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**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

JANUARY 23, 2018

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

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**APPEARANCES :**

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN (ABSENT)

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY

TOWN CLERK CABANA

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK SEDACCA

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning,  
2 everyone and thank you for being, here,  
3 today.

Page | 3

4 Before we begin, our Board Meeting, we  
5 would like to take a brief moment to  
6 recognize two brave volunteer firefighters  
7 from the North Bellmore Fire Department, who  
8 have services their community for over half a  
9 Century, ex-Chief Robert Marschall and ex-  
10 Chief Timothy Green from North Bellmore Fire  
11 Department about fifty years ago this month,  
12 it is only fitting that we recognize them for  
13 their exemplary service to their communities  
14 and hope that their actions serve as  
15 inspiration for others to join and give of  
16 themselves for the betterment of their  
17 communities.

18 Ex-Chief Robert Marschall joined  
19 Company Number 1 in the North Bellmore Fire  
20 Department on January 4, 1968 as a Lieutenant  
21 and, then, Captain before being promoted to  
22 Chief of the Department.

23 Robert or "Bob" as his family and  
24 friends call him, has continued to service  
25 his Department by serving as Safety Officer

1 since 1991 and as Commissioner since 2014,  
2 all awhile during this time, Bob, along with  
3 his wife, Ginny still found time to proudly  
4 raise their three children and six  
5 grandchildren.

6 Ex-Chief Timothy Green joined Company  
7 Number 2 only a few days after Bob, where he  
8 served three terms as both Lieutenant and  
9 Captain before being elected Chief.

10 Tim served two terms as Commissioner.

11 He is a former Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
12 Battalion Chief Associates and a past  
13 President of the Nassau County Parade and  
14 Drill Team Association, as well.

15 Ex-Chief Green continues to serve as a  
16 Trustee of Company Number 2 and a District  
17 Engineer.

18 Ex-Chief Green is also a retired  
19 Nassau County Fire Marshal and a U.S. Coast  
20 Guard, Vietnam War Veteran.

21 Tim, along with his wife, Mary are  
22 proud parents and grandparents of two  
23 children and grandchildren.

24 Gentlemen, I thank you both for your  
25 service to our community and to our Town.

1 I, now, invite Councilman Dennis Dunne  
2 to say a few words.

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: North Bellmore is a  
4 great Fire Department.

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5 North Bellmore, thank you for your  
6 service as is with all our departments.

7 I have Levittown in mine, where I live  
8 and East Meadow is my District and we have to  
9 many fire departments, so many of these men  
10 for fifty years were able to get up 2:00,  
11 3:00, 4:00 o'clock in the morning when we are  
12 sleeping, snuggling in nice warm beds, they  
13 are getting up, life and limb at risk to take  
14 care not only of lives but property.

15 And, to me, every day you guys do  
16 outstanding, outstanding work and to be part  
17 of the Department for fifty years, if I had a  
18 hat, I would take it off to you.

19 God Bless you for what you are doing.  
20 I am so proud that we are honoring you today.

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

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Come up and we  
24 will present you with a citation in  
25 recognition of your outstanding service to

1 our Town.

2 (Whereupon, a standing ovation and  
3 applause was observed. After, the following  
4 ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning,  
6 everyone.

7 I would like to welcome you to this  
8 regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting.

9 For those of you who have never  
10 attended a Town Board Meeting before, we  
11 will, first, have Public Hearings followed by  
12 an Administrative Calendar.

13 Meeting agendas are available in the  
14 rear of the Pavilion, if you wish to be heard  
15 on any matters.

16 Please, go to the rear of the Pavilion  
17 and fill out a slip, that you can obtain from  
18 one of our Public Safety Officers.

19 After the Meeting is adjourned, the  
20 Town Board will follow our custom of  
21 remaining in session to hear any public  
22 comments on any other matters.

23 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call  
24 the roll.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

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COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

CLERK CABANA: And, also in  
attendance, today, we have Receiver of Taxes,  
Donald X. Clavin, Jr.

(Whereupon, boos were heard from the  
audience. After, the following ensued.)

RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN: Here.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I ask you all to  
stand and I call on Councilman Ambrosino to  
lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Councilman Ambrosino led  
the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
After, the following ensued.)

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would  
2 you, please call the first Public Hearing.

3 CLERK CABANA: Yes, Supervisor.

4 Petition of Commissioner of Buildings  
5 to demolish & remove the one & one-half story  
6 wood frame one-family dwelling with detached  
7 garage & remove all litter & debris from  
8 property - Elmont (118 Fieldmere Street) east  
9 side of Fieldmere Street, 897 feet south of  
10 Hempstead Turnpike - Department of Buildings.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any  
12 slips on this Public Hearing, is there  
13 anybody that wishes to be heard?

14 (Whereupon, no response was heard.  
15 After, the following ensued.)

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a  
17 Motion, then.

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I move the  
19 Public Hearing be closed and the petition be  
20 adopted.

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
22 Motion.

23 SUPERIVSOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would  
24 you, please, call the roll.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?



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COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

Madam Clerk, would you, please, call  
the second Public Hearing.

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
"Regulations and Restrictions" to limit  
parking in Oceanside, Uniondale, West  
Hempstead (To amend Chapter 202 of the Code  
of the Town of Hempstead.)

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any  
slips on this Public Hearing, is there  
anybody that wishes to be heard?

(Whereupon, no response was heard.  
After, the following ensued.)

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a  
Motion on the second Public Hearing.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I  
move that the Public Hearing be closed and  
the Local Law be adopted.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second  
the Motion.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,  
please, call the roll.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

Madam Clerk, please, call the next  
Public Hearing.

1 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
2 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in Elmont,  
3 Uniondale, Wantagh, West Hempstead, Woodmere  
4 (To amend Section 202-1 of the Code of the  
5 Town of Hempstead)

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any  
7 slips on this Public Hearing, is there  
8 anybody that wished to be heard?

9 (Whereupon, no response was heard.  
10 After, the following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a  
12 Motion on this Public Hearing.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that  
14 the Public Hearing be closed and the item be  
15 adopted.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second  
17 the Motion.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,  
19 please, call the roll.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
2 Goosby?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
5 Sweeney?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

9 Madam Clerk, please, call the next  
10 Public Hearing.

11 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
12 "Arterial Stops" in East Meadow, Oceanside  
13 (To amend Section 197-5 of the Code of the  
14 Town of Hempstead)

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any  
16 slips on this Public Hearing, is there  
17 anybody that wishes to be heard?

18 (Whereupon, no response was heard.  
19 After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a  
21 Motion on the Hearing.

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make the Motion  
23 that the Hearing be closed and we adopt the  
24 item.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,  
2 please, call the roll.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
10 Goosby?

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
13 Sweeney?

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

17 Madam Clerk, please call the next  
18 Public Hearing.

19 CLERK CABANA: Proposed "Handicapped  
20 parking on Public Streets" in Bellmore,  
21 Elmont, Floral Park, Franklin Square, Inwood,  
22 Oceanside, Woodmere (Bedford Avenue,  
23 Clubhouse Road, Terrace Avenue, Ludlam  
24 Avenue, Sun Avenue, Standard Avenue, 239<sup>th</sup>  
25 Street, First Avenue, Clinton Avenue, West

1 Windsor Parkway, Weider Avenue, Irving Place,  
2 Woodmere Boulevard.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any  
4 slips on this Public Hearing, is there  
5 anybody that wishes to be heard?

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6 (Whereupon, no response was heard.  
7 After, the following ensued.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:  
9 Supervisor, I move that the Hearing be closed  
10 and the time be adopted.

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So moved.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,  
13 please, call the roll.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
21 Goosby?

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
24 Sweeney?

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 That concludes our Public Hearings.

4 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call  
5 the Administrative Calendar.

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor, this  
7 morning on the Administrative Calendar we  
8 have Items 1 through 18.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are there any  
10 Council Members that would like to sever any  
11 of the items of the Administrative Calendar?

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:  
13 Supervisor, I move to sever Item Number 3.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Item Number 3 is  
15 severed.

16 May I have a Motion on the rest of the  
17 Administrative Calendar?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move  
19 the Administrative Calendar in its entirety  
20 with the exception of Number 3 which has been  
21 severed.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
23 Motion.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a number of  
25 slips for those that wish to be heard on the

1 Administrative Calendar.

2 First, we have Stephanie Capuano.

3 Please, approach the table and state  
4 your name and address for the record.

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5 STEPHANIE CAPUANO: Hi, Stephanie  
6 Capuano. (Phonetic Spelling.)

7 This is a general question.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You signed in to  
9 be heard on the Administrative Calendar, Item  
10 Number 7.

11 STEPHANIE CAPUANO: Yeah, we want to  
12 know - - we want to ask you some of the jobs  
13 on the WEB site - -

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is probably  
15 an item for the Public Comment section.

16 STEPHANIE CAPUANO: Oh, okay.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can address  
18 that then.

19 I have you signed in for Number 7 on  
20 the Administrative Calendar.

21 STEPHANIE CAPUANO: Number 10.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you have  
23 something that you wish to discuss on the  
24 Administrative Calendar?

25 STEPHANIE CAPUANO: No, it was



1 about the County WEB site and I want to talk  
2 in general.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can come back  
4 for Public Comment.

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5 STEPHANIE CAPUANO: Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Felix Procacci.

7 State your name and address for the  
8 record.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165  
10 Barns Street, Franklin Square, New York.

11 On Case Number 7, you know, the hires,  
12 promotions and transfers, um, this is  
13 related, um, has the Town taken any legal  
14 action to get rid of the contract amendment  
15 for CSEA that guarantees, um, lifelong  
16 employment?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is not on the  
18 Administrative Calendar, Mr. Procacci.

19 You can talk about that - - I refer to  
20 Mr. Ra to discuss our legal action.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: The reason why it is  
22 related because I really - - on the  
23 Administrative Calendar, I oppose all the  
24 wage increases because unless it is  
25 contractual for Union Members or something

1 like that, we can't back out of it.

2 All the ones that are upgraded, you  
3 know, discretionary type of increases,  
4 essentially, before that legal action is  
5 heard, if that contract is found - - that  
6 amendment is found to be legal and binding,  
7 then, this essentially, all these people,  
8 essentially, got wage increases because I am  
9 sure most of us would give up part of our  
10 salary in order to get lifelong guarantees no  
11 layoff.

12 It is worth money.

13 I mean if you take two jobs, one pays  
14 ten thousand less than the other, the one  
15 with ten thousand dollars less, we get  
16 lifelong employment, we guarantee you will  
17 never be laid off, that is why I tied the two  
18 together because I think it implicitly ties  
19 together.

20 And, also, on the talk, what Stephanie  
21 tied to this is the jobs that are offered on  
22 the Administrative Calendar aren't posted on  
23 the Town WEB site and I oppose hiring any new  
24 appointees unless the job has been advertised  
25 to the public and all residents have been

1 given an opportunity to bid for the job and  
2 apply for the job, so, it is implicitly tied  
3 together, even though it is not on the  
4 calendar, per say, it speaks to the same  
5 problem.

6 The past has always been that these  
7 people's friends and families, the last  
8 meeting of family members, I think of two  
9 employees got hired and there is no mention  
10 they just, basically, they get preference  
11 over everybody else.

12 There is no discrimination.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Mr. Procacci, to  
14 answer your question, no, there is no legal  
15 action pending.

16 And, Number 2, the employees of the  
17 Supervisor's staff, the Receiver of Taxes'  
18 staff, the Town Clerk's staff and the Town  
19 Board are not covered by the agreement that  
20 you referenced.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand, but  
22 there are people in this, um, forgetting  
23 raises, who may not be part of that.

24 Look, we all know what happened in  
25 December.

1 Yes, there are people who are supposed  
2 to leave with the previous Administration but  
3 they got transferred, essentially, by that  
4 type of action that is a benefit because if I  
5 sign on with the Trump Administration, I know  
6 that I am gone if he loses the election or if  
7 he quits, I am done.

8 I lose my job.

9 But, that is not what happens.

10 What happens is that political-  
11 appointee positions, where you are handsomely  
12 paid is protected because what we do is we  
13 transfer everybody over to a protected job,  
14 so, that is really the problem.

15 It is all tied into this and in  
16 particular, Susan McKowsky is being  
17 transferred and she is getting an increase in  
18 salary.

19 I don't know if people know it but she  
20 has gotten, since 2011, over twenty-five  
21 percent increase in salary and she has  
22 produced, which I will talk about later, fake  
23 news and I will talk about that in the  
24 Administrative Calendar, I oppose you  
25 transferring people, giving people raises

1 and, there is no action.

2 It is very disturbing.

3 You are not taking any action to get  
4 rid of that.

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5 Essentially, everybody got raises,  
6 already.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: With respect to  
8 raises, Mr. Procacci, my understanding is  
9 that the funds for those raises are within  
10 the budget for the Town Board Majority and it  
11 is a matter of their discretion to use the  
12 budgeted funds as they see fit.

13 Um, I will defer to any Council  
14 Member, who is a Member of the Town Board,  
15 that would like to discuss the raises  
16 further.

17 FELIX PROCACCI: That is always the  
18 case, I doubt if we ever give raises when it  
19 is not in the budget but the argument is that  
20 I am against giving the raises and I am  
21 speaking on it.

22 I am opposed to it.

23 Once, again, these people already got  
24 lifetime employment guarantees.

25 We are not having any legal action

1 against the CSEA memorandum, so, they got an  
2 increase and I don't think anyone brings this  
3 up, it is unfair to the rest of us that have  
4 to pay for their lifetime employment, their  
5 excessive salaries and everyone is going to  
6 vote, "aye" at the end of the day.

7 And, I just want to make it clear that  
8 the people that vote, "aye" on these  
9 increases are really against the regular-  
10 working people, who have to be fearful of  
11 losing their job because there is no  
12 parachute for them.

13 Okay, Item Number 17 on the Ethics  
14 Legislation, you know, I hope you don't have  
15 that same one we had under the Santino  
16 Administration.

17 I will talk on it.

18 I think it is important. Back on  
19 September, I proposed a whole list of things  
20 I wanted to add. I won't go through each one  
21 because I don't have time but, I say,  
22 postpone this and really do a realistic, real  
23 Ethics Legislation of not protecting a few  
24 people with the salary cap.

25 I understand. I am against

1 a salary cap but make it comprehensive.

2 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.  
3 After, the following ensued.)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next, we have Rich  
5 Schurin.

6 RICHARD SCHURIN: Good Morning, Rich  
7 Schurin. 167 Jefferson Avenue, Island Park,  
8 New York.

9 Is it correct, I just heard that Item  
10 Number 7, um, the Deputy Registrar of Vital  
11 Statistics is a position controlled by the  
12 Majority on this Board, is that correct?

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No, that is the  
14 Town Clerk's Office.

15 RICHARD SCHURIN: Thank you, um, so,  
16 which position were you referring to,  
17 Supervisor, which is the position within the  
18 Majority Budget that Procacci was asking  
19 about?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: On the Resolution,  
21 there were a number of raises that are going  
22 to people within the Town Board Majority, um,  
23 that are part of their budget.

24 RICHARD SCHURIN: Thank you.

25 I just want to speak in favor of, um,

1 Um, Item Number 17, the, um, the arbitrary,  
2 um, income cap on the Ethics Legislation  
3 which was incredibly abusive and improper to  
4 begin with, um, totally wrong, targeted  
5 certain Members, an attempt by the prior  
6 Supervisor and other Members to bully, um,  
7 people off the Board, incredibly  
8 inappropriate and sanctioned by Mr. Ra and  
9 others, here, um, I think it definitely  
10 should be gotten rid of.

11 It is an important step in correcting  
12 some of the improper things that have been  
13 done in the past.

14 Um, that is all I have.

15 I have comments on the miscellaneous  
16 section.

17 Thank you.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

19 Next, I have Diane Madden.

20 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden,  
21 Hempstead.

22 Item Number 17, so, just if I  
23 understand correctly, that is still on the  
24 Calendar, that is still going to be voted?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is calling



1 for a Public Hearing.

2 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, so, it is not  
3 going to be decided?

4 It is just calling to get it on the  
5 Calendar?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is correct.

7 DIANE MADDEN: Then, I would agree  
8 with Felix Procacci to put this off until  
9 further amendments can be made.

10 It needs to be a lot stronger, that is  
11 just helping, which I fully support.

12 It should never, ever be done to them,  
13 Sweeney and Blakeman, um, but the truth of  
14 the matter is, as happy as I am to know that  
15 this could be severed and done away with and  
16 securing them to run again or do whatever  
17 they wish, there are a lot of employees still  
18 dealing with bullies and they don't have the  
19 advantage to be on the Board, get that  
20 severed and those problems severed.

21 So, again, I am going to agree with  
22 Felix to have this really looked at, um, and  
23 make it stronger than just this one issue.

24 Thank you.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have  
3 another slip on the Administrative Calendar.

4 Is there anybody else that wishes to  
5 be heard?

6 (Whereupon, "yes" was heard yelling  
7 out from the audience. After, the following  
8 ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: State your name and  
10 address for the record.

11 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,  
12 Baldwin resident.

13 Item Number 3, I just need a different  
14 point of clarification, is this trying to - -

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Mereday, I am  
16 sorry to interrupt you, Item 3 has been  
17 severed.

18 So, we are going to call that  
19 separately.

20 META MEREDAY: What about Item Number  
21 9?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can speak on  
23 Item 9.

24 META MEREDAY: Okay and sorry for the  
25 tardiness but between trying to negotiate why

1 I cannot park in the Visitors' Parking  
2 because three spots were reserved.

3 I was late. I will deal with that  
4 issue separately.

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5 Um, Tree City, USA, I guess, that is  
6 an honorary designation sort of thing, my  
7 concern ties into the fact that, um, this is  
8 authorized from the creation of a tree  
9 committee, um and we have a number of dead  
10 trees that need to be investigated by our  
11 utility.

12 And, we keep bringing this up every  
13 time we have a major storm or something of  
14 that nature with severe winds, those trees  
15 that I am thinking we want to proclaim is a  
16 pretty part of Tree City are detrimental to  
17 residents that lose their power or sustain  
18 property damage.

19 So, I am a little curious why we are  
20 kind of doing this as opposed to putting more  
21 emphasis on addressing that when we have  
22 power outages that are sometimes significant  
23 for residents that need to have their power.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If there are dead  
25 trees that you are concerned about, please,

1 speak with someone on my staff, Matt Hynes  
2 and we will work with the Council persons in  
3 your District to see that any problems are  
4 addressed.

5 META MEREDAY: Well, most of the  
6 trees, now, um, as with other - - some other  
7 communities, we don't really know they are  
8 dead until they actually split and we see how  
9 hollow they are inside.

10 So, I am not a tree expert and most of  
11 our trees, particularly on my block, were  
12 brought down between Sandy and the last four  
13 nor'easters that we suffered.

14 So, I am just requesting, if possible,  
15 this tree committee, possibly interact with  
16 the public utility to address that.

17 Because at one point, PSEQ had a  
18 program where they were actually cutting down  
19 the dead trees, even on the North Shore they  
20 cut down a lot, a lot of trees, but that is  
21 actually another issue.

22 So, I was just a little concerned that  
23 we continue to do these surface things or  
24 what residents feel are publicity stunts and  
25 actually public safety and home protection

1 measures just seem to fall on the waist side  
2 until a major storm hits.

3 I just wanted to bring that up.

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4 I want to follow-up on a complaint  
5 that was made base upon a statement Felix  
6 Procacci brought up about the raises and I  
7 believe you said, Supervisor, that the raises  
8 are presented at the discretion of the  
9 Commissioner.

10 And, you know there are more people in  
11 the room, now, than there were in those  
12 Budget Hearings, but, we were assured that,  
13 you know, those increases and things of that  
14 nature that were voted on, um, by the  
15 majority of the folks that are sitting in  
16 front of me, um, that was a substantial, you  
17 know, that was their payment for their job.

18 So, I am curious as to why two months  
19 later, we are still increasing raises while  
20 other people are fighting to maintain their  
21 homes or like the many Veterans that I work  
22 with that seem to be missing from these pages  
23 of any type of Resolution or actions, living  
24 in fear of foreclosure in their homes.

25 They haven't gotten any raises.

1           They haven't gotten any cost of living  
2           adjustment, so, it seems a little  
3           disingenuous that we are still continuing to  
4           raise people's salaries on certain levels and  
5           we are forgetting about these individuals who  
6           have to pay for these increases.

7           Um, it just seems to be very  
8           disingenuous to me.

9           Um, and I will hold my further  
10          complaints. I am not really sure what  
11          additional items are - - have been severed  
12          because as I said, I am still trying to dry  
13          out.

14          Thank you.

15          SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next, we have  
16          Michael Watts.

17          State your name and address for the  
18          record.

19          MICHAEL WATTS: Good Morning,  
20          Supervisor, my name is Michael Watts.

21          I live at 462 Deer Park Avenue,  
22          Babylon, New York.

23          Good Morning, my name is Michael  
24          Watts. I am here to speak on behalf of  
25          Reclaim, New York Initiative a 501C advocacy

1 Organization regarding the proposed amendment  
2 of Chapter 38 of the Code of the Town of  
3 Hempstead's Ethical Standards as it pertains  
4 to eliminate the income Elected Town  
5 Officials can earn.

6 Being ethical is like being pregnant,  
7 you are or you aren't.

8 And, you are not less pregnant when  
9 you are eight months along than when you are  
10 at one month.

11 So, it stands to reason that Elected  
12 Officials' ethics will not be impacted by how  
13 much money he or she earns, in addition to  
14 fulfilling his or her duties as a Council  
15 person.

16 To insinuate that the more money you  
17 earn, the more likely you are to be corrupted  
18 is an insult to smart, hardworking people  
19 enjoying successful careers.

20 Limiting outside income also serves as  
21 a deterrent to attracting successful men and  
22 women into Public Service.

23 Local government can only benefit by  
24 having men and women with the work ethics and  
25 discipline required to build successful

1 careers shared, shows talents and resources  
2 with their fellow residents.

3 A lot is asked of our Elected  
4 Officials in terms of sacrifice and time away  
5 from family and fun.

6 The last thing government needs to be  
7 doing is demanding that they take a  
8 significant pay cut, as well.

9 How much income is earned by an  
10 Elected Official outside of his or her  
11 governmental duties is not nearly as  
12 important as how one makes, as long as the  
13 outside income spent from services unrelated  
14 to Elected Official's role in a municipality,  
15 the amount earned should not be a problem.

16 An Elected Official taking even a  
17 dollar in order to exploit his or her  
18 position on the other hand is unacceptable.

19 Reclaim New York Initiative - -

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Watts - -

21 MICHAEL WATTS: Yep.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, right,  
23 now, for this item, it is really just calling  
24 for a Public Hearing.

25 The Public Hearing will be on



1 February 6<sup>th</sup>.

2 This is just calling for the Public  
3 Hearing.

4 MICHAEL WATTS: I worked really hard  
5 on this.

6 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from  
7 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You are doing an  
9 excellent job with your speech.

10 MICHAEL WATTS: Okay, never mind.

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

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody  
14 else that wishes to be heard on the  
15 Administrative Calendar?

16 (Whereupon, no response was heard.  
17 After, the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would  
19 you, please, call the roll with exception of  
20 Item Number 3.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

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COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

Madam Clerk, would you please call the  
severed item.

CLERK CABANA: Severed Item Number 3,  
Resolution amending Resolution Number 1301-  
2017 which sets the dates and times of Town  
Board Meetings for the year 2018 in order to  
change the start time of the February 20,  
2018, May 22, 2018, June 19, 2018 and  
September 4, 2018 to 7:00 p.m., Town of  
Hempstead.

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:

Supervisor, I move to amend the Item, um, so  
that this Resolution, um, will delete the  
dates, May 22, 2018 and September 4, 2018  
with the remaining two dates.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Does anyone wish  
2 to be heard on this severed item?

3 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165  
4 Barns Street, Franklin Square.

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5 I would like to know why you want to  
6 sever May 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>?

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: We wanted  
8 to have the dates of February and June as the  
9 two additional night meetings and since the  
10 schedule is already set, people have items on  
11 their calendars.

12 Those are the two dates that the Board  
13 can come up with that work and then going  
14 forward, if it is appropriate to have more,  
15 we would have more next year.

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, you couldn't  
17 come up instead of September 4<sup>th</sup> the other  
18 September meeting or whatever the additional  
19 meeting was?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It will be  
21 the February Meeting in the evening.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: I say if you couldn't  
23 make the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, I understand that.

24 I understand that, just make it over  
25 to another May meeting, another August

1 Meeting, another September meeting, just make  
2 another date, if you were available.

3 I understand you might have  
4 appointments that day or something, just make  
5 it another day as opposed to just knocking it  
6 off completely.

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7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Well, I  
8 think the fact that we are adding two-night  
9 meetings is great, so, we start with that.

10 See how it goes and next year, we will  
11 revisit it.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: I go to Floral Park  
13 meetings.

14 They have all night meetings. It is  
15 twenty-four-night meetings, whatever, twenty-  
16 two-night meetings a year.

17 I don't think there is a problem of  
18 it.

19 Many residents, you know some people  
20 say no more people show up at night than  
21 during the day, but people do.

22 It is easier for people who want to  
23 participate in government to come at night  
24 for most people who do not have the privilege  
25 of being able to take off work and come,

1 you know and attend during the morning.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I did put forward  
3 the Resolution for more evening meetings  
4 because it is something that I said I wanted  
5 to do and it is something that I am pushing  
6 for.

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7 If we have two, I rather have four,  
8 but if we can get two passed, we will have to  
9 go for two.

10 But, I originally did put forward the  
11 Resolution.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: Why don't you pick up  
13 a calendar and look at it together and say,  
14 "what days work for you?"

15 So, you are all in the same room and  
16 you don't conflict with anyone's schedule.

17 It seems like an easy thing to do.

18 Thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody  
20 else that would like to be heard on the  
21 severed items?

22 State your name and address for the  
23 record.

24 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,  
25 Baldwin.

1 Yes, I applaud Supervisor Gillen for,  
2 um, incorporating this because I am, again -  
3 - a few other were kind of blue in the face  
4 with the previous Administration to try to  
5 request this and I was the one that was  
6 personally told that folks don't come to  
7 evening meetings.

8 So, I am hoping and, again, everyone  
9 has situations and circumstances that  
10 warrants their lack of availability but I am  
11 hoping that this Resolution passes in total.

12 This is the Resolution that was  
13 presented on paper that taxpayers are paying  
14 for, from our understanding, from our  
15 previous Hearings and Meetings in this forum,  
16 this is what the group has decided on for the  
17 most part to present to the public and you  
18 stepping forward on this particular campaign  
19 promise to increase night meetings, I think  
20 we should move forward on this particular  
21 Resolution as it stands and work towards  
22 making sure that all residents who are  
23 impacted and that is every taxpayer in the  
24 Town of Hempstead has the opportunity to  
25 attend and to be heard and they need more

1 evening meetings to be able to do that.

2 And, for all of us that can't attend,  
3 look at the rest of us as far as the  
4 taxpayers who cannot come to these daytime  
5 meetings.

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6 They are challenged by the decisions  
7 that this Body makes, so, they should be  
8 given every opportunity to have their voices  
9 heard because the voices that come here and  
10 make our own sacrifices to be heard because  
11 we feel it is important, we need to have  
12 reinforcements from other taxpayers who are  
13 suffering but, then, again, we have so many  
14 zombie houses that people that are looking to  
15 come to these meetings, their voices have  
16 been silenced for a variety of reasons.

17 So, I am hoping, again, that this  
18 Resolution passes as it stands.

19 Thank you.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody  
21 else that would like to be heard on this  
22 severed item?

23 (Whereupon, no response was heard.

24 After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,

1 would you please call the roll on the severed  
2 item as amended.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
10 Goosby?

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
13 Sweeney?

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Before I vote, I  
17 would say I was in favor of having more night  
18 meetings but I will be voting in favor of the  
19 amending Resolution because, at least, we  
20 will have two more additional evening  
21 meetings.

22 I will continue to talk with the Town  
23 Board about trying to increase the number of  
24 Town evening meetings, just beyond this, so,  
25 I vote aye.



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

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May we have a  
4 Motion to adjourn.

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we  
6 adjourn.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second the  
8 Motion.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,  
10 please, call the roll.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman  
18 Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
21 Sweeney?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

25 (Whereupon, the official meeting of

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the Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on January 23, 2018, consisting of pages 1 through 42 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



*MDW*

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

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