

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Meeting
Monday, April 28, 2021, 8:00 a.m., Zoom

MEETING MINUTES (Revised)

The following people acknowledged their presence remotely:

Board of Trustees: Matthew Weiss, President; Alice Joselow, Vice President; Cecilia Quintero, Secretary; Amanda Curley, Althema Goodson, Shandi Speller. Lucinda Manning was absent.

Staff: Karen LaRocca-Fels, Director; Kathy Beirne, Secretary to Library Director

Call to Order

At 8:06 a.m. President Matthew Weiss called the April 28, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was virtually recited by those participating.

Old Business

- Request for Library Tax Exemption of Village Owned Water Properties

The water treatment parcels outside the Town (Village owned) are taxed according to their value. As the parcels are improved their value increases and the tax on the properties increases. This increase in taxes would then be passed along to the taxpayers.

The Village is asking that the water properties be made tax exempt. This would cause the taxes to be re-distributed but at a much lower rate to all Ossining taxpayers.

Much discussion continued by the Board.

Resolution

RESOLUTION #96 – BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVAL TO EXEMPT FROM LIBRARY TAXES LANDS OWNED AND USED BY THE VILLAGE OF OSSINING FOR WATER SUPPLY AND RELATED PURPOSES PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 406(3)

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law section 406(3) provides in part, “real property owned by a municipal corporation having a population of less than one hundred thousand or a population of two hundred twenty-five thousand or more but less than three hundred thousand used as a water plant, pumping station, water treatment plant, water shed or reservoir, including

necessary connections and appurtenances shall be wholly or partially exempt from special ad valorem levies and special assessments, by any municipal corporation in which located, provided the governing board thereof shall so agree in writing”; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ossining (“Village”) has discussed with representatives of the Ossining Public Library (“Public Library”) having the Public Library formally declare that certain Village-owned parcels located in the unincorporated portion of the Town of Ossining be declared exempt from taxes to be paid to the Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the below-described parcels contain the Indian Brook Reservoir, the filtration plant and the location of the planned new filtration plant, pumping facilities, water storage, appurtenant piping and watershed buffering lands, all of which are integral to the Village providing adequate water resources for drinking and fire protection throughout the entirety of the Town of Ossining; and

WHEREAS, the Public Library has determined that declaring the below-described Village-owned parcels as tax exempt is warranted;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following parcels are declared as tax exempt as relate to Public Library taxes:

Unincorporated Portion of the Town of Ossining

- 80.11-1-66 (Old Albany Post Road)
- 80.14-2-11 (25 Fowler Avenue)
- 80.15-1-1 (25 Reservoir Road)
- 80.15-1-2 (Old Albany Post Road)
- 80.15-1-3 (Old Albany Post Road)
- 81.17-1-66 (13 Bracken Road)
- 80.11-1-67 (Waterview Drive)
- 90.10-3-37 (17 Cooper Drive)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the exemption from Public Library taxes for the above-referenced properties shall be without prejudice to the Public Library reviewing the issue of the tax exempt status within twelve months from the date of the exemption’s effective date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Library clerk shall transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Westchester County Department of Finance, Town of Ossining Assessor, the Town of Ossining Receiver of Taxes, the Ossining Union Free School District and the Village of Ossining Treasurer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Ossining Assessor shall make appropriate notations in the respective tax assessment rolls that the above-referenced parcels are tax exempt as relate to the Public Library taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax-exempt status of the above-referenced parcels shall be effective April 20, 2021.

Alice Joselow moved and Cecilia Quintero seconded the motion to approve Resolution #96.

Yea 2 votes
Nay 3 votes
Abstain 1 vote

The Resolution failed to pass.

Adjournment

8:31 a.m. Alice Joselow moved and Amanda Curley seconded the motion to adjourn the April 28, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Beirne
Secretary to Library Director