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**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

**APPEARANCES :**

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN  
SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY (ABSENT)  
COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO  
COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO  
COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.  
COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY  
TOWN CLERK CABANA  
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK SEDACCA  
TOWN ATTORNY RA  
COMPTROLLER CONROY

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Welcome to our  
Hempstead Town Board Meeting.

For those of you who have never attended a  
Town Board Meeting before, we start with Public <sup>Page | 3</sup>  
Hearings, which is followed by the Administrative  
Calendar.

There are agendas in the rear of the  
Pavilion. If you would like one, if you like to  
be heard on any matter, you can fill out a slip  
and give it to one of our Public Safety Officers.

After the meeting is adjourned, we will  
follow our tradition of remaining in Session to  
hear our residents on any other matters that they  
would like to address at the Town Board.

Madam Clerk, could you, please, call the  
roll.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

4 I would like to ask Councilwoman Erin King<sup>Page | 4</sup>  
5 Sweeney to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Hand over your  
7 heart, please, join with me.

8 (Whereupon, Councilwoman King-Sweeney led  
9 the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.  
10 After, the following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Before we are seated, I  
12 would just like to observe a moment of silence to  
13 remember the victims that were lost in the Florida  
14 School Shooting last week.

15 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was  
16 observed. After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. You can be  
18 seated.

19 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call the  
20 first Public Hearing.

21 CLERK CABANA: Yes.

22 Petition of Commissioner of Buildings to  
23 demolish & remove the one & one half story wood  
24 frame one-family dwelling with attached garage &  
25 remove all litter & Debris from property -

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Levittown - (14 Bittersweet Lane) - southwest  
2 corner of Bittersweet Lane & Hickory Lane -  
3 Department of Buildings

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4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So moved.

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,  
7 please, call the roll.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

9 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

22 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner  
23 of Buildings to demolish & remove the inground  
24 swimming poll and remove all litter & debris from  
25 property - Roosevelt- (26 West Fulton Avenue),

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 North side of West Fulton Avenue, 186 feet West of  
2 Nassau Road - Department of Buildings.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
4 on this matter, is there anyone that wishes to be <sup>Page | 6</sup>  
5 heard on it?

6 (Whereupon, no response was heard.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I  
8 have a Motion.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Madam Supervisor, I  
10 move that the Public Hearing be closed and the  
11 Item adopted.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
13 Motion.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

23 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Madam Clerk, call the next Public Hearing.

2 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of  
3 Buildings to demolish & remove the one & one half  
4 story wood frame, one-family dwelling with Page | 7  
5 attached garage & remove all litter & debris from  
6 property - Wantagh - (3354 Jackson Avenue) -  
7 Southeast corner of Jackson Avenue & Fir Street -  
8 Department of Buildings

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

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

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Madam  
15 Supervisor, I move that the Hearing be closed and  
16 the item adopted.

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second the Motion.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

19 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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5 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public  
6 Hearing.

7 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
8 "Regulations and Restrictions" to limit parking in  
9 Oceanside (To amend Chapter 202 of the Code of the  
10 Town of Hempstead)

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

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

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, can I  
17 have a Motion.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Madam Supervisor, I  
19 move that the Public Hearing be closed and the  
20 item be adopted.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

11 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
12 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in Wantagh,  
13 Franklin Square (To amend Section 201-1 of the  
14 Code of the Town of Hempstead)

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

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

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Madam  
21 Supervisor, I move that the Hearing be closed and  
22 the item adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I second the Motion.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

Page | 10

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

11 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public  
12 Hearing.

13 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
14 "Arterial Stops" in North Valley Stream, near  
15 Westbury (To amend Section 197-5 of the Code of  
16 the Town of Hempstead)

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

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

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I  
23 have a Motion.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Supervisor, I move  
2 the Public Hearing be closed and the proposed  
3 local law be adopted.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the motion. <sup>Page | 11</sup>

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

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

8 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

19 Madam Clerk, please, call the next item.

20 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law re: "U-  
21 Turns Prohibited" in Levittown (To amend Section  
22 197-2 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't have any slips  
24 on this Public Hearing.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Is there anybody that wished to be heard on  
2 this item?

3 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,  
4 the following ensued.) Page | 12

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I  
6 have a Motion.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Madam Supervisor, I move  
8 the Public Hearing be closed and we adopted the  
9 matter.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
12 Motion.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Madam Clerk, please call the next Public  
2 Hearing.

3 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
4 "Traffic Regulations in the Vicinity of Schools" <sup>Page | 13</sup>  
5 in Elmont (To amend Section 197-13 of the Code of  
6 the Town of Hempstead)

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I have a number  
8 of slips on this Hearing.

9 First, we have Sheldon Merkle.

10 Please, approach the table and state your  
11 name and address for the record.

12 SHELDON MERKLE: First time at one of  
13 these. Do I have a seat?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, please, have a  
15 seat and please, state your name and address for  
16 the record.

17 SHELDON MERKLE: Good evening, ladies and  
18 gentlemen. My name is Sheldon Merkle.

19 I am a parent and I think I am representing  
20 most of the parents at Elmont  
21 Memorial High School.

22 I want to state my position.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, absolutely.

24 SHELDON MERKLE: The reason we are here  
25 this evening, there has been an ongoing issue

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 with - - in front of the Elmont Memorial High  
2 School.

3 The street is called Ridge Road.

4 Right, now, it is a two-way, a lot of the <sup>Page | 14</sup>  
5 problems it has to do with the safety, the  
6 children getting actually dropped off in the  
7 morning or in the afternoon and crossing the  
8 street.

9 So, I believe, um, Councilman Ambrosino  
10 actually met with the Principal of the school,  
11 Principal Dougherty and, unfortunately, he had to  
12 be away and that is why he asked me to advocate  
13 and speak on his behalf and basically what we are  
14 looking at is hopefully to have Ridgeway as a one-  
15 way between just in front of the school, not the  
16 whole stretch of street, because, um, safety is  
17 paramount.

18 And, we think we have to put the children  
19 first.

20 My understanding is we will do a trial run  
21 on the matter in the event that it created more of  
22 a congestion, but, to do nothing is, I don't think  
23 makes any sense right, now.

24 This came up on the matter a couple of  
25 years ago and it came back, again, with Principal

1 Dougherty.

2 He is the Principal of the school for two  
3 years, now and we are really in favor of giving  
4 this a trial run and see how it works out, if it works out. Page | 15

6 Again, if it works out, great.

7 It is an asset. If it doesn't, we will  
8 take another look at it.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Any comments?

10 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Madam Supervisor.

11 Thank you very much for being, here. At  
12 this time, I would like to introduce into the  
13 record a letter that was sent to the Supervisor of  
14 Hempstead, the Honorable Laura Gillen, cc., the  
15 Town Attorney from Principal Dougherty  
16 recommending that this change be implemented  
17 itemizing the safety concerns, just to make this  
18 part of the records, as part of the Hearing.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Madam Supervisor, I  
20 also like to make some remarks.

21 I like to thank my colleague, Councilman  
22 Ambrosino for taking the lead on this.

23 We are both proud to share Elmont.

24 My colleague has about two thirds of it. I  
25 have been about a third of it, but, we always work

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 together when it comes to Elmont.

2 My only question is the basketball team  
3 going to repeat as State Champions?

4 SHELDON MERKLE: Well, actually, we are Page | 16  
5 kind of buzzed, right, now, the women's basketball  
6 is doing fantastic and Zania, which is one of our  
7 start players, she is all over the newspapers  
8 right, now, she is in the audience representing  
9 Elmont right, now.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Congratulations.

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

13 SHELDON MERKLE: Remember that name Zania  
14 Faldo.

15 You will hear it.

16 And, the boys basketball, they are coming  
17 along. My son plays football, so, I am actually a  
18 parent of the Spartans Club.

19 I am one of the volunteers. I am also a  
20 volunteer of the PTA.

21 I am also a volunteer. We are trying to  
22 bring all the schools together and tackle  
23 diversity right, now.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you very much  
25 for all of that hard work.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 And, shifting from sports to academics, um,  
2 a good friend of both Councilman Ambrosino and  
3 myself, very famous, Nelson Demille and he is a  
4 graduate of Elmont Memorial and I am very proud. Page | 17

5 And, we are going to look to do something  
6 with the School District this year and have maybe  
7 incoming elections on what it is like to be in  
8 office, so - -

9 SHELDON MERKLE: We look forward to having  
10 some alumnus.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you very much.

12 SHELDON MERKLE: Thank you very much for  
13 your time, ladies and gentlemen.

14 Enjoy the evening. Hopefully, this goes a  
15 lot faster and you can get home, get dinner. Get  
16 home safe.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

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

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next we have Evelyn  
21 Shultz?

22 (Whereupon, "I decline to speak at this  
23 time," was heard from the audience. After, the  
24 following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next, we have Cherly

1 Phelps?

2 (Whereupon, "I decline to speak at this  
3 time," was heard from the audience. After, the  
4 following ensued.)

Page | 18

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next, we have David  
6 Fields.

7 State your name and address for the record,  
8 please.

9 DAVID FIELDS: David Fields. 558 Ridge  
10 Road. I am actually a resident, um, at this time,  
11 I know you are trying to put this whole thing into  
12 place.

13 The big part of the problem, for the last  
14 ten years, there is constant U-Turns on the  
15 street.

16 Talking about safety, I think this is  
17 something that we need to look into, first of all,  
18 before we even take the two-way street away from  
19 us.

20 It is a big inconvenience for the  
21 neighbors.

22 You can't get out of the driveways in the  
23 morning and no one is doing anything.

24 We feel like no one is doing anything  
25 about it.

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My wife will speak on it.

Also, she is constantly on email with the Principal. I know he knows her name very well, but, doesn't actually know who she is, but this is the constant problem.

We have reached out to the Precinct, the local Precinct to help us just to have a spot cop there in the morning.

There is nothing that has happened of that sort, I can guarantee you.

There is an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon where we can have twelve U-Turns on the street, with about four, "No U-Turn" signs that every one can see.

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Madam Supervisor?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: To that point, we share your concerns and one of the reasons we are making this change, making it one way in the morning and afternoon will eliminate the ability to making the U-Turns, so, that should solve the problem.

DAVID FIELDS: Okay, wait, if I thought that would work right off the bat, I would agree with it.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 The buses are allowed there. They will  
2 have traffic double parking next to the buses,  
3 then.

4 There are constantly three, four buses  
5 there, either in the morning or in the evening.

Page | 20

6 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Why don't we meet  
7 with the school and work on that.

8 Doing this is for the school. We an sit  
9 down and work out a better traffic flow program to  
10 assist you.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Fields, as the  
12 previous speaker said, you know, this is a trial  
13 situation.

14 We are going to see how it works out. You  
15 maybe coming back here and say, you know what, it  
16 is working well or you may say it is a disaster.  
17 We have to re-look at it. We are trying it on a  
18 trial basis.

19 DAVID FIELDS: What is bothering me is the  
20 main road is Dutch Broadway.

21 We are coming in from that with two  
22 lanes and we are going to have a single lane in  
23 between the two streets.

24 Dutch Broadway is the main road out of  
25 there.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1           What is going to happen with the bottleneck  
2 that we have, now, to get onto Dutch Broadway?

3           There is a bottleneck there every morning.

4           COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You will have the           Page | 21  
5 same number of vehicles, so, I am not sure that is  
6 going to change very much.

7           But, let's see how it works out.

8           We appreciate you coming in here and  
9 sharing your concerns.

10          You maybe right and, then, again, you maybe  
11 wrong.

12          We will give it a try and see what happens.

13          DAVID FIELDS: All right.

14          SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is a trial period  
15 and we can also reach out to the Precinct to make  
16 sure there is enforcement of the "No U-Turns."

17          DAVID FIELDS: How can we get help with  
18 that, the Precinct ignores us completely?

19          SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can reach out to the  
20 Precinct and get them involved.

21          DAVID FIELDS: Okay.

22          COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you, sir.

23          Next, we have Margaret Fields.

24          State your name and address for the record.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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MARGARET FIELDS: Margaret Fields. 558

Ridge Road.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can go ahead with  
your comments. Page | 22

MARGARET FIELDS: Okay, I am a resident concerned about the safety, the idea of one way in that area and to do something that is going to be constructive and something to make a difference for the residents of Ridge Road, we need to make that road a permanent one-way street, coming off of Dutch Broadway.

No one obeys the law.

You are trying to get in and out of your driveway, like my husband just stated, you cannot get out.

People are parked in your driveway.

When you are coming out and they are right behind you. No one on this panel lives on Ridge Road and experiences the daily nuisance that we go through every single day right next to the buses.

Do something that will make a difference.

It should be a one-way street.

The parents there will be happy because the kids don't have to cross the street.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 They are coming off Dutch Broadway on the  
2 right side of the school to let kids off and they  
3 can be right, here.

4 No one has to cross because kids are trying <sup>Page | 23</sup>  
5 to cross and people coming from behind, that is  
6 why they are going to have an accident.

7 Safety is the main concern. I needs to be  
8 a permanent one way.

9 You stop, you drop the kids off, you keep  
10 on moving and you go on out.

11 It should be a permanent one way and that  
12 is the only thin that is going to work.

13 Stop the parking on our side of the street  
14 and we can live a comfortable, residential life.

15 Elmont Memorial is a fantastic school.

16 Their curriculum is fourteen hours a day.

17 It is not from 7:00 to 3:00. It is to  
18 10:00 at night, almost every single night of the  
19 week.

20 So, we experience traffic all day, night.  
21 I go to work, I come home at 8:00 at night, I cant  
22 get in.

23 It is always a problem. It is a  
24 fourteen-hour curriculum every single day of the  
25 week including on Saturday when they have the

1 games, so, we are constantly not having a  
2 residential life on Ridge Road.

3 So, the only thing that will help maybe if  
4 you want to do something and make a difference Page | 24  
5 make it a one way-street, not on a trial period.

6 It is not going to work. It is not going  
7 to work.

8 How are you going to enforce them from here  
9 to here that is a one way?

10 Who is going to pay attention to that?

11 Look at the scene right in front of you,  
12 who is going to enforce that little space of one  
13 way that is going to take place?

14 If you call the cops, they tell you - -  
15 they tell you, "call security."

16 I am tired of emailing Mr. Dougherty about  
17 this issue, which he does handle, but, it is just  
18 too much.

19 And, again, in addition to the buses, the  
20 buses bringing the kids to the school, the buses  
21 should take the buses into the school yard and  
22 have the kids get off in the school yard.

23 It shouldn't be in the street.

24 It is two ways. It is a small street.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1           So, I mean the buses, I called  
2 transportation last week, I told the guys the  
3 buses are idling for twenty - - fifteen minutes  
4 in the morning, in the afternoon and they said, Page | 25  
5 "that shouldn't be."

6           Did they do anything about it?

7           No, same pattern followed. Nothing is  
8 done. So, if you are really serious about doing  
9 something for the residents of Ridge Road, because  
10 we pay residential taxes to live there, we need to  
11 make it a one-way street to keep the traffic keep  
12 flowing.

13           It is like an airport drop off, you drop  
14 them off and you keep moving straight on.

15           That is my take on it, to do something  
16 meaningful and something that is going to improve  
17 the quality of our life there.

18           Every day I come home, it is school over  
19 there.

20           COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Thank you very much  
21 for your input.

22           Would it be fair to say if you are in favor  
23 of a permanent one way, you are surely in favor of  
24 one way, testing it and then, eventually

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 evolve it to one way, permanently to work out the  
2 kinks.

3 MARGARET FIELDS: Exactly.

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: You are in favor of <sup>Page | 26</sup>  
5 it?

6 MARGARET FIELDS: Exactly, one way, oh,  
7 yeah, one way from Dutch Broadway.

8 U-Turns eliminated. You wouldn't have any  
9 of those issues.

10 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: We are making it one  
11 way, right, now, so, thank you for your support.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Fields, I tell you  
13 I actually live right across from a school, so, I  
14 experience firsthand some of the issue you are  
15 talking about.

16 Our concerns are making sure the children  
17 are safe and you are safe and the reason we are  
18 doing this trial period is to explore ways you can  
19 do that to make sure that it is something that  
20 works for both you and the school.

21 MARGARET FIELDS: The only thing that they  
22 have to realize, our master bedrooms are all  
23 facing Ridge Road and that road the minute those  
24 school buses pull up, boom you hear it.

25 I mean, we don't have any peace at all.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Like I said, to do something that is going  
2 to be effective, that is not going to work.

3 It has to be a one-way street in and out.  
4 You keep going straight, that is the solution. Page | 27

5 U-Turns will all be taken care of.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Just for the record,  
7 I also grew up across the street from a school,  
8 the other Memorial, Valley Stream Memorial.

9 I grew up right across the street. We  
10 haven't even talked about the snowball fights  
11 after school.

12 MARGARET FIELDS: I mean times have changed  
13 and I think doubly the amount we had before ten  
14 years ago, fifteen years ago, we didn't have this  
15 much traffic and unruly parents that come into  
16 your driveway and do whatever they want.

17 I mean, fifteen years ago, I wouldn't have  
18 sat about here and complained about anything.

19 Things are different.

20 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.

21 After, the following ensued.)

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Thank you very much.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. I do not  
24 have any more slips on this matter.

25 Is there anybody else that wishes to be

1 heard?

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

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I Page | 28  
5 have a Motion.

6 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Madam Supervisor, in  
7 light of the safety concerns and the need to put  
8 this program in place as soon as possible, I am  
9 going to deviate from the custom and practice and  
10 I am going to ask that the Public Hearing be  
11 closed and the proposed Local Law be immediately  
12 adopted.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the motion.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,  
15 please, call the roll.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public  
4 Hearing.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Determining parcels  
6 benefited by Construction or Reconstruction of  
7 sidewalk area in Baldwin, Bellmore, Bethpage, East  
8 Meadow, Elmont, Floral Park, Franklin Square,  
9 Garden City, Garden City South, Hewlett, Inwood,  
10 Lawrence, Merrick, North Baldwin, North Bellmore,  
11 North Merrick, Oceanside, Roosevelt, Seaford,  
12 South Hempstead, Valley Stream, Wantagh, West  
13 Hempstead, Westbury, Woodmere in the Town of  
14 Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, adopting  
15 proposed Assessment Roll for the cost thereof &  
16 calling Public Hearing thereon.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Did we leave anything  
18 out?

19 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from the  
20 audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have slips on  
22 this matter.

23 Is there anybody that wishes to be heard?

24 (Whereupon, "yes" was heard calling out  
25 from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin  
2 Resident.

3 I am curious as to the locations in, I  
4 guess, Baldwin, North Baldwin.

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5 Why is it designated that way unless they  
6 were going by what is the postal locations?

7 But we have a problem, again, when we keep  
8 delineating our locations.

9 Baldwin, we need to make sure that we keep  
10 that consistent.

11 I am curious as to what these parcels are  
12 that benefited from the construction and  
13 reconstruction of the sidewalks.

14 Our roads are torn up.

15 So, I am curious as to the sidewalks being  
16 fixed and the roads are not.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner?

18 COMMISSIONER: Good Evening, Supervisor,  
19 Town Board:

20 These are parcels that the residents took  
21 advantage of the Town of Hempstead Sidewalk  
22 Program, where they can have their sidewalks  
23 redone because they were tripping hazards, trees  
24 lifting the sidewalks.

25 They could have it done and put on their

1 taxes, on their tax bill.

2 So, this work is already completed.

3 And, this is a warrant to have the County

4 to put on the assessment.

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, it is completed at  
6 the request of the residents, is that correct?

7 COMMISSIONER: Yes and they paid for it.

8 META MEREDAY: So, the residents are paying  
9 for it?

10 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

11 META MEREDAY: What is the benefit of this  
12 program?

13 COMMISSIONER: The benefit is residents, if  
14 they need to have fifteen flags in front of their  
15 house done and they don't have the money to do it,  
16 but, we have to have them do it because it is a  
17 tripping hazard, they can, now, have it done with  
18 no money out-of-pocket and pay for it over the  
19 five years.

20 META MEREDAY: Okay, it is kind of  
21 congregated payment process of work that gets  
22 done.

23 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

24 META MEREDAY: And, how is this program  
25 promoted to the residents, so, more residents are

1 aware of this?

2 COMMISSIONER: We go out to, um, inspect  
3 the sidewalk if there was a complaint or some type  
4 of issue, um, most of the time, we will tell the, <sup>Page | 32</sup>  
5 um, resident, this is available to them.

6 It is on the WEB site in the Highway  
7 Department.

8 META MEREDAY: Okay, it is something that  
9 is on the WEB site?

10 COMMISSIONER: This is a long-running  
11 program.

12 META MEREDAY: Okay, I am pretty sure there  
13 are quite a few residents that aren't aware of  
14 this program.

15 And, again, why is it broken down into  
16 Baldwin and North Baldwin?

17 COMMISSIONER: Probably it has to do with  
18 the tax assessment rolls, whatever comes in from  
19 the County, we do.

20 We are not setting the Towns.

21 META MEREDAY: Okay, there is no other  
22 fiscal impacts on residents overall with regard to  
23 this program?

24 COMMISSIONER: There is no impact on any  
25 other residence than the residence of that house



1 or that property.

2 META MEREDAY: Okay, okay, thank you.

3 I am glad we have these types of programs  
4 and services for the sidewalks but we really need <sup>Page | 33</sup>  
5 to start looking at working together between the  
6 Town and County because the roads are in very bad  
7 shape.

8 We have a lot of residents, particularly,  
9 elderly residents that are having issues not only  
10 personally but with their own vehicles because the  
11 cracks and crevices on the streets.

12 It is hard to kind of deviate which are the  
13 Town road and County roads and the list is  
14 becoming endless trying to get this information  
15 out to get them fixed.

16 Thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

18 Is there anybody else that would like to be  
19 heard on this Public Hearing?

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

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Madam Supervisor, I  
23 move that the Public Hearing be closed and the  
24 item be adopted.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the

1 Motion.

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

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

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5 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

18 CLERK CABANA: Proposed lease agreement for  
19 use of space on the water districts property &  
20 water tank in the Roosevelt Field Water District -  
21 WESTBURY - Dibblee Drive - Department of Water (T-  
22 Mobile Northeast, LLC.)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have no slips on this  
24 matter, is there anybody that wishes to be heard?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, if I

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 may, I just have a couple of questions for  
2 Commissioner Reinhardt.

3 Good Evening, Commissioner, how are you?

4 Just a quick question, the revenue  
5 generated by T-Mobile on these, um, for the Water  
6 District, does it go directly to the District?

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7 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: In accordance with  
8 the New York State Law Section 188, any revenue  
9 generated from the sale or lease of real property  
10 goes to the district to which own the property.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you very  
12 much.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anyone that  
14 would like to speak on this item?

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye. 436  
16 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

17 I am just wondering how many of these, um,  
18 cell towers are added to each of the water towers?

19 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: The Hearing, here,  
20 is to put twelve antennas on one tower.

21 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Twelve on one?

22 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Yes.

23 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, is there a maximum  
24 set by law or could it be a hundred?

25 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No each

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 application comes through the, um, the company  
2 making the installation deal with structural  
3 analysis of the water tower to determine where and  
4 if it can bear the load.

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5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I see.

6 Do you have any idea about how much the  
7 tower they attach weighs?

8 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: The equipment they  
9 are adding the antennas to is about - - are about  
10 twenty to thirty pounds each, which is nothing  
11 considering the tower is holding a million and a  
12 half gallons of water.

13 It is very small, but, they do structural  
14 analysis anyway.

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: How tall are they?

16 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: This particular  
17 tower is one hundred and seventy-four feet.

18 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Above?

19 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Aboveground.

20 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Aboveground?

21 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Aboveground.

22 MARY ELLEN KREYE: But, they are adding to  
23 our water towers, right?

24 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No, no, the water  
25 tower is one hundred and seventy-four feet.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1           They are putting one hundred and forty-  
2 seven feet on the tower, so, it will be way up the  
3 tower.

4           It is small antennas, four feet long. It <sup>Page | 37</sup>  
5 holds on the side of the tower.

6           MARY ELLEN KREYE: Okay.

7           COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Commissioner, if I  
8 may, just for the record, the question that I  
9 asked pertaining to the funding that comes from  
10 these cell towers, your answer they go directly to  
11 the district following protocol, that is the case  
12 for Items 10 and 11, Roosevelt Field Water  
13 District and the Uniondale Water District,  
14 correct?

15           COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Correct.

16           COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you.

17           SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anyone else  
18 that would like to be heard?

19           PEARL JACOBS: Good Evening. Pearl Jacobs,  
20 President of the Nostrand Gardens Civic  
21 Association, Uniondale.

22           I have a question regarding the Roosevelt  
23 Field Water District.

24           Is there such a thing?

25           COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Yes, there is.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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PEARL JACOBS: Really?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Yes.

PEARL JACOBS: Because I see on Dibblee Drive, which I know that area as far as the maps are concerned, encompasses Uniondale, so, you are saying it has, um, a section called Roosevelt Field Water District?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: The Uniondale - - Roosevelt Water District was incorporated, I believe, in 1956 - - 1963, sorry.

PEARL JACOBS: Roosevelt Field is actually, it is, um, a place, it is the shopping center?

Is it a designated space?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: There is a special district that was formed on the properties that lie within the corporate run for the Roosevelt Field Water District to create a water district for that area.

PEARL JACOBS: I will follow-up on that.

Thank you.

Also, another question regarding the, um, the, um, cell sites, the cell towers, um, how far, what range does that encompass, the cell site?

Would that cell site encompass other areas, as far as, you know, as far as, do you know the

1 range?

2 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: I am not a  
3 telecommunication engineer.

4 PEARL JACOBS: Right.

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5 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: But, the coverage  
6 area depending on the frequency, again, what they  
7 are using, the normal location on the tower.

8 PEARL JACOBS: And, you don't have that  
9 information?

10 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: I don't have that  
11 information, no.

12 PEARL JACOBS: Okay, all right, thank you.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Jacobs.

14 Is there anybody else that would like to be  
15 hard on this item?

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

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I  
19 have a Motion.

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Madam Supervisor, I  
21 move that the Hearing be closed and the item be  
22 adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I second the Motion.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

11 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public  
12 Hearing.

13 CLERK CABANA: Proposed lease agreement for  
14 use of space on the water district's Uniondale  
15 water tank & property in the Uniondale Water  
16 District - Uniondale - Hempstead Boulevard -  
17 Department of Water (T-Mobile Northeast LLC)

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip from  
19 Wayne Smith on this Hearing.

20 (Whereupon, "Yeah, I was just here in case  
21 you have questions," was heard called out from the  
22 audience. After, the following ensued.)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
24 that wants to be heard on this Hearing?

25 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 436 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

2 So, now, I tried to figure out are there  
3 currently different carriers with antennas on the  
4 Uniondale, you know, how many are on the Uniondale <sup>Page | 41</sup>  
5 Water Tower?

6 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: This Hearing is  
7 for renewal of T-Mobile to install 12 antennas.

8 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Twelve antennas, so,  
9 they have twelve all around.

10 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Correct.

11 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, they are the only  
12 cell phone carrier that has a lease on our water  
13 tower?

14 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No, this  
15 particular site has another carrier on it.

16 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Oh, and the other  
17 carrier is?

18 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: This one has - -  
19 Sprint is the other carrier.

20 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And Sprint has how many?

21 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Um, Sprint, I  
22 believe has nine.

23 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, again, they are  
24 just attached to the outside?

25 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Correct.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 MARY ELLEN KREYE: How far up was the work  
2 lease?

3 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: This one is about,  
4 they are one hundred and twenty feet aboveground <sup>Page | 42</sup>  
5 on this one.

6 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, the tower, itself,  
7 is how high?

8 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: This is one  
9 hundred and forty feet.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you so much.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
12 that wants to be heard on this item?

13 PATTY HARRIS: Patty Harris, Uniondale, New  
14 York.

15 I would like to know about the Towers, when  
16 they start building around Holly Patterson, will  
17 these towers be coming down?

18 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No, this is a  
19 long-term lease, cell towers on water towers.

20 PATTY HARRIS: How much radiation comes off  
21 it?

22 It is near schools and it is near  
23 residences.

24 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: These antennas  
25 have been on this tower for fifteen years.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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It is an existing lease.

PATTY HARRIS: I don't think the residents of Uniondale know that.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: The original lease was passed at a Public Hearing, as well as, at a Public Forum.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are you proposing that we remove cell towers from the Town of Hempstead?

PATTY HARRIS: Yes - - no, I opposed that you move them from Uniondale where they are supposed to be built up for residents to be living here, so, that is what I propose.

And, it is near a school.

(Whereupon, "that is right," was heard from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I don't think there is any evidence that cell towers affect anybody's health and they are located throughout the World in every community and you wouldn't have cell service without them.

So, I think this is a given in this day and age.

PATTY HARRIS: Maybe a given, but this day and age that property that is in Uniondale, that

1 is a hot commodity and for some reason, everybody  
2 wants to build up over there and use that property  
3 when it was left for the community and we have no  
4 say, so, what is going on over there - -

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: For the record, this  
6 is a revenue source for the water districts to  
7 keep the costs down by allowing them to put the  
8 antennas on a structure, that is high enough for  
9 them to be effective.

10 They couldn't put it on a private building.

11 They couldn't put it on various different -  
12 - at least, they could build their own tower.

13 The fact that they are putting it on the  
14 water district tower saves them money and it gives  
15 us a revenue source, so, it is a win/win for  
16 everybody.

17 PATTY HARRIS: Maybe it is for you but not  
18 the residents because have you tested how much  
19 radiation is over there in the soil from these  
20 towers?

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The Federal Government  
22 has strict regulations on how the emissions are  
23 and these antennas are tested, as well as, the  
24 back-up things on the ground, the back-up  
25 utilities that they have.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 It is tested and generated and well within  
2 the Federal limits.

3 PATTY HARRIS: Have you tested the people  
4 that were around them? Page | 45

5 Do you know how many have cancer from it,  
6 living near it?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you have any results  
8 that you would like to share with us?

9 PATTY HARRIS: No, I am asking a question.  
10 First time I seen this, so, I am asking the  
11 question.

12 Have they tested any of the residents that  
13 live near it of cancer from it that live in that  
14 area?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: How long have you  
16 been with the Town of Hempstead Water District?

17 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Since 2006.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Since, then, we  
19 have had contracts with cell phone providers in  
20 order to put these antennas up?

21 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Since 1991.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: How many  
23 communities do we have cell towers in?

24 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: In our District,  
25 all Water Districts.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITOZ: Have we had any  
2 issues or concerns, um, in any, you know, good  
3 evidence that provides to us that, um, any of  
4 those cell towers, you know, got anyone sick,  
5 caused any disease?

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6 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No.

7 Mr. Ra, correct me if I am wrong, but, I  
8 believe that, um, the Telecommunications Act  
9 prohibits, um, any of that sort of information  
10 even being relevant in these Hearings because,  
11 technology has been installed and tested  
12 repeatedly.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You can't - - a  
14 municipality cannot use health reasons for - - as  
15 a reason to prohibit the cell towers under Federal  
16 Law.

17 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Cell towers have  
18 pretty much become a daily sort of fixture around  
19 communities and water districts having very large,  
20 um, able structures, utilize these in an effort to  
21 keep water rates in an affordable level, um,  
22 somewhere in a less intrusive method of installing  
23 these antennas.

24 PATTY HARRIS: Those things cause one  
25 million - - one hundred million times more of

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 radiation than our grandparents ever had,  
2 radiation form cell towers.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you care to submit  
4 that to us, we will look at it. Page | 47

5 These cell towers provide service to the  
6 residents.

7 They have the ability to have connectivity,

8 PATTY HARRIS: All right, thank you.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
10 that would like to be heard on this matter?

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

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I  
14 have a Motion.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Madam Supervisor, I  
16 move that the Public Hearing be closed and the  
17 item be adopted.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
19 Motion.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

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1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

7 That concludes our Public Hearings.

8 So, Madam Clerk, would you, please, call  
9 the Decision Calendar.

10 CLERK CABANA: Yes, there is one item on  
11 the Decision Calendar is the Application for EKAM  
12 Singh Cattry for a variance from provisions of  
13 "GSS" Ordinance to convert (3) service bays into a  
14 convenience store and waive off-street parking  
15 located on the South side of Rosedale Avenue, 464  
16 feet West of Park Lane, North Woodmere.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Madam  
18 Supervisor, I move that the application be granted

19 - -

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
21 motion.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - With the  
23 restrictions and covenants contained therein by  
24 the Building Department.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I still second the



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1 Motion.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you  
3 please call the roll.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

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5 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

16 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call the  
17 Administrative Calendar.

18 CLERK CABANA: Yes, Supervisor.

19 On the Administrative Calendar this  
20 evening, we have Items 13 through 50.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would any of the  
22 Council Members like to sever the Administrative  
23 Calendar?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor,  
25 Items 49 and 50.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on  
2 the rest of the Administrative Calendar.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Supervisor, with  
4 regards to Items 13 to 48, I move those items be <sup>Page | 50</sup>  
5 approved.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
7 Motion.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a number of  
9 slips on the Administrative Calendar.

10 First, I have Felix Procacci.

11 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165  
12 Barns Street, Franklin Square, New York.

13 Um, Item Number 41, the personnel issues,  
14 um, once, again, I oppose to all non-contractual  
15 raises until the CBA (Collective Bargaining  
16 Agreement) is adjudicated, until we find out if  
17 that is something we have to owe, because as I  
18 said time and time, again, that is a benefit that  
19 all employees were given, you know, having a  
20 lifetime salary guaranteed is a benefit.

21 It is worth money.

22 And, um, once, again, there hasn't been an  
23 advisory opinion asked for that I know of  
24 regarding this because I think it is unethical by  
25 our own ethics law that states, you know, Council

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 People, you know, cannot vote on things that are a  
2 benefit to their immediate family or adverse to  
3 the Town.

4 And, our own Comptroller, Kevin Conroy said <sup>Page | 51</sup>  
5 this could be an adverse to the Town.

6 Um, I have a question, um, are all  
7 personnel transfers posted on the resolutions if  
8 some was transferred from one Department to  
9 another must show - -

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

11 FELIX PROCACCI: And, if it didn't show up  
12 would that transfer be illegal and have to be done  
13 over, again?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Well, if the Town Board  
15 didn't have it in front of them, that would be  
16 illegal because they wouldn't have voted on it,  
17 but, if there was some clerical error that  
18 prevented them from getting on the WEB site, that  
19 would not be illegal.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: How would we ever know the  
21 difference?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Somebody would have to  
23 point out the error.

24 FELIX PROCACCI: Yeah, um, I just want to  
25 make it clear because it is said some people

1 didn't get raises every year.

2 I think January 23<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, the fact of  
3 the matter, all of the exempt employees that I  
4 have looked at for every year they have been  
5 employed with the Town, have gotten an increase.

6 I don't know, maybe there is one, but, I  
7 don't know of any exempt employee who hasn't  
8 gotten a raise, whether it is a minimum of five  
9 hundred dollars or usually, a few thousand  
10 dollars, so, and, um - -

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon, would you  
12 speak to some of these issues.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: I don't have any  
14 questions.

15 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Good Evening,  
16 Supervisor, Members of the Board:

17 The CBA contains a list of references of  
18 Schedule A people in the titles identified in  
19 Schedule A are exempt from any contractual  
20 increases.

21 They require no affirmative action by the  
22 Board to give them a raise.

23 They are not automatically given a raise  
24 pursuant to the CBA.

25 FELIX PROCACCI: I am not arguing with

1 that.

2 I am just saying that the exempt employees  
3 that have been on this calendar that received  
4 raises on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and virtually Page | 53  
5 every meeting because I have been printing out  
6 their salary history, nobody has ever missed a  
7 raise.

8 And, I bring it up only because  
9 Councilwoman Sweeney brought it up to **NEWSDAY** in a  
10 video, "these people have not received raises."

11 That is not true. Everyone is on the list,  
12 today from the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, January 23<sup>rd</sup>  
13 and so on, going back and they always get raises  
14 every year.

15 They never skipped. There was never one  
16 missed.

17 That is my point, that it is a misnomer to  
18 think we are giving some person who missed raises.

19 They never missed a raise.

20 Contractual or not is another thing.

21 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: The raises that  
22 I think Councilwoman King-Sweeney was referencing  
23 was - - would have been merit raises, not  
24 contractual raises.

25 We have the contractual raises are what

1 they are.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, those raises were  
3 raises within the majority board and it is in  
4 their budget.

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5 It was matter of their discretion.

6 FELIX PROCACCI: I get that.

7 I want to make sure that the Public  
8 understands that nobody here is shortchanged any  
9 raises.

10 Everybody is getting a raise every year,  
11 whether it is contractual or not.

12 They - - all these other employees are  
13 getting raises this year.

14 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I am happy to  
15 provide the Board with a list of exempt employees  
16 that have not gotten raises.

17 FELIX PROCACCI: That is fine.

18 There might be a few. I am not saying  
19 there is absolutely none, but, that issue, the  
20 fact that we are giving these raises almost  
21 automatically, I did some surveys, it would take  
22 too long to go through everything but I compared  
23 other municipalities.

24 North Hempstead is not a million miles away  
25 from us and, um, the salaries for the exact same

1 positions are thirty percent, forty percent less  
2 on average.

3 And, you know, it is just absolutely absurd  
4 from your office, the Supervisor's Office, I  
5 compared with Judy Bosworth, even if you count for  
6 the size, if that should make a difference, a  
7 salary working eight hours a day, you have more  
8 employees because you service more people.

9 The salaries are so out of whack, the  
10 Animal Shelter. We can go on and on.

11 I looked it up.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr. Procacci, and I  
13 am trying to understand this myself, Mr. Sammon,  
14 correct me if I am wrong, the Members of our  
15 staff, Members of the CSEA, who work on the Town  
16 Board, do they receive contractual raises each  
17 year?

18 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: They do not.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: They do not.

20 I am asking.

21 What you are saying, everyone that was on  
22 the calendar for the Town Board received a raise  
23 last year?

24 FELIX PROCACCI: Everyone who was on the  
25 calendar on January 23<sup>rd</sup> received a raise for every

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 year they have been employed with the Town.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay.

3 FELIX PROCACCI: I went through - -  
4 everyone I have gone through has been there.

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5 As I said, the salary - -

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I see staff members  
7 shaking their heads.

8 I am trying to understand myself.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: Everyone I checked,  
10 everyone I checked.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: I qualify it, I am not  
13 saying I know something I didn't check.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am trying to  
15 understand.

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Compare every increase,  
17 whether it is today's increase, any increase that  
18 you looked at, other comparable positions and see  
19 are we paying a fair salary or are we paying  
20 thirty, forty percent more than other  
21 municipalities.

22 And, why is that?

23 We are a bigger municipality. Everybody  
24 works an eight-hour day, so, what difference does  
25 it make any way?



1 That is my point.

2 Thank you very much.

3 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: If I can  
4 interject.

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5 The schedule is a product of successive  
6 collective bargaining negotiations with the Union  
7 and the salaries are the result of those  
8 negotiations and any change to the salary schedule  
9 would have to be negotiated with the Union.

10 FELIX PROCACCI: No - - you don't keep  
11 raising non-contractual salaries if they are out  
12 of whack of what the norm is, that is what I am  
13 saying.

14 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.  
15 After, the following ensued.)

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Valerie Lampe?

17 VALERIE LAMPE: Good Evening.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Evening.

19 VALERIE LAMPE: Valerie Lampe, Baldwin, New  
20 York.

21 Um, so, it is National Love Your Pet Day,  
22 so, we are going to talk about the animals.

23 Um, on the Resolutions, let's start with  
24 this one, the, um, Resolution Number 35, um, with  
25 regards to payment of services and to make

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 payments to the Animal Shelter, Town of Hempstead  
2 Animal Shelter, um, to the Central Veterinary  
3 Associates, um, can someone tell me, why is that  
4 dated April 4<sup>th</sup> of last year? Page | 58

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy, can you  
6 please answer that.

7 VALERIE LAMPE: Oh, good, I was hoping you  
8 were here.

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, Members of  
10 the Board, I can speak to dollars associated with  
11 this Resolution.

12 I am not quite sure what your question was.

13 VALERIE LAMPE: Um, so, I guess I am  
14 curious as to why we would be authorizing payment  
15 for something that was dated April 4, 2017?

16 Is this an old bill that was never paid?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: This Resolution is  
18 increasing the funding in 2018 by one hundred and  
19 thirty-five thousand dollars.

20 So, as to increase from the original  
21 amount, which was forty-eight thousand.

22 So, the new amount would be one hundred and  
23 eighty-three thousand.

24 We encumbered those monies and that is what  
25 we are anticipating in the budget, here, 2018 on

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 behalf of the services rendered by this, um, off-  
2 site vet service.

3 VALERIE LAMPE: Um, I guess, hold on, let  
4 me table that question. Page | 59

5 So, with regards to this off-site  
6 veterinary service, as well as, the next one, um,  
7 which is Porter Animal - -

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes, Porter Vet  
9 Service.

10 VALERIE LAMPE: That is another one which  
11 was originally dated August 8, 2017 with a range  
12 of thirty thousand to eighty thousand dollars,  
13 what are we paying for?

14 What are we outsourcing?

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Off-site vet services.

16 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay, but from my  
17 understanding, we have an Animal Shelter with a  
18 three-million dollar payroll that includes  
19 veterinary staff, is that correct?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Both inhouse, this is  
21 for outsourcing.

22 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay.

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: The cases that they  
24 can't handle inhouse, they have to outsource.

25 VALERIE LAMPE: How do we go about

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1 selecting these particular vendors, for a lack of  
2 a better term?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: I believe the Town  
4 Attorney maybe able to help.

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5 Professional Services do not require a bid.

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is correct.

7 We hire on recommendation from the Director  
8 of the Shelter and Commissioner of General  
9 Services.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And the dates on the  
11 resolutions are the dates that were when it  
12 originally went before the Board, is that correct?

13 COMPROLLER CONROY: I believe so, yes.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, in 2017?

15 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

16 VALERIE LAMPE: Porter Vet Services, for  
17 example, was hired without any type of bidding  
18 process through the recommendation of the current  
19 Director of the Shelter, Mike Pastore, Mr. Ra?

20 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I believe so.

21 It is veterinary services, professional  
22 services and they do not need to go through a  
23 bidding process.

24 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay, well, considering  
25 this is not a small amount of money, but,

1 even if it is, it really is always about  
2 principle.

3 I mean, maybe we should have some type of a  
4 bidding process.

5 How does the public know that their  
6 taxpayer dollars in hiring the best people.

7 I did a preliminary search, Mr. Ra and I  
8 found Porter Veterinary Services, which is the dba  
9 for this company.

10 Number 1, they don't even have a WEB site,  
11 that is surprising in this day and age.

12 But, according to what I did find, which  
13 was from a data research company, their annual  
14 revenue is sixty-six thousand four hundred and  
15 seventy-one dollars and only been in business for  
16 less than two years.

17 Is this the best place to outsource our  
18 beloved animals to?

19 I want to point out, New York Veterinary  
20 Specialty and Emergency Center, dba Porter, the  
21 dba has twenty-eight reviews on GOOGLE with only a  
22 2.7-star rating, which to me is subpar to say the  
23 least.

24 But, if you read the reviews, I mean, I  
25 find it very alarming.

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1 It is complaining about everything from  
2 staff being rude, more importantly to negligence,  
3 incompetence and, um, and, and, even a dog being  
4 operated on the wrong leg.

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5 So, I am concerned.

6 And, the next item, down, here is the  
7 Resolution authorizing acceptance of contracts for  
8 yearly requirements to this - - to this Animal  
9 Specialty Lab, Bloodhound Laboratories.

10 I don't have anything against them,  
11 however, what I am curious to know, was this a  
12 bidding process to select this type of company  
13 that is going to be handling these jobs?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Once, again, these are  
15 professional services and no bids are required.

16 VALERIE LAMPE: No bids are required for  
17 this either?

18 One of the things I notice on this  
19 resolution is that it also says there is a fee  
20 schedule attached.

21 I could not locate the fee schedule.

22 I would actually like to ask the Supervisor  
23 and the Board to table this vote until we can  
24 ascertain if these are the best people for the  
25 job.

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1 I think that especially since Supervisor  
2 Gillen says that the Animal Shelter is a  
3 lightening rod of controversy.

4 Isn't now a good time to hit the pause  
5 button and make sure we are making the best  
6 decision going forward?

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

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you asking about  
10 services that already have been rendered?

11 VALERIE LAMPE: Future contracts.

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can speak on 37,  
13 this did actually go out for bid.

14 This is, um, the lab doing business as  
15 Bloodhound.

16 This is a rebid.

17 The original four bids went out and one  
18 came back.

19 We have exhausted the bid process with  
20 regard to the lab, itself.

21 The other two, as the Town Attorney points  
22 out, professional services, no bid required.

23 VALERIE LAMPE: So, can we put a pin in  
24 this or table it, as Councilman D'Esposito like to  
25 say because I really feel this is - - the timing

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1 Of this and the magnitude of the importance of  
2 this, both in dollar amount and the fact that we  
3 are all concerned about the decision-making  
4 process for the Town of Hempstead Animals, can we <sup>Page | 64</sup>  
5 pause this?

6 Mr. Ra, can we pause it?

7 Does it have to be voted on, tonight?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Which item are you  
9 talking about?

10 VALERIE LAMPE: I am talking about all of  
11 the resolutions that fall under 21646 with the  
12 exception of, I guess, the Tails of Love, waiving  
13 the adoption fee because that already happened any  
14 way in the past.

15 Oh, that is kind of development, but,  
16 these, I am talking about the payments to these  
17 two, um, shelters, one, which has horrible  
18 reviews.

19 I will show you.

20 I am being reasonable. I am not saying  
21 don't pay anybody. I am saying, can we hit the  
22 pause button and do a little more due diligence.

23 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, if I may,  
24 if I can comment on 35 and 36.

25 Item 35 and 36, all we are doing is



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1 increasing the encumbrance in anticipated  
2 expenditure in 2018, that is all we are doing.

3 We are not authorizing a payment.

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4 VALERIE LAMPE: With all due respect,  
5 though, what I am trying to say is the Town in  
6 general - -

7 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.  
8 After, the following ensued.)

9 VALERIE LAMPE: - - history and Supervisor  
10 Gillen talked to it during the campaign about  
11 patronage jobs and picking people just for the  
12 sake of picking.

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

15 VALERIE LAMPE: It is time we end this.

16 No more cherry-picking because so and so  
17 says they like them.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are discussing an  
19 RFP for outside veterinary services to seek other  
20 vets.

21 VALERIE LAMPE: Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Nancy Giris.

23 NANCY GIRIS: Good Evening. Nancy Giris.  
24 15 North Atlantic Avenue, North Massapequa.

25 I am the Induction Coordinator at the Town

1 Of Hempstead Animal Shelter.

2 I want to make it very clear on Resolution  
3 35 and 36 owing money is not without penalty for  
4 the wellbeing and of life of our dogs and cats. Page | 66

5 We have had animals turned away from  
6 emergency services that are laying near death on  
7 the side of the road that our Animal Control  
8 Officers have gotten out and gotten animals and  
9 they have been turned away from the closest  
10 emergency Vet because we owe them too much money.

11 And, they went fifty minutes or an hour  
12 later to the next Vet that will take us because we  
13 are in arrears, it is my understanding, somewhere  
14 in the six figures.

15 So, this is life and death.

16 This isn't if you don't pay the bill we  
17 don't get blue pens tomorrow or we don't get copy  
18 paper.

19 This is having an impact on the services,  
20 critical care services.

21 We don't have a Vet or Vet staff at the  
22 Shelter twenty-four hours a day.

23 Many of our animals are coming in critical  
24 care, animals being hit on the side of the road,  
25 cruelty cases, orthopedic surgery.

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1 We have had animals that we have  
2 transported to specialty services that we have  
3 been told to come pick them up. "We are not doing  
4 the surgery. You owe us too much money."

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5 So, this is not without ramifications and  
6 this is the gift that Anthony Santino keeps on  
7 giving because these bills were due months and  
8 months and months ago and he handed the stack of  
9 bills to Supervisor Gillen at the very detriment  
10 of the wellbeing of our animals and their health  
11 and very, very lives at stack.

12 To be in that Shelter and know that there  
13 are animals and listening to that Animal Control  
14 call coming in everyday and listening, saying,  
15 "You have to bypass the Vet in Valley Stream. We  
16 owe them too much money."

17 Even though, it is two minutes away and the  
18 ACO gets stuck in traffic for an hour trying to  
19 take them to another facility.

20 It is horrible.

21 It is despicable and it is disgraceful and  
22 I want everyone to keep this in mind when Anthony  
23 Santino rises, again, that this is just another  
24 gift he left all of us.

25 And, that this is an issue that this is not

1 just extending budgets, this is paying overdue  
2 bills in the hundreds of thousands of dollars,  
3 hundreds of thousands of dollars.

4 I want people to recognize the gravity of <sup>Page | 68</sup>  
5 this and when you get those calls in the Shelter  
6 knowing that animals are probably going to die  
7 because they didn't get services quick enough.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: To be clear, if we do  
9 not support this, we are putting animals at risk,  
10 is that what you are saying?

11 NANCY GIRIS: What I am saying to you, we  
12 ultimately need to provide services because there  
13 are no critical care services.

14 There are no specialty services and we  
15 don't always have veterinary staff available  
16 during our public work hours.

17 What I am saying is, it is horrific that we  
18 owe and we held money out, held money out.

19 We are handing jobs out, one hundred and  
20 sixty thousand dollars like that, to people but,  
21 yet, we can get into debt over six figures  
22 knowingly for almost six or seven months and put  
23 every single one of those animals lives at risk.

24 And, the look on the CO's face when they  
25 come out and the dog or cat died because I

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1 couldn't go five minutes away and I had to travel  
2 for an hour is heartbreaking.

3 We should never, ever be in this position  
4 again, even this is something that needs to be Page | 69  
5 paid.

6 These are contracts that have to be  
7 maintained and I absolutely agree, these need to  
8 be sent out for RFP's.

9 These can't be this is someone I know, this  
10 is a guy I know.

11 We need to get the best services and the  
12 best value available.

13 Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, if I  
15 may, can I ask the Comptroller a few questions  
16 just so I can understand this.

17 What we are voting on is not money owed,  
18 correct?

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is correct.

20 NANCY GIRSI: It says, "payment."

21 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It says, "funding."

22 If I may?

23 The budget in 2018, the Health line is  
24 three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, off-site  
25 Vets, three hundred and thirty thousand.

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1           The remainder is for labs of twenty  
2 thousand dollars, total, three hundred and fifty  
3 thousand.

4           What 35 and 36 is trying to accomplish, Page | 70  
5 here, is to set aside the funding from the budget.

6           We call that in the Accounting World is  
7 "encumbrance," so, to be in position to provide  
8 the service and make the payments timely.

9           These are not arrears of payments that are  
10 due, it is setting aside funding.

11           COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: So, everyone and  
12 all of us understand, 35 and 36 are not old bills  
13 that we owe any money for?

14           COMPTROLLER CONROY: Setting aside the  
15 funding for, um, services to be rendered.

16           COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: As far as you are  
17 concerned, we are up-to-date with our payments  
18 with these two vendors?

19           COMPTROLLER CONROY: As far as I am  
20 concerned that is news to me.

21           I certainly would be getting phone calls.

22           NANCY GIRIS: I am giving you news.

23           The news is we are in arrears.

24           COMPTROLLER CONROY: If you could call me  
25 tomorrow, provide me with a schedule of those in

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Arrears, I will make sure they get paid timely.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: There are two  
3 resolutions, here, which company are we in arrears  
4 of? Page | 71

5 NANCY GIRIS: Both, the emergency vets; we  
6 have been turned away from Central Vet.

7 We have been turned away from Special Vets  
8 and even Orthopedic Vets.

9 I can give you specifics, if you would like  
10 them at this moment, but, clearly, these are  
11 issues.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am just trying to  
13 understand, you're saying we are not getting  
14 services because we haven't paid the bills?

15 NANCY GIRIS: That's correct.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: The Comptroller has  
17 said we have paid the bills.

18 The Resolutions that are on the calendar  
19 have nothing to do with paying the bills.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, Commissioner  
21 Marino, do you know if we are in arrears with any  
22 of our outside Vets?

23 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Yes, we are in  
24 arrears.

25 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from the

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Audience. After, the following ensued.)

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

4 (Whereupon, "we can't hear you," was heard <sup>Page | 72</sup>  
5 yelling out from the audience. After, the  
6 following ensued.)

7 COMMISSIONER MARINO: We need to finish  
8 paying the 2017, but, that has to come out of 2017  
9 money.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, Mr. Conroy, this is  
11 just setting aside money so we don't get into this  
12 trouble in 2019, is that correct?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Was this budgeted in  
15 properly in the 2018 budget or do we need more  
16 money?

17 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Well, as we speak  
18 right, now, three hundred and thirty thousand is  
19 for the Health line for off-site Veterinarians.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is that going to be  
21 sufficient from past experiences?

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know the  
23 answer to that.

24 I can tell you we have set aside two  
25 hundred and eighty-three of the three hundred and



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 thirty thousand, so, we got about sixty thousand  
2 dollars to go and it all depends on the caseload  
3 and the locations.

4 I am not in the position to comment whether <sup>Page | 73</sup>  
5 or not - -

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Conroy, what is  
7 the average, not in this matter, what is the  
8 average time for Accounts Payable from the time  
9 that the invoices received are processed and paid  
10 for, the typical transaction?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: By the time it gets to  
12 the Comptroller's Office, after all the voucher  
13 package is complete with invoice claim forms and  
14 authorization and all of that, it is a two-week  
15 turnaround time.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, we pay our bills  
17 within thirty days, typically?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Within two weeks,  
19 yeah.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are we paying these  
21 bills within thirty days?

22 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Money wasn't  
23 encumbered to pay all of these bills, that is why  
24 we recently - - the Vets, both Vets, they were  
25 both taking the animals from both Vets.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What is the current  
2 status of paying these arrears so we can - -

3 COMMISSIONER MARINO: We are right, now, in  
4 the process of, right, now, putting a Resolution <sup>Page | 74</sup>  
5 to pay.

6 We have to use 2017 money.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

8 NANCY GIRIS: So, the fact of the matter  
9 is, Councilman D'Esposito, we owe money to the  
10 Vets.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay.

12 NANCY GIRIS: And, we owe money and we are  
13 being denied services.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I wasn't arguing  
15 that. I was simply trying to get the facts and I  
16 was simply pointing out that these Resolutions - -

17 NANCY GIRIS: I understand.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: - - That is what  
19 were discussing in the Administrative Calendar, we  
20 are discussing the Resolution at hand that is what  
21 I was referring to.

22 NANCY GIRIS: It does say, "payment."

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, I wanted to  
24 make it clear that it wasn't the money that we are  
25 paying in arrears and now we have come to the

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 understanding that we have to pay the money.

2 NANCY GIRIS: So, we can dance and play.

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

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, encumbering this  
6 money, it seems like it is a good idea to make  
7 sure that our Vets, even if we go out for an RFP  
8 to make sure that we have this money in place to  
9 pay our Vets.

10 It is a good idea.

11 NANCY GIRIS: Yes, good, good.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: For the wellbeing of  
13 our animals.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to make  
15 a statement.

16 I would like to say if that is true about  
17 those Veterinarian - -

18 NANCY GIRIS: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - I think it is  
20 disgraceful.

21 NANCY GIRIS: It is, it is.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are creditworthy  
23 and we pay our bills and the Town of Hempstead has  
24 a very good financial rating compared to most  
25 municipalities.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 And, the fact that a provider of health  
2 care services to an animal, who is in that  
3 profession would deny service to the Town of  
4 Hempstead, I think is disgraceful, if what you are <sup>Page | 76</sup>  
5 telling me is true.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, a good reason to  
7 do an RFP.

8 NANCY GIRIS: And, a good reason to do an  
9 RFP and not just pick someone's friend, neighbor  
10 or coworker.

11 I agree with the Supervisor.

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

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mary Ellen Kreye.

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you. Mary Ellen  
16 Kreye. 436 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

17 And, um, my questions relate to the Vet,  
18 um, how do we pay the Vet at the Animal Shelter?

19 Does it get paid by the - - our, you know,  
20 is it an annual salary?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Marino?

22 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Thank you,  
23 Supervisor, Board, Ms. Kreye:

24 Dr. Siegel is an employee of the Town of  
25 Hempstead.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 I don't have his exact salary.

2 Approximate, he makes an annual salary - -

3 (Whereupon, "How much," was called out from  
4 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't know what his  
6 salary is offhand, one hundred and three thousand.

7 COMMISSIONER MARINO: One hundred, I don't  
8 know exactly.

9 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

10 What kind of work schedule does Dr. Siegel  
11 have?

12 COMMISSIONER MARINO: He works forty hours  
13 a week.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: He works forty hours a  
15 week and, um, is he usually here for a specific  
16 time to a - -

17 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Yes, he works a 7:00  
18 o'clock.

19 He starts very early in the morning.

20 He stays later if we need him.

21 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, he kind of picks his  
22 own hours?

23 COMMISSIONER MARINO: No, he doesn't.

24 He starts about 7:00. I don't know off the  
25 top of my head when he starts.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am told his hours  
2 are 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

3 COMMISSIONER MARINO: He starts early  
4 before it gets busy.

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5 He will do certain surgeries and TNR.

6 (Whereupon, "he gets overtime, he gets paid  
7 for overtime. He doesn't want a Vet there," was  
8 heard yelling out from the audience. After, the  
9 following ensued.)

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

12 Next, we have Rori Gordon.

13 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New  
14 York.

15 First, Councilwoman Sweeney, I apologize to  
16 you, um, I traveled from Suffolk County and  
17 generally I miss the first twenty minutes of the  
18 Meeting.

19 And, I look back and I looked at the videos  
20 on justthefacts media and you are correct, the Tax  
21 Receiver Don Clavin, he is, here, but he is  
22 usually gone by the time I get here, that is why I  
23 stated what I stated.

24 And, I do apologize.

25 He cuts out usually between - - because

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 I watched every video that I could, he cuts out  
2 between six minutes and twenty minutes, right out  
3 that door.

4 And, I get here twenty minutes after and I <sup>Page | 79</sup>  
5 am not sure why he leaves.

6 Anyway, um, the question on Number, I think  
7 it is, Number 39, it is in reference to the Golf  
8 Pro Shop.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, what is your  
10 question?

11 RORI GORDON: It says, here, "all the golf  
12 pro personnel must be uniformed in work clothes to  
13 give the appearance, courtesy behavior, um, by the  
14 Golf Pro and all its personnel to the public would  
15 be required at all times.

16 "The Golf Pro will take necessary action to  
17 discipline or terminate employees whose behavior  
18 is found to be unacceptable to the Commissioner."

19 What I found interesting about this the  
20 demands that are being made on the Golf Pro Shop  
21 and I spend a tremendous amount of time in the  
22 Building Department, they used to look spiffy.

23 I have no idea what has happened in the  
24 last year.

25 They don't wear uniforms anymore.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 And, I am bringing it up because I read  
2 this document and I thought now would be a good  
3 time to bring it up.

4 They represent the Town of Hempstead.

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will tell you the  
6 Commissioner has asked from new uniforms for the  
7 Building Department, so, it is an issue that is  
8 under consideration.

9 RORI GORDON: What happened to the old ones?  
10 They wore them for years.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Rottkamp,  
12 get back to Ms. Gordon.

13 What happened to the old uniforms?

14 RORI GORDON: Commissioner Rottkamp is not  
15 here.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He was here. Oh, there  
17 he is.

18 Commissioner?

19 RORI GORDON: I like your hair.

20 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good evening,  
21 Supervisor, Members of the Town Board:

22 As you stated, I did request that the  
23 uniform allowance be put back into the Building  
24 Department so that the employees can get new  
25 uniforms and use the uniforms that are



1 assigned to them.

2 RORI GORDON: When did we take out the  
3 uniform allowance?

4 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I believe it was Page | 81  
5 taken out a year and a half ago.

6 RORI GORDON: Why was that?

7 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Economy reasons.

8 RORI GORDON: You found it necessary to cut  
9 that?

10 Someone goes to someone's house to do an  
11 inspection and they don't know who is knocking on  
12 the door because the guy shows up in plainclothes,  
13 that doesn't make any sense to me.

14 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I didn't make that  
15 recommendation.

16 RORI GORDON: Who did?

17 You are the Commissioner of the Building  
18 Department.

19 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: My recommendation  
20 was to reinstall it and I had a meeting with the  
21 Supervisor and stated that.

22 RORI GORDON: Is it true he made the  
23 recommendation to put it back but you don't know  
24 who made the recommendation to take it away?

25 That is what I am asking.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I wasn't here, so, I  
2 can't answer that.

3 RORI GORDON: That is why I am asking  
4 Commissioner Rottkamp.

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5 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It was removed from  
6 my budget.

7 RORI GORDON: And, you, as the  
8 Commissioner, didn't step up to the plate and say,  
9 hey, Supervisor Santino, we really need this  
10 because these fellas they put their lives on the  
11 line going up to a door and someone taking a shot  
12 at them and they don't know they are Building  
13 Inspectors or Code Enforcement Officers?

14 It might sound silly, but, it stands to  
15 reason they should be in uniform.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Gordon, thank you.  
17 MR. Rottkamp did make the recommendation and his  
18 recommendation was denied, so - -

19 RORI GORDON: Okay, thank you.

20 I have a question on this person. I don'  
21 know how you say his name, "Nicholas Arcuri,"  
22 okay.

23 It is relevant but this Store Yard Crew  
24 Chief in the Department of General Service Traffic  
25 Control Division is hereby appointed to, now,

1 Building Maintenance Supervisor.

2 Is he filling a new position?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon, can you  
4 answer this question.

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5 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: This  
6 appointment comes off a Civil Service list,  
7 departmental recommendation, um, I think there  
8 maybe a number of departments that - -

9 RORI GORDON: Can you talk into that mike.  
10 We can't hear you on the tape when we go home and  
11 listen to it, again.

12 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: This was a  
13 departmental recommendation.

14 Building Maintenance Supervisor, exactly as  
15 it describes, maintains the building that Traffic  
16 Control is housed in, um, whether or not they had  
17 somebody in this service or in another title  
18 previously, um, I can't speak to that right, now,  
19 but, certainly Building Maintenance is part of  
20 every facility.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Recommendation by which  
22 Commissioner?

23 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Commissioner  
24 Marino.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Marino

1 can you speak to this?

2 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Thank you, Supervisor  
3 and Board Members, good morning.

4 Um, we don't have a Building Manager at Page | 84  
5 1580 Merrick Avenue.

6 It is where we are streamlining Traffic  
7 Control.

8 It has been done by the committee in the  
9 past.

10 He was on the Civil Service List and we  
11 made a recommendation to ask that we have a  
12 Building Supervisor I.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Was there a test for  
14 this position?

15 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Yes, it is a Civil  
16 Service testing.

17 He came off of the State Civil Service  
18 test.

19 RORI GORDON: So, if I understand  
20 correctly, we, now, have to fill his position?

21 COMMISSIONER MARINO: No, we have no  
22 intentions of filling his position.

23 We have no intentions of doing that.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, Mr. Arcuri, was  
25 the high scorer on that test?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1           COMMISSIONER MARINO: I think he is either  
2 one or two, but the first person is gone off of  
3 it, ineligible of it.

4           I am not positive of it but he is somebody <sup>Page | 85</sup>  
5 that works there.

6           It was in the best interest of the Town of  
7 Hempstead to use him.

8           He is qualified in that building. He is  
9 qualified for that job.

10          RORI GORDON: I don't understand.

11          That position has never been and, now, they  
12 made the position because you feel, now, after one  
13 hundred years of this Town being, here, that you  
14 need that position filled?

15          COMMISSIONER MARINO: Every building in the  
16 Town of Hempstead, especially, a large facility  
17 like 1580 Merrick Avenue should have a Building  
18 Maintenance Supervisor.

19          We just didn't have personnel for it, so,  
20 we are actually taking someone that works on the  
21 road and bringing him in the building to make sure  
22 that the building is kept safe and proper as the  
23 building gets older.

24          RORI GORDON: What is at 1580 Merrick  
25 Avenue?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1           COMMISSIONER MARINO: That is where Traffic  
2 Control and street lighting is on the second  
3 floor, I believe, Sanitation and, um, the Union  
4 has offices up there. Page | 86

5           RORI GORDON: So, we created this job for  
6 this man and all of these years this position was  
7 good without him.

8           I just want to make sure I understand that  
9 correctly.

10           They were managing all along and, now, we  
11 just taking this job for one hundred thousand and  
12 we are not replacing whatever he did before, so,  
13 when I see this Store Yard Crew job getting an  
14 appointment from someone else - -

15           You follow where I am going with this,  
16 right?

17           COMMISSIONER MARINO: Right and I don't  
18 think your premise is correct because I have no  
19 intention of making a recommendation to put a  
20 Store Yard Crew Chief there.

21           I think if personnel requires that, we have  
22 street lights and three crews to do Traffic  
23 Control to put up Stop signs and stuff.

24           I think this allows the ability to have a  
25 Building Manager that is able to work in the

1 Building.

2 RORI GORDON: So, what you are saying, he  
3 had a job. It wasn't really necessary to being  
4 with, is that true? Page | 87

5 COMMISSIONER MARINO: No, I am not saying  
6 that.

7 We are using him in a better ability for  
8 the Town residents of the Town of Hempstead.

9 RORI GORDON: So, his job is not being  
10 filled, so, we didn't need him.

11 What I am trying to say, one hundred  
12 thousand here, one hundred fifty there, two  
13 hundred here.

14 My God, it is out of control.

15 You give away jobs, here, like it is  
16 nothing.

17 COMMISSIONER MARINO: We actually are not  
18 giving him a job. He had a job with the Town.

19 So, I think the raise is minimal.

20 I don't really know off the top of my head.

21 RORI GORDON: It is not the point about the  
22 raise at all.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are we giving him a  
24 proper title that suits the work that he is doing?

25 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Yes, everybody should

1 work in their title.

2 So, we didn't have a building manager. He  
3 was doing some of that work when he wasn't on the  
4 road, so, this was improper. Page | 88

5 It was in our best interest to have him in  
6 the building as Maintenance Supervisor.

7 RORI GORDON: I do have another question,  
8 is this a type of job that could have been  
9 advertised on the WEB site or was it advertised on  
10 the WEB site or this person gets it because of the  
11 luck of the draw?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is an advertised  
13 position that we filled within our own staff.

14 RORI GORDON: Okay.

15 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Civil Service  
16 routinely makes aware of all Civil Service exams  
17 that are given and what the qualifications are to  
18 take the tests.

19 This was on the WEB site.

20 RORI GORDON: It was on the WEB site?

21 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Absolutely, yes.

22 RORI GORDON: When was it on the WEB site,  
23 just so I know?

24 COMMISSIONER MARINO: A year or two ago.

25 RORI GORDON: A year or two ago.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1           COMMISSIONER MARINO: Yes, most probably  
2 this is as I recall is not a new list.

3           The exam was given probably six to eight  
4 months ago.

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5           We would have advertised around that time.

6           SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is not clear to me  
7 if it was on the WEBA site or not but I will let  
8 you know, we are revitalizing our WEB site, right,  
9 now and positions that are available will be  
10 posted on the WEB site.

11           It is a considerable amount of work.

12           RORI GORDON: I hope it is soon.

13           Thank you.

14           (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.  
15 After, the following ensued.)

16           COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr. Sammon, do  
17 you mind just making a general statement about  
18 Civil Service Employees, in general and the way  
19 that advertising works.

20           We want to encourage our great CSEA  
21 employees to take tests and getting themselves  
22 more educated and taking hirer tests is a good  
23 things and it should be rewarded for doing so,  
24 particularly if they are scoring high.

25           Can you comment on that?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Absolutely,  
2 that is an important part of the Civil Service  
3 concept is to encourage government employees to  
4 gain additional experience, additional credentials<sup>s</sup> Page | 90  
5 needed to take exams for higher titles, upward  
6 mobility, absolutely.

7 RORI GORDON: I want to ask you another  
8 question, only two people were put into this  
9 qualification, nobody else applied?

10 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I don't  
11 understand your statement.

12 RORI GORDON: Correct me if I am wrong - -

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think you are  
14 referencing the number of people that took tests.

15 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I think far  
16 more than two people took the exam.

17 Generally, the list usually, I guess, ten  
18 to twelve people made it on that particular list.

19 RORI GORDON: For this particular list?

20 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I don't have it  
21 in front of me but, yes, there are multiple people  
22 on the list.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Gordon, I am sorry,  
24 your time is up.

25 RORI GORDON: Can I FOIL that?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next, we have Diane  
Madden.

DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden, Hempstead, New York. Page | 91

It is really hard to listen to all of this.

Nick Arcuri's Father, Dom Arcuri, the  
Building Maintenance Manger of the Shelter and  
**NEWSDAY** described him as one of the fat cats that  
laughed and resigned after everything was exposed  
before Nick was supposed to take his position.

And, I am sure there is a lot of things  
going on here.

If I understand this correctly, his  
position in that Department isn't not even needed.

What have they been doing from this point  
in the past without his position?

It seems like the Republican Party is alive  
and well and getting away with still wasting our  
money and at some point, Supervisor, you're not  
working - - you can't vote these raises.

You just gotten finished saying that there  
is going to be a new WEB site.

Well, why not table all these raises until  
it can be established if they are entitled to this

1 kind of money.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon, I believe  
3 this raise comes with the title, is that correct?

4 DIANE MADDEN: I know a lot of hardworking <sup>Page | 92</sup>  
5 employees at this moment that keep this Town  
6 running that are not getting promotions.

7 They are not getting raises at the animal  
8 shelter or a President of the Republican Club.

9 Mr. Mento, you met with him correct,  
10 Councilwoman Sweeney, do you remember him?

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I met Mr. Mento  
12 but I am not going to comment on meetings that I  
13 had with employees.

14 DIANE MADDEN: I am not expecting you to.

15 I just find it interesting that you are  
16 having all of these meetings and nothing is really  
17 changing and nothing is changing and all of these  
18 friends of Republican Parties are still getting  
19 all of these promotions off our backs.

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

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, can I say  
23 something.

24 I don't think I know who Nick Arcuri is.

25 I don't know think I would know him if I

1 fell over him.

2 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from the  
3 audience. After, the following ensued.)

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I don't know if he <sup>Page | 93</sup>  
5 Republic, Democrat, Independent or a Martian.

6 DIANE MADDEN: You don't know what I am  
7 talking about.

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

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

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I really don't know  
13 what you are talking about, Diane.

14 It is a tested position.

15 This gentleman scored Number 2 on the test.

16 Number 1 is no longer eligible. If the  
17 Department took Number 11, I would be right there  
18 fighting with you, but, it is a tested position.

19 The person who got the highest score got  
20 the job.

21 What is the beef?

22 DIANE MADDEN: So, what I want to know,  
23 then, because there are people at the Animal  
24 Shelter on tested positions.

25 There are, also, people in the Highway

1 Department on tested positions.

2 They are next in line and they are not  
3 getting called.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: On those, you should <sup>Page | 94</sup>  
5 bring that to our attention, but, in this case, it  
6 sounds like we did everything right.

7 DIANE MADDEN: I will bring that to your  
8 attention and this isn't right because this is a  
9 position that is not necessary in this Department,  
10 then, it is not right.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is a policy  
12 decision that is made and in reality is that - -

13 (Whereupon, "of course" was heard from the  
14 audience. After, the following ensued.)

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I be heard.

16 The reality is when a Commissioner makes a  
17 recommendation, we, all of us on the Board,  
18 consider that recommendation.

19 And, in this case, if something happened at  
20 that building that destroyed property or was  
21 dangerous to someone's life because their wasn't a  
22 fulltime Superintendent or Manager on the  
23 property, then, people would be coming up and  
24 criticizing us for that.

25 This was a tested position.

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1 The Commissioner felt that this vacancy was  
2 necessary.

3 And, quite frankly, none of us up, here,  
4 are going to micro manage. Page | 95

5 If we found out that the Commissioner did  
6 something wrong or lied to us, that is a different  
7 story, but, so far, what we have to do is take the  
8 recommendations, weigh them and if they sound  
9 legitimate, we have to grant it.

10 We can't micro manage everybody.

11 DIANE MADDEN: Well, I suggest you do,  
12 during this period of time, um, because it is our  
13 money that they are micro managing and that is  
14 what you should be doing.

15 Um, I would like to talk about Item 35, um,  
16 what I would like to know is everyone acts so  
17 surprised about these overdue bills at the Animal  
18 Shelter.

19 I have known since last June and a stack of  
20 them, when I heard not paid for last year and they  
21 were a little welcome gift for you, Supervisor.

22 Um, who did know about these bills, the  
23 Legal Department, Joe Ra, who knew?

24 Was your liaison at the Animal Shelter  
25 advised that there were increases that were

1 unpaid?

2 Who knew?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I assume that the  
4 people at the Animal Shelter knew that the bills Page | 96  
5 were not paid and it was an issue that happened in  
6 2017 and I just became aware of it.

7 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, I understand, that is  
8 called, "mismanagement," "misconduct,"  
9 "incompetence," and that is what you are allowed  
10 to do - -

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

13 DIANE MADDEN: - - You are allowed to  
14 remove these people for these issues.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't speak to it.

16 I have to look at why the bills were not  
17 paid. I don't know why they were not paid.

18 I do know it was a budgeting issue.

19 If it is a budgeting issue, that is  
20 something that would fall in the hands that made  
21 that budget and didn't budget correctly.

22 DIANE MADDEN: Hundreds and hundreds of  
23 thousands of dollars you are saying may not have  
24 been budgeted correctly?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It certainly is



1 possible.

2 DIANE MADDEN: So, you don't find it a  
3 little alarming that the Animal Shelter Director,  
4 first day you were on Board, here, didn't make you<sup>Page | 97</sup>  
5 aware that animals are being denied medical care  
6 because Vet bills are not being paid - -

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

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, are you  
10 aware that animals are being denied medical care?

11 DIANE MADDEN: Come on up, come on up,  
12 because we are ready to protest.

13 You need to remove him.

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

16 COMMISSIONER: Supervisor, I am not aware  
17 that animals are not being treated.

18 They are being treated.

19 (Whereupon, calling out from the audience  
20 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

21 COMMISSIONER: Last year's budget was too  
22 low.

23 You can see in that resolution that it was  
24 raised, that is the reason it was raised.

25 DIANE MADDEN: No, the bills were

1 not paid.

2 The bills were not being paid.

3 COMMISSIONER: The bills were being paid  
4 because the resolution allows you to pay only so <sup>Page | 98</sup>  
5 much.

6 DIANE MADDEN: But, you know, that it  
7 happened last year.

8 COMMISSIONER: When I found out what the  
9 bills were, at this point, were going to make  
10 payment on it.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: These bills are going  
12 to be paid.

13 DIANE MADDEN: Why do we no longer have  
14 bids out for veterinary service?

15 For years when I was there, bills always,  
16 always went out.

17 Mr. Ra, you just said this was a  
18 recommendation from this Vet, who, by the way, has  
19 poor ratings by the Director.

20 And, Councilwoman Sweeney, you have an  
21 issue with an audit?

22 You put out a public statement upset about  
23 an audit?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Okay, we can  
25 speak nicely and have a pleasant conversation

1 about this.

2 The reason I disagree with the handling of  
3 the audit is because what was asked of the Nassau  
4 County Comptroller, not to my knowledge, was to Page | 99  
5 conduct a full audit, including a performance  
6 audit.

7 And, that is not permitted and I will defer  
8 to Joe Ra to explain the details of that Court  
9 decision, that is my issue.

10 The fact that the Town Board was not  
11 involved at all with this decision-making, that  
12 was my issue.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilwoman, I  
14 disagree on that.

15 We disagree on the interpretation of the  
16 case.

17 I also disagree and take issue with the  
18 fact that they were not involved and I told people  
19 I was going to do an audit but that ship has  
20 sailed, so, let's move on.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: No, no, no,  
22 actually, for clarification purposes, it was told  
23 to Members of the Town Board the day before and we  
24 were not fully briefed on it at all and that is a  
25 fact.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 So, I disagree bringing in the Nassau  
2 County Comptroller when our own Comptroller had  
3 not been involved at all.

4 I did not see the need for the Nassau  
5 County Comptroller to come in without, first,  
6 involving our Comptroller.

7 Were you involved at all with this?

8 Were you asked to review any of these  
9 numbers to conduct an audit?

10 DIANE MADDEN: Have you ever read the New  
11 York State Audit?

12 Did you read that one?

13 Would that indicate maybe we should have an  
14 outside opinion on that Animal Shelter?

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am all about  
16 proper process and bringing people along on issues  
17 dealing with the Animal Shelter.

18 I am asking the Comptroller, have you, at  
19 all, been asked to conduct any audit in the last  
20 several weeks?

21 COMPTROLLER CONROY: No, I have not.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, the thought was  
23 that it is best to ensure that the public can take  
24 relief that we are conducting an audit with  
25 outside people so they can feel that it is not an

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 inside review and it is an outside review.

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

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, at the next Town <sup>Page | 101</sup>  
5 Board Meeting, we will have my resolution, which  
6 was tabled to have outside investigators to  
7 investigate inside matters within our own Town.

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

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: At the next meeting, I  
11 encourage you all to attend.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Allegations  
13 making against the Town Attorney, why you would  
14 need an investigator, but let's go back.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am not making any  
16 allegations, actually, on the recommendation of  
17 our Town Attorney, who said it was okay to use  
18 outside investigators.

19 Please be sure that you attend the next  
20 Town Board Meeting.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Joe Ra, can you  
22 comment for the need for outside investigators  
23 because I think your words are being  
24 misinterpreted.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do, I have a written

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Memo from you, Mr. Ra?

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes, you do, Supervisor.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was <sup>Page | 102</sup>  
5 heard. After, the following ensued.)

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't have it in front  
7 of me, but, I believe what I said was, outside  
8 investigators are - - an outside investigator is  
9 desirous to hire a firm for certain limited  
10 purposes when surveillance is necessary, um, and  
11 just on certain limited purposes, not for every  
12 day run-of-the-mill things that we investigate.

13 But, yes, an outside investigator would be  
14 useful.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Right, and I  
16 helped you draft that memo and I am in full  
17 agreement with that memo.

18 And, I think you need to have the full  
19 context of what was written in the memo and why  
20 the memo was written.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, I encourage you to  
22 look for that at our next Town Board Meeting.

23 Are there any other matters that you wish  
24 to address?

25 DIANE MADDEN: Yes, I didn't get an answer,

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 was your liaison advised of these invoices?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Sinclair, were you  
3 advised of outstanding invoices?

4 MS. SINCLAIR: Yes, when I was made aware <sup>Page | 103</sup>  
5 of the Town Board Resolution, we were made aware  
6 of the outstanding payments and these Resolutions  
7 - -

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

10 MS. SINCLAIR: - - as well as past-due  
11 bills - -

12 (Whereupon, "We can't hear. You have to  
13 come up to the microphone," was yelled out from  
14 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

15 DIANE MADDEN: Can you say when you were  
16 aware?

17 MS. SINCLAIR: A week or so ago.

18 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from the  
19 audience. After, the following ensued.)

20 MS. SINCLAIR: I was told the Town Board  
21 Resolution coming our way, that was important  
22 because they - - apparently, Veterinary care and  
23 that we had to pass them with extra budget for  
24 future services.

25 We also had more to do.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 DIANE MADDEN: So, all this time has passed  
2 since the first of January and about a week ago  
3 your liaison was advised about them?

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

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6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Past-due bills.

7 DIANE MADDEN: Let that sink in, past-due  
8 bills where animals have been denied medical - -

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Were you advised that  
10 animals were denied medical care, Ms. Sinclair?

11 MS. SINCLAIR: No, I was not.

12 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, so, how do we catch  
13 you up on that because animals have been denied  
14 medical care?

15 You have to think where you are getting the  
16 information from at the animal shelter.

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

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Madden, your time  
20 is up.

21 DIANE MADDEN: I didn't get an answer.

22 No one has answered me and the clock is  
23 running.

24 How come these Vets are not going out for  
25 bid?



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 And, is it for sure that RFP's are going  
2 out for sure or is it just a discussion?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are preparing an  
4 RFQ, right, now.

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5 It is circulating to the Town Board for  
6 their review and we are looking at what we need to  
7 do in terms of RFP's for the animal shelter and we  
8 will update you forward.

9 I have a list of all the things with  
10 respect to the animal shelter, if you want to go  
11 through that with me after the meeting?

12 DIANE MADDEN: Yes, I would. Thank you.

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

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Lucille Defina?

16 LUCILLE DEFINA: Lucille Defina, Merrick,  
17 New York.

18 Um, one thing that just - - if you don't  
19 get a liaison that actually knows about animal  
20 care, then, I don't know what you are doing up  
21 there, because that is your first biggest mistake.

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

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Sinclair has  
25 devoted so much time - -

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 LUCILLE DEFINA: It doesn't matter.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: - - To the Animal  
3 Shelter and she has investigated every single  
4 complaint that has come our way by email, by text, <sup>Page | 106</sup>  
5 every single complaint, Ms. Sinclair has worked  
6 together at the Animal Shelter to investigate it.

7 LUCILLE DEFINA: Then, how come we knew  
8 that the animals were not getting veterinary care?

9 How come we know that the staff, ACO's are  
10 screaming because animals are dying because Vet  
11 bills aren't paid?

12 We are talking about three quarters of the  
13 year, 2017 and, now, you are telling me she didn't  
14 recognize that until somebody had to tell her a  
15 week ago.

16 We have been screaming.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I wasn't here in 2017.

18 LUCILLE DEFINA: What I am sing and you can  
19 play dumb, Miss, but, anyone who knows that they  
20 are doing and has any experience in the Animal  
21 Shelter would have been able to tell you this  
22 immediately.

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

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay and we told you  
2 immediately.

3 We told you through your campaign and we  
4 were trying to be patient and not come up here and Page | 107  
5 say all the things we need to tell you in the last  
6 few weeks.

7 We thought your Administration would figure  
8 it out.

9 So, I guess we are all figuring it out  
10 together, but, we knew.

11 And, the other thing I think I need to  
12 remind you, one reason your Vet bills have gone  
13 through the roof is because it was me who was up  
14 here all through 2016 screaming about all the cats  
15 that were dying in cages and everyone that is  
16 ignoring them.

17 And, how Dr. Siegel does not really care  
18 about cats.

19 You go back at every single Town Board  
20 Meeting all through 2015 and 2016 and I even have  
21 the numbers and FOIL documents, cats were dying  
22 horrible slow deaths.

23 ACO's were picking cats up and calling Dr.  
24 Siegel and saying, "the cat is very sick,  
25 injured." "Oh, just leave them in my office.

1 "I will be there in the morning."

2 And, the cat was found dead. This was a  
3 common-day occurrence.

4 This is what went on all the time.

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5 And, let me finish, because when I screamed  
6 about it up, here, at this mic, that is when Dr.  
7 Siegel and Mr. Pastore probably figured you, "oh,  
8 we better get a little Vet care for some of these  
9 casts to help our numbers."

10 So, thank you for finally giving us Vet  
11 care without telling the Town that, now, you have  
12 bills that you have to pay for because there is no  
13 way - - Dr. Siegel leaves at 12:30, 1:00 o'clock  
14 every day.

15 Your shelter is opened from 9:00 to 5:00 or  
16 sometimes to 7:00.

17 He is supposed to be there.

18 In-house Veterinary should be there when  
19 the shelter is opened, that is when animals come  
20 in sick and injured and afterwards in the evening  
21 you need emergency Vet care and that is what the  
22 extra money should be going for.

23 But, instead, we have neither.

24 We have nothing.

25 We have a Vet that comes in at 6:00, 7:00

1 o'clock.

2 Guess what, because there is nothing to do.

3 There is nothing going on and he leave by

4 12:30, 1:00 o'clock, which doesn't matter because <sup>Page | 109</sup>

5 he doesn't do anything but exams, anyway.

6 Dr. Sing is in a van doing spade/neuter all

7 day long and Dr. Siegel is walking around doing

8 examinations, that is not Vet care.

9 So, you always needed Vet care.

10 You always needed this kind of a budget.

11 You always needed all these outside Vets.

12 Now, the difference is you need good Vets.

13 You need Vets that you use to have two or

14 three years ago.

15 What happened to Island Trees?

16 What happened to Hilton?

17 You want to know what happened to them?

18 Dr. Siegel and Pastore didn't want them.

19 They are blacklisted, half of them because

20 those Vets are complaining about the negligence

21 and the conditions that the animals were in.

22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was

23 heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 LUCILLE DEFINA: You have a Vet and a

25 Director who are blocking good Veterinarians and

1 People who want to do the job right for good  
2 prices.

3 It is sad, you know, what you are going to  
4 get?

5 You are going to get the worse quality,  
6 incompetent Vet car at the highest prices because  
7 that is what Dr. Siegel and your Director, Pastore  
8 does.

9 So, is this making a little more sense,  
10 now, why your Vet bills have been up through the  
11 roof because they are finally giving the cats the  
12 Vet care, finally.

13 And, don't take it away from them.

14 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.  
15 After, the following ensued.)

16 LUCILLE DEFINA: Make sure you don't take  
17 it away from them, but, get them good Vets.

18 And, everyday that Director and that Vet  
19 stays there, you better know what is going on and  
20 you better get a liaison in there that knows what  
21 to look for.

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

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have anymore  
25 slips on the Administrative Calendar.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Is there anybody else that would like to be  
2 heard on any of the items on the Administrative  
3 Calendar?

4 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin Page | 111  
5 Resident.

6 I had to give up my civic meeting, tonight,  
7 because I definitely thought it was important to  
8 stay to hear what is going on.

9 Sad to say, I don't know, it is a blessing  
10 or a curse that we have such an underfunded  
11 Veterans Services Budget.

12 Um, that it is almost scary what would  
13 happen with having additional sources if this is  
14 how the animal shelter, the animals are treated  
15 with the money.

16 And, I just find it amazing and Supervisor  
17 Gillen, um, to your credit, you were not here, um,  
18 last year when a few of us were here and I am glad  
19 that we do have, at least, a few more night  
20 meetings because - - so, that those of use who  
21 survived 2017, um, and had to sit here and to hear  
22 how people were so in loved with that 2017 budget  
23 and how it was covering everything, now, all of  
24 the stuff is really coming out.

25 The truth is really coming out.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Um, and as you can hear the passion  
2 involved with those that have been here and have  
3 been fighting a good fight with regard to the  
4 animal shelter, we can only hope, now, at the end <sup>Page | 112</sup>  
5 of February that changes are going to be made.

6 Um, a quick comment with regard to the cell  
7 towers, um, it is always interesting when  
8 government entities and cell phone companies  
9 always want to say that there are no findings of  
10 health-related issues but, it is such an  
11 underfunded process.

12 But, we do have a noted scholar from  
13 institutions like Harvard and things of that  
14 nature who do believe that there are conditions,  
15 um, that are subsequent to that and Mr. Ra, your  
16 personal edification when you say anything to me  
17 as a 911 First Responder about the Federal  
18 Government giving some assurance about something,  
19 let's talk to the 911 survivors, who were dying on  
20 the way to help because the EPA said, "Oh, the air  
21 quality is fine."

22 The sky is blue, so - -

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

25 META MEREDAY: I give that no credence,



1 but, as far as calendar, itself, I have written a  
2 few things, um, 22, 24, 25, 26, 30 and 40 and  
3 quickly, um, with regard to 22, um, I am all for  
4 initiatives, youth initiatives and things of that <sup>Page | 113</sup>  
5 nature, but, do we ever get any reports,  
6 benchmarks, success stories, things of that nature  
7 that could be used as we move forward?

8 Twenty-four, again, has to do with the fact  
9 that we are giving out contracts.

10 Don't know what the vetting process is.

11 Don't know if there is a friend or  
12 relative. Still curious as to what happened to  
13 the Inspector General.

14 Twenty-five and twenty-six, again,  
15 reporting with this type of work and drainage  
16 improvements, what companies are being utilized?

17 We are talking about funding, that is not  
18 just coming from the Township, so, there are  
19 requirements as it pertains, once, again, Veteran-  
20 owned businesses, Minority and Women-owned  
21 businesses.

22 Where is that reporting?

23 Where is that outreach?

24 How are we ensuring compliance? Number 30,  
25 insurance premiums, is this a professional service

1 that, I believe, Mr. Ra said earlier, that  
2 professional services don't have to go through a  
3 bidding process, don't have to go through a  
4 bidding process.

5 Anytime, anyone makes that kind of  
6 statement, particularly, in this Township, I am  
7 extremely nervous.

8 Number 30, refunding bond resolution, can  
9 someone explain what are the savings?

10 What are the costs?

11 Why wasn't something like this done years  
12 before when we had all those great budgets that  
13 were passed, largely, by that Republican Majority,  
14 just seems to keep nodding those heads and didn't  
15 seem to really have any answers when it was  
16 requested by those of us that sat in this room.

17 Which, I must say, the bad air, it is a  
18 wonder why I am always sick when I leave this  
19 building, both physically and emotionally.

20 So, if anybody can answer those questions,  
21 I would appreciate it.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I will try to answer  
23 a couple of them for you.

24 First of all, I always find your comments  
25 very thoughtful.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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I don't always agree with you.

In the case of the cell tower, um, if we denied cell service in the community of Uniondale, um, this Pavilion wouldn't be able to hold the number of people that would be here demanding that they get good cell service in Uniondale and we were denying something that was so important, especially, in light of the fact that so many people no longer have landlines in their households, that they completely depend on cell phones from everything from keeping track of their children to emergency situations.

So, I can't imagine what would happen if we did not try to improve the cell service in every community.

So, you and I have a fundamental disagreement on that, but, that is okay, because we are friends and sometimes friends disagree.

The other thing is with respect to the importance of the various groups that we fund and that were passed through for typically the way it works is that a recommendation is made by a Member of this Board on an association or group in their community, a not-for-profit in their community that has a track record of doing good work,

1 whether it be, um, afternoon school daycare,  
2 whether it be some kind of drug, um, education  
3 program or treatment program or counseling  
4 program, so, they're typically community based, Page | 116  
5 not-for-profit and they are represented by people  
6 in the community, so, we do kind of keep track of  
7 them.

8 We don't micro-manage it, but, generally,  
9 um, the results are very good because from what we  
10 hear in the community is that the people are very  
11 happy with the services that are provided by these  
12 communities based non-for-profit organizations.

13 META MEREDAY: But, is there a report?

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You know, there is no  
15 report.

16 We don't keep that kind of paperwork. We  
17 don't require them to, because, typically, they  
18 are on a shoestring budget.

19 They don't get a lot of money.

20 It is like thirty, forty thousand dollars a  
21 year and that money, if we required them to do  
22 reports would just go more for the reports, for  
23 the treatment of the kids who may have opioid  
24 problems or something like that.

25 If it was millions of dollars, I agree with

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 you, we should demand a report, but, typically, we  
2 know in the community each one of us served, we  
3 know who the good providers are in the community.

4 And, by and large, I would say, ninety-nine <sup>Page | 117</sup>  
5 percent of them are good providers.

6 META MEREDAY: Okay and Number 40, as I said  
7 - -

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Basically, the reason  
9 for this, the Comptroller in detailed - - if I  
10 can, Supervisor, what we tend to agree, this is  
11 necessary, now, because, as we have seen in the  
12 last couple of weeks, um, most of the forecasters,  
13 economic forecasters, not weather forecasters,  
14 indicated that the interest rates may become  
15 volatile and move in and upward level, so, now, we  
16 are looking at potentially, um, trying to get  
17 ahead of the curve and make sure that we are able  
18 to refinance, if we find out that the interest  
19 rates start to creep up.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, basically, I put  
21 forth this Resolution to make sure that our  
22 Comptroller has the ability, if market conditions  
23 indicate and be prudent to refinance these series  
24 of bonds that are becoming current that is the  
25 ability to do so.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 Again, if market conditions indicate that  
2 would be the result in a tax savings to the  
3 taxpayer.

4 META MEREDAY: Overall, I agree with this. Page | 118

5 I am curious as to why this recommendation  
6 was presented by who - - this is something that  
7 should have been presented by the Comptroller.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is a Resolution  
9 that I put forward and I spoke with the  
10 Comptroller about it at some point after.

11 META MEREDAY: One thing I agree with is  
12 the general consensus is that we do need some  
13 strong investigative support services outside to,  
14 particularly look over our finances and out  
15 treatment of the constituencies that don't have a  
16 vote here, um - -

17 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.  
18 After, the following ensued.)

19 META MEREDAY: - - Can be improved because  
20 it is scary out here.

21 And, lastly, I am hoping that we don't take  
22 too long to address the growing issues of our  
23 Veteran communities because I continue to be  
24 unserved and unfunded.

25 Thank you.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

I do not have anymore slips on the  
Administrative Calendar.

Is there anybody else that wants to be  
heard?

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

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, Madam  
Clerk, would you, please, call the roll.

CLERK CABANA: Items 13 through 48.  
Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye on every item  
except Item 48 which I recuse myself.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I vote yes on all items  
including Item 40 which is the bond resolution.

Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby is not

1 here, tonight, because she is representing the  
2 Town of Hempstead at the annual meeting of the  
3 Association of Towns in New York City.

4 Councilwoman Goosby fully supports this  
5 refunding bond resolution and if she were here,  
6 she would vote yes.

7 She asked me to share that with you.

8 In addition, I like to make a statement  
9 regarding Item Number 40, despite the recent media  
10 reports, this refinancing plan is a fiscally  
11 prudent move to make sure that we are achieving  
12 the maximum bang for our buck on serial bonds.

13 These bonds are used for wide variety  
14 purposes including capital projects and  
15 improvements throughout our Township.

16 By refinancing, now, we are ensuring we are  
17 making good investments to the taxpayers based on  
18 current market conditions.

19 The Administration's previously bond  
20 refinancing plan would have refinanced one hundred  
21 and ten million dollars in serial bonds having  
22 definite reductions dates extending into 2019.

23 As a result, there would have been no  
24 accurate prediction as to what the market rates  
25 would have been far out at that time, which



1 creates significant uncertainty. As impact is  
2 such a broad refinancing of Hempstead Town  
3 taxpayers, adding to uncertainty of the  
4 Administration refinance plan, that the fact that <sup>Page | 121</sup>  
5 the Town Comptroller was not given complete backup  
6 data on the plan prior to being added to the Town  
7 Board's February 6<sup>th</sup> agenda, after meeting with  
8 Council Members, the Comptroller made the  
9 recommendation that the Board vote to refinance  
10 31.4 million in bonds that were - - are refundable  
11 in May, 2018 which will allow us to refinance  
12 using the most accurate current market data to  
13 save money on interest rates and protect  
14 taxpayers.

15 Just as we cannot predict weather  
16 conditions, a year away knowing the market  
17 conditions so far ahead is impossible, by  
18 refinancing the final amount today of 31.4  
19 million, I believe on our calendars is not to  
20 exceed 32 million in bonds set to mature in 2018,  
21 we are maximizing the savings for taxpayers to the  
22 tune of 1.4 million dollars based on present value  
23 analysis while minimizing the rest for long term  
24 uncertainty in the market place.

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I thank you,  
2 Councilwoman for your support of my Resolution to  
3 refinance our bonds and give the Comptroller the  
4 discretion that he needs in order to make sure Page | 122  
5 delivering the best results for the taxpayers.

6 There was, originally, a threshold amount  
7 which was not predicting into the future what the  
8 interest rates will be because nobody really knows  
9 that.

10 It was just giving the Comptroller the  
11 discretion to act expeditiously if, in fact, um,  
12 market rates indicated that and action was  
13 necessary that Resolution was put forth on the  
14 advice of our bond advisor and our Counsel.

15 However, the reduced amount, still  
16 achieving savings for our taxpayers if the market  
17 condition indicates and I thank the Council for  
18 their support for this Resolution.

19 I vote aye.

20 Okay, that concluded our Public Hearings.

21 We will remain in session for public  
22 comments - - excuse me.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I make a motion to  
24 adjourn.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
2 motion.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I apologize, Madam  
4 Clerk, please, call the severed items.

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5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I move that  
6 these Resolutions be amended.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So moved.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, call the  
9 severed items.

10 CLERK CABANA: Item 49, calling a Public  
11 Hearing, March 20, 2018, application of 2765  
12 Broadway Realty, LLC and 2200 Bellmore Avenue  
13 Realty, LLC for special exception, public garage  
14 to permit conversion of the existing public garage  
15 auto repair facility into a public garage auto  
16 facility and auto body and paint facility at the  
17 premise on the southwest corner of Bellmore and  
18 Grand Avenue.

19 And, Item 50, a Resolution calling a Public  
20 Hearing March 20, 2018, application to consider  
21 the petition of 2765 Broadway Realty, LLC and 2200  
22 Bellmore Avenue Realty, LLC., for modification of  
23 Declaration of Restrictive Covenant affects  
24 southwest corner of Bellmore and Grand Avenue.

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I move

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 these resolutions be amended by changing the  
2 Public Hearing date from March 20<sup>th</sup> to April 24,  
3 2018.

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the  
5 Motion.

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6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Does anyone wish to be  
7 heard on this matter?

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

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,  
11 please call the roll.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

13 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

24 Now, can we have that Motion to adjourn.

25 Call the vote on the Motion as amended.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

13 Now, ready, may I, please, have a Motion to  
14 adjourn.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Madam Supervisor, I  
16 make a Motion to adjourn.

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

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Call the roll.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

(Whereupon, the official meeting of  
the Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 2/20/18**

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town  
Board Meeting held on February 20, 2018,  
consisting of pages 1 through 127 inclusive is an  
accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

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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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