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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 17, 2017

2:30 A.M.

BEFORE: ANTHONY J. SANTINO,

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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- SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY
- COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO
- COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN
- COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO
- COUNCILMAN DUNNE
- COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY
- RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN
- CLERK AHMAD
- DEPUTY TOWN CLERK DIANA MULLER
- TOWN ATTORNY RA
- COMPTROLLER CONROY
- ACTING DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Welcome to the
2 Town Board Meeting.

3 I ask Councilman Dunne to lead us in
4 the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5 (Whereupon, Councilman Dunne, led the
6 assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After,
7 the following ensued.)

8 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was
9 observed for William Hendrick, Mayor of the
10 Incorporated Village of Lynbrook and Deputy
11 Town Attorney. After, the following ensued.)

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, thank you
13 very much.

14 The first item we are going to call,
15 Madam Clerk, the Atlantic Beach item.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed assessment roll
17 - Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation
18 District - for fiscal year commencing January
19 1, 2018.

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
21 that would like to be hard on the Greater
22 Atlantic Beach Water District?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
24 are we able to vote on this, now or rather at
25 7:00 o'clock?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, I believe,
2 subject to correction by the Town Attorney, I
3 believe we can only adjourn it, at this
4 point.

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move we
6 adjourn this matter until 7:00 p.m.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there a
8 second?

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
10 the motion.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

19 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

21 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilman

22 Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman King-Sweeney?

25 COUNCILMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
2 please.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Preliminary Budget -
4 TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD - for fiscal year
5 commencing January 1, 2018.

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6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, we have -
7 - and, again, it is my understanding this is
8 a two-part Hearing.

9 We have those individuals that have
10 asked to speak who have signed in relative to
11 the Budget; Mary Ellen Kreye?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
13 point of order, as a Council Member, I have a
14 number of questions and it has always been
15 the procedure of this Board that Members of
16 the Board get to make their inquiries with
17 respect to the proposed Budget before there
18 is comment, for a lot of different reasons,
19 the most important reason is that it give the
20 opportunity to the people who are, here,
21 today, that are watching or listening to the
22 presentation, to ask questions after the
23 Council Members ask questions, so, they are
24 more informed about what the budget is about.

25 So, I would request that we adhere

1 to our longstanding policy and let the Board
2 Members make inquiries, first, so - - since
3 we are the ones that are voting on it.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you,
5 Councilman; having sat on this Board for
6 twenty-four years, that is not my
7 recollection of the policy.

8 And, I Chair the meeting, so, Mary
9 Ellen Kreye.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of order,
11 the Budget hasn't been read, yet, I think
12 that there should be a presentation to the
13 public with respect to the Budget, so that
14 the public has, at least, some idea of the
15 importance issues that are involved in the
16 budget.

17 Certainly, we don't have to read all
18 one hundred - - excuse me, two hundred and
19 one pages, but, obviously, the people are
20 going to ask questions, they should, at least
21 know what is in it.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Councilman, the
23 budget has been published.

24 It has been on file in the Clerk's
25 Office.

1 We will move ahead. Ms. Kreye, go
2 ahead, please.

3 Name and address for the record,
4 please.

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5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye.
6 436 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

7 I would like to know which Department
8 is responsible for painting the Water Towers,
9 please.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, the
11 question was, which Department is responsible
12 for painting the Water Towers?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be the
14 Water Department.

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Water Department
16 and also, the maintenance?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Same, Water
18 Department.

19 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you. Um,
20 Uniondale Fire Protection District, is that
21 in this budget, I did not have an opportunity
22 to see?

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes, it is.

25 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Yes and how has it

1 | been disposed, please?

2 | COMPTROLLER CONROY: I believe it is
3 | in the back of the budget.

4 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: To what Department
5 | has it been disposed, please?

6 | SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I don't quite
7 | follow you, how do you mean that, "disposed"?

8 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: Um, when in
9 | previous years Westbury Fire Department has
10 | been, um, contracted to Supervisors, there.

11 | SUPERVISOR SANTINO: To the best of my
12 | knowledge, the only entity that bids on that
13 | contract was Westbury.

14 | It remains with Westbury.

15 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: Which is in
16 | litigation, in any case, Uniondale Fire
17 | Department - -

18 | SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am unaware of
19 | that.

20 | TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am unaware of
21 | that, either.

22 | Uniondale Fire Department did not bid
23 | on the Fire Protection District.

24 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

25 | Um, is there any decrease in the

1 amount for publications?

2 I know you made a big issue of
3 downsizing the budget and I know the
4 publications are intense.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy?

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be a
7 line item on the funds for printing and yes,
8 there is some we would have to go through
9 each one, funds for the overall increase.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, your general
11 impression?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: General
13 impression would be overall budget has been
14 reduced by 3.7 million dollars, so, overall,
15 I would say, it would stand to reason it
16 would be decreased.

17 However, it is subject to check.
18 Again, it is dispersed without the budget,
19 each one of the funds within those funds,
20 each of the individual departments.

21 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Being specific, how
22 about the Travel and Recreation publication
23 that is put out monthly?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't
25 understand the question.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 MARY ELLEN KREYE: There is a monthly
2 publication of a calendar of events
3 throughout the Town.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is the
5 Department of Tourism.

6 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Right.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That doesn't get
8 mailed out.

9 That gets, I believe, dropped off at
10 libraries, hotels and things of that nature.

11 I believe what Ms. Kreye is referring
12 to is in the Department of Tourism.

13 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you and to
14 your knowledge, Mr. Supervisor Santino, is
15 there any downsizing of the publication
16 budget for your Department?

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Well, again, I
18 believe the Comptroller answered that but I
19 will refer to him.

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The Department of
21 Tourism advertising and promotion is fifty
22 thousand dollars.

23 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Is this a decrease
24 as far as you know?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: In this regard,

1 it is an increase.

2 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Increase.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
4 I have to tell you until I read the budget, I
5 wasn't aware that we had a Department of
6 Tourism, maybe somebody could explain exactly
7 what they do and before they do that, Mr.
8 Conroy, could you tell us - -

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Blakeman, we
10 are answering Ms. Kreye's questions.

11 We are going to go through the members
12 of the public, so, she will get the answers
13 from Mr. Conroy, so, it is Ms. Kreye's time
14 to ask her questions.

15 I believe we answered the questions
16 with respect to the Department of Tourism?

17 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Yes.

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Go ahead.

19 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Your Department,
20 the publications from the Supervisor's Office
21 - -

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy?

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: There is no line
24 item for that.

25 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, where do those

1 Publications come from?

2 Where is the line item, please?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be in
4 the General Fund in General Services.

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5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, is there any
6 increase, decrease or did it stay the same?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It stayed the
8 same.

9 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Same since when?

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Lucille Defina?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Since when has
13 it stayed the same?

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are going to
15 hear from the public, Lucille Defina. You
16 can ask at a later point.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think it
18 deserves an answer and I don't think that was
19 the right answer.

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I believe it was
21 the right answer. She was satisfied.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Defina, come
23 forward, please.

24 LUCILLE DEFINA: There is a new line
25 item - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and address
2 for the record.

3 LUCILLE DEFINA: Lucille Defina,
4 Merrick.

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5 There is a new line item for
6 "Maintenance Mechanic" at the Animal Shelter
7 for eighty-three thousand dollars, is that
8 one person making eighty-three thousand
9 dollars?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: If you direct me
11 to the page and item that you are referring
12 to?

13 LUCILLE DEFINA: Well, Page 233 and
14 the Item would be "Maintenance Mechanic I."

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: "Maintenance
16 Mechanic I" was budgeted in '17 for eighty-
17 three thousand thirteen, same number budgeted
18 for in, and, so, it is not new.

19 It existed in the '17 budget.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Ms.
21 Defina, you said Page 233?

22 LUCILLE DEFINA: Yes.

23 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mine goes
24 up to 207, I wasn't given a "final."

25 Does everyone on the Board have a

1 "Final"?

2 Councilman Blakeman, do you have a
3 "final" budget?

4 Mine only goes up to 207. Are all
5 these other Members "finals"?

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The numbers we
7 are discussing are in the preliminary budget
8 which was given out.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: So, it was
10 just given out?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, it was given
12 out - -

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I was
14 given this.

15 I was given the tentative, so, these
16 numbers aren't good?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: These numbers are
18 good.

19 Nothing has changed.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Extra 30
21 pages - -

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The extra 30
23 pages is all graphs and whatnot.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: But, it is
25 about the Animal Shelter, that is my

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District.

LUCILLE DEFINA: You would think that you would need that.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: So, the question was answered, Ms. Defina.

LUCILLE DEFINA: I don't know. I have, um, I have the budget from last year for 2017 budget, I am looking at it.

It was on Page 236 for the, um, title descriptions and the salaries and the wages and I don't see it in here, the Mechanic Maintenance making eighty-three, so, I don't know what I am missing.

Maybe someone can show me. It is not, here in the 2017 budget.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, can you address that?

COMPTROLLER CONROY: What we have here is "Maintenance Mechanic I" was, in fact, budgeted in '17 to be 83,001.

For a total budgeted positions, Animal Shelter in 2017, thirty-seven.

Total budgeted positions in '18, thirty-seven.

No vacancies in this budget.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of
2 information, is there any difference between
3 the preliminary budget and the so called,
4 "final" budget?

5 LUCILLE DEFINA: Maybe that is it, I
6 am looking at.

7 There is nothing in, here, for
8 "Maintenance Mechanic."

9 It just kind of popped up in this
10 year's budget.

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: There is, um, to
12 answer Councilman's question, there is no
13 change of any of the numbers in here.

14 The difference between the preliminary
15 and tentative budget, the preliminary budget
16 did not have associated graphs and schematics
17 but the dollars have not changed.

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Defina, we
19 can ask the Comptroller as many times as you
20 want, he is indicating as the Comptroller of
21 the Town of Hempstead that the line item for
22 that "Maintenance Mechanic" position was
23 included in the previous budget meaning for
24 '17 and it is the same in '18.

25 The number of employees in '17 was

1 37. Number of employees in '18, 37.

2 LUCILLE DEFINA: So, can you confirm
3 it is just not - - it was not in print
4 because I have a book, 2017 for the budget
5 and it is not, here.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: What you are
8 looking at is the 2017 budget as adopted.

9 During the course of '17, there are
10 amendments made, people take positions.

11 People leave positions so, in the '18
12 budget, in the '17 column, if you note on
13 top, 2017, amended budget, so, in '17 during
14 the course of the year, that position was
15 filled, which is why in the '18 budget, you
16 have it as a full position in '17, as well
17 as, in '18.

18 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, during the
19 course of the year a new position popped up,
20 a new person came into the Animal Shelter,
21 the position that was never there before and
22 that person, whoever this is, is making
23 eighty-three thousand dollars, one person at
24 the Animal Shelter for "Mechanic Maintenance"
25 position, so, I got it right, correct?

1 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Subject to check
2 but it is all based on the needs during the
3 course of '17, during the course of the year,
4 there was a need and that position was
5 filled.

6 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, that position
7 was never needed before?

8 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Never
9 contemplated during the 2017 - -

10 LUCILLE DEFINA: Brand new position,
11 Maintenance person came on for eighty-three
12 thousand dollars for the maintenance at the
13 Animal Shelter, okay, thank you.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I need
15 clarification.

16 I am looking at what was given to me,
17 "tentative budget", 206, 207, that is what I
18 was given and then 206 and 207, is this
19 totally different and then my math is not
20 great, I am missing 61 pages.

21 I don't know if all of this prior to
22 206, what is the same?

23 See, they are totally different.
24 (Indicating.)

25 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: The dollars and

1 the positions and the line items and the
2 contractual expenses, nothing has changed.

3 The difference of the two books is,
4 the initial book, which is what you have,
5 apparently and you got the second book,
6 again, had narratives in the front and graphs
7 in the front and - - which is why the pages
8 are - - the numbers of the pages are
9 different.

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10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If you took out
11 pages, how come there are more pages in the
12 book that they were supposed to take things
13 out of and there are less pages in the ones
14 that had that information?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is just the
16 opposite, Councilman.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, it is not.
18 I am looking at it right, now.

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: "Tentative
20 Budget."

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How many pages
22 are in the proposed budget?

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let - - let him
24 answer the question before we ask him
25 questions.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How many pages
2 are in the proposed budget?

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Explain, again,
4 Mr. Conroy.

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Tentative budget
6 which is what the Clerk handed you, I believe
7 on October the 8th or the 4th, I maybe
8 mistaken, there, that budget did not include
9 graphs and narratives that were developed
10 subsequent to that.

11 Those graphs and narratives are
12 included in the preliminary budget.

13 So, the preliminary budget, the
14 numbers of pages in the preliminary budget
15 are greater than the pages in the narrative.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, why weren't
17 Members of the Board given that information?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have no idea.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I will ask the
20 Supervisor why wasn't that information given
21 to us?

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: It is not handled
23 by my office.

24 It is handled by the Comptroller's
25 Office.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

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So, you have to ask him.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I thought you said you are in charge of this meeting.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Dissemination of the budget books falls to the Comptroller's Office.

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Who on the Town Board received - -

COMPTROLLER CONROY: If I may, Councilwoman, this is very important to me and this Department, we did deliver those budget - - preliminary budget to each one of the Council Members.

Now, if they went to Aides or whatever, they may not have gotten to you.

I don't know.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: When was that delivered?

COMPTROLLER CONROY: Last week.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Once, again, the numbers are the same.

Okay, Ms. Defina, do you have anything else?

LUCILLE DEFINA: When you say the numbers are the same, the preliminary budget

1 that you are talking about, this is a budget
2 of last year for salaries and wages is
3 twenty-two million nine hundred and seventy
4 and change, that is - - it is kind of dark
5 in here, I can't see the little numbers, but,
6 the new one is over three million.

7 Um, it looks like three million and
8 sixteen.

9 It is not exactly the same.

10 And, it went up.

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I meant the
12 numbers between the two books, not the
13 numbers from year to year, those change.

14 LUCILLE DEFINA: Right, okay.

15 It went up.

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Right, when I
17 said, the numbers are the same, it is between
18 the two books dealing with the '18 Budget,
19 not comparing '17 to '18 because those
20 numbers, certainly, change - -

21 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: - - From year-
23 to-year.

24 LUCILLE DEFINA: Wages and salaries
25 have gone up and a big part of it is a

1 brand new person who is a maintenance person
2 making eighty-three thousand.

3 I mean, it is not like it is a
4 Behaviorist or a Vet Tech or something that
5 has to do with animals.

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6 We are talking about the
7 maintenance/handyman guy making eighty-three
8 thousand dollars.

9 I mean, who made the decision to hire
10 this person?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, if I
12 may, it is subject to check, this was a
13 transfer from the General Services Department
14 to the Animal Shelter where they need existed
15 and the need in the General Service area was
16 lessened, so, this is all subject to check.

17 So, I think it is a little premature
18 to take the position that this was a new
19 hire.

20 It could have very well been a
21 transfer but, again, subject to check.

22 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, again, yes,
23 subject to check and could very well be this
24 and very well could be that, you know to have
25 a position that was never there before, never

1 needed before and suddenly appears.

2 I mean, it is not like it is a forty
3 thousand dollar salary.

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: I wouldn't take
5 the position it is not needed with the
6 expansion and capital money that we put in
7 the Animal Shelter, the maintenance of said
8 expansion and capital was needed.

9 I would say it was probably needed.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Do you have
11 anything to add to this discussion?

12 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes,
13 Supervisor, we do not hire Maintenance
14 Mechanics at eighty-three thousand dollars to
15 start.

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, it is a
17 transfer from somewhere else.

18 LUCILLE DEFINA: But, it is still goes
19 into the Animal Shelter and it raises that
20 budget and we have a problem getting a
21 qualified, experienced Behaviorist for that,
22 for less than that.

23 So, it is very strange, I would think.

24 Thank you.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

1 Valerie Lamp?

2 VALERIE LAMP: Good Afternoon.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Good Afternoon.

4 Name and address for the record,
5 please.

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6 VALERIE LAMP: Valerie Lamp. 2506
7 Lakeside Drive in Baldwin.

8 Um, I was reminded of this old adage
9 from Yogi Berra which states, "If you don't
10 know where you are going, you will wind up
11 some place else."

12 I like that one. I am having a hard
13 time just as an average everyday taxpayer
14 that, um, there seems to be a lot of
15 controversy and discrepancy among what we are
16 told, what is advertised in all of these
17 mailers, um, T.V. commercials, sponsored
18 advertisements, on Instagram and FACEBOOK,
19 so, I am just trying to get a handle on it
20 once and for all.

21 I am a simple girl.

22 Um, I got a call about two weeks ago
23 from the campaign headquarters, which I
24 understand, I am a registered Republican.

25 And, um, the poor, young lady that was

1 reading a script was telling me there is a
2 five million dollar surplus and, then, I see
3 - - I have seen, prior to this, um, our
4 Comptroller stating that there is a six
5 million dollar deficit.

6 So, on one hand, I get these mailers
7 and T.V. commercials turned around a 23.5
8 million dollar deficit and we have this
9 awesome surplus.

10 But, then, I see from the Comptroller,
11 a six million dollar stated deficit, audited
12 financials are coming out, other people are
13 saying fifty-two million dollar deficit on
14 Open Book New York.

15 So, just somebody, anybody, the
16 Comptroller, please, Supervisor Santino,
17 anyone, my Councilman, for, now, Councilman
18 D'Esposito, someone, please tell me what is
19 the bottom line?

20 What is the truth?

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller,
22 reference the numbers that Ms. Lamp is
23 referring to.

24 Reference the 2016 Operational Budget,
25 if you could.

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Talk about that.

COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct,
Supervisor and this can be confusing and I
think we have laid this out in the past.

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So, essentially, what this is all
about is that the municipality, the Town of
Hempstead needs to file on an annual basis,
what is known as an Annual Update Document to
the State Comptroller, duly filing time by
April 30, 2015 for the calendar year 2016.

As I have mentioned at previous
meetings, it is not an audited financial
statement and it does not conform to
generally accepted accounting principles.

It is configured and mandated by the
State Comptroller so as to achieve uniformity
filing with the State Comptroller with all
municipalities.

That shows a 52.2 million dollar
deficit.

The reason for that deficit is,
approximately, 45.7 million dollars of
capital expenditures in '16.

We did not go into the bond market
until '17 was part of the deficit.

1 Once we were in the bond market,
2 February, '17 that winds it out.

3 So, what you need to look at are the
4 audited financial statements by a CPA firm,
5 which we employ AVZ, in that regard.

6 VALERIE LAMP: And, so - -

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let him finish.

8 VALERIE LAMP: I am sorry, I thought
9 that he was finished.

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I prefaced this,
11 I said this is somewhat complicated, so, a
12 note from AUD of 52.7 and, then, you have 6.1
13 - - 6.1 million dollars is an audited
14 financial for the Town for 2016, that is a
15 real number.

16 That is the number to go by.

17 VALERIE LAMP: Deficit, I am asking is
18 that a deficit?

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: If you allow me
20 to finish.

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let him finish.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is generally
23 accepted accounting principles which is what
24 the law conforms to in terms of measuring the
25 financial liability of an entity.

1 Now, we have said that there were two
2 items that was included in that deficit that
3 had they not happened, we would have a five
4 million dollar, I am qualifying this
5 statement, operational surplus.

6 Those two items were one time items,
7 one was the forgiveness of debt on a garbage
8 tax case which we had a judgment with Judge
9 Morano in July of 2015, where recognizing
10 that the County was probably not going to pay
11 us timely, we forgave 7.4 million dollars.

12 That added to the deficit.

13 In addition to that, the Highway
14 Department had an inventory write-off of 3.7.

15 Again, if you factor those two items
16 out, you end up with and I am qualifying the
17 statements, all of our publications are
18 qualifiers, an operational surplus of five
19 million dollars.

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: What that means,
21 Mr. Comptroller, the budget in 2016, the end
22 of 2015, actually, was functional in 2016
23 called for the use of twenty-three and a half
24 or a little bit more in Fund Balance in order
25 to be balanced and be operational and

1 function.

2 But, what actually happened, not only
3 was that twenty-three and a half million
4 dollars of Fund Balance not used, five
5 million dollars was actually audited to the
6 Fund Balance.

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7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Operational.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Operational.

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Operational.

10 VALERIE LAMP: So, what I am hearing
11 if this happened, if that didn't happen if
12 Woody would have gone straight to the police,
13 we would have, then, a balanced budget, that
14 is what I am hearing.

15 Am I wrong?

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes, you are
17 wrong.

18 VALERIE LAMP: Okay.

19 So, anyway, I got two minutes and
20 forty-one seconds left.

21 I would like to give my time to
22 Councilman Blakeman.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, there is no
24 ceding time.

25 VALERIE LAMP: I am illegal, too.

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I am wrong.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There is no ceding of time.

VALERIE LAMP: Okay, I guess - - you know what, I reserve the rest of my questions later.

Thank you.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay. Ann Meyers?

This is the budget hearing. No, so, what is that?

(Whereupon, "for all day," was heard calling out from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Right, now, we are in the budget hearing.

We will adjourn in a little bit until this evening on the budget.

There is one other item on the calendar that has to do with proposed legislation relative to mailings.

What is on the calendar, what is under consideration right, now, is the budget.

(Whereupon, "I understand, that is what I am asking, when is the perfect time

1 to ask questions," was called out from the
2 audience. After, the following ensued.)

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: If it is not
4 related to the budget or not related to the
5 mailings, today is not the time.

6 Our next regular meeting is November
7 the 14th, correct me if I am wrong, okay.

8 Diane Madden?

9 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden,
10 Hempstead.

11 Um, with the Animal Shelter, lots of
12 questions, here.

13 Page 124, equipment went from, looks
14 like twenty-five hundred to forty-five
15 hundred.

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there a
17 question, there?

18 DIANE MADDEN: Yes.

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Essentially, that
20 line item, maintenance/equipment takes care
21 of maintenance of dishwashers, washing
22 machines, etc., all type of equipment and the
23 spending trend has gone up and it has been
24 budgeted for in accordance with the spending
25 trend.

1 The equipment is getting older.

2 The equipment is also increasing, as
3 well.

4 DIANE MADDEN: They fixed the dryer
5 that has been broken for two years.

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have no
7 knowledge of that.

8 DIANE MADDEN: There is also an
9 increase of office expense.

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is spending
11 trends which includes cartridges, pens,
12 pencils, file folders and the like.

13 It is equipment for the Animal Shelter
14 in accordance with their needs.

15 DIANE MADDEN: Pens and pencils.

16 The Director tells the staff and
17 volunteers there is no money for milk
18 bottles.

19 Um, the item, "fees and services,"
20 went up substantially from two hundred and
21 seventy-five thousand to three hundred and
22 forty thousand.

23 Do you have a rundown of specifically
24 those expenses?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Dr. Zinn, ninety-

1 four thousand; Behaviorist - -

2 DIANE MADDEN: Excuse me, go slower,
3 please.

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Sorry?

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5 DIANE MADDEN: Go slower, please.

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Dr. Zinn, one
7 hundred and forty thousand; Behaviorist, one
8 hundred and nine thousand; crematory and
9 animal hospitals, ninety-one thousand dollars
10 three hundred and forty thousand dollars.

11 DIANE MADDEN: Crematory, ninety-one
12 thousand?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: And animal
14 hospital, combination of crematory and animal
15 hospital.

16 DIANE MANDDEN: Animal hospital,
17 meaning outside, you know, other animal
18 hospitals?

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It would be off-
20 site services, veterinary service, Island
21 Trees, Central Vet and New York Specialty
22 Vet.

23 DIANE MADDEN: Those are the
24 contracted?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 DIANE MADDEN: Island Trees, Central
2 and who else?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: New York
4 Specialty.

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5 DIANE MADDEN: And, so, that would be
6 over and above Dr. Siegel's salary which
7 would be - -

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes, Dr. Siegel
9 is on the salary page which is Page 233,
10 Veterinary line item Veterinarian.

11 DIANE MADDEN: Could you tell me that
12 salary?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: One hundred
14 thousand two hundred and ninety-six dollars.

15 DIANE MADDEN: The, um, line item for
16 placement of animals, I FOIL-ed that and I
17 believe there is about an eighteen-thousand-
18 dollar balance, so, there is an additional
19 line item to that balance from last year.

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: This is budgeted
21 at thirty thousand dollars in accordance with
22 the same amount budgeted for in 2017.

23 DIANE MADDEN: There is still a
24 balance - -

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is subject

1 to check.

2 I don't have it in front of me, but,
3 yes.

4 DIANE MADDEN: Where will I be able to
5 find the current balance of the Tails of Hope
6 Fund?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is not in
8 here.

9 I can get you that.

10 There is a balance hold on - - hold
11 on, as of the last Town Board Meeting, Tails
12 of Hope Fund was about fourteen thousand
13 dollars.

14 DIANE MADDEN: And, where can I find
15 the specific item, TNR expense?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: We don't have it.
17 There is no line item for TNR expense.

18 DIANE MADDEN: So, where does the
19 money come from?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know. I
21 don't know the answer to that but I can get
22 you that answer.

23 DIANE MADDENZ: I have been waiting
24 for the answer from 2015, 2016 and, now,
25 2017.

1 COMPTROLLER CONROY: TNR program

2 budgeted in '18 is included in the fees and
3 services.

4 DIANE MADDEN: But you just mentioned
5 the Behaviorist, Dr. Zinn, Crematory and
6 Animal Hospital, so, now, you are saying that
7 TNR (Trap, neuter & return) is also a part of
8 the fees and services.

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9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Those are the
10 entities of the Vets, the hospital that
11 perform that function.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: We don't
13 have a perfunctorist in TNR?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, it is not
15 budgeted as a separate line item.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Spend as
17 needed, it is?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is part of
19 fees and services, included in fees and
20 services.

21 DIANE MADDEN: Now, as far as
22 advertising and promotions, where are the
23 animals advertised and promoted?

24 I know, before, Michael Pastore came
25 in, the budget was for twenty-five hundred.

1 It is, now, five hundred.

2 Um, so, where are the animals
3 advertised?

4 Where is this five hundred dollars
5 spent?

6 And, I am only asking because the
7 volunteers and staff went to a great extent,
8 um, a few weekends ago to have an event, um,
9 for the rabies clinic and to promote
10 adoptions and, um, on average about four
11 hundred to five hundred people use to show
12 and it was average, maybe one hundred people
13 showed at this event.

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: So, you are
15 asking me the venue, as to where?

16 DIANE MADDEN: Correct.

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know that
18 answer.

19 I know we budgeted in this budget,
20 five hundred dollars of the venue for those
21 dollars would be for free adoptions and
22 special promotions as it related to the
23 Animal Shelter.

24 DIANE MADDEN: Does that money go to
25 mailings?

1 Does that money go to NEWSDAY?

2 Does that money go to - - where does
3 five hundred dollars go to?

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can tell you I
5 don't believe it goes to NEWSDAY.

6 It probably would be a combination of
7 mailings in the LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS,
8 but, that would be subject to check.

9 I don't know definitively the answer
10 to that.

11 DIANE MADDEN: So, where would I find
12 the mailing expense for the Animal Shelter?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The mailing
14 expense for the Animal Shelter is in the
15 General Fund.

16 If you look at the General Services
17 postage line of General Service would take
18 care of that.

19 DIANE MADDEN: So - - but, there is no
20 way to find the itemized amount of money?

21 In other words, the difference between
22 the Animal Shelter and the mailers for
23 Supervisor Santino's, um, events or
24 appearances?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be a

1 manual effort.

2 We would have to go through them all,
3 but, there is nothing readily available.

4 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
5 following ensued.)

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
7 much, Ms. Madden.

8 Felix Procacci?

9 DIANE MADDEN: I have a lot of
10 questions, tonight.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Actually,
12 for purposes of clarification, I think you
13 should be able to speak both during the day -
14 -

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: It is one
16 Hearing.

17 It is one Hearing.

18 You cannot speak twice in the same
19 Hearing.

20 Those are our rules.

21 DIANE MADDEN: So, I had three minutes
22 as a resident and taxpayer, I have three
23 minutes to express my concerns, my questions?

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That has always
25 been the policy, once a meeting.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 This is a continuation to the evening.

2 It is the same meeting, just with an
3 adjournment.

4 DIANE MADDEN: I believe in previous
5 years, I have spoken at both.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is not
7 correct.

8 Mr. Town Attorney?

9 DIANE MADDEN: I think it is time to
10 change the policy.

11 I think it is time to change that
12 policy.

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
14 Attorney, Mr. Town Attorney, Mr. Town
15 Attorney, would you answer that, please.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is one meeting.
17 If you speak in the afternoon on the
18 budget, you cannot speak at night.

19 DIANE MADDEN: Who decided that
20 policy?

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is the policy of
22 the Town of Hempstead.

23 (Whereupon, "2012" was called out from
24 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: It is the policy.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 DIANE MADDEN: I think it is time to
2 change the policy because I am not finished.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you for
4 your input.

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5 Okay, Mr. Procacci.

6 (Whereupon, "Where is it written? I
7 can speak to the air. Where is it written,"
8 was yelled out by Meta Mereday in the
9 audience. After, the following ensued.)

10 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
11 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

12 Um, the six million dollar loss that
13 Mr. Conroy talks about, is never mentioned in
14 the mailings that taxpayers pay for, only the
15 five million dollar surplus.

16 None of the rendition that he went
17 through the last time it is not even printed
18 in NEWDDAY because they just write whatever
19 the hell you send.

20 You have to spell it out for them,
21 they will write anything and how stupid it
22 is, NEWSDAY will write it.

23 Now, you have a six million dollar
24 loss and that should be the title and Santino
25 is misleading residents with all his paid

1 Advertising in NEWSDAY.com and INSTAGRAM,
2 FACEBOOK and everywhere else.

3 It is a six million dollar loss.

4 You don't put "Operational surplus."

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5 You don't put asterisks next to your
6 advertising, all the stuff that you have to
7 subtract to make the thing work.

8 So, it is a lie, period, that should
9 be written in NEWSDAY, tomorrow.

10 Santino lies.

11 It is just - - that is the case. I
12 don't want to hear from you.

13 You just say the same crap over and
14 over, again and I don't want to hear from
15 you.

16 Also, I want to go on, has the 2016
17 audit been distributed to all the Council
18 Members?

19 Can anyone speak to that?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes, it has.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: It is a public
22 document.

23 It has been distributed.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is not
25 necessarily correct.

1 We received a Summary book of the
2 audit.

3 We did not receive the audit.

4 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, you did not do
5 that.

6 You did not.

7 I got so much time, here. You keep
8 interrupting me.

9 They will throw me out of here before
10 my time is up.

11 Okay, um, but, Mr. Conroy alluded to
12 and what Mrs. Defina, very astutely found out
13 that this budget, the second he passes it,
14 the second the Board passes it, can change
15 everything.

16 They can't change the top line number,
17 you know, whatever, thirty million.

18 They can't change that.

19 All the numbers in between can change.

20 And, that is how they get a lot of
21 people on and they give them raises, just
22 like they gave a raise back in 2013.

23 It wasn't in the budget and after the
24 budget was passed, all of a sudden, Kate
25 Murray and the Town Board gave themselves

1 raises without going through the normal
2 channels.

3 It never showed up in the budget books
4 because it would be transparency, all we talk
5 about.

6 You berated me in 2013 and I ran on
7 transparency.

8 You berated me in public all these
9 years, in this site, and, now, you are riding
10 on transparency.

11 Should I berate you.

12 No.

13 I applaud you for, at least, trying.

14 You are not doing a very good job.

15 Okay, a budget is a projection with
16 millions of assumptions made.

17 Will the Town Board be willing to pass
18 a resolution this year that mandates that all
19 changes to the budget in the future just like
20 that mechanic got the thing, any change that
21 gets made to the budget, whether you are
22 moving people around, whether you are
23 transferring funds, whether you are giving
24 people raises, mandate that it becomes a
25 resolution and to the public that you are

1 changing the budget, you are moving numbers
2 around?

3 Would you be willing to pass a
4 resolution that brings transparency to this
5 budget?

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6 I guess - -

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: The subject
8 matter of this Hearing is what is in this
9 budget, so - -

10 FELIX PROCACCI: The point is that you
11 changed things around and he already admitted
12 you changed things around and the public
13 wasn't notified of the changing things
14 around, why that is you moved the mechanic.

15 He was a resolution, but you are
16 changing the budget of the Animal Shelter.

17 If that budget changes on each line
18 item, if the budget goes from three million
19 to 3.2 million because you did a bunch of
20 transfers, people should be notified that,
21 that Department has a bigger budget that it
22 did when it was voted on, you know, in the
23 prior year.

24 People should be notified you moved
25 things around.

1 without notifying people and you have.

2 It is just fair that you notify
3 people.

4 So, the audit hasn't been, um, and you
5 excluded capital expenditures.

6 You added all of this other stuff.

7 Um, why isn't there any discussion of
8 OPED?

9 And, I am talking to you, Mr. Santino,
10 in this budget, OPED is a very significant
11 item.

12 And, how much has that increased over
13 the last year?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I believe the
15 acronym is OPEB, Over Post Employment
16 Benefits, is that what you are referring to,
17 Mr. Procacci?

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Yes.

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: And, your
20 question is?

21 FELIX PROCACCI: How much has it
22 increased over the last year and how come you
23 didn't include that in your budget as a
24 discussion?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Okay, GASSB,

1 GASSB stands for Generally accepted
2 Accounting Standards Board and they issued
3 OPEB which is GASSB 45, basically it is line
4 item on a financial statement.

5 It has risen to a number somewhere
6 North of three hundred million dollars.

7 You don't need to fund it.

8 And, as a result of not funding, it
9 doesn't appear in your budget as a budgetary
10 line.

11 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand you can
12 put it as a discussion, just to let you know
13 because that is an indicator of the health of
14 this Town's OPEB.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: What was
16 it last year?

17 What was the number, approximately?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Approximately,
19 four hundred million dollars.

20 It varies year-to-year from actual
21 assumption, basically, what it is, is a
22 measure of each employee of the Town of
23 Hempstead and retirees, as to what the
24 discounted value of medical coverage for
25 those employees and retiree rights are,

1 present value of that and recorded it as a
2 liability.

3 Recognizing that it is a huge number
4 and it is a huge number, it is over four
5 hundred million, now, that you can't fund it,
6 you pay as it goes.

7 The way it goes, the retiree goes, you
8 pay those medical benefits on an annual basis
9 so as to keep your budget from exploding
10 because otherwise, you would have major tax
11 increases if we had to fund that fund.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: What was
13 it last year versus this year?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: 402 last year,
15 459 this year.

16 It has risen fifty million dollars.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: And, we
18 expect that next year?

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, it is an
20 assumption.

21 It all depends.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I
23 understand.

24 COMPTROLLER KING-SWEENEY: People
25 dying off, people coming on and the like,

1 Retirees and the like.

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If the
3 trend continues upward - -

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I would say the
5 trend continues upward.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Do all
7 municipalities not address it?

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: All entities and
9 it is a requirement that we don't fund it.

10 It is a State of New York requirement
11 you have to record it on your books as a
12 liability.

13 Again, it is post-employment
14 liability.

15 You are not going to release the
16 expense until such time as you know of the
17 retiree that you have to pay medical bills
18 for and the medical is quite substantial.

19 FELIX PROCACCI: I just want to bring
20 up another thing, another budget myth, most
21 of the advertising and always in - - in the
22 budget book, but in the discussion which is
23 not - - also, retired, hired employees are
24 not subtracted from the savings of early
25 retirement.

1 Now, I asked that questions a year and
2 a half ago or two years ago, that is the
3 case, that is a myth.

4 NEWSDAY will write they are saving two
5 million or whatever.

6 It is a lie and also twenty-three
7 million dollars in reserves, that one is an
8 estimated number, too.

9 If you had one million, you would have
10 bigger turnarounds based on the projections,
11 that doesn't exist.

12 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
13 following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
15 much.

16 Meta Mereday, Ms. Mereday.

17 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Baldwin.

18 Um, the Association of Towns' Manual
19 Section, it has to do with budget.

20 Before I ask the question, the Town
21 Board's Function, Section C, Item 2,
22 Executive Powers, Town Board as a group is
23 executive head of the Town.

24 Just in case no one didn't know.

25 The Town Board as a group is executive

1 Head of the Town.

2 No one individual, just for the
3 record.

4 The Town Attorney, as per this
5 document, in this document is supposed to
6 represent the interests and speak on the
7 interests and speak with the Town Board, not
8 just the Supervisor.

9 I am not going to take up all my time
10 going through all these pages.

11 I am going to be specific.

12 Um, first of all, I am still asking
13 the question and I am asking the question on
14 the record with regard to the policy item
15 number code, subsection, "legal precedent,"
16 that says, residents, who take the time out
17 of their day making clearly less money than
18 the majority of the people of the Town,
19 cannot speak to these issues and if they have
20 other questions, do not have the right to
21 speak to these issues again later on this
22 evening.

23 Will someone give me that information?

24 My specific issues will be on 219, the
25 Supervisor's page - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Actually,
2 maybe, if we can consider changing the rule
3 for purposes of this meeting, because - -

4 META MEREDAY: I think this meeting
5 should be ended, not adjourned.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: What is
7 unique about this one, the last budget
8 meeting, as I understand, the Council Members
9 were allowed to speak before the public so
10 that you all in a sense are better informed,
11 could ask better questions.

12 Since we have to speak after everyone
13 speaks, maybe we can - -

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
15 Attorney, Mr. Town Attorney, would you opine
16 on that.

17 Mr. Town Attorney?

18 Let's hear from the Town Attorney,
19 please.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a Motion.

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let's hear from
22 the Town Attorney, please.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a Motion.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let's hear from
25 the Town Attorney.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

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COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Town

Attorney, my Motion takes precedent, does it not?

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You will get to do your Motion.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I will.

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Resolution adopted February 15, 2000, Resolution Number 151 of 2000, um, Sections 7 A-1, and 7 A-3 say that the public shall have three minutes to speak and they speak once per item.

And, so, the item before us, today, is the budget and you speak once per item.

META MEREDAY: My question has to do with the evening, it doesn't say anything about evening.

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is the same meeting.

METE MEREDAY: If you end this meeting, it becomes a separate meeting.

It becomes a new slate, yes or no?

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No.

METE MEREDAY: How does it not become a different slate if it is a different meeting?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: This meeting can -
2 - will be adjourned to 7:00 o'clock tonight.

3 META MEREDAY: No, this meeting should
4 be ended.

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is not what we
6 do.

7 META MEREDAY: You can end it, though.

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Well, no.

9 META MEREDAY: Why can't you?

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is published as
11 one meeting.

12 META MEREDAY: You didn't adjourn the
13 last town meeting and say this is the
14 continuation.

15 There have been issued that have been
16 tabled and brought up at a separate meeting
17 because during the daytime this is a
18 disservice for those of us that take the time
19 to come here anyway.

20 But, moving along briskly, it is on
21 the record and people will know.

22 219 - -

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a Motion.

24 META MEREDAY: Oh, that is right.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Since

1 this date, Tuesday, October 17th is National
2 Ass Day, believe it or not and, um, it seems
3 to me not by letting the Council Members
4 speak beforehand, the public isn't informed
5 and we are running this meeting ass
6 backwards, so, my Motion would be to allow -
7 - it is in the Bible, Dorothy, they use that
8 word.

9 Yes, they do, so, there are people who
10 are not going to have the benefit of hearing
11 what the Town Board Members have to say, that
12 they should be given an opportunity after we
13 speak to ask additional questions, that is my
14 Motion.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
16 Attorney, is that Motion in order of the
17 rules that we passed and you quoted from?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We do not have an
19 Administrative Calendar.

20 We have a Public Hearing on the
21 Budget, so, the Motion would be out of order.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is a Motion.
23 It is a Motion on procedure.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: The Town Attorney
25 has ruled that the Motion is out of

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order.

Ms. Mereday, do you want to continue?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Point of information, just a quick question, now, if Ms. Mereday speaks on this, now, can anyone speak later on about the mailings?

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is a separate Hearing.

META MEREDAY: But there maybe other questions - - Well, I was going to say if the Board has the Budget information but, once, again, it seems quite evident enough that it kind of misses certain offices.

Again, I just don't quite understand it.

So, I feel it is a disservice to the residents not to be able to get the viewpoints and the representation from those who are duly elected because they seem to be, um, you know, eliminated from the process, itself.

But, again, you know, what do I know, I am only - - the Association of Town Boards says this is supposed to be the executive group represents all.

1 Moving on, the Supervisor's budget,
2 okay, you have - - well, you, in the
3 position of Supervisor, you have two
4 executive assistants.

5 You have a Press Secretary.

6 You have a secretary. You got three
7 secretaries to the Supervisor.

8 You got a Special Assistant to the
9 Supervisor and, then, you, Mr. Supervisor,
10 that is probably people who work for you that
11 make more money than you do.

12 You have one Veteran Service person
13 and, yes, I am going to bring up my issue
14 about the Veterans.

15 But, I won't talk about the contracts
16 this time.

17 I already had discussions and your
18 Commissioners do a wonderful job, um, just my
19 comment of regard to the job that they do.

20 And, we are in this era of talking
21 about diversity and inclusion, maybe it is
22 me, but I have yet to see, um, a female or
23 person of color that is represented in the
24 staffing, as far as, the higher ups in
25 Commissioners.

1 I could be wrong, but, um, if we are
2 talking about that, let's be about it so,
3 before we get into this, the township that
4 has the hired Veterans Specialists and blah,
5 blah, blah, blah, you service over close to
6 fifty thousand Veterans, but, yet, you have
7 the same one person who has, um, a part-time
8 seasonal person and you have these other
9 Departments, um, Senior Enrichment.

10 They got community staff.

11 They got outreach.

12 Are we not saying - - what are we
13 saying actually to our Veteran population
14 that have increasing needs?

15 And, once, again, they have to keep
16 coming and making appointments to get, here
17 to get health and resources but you got no
18 problem walking around and talking about how
19 much you are actually doing for Veterans and
20 they are still dying in their homes as we
21 speak.

22 And, we shove an opportunity to
23 continue to speak about these issues that are
24 impacting our taxes - -

25 (Whereupon, the

1 bell rang. After, the following ensued.)

2 META MEREDAY: - - On a regular basis.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you, Ms.

4 Mereday.

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5 META MEREDAY: Can anyone give me an
6 answer to the questions about the fact that
7 you got almost your own, you know, fiefdom in
8 your office and you are still controlling the
9 budgets on the other Council Members.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is not
11 correct.

12 Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

13 Laura Gillen?

14 Laura Gillen?

15 LAURA GILLEN: Laura Gillen, Rockville
16 Centre, New York.

17 So, we are here, today, because we are
18 supposed to be having public comment on the
19 preliminary budget.

20 Um, and as we all know, a budget is
21 really nothing more than a guess.

22 It is a guess, what are we going to do
23 next year but it should be an educated guess.

24 Now, how do we educated ourselves with
25 actual numbers,

1 but not guesses.

2 But your office, Mr. Santino has
3 refused to provide copies of the audited
4 financials from 2016 to Mr. Procacci who
5 FOIL-ed them months ago.

Page | 61

6 Also, you refused to put them online
7 and this document, the preliminary budget
8 also has no actual numbers in it from 2017.

9 I printed this off your WEB site.

10 There is no actual numbers from 2017,
11 nor are there any actual numbers in this
12 handout that we got, today.

13 So, how do you expect the public to be
14 able to make any meaningful comments on your
15 guesses for 2018 when you haven't provided us
16 with any actual, real numbers or the audited
17 financials from 2016?

18 Just by way of example, in your 2018
19 budget, you project expenses of 418.6
20 million.

21 Let's look at the actual numbers;
22 2014, actual expenses, 483.1 million, 2015,
23 actual expenses, 494.6 million, 2016 actual
24 expenses, 506.1 million, 2017 expenses, 422
25 million, that is

1 a reduction of 84.4 million.

2 I would like to know how you are
3 doing.

4 Can we really reduce expenses by that
5 much?

6 It seems very unlikely and very
7 unrealistic.

8 In addition to that, we, now, see
9 that, um, we have Board Members who are not
10 given the most up-to-date copy of the budget
11 that you are supposed to be considering, that
12 is absurd.

13 And, now, Mr. Blakeman wants to
14 provide some commentary.

15 Erin King-Sweeney wanted to, also,
16 provide commentary and you will not provide
17 commentary raising points that the public
18 might want to raise.

19 It seems like this whole meeting is an
20 absolute farce.

21 You have no input - -

22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
23 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 LAURA GILLEN: You are shoving it down
25 our throats with

1 not providing the information that we need
2 without providing your Council Members with
3 the information that they need to make an
4 educated guess about how monies are going to
5 be spent in 2018.

6 I think we need to have another budget
7 meeting after you provide the numbers that we
8 need to evaluate whether or not we are
9 performing the way we should be.

10 Now, with respect to certain line
11 items in, here, I have a few questions.

12 And, I expect I have many more after
13 the Council Members give their comments on
14 the budget, but, unfortunately, I am not
15 going to be able to do that.

16 Um, I am wondering about the budget
17 for the Supervisor.

18 We see this number for salaries and
19 wages and, um, Ms. Mereday raised, um, the
20 number of assistants that you have including
21 your Executive Assistant or Advisor to the
22 Supervisor, Mr. Coleman, who we know about,
23 forty thousand dollars in raises last year
24 and we also notice he is your Campaign
25 Spokesperson.

1 He is on Newsday giving all kinds of
2 statements for your campaign for an article
3 that was posted around 6:00 o'clock, so, that
4 leads me to believe he is making comments to
5 NEWSDAY during Town time.

6 I want to know how much of my money is
7 being spent to pay Mr. Coleman to make
8 comments for your campaign?

9 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
10 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

11 LAURA GILLEN: I think it should be -
12 - um, in addition to that, we also have
13 this, I found really funny, a budget for
14 publicity.

15 This is about fifty thousand dollars.

16 We know that publicity there is way
17 more spent on publicity than fifty thousand
18 dollars.

19 So, where are you sticking all of the
20 expenses for the forty-odd mailers that we
21 have gotten this year?

22 I bet that, um, what we spent so far
23 this year is probably close to two, three
24 million dollars, just by October, all the
25 mailers that you

1 sent out, so, where is that in this budget?

2 Can anybody help me? Mr. Conroy?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Getting back to
4 your publicity - -

Page | 65

5 LAURA GILLEN: Yeah.

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: - - Getting back
7 to your publicity questions budgeted at fifty
8 thousand dollars, I want to apprise you that
9 is a statutory requirement under the General
10 Municipal Law.

11 LAURA GILLEN: Where is the rest of
12 the money that is spent on publicity?

13 Where is that?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It would be in
15 General Services.

16 LAURA GILLEN: Yes.

17 Can you give me the page?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Just give me on
19 minute, Page 118.

20 I am sorry, 118 in your book.

21 LAURA GILLEN: Okay, thank you. I
22 might have to move on.

23 There is one more point I have to
24 make, my time is about up.

25 We have

1 | been talking about nepotism and ethics, um
2 | and, um, how people shouldn't vote on
3 | measures for salaries for their families, so,
4 | as NEWSDAY reported, Mr. D'Esposito has half
5 | a million dollars going to his family.

6 | That is not insignificant.

7 | So, I am wondering if there might be a
8 | conflict of interest for him voting on this
9 | budget which will send a half a million
10 | dollars back home to his house.

11 | (Whereupon, applause from the audience
12 | was heard. After, the following ensued.)

13 | (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
14 | following ensued.)

15 | SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we
16 | adjourn to 7:00 p.m. tonight.

17 | COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the
18 | Motion.

19 | COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wait, wait.

20 | CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

21 | SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

22 | CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

23 | (NO RESPONSE)

24 | CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 2:30 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am going to
2 talk.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

5 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
8 Goosby?

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I haven't voted
11 yet.

12 I haven't voted yet.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: There is a Motion.
14 There is a Motion on the table. The Motion
15 has to be disposed of.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I haven't voted
17 yet.

18 You better call everybody back.

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: There is a Motion on
20 the table.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am calling for
22 a quorum.

23 There is no quorum. You have to get a
24 quorum.

25 (Whereupon, calling out from

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the audience was heard.)

(Whereupon, the meeting had been
adjourned.)

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing
testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town
Board Meeting held on October 17, 2017, 2:30
Budget Meeting consisting of pages 1 through
68 inclusive is an accurate transcription of
my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK

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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 17, 2017

7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: ANTHONY J. SANTINO,

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY

RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN

CLERK AHMAD

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK DIANA MULLER

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

ACTING DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Welcome to the
2 Town Board Meeting.

3 (Whereupon, the assembly recited the
4 Pledge of Allegiance. After, the following
5 ensued.)

Page | 3

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Madam Clerk,
7 please call the roll.

8 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Here.

10 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

12 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

14 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

19 Goosby?

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

21 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-

22 Sweeney?

23 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

24 I was actually, here, for quite a
25 while for the last meeting.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Welcome to the
2 continuation of the 2018 Town of Hempstead
3 Budget Hearing.

4 As I indicated this afternoon, we will
5 continue to hear from every one of the
6 Public.

7 After the Public has been heard, we
8 will welcome any questions that any of our
9 Town Board Members may have for the
10 Comptroller.

11 Thank you very, very much.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: First of all, I
13 object.

14 I object to that procedure.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Do we have a
16 speaker?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I want my
18 objection noted for the record.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mine too
20 and I think Councilman Blakeman have the
21 right to speak.

22 I will stand up and you will have to
23 force Public Safety to get me out of here if
24 you want to silence me.

Page | 4

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
2 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am not
4 going to be silence.

Page | 5

5 There is media, here. You silenced us
6 and you directly ended a meeting. I am going
7 to speak.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
9 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Do you
11 want me to speak? No, we have a right to
12 speak.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor - -

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: You will have a
15 chance.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You are
17 making up policy.

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Duly noted.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I want to speak.

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Jacobs?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You cannot
22 continue to silence people.

23 This is a democracy. It is a
24 democracy. We have a right to speak.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 (Whereupon, "let her speak, let her
2 speak, let her speak, let her speak, let her
3 speak, let her speak, let her speak, let her
4 speak," was chanted over and over again from
5 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

Page | 6

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Public Safety,
7 Public Safety, Public Safety, direct the
8 public - - wait, please, be quiet.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You are
10 trying to silence me. You will not silence
11 me, now.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Jacobs?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You told
14 me I am allowed to speak.

15 You told me that. You told me that,
16 Mr. Ra.

17 Public Safety will have to remove me.
18 You said I am allowed to speak.

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Jacobs,
20 please.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It is a
22 made-up rule.

23 We are allowed to speak.

24 No, I have questions about the budget.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: You will have an
2 opportunity.

3 Ms. Jacobs, your time is running. Ms.
4 Jacobs?

Page | 7

5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You cannot
6 hold that against her.

7 You have media, here. You can't play
8 that trick.

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Jacobs, I
10 suggest that you ask your questions. Ms.
11 Jacobs?

12 Mr. Town Attorney, would you, please,
13 opine.

14 Let's hear from the Town Attorney.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to
16 ask a point of order.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let's hear from
18 the Town Attorney.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I want to know,
20 Mr. Supervisor, we will have an opportunity
21 before the vote, without any limitations, to
22 ask questions.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
24 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes. Now, we
2 will see - - Ms. Jacobs, go ahead, please.

3 MS. JACOBS: Good evening, um,
4 Supervisor Santino, I have some questions
5 about your budget line and your staff, when,
6 we, Uniondale residents can't get road
7 repairs or programs for our Seniors, Veterans
8 and your young people.

9 Senior Councilwoman Goosby cannot hire
10 everyone that needs a job and our taxes cover
11 everyone.

12 Can you help me to understand how you
13 have more staff than maybe, perhaps, um, the
14 Governor of the State of New York?

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller,
16 would you address that, please.

17 MS. JACOBS: That is a question.

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: If I understand
19 the question correctly - -

20 MS. JACOBS: Yeah, more staff than
21 Governor Cuomo.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can't comment
23 on what Governor Cuomo has.

24 MS. JACOBS: He has a robust staff.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, would
2 you, please, go ahead, please.

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: He has a staff
4 that services the entire Town of Hempstead,
5 Councilmanic Districts and there are certain
6 districts in the Town of Hempstead which
7 would speak why his staff is a bit larger
8 than the councilmanic Districts.

9 MS. JACOBS: He has three secretaries
10 with a total of three hundred sixty thousand
11 dollars a year.

12 (Whereupon, "wow" was heard yelling
13 out from the audience. After, the following
14 ensued.)

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I represent one
16 hundred and thirty thousand people.

17 My district is larger than any Town in
18 the State other than the Town of Hempstead
19 and under this budget proposed by the
20 Supervisor, I have one employee, no budget
21 for mail, no budget for anything else.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Jacobs, Ms.
23 Jacobs, do you have any other questions?

24 MS. JACOBS: Yes, I do.

1 Is there a need for training, um, for
2 ethics and diversity?

3 Something that this Town seriously
4 lacks.

5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We regularly run
6 diversity training, um, Mr. Sammon, if you
7 can address that from a budget point of view.

8 Mr. Sammon, our Personnel Director,
9 would you, please, Mr. Sammon, discuss our
10 regular program of diversity training.

11 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: We run - -

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Could you,
13 please, sit at the table so people can hear
14 you.

15 This is William Sammon, the Director
16 of Personnel.

17 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Good
18 Evening, Supervisor, Members of the Board:

19 We have conducted Town-wide training
20 programs three times in the past fifteen,
21 twenty years, as well as putting out a copy
22 of our policy to every employee.

23 And, we have a video of a diversity
24 class, which is presented.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

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COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr.

Sammon, does that training include informing the Supervisor's staff member to not instruct my staff to tell me to go "F" myself?

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(Whereupon, applause from the audience was heard. After, the following ensued.)

(Whereupon, screaming and yelling was heard from the audience.

After, the following ensued.)

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Action has been taken, it is a question of training.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We have diversity training.

Ms. Jacobs, can you continue, please.

MS. JACOBS: And, I just want to state that, um, it needs to be more focused on diversity, as well as in the Town of Hempstead, I do not believe that is reflected appropriately.

Thank you.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Melissa Barnes?

MELISSA BARNES: Hello, Good Evening.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Good Evening.

MELISSA BARNES: This is my first Town Hall Meeting, um, I am 35 - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Your name and
2 address for the record.

3 MELISSA BARNES: Melissa Barnes. 2234
4 Dutch Broadway, Elmont, New York 11003.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay.

6 MELISSA BARNES: Um, I would like to
7 put on record that I am inquiring about Park
8 renovations for Elmont Road Park.

9 Um, it has been brought to my
10 attention - - I actually have pictures, as
11 well as, video to show that Elmont Road Park
12 basketball courts was recently paved the week
13 of October 2nd, um, the repaving, actually,
14 just was a really poor patched job over the
15 basketball courts.

16 The cracks are still there.

17 It is a poor clay makeup.

18 When you look at the courts, it is
19 still uneven.

20 It is still unsafe for the kids.

21 While we appreciate the efforts of,
22 you know, trying to fix some of the cracks, a
23 whole renovation is needed.

24 We have pictures of rusted fencing.

1 The actual basketball courts are
2 enclosed with like a fencing and piping, that
3 piping is rusted.

4 Some of it is protruding, um and it is
5 unsafe for the kids.

6 The back boards haven't been fixed in
7 ten-plus years.

8 They are rotted and much to my dismay,
9 um, we actually, held a Press Conference
10 to bring light to some of these issues and I
11 don't know if it is the Town of Hempstead or
12 the Parks, when they heard that we were going
13 to be there, they actually rushed and painted
14 over rotted benches that were right in front
15 of the basketball courts to make it look like
16 they did a full job.

17 They rushed and painted lines over the
18 basketball courts, as well.

19 They cut two of the pipes that were
20 actually protruding, which is great, but, it
21 just shows they were trying to do a quick fix
22 for Elmont.

23 And, we need Elmont Parks to be fixed.

24 Our kids deserve a better Park.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 And, I am here to ask if in the 2018
2 Budget, if the Elmont Road Park renovation or
3 a full Park evaluation, if that is going to
4 be added or what is the plan?

Page | 14

5 My kids are part of Elmont Park.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Well, let me try
7 to get you and - -

8 MELISSA BARNES: Can I finish?

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am trying to
10 get you an answer.

11 MELISSA BARNES: My kids play in that
12 Park.

13 They are part of the Elmont Panthers
14 Club.

15 I am there three days a week.

16 I signed a petition. I generated one
17 hundred signatures. I will continue to do
18 so.

19 I really want to know what is
20 happening in Elmont Road Park?

21 We appreciate that funds were used
22 last year to fix the excavation and they put
23 lighting in the back, but, there is still a
24 lot more that needs to be done.

1 And, Elmont Road Park cannot be a
2 quick fix.

3 It needs to be fully redone,
4 especially, for the safety of our kids and
5 from that is what they deserve.

6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, thank you.
8 We do have - - I don't see Commissioner
9 Zepolli.

10 Deputy Commissioner Leno, we will
11 start with the Town Comptroller.

12 Let's start with Deputy Commissioner
13 Leno relative to what we have done in the
14 recent years to Elmont Road Park.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Ms. Barnes, um,
16 Councilman Ambrosino and I share the
17 community of Elmont and, um, we will look
18 into whatever issues that are brought up.

19 MELISSA BARNES: I have pictures.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have to
21 confess, I haven't played basketball in
22 Elmont Road Park.

23 I used to be a regular. Due to my
24 advance age, I am not playing basketball
25 everyday but I would like to go down there

1 and inspect the basketball courts to see if
2 they are in good shape and also some of the
3 residents who have used Elmont Road Park
4 recently have communicated to me about, um,
5 the fact that they would like an increased
6 presence from our Public Safety Department.

7 MELISSA BARNES: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, that is
9 something that we should address because
10 safety is Number 1, but, thank you for
11 coming.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Deputy
13 Commissioner Leno, if you would.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LENO: Good
15 Evening, Supervisor and Council Members:

16 Yes, we are in the process of repaving
17 the Courts and, again, to do some work there,
18 um, when we started, the cracks sink after we
19 patched it, but, we are going to go back and
20 resurface it, again, which we do in all the
21 Parks, by the time we are finished.

22 Fencing, we will definitely repair as
23 soon as we are done, one job, we are doing.

24 I give you my word.

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Why don't you
2 exchange phone numbers with Ms. Barnes.

3 I certainly want Elmont Road Park to
4 be the best that it can be, so, certainly,
5 please, deal with her and Ms. Barnes, please,
6 going forward, if there are issues or
7 concerns, please, contact me.

8 We will adjust them.

9 I would like you to work very closely
10 with Ms. Barnes on this.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Mr. Supervisor?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes, Councilman.

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Deputy
15 Commissioner, didn't we, over the last couple
16 of years, put, approximately, two million
17 dollars in capital improvements in that Park?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LENO: Yes, we did.
19 We did the embankment project and we did the
20 whole field over.

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I want to be
22 clear, two million dollars was sent on Elmont
23 Road Park over the last two years.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LENO: I believe
25 so.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 MELISSA BARNES: Right, most of it was
2 excavation.

3 It had nothing to do with the Courts.

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: That was two
5 million dollars that was spent on that Park.

6 MELISSA BARNES: I totally get that
7 but we still need more.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ms. Barnes, we
9 will give it our attention.

10 Thank you.

11 On the budget, William McCabe?

12 WILLIAM McCABE: William McCabe,
13 Floral Park, New York.

14 If you open your textbooks, here, to
15 Page 133, I was just paging through, here, in
16 the last meeting and I notice some things.

17 If it was my budget, I would want to
18 question it.

19 Water, 2016, one thousand eight
20 hundred and ninety dollars; water, 2017,
21 seven thousand five hundred dollars, water
22 departmental request for 2018, seventy-five
23 hundred dollars.

24 Is there a reason the cost of water a
25 secretary has gone up to drastically?

1 (Whereupon, "they are thirty," was
2 heard yelling out from the audience. After,
3 the following ensued.)

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: If I can answer
5 that.

6 We are doing an irrigation project at
7 the cemetery to provide for all water to
8 certain areas within the cemetery.

9 WILLIAM McCABE: So, is that the cost
10 of the irrigation?

11 COMPROLLER CONROY: That is the cost
12 of water irrigation system, itself, capital
13 item, we see debt service.

14 This is consumption of water. This
15 would be the water bill, itself.

16 WILLIAM McCABE: Okay, so, that seems
17 like a lot of water and very expensive.

18 Were all the plants dying when we were
19 only spending eighteen hundred?

20 COMPROLLER CONROY: Were the plants
21 dying?

22 WILLIAM McCABE: Were all the plants
23 dying when we were spending eighteen hundred?

24 COMPROLLER CONROY: No, I would say
25 we were doing what we could do in terms of

1 water and, now, recognizing there is
2 additional water needs and we put in an
3 irrigation system, there will be more
4 consumption of water, that is why we see a
5 deviation between the '17 number and the
6 consumption number in the '18 being seventy-
7 five hundred dollars.

8 WILLIAM McCABE: Okay. Gas, 2016, two
9 thousand six hundred and seventeen dollars.

10 2017, Four thousand dollars.

11 The request for 2018, four thousand
12 dollars, that is quite a large increase in
13 Gas.

14 Are there more vehicles? More - -

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Let me straighten
16 you out on that, sir, please.

17 You just mentioned sixteen hundred and
18 thirty-three dollars, that is for a five-
19 month period.

20 WILLIAM McCABE: No, I mentioned gas,
21 two thousand six hundred and seventeen
22 dollars and I mentioned for 2017, four
23 thousand and departmental request, four
24 thousand.

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: 2016?

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WILLIAM McCABE: Yes.

COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is two thousand six hundred and seventeen dollars.

WILLIAM McCABE: Okay.

COMPTROLLER CONROY: The projection, here, is based on spending trends and pricing.

There is methodology to make this projection.

We make our best efforts to look at historical data and spending trends, which we have, here.

And, we are projecting a four-thousand-dollar budget line for gas.

WILLIAM McCABE: The price of gas has gone up but not that much, I don't think, um - -

COMPTROLLER CONROY: Sir, this is natural gas.

WILLIAM McCABE: Natural gas, okay.

COMPTROLLER CONROY: This is by the utility company, not when you go to the gas station and pump up your car.

WILLIAM McCABE: Okay.

1 "Other disposal costs," ten thousand
2 seventy-eight dollars and in 2017, it was
3 twenty thousand dollars and the request for
4 2018 is twenty thousand dollars, again, that
5 is double the cost of "disposal fee," what is
6 that?

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: There was an
8 additional section there, cleanup work on.

9 We will continue to do cleanup work on
10 and we are anticipating more tonnage of
11 cleanup, that is why you are seeing an
12 increase in, um, the cost of the disposal.

13 WILLIAM McCABE: Okay.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Sue Coles?
15 Karen Montelbano?

16 KAREN MONTELBANO: Karen Montelbano,
17 2611 Park Avenue, Baldwin.

18 Um, I am here because I have major
19 concerns about what is happening, here, in
20 particular, with the budget.

21 I have watched as my Elected
22 Representative has not been given the
23 information needed to make proper decisions
24 for my community and that includes when it

1 came time for the, um, our major project, um,
2 Merrick Road and Grand Avenue in Baldwin.

3 She wasn't given the contract to even
4 review.

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5 I have been, here and I have been
6 watching as her questions have been
7 systematically been cut out in public, so,
8 never mind what might be happening behind the
9 scenes out of the public eye.

10 And, I have watched as you voted
11 against so many different things that have
12 been brought up, not giving them a fair
13 hearing, including a major public relations
14 practice of non-harassment, and creating
15 a hostile workforce environment by simply
16 voting against it.

17 How can you people be making informed
18 decisions in this Town, um, if they are not
19 being given the information and, basically
20 the tone is set at the top?

21 Baldwin has historically been ignored
22 basically by the Town of Hempstead.

23 For example, we have not been able to
24 get anything really done down there.

1 There is still work that needs to be
2 done from Sandy.

3 We pay taxes. We deserve your
4 representation and I am not confident that I
5 am getting that out of the Town of Hempstead
6 because of what is going on here.

7 And, it is up to the top to set the
8 tone.

9 Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, the applause from the
11 audience was heard. After, the following
12 ensued.)

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Shawn Field, Mr.
14 Jay, Roddoff.

15 Those are the last slips that I have
16 relative to the budget.

17 So, at this time, do any Members of
18 the Board have any questions of the Town
19 Comptroller on the Budget?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor
21 Santino, if I may.

22 (Whereupon, "I signed in on the
23 budget," was heard yelling out from the
24 audience. After, the following ensued.)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I didn't see a
2 slip. My mistake, come forward.

3 Name and address for the record,
4 please.

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5 MRS. JOSEFTON: Hi, Mrs. Josefton,
6 (phonetic spelling) Huntington, New York.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Huntington, New
8 York.

9 MRS. JOSEFTON: I am looking at the
10 Animal Shelter, the first thing I would like
11 to know, who comes up with the budget?

12 Who makes the budget?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The budget is a
15 very comprehensive process.

16 It started - - each Department of
17 the Town, which has twenty-six Departments
18 submits their budget request to the
19 Comptroller's Office.

20 MRS. JOSEFTON: So, does that mean Mr.
21 Pastore submits his budget?

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Mr. Pastore and
23 his staff, he has two or three staff members
24 that are very astute in the accounting.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 MRS. JOSEFTON: That is that answer, I
2 guess.

3 Um - -

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Do you want to
5 hear the rest of the answer? No?

6 MRS. JOSEFTON: Um, ha, ha.

7 The uniform expense at the Animal
8 Shelter went from fourteen hundred ninety-one
9 dollars to ten thousand dollars, why are you
10 spending ten thousand dollars on uniforms for
11 at the Animal Shelter?

12 That is what I would like to know, Mr.
13 Comptroller.

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: What page?

15 MRS. JOSEFTON: 124.

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: So, your question
17 is with regard to uniforms, is that right?

18 MRS. JOSEFTON: Yes.

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is,
20 particularly, in the '17 budget, ten thousand
21 dollars.

22 '18 Budget, seventy-five hundred.

23 MRS. JOSEFTON: It was fourteen
24 hundred dollars this year. Why is it ten
25 thousand?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COMPROLLER CONROY: Because we had to
2 clear that inventory in that year.

3 We had replenished inventory, that is
4 why you see such different amounts.

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5 MRS. JOSEFTON: What uniforms at that
6 Shelter are people wearing?

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: They were shirts,
8 pants, shoes.

9 MRS. JOSEFTON: I don't know.
10 My job doesn't supply me with my
11 clothes or my shoes.

12 COMPROLLER CONROY: We identified the
13 employees as such.

14 MRS. JOSEFTON: Another question,
15 placement of animals, zero dollars.

16 This year, thirty thousand dollars.

17 Where are you placing them?

18 And, why is it costing thirty thousand
19 dollars?

20 COMPROLLER CONROY: It was a new line
21 item in '17, it was not budgeted in '16,
22 which is why you see zero in '16 and thirty
23 thousand in '17.

24 MRS. JOSEFTON: What is the money for?

25 COMPROLLER CONROY: Placing animals.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

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MRS. JOSEFTON: Where?

COMPTROLLER CONROY: Um - -

MRS. JOSEFTON: There is no
advertising budget.

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SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Denning, do
you want to clarify that, if we can.

MR. DENNING: Rescue groups - -

(Whereupon, "can't hear," was yelled
out from the audience. After, the following
ensued.)

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Denning, Mr.
Denning, if you would, please, repeat the
answer from the microphone so people can
hear.

MR. DENNING: We send them out to
rescue groups to work with, a cost of the
care of those Towns to give them a better
life, to give them an option.

(Whereupon, "liar, liar," was heard
screaming from the audience. After, the
following ensued.)

MRS. JOSEFTON: This says, "placement
of animals."

The rescues, what do you have to do,
charge for delivery of the animals?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 They will come and get them. They are
2 dying to get them.

3 MR. DENNING: For the care and cost.

4 MRS. JOSEFTON: That is part of the
5 budget all over.

6 Why are the dogs that you are
7 supposedly placing have a separate line item?

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Ra?

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It has to do with
10 the rehabilitation and training, if the dog
11 is borderline and aggressive.

12 MRS. JOSEFTON: That would be good if
13 you had a real Behaviorist.

14 (Whereupon, screaming and calling out
15 was heard from the audience. After, the
16 following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Go ahead, Mr.
18 Town Attorney.

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is for what Mr.
20 Denning said, it is also rehabilitation,
21 training included in that for animals.

22 MRS. JOSEFTON: Well, I don't think
23 that is true.

24 What am I going to do?

25 It is not true.

1 It is not true. It is a horror show
2 over there, four-million-dollar budget, three
3 million dollars in salaries, just not right.

4 It is not right and the budget for
5 advertising to help get the word out about
6 the Shelter is nothing.

7 It is nothing.

8 It was twelve hundred dollars this
9 year.

10 It is down to five hundred. Big
11 events that need money to publicize that
12 people know there are adoption events.

13 There is no money.

14 They don't want to do that.

15 They want to spend thirty thousand
16 dollars.

17 I don't know what, sending them
18 out to, I don't know who, so, what is the
19 reason for no advertising budget for the
20 Animal Shelter, but, yet, you are willing to
21 spend thirty thousand dollars to shift them
22 around somewhere.

23 But, you are not allowing thirty
24 thousand dollars to get them adopted from the
25 Shelter where they live.

1 (Whereupon, "Right," was heard yelled
2 out from the audience. After, the following
3 ensued.)

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy.

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can tell you
6 that money is based on spending trends in
7 2017, it is adjusted, basically in '18 - -

8 (Whereupon, calling out was heard from
9 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

10 (Whereupon, "They are liars," was
11 heard from the audience. After, the
12 following ensued.)

13 MRS. JOSEFTON: I am beyond words.

14 I am beyond words at your answers and
15 your inability to answer because your
16 answering something, but, you are not
17 answering my questions.

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: To answer your
19 question, you asked how we come up to five
20 hundred dollars, based on spending trends in
21 2017.

22 MRS. JOSEFTON: Because we had twenty-
23 five hundred dollars to spend in 2016 but
24 didn't spend it.

25 You didn't spend it.

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COMPTRROLLER CONROY: We - -

(Whereupon, "it is bullshit," was heard screaming out from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

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COMPTRROLLER CONROY: You are asking me why we covered the five hundred dollars in the budget and I am telling you it is based on the spending trends.

There are methodologies on how you come up with it.

There should be more in your opinion, that is your opinion.

You are asking me how we entered that budget of five hundred.

I am telling you it is based on the 2017 spending trend.

MRS. JOSEFTON: I still don't understand the thirty-thousand-dollar placement.

The Shelters don't charge you for placement.

I mean the rescues don't charge you for placement.

What are you placing?

Where is this money going?

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We answered that
2 question.

3 You might not like the answer, but, we
4 answered it.

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5 (Whereupon, "nobody likes the answer,"
6 as called out from the audience. After, the
7 following ensued.)

8 MRS. JOSEFTON: Nobody likes lying.

9 (Whereupon, "Supervisor, if I might,
10 do you mind if I speak," was heard called out
11 from the audience.)

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Come on up. Your
13 name and address for the record, please.

14 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
15 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name, again.

17 JEREMY SESSLER: Jeremy
18 Sessler. (Phonetic spelling.)

19 Erin, thank you for the job that you
20 are doing.

21 We are supporters of you and we really
22 appreciate and continue to speak up because
23 we need people like you in this Town to serve
24 it.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
2 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

3 JEREMY SESSLER: First of all, people
4 - - there are people that received tis and
5 the legalities of this.

6 Why Steven D'Esposito has sole
7 responsibility for some of the decisions and
8 we question the ethics behind it.

9 He was appointed by Mr. Santino and
10 following along in his footsteps and
11 employees at the Town are being intimidated
12 and facing reprisals by the office.

13 My Father-in-law, Lawrence, Rizen
14 (phonetic spelling) and his wife, Ronnie
15 Rizen were in a horrific car accident on June
16 11th and our lives have been turned upside
17 down since then.

18 And, he has been a dedicated employee
19 for the Town for sixteen years.

20 Sixteen years he has proven and has
21 worked very hard and done things for the Town
22 that have been asked for him that were not in
23 his job title or role.

24 Since his accident, my Mother-in-Law
25 passed away and he has been in the hospital

1 for the past four months with a spinal injury
2 and he has been recovering over the past four
3 months from that spinal injury.

4 We have asked people at the Town of
5 Hempstead to support him and some have.

6 But, unfortunately, there has been
7 some people who haven't, such as, Steven
8 D'Esposito.

9 His half-pay status, whether or not it
10 is his own decision or whether it is among
11 Council people and - -

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: If you want to
13 address the - - it is not the forum for an
14 individual case.

15 JEREMY SESSLER: It is not.

16 (Whereupon, "let him talk," was heard
17 from the audience. After, the following
18 ensued.)

19 JEREMY SESSLER: I have had employees
20 come to me and why there is reprisal for
21 their actions and for them speaking up.

22 This is a democracy.

23 This is a government where people
24 should have the right to speak.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is a budget
2 hearing, sir.

3 JEREMY SESSLER: This is a budget
4 hearing and I am question the half-pay status
5 from the Town of Hempstead and why Lawrence
6 Rizen was denied it.

7 It is politically motivated.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are not going
9 to discuss it.

10 Mr. Town Attorney?

11 JEREMY SESSLER: It is politically
12 motivated.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: His
14 Mother-in-Law has passed away.

15 JEREMY SESSLER: The Town will - -

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, that is
17 fine, this is a budget hearing.

18 JEREMY SESSLER: The Town should be
19 supporting my Father-in-law while he
20 recovers after my Mother-in-law passed away
21 and they haven't done that.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We will look into
23 this.

24 This is a budget hearing.

25 JEREMY SESSLER: It is a - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is a budget
2 hearing.

3 You are talking about an individual
4 case.

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5 JEREMY SESSLER: We are talking about
6 other Town employees who are faced - -

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You can
8 treat me poorly.

9 Do not treat my resident poorly.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is a budget
11 hearing.

12 JEREMY SESSLER: I understand.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We cannot comment
14 on the specific matter.

15 We will look into it.

16 JEREMY SESSLER: It is a very gray
17 area.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: As Supervisor told
19 you, we will look into it and we will get
20 back to you.

21 JEREMY SESSLER: It is a gray area?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Please,
23 stop the time.

24 Why are we speaking to this gentleman
25 this way, his Father-in-law is injured?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 I don't understand any of this.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Because this is a
3 Budget Hearing.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: He is
5 talking about the treatment of his Father-in-
6 law.

7 Let the gentleman have his time.

8 JEREMY SESSLER: We are talking about
9 the budget.

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Please,
11 stop the time.

12 Why are you speaking poorly to a
13 gentleman who lost his Mother-in-law and his
14 Father-in-law is injured?

15 I don't understand any of this.

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Because this is a
17 budget hearing.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: He is
19 talking about the treatment.

20 Let the gentleman have his time.

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No one will be
22 able to answer him.

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No details - -

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Show him
25 respect.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We will look into
2 it.

3 (Whereupon, "resign," was heard
4 yelling out from the audience. After, the
5 following ensued.)

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6 JEREMY SESSLER: How that is put
7 together, it is in your budget or is it not
8 in the budget.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is part of the
10 budget.

11 JEREMY SESSLER: Okay.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Sir, I
13 represent you.

14 Can you, please continue speaking.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No.

16 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
17 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

18 JEREMY SESSLER: My Father-in-law, who
19 has had his own business, a job in the Town
20 of Hempstead, Commissioner of Conservation
21 and Waterways, he has overseen bulkheads, the
22 guy who bought a marina, who owns Freeport,
23 did the Woodmere Dock and Seaford Dock, has
24 never been an employee abuser or
25 insubordinate in any way, shape or form.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 I am told Steven D'Esposito - - and,
2 that is a fact, it is a fact, it is bullying.

3 It is bullying and it comes from the
4 top and that is all I have to say.

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5 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
6 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

7 JEREMY SESSLER: Facing reprisal and
8 being bullied and I can't stand for that.

9 I cannot and I will not put my family
10 up in that.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
13 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Sue Coles?

15 Good evening.

16 SUE COLES: Sue Coles (phonetic
17 spelling), Baldwin.

18 So, I do realize that in everything in
19 this very large journal, the Animal Shelter
20 is probably is not the most important.

21 I do get that, but, that does not mean
22 that it is not important.

23 SUE COLES: I was here six months ago.

1 And, I spoke briefly and asked all of
2 you to, please, have some common sense but
3 most of all some compassion.

4 And, as far as I know, not much has
5 changed.

6 So, I know you are all very
7 intelligent or you wouldn't have gotten to
8 where you are.

9 So, I am asking you, Number 1, common
10 sense is not expensive.

11 Does it make common sense to any one
12 of you sitting up there, that uniforms, ten
13 thousand dollars? Okay, advertising, to find
14 all of these animals homes, five hundred?

15 You know and we all know, they are
16 being euthanized in a horrible rate there.

17 It isn't necessary.

18 Um, the choice of the Behaviorist was
19 controversial, at best and the job can be
20 done.

21 Again, I get this is not your most
22 Important part of the Town of Hempstead and
23 these are not people's lives but, you know
24 what, they are lives.

25 They are living creatures.

1 They are being killed over there left
2 and right, ones that never, ever should be.

3 You are spending five hundred dollars
4 to advertise to get these poor animals homes
5 and ten thousand dollars on uniforms.

6 There can't be one of you that, that
7 makes sense to.

8 That wouldn't make sense to a third
9 grader.

10 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
11 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Rena Mitchel?

13 (Whereupon, "pass," was heard yelling
14 out from the audience. After, the following
15 ensued.)

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Patty Harris?

17 Good evening.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You know, Mr.
19 Supervisor, I found this bazaar.

20 I represent one hundred and thirty
21 thousand residents in the Town of Hempstead.

22 And, you haven't given me an
23 opportunity - -

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: You will, right
25 after - -

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - To ask
2 questions.

3 Don't you think that some questions
4 and answers that might be elicited in my
5 inquiry might be of interest to people and
6 that they want to ask.

7 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
8 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Go ahead, please.

10 PATTY HARRIS: Good evening.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: This is bazaar.

12 PATTY HARRIS: Good evening, my name
13 is Patty Harris, Uniondale.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Pull the
15 microphone a little closer so we can hear
16 you.

17 PATTY HARRIS: My question is what is
18 the salary of a Level Entry Maintenance
19 Worker at the Animal Shelter?

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, Mr.
21 Comptroller.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I need a second
23 to get to that.

1 (Whereupon, "stop the clock," was
2 screaming out from the audience. After, the
3 following ensued.)

4 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Repeat that
5 title, again.

6 PATTY HARRIS: Level Entry.

7 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Entry Level for
8 Maintenance Worker, I don't know that
9 wording.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Sammon, maybe
11 you can help us with the tile, "Entry Level
12 Laborer," I would assume we are talking
13 about.

14 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Which
15 would be forty-one thousand and change.

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: For Entry Level
17 Laborer at the Animal Shelter and anywhere
18 else in the Town.

19 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes,
20 fulltime.

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Fulltime.

22 PATTY HARRIS: Because I was told that
23 somebody is making over eighty thousand.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, that is not
25 correct.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 PATTY HARRIS: Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby, I would like to say, thank you for
3 having suggested having a night meeting so
4 most of us can be here.

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5 Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, that is the
7 last slip that I have relative to - -

8 (Whereupon, calling out was heard from
9 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Shaun Field? On
11 the budget?

12 Name and address for the record.

13 SHAUN FIELD: Shaun Field, 2103 Ellen
14 Drive, Merrick, New York.

15 Um, just I have been trying to contact
16 your office and no one would speak for you.

17 I spoke to them last Town Board
18 Meeting about the Winston Avenue Park.

19 The residents need to reach a
20 consensus.

21 What is the consensus?

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is a budget
23 hearing, sir.

24 SHAUN FIELD: This is a budget issue.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is a budget
2 hearing. This is a budget hearing and that
3 item is not in order, now.

4 SHAUN FIELD: Well, it is on grants
5 and if those expire, it will be a Town budget
6 item, so, it is a budget item.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: It is not in
8 order, now.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I think it
10 is totally appropriate.

11 It deals with the money and it deals
12 with the Parks and the Parks are in the
13 budget.

14 It is entirely appropriate.

15 No, no, no, this is a separate issue.

16 We are talking about a Park that is in
17 the budget.

18 Mr. Parks Commissioner, this passive
19 Park, presumably will be in the budget.

20 We have to mow the lawn.

21 We have to take care of the fence.

22 Thank you very much, go ahead and
23 speak.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there a

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 Specific line item in the budget that you are
2 interested in?

3 SHAUN FIELD: No, sir.

4 On the Grants, if you didn't do it, it
5 would be a budget item.

6 What is the consensus?

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is not the
8 forum for that.

9 It is not the forum for that. It is
10 about the budget.

11 It is about the 2018 budget.

12 It is not about Parks.

13 SHAUN FIELD: If everyone looks
14 through the budget, there is a picture of
15 every Council person except for Erin and
16 Bruce.

17 And, I want to understand why that is.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If I got
19 my hair cut, I might show up in the pictures.

20 SHAUN FIELD: So, can I expect a phone
21 call back what the consensus is outside of
22 this meeting?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I believe the
24 members of the community are speaking, for
25 and against, are meeting and trying to come

1 up with a consensus, that is why the items is
2 on reserve decision.

3 SHAUN FIELD: Exactly. What is the
4 consensus?

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Again, sir, it is
6 a budget.

7 This is a budget hearing and it is not
8 an item in the budget.

9 It is not germane to this particular
10 matter before us.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I will
12 answer the question.

13 What the consensus is when the
14 community says, you know two thirds vote, the
15 Commissioner of Parks also agreed the people
16 of South Merrick supported the Park, to me,
17 that would be a consensus.

18 In fact, I think two thirds majority
19 was even a higher majority than what the
20 Supervisor was elected.

21 To me, it would a large amount of
22 people.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
24 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Rori Gordon?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge,
2 New York.

3 The salaries of the people that are
4 appointed, like, how do they get decided and
5 figured into - - the budget was decided by
6 the Town Board?

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller.

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't quite
9 understand the question.

10 RORI GORDON: When somebody has to
11 come in, for example, um, a Deputy
12 Commissioner in the Building Department,
13 there was a vacancy for a very long time.

14 It seems like the Department was
15 running without someone for a year and a half
16 and someone comes in, how do you decide what
17 the salary is going to be?

18 Rita Fisher, forever and ever and John
19 Nocella came in and another guy, I don't even
20 know his name came in after that, so, that
21 third person, somebody had to put a number
22 what he gets paid, how does that work?

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Basically, that
24 is a personnel issue.

25 And, based upon, obviously,

1 the credentials and experience and set
2 dollars in accordance with that, the budget
3 going forward, that salary would be budgeted
4 for, depending upon this contract, here.

5 It calls for a 1.5 percent bonus that
6 was contractual.

7 We would index that salary by whatever
8 the contractual increase.

9 RORI GORDON: Okay and these people,
10 do they need certain qualifications for the
11 job?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Again, that is a
13 personnel matter.

14 RORI GORDON: Okay.

15 Mr. Santino, I wish you all the luck
16 in this coming Election.

17 If you don't win the Election and
18 there is a change of guards, here, these big,
19 tremendous, loaded, appointed positions that
20 I really don't see a need for, certainly
21 don't see a need for two Deputy Commissioners
22 in the Building Department, I never see one
23 of them walking around, no less the head
24 honcho of the Building Department.

25 I never see him on the floor.

1 I spend the better part of two years
2 getting an education.

3 The reason I am talking about this, I
4 would really like to be the Commissioner of
5 the Building Department, if you don't win,
6 because I know you would never appoint me.

7 And, I am curious, um, what would be
8 the qualifications for the Commissioner of
9 the Building Department?

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: There are specific
11 Civil Service qualifications for the Building
12 Department Commissioner.

13 I am not exactly sure what they are
14 because I don't have them in front of me.

15 There are qualifications.

16 RORI GORDON: Okay, is the Building
17 Commissioner, here?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Once, again, this
19 is the budget hearing.

20 I don't have that information.

21 RORI GORDON: Okay, actually, I do.

22 And, the Commissioner of Buildings is,
23 um, appointed by the Town Board pursuant to
24 Town Law is supposed to know this information
25 and the Commissioner of Buildings shall

1 either be an engineer, which I cannot find
2 anywhere if Mr. Rottkamp is an engineer.

3 A registered architect, I cannot find
4 anywhere if Mr. Rottkamp is a registered
5 architect, a building contractor, cannot find
6 anywhere Mr. Rottkamp is a building
7 contractor or construction supervisor for ten
8 years practical experience and I have yet to
9 find anywhere Mr. Rottkamp is a construction
10 superintendent with, at least, ten years of
11 practical experience.

12 What that leads me to believe is that
13 the Commissioner of the Building Department
14 of the Town of Hempstead, I don't think is
15 qualified.

16 Maybe I am missing something, but,
17 this is right off of your WEB site, right off
18 of 360 and I don't get how anybody can hold
19 that job, that holds the lives of eight
20 hundred or seven hundred and fifty thousand
21 people that live in this Town and may not be
22 qualified.

23 I do know he is a fireman.

24 Can anybody explain that?

25 (Whereupon, "it is in the budget,"

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 RORI GORDON: That seems kind of odd
3 to me.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't have his
5 resume in front of me.

6 (Whereupon, screaming out was heard
7 from the audience. After, the following
8 ensued.)

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am sure Mr.
10 Rottkamp meets the qualifications of the
11 Building Commissioner.

12 RORI GORDON: Mr. Rottkamp is an
13 electrician and that is not in the Code to be
14 the Commissioner of the Building Department.

15 And, I think and I could be wrong, by
16 looking at the contributions that there is a
17 good possibility that he continues to hold
18 this job is because of the amount of money he
19 contributes.

20 Hey, don't get me wrong, he is a nice
21 fellow, very nice fellow, very nice to me,
22 but, he is holding the responsibility of
23 every resident in this Town and that would be
24 dreadful if he didn't have the
25 qualifications.

1 That is why I am asking.

2 You folks should know this like it is
3 the back of your hands.

4 It is very clear, very clear in the
5 Code and to me it is very discouraging to say
6 the least.

7 Um, so, I would like to apply for
8 this.

9 I don't have any of those credentials,
10 so, if Mr. Santino doesn't get re-elected,
11 whoever does take the place, I would love the
12 job because I love the Building Department.

13 I actually have spent the better part
14 of two years and I am an organizer.

15 I could tell you so many things wrong.

16 You go in there, you can't find files.

17 You don't know what is going on.

18 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
19 rang. After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
21 much.

22 (Whereupon, "why can't NEWDAY write
23 that," was heard called out from the
24 audience. After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and

1 Address for the record, please.

2 DANICA BRUCCI: Danica Brucci
3 (phonetic spelling) and I don't feel
4 comfortable giving my address right, now.

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5 But, I live in Merrick.

6 You have four lawsuits as of, now,
7 regarding the Animal Shelter.

8 Where is the money coming from for the
9 process to defend them?

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Comptroller,
11 (Whereupon, "your pocket," was heard
12 called out from the audience. After, the
13 following ensued.)

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be the
15 General Fund.

16 DANICA BRUCCI: Could you repeat that,
17 please.

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be in
19 the General Fund, the Animal Shelter is in
20 the General Fund under the caption,
21 "undistributed."

22 DANICA BRUCCI: And, that includes
23 settlements defense.

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That includes
25 whatever projected, it is going to cost us.

1 We make our best efforts to project
2 that and budget appropriately.

3 DANICA BRUCCI: Thank you.

4 How many employees are on the Shelter
5 payroll that are paid, um, to work for the
6 Union?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know the
8 answer to that but the Animal Shelter has
9 thirty-four filled positions, both '17 and
10 '18 with no vacancies.

11 DANICA BRUCCI: And as far as the
12 Animal Shelter contracted positions, will you
13 be hiring anymore contracted positions and
14 how many are there?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be a
16 personnel matter.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, I think what
18 she means, do we have any money anticipated
19 to contract additional outside, whether it is
20 veterinarian or anything of that nature.

21 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Thank you for
22 clarifying that, Supervisor.

23 Yes, we do.

24 There is a line item salary
25 adjustments that would accommodate that.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 DANICA BRUCCI: Thank you and where is
2 that?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is on Page
4 233.

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5 DANICA BRUCCI: Okay, Mr. Santino,
6 people with integrity take pride in their
7 role as leader.

8 And, you really should be ashamed of
9 yourself.

10 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
11 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Now, we will hear
13 from - -

14 (Whereupon, "I would like to speak. I
15 signed in," was heard from the audience.
16 After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: On the budget?
18 On the budget?

19 (Whereupon, "yes," was heard from the
20 audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Again, we are on
22 the budget hearing.

23 MRS. CALIFANO: Hello, my name is Mrs.
24 Califano, (phonetic spelling), Island Park,
25 New York.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 I wanted to ask, they hired a handyman
2 for eighty-three thousand dollars on Page
3 233?

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: Are you referring
5 to the Maintenance Mechanic Number 1?

6 MRS. CALIFANO: Yes.

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: That was not a
8 hire, that was a transfer from General
9 Service.

10 MRS. CALIFANO: Transfer from where?

11 COMPROLLER CONROY: General Services.

12 MRS. CALIFANO: You never had a
13 handyman there for fifty years.

14 COMPROLLER CONROY: I don't know if
15 that is the case.

16 MRS. CALIFANO: Fifty years never had
17 a handyman, eighty-three thousand dollars?

18 COMPROLLER CONROY: There are a lot
19 of capital improvements that have been made.

20 MRS. CALIFANO: Which was what?

21 COMPROLLER CONROY: As I mentioned in
22 the afternoon meeting, there have been a lot
23 of capital improvements that have taken place
24 at the Animal Shelter, which one would think,
25 there are a lot of capital improvements,

1 there is maintenance that is going to be
2 required, hence, a need for a maintenance
3 mechanic.

4 And, we transferred and we did the
5 prudent, economical thing to transfer rather
6 than hire.

7 MRS. CALIFANO: Eighty-three thousand
8 dollars, a handyman?

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Maintenance
10 Mechanic 1.

11 MRS. CALIFANO: A lot of those things
12 you have been subbing out to get fixed that
13 he wasn't able to fix.

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know that
15 to be the case.

16 MRS. CALIFANO: That is the case.

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know the
18 tenure of this employee.

19 He could be a twenty, twenty-five year
20 employee.

21 I don't know.

22 MRS. CALIFANO: He was never employed?

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Transferred.

24 MRS. CALIFANO: Another thing about
25 the mailers, can I speak about the mailers?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is only on
2 the budget, that is a separate item on the
3 meeting agenda.

4 It is not in the budget.

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5 It is a separate item. I know you
6 have a slip for that.

7 MRS. CALIFANO: Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is it. Now,
9 any Members of the Town Board who wish to ask
10 the Comptroller questions?

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor?

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Blakeman.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have
14 questions.

15 Mr. Conroy, what is the total budget
16 for the General Fund?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Total Budget for
18 the General Fund, one hundred sixty-six
19 million four hundred and eighty-one thousand
20 four hundred and thirty-one dollars.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the
22 total tax levy for the General Fund?

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Thirty-four
24 million fifty-six thousand, seven hundred
25 forty-seven spot six one.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thirty-four
2 million dollars is the tax levy for the
3 General Fund?

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct.

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that the same
6 as the tax receipts to fund the General Fund?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Same thing, yes.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, one hundred
9 and sixty-six million dollars plus the budget
10 and the tax levy is thirty-four million
11 dollars to the public?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the
14 total Town tax levy?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Councilman, just
16 give me a minute.

17 Two hundred and seventy-three million
18 two hundred and one thousand nine hundred and
19 forty dollars, that is the proposed 2018 tax
20 levy.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What was it the
22 year before?

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Two hundred and
24 sixty-seven million, nine hundred seventy-
25 nine, two hundred and twelve dollars.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The year before
2 that?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Two hundred and
4 sixty-nine million, six hundred and nine
5 thousand, three, three, five spot zero seven.

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6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, the total
7 Town tax levy has increased ten million
8 dollars in the last two years?

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Two hundred and
10 sixty-nine million in '16, two hundred and
11 seventy-three million in '18, that is about
12 four to five million dollars.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Four to five
14 million dollars over the last year and
15 proposed?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: In '16,
17 Councilman, tax levy, two hundred and sixty-
18 nine million.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Increased in the
20 tax levy last year was over five million
21 dollars, correct?

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How much was it?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Increase - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Over the

1 Previous?

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: I am checking for
3 you.

4 Two seventeen over two sixty, it was a
5 reduction in two million.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There was no tax
7 increase last year?

8 Well, that is not exactly the
9 information that I received.

10 The information that I received in the
11 handout, I call this "handout Number 1" shows
12 a 4.8 million dollar increase in 2017 and 5.2
13 million dollars increase proposed budget for
14 2018.

15 COMPROLLER CONROY: 2018 is correct.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What about this
17 4.5?

18 COMPROLLER CONROY: I have to review
19 that, again, Councilman.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: This is your
21 document.

22 COMPROLLER CONROY: This is my
23 document.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It shows a ten
25 million dollar increase.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 Um, the total expenditure for the Town
2 in the 2017 budget was projected to be how
3 much?

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: 422.3 million
5 dollars.

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6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, how do you
7 arrive at the difference between two hundred
8 and seventy-three million dollars and four
9 hundred and twenty-two million dollars that
10 is being proposed?

11 COMPROLLER CONROY: Recording tax,
12 sales revenues, department revenues.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Those are other
14 revenues.

15 COMPROLLER CONROY: There is a
16 listing, in fact - -

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: When you prepare
18 your budget, all of the Town's departments,
19 as you indicated, they give you a suggestion
20 of what they would like for their budget in
21 the next year to be the following year.

22 COMPROLLER CONROY: They make a
23 formal request, yes.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Formal request,
25 do the Park Districts do the same thing?

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COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Make a request?

COMPROLLER CONROY: The Commissioner of the Parks Department that oversees the Park District makes that same request, yes.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What about the Lighting Districts?

COMPROLLER CONROY: The Lighting Districts, there is only one lighting.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, who makes that?

COMPROLLER CONROY: The Commissioner of General Services oversees the Lighting Districts and Traffic Control and that gentleman makes the formal request.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is also true of the Refuse District and the Work District?

COMPROLLER CONROY: Refuse Disposal District and the Collection District, that request is made by the Commissioner of Sanitation.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What about the Sanitation District?

COMPROLLER CONROY: I mentioned there

1 are three Collection Districts and one Refuse
2 Disposal, Operating Districts.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: They create
4 their own budget?

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: They have their
6 own Commissioners that adopt their own
7 budgets, yes, they create, generate their own
8 budgets.

9 And, I am glad you brought that up,
10 there was some comments we rubber stamp their
11 budgets, which we don't.

12 What happens, those Commissioners
13 adopt their budget.

14 Those budgets are submitted to the
15 Comptroller's Office.

16 My colleague next to me and I, go
17 through them.

18 We meet with them.

19 We also, in case of Sanitation, we
20 have the Commissioner of Sanitation of the
21 Town of Hempstead, we review their budget and
22 jurisdiction over their budgets is with
23 regard to their expenditure budget with the
24 exception of debt service.

25 We have on occasion have sent them

1 back to amend their budgets.

2 This year, fortunately, we did not
3 have to do that.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is the tax levy
5 uniformed for every community in the Town of
6 Hempstead?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, it is not.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, it
9 increases or decreases in various
10 communities?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Increases and
12 decreases with regard to the funds, I think,
13 the funding, itself, dictates that and the
14 fund.

15 It all depends upon what the fund fees
16 are, if it needs a tax increase, we have a
17 tax increase.

18 And, I will tell you that in every
19 case and every fund, there is a tax increase,
20 that tax increase goes to a stored fund
21 balance.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, let's take
23 Atlantic Beach, for instance, that is a
24 community in my District, according to the
25 calculations that I was given, their

1 taxes are going to be raised almost fifteen
2 percent, correct?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: Subject to check,
4 let me pull that out, what was the area,
5 Councilman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Atlantic Beach.

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: Atlantic Beach,
8 14.71 percent.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: 14.71 percent
10 and that encompasses what funds?

11 COMPROLLER CONROY: That is the, um -
12 -

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is the tax
14 levy that you are asking us to approve,
15 today.

16 COMPROLLER CONROY: Atlantic Park
17 District, itself, the increase infrastructure
18 needs - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay.
20 Just the Park District?

21 COMPROLLER CONROY: Just that Park
22 District.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, that Park
24 District encompasses what, Atlantic Beach
25 Estates?

1 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Atlantic Beach
2 Estates.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Atlantic
4 Beach Estates are going up 14.71 percent and
5 what about - -

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: In the Park
7 District.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, not in
9 the Park District, the total tax?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: In the Park
11 District.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: In the Park
13 District is going up 14.71 percent?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I am sorry, yeah,
15 that would be all the baseline, that would
16 include - -

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That has gone up
18 almost fifteen percent in the Park District
19 in Atlantic Beach Estates, you call it the
20 "Park District," I call it, "Atlantic Beach
21 Estate."

22 What about North Woodmere, what is the
23 tax increase in North Woodmere in 2018 over
24 2017?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Tax increase,

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6.58 percent.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is above the Cuomo Tax Cap, isn't it?

COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct, the tax cap applies to the Town of Hempstead and all of the entity.

It doesn't differentiate.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why are there communities in my District that are being taxed more than the Town as a whole?

As a matter of fact, there is no community in the 3rd District that is being taxed with an increase that is within the Cuomo Tax, um, Cap.

As a matter of fact, Cedarhurst is four and a half percent.

East Atlantic Beach is four and a half percent.

Elmont is four percent.

Franklin Square is almost three percent.

Inwood is three percent.

Hewlett is three percent.

Lawrence is four and a half percent.

Lynbrook, the small part that I have

1 is four and a half percent.

2 Malverne is four and a half.

3 North Valley Stream is four percent.

4 I said North Woodmere is 6.58 percent.

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5 South Valley Stream is over three
6 percent.

7 West Hempstead is almost four percent
8 and Woodmere is almost four percent.

9 So, why is it that every community in
10 my District is over the 1.59 percent tax
11 increase that is being advertised?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I believe,
13 basically, it is twofold; Number 1 is the
14 concentration of residents in that area are
15 Town of Hempstead as a whole, in addition,
16 the beach clubs, a lot of infrastructure, um,
17 improvements have been made over the years,
18 which is driving up the tax increase.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There is one
20 beach club that was destroyed by Superstorm
21 Sandy, that we rebuilt and that applies to
22 Atlantic Beach, that doesn't apply to every
23 other community in my District.

24 All right, let's move onto another
25 subject.

1 Um, by the way, what is the total
2 proposed expenditure for Fire Protection in
3 this budget?

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: 4.9 million
5 dollars.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: 4.9 million
7 dollars?

8 COMPROLLER CONROY: 4.9 million
9 dollars, correct.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is Fire
11 Protection for the whole Town?

12 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: With respect to
14 contractual expenditures, there is a line
15 item for postage under "contractual," of
16 three million one hundred and sixty-six
17 thousand dollars, who is the contract with?

18 COMPROLLER CONROY: Are you referring
19 to postage?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeah, under
21 "contractual expenditures."

22 COMPROLLER CONROY: It comes under
23 the caption, the purposes of laying out the
24 template for the budget as a contractual
25 expense, meaning that we are bound to

1 incur the expense of postage, three million
2 dollars that you referred to is, um - -

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We have a
4 contract with the U.S. Post Office?

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, it is
6 postage.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You have two
8 spots in the budget that identify, "postage."

9 You got three million one hundred and
10 sixty-six thousand dollars under
11 "contractual" and, then, there is another
12 emergency three million dollars, I believe,
13 it is in "General Services."

14 Can you turn to that page?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: You are right,
16 that three million dollars is in General
17 Services.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There are two
19 different numbers, one, is three million one
20 hundred and sixty-six thousand and the other
21 is a different number.

22 What is the number that is in the
23 budget for postage under General Services?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Give me a second,
25 Councilman, 2018 - - 2018 analysis of postage

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 Account Number 4170, General Services, two
2 million nine hundred thousand.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay.

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Sanitation
5 Operating Account, twenty thousand.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so - - so,
7 on the one hand, postage is listed as a
8 contractual expense and on the other hand it
9 is listed as an expense of General Services.

10 Is it more than three million one
11 hundred sixty-six thousand dollars that we
12 spent for postage a year?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: This year calls
14 for expenditure, three million sixty-five
15 thousand dollars.

16 Tow million nine thousand is in
17 General Services.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Where is the
19 rest?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Twenty thousand,
21 Operating, Sanitation, Water, one hundred and
22 thirty-five thousand.

23 Parks Operating Account, ten thousand.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, again,
25 can you explain why it is listed as

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Contractual?

We don't have contractual with postage.

COMPTRROLLER CONROY: It is semantics as we set up - - the budget up, confusion - - no, it is not confusion.

It is not confusion at all.

It is contractual in that it is in with other expenses.

It is not contractual, per say.

It is postage.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, can I ask a question, why isn't postage delineated like other expenses in each of the Departments, such as, Supervisor's Department?

COMPTRROLLER CONROY: It is.

The Supervisor's Department, Receiver of Taxes, Comptroller's Office - -

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am sorry, Mr. Conroy, I interrupted you.

I apologize.

COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Your question is why is it not delineated in each of the Departments?

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeah, the
2 Supervisor's budget, can you point out what
3 the expenditure was for postage?

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: Supervisor's
5 budget is included in the General Fund and it
6 is in the General Services Department and it
7 is part of the 2.9 million dollars I referred
8 to earlier.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: See, I just
10 don't understand, I am having a hard time
11 understanding that with all the years of
12 experience I have in government and as a
13 Councilman, how people can understand that.

14 It is a contractual expense and the
15 postage that is used by each department is
16 not delineated.

17 Who keeps control of the postage?

18 Who control how much is spent on
19 postage?

20 Whose responsibility is that?

21 Mr. Supervisor, I am going to ask you
22 that question, whose responsibility is the
23 postage?

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, Mr.

1 Supervisor, I am asking you.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am asking the
3 Comptroller.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: He doesn't set
5 policy.

6 He is the numbers guy.

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Commissioner of
8 General Services.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Commissioner of
10 General Services makes the decision on how
11 much we spend on postage?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: In the General
13 Fund.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: In the General
15 Fund, what else is there postage?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: As I mentioned
17 earlier, Sanitation, Operating Account,
18 twenty-one thousand, Water Operating Account,
19 one hundred and thirty-five thousand, Parks
20 Operating Account, ten thousand.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, aside from
22 those relative small numbers, the
23 Commissioner of General Services makes the
24 determination that we are going to spend
25 three million one hundred and sixty-six

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dollars?

Okay, can I ask questions of the Commissioner of General Services in relative to that?

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, we are going to address all the questions on the budget through the Comptroller.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, there are Officers of the Town that have made recommendations.

I want to know how they arrived at the figure for postage.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller, the question, I think you answered, is that various departments, the bulk of it is the Commissioner of General Services and the various mailings for all different projects and things go through that budget, correct?

COMPTROLLER CONROY: I will point out, Supervisor, two million nine hundred thousand dollars, the Receiver of Taxes postage is charged part and parcel to that, is a significant part of it.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: And, that is tax bills?

1 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Tax bills and
2 reminder notices and the like.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How much does
4 the Receiver of Taxes spend on postage?

5 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: I don't have that
6 number.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, well, Mr.
8 Conroy, I don't want to fight with you.

9 I respect you and I have the utmost
10 respect for you.

11 I think you are really good at what
12 you do.

13 I am a little frustrated because you
14 are being asked to answer policy questions.

15 So, please, bear with me when I ask
16 you.

17 I just want to get the answers.

18 So, did the Receiver of Taxes ask for
19 a certain amount of money so he can mail out
20 the tax bills?

21 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: I don't know the
22 answer to that.

23 My answer to that is the Commissioner
24 of General Services monitors that and he may
25 have had a conversation with the Receiver

1 but I can tell you that number is relatively
2 easy to get because we know the number of tax
3 bills.

4 We know the number of reminder notices
5 and we know what the postage is for per each
6 one of those items.

7 So, it is a mathematical equation.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who controls the
9 postage, then?

10 I think the taxpayers want to know
11 that.

12 Someone is keeping check on it.

13 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
14 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, it seems to
16 me if you got three million sixty-five
17 thousand dollars for postage, you would want
18 to know how much does the Receiver of Taxes
19 needs.

20 How much does the Town Clerk need?

21 How much do the Council Members need?

22 How much do each of the Departments
23 need for postage and, then you come up with a
24 figure and you figure out whether it is a
25 reasonable number and if it is an

1 unreasonable number and you go back and try
2 to cut so it comes into a reasonable number.

3 Does that make sense?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that what is
5 done or not?

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: To a certain
7 extent, that is what is done.

8 It is monitored.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Nobody knows how
10 much each department is asking for?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is monitored
12 through the Commissioner of General Services
13 which I am sure has conversations with those
14 departments in the General Fund that do need
15 postage.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, let me
17 ask you a question, you have under
18 "contractual" also, um, a number for, um,
19 "other fees and services," I think it is
20 line, 4151.

21 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes, it is.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is under
23 "contractual."

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know.

25 Which Fund are you referring to?

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is your
2 document, Mr. Conroy.

3 It says under "Contractual
4 expenditure," it is the hand up that you gave
5 with respect to "Contractual expenditures,"
6 it is Number 5 - - excuse me, last year it
7 was five million one hundred and twenty-nine
8 thousand dollars and change.

9 This year it is 4.8 million dollars
10 and change.

11 What are those fees and services for?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The handout, they
13 had handed out to the Council Members as
14 "other contractals," 36.3 million dollars in
15 '18, are you talking about the same number,
16 here?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Correct.

18 That is a large number, what that
19 seems to be - -

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Same handout,
21 Councilman, I referred you to an itemization
22 listing amounting to 36.3 million and the
23 39.9 million and there are, approximately,
24 forty-one line items that make up - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, are you

1 saying that these numbers don't add up to
2 thirty-six million three hundred dollars?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: No, I am saying
4 they add up exactly to the 36.3 million
5 dollars.

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6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is line
7 item 4151, a request for four million eight
8 hundred and fifty-four thousand and nine
9 hundred and thirty-five dollars?

10 COMPROLLER CONROY: I don't know.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Would you like
12 to come up and take a look?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, why
14 don't we do this so everybody can hear you.

15 COMPROLLER CONROY: I can point it
16 out.

17 It is on the listing of itemized
18 schedule, I mentioned where there is forty-
19 line items and you are referring to what was
20 the number you were referring to?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: 4151, "fees and
22 services", four million eight hundred and
23 fifty-four nine hundred and thirty-five
24 dollars.

25 COMPROLLER CONROY: Is there an

1 Account Number next to it?

2 I am having a hard time finding it.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, let me ask
4 you this much, let's shift gears, so, in
5 "fees and services," would that include legal
6 fees?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes, it would.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, how much
9 do we spend on legal fees, in 2017?

10 How much do we project to spend in
11 2018, outside legal Counsel, not Town
12 Attorney, not Attorneys?

13 Excuse me, let me finish and not for
14 various departments, how much?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: What you are
16 referring to is outside counsel?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Outside counsel?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That would be
19 budgets in all the different departments and
20 different Funds and we would have to go
21 through the whole budget and do a tabulation
22 of all of it.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the
24 total amount?

25 You don't have to tell me for each.

1 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have to go
2 through the budget and each of these
3 departments.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We don't know
5 how much money we are spending on outside
6 counsel?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: We absolutely do,
8 by the departments, if you want a total Town
9 audit, we have to tabulate it.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who controls how
11 much we spend on outside counsel?

12 Who is the ultimate arbiter of how
13 much we spend on outside counsel?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It could be a
15 combination of the Town Attorney's Office, as
16 well as the Departments where there is a need
17 for outside counsel.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Does the
19 Supervisor have any input?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I am sure he
21 does.

22 I don't speak to the Supervisor with
23 regard to it but I am sure he does.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, we don't
25 know what that number is?

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I generally leave
2 those decisions, by the way, to the Town
3 Attorney.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, let me ask
5 the Town Attorney.

6 Mr. Ra, my good friend, how much did
7 you spend on an annual basis, let's take
8 2016, how much did we spend on outside
9 counsel?

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The reason it is
11 difficult to find out that number is because
12 if somebody in Sanitation has an accident and
13 sanitation get sued and has to go to outside
14 Counsel, then, the Sanitation budget pays for
15 that.

16 If somebody trips and falls in a Park
17 and that goes to outside Counsel, the Parks
18 Department pays for that, so, my Department,
19 we can get that for you.

20 And, then, we can add that up.

21 Um, off the top of my head - -

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Would that be an
23 important fact to know in creating a budget?

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Well, we know.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How do you come

1 up with the number?

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Because we know
3 what we spend year to year to year and that
4 is how we come up with it, but, we have it.

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me ask the
6 question - -

7 (Whereupon, "how much did you pay last
8 year," was heard yelling out from the
9 audience. After, the following ensued.)

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me, I
11 have the floor, so, give us a ballpark figure
12 of what we spent on outside Counsel, you
13 know, for 2016, 2017, what did we spend?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't know.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is it more than
16 a million dollars?

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't have that
18 number.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We don't know if
20 it is more than a million dollars?

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No, I don't know
22 what that number is.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Conroy, do
24 you know if it is more than a million
25 dollars?

1 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: I don't know, but
2 it is important to note when we budget, we
3 budget based upon the Fund.

4 The Fund stands on it its own as a
5 separate entity but to have another Town
6 wide, it is difficult because it is budgeted
7 on a fund-by-fund basis.

8 Again, it would be a manual exercise.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: How many
10 funds do you have?

11 Don't you have them in front of you,
12 now?

13 Can't we add it up, now?

14 Take the base Departments and add them
15 up?

16 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: It is with "fees
17 and services."

18 We dissected "fees and services," and
19 plucked out, "legal."

20 It is a manual test that takes time.

21 We don't have a computer system to
22 push a button.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Can I ask
24 a question, please.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I recognize

1 Senior Councilwoman Goosby.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am asking a
3 question on this particular item.

4 I am asking a question.

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5 I am not yielding the floor.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am in the Chair
7 and I recognized Senior Councilwoman Goosby.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I would
9 like to know, Mr. Conroy, if you had a
10 meeting with this Councilman and the
11 Councilwoman as you did with us?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I did.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Did they
14 ask you these questions when they met with
15 you like when you went through this book with
16 us?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: There was a
18 series of questions.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: They
20 didn't come when the time was scheduled, that
21 is why.

22 Okay, he did not come.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I did ask the
24 questions.

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, no,

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No.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I asked all those questions.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, please, answer Senior Councilwoman Goosby's question.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I have to ask the question, I would like to know if you went over this, did you go over this with them?

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, answer Senior Councilwoman Goosby.

She has the floor at the moment.

COMPTROLLER CONROY: Thank you, Supervisor.

Could you, please, just ask me that question once, again.

I will certainly answer it.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Did you go over the budget with all of us?

I mean, I know they weren't there when I was there.

Did you, at some other time, for them?

COMPTROLLER CONROY: We had a collective meeting and we went through the

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Budget.

We went through the highlights, the particulars.

Mr. Blakeman asked questions.

We had a separate meeting with Councilwoman Sweeney.

She asked some questions.

Yes, there were a series of questions.

I thought it was a very good meeting.

I thought it went well.

I thought it was very educational. I am wondering why the questions are being asked, now, not then.

I am not quite sure.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I want you to know, I know you were there, my Attorney, who happens to be an accountant, during that time, I wonder if you went over the budget with them.

Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I will speak for myself.

I did attend the meeting with the Comptroller and I asked follow-up questions that were not answered.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 Tonight is a better opportunity to go
2 through all those questions, when Councilman
3 Blakeman finished speaking.

4 I did attend the meeting.

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, um, Mr.
6 Conroy, I want to ask you about, um, the
7 reproduction costs and the budget on
8 reproduction costs, the reproduction costs,
9 the actual expense, 2017 from January 1 to
10 the end of May is three hundred and fifty-one
11 thousand dollars is it not and change?

12 I am rounding it off.

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Three hundred and
14 fifty-one thousand thirty-six dollars spot
15 zero two, that would be for the five months
16 in 2017.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay and what
18 was the budget for, um - -

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Five hundred and
20 fifty thousand in '17.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, the budget
22 was five hundred and fifty for '17?

23 The reproduction costs already from
24 January 1st to the end of May is two thirds of
25 the whole budget, approximately?

1 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Approximately.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, are we
3 going to be overbudgeted on reproduction
4 expenses this year?

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5 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: No, we will not.

6 I think a lot of those expenses should
7 be considered as seasonal expenses and we got
8 a lot of that as of May 31st in there.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am wondering
10 what season that is in the whole year of
11 2016, what was the reproduction expense?

12 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: I am sorry,
13 Councilman?

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: 2016, what was
15 the actual expense for reproduction costs?

16 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: One hundred and
17 sixty-eight thousand.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: One hundred and
19 sixty-eight thousand for the whole year of
20 2016 and in 2017, in less than a half a year,
21 it is double that.

22 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: A large majority
23 of these costs are papers.

24 I would venture to guess back in '16,
25 we had a large inventory of papers.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is a lot of
2 paper.

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is a lot of
4 paper because we take advantage of big
5 discounts in the paper business.

6 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
7 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It would have
9 nothing to do with the Election year, would
10 it?

11 Because, 2016 wasn't an Election year
12 and 2017 is and we are spending two and a
13 half times more, at least in 2017 our
14 reproduction expenses than we spent in the
15 whole year of 2016, can you explain, that is
16 all due to paper expense?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, I can't.

18 I would have to analyze that and get
19 back to you.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wouldn't it be
21 important to analyze it, two and a half times
22 from 2016 to 2017, it has gone up two and a
23 half times?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I am sure the
25 Comptroller's staff has done this.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Two and a half
2 times from 2016 to 2017, it has gone up two
3 and a half times.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am sure the
5 Comptroller's staff has done this.

6 I know you appreciate the fact this is
7 an extremely large budget and I am sure the
8 paperwork there is an explanation for this,
9 why there is a difference.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That would be an
11 item, would it, if something of that
12 magnitude went up?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Sure.

14 (Whereupon, calling out from the
15 audience was heard. After, the following
16 ensued.)

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How much are we
18 proposing to spend for youth services?

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Department of
20 Planning and Economic Development is that
21 where you are at?

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeah.

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Just give me a
24 moment.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me see if I

1 can refresh your recollection so you don't
2 have to spend too much time.

3 Would it be eighty-five thousand
4 dollars?

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Just give me a
6 moment, fifty-four thousand five hundred and
7 twelve dollars.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How much?

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Fifty-four
10 thousand.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Fifty-four
12 thousand.

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This is in
14 Planning and Economic Development which is
15 essentially pass-through money.

16 It comes from Federal Grants or State
17 and passes down through us.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are spending
19 fifty-four thousand dollars, then, we are
20 getting reimbursed, so, it is not costing us
21 anything.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: But my
23 understanding is it - -

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You told me he
25 was going to answer my questions.

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SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Well, my understanding is that the money that we have been receiving from the Federal Government has been reduced successfully in the last few years.

It continues to go down every year.

COMPTROLLER CONROY: Exactly, Supervisor, the CDPG budget, Community Development Park Grant budget, three years ago was north of five million.

It is 3.2 million, now.

Yes, it has gone south.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: But, um, so, do you know how much we are spending in Youth Services for the Town?

COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can tell you this line item we are spending on Lakeview Youth and Oceanside Youth Center, we get a Grant for the Oceanside Community Center.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, we are spending less than fifty thousand dollars on Youth Services.

We are spending 4.9 million dollars for Fire Protection for the whole Town.

But according to your calculations,

1 would it be reasonable to assume, we are
2 spending more on reproduction costs, postage
3 and legal fees than we are for Fire
4 Protection and Youth Services?

5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, what
6 do we spend on Youth Programs, Lacrosse, Camp
7 Anchor, all of our various other programs
8 that we have for youth in the Town of
9 Hempstead and throughout departments?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are talking
11 about - - we are talking about young people
12 in crisis.

13 We are talking about - - I would like
14 to know what we are spending on that?

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Well, Mr. Conroy
16 - -

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do we spend
18 anything on that?

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: The money that we
20 spend on young people, by the time you put in
21 Camp Anchor - -

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I don't want you
23 to characterize my questions, Mr. Supervisor.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: And, I am
25 characterizing - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You ask it your
2 way and I will ask it my way.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Maybe in the
4 minds of the people sitting, here, Mr. Conroy

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5 - -

6 (Whereupon, calling out from the
7 audience was heard. After, the following
8 ensued.)

9 (Whereupon, "It is a good question,
10 no, no, it is a good question," was yelled
11 out from the audience. After, the following
12 ensued.)

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: What is the - -
14 just give us a variety of programs for young
15 people that the Town funds?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I know in the
17 Parks Department, we have a Lacrosse Program.

18 The Lacrosse Program, we spend ab out
19 eighty-five thousand dollars there.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How much money
21 do we spend in drug treatment and drug
22 education for youth in the Town of Hempstead?

23 How much is in this budget,
24 specifically for that?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know.

1 It is part of a line item.

2 I would have to do an analysis.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is not a big
4 number, obviously, you would know it if it
5 was a big number.

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6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It would be in
7 fees and services.

8 I don't know that to be the case.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If it was a big
10 number, you would know it, Mr. Conroy, come
11 on, you would know that.

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Mr. Blakeman,
13 this whole budget is extremely big and very
14 cumbersome.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I understand.

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have no idea.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I understand, I
18 think you do a great job.

19 I really do.

20 I think you are real professional.

21 I appreciate it.

22 My questions have to do more with
23 policy decisions and not you.

24 But, since you are the only one that
25 can answer the questions, I understand your

1 hands are tied.

2 How much do we spend on Veterans
3 Programs in the Town of Hempstead?

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: I can tell you in
5 General Services Department, we have three
6 employees dedicated to Veteran Services.

7 Their total salaries about two hundred
8 and forty-five combined when you factor in
9 benefits, somewhere around four hundred
10 thousand.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, the whole
12 Department is about four hundred thousand
13 dollars, so, basically, if we lump that in
14 with Fire Protection, Youth Services and
15 Veterans, it would still be less than what we
16 spend on outside counsel, postage and
17 reproduction costs, am I in the ballpark?

18 COMPROLLER CONROY: The only thing
19 that I would say, when you mention Fire
20 Protection District, we are not taking into
21 account the Commission-operated Fire
22 Departments.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am talking
24 about our responsibilities.

25 COMPROLLER CONROY: Our

1 Responsibilities.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, um,
3 let's turn to the Councilmanic Districts.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Bruce, a
5 point of personal privilege, is there any
6 chance we can make it a little warmer in
7 here.

8 I see people with coats on.

9 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
10 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Mr. Conroy,
12 with respect to Councilmanic Districts, in
13 the Councilmanic Districts, there was a line
14 for both, you say that the Department Heads
15 prepare a budget for Councilmanic Districts,
16 correct?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, I was
19 never consulted on the funding for
20 Councilmanic Districts.

21 I know Erin King-Sweeney wasn't
22 consulted, so, who prepared the department
23 request for the Majority leaving out the
24 Senior Councilman Goosby.

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Senior

1 Councilwoman Goosby.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Senior

3 Councilwoman, I apologize.

4 Who prepared that budget request?

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: For the Majority

6 District, 2 through 6, Comptroller's Office

7 and the Chief of Staff.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who is the Chief

9 of Staff?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Mr. Cianculli.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Mr.

12 Cianculli prepared this budget?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: He and my office.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, can Mr.

15 Cianculli come forward?

16 I have some questions of him.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are not going

18 to be, um, asking individual Department

19 Heads.

20 He is your employee, you can certainly

21 talk to him.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, he is your

23 employee.

24 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

25 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: He is your
2 employee.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy will
4 answer your questions.

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What salary
6 adjustments?

7 Because there is a huge number in the
8 Councilmanic Districts that troubles me as a
9 fiscally, Conservative Republican that the
10 Majority has a line item for, um, salary
11 adjustments of nine hundred and sixty
12 thousand eight hundred and fifty-one
13 dollars.

14 What are "salary adjustments" and why
15 such a large number?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: This budget,
17 without salary adjustments, would otherwise
18 have nine budgeted vacancy positions.

19 We eliminated the vacancies and we
20 moved the money into "salary adjustments,"
21 recognizing that during the course of the
22 year there may be a need for additional
23 personnel in the Majority District, so as to
24 make the monies available, that is - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I only have one

1 Employee and there are a lot of employees
2 here, under the Councilmanic Districts.

3 I ask for a salary of what we have.

4 I didn't ask to hire new people.

5 Why do we have close to a million
6 dollars in projected hirings in the Majority?

7 You also have in the Minority.

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Sixty-six
9 thousand.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Sixty-six
11 thousand and across the board you have salary
12 adjustments in the millions of dollars in the
13 various departments.

14 (Whereupon, "patronage jobs" was heard
15 from the audience. After, the following
16 ensued.)

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How do you count
18 for that?

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Well for one, the
20 bonus, the 1.5 percent bonus is located into
21 that number, is part of that number.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why wouldn't
23 that be in "salaries"?

24 If you know the number, how come it is
25 not in the "salaries"?

1 It is in "salary adjustment."

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: Certain employees
3 are getting that 1.5, certain employees in
4 step positions are not getting that 1.5.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Based on the
6 contract?

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: Based on the
8 contractual rights.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, the
10 Collective Bargaining Agreement calls for 1.5
11 percent increase.

12 COMPROLLER CONROY: If I may, the
13 Collective Bargaining Agreement call for 1.5
14 percent bonus to be attached to the salary.

15 So, we did budget in the salary line
16 because it is not to be attached there.

17 It is a bonus, that is why it is a
18 salary adjustment.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Basically, it is
20 a salary?

21 COMPROLLER CONROY: It is not going
22 to affect your salary.

23 It is not going to have a benefit to
24 you in terms of a pension.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is a cash

1 payout that doesn't affect your pension?

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, that was
4 negotiated in the Collective Bargaining
5 Agreement?

6 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: But in the
8 Councilmanic portion of the budget, just the
9 Majority, I am not speaking for your side, I
10 tend to do that.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The total budget
14 for salaries is, let's see, um, can you help
15 me with that?

16 What is the total balance, total for
17 salaries?

18 COMPROLLER CONROY: Salaries - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that two
20 million thirty-seven thousand seven hundred
21 and twenty dollars, is that it?

22 COMPROLLER CONROY: Right.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, 1.5 percent
24 of two million thirty-seven thousand seven
25 hundred and twenty dollars, is not nine

1 Hundred and sixty thousand eight hundred and
2 fifty-one dollars.

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct, there is
4 a couple of components that being, one, also,
5 when someone leaves, when you pay sick, that
6 is not budgeted anywhere in there, that is in
7 "salary fees," by which to fund.

8 There a couple of Funds that are
9 included in there.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let's pretend we
11 don't hire those extra people and there is
12 nine hundred thousand dollars left over,
13 where does that money go?

14 Can that money be transferred from
15 Councilmanic District's Budget to another
16 budget, let's say, the Supervisor?

17 COMPROLLER CONROY: No, no, it has to
18 stay in the Councilmanic District and it is
19 not spent, it will be reclassified down to "fund
20 balance," which will help us get back in
21 compliance with this Board's Resolution which
22 was passed in 2009, maintaining a Fund
23 Balance level of, approximately, one third of
24 its expenditure,

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You can't do an

1 Interdepartmental Transfer Fund, is that
2 correct?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: No, it has to
4 stay in that Department.

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5 What happens to that money unspent
6 will inure to the benefit of the Fund
7 Balance.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, why is it a
9 large number, here?

10 COMPROLLER CONROY: Because, again,
11 it was nine vacancies that we eliminated but
12 we can't eliminate the dollars.

13 We left the dollars intact.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why would you do
15 that?

16 COMPROLLER CONROY: Because - -

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why not give the
18 money back to the taxpayers?

19 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
20 was heard. After, the following ensued.?)

21 COMPROLLER CONROY: Because, first of
22 all, this number is in compliance with the
23 Town Board's Resolution, whereby, we have to
24 have a Fund Balance level of one third of its
25 expenditures.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 We are about forty million dollars
2 away, so, if this money is unspent - -

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What happened to
4 the Fund Balance that we are forty million
5 dollars away?

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Over the last ten
7 years, we didn't raise taxes.

8 We went over this in our meeting.

9 We balanced our budget with the use of
10 the Fund Balance.

11 We depleted our Fund Balance.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Over the last
13 ten years, is it your testimony that the
14 Budgets that were passed by the Town of
15 Hempstead - -

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: For the record
17 this is not testimony, correct, Mr. Ra.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What do you want
19 to call it?

20 It is not sworn testimony, but, it is
21 testimony.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I know I am
23 getting cross examined.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, can you
25 answer my question?

1 COMPROLLER CONROY: Testimony or
2 which?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are not
4 sworn.

5 Don't worry about it.

6 Do you have anything to worry about?

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: No, we are proud
8 of this budget.

9 I'm proud of the people that I work
10 with.

11 What was your question, again?

12 I am sorry.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The salary
14 adjustments, there is millions of dollars of
15 salary adjustments.

16 There is almost a million dollars in
17 the Councilmanic District for salary
18 adjustments.

19 You're saying that if we don't spend
20 the money, it will go for the Fund Balance.

21 The Fund Balance is forty million
22 dollars out of whack, right, now, that is a
23 lot of money.

24 COMPROLLER CONROY: Okay.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am

1 trying to figure out how we got there so we
2 don't make the same mistakes.

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: Over the last ten
4 years recognizing that there are contractual
5 expenses that are rising in salary, certainly
6 medical over the last five years, medical
7 expense has been up by eighty percent a year.

8 Pension obligations has been up
9 significantly.

10 Our infrastructure and debt service
11 has been up as a result of Sandy, rising and
12 rising costs.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are spending
14 two and a half times more on postage with all
15 these rising costs we spent in 2016, it
16 doesn't make sense.

17 So, let me ask you this, so,
18 basically, what you are saying, over the past
19 ten years, the budgets have been structurally
20 imbalanced, out of balance, is that correct?

21 COMPROLLER CONROY: In that we had to
22 use the Fund Balance.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Clarification,
24 Mr. Conroy, the two budgets that I presented
25 as Town Supervisor have been

1 structurally balanced, which means - -

2 (Whereupon, "no, no," was called out
3 from the audience. After, the following
4 ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: - - No use of the
6 Fund Balance, is that correct?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You couldn't use
8 the Fund Balance, there was no Fund Balance
9 left.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, let's
11 say that, again.

12 The last budget, the only budget I
13 presented as Supervisor and this one are
14 structurally balanced.

15 No use of the Fund Balance. No one
16 shots.

17 Nothing of that nature?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, last
19 year's budget called for restoration of the
20 Fund Balance to four hundred thousand
21 dollars.

22 This budget calls for restoration of
23 the Fund Balance, twenty-one million dollars,
24 hence, both years, a structurally balanced
25 budget.

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: So, again, this
2 budget calls for restoration of the Fund
3 Balance.

4 This budget calls for the restoration
5 - -

6 (Whereupon, calling out and screaming
7 was heard from the audience. After, the
8 following ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: This budget calls
10 for restoration of the Fund Balance of
11 twenty-one million dollars, is that correct?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is correct.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Mr. Conroy,
14 is it correct - - but, it is not correct
15 because, basically, again, this budget that
16 you are asking us to approve, that you are
17 recommending, that the Supervisor is
18 recommending, not you.

19 You are just justifying it, basically,
20 has certain assumptions that are made,
21 correct?

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: As in any budget,
23 correct.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, you
25 got an increase in sales tax revenues?

1 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Projected in
2 sales tax.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You have
4 increases in other revenues?

5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Mortgage
6 recording tax, department fees and the like,
7 yes.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: But, you are
9 depending on the macro economy, not the micro
10 economy of the Town, correct?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct, yes.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, there could
13 be ten million, twelve million, thirteen
14 million dollars less in revenues if you were
15 overly optimistic, right?

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, in
17 your professional opinion, are they
18 conservative opinions - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me ask the
20 question, by way - -

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, Mr. Blakeman,
22 I asked him.

23 You can ask any way you like.

24 On revenue estimates relative to
25 mortgage taxes and sales taxes, are they,

1 in your professional opinion, conservative
2 opinions?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Right, let me
5 ask you - -

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let him finish
7 actually answering the question.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let him answer
9 my question.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let him answer my
11 question.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Please, Mr.
13 Conroy.

14 COMPROLLER CONROY: Town of Hempstead
15 Budget would be described in one word,
16 "conservative."

17 We budget in accordance with
18 projections on a very conservation basis and
19 what is implemented that we look close, the
20 books tally projections on both revenues and
21 expenses.

22 The differences are very, very small.

23 So, we are right on target to say this
24 is conservative.

25 Is it possible we could be over-

1 estimating by ten to twelve million?

2 Is it possible if something
3 catastrophic happens?

4 Absolutely.

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why
6 catastrophic?

7 Is the trend - - we don't collect
8 sales tax revenue for, um, online Internet
9 purchases, correct?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, those
12 purchases are increasing every year and the
13 revenues from the brick and mortar buildings
14 are decreasing, yet, you are not projecting a
15 decrease in sales tax revenue.

16 You are projecting an increase in
17 sales tax revenue, correct?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: First two
19 quarters in '17 are up four percent, so, yes,
20 we are projecting optimistically an increase
21 in sales taxes.

22 However, I like to present it
23 optimistically and conservatively.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, but a large
25 portion of that was a sale in January on

1 overstock of cars that generated a short-term
2 increase in sales tax revenue across the
3 United States, correct?

4 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: My colleague
5 will be looking that up.

6 No, that is not true.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well - -

8 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Do you want to
9 move to the next question?

10 First quarter sales tax, 1.3 percent.

11 Second quarter, 3.9 percent.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the
13 dollar value of that?

14 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Approximately,
15 1.5 million.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Now, Mr. Conroy
17 we could put that aside for a second.

18 Mr. Conroy, with respect to entries in
19 the tentative budget that talk about the 2017
20 budget as amended, what were the major areas
21 that were amended in the 2017 budget with
22 respect to expenditures?

23 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Essentially, swap
24 out of employees.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am sorry?

1 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Swap out of
2 employees, pretty much.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What do you mean
4 by "swap out employees"?

5 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: In other words,
6 you have an employee who left and, you know,
7 change the title.

8 It is title increase and put another
9 title in there.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can you do that
11 from Department to Department?

12 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Transfer the
14 funds from department to department?

15 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: No, no, you can't
16 transfer the funds.

17 You are swapping out one title to
18 another in the same department, primarily
19 consolidation of garages.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What garages are
21 being consolidated?

22 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Sorry?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What garages
24 were consolidated?

25 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: We found there

1 were a number of garages.

2 We are down to two garages.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I think it was
4 sixteen places where we repaired automotive
5 vehicles and it is, now, down to two.

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6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are there any
7 plans in the 2018 budget to close any of the
8 Public Works yards or consolidate any of the
9 Public Works yards?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Not that I am
11 aware of, now.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Because the
13 people in Franklin Square and Inwood and
14 North Woodmere and Woodmere and Elmont have
15 expressed a lot of concern over a proposal
16 that I didn't even know about and those two
17 yards are in my District to consolidate the
18 Franklin Square yards with Inwood, that is
19 not in the budget.

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Nothing in this
21 budget.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Was it ever
23 discussed through the course of the year?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Nope.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Because I know

1 there was an appraisal and I know that there
2 was a contract that was being prepared and
3 the people that live in the Five Towns wanted
4 to know how they are going to get their snow
5 removal from Franklin Square and the people
6 in Franklin Square are worried about
7 resources being drained from them.

8 And, the people from Elmont were
9 worried about the resources being drained
10 from them and being sent to other places
11 which wouldn't be cost efficient because it
12 would take so much time to get there.

13 It would eat up labor costs and it
14 wouldn't be efficient at all.

15 Do you agree?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: What you are
17 laying out, I agree.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
20 much.

21 Other Members of the Board?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I have a
23 couple of questions, um, Page, I think it is
24 not numbered.

25 I believe the fifth page in the

1 Preliminary Budget document, um, it is the
2 first full paragraph, the second sentence,
3 um, it says, "In March of this year, our
4 government earned its third consecutive
5 upgrade and its financial outlook from
6 independent and non-partisan credit raters,"
7 um, it sounds real positive, except, we had
8 three consecutive credit downgrades.

9 The last credit downgrade was a Code
10 "B" and outlook "Upgrade."

11 But we had three consecutive
12 downgrades.

13 That is a newsflash, so, it is like my
14 son get an "A+" an "A-" and comes home with a
15 "C+" and tells me, "But Mom, it was a plus."

16 At the end of the it - -

17 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
18 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Now, I don't know
20 if you are aware of this or not, but, the
21 rating agencies have changed their matrix,
22 their scorecard on how they do ratings.

23 And, I would attribute most of that to
24 the change in the scope of the rating by way
25 of the matrix in the scorecard.

1 And, that is why, like rating agency's
2 call and they revert positive in their marks.

3 As to the outlook - -

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I
5 understand the outlook is downgrade.

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The downgrade,
7 again, let's look at the matrix, again, the
8 scorecard has changed and that pretty much
9 lowers that downgrade.

10 Why would they downgrade an outlook,
11 "upgrade?"

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller,
13 you were cut off.

14 You were about to talk about what they
15 said in their - - when they increased the
16 outlook.

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: They were very
18 positive in their outlook.

19 They memorialized it in their write
20 up.

21 And, they said to us if this comes to
22 fruition and your numbers are good in your
23 budget and they anticipate that they will be
24 good, you can expect positive things down the
25 road.

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COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I

understand what, "outlook, upgrade" is.

But for you to omit the fact that it was downgraded along with the outlook is disingenuous.

(Whereupon, applause from the audience was heard. After, the following ensued.)

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I

researched the matter with several different people.

This sort of usage of this terminology in the context of a political campaign might be deemed puffery.

I prefer to be truthful, but it would be deemed to be puffery.

But, again, when you are using this type of language that omits the fact that there have been three downgrades, albeit it a positive outlook, to me, a budget should not include puffery.

It should include the facts and not selective facts.

So, I would hope that going forward, the Town of Hempstead would look for an upgrade.

1 If we receive a credit upgrade or a
2 downgrade, we should include that, not just
3 the positive spin, but the actual facts.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
5 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

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6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Can you
7 tell me going forward we will mention the
8 credit bond rating, not just the outlook?

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I think that is a
10 policy issue.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I ask the
12 Supervisor that, then.

13 Can we always include, going forward,
14 I am not talking about your campaign
15 literature, but all Town documents, that
16 would include the preliminary budget and any
17 other budgetary documents, if we have a
18 credit movement, whether upgrade or downgrade
19 along with an outlook, upgrade or downgrade,
20 we include both facts so that the public is
21 provided with accurate information?

22 Not cherry pick information.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you.

25 So, we have that on the record, that

1 we will include - -

2 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
3 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you.

5 I greatly appreciate that, Supervisor.

6 I look forward to it.

7 I hope there is an upgrade next time
8 and outlook, upgrade, as well as, the credit
9 rating.

10 So, that was my first question.

11 Um, the HR budget, Human Resources,
12 can we talk about a budget for harassment
13 training?

14 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
15 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: How much
17 is there for harassment training?

18 (Whereupon, "not enough," was heard
19 yelling out from the audience. After, the
20 following ensued.)

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Sammon, do
22 you know that off the top of your head rather
23 than searching through documents?

24 Is Mr. Sammon in the room?

25 Mr. Sammon, did you hear the question?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I didn't
2 hear the entire question, Mr. Supervisor.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: How much do we
4 spend annually for various
5 diversity/harassment training, things of that
6 nature?

7 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Most of it
8 is currently done in-house.

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: So, it is done
10 in-house by existing staff, so, it is
11 incorporated as part of the salaries of the
12 professional people in the H.R. Department.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: So, I am
14 not normally about spending money.

15 I am a Conservative Republican, maybe
16 we will increase the budget just a pinch to
17 include some outside harassment training
18 because one might suggest based on what
19 happened during the Town Board Meeting this
20 afternoon, previous Town Board Meetings, the
21 fact that a Senior Member of the Supervisor's
22 staff informed my staff to go "F" myself, I
23 would think conservatively might need some
24 harassment training in the Town of Hempstead.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: For legal
3 fees, maybe it might be worth just a pinch of
4 money to avoid all of those problems going
5 forward.

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6 Mr. Supervisor, would you go along
7 with that?

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: The Town does the
9 diversity and harassment training and, you
10 know, for anything else, we will take that
11 under advisement.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Okay, I
13 guess that is a no.

14 But, I will press forward.

15 I used to be head of H.R. in an
16 international company. We had a very, very
17 large harassment training and it was always
18 very helpful to avoid litigation down the
19 road.

20 In any event, um, last week, Mr.
21 Conroy, I sent you a host of questions and
22 since I sent two emails following on it and I
23 didn't receive a response, so, let's have the
24 conversation, now.

25 So, my first, um, question was the

1 2016 budget showed a negative operational
2 deficit of 23.5 million as compared to a net
3 position decline of 72.3 million, a
4 difference of 48.8 million.

5 I am trying to understand the variance
6 between the 2016 budget deficit and the 2016
7 audited financial net position decline.

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: As I mentioned to
9 you this afternoon, Councilwoman, I have not
10 seen that document.

11 I have not seen that request and I am
12 not in a position to discuss that, now, until
13 I research it and give you an adequate,
14 comprehensive answer.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I sent you
16 two emails last week.

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: As you can see,
18 you sent it Thursday or Friday.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thursday
20 and Friday.

21 COMPTROLLER CONROY: We are in the
22 process of a budget.

23 I mentioned on several occasions,
24 please give me the time. It is the budget
25 and I would be glad - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I have to
2 know it today.

3 I know you met with me twice but we
4 haven't met on the 2016 audited financials,
5 the 2017 results or this until just two weeks
6 ago.

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The audited
8 financials we gave to you the day after we
9 received them.

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Right, I
11 have questions and, now, I have to vote on a
12 budget, I think the 2016 results have a
13 direct impact on the vote, tonight.

14 No, it is the financial health of the
15 Town.

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: You have the
17 financial statements.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Right and
19 I have questions.

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Again, your
21 questions I have not seen.

22 I need the time to digest and give you
23 adequate answers.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Should I go
25 through all of them?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 (Whereupon, "yes," was heard calling
2 out from the audience. After, the following
3 ensued.)

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: I don't have the
5 facts in front of me.

6 I don't have the audited financials.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: But you
8 answered Bruce's questions.

9 COMPROLLER CONROY: Bruce's questions
10 were in regard to the budget.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: All is
12 underneath it, I mean - -

13 COMPROLLER CONROY: What you are
14 referring to is the '16 audit, that is
15 historical data.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Let me do
17 something that deals with the 2018 budget,
18 the five million operational surplus in 2017,
19 excluding capital projects, how much are
20 capital revenues and expenses anticipated to
21 be in 2017 and 2018?

22 COMPROLLER CONROY: 2017 and '18 were
23 probably somewhere in the neighborhood of
24 fifty million, forty-five to fifty million.

25 The Supervisor is committed to road

1 Improvements, increasing that from 20 million
2 to thirty-five.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Will those
4 be expressed equally throughout the
5 districts?

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6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Road projects are
7 done based on - - it is attempted to do it
8 across all of the districts but it is done
9 based on the most particular need, based on
10 the professional assessment of the engineers
11 and Engineering Department.

12 It has been and since I have been
13 Supervisor and did my time on the Board, as
14 best as you can, it has generally been spread
15 equally across the entire township.

16 You do have to remember there are some
17 district, Councilmanic Districts that are
18 substantially included.

19 Incorporated Villages, where there are
20 Incorporated Villages, obviously, do their
21 own roads.

22 We don't have any roads in the
23 Incorporated Villages.

24 It is either a County road or a
25 Village Road.

1 So, those districts may get - - and,
2 yours is not one of them, other than
3 Freeport, those may get, over the course of
4 time, less, because there are fewer roads
5 there that are the Town's responsibilities.

6 In Councilmanic Districts, which is
7 all of the Incorporated areas may get a
8 little more.

9 The effort has always been and during
10 me time as Supervisor, it has been my policy,
11 as well, to make it as equal as humanly
12 possible but, obviously, the most overriding
13 aspect is need as determined by the
14 Professional Engineers.

15 And, there is that aspect, and, again,
16 it wouldn't really affect your District, it
17 would affect Councilman D'Esposito's and
18 Councilman Blakeman's District to a lesser
19 extent, to some extent, Councilman
20 Ambrosino's, because he has Floral Park and
21 Garden City, so, the areas with Villages in
22 it because there are few Town roads, the
23 numbers maybe a little off, but, again, it is
24 attempted to be done as - - spread as
25 equally as possible.

1 The overriding thing is, obviously, is
2 the need based on the professional assessment
3 and the aspect of the Incorporated Villages,
4 yes, to answer your question, the best we can
5 within those confines, we try to do this as
6 equally as possible.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I
8 understand that.

9 I only have one Village in my
10 District, so, I realize that.

11 And, of course, there is a lot of
12 Towns that are near the water, a lot of those
13 towns and the Commissioner of Engineering has
14 done a terrific job and visited a lot of
15 different roads, particularly in South
16 Bellmore with me.

17 And, I do appreciate that.

18 But, what I am trying to get at is,
19 absent the issue of emergencies, absent the
20 issue of Villages, um, should all the
21 Districts, more or less, be treated equally
22 because my District doesn't even know I am
23 their Council Member because there is no
24 mailings of me in them.

25 So, how do we - - how do we handle

1 this so Districts are treated differently?

2 And, during today's Town Board
3 Meeting, I wasn't afforded the opportunity to
4 speak, so, if someone took off a day, um,
5 during the day to speak, they wouldn't have
6 known that I was their Council Member.

7 So, how do we, from a budgetary
8 prospective, treat Districts equally, so,
9 that myself and Councilman Blakeman can also
10 access mailings when it makes sense?

11 I am not looking to spend a tremendous
12 amount of money at all, but, when it makes
13 sense for the District, how can we, um, use
14 that mailing?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: You're talking
16 about mailings?

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am
18 talking about being treated equally from a
19 budgetary District?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Each one of the
21 Districts, when - - if you factor in the
22 Minority District and District 1 and the
23 Majority District and the five Districts,
24 each of them have the same amount of money in
25 this budget.

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Same
2 amount of money from a mailing prospective
3 because I think if you go over the last
4 twelve months, you are hard press to find me
5 in any mailings, particularly the glossy-
6 colored photo ones.

7 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
8 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Right.

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can speak to
11 the dollars.

12 I can speak to the dollars.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Well, can
14 I get those dollars?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is in your
16 budget there.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Can I
18 actually spend those dollars?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is not in the
20 budget for the Councilmanic Districts.

21 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is in the
22 Majority Budget, Councilmanic Majority's
23 budget.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is not in the
25 Majority of the Budget.

1 You said the postage is in General
2 Services controlled by the Supervisor.

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Postage, I stand
4 corrected, you are absolutely right.

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Reproduction
6 costs are in General Services, so, basically,
7 the answer, I am sorry to interrupt, the
8 answer is that it is not distributed equally.

9 It is distributed at the whim of the
10 Supervisor, correct?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is not in your
12 budget.

13 I stand corrected on that.

14 It is in General Services.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: How do I
17 send a mailing to the people in Baldwin?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is a policy
19 issue.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: No,
21 shouldn't it be a budgetary issue?

22 We just established that all Districts
23 should have the same amount of money instead
24 of a Village issue and all of those type of
25 things.

1 So, my question is how do I send a
2 mailing to the people in Baldwin?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is budgeted in
4 General Services.

5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: How do I
6 access that money?

7 I am speaking practically.

8 How does Alex, in my office, say, we
9 have a photo, here, on Grand Avenue.

10 I don't want to waste money, only if
11 it makes sense.

12 How do I get back to the voters in
13 Baldwin so they know I represent them?

14 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I would think
15 from a practical standpoint, the starting
16 point would be the Commissioner of General
17 Services.

18 See where it goes from there.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If I send
20 an email to the Commissioner of General
21 Services with a little photoshopped picture
22 of me and a text - -

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: What I am saying
24 is take that conversation up with the
25 Commissioner.

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I can't
2 have these conversations.

3 The money is in there.

4 Practically, how do I access the
5 funds?

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Those questions
7 are outside of my scope.

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Someone
9 give me that answer.

10 (Whereupon, "Mike Deery, he is the
11 head of everybody," was heard called out from
12 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The answer is you
14 prepare the document that you want to be sent
15 and you send it over to the Commissioner of
16 General Services.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Maybe we
18 will do that tomorrow, Alex and you can put
19 that on my FACEBOOK, a four-page glossy, lots
20 of photos I can send to the folks in Baldwin.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I send out a
22 letter to people in my District explaining my
23 vote on the budget?

24 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
25 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that all
2 right, Commissioner?

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, are
4 there any other questions of Mr. Conroy?

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5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Yeah, I do
6 have a question.

7 On Page 107, um, that Councilmanic
8 District 5, it has me, my salary, seventy-one
9 thousand.

10 A Legislative Aide at seventy-five and
11 a total of one hundred forty-six thousand,
12 um, as I recall more or less last year, the
13 budget for my District was about five hundred
14 and fifty thousand, so, can you explain to me
15 the change?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The change is the
17 creation of the Majority District and
18 remainder of those items other budgeted, in
19 your particular district will, now be pooled
20 in the Majority District.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who asked for
22 that?

23 I didn't ask for that.

24 Who made that request?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have to go back

1 in my notes.

2 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
3 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have to go back
5 in my notes.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, basically,
7 you don't know who asked?

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have it in my
9 notes.

10 Twenty-six Departments, there are a
11 lot of work that goes into this and I don't
12 recall.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr.
14 Conroy, we had about a two-hour meeting on
15 the budget, at least, half of it was consumed
16 with this very topic and Chris Ciancuilli,
17 the Chief of Staff was there.

18 And, it got quite animated.

19 I realize it wasn't your fault this
20 policy position, but I think you recall that
21 meeting.

22 So, I think we recall some of the
23 people that were involved in making this
24 policy change.

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Well, a

1 Particular question was asked in particular
2 and I don't know - -

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It was the
4 Chief of Staff, during the conversation that
5 we had that was quite colorful that lasted,
6 at least, an hour or so and I voiced my
7 strong opposition to this.

8 Last year, the budget was,
9 approximately, five hundred thousand dollars
10 there.

11 Correct me if I am wrong, this is what
12 the Chief of Staff told me, approximately
13 five to ten thousand dollars in pencils and
14 things like that.

15 The rest was for salaries.

16 My salary, which is mandated by law
17 and the rest was this budget and I only have
18 three people on my staff that work for me and
19 when I got the paper out, we added up those
20 salaries.

21 We were far south of five hundred and
22 fifty thousand dollars.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a similar
24 experience because I only have one employee,
25 although she is terrific.

1 Um, so, Mr. Cianculli, what Members of
2 the Town Board did you speak to concerning
3 the budget request that was made for the
4 Councilmanic District's Majority?

5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: And, this is - -

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, he has
7 got to answer this question.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are dealing
9 with the budget.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: This is the
11 budget. He prepared the budget for the Town
12 Board, what are you hiding?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am not hiding
14 anything, Mr. Conroy.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You know I have
16 never seen a recommendation.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: What is the total
18 amount of money budgeted for, if you add up,
19 as I understand it, the five majority
20 districts plus the majority central staff,
21 that is how much?

22 (Whereupon, "the stop the nonsense,
23 stop the nonsense," was chanted from the
24 audience. After, the following ensued.)

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We have no

1 say, you give us - -

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let him answer
3 the question.

4 Please, have him answer the question.

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5 (Whereupon, "they are hiding
6 something," was heard chanted from the
7 audience. After, the following ensued.)

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Two million seven
9 hundred ninety-four thousand three hundred
10 and forty-five thousand.

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Two million seven
12 hundred ninety-four.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, I am
14 entitled to know who put that budget request
15 in and who instructed that person to make
16 that budget request.

17 Nobody asked me, so, who did it?

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Are there any
19 other questions?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, I want
21 the answer to that question.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I think he
23 answered it.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, he didn't.
25 I want to know who prepared

1 that budget, who took the Councilmanic
2 District Budget of five hundred and fifty
3 thousand dollars, which I never spend
4 anywhere near that in my District, probably
5 one tenth of that, who took that and reduced
6 it and put all the money in the central
7 budget?

8 Who on this Town Board instructed you
9 to do that?

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Comptroller,
11 do you have that knowledge with you?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I stand by my
13 statement earlier.

14 We deal with a lot of departments.
15 There is a lot of paper, a lot of notes.
16 There is a lot of requests, I will tell you.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The answer is,
18 Mr. Conroy, if you are going to be truthful,
19 it was the Supervisor's office that gave you
20 that direction and the Supervisor's office
21 made those decisions that the Supervisor's
22 office took the budget away from the
23 Councilmanic Districts so he could control
24 all the votes on this Board, that is the
25 answer.

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is not true,
2 that is not correct.

3 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
4 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Any other
6 questions of the Comptroller?

7 (Whereupon, calling out was heard from
8 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I still
10 have questions about this, so, when we met
11 and spoke about this, it was told to me this
12 was an attempt under the current budget
13 process, we all each have five hundred and
14 fifty thousand dollars but we all know in
15 practice that I, as a Council Member cannot
16 use that money to hire people because I only
17 have three members plus myself.

18 There are tons of people on the
19 current Council 5 District that do not work
20 for me, while I am sure they are lovely
21 people, they don't work for me.

22 So, I have repeatedly asked.

23 I want to get a person in to help me.
24 I want to give a raise to a person that
25 deserves it.

1 No, no, no, so, the work around was to
2 have the Council Member at seventy-one and
3 one Legislative Aide that we could have given
4 them a salary of seventy-five thousand
5 dollars, the remaining money from that one
6 hundred and forty-six, approximately 550,
7 those positions would be determined by a
8 majority of the Majority Caucus, so, that
9 Councilman Dunne, Councilman D'Esposito would
10 be making decisions primarily on my staff.

11 I just don't see how that makes sense
12 and why would you care?

13 Why not just give me the budget?

14 Give Bruce the Budget. As we make bad
15 hiring mistakes and don't serve our District,
16 we won't get reelected, again.

17 Why would you have Council Members
18 from the western Town of Hempstead making
19 decision for what goes on in Wantagh and
20 Seaford?

21 I don't understand the concept.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Are there any
23 other questions of the Comptroller?

24 (Whereupon, "can you answer" was heard
25 calling out from the audience. After, the

1 Following ensued.)

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a
3 question of the Town Attorney.

4 So, Mr. Town Attorney, we passed an
5 Ethics Reform Bill.

6 I voted against it.

7 Um, which stated, "no elected
8 official, employee or other person to act in
9 official capacity in the name of the Town
10 shall exercise direct control over Town
11 employee, person, immediate family," that
12 also includes any financial reward, any
13 salary, any bonus or any nature?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is correct.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, this is a
16 budget - - is the budget considered a
17 financial document with salaries on a line
18 time basis?

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Well, the budget is
20 considered a financial document.

21 I know where you are going, here.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, there is a
23 line item.

24 There is a line item for each of those
25 positions, is there not?

1 So, if I had a relative on one of
2 those line items, my vote would be affecting
3 their financial interests and under the law
4 that was passed by this Town Board and also
5 the law as the Attorney General stated in the
6 2002 opinion, I would not be able to vote on
7 this budget, correct?

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No, you are
9 incorrect, Number 1, the Attorney General's
10 opinion, I am aware of and they do not, um,
11 pertain directly to what the situation you
12 have here.

13 Number 2, you are talking about - -

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What do you mean
15 - -

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You are talking
17 about a budget. You are talking about a
18 Town-wide budget.

19 When we talk about "financial
20 interests," we are talking about a vote on a
21 specific salary for a specific person.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There are.

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: This would not be -
24 -this would not be, um - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The Attorney

1 General's opinion - -

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The Attorney
3 General's opinion does not apply to the
4 circumstance, here.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: What is your
6 understanding of it?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are you willing
8 to risk this, is that your legal advice to
9 the people on this Board?

10 The Attorney General said - -

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The Attorney
12 General's opinion is advisory only.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Joe Ra, you are
14 wrong.

15 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am wrong? It is
16 advisory only.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You're advising
18 him to move forward, the words, here, don't
19 exclude the budget?

20 It says, "financial" - -

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
22 Attorney, your legal opinion is that we can
23 move forward?

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Correct.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, do so at

1 your own peril.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Any questions
3 from the Comptroller?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Going
5 back, can we make a slight change, we are
6 talking about the budget, all the money, we
7 have the money in the budget for each
8 District, whether it is one hundred and
9 forty-six or fifty-five or whatever, why
10 can't you just give that money to each
11 District, so that we can make our own hiring
12 decisions?

13 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
14 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Can we do
16 that?

17 It doesn't change the amount of money
18 in the budget.

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Councilwoman, if I
20 can, I think the concept is talking about
21 hiring counsel to the Town Board, that is a
22 central staff issue.

23 You have central staff.

24 There are a number of people that work
25 for central staff and there are people that

1 work for individual council people.

2 I think the idea is that you have this
3 money as a pool and you can then hire who you
4 want out of central staff and the rest of it
5 to be divided equally, that is the idea, that
6 could be the concept.

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7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: What
8 safeguards are in place to make sure that
9 happens?

10 (Whereupon, "none," was heard calling
11 out from the audience. After, the following
12 ensued.)

13 (Whereupon, "zero, Deery, did you say,
14 none," was screaming out from the audience.
15 After, the following ensued.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: What
17 safeguards are in place?

18 Clearly, you saw I was trying to speak
19 earlier, today, the meeting gets adjourned.

20 Obviously, there is a majority of
21 people that overrule everything that Bruce
22 and I do.

23 How do I rely on that to get people to
24 work for me?

25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I think the concept

1 is the five members of the majority will get
2 together.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Wait,
4 wait, they don't meet.

5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You can certainly.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You are
7 sitting there - -

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You are certainly
9 permitted to caucus.

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Can we
11 somehow put that in the budget that we are
12 required to meet?

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is not a
14 budgetary item.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: How do we
16 make the budget equal?

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I just told you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Do you
19 really think that is going to work?

20 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Absolutely.

21 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
22 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I ask the
24 Town Attorney a question.

25 Mr. Town Attorney, last year there

1 was allocated approximately a half a million
2 dollars to my District for salaries and
3 expenses for employees, correct?

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: If you say so, I
5 don't do budgets.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Conroy, how
7 much was it, approximately?

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Your number is
9 close.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, five hundred
11 and fifty.

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: North of that,
13 five hundred sixty.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How many
15 employees did you have, Mr. Santino?

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Ask the
17 Comptroller.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How many
19 employees actually worked for me?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know
21 that.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Town
23 Attorney, if someone was working for somebody
24 else other than me and they wanted my budget,
25 would that be a violation of the law?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why not?

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Because - -

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You said the
5 majority - -

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The write up - -

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, my
8 office, my district was budgeted five hundred
9 and fifty thousand dollars and there were
10 people that were on the budget, it was
11 attributed to my district and they did no
12 work for me.

13 They didn't talk to me.

14 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
15 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Bruce, I
17 hate to correct you, but, there was a period
18 of time when you had no one working for you.

19 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
20 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, my question
22 is, you're saying that is legal?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That other
25 Council Members can use money that was used

1 for my District?

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I said to you, I
3 believe - -

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: This is all
5 being recorded, Joe, so, you know.

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I believe that the
7 majority caucus decides how to spend that
8 money.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How can they
10 decide how to spend money that is attributed
11 and budgeted for my district?

12 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The majority
13 caucus.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How can they
15 spend money that was attributed for my
16 district?

17 There were people that were in the
18 budget that were on my budget.

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Councilman - -

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: They did no work
21 for me.

22 They did no work for the people of my
23 Councilmanic District.

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't know how
25 many different ways to say the majority

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Caucus - -

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, that is your legal opinion.

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You have to take that up with the majority caucus.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, it is not the majority caucus.

Mr. Conroy, you said it was five hundred and fifty thousand people - - five hundred and fifty thousand dollars were attributed to my Councilmanic District as the others in the majority caucus?

COMPROLLER CONROY: Approximately, yes.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, I am telling you I didn't hire those people.

They did no work for the 3rd Councilmanic District, how can that be?

COMPROLLER CONROY: You're asking me about budget issues.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is a budget issue, they were budgeted for me, for my district, for the people of my district, how is that fair or legal?

COMPROLLER CONROY: Councilman, with

1 regard to deployment of personnel, as to
2 whether or not they were deployed to your
3 Councilmanic District, is outside my scope.

4 All I know is what I believe is done
5 by my office which is to budget "X" amount of
6 dollars so you can run your Councilmanic
7 District.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, Mr. Town
9 Attorney, you have given your legal opinion
10 on this matter.

11 You stand upon it, so, I has been all
12 asked and answered.

13 Any other questions?

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I have a
15 follow-up question to that.

16 This remaining amount, the difference
17 one hundred forty-six and five hundred and
18 fifty, that amount will be decided by the
19 majority caucus, correct?

20 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I believe - - I
21 believe that is what you all will do.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I have an
23 interesting question for you, when I passed a
24 no vote a year ago, I was thrown out of the
25 caucus and I don't believe I was invited

1 back.

2 So, where do I stand with the budget?

3 I am actually being serious.

4 (Whereupon, "oh, my God," was heard
5 calling out from the audience. After, the
6 following ensued.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am
8 actually being serious.

9 I was thrown out.

10 I was never asked back in.

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: What is the
12 question for me?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Well, you
14 were telling me that the majority caucus
15 would determine how the money would be spent,
16 if I am not part of the majority caucus, what
17 do I do?

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I think the
19 question is - - Councilwoman King-Sweeney is
20 apart of the majority caucus?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I was
22 thrown out and I never was invited back in.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I don't make that
24 decision who is in the majority caucus for
25 the legal purpose of the budget.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I was
2 thrown out.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is that correct,
4 Mr. Ra?

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes, I think I can
6 say to you, if that doesn't work out, you
7 should contact my office.

8 (Whereupon, laughter and screaming out
9 was heard from the audience. After, the
10 following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: She was thrown
13 out.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Are there any
15 other questions with respect to - -

16 (Whereupon, "NEWSDAY, write something"
17 was heard screaming from the audience.
18 After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I will accept a
20 Motion on the budget.

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move
22 the budget.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITIO: I second the
24 Motion.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Call the roll on

1 the budget.

2 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

4 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

5 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I want to

8 explain my vote before I vote.

9 Um, I think that, that this budget
10 makes a mockery of good, honest, clean
11 government because there was money hidden all
12 over it.

13 Nobody can indicate what is being
14 spent, where.

15 It becomes a different question.

16 If you have a question about five
17 thousand pieces of equipment, there are
18 answers, but, if you have a question
19 regarding large amounts of money that are
20 being spent on items that are not reflected
21 in the budget, so, the public has no
22 understanding of how that money is spent,
23 there are no institutional controls over
24 spending in this budget because, basically,
25 nobody can answer any questions as to who

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 sets the budget and how much is spent and who
2 is monitoring what is being spent.

3 And, on top of that, my District,
4 every community in my District is getting a
5 tax increase from almost fifteen percent to
6 three percent.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Fifteen
8 percent?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Fifteen percent.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBYZ: You are
11 kidding me.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, I am not
13 kidding you, 14.71 percent, so, I am no
14 voting for this budget.

15 I am voting against this budget.

16 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
17 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Madam Clerk, call
19 the roll.

20 He voted.

21 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes.

23 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

1 Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes, I
3 think it is a very valid budget since it
4 holds the line - -

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5 (Whereupon, screaming and laughter was
6 heard yelling out from the audience. After,
7 the following ensued.)

8 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
9 Sweeney?

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I came in
11 today with a very open mind. I spent hours
12 upon hours going over these documents.

13 I sent detailed questions to the
14 Comptroller's Office.

15 I did not receive satisfactory answers
16 and I was, unfortunately, along with the
17 public, shut down, today in a way that I am
18 still stunned that happened.

19 I was looking forward to open, honest
20 public dialogue and conversation and we
21 didn't have it in public.

22 We haven't had it over the last twelve
23 years.

24 We have not been briefed or updated on
25 the results of the budget with the

1 Exception of the last two meetings with the
2 Comptroller, um, I would urge, um Members of
3 the Town Board to demand greater transparency
4 on financial issues and everything else at
5 the Town of Hempstead.

6 With a heavy heart, I vote no.

7 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
8 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please call the
10 next item.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed amendment for
12 Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation
13 District year commencing January 1, 2018.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No one signed in.

15 Is there anyone that wished to speak
16 on the Greater Atlantic Beach Reclamation
17 District?

18 Is there anyone in the audience?

19 There are no slips.

20 There being none, I will entertain a
21 Motion, please.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the
23 tax assessment roll for Atlantic Beach
24 Reclamation District be approved.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

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5 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

9 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

12 Goosby?

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I would
14 like to know Atlantic Beach has a special tax
15 of their own choosing, are you adding a
16 special tax that you were talking about for
17 Atlantic Beach?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. DeSibio, can
19 you come forward and explain what Atlantic
20 Beach - -

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know
22 what it is.

23 I know what it is.

24 Listen, I am not asking, I know what
25 it is.

1 I know what it is.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: First of all, I
3 run the meeting. I will call someone forward
4 from the meeting.

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5 Senior Councilwoman, please, continue.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know of
7 their own choosing, they want to have their
8 own privacy.

9 They are paying an extra, special tax
10 that no one pays for that.

11 I want the audience to know that.

12 I will vote yes.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. DeSibio, can
14 you come up, here.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. DeSibio, give
16 us a brief tutorial on this.

17 Identify yourself for the record,
18 please.

19 ATTORNEY DESIBIO: Nicholas DeSibio,
20 General Counsel to the Greater Atlantic Beach
21 Reclamation District.

22 I didn't hear the question.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, tell us
24 what the Greater Atlantic Beach is for the
25 people in the audience, who may not know

1 what the Greater Atlantic Beach Reclamation
2 District is.

3 ATTORNEY DESIBIO: I will try to make
4 it short.

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5 It has been a long night. This
6 District was created in the early 1930' as a
7 result of an application to the Town Board of
8 the Town of Hempstead.

9 Um, they are separate and distinct in
10 that, um, I will call it semiautonomous.

11 We have three Commissioners.

12 They serve three-year terms.

13 Um, the roll that is being presented,
14 tonight, follows the amendments of the County
15 of Nassau.

16 I think what is important, here, is
17 the budget this year was an increase of
18 thirty thousand dollars and it is probably
19 about 1.1, well under the Cuomo Cap.

20 I don't know if there is any reason
21 for any other questions.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Explain what
23 they do so Councilwoman Goosby knows what the
24 reclamation is.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Are you okay,

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Senior Councilwoman?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No,
because I know you have a special, you want
to keep who can use your beach, who can use
it, you have extra taxes because of that,
right?

ATTORNEY DESIBIO: No, no, no, it is
only sewer district. It is only sewer
district in the Town of Hempstead, otherwise
all of these, the rest of the streets, okay
and avenues, okay and boulevards are covered
by the County of Nassau.

This is the only one in the Town of
Hempstead.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I think you are
referring to Atlantic Beach State Park.

We are good, Mr. DeSibio.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Yes.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: You can stand
down, Mr. DeSibio.

Call the next item.

CLERK AHMAD: Mass mailing
restrictions in the Town of Hempstead.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move to lay
2 the item on the table.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
4 the Motion.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Call the roll.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr. Ra,
9 what does that mean?

10 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Point of
13 clarification, what just happened?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Motion to lay on
15 the table is not debatable and it is not
16 subject to comment.

17 (Whereupon, screaming from the
18 audience was heard. After, the following
19 ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, please,
21 we would like order in the audience.

22 Call the roll, yes or no vote.

23 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Yes, yes.

2 (Whereupon, screaming continued
3 throughout the vote. After, the following
4 ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, order in
6 the audience.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of
8 information, Mr. Ra.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is not
10 debatable.

11 (Whereupon, screaming from the
12 audience was heard. After, the following
13 ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: The members of
15 the audience must be quiet.

16 Answer the question.

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: A Motion to lay on
18 the table is not debatable and not subject to
19 public comment.

20 It is a yes or no vote.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, you are
22 just taking it down past the Election?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It means it is not
24 going and put it aside for further study.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We have the Town

1 Attorney's explanation.

2 Go ahead, please.

3 CLERK AHMAD: How do you vote?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No.

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5 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
6 Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes.

8 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes.

10 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes.

12 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
13 Sweeney?

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Just when
15 I thought it couldn't get worse than this
16 afternoon - -

17 (Whereupon, screaming and applauding
18 was heard from the audience. After, the
19 following ensued.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I mean I
21 guess you are a dictator, no.

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we
23 adjourn the meeting.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

1 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to

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5 explain my vote, no, because I am going to

6 stay here and listen to the people on the

7 mailing.

8 (Whereupon, screaming, laughing and

9 applauding were heard from the audience.

10 After, the following ensued.)

11 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

16 Goosby?

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-

19 Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: No.

21 (Whereupon, the official meeting of

22 the Hempstead Town Board was concluded. Time

23 noted: 9:40 p.m.)

24

25

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/17/17 - 7:00 P.M. BUDGET

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on October 17, 2017, 7:00 P.M. Budget Meeting consisting of pages 1 through 173 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

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