with the Eddie Allen Quartet on Saturday February 22nd at 7:30pm.
- Westchester County is running a Free Tax Prep program currently running until April 15th. This program is open at 9 different locations including our very own Ossining High School and the Joseph G. Caputo Community Center. For more information, please call 1-800-899-1479.
- Bethany Arts Community will be opening their art workshops for older adults' programs. Please visit their website at Bethanyarts.org for more information.
- Neighbors Link is a great source for information and community resources for our immigrant population. Please visit their website www.neighborslink.org and click Resources to register to attend informational webinars about Knowing Your Rights in English and in Spanish and to find contact information for trusted professionals.
- The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is available to help cover your heating costs for those who meet the application criteria. For assistance, contact the Westchester County Department of Social Service at 914-995-3333.
- As always, our Ossining Public Library will be hosting many events including movies, craft events, meditation, tutoring, yoga, book clubs and more. Please see their website at ossininglibrary.org for more information.
- The Loft LGBTQ+ Community Center has everything from events and programs to resources and presentations all dedicated to providing support to everyone who is a part of the LGBTQ+ Community, including many virtual and in person support groups and clubs for a multitude of different topics. Please check out their website at loftgaycenter.org for more information.
- There are many fun and interesting events being held locally, and you can look at the weekly Supervisor's Update on the Supervisor's webpage to see them.

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

- Councilmember Jennifer Fields-Tawil said that on Thursday March 6 at 7:30 pm is going to be a qualified immunity panel discussion and via zoom. Different panelists will be discussing about the topic.

- Councilmember Angelo Manicchio as part of the Rec Advisory mentioned if there is any resident of the unincorporated part of the Town that would like to join the Rec. Advisory Board the applications can be sent via email the Town Supervisor's office.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address the Board on any of the resolutions on the agenda.

VI. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2025

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the January 28, 2025 minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

B. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

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

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated February 11, 2025 in the amount of \$243,250.66

Motion Carried: Unanimously

C. Recreation Advisory Board – Resignation – Pamela Nelson

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

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Pamela Nelson, Ossining, from her three-year term to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

D. Tax Certiorari – Sleepy Hollow Country Club

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Fields-Tawil that the following resolution be approved.

WHEREAS, Sleepy Hollow Country Club and the Town of Ossining are desirous of having certain assessment litigation issues resolved as to properties owned by Sleepy Hollow Country Club in the Town of Ossining, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ossining has appealed the Trial Decision of Westchester County Supreme Court dated December 20, 2020, reducing the assessed value of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club for the years 2012 to 2016 inclusive, and that appeal has been perfected to the Appellate Division, Second Department, and all briefs and papers have been submitted to the Appellate Division as of May 2023, and the appeal has not been scheduled for oral argument; and

WHEREAS, there are pending tax certiorari proceedings challenging the 2017 to 2024 assessments of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, and

WHEREAS, counsel to the parties to the litigation, which include the Town of Mount Pleasant; the Briarcliff Manor Central School District; the Tarrytowns Union Free School District; and the Pocantico Hills Central School District and the Village of Briarcliff Manor have had access to the financial records of Sleepy Hollow Country Club for all of the years at issue and have negotiated with the attorneys for Sleepy Hollow Country Club and have reached agreement on a global settlement for all years at issue, and

WHEREAS, a settlement proposal resolving pending tax certiorari litigation was recommended by the Vincelette Law Firm, special counsel to the Town of Ossining, and reviewed by the Ossining Town Board at its regular meeting, and

WHEREAS, such a proposed settlement would present the parties with an expeditious and economic alternative to further litigation so as to resolve issues between the parties, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the proposed settlement is in the best interests of the Town; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby accept a proposed settlement for the 2012 to 2016 tax certiorari proceedings before the Appellate Division and the 2017 to 2024 tax certiorari proceedings before Westchester County Supreme Court in which the assessments for the 2012 to 2016 as adjudicated by Westchester County Supreme Court shall be accepted and refunds processed consistent with those reductions, and interest shall be paid by the Town of Ossining based upon its proportionate share of the total refund liability from a sum certain of \$200,000, said interest payment being in the amount of \$3,705.40,

and it is further

RESOLVED, that the assessments for the years 2017 to 2024 shall be revised according to the schedule annexed hereto at Exhibit A, and refunds shall be paid by the Town based upon those reductions with Sleepy Hollow Country Club waiving interest on those payments, and the total refund payment for the years 2012 to 2024 from the Town of Ossining shall be in the amount of \$21,513.74, for a total of \$25,219.14;

and it is further

RESOLVED, that the assessments as set forth in the year 2024 shall remain unchanged for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027 subject to the terms of Real Property Tax Law §727;

and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby adopt this resolution to end the litigation between Sleepy Hollow Country Club and the Town of Ossining as to the above referenced assessments and authorizes counsel for the Town to execute the attached Consent Judgment to be submitted to Westchester County Supreme Court approving the settlement.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

E. Finance- 2025 Highway Electric Vehicle and Parks Equipment Capital Project #2025-5263

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Fields-Tawil that the following resolution be approved.

Supervisor Feldman commented that Ossining has become a bronze community with all the green activities that we have done over the years to improve our community, our parks, has help the pocketbooks. All this new project will continue improving the community.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes adopting the 2025 Capital Project #2025-5263, entitled “2025 Electric Vehicle and Equipment” for the Town Highways and Parks Department, with an project budget of \$100,000 for the planning and purchasing of an electric vehicle, equipment, and associated charging capabilities. The capital project will be funded from a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Grant (NYSERDA).

<u>Increase Capital Projects Fund Appropriations:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
370 5110.200.5263	2025 Electric Vehicle and Equipment	\$ 66,780.00
370 7110.200.5263	2025 Electric Vehicle and Equipment	<u>33,220.00</u>
Total Capital Projects Fund Appropriations		\$100,000.00
<u>Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
370 0400.308900.5263	NYS NYSERDA Grant	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
Total Increase to Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues		\$100,000.00

Motion Carried: Unanimously

F. Finance- 2025 Parks Bobcat Track Loader Capital Project #2025-5264

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Fields-Tawil that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes adopting the 2025 Capital Project #2025-5264, entitled “2025 Parks Bobcat Track Loader” for the Town Parks Department, with a project budget of \$76,853.14 for purchase of the equipment and pallet fork. The capital project will be funded from a transfer from General Fund Balance.

<u>Increase Capital Projects Fund Appropriations:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
370 7110.200.5264	2025 Parks Bobcat Track Loader	<u>\$76,853.14</u>
Total Capital Projects Fund Appropriations		\$76,853.14
<u>Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
370 0500.503100.5264	I/F Transfer General Fund	<u>\$76,853.14</u>
Total Increase to Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues		\$76,853.14
<u>Increase General Fund Appropriations:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
100 9550.905	I/F Transfer-Capital	<u>\$76,853.14</u>
Total Increases to General Fund Appropriations		\$76,853.14
<u>Increase General Fund Estimated Revenues:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
100 600.4795	General Fund Balance	<u>\$76,853.14</u>
Total Increase to General Fund Estimated Revenues		\$76,853.14

Motion Carried: Unanimously

G. Resolution – Declaration of Surplus

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Fields-Tawil that the following resolution be approved.

WHEREAS, for many years the Cemetery Department has had a Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader (Model S510 T4); and

WHEREAS, the Bobcat has depreciated considerably and has exceeded its useful life; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has authorized the purchase of similar new equipment for the Parks Department that can be shared with the Cemetery Department, which two departments already shares services; and

WHEREAS, there are no other Town departments or staff that can utilize the Bobcat as part of Town operations; and

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby declares the Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader (Model S510 T4) surplus Town property for which the Town has no use.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

H. Finance- 2025 Highway Asphalt Roller Capital Project #2025-5265

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Fields-Tawil that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes adopting the 2025 Capital Project #2025-5265, entitled “2025 Highway Asphalt Roller” for the Town Highway Department, with a project budget of \$36,475.22 for purchase of the equipment. The capital project will be funded from a transfer from Highway Fund Balance.

<u>Increase Capital Projects Fund Appropriations:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
370 5110.200.5265	2025 Highway Asphalt Roller	\$36,475.22
Total Capital Projects Fund Appropriations		\$36,475.22
<u>Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
370 0500.503131.5265	I/F Transfer Highway Fund	\$36,475.22
Total Increase to Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues		\$36,475.22
 <u>Increase General Fund Appropriations:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
310 9550.905	I/F Transfer-Capital	\$36,475.22
Total Increases to Highway Fund Appropriations		\$36,475.22
 <u>Increase General Fund Estimated Revenues:</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
310 600.4795	Highway Fund Balance	\$36,475.22
Total Increase to General Fund Estimated Revenues		\$36,475.22

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VII. MONTHLY REPORTS

Councilmember Meyer moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Fields-Tawil that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby accepts the following monthly reports for the month of January 2025:

- Dale Cemetery
- Supervisor's Office
- Town Highway

Motion Carried: Unanimously

VIII. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address the Board on issues not relating to the agenda, but of relevance to the common good of the Town.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for matters of Contracts and Advice of Counsel and Councilmember Weiss seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:50 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to leave Executive Session and Councilmember Manicchio seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:50 P.M., Councilmember Meyer motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting and Councilmember Manicchio seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:



Susanne Donnelly, Town Clerk