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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

MARCH 6, 2018

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

MAJORITY LEADER/COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY

TOWN CLERK CABANA

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TUMMINELLO

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN, JR.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Before we start our
2 Town Board Meeting, we are just going to honor a
3 few individuals.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you,
5 Supervisor. I would like to invite up, Elizabeth
6 Osowiecki.

7 Elizabeth, would you, please, come forward.
8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
9 heard.)

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Elizabeth is a very
11 impressive person, not just because she is from my
12 District, Franklin Square, but, um, as you all
13 know, nearly eighteen million women have reported
14 sexual assaults during the last two decades, that
15 begs the question of how could this happen and
16 what more can we do to combat that.

17 And, that is one of the things Elizabeth
18 has been in the forefront of educating people and
19 combating situations that make women unsafe in any
20 environment, whether it be the workplace or just
21 in the community.

22 And, that I believe that people like
23 Elizabeth are important to our community because
24 we need people who are willing to standup, take a
25 position and say, "that this is wrong. We are

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 "not going to let it happen," and fight for the
2 rights of women to be safe in the business place
3 and in the community.

4 Elizabeth, I would like to congratulate Page | 4
5 you. We have a citation for you and, Supervisor,
6 would you like to say anything.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Elizabeth, I would like
8 to thank you for educating so many in our
9 community about the issues relating to consent.

10 We know that this is a very, um, hot issue
11 right, now.

12 It is a problem that has persisted for
13 years and with the efforts of people like you, um,
14 we are educating women to speak up and speak out
15 against this behavior, so, I thank you.

16 And, I commend you for all that you do for
17 our residents in the Town of Hempstead.

18 Thank you.

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

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay and I am really
22 very, very pleased to honor this morning, two of
23 our Town of Hempstead employees, Brendan Gersten
24 and Damien Gallo.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So proud, every Member
3 of our Town Board is proud of you and I ask our
4 Town Council Members to come down and take a Page | 5
5 picture, as we present these citations to Damien
6 and Brendan.

7 We thank you for your efforts.

8 Thank you for making us proud. Keep up the
9 good work and we look forward to another win next
10 year.

11 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
12 heard. Citations presented for having won gold
13 medals at the Special Olympics and pictures were
14 taken with the Supervisor and Town Council.
15 After, the following ensued.)

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Welcome to this
17 regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting.

18 For those of you who have never attended
19 one of our Meetings before, we will begin with
20 Public Hearings followed by the Administrative
21 Calendar.

22 There are meeting agendas in the rear of
23 the Pavilion.

24 If you would like to be heard on any
25 issues, please, go to the back and fill out a

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 slip and hand it to one of our Public Safety
2 Officers.

3 After the Meeting is adjourned, we will
4 remain in session, as is our custom for three
5 hundred and fifty years to listen to constituents
6 on any matters about which they would like to
7 address the Town Board.

Page | 6

8 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call the
9 roll.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

18 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

22 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

24 CLERK CABANA: In attendance this morning
25 is Receiver of Taxes, Donald X. Clavin, Jr.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAIVN: Here.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I ask Councilman
D'Esposito to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Page | 7

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Hand over your
heart.

(Whereupon, Councilman D'Esposito lead the
Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the
following ensued.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

Page | 8

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

15 Madam Clerk, please, call the second Public
16 Hearing.

17 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
18 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in Roosevelt,
19 Seaford (To amend Section 202-1 of the Code of the
20 Town of Hempstead)

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

23 Is there anybody who wishes to be heard?

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

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
2 have a Motion.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor, I
4 move the Public Hearing be closed and the proposed ^{Page | 9}
5 Local Law be adopted.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I second the
7 motion.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,
9 please, call the roll.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

24 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public
25 Hearing.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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

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

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

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, I have a
Motion on this item.

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I
move that the item be closed and adopted.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

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

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

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: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re: "Vehicle Speed Limits" in Island Park, Austin Boulevard (To amend Chapter 190 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead by the insertion of locations into Section 190-4, Subsection "B")

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have slips on this one, Rosemarie Bovino.

Please, state your name and address for the record.

ROSEMARIE BOVINO: Rosemarie Bovino, Superintendent of Island Park Schools, 99 Radcliff Road, Island Park.

I want to thank the Town Board for hearing our proposal or your proposal, um, the request that we made regarding the reduction of the speed limit on Austin Boulevard from forty miles an hour to thirty miles an hour.

Over the thirty years I have been

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Superintendent, I will tell you, there have been
2 numerous occasions where there have been very
3 serious, as well as, fatality accidents on Austin
4 Boulevard.

Page | 12

5 And, numerous occasions when the police
6 have had to remove victims to our playing fields
7 at the Lincoln/Lawrence Middle School so they can
8 be airlifted to Nassau University Medical Center.

9 Um, it is a horrible situation, obviously,
10 for victims, but it is also a very, very horrible
11 situation for the children, um, who, we have to
12 bring in from the fields in order to have these
13 individuals airlifted.

14 I also want to point out that it is very
15 difficult for our elementary school children who
16 are, um, on the West side of the Boulevard to
17 actually cross the road to get over to Shelter
18 Creek Park and, um, even the police have had a
19 very difficult time getting the cars to slow down
20 so that with crossing guards and cars, we can get
21 the children across.

22 I really do believe it would make a big
23 difference in quality of life and the children of
24 Island Park, but I think for all of our commuters,
25 um, who are trying to get across, um, from the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Long Island Railroad Station to the other side.

2 So, I thank you very much for considering
3 this and, um, again, thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
5 comments.

Page | 13

6 Next, I have Patti Ambrosia.

7 PATTI AMBROSIA: Patti Amrosia. 239 Sunset
8 Avenue, Island Park.

9 So, I am against switching our speed limit
10 from forty to thirty.

11 Um, Nassau County has done a Study on the
12 road, hopefully, this year they will start to do
13 construction on Austin Boulevard and I think
14 that the community with our school district, we
15 need to hold off until after that Study is
16 completed - - not the Study, the construction.

17 Um, the Study did not say that the road
18 should go down to thirty, um, the road is
19 dangerous but it is the drivers, it is everybody
20 else.

21 Um, I need to get to where I am going. Um,
22 we may not have police present on the Boulevard.
23 Um, I am for, you know, there are lights that
24 the kids and adults need to cross at, maybe they
25 need to go, you know, overtime, until just

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 after the Study is completed - - not the Study,
2 the construction.

3 If the County thought that the road should
4 go down to thirty, it would be in that Study, ^{Page | 14}
5 which it is not.

6 So, I think we just need to see the new
7 road, um, they are going to be changing lanes,
8 going three ways to the South and, um, two ways
9 into two lanes to the South and three lanes to
10 the North, so, I think we just need to wait and
11 see what happens before this is, um, completed.

12 Um, you know, I probably am the only one
13 that is going to speak out against it, but, I
14 just wanted to be, here.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
16 comments.

17 Next, I have Jack Vobis.

18 JACK VOBIS: Good Morning. My name is Jack
19 Vobis. I live at 190 Franklin Avenue in Island
20 Park.

21 I speak today not only as a resident but
22 also President of the Island Park Board of
23 Education.

24 Um, I just like to reiterate what Dr.
25 Bovino said with regard to the speed limit and

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 our - - first of all, I would like to thank the
2 Board for bringing this to a quick, um, um,
3 resolution so quickly to the Board after our
4 petition to lower the speed limit.

Page | 15

5 One of the many reasons for lowering the
6 speed limit is Dr. Bovino said is the safety of
7 the children, first and, then, also drivers,
8 residents, anyone that needs to use the road,
9 um, on Austin Boulevard.

10 Um, I am not going to go over the litany of
11 accidents and fatalities and injuries that have
12 occurred with cars, we have seen, overturned in
13 the middle of the road.

14 It is really something that can't wait.

15 There is no reason to wait. Um, we can
16 also raise the speed limit back if we need to,
17 if the road is improved and conditions permit,
18 but, I think at this time, it is really
19 important for, especially, with the close
20 proximity of our Middle School, um, less than
21 two hundred feet or three hundred feet from
22 Austin Boulevard, that thirty miles an hour
23 certainly is not, um, anything that is going to
24 really interfere with anyone's day, especially
25 with the stretch of road being, approximately,

1 a mile or a mile and a half.

2 We are talking about seconds, as far as,
3 slowing someone down to get from one end to the
4 other.

5 So, I urge the Board to adopt this
6 Resolution.

7 I also just like to mention there is some
8 collateral benefits to this, also, as we know,
9 that stretch in Island Park is, um, I would say,
10 undeveloped as far as economic status goes.

11 There are a lot of empty stores.

12 There are a lot of businesses that could
13 use the business and one of the side benefits of
14 traffic and slowing people down is that they get
15 to look around.

16 They get to stop. They can have a cup of
17 coffee, get a sandwich, maybe some new stores
18 will open.

19 Right, now, we only have on Austin
20 Boulevard is body shops, that is really ironic
21 because that is really what we need on Austin
22 Boulevard right, now, body shops, because of all
23 the accidents.

24 Again, thank you. I urge you to consider
25 this and adopt the thirty miles an hour speed

1 limit on Austin Boulevard.

2 And, um, um, I think it will benefit Island
3 Park, not only safety-wise but economically.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
5 comments.

Page | 17

6 Next, Allison Blanchette.

7 Please, state your name and address for the
8 record.

9 ALLISON BLANCHETTE: Allison Blanchette,
10 323 Eastchester Street in Long Beach.

11 Um, I am, here, representing Long Island
12 Streets. I am Executive Director.

13 We are, um, a non-profit organization
14 advocating for safer, more accessible streets
15 for pedestrians, people on bikes, for drivers,
16 for everyone that uses our roads.

17 And, we do that through education,
18 community empowerment and legislation.

19 I am, here, to support this reduction.

20 We know speed kills.

21 It is not an accident.

22 I also like to encourage everyone to say,
23 "crash," not "accident" because these aren't
24 accidents when people speed.

25 These are deliberate decisions.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Um, people on bikes, people walking, all
2 ages have an inherent right to access our
3 streets without being maimed or killed.

4 Your survival rate goes down if you are Page | 18
5 going to be hit, if you are hit at forty miles
6 an hour versus thirty miles an hour.

7 You have a fighting chance of survival. I
8 also I am looking to the day when I can come
9 here and testify on behalf of thirty miles an
10 hour to twenty-five miles an hour because, quite
11 frankly, your risk of death goes down
12 dramatically from thirty to twenty-five.

13 Um, I urge you all to adopt this and I
14 would also like to thank whoever put this
15 forward.

16 I would like to thank the people involved
17 in this.

18 This is - - it takes a little spine for an
19 elected official or elected officials to come
20 forward with reducing speed limits because it is
21 not politically sexy to take away.

22 Some drivers feel that they have a right to
23 speed, so, it is not popular and I would like to
24 thank whoever did that on Lido Boulevard just
25 did this.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 And, it is tremendous. You may have been
2 responsible for that.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I appreciate
4 your comments on Lido Boulevard, it is so Page | 19
5 important.

6 The community, for the most part, was
7 vocal and there was opposition, so, I appreciate
8 your comments.

9 I never realized there would be such
10 opposition to trying to get lower speed limits,
11 um, with the neighborhood, so, there was. Thank
12 you.

13 ALLISON BLANCHETTE: Opposition is because
14 people are uneducated and I come here not with
15 anecdotes or feelings, I come, here, um with a
16 data-driven approach and data supports reducing
17 speed limits.

18 You will have less people maimed or killed
19 and, um, besides personal loss, the economic
20 consequences to the County, to Hempstead when
21 you do have crashes, it is in the millions per
22 year, so, um, I would like to thank whoever is
23 doing all of this because this is not an easy
24 thing to do, but, it is a smart thing and I
25 really encourage all people to use data-driven

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Approaches to traffic safety, not anecdotes, not
2 personal feelings.

3 Someone needs to come get somewhere
4 quicker, we are talking about our inherent Page | 20
5 rights versus privileges of getting some place
6 fast.

7 So, please.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you and I want to
9 point out, Councilman D'Esposito is a resident
10 of Island Park and he moved this item forward.

11 ALLISON BLANCHETTE: Okay, thank you very
12 much.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else
14 who wishes to be heard on this?

15 META MEREDAY: Good Morning. Meta J.
16 Mereday, Baldwin resident.

17 Um, I am also interested in safety, um, and
18 also curious as to the origins of this type of
19 proposals, living in Baldwin, um, basically,
20 four houses away from Grand Avenue, I should say
21 Grand Avenue, where we have the signage.

22 We reduced the speed limit. We posted the
23 signs like this and it makes absolutely no
24 difference in the speeders who go down there.

25 Our High School is off Grand Avenue.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 We have an Elementary School there,
2 actually, two on each side of Grand Avenue.

3 I, myself, have been plowed down by parents
4 who try to beat that same twenty miles per hour ^{Page | 21}
5 speed limit which was reduced from thirty to
6 pick up their children.

7 So, um, you can put all the documents you
8 can put, all the signage that you want to, if
9 you are not backing it up with enforcement, it
10 really is not going to make much of a
11 difference.

12 So, I encourage all those who make these
13 decision and these proposals to think carefully
14 about doing something on a more collaborative
15 effort as opposed to this one shot, "let's see
16 how it works and when it doesn't work."

17 Taxpayers' dollars are still being
18 implicated and you have not addressed the
19 solution.

20 And, when I hear about any roadwork in
21 Nassau County or the Town of Hempstead being
22 done, I am terrified because we, now, have a
23 pothole situation that has been characterized in
24 **Newsday**, um, when you are in the cartoon
25 editorial section of **Newsday**, when they are

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 talking about putting swimming trunks and doing
2 cannonballs in the potholes, we have a serious
3 situation when we talk about this type of things
4 and doing roadwork and road safety.

Page | 22

5 Let's look at the big picture.

6 Let's take a step back for a change.

7 Let's try to save the taxpayers some money
8 and save those of us who have to come to these
9 meetings week after week to plead for the
10 efforts because we are literally the ones on the
11 ground to address these issues and a
12 collaborative standpoint where you are
13 incorporating with law enforcement, where you
14 are working with community groups, as well as,
15 the educator and administrators to try to
16 address the situation.

17 Because, again, I am a living witness that
18 the signage and all you are putting on paper
19 means absolutely nothing in realty.

20 We are wearing out signs in Baldwin because
21 they are just flashing the speed limit.

22 They are doing thirty, forty, I mean, I try
23 to do fifteen and I feel like the old lady on
24 the road being mowed down by the people who are
25 trying to, again, as we said, trying to get

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 their kids from the school or you have children
2 literally playing chicken in the middle of the
3 road.

4 I had to stop my car and get out and talk ^{Page | 23}
5 to the young people about making sure they cross
6 the street in the time period because we put up
7 those delayed crossing signs to give people
8 enough time to cross the street, but, if you are
9 standing in the middle of the street
10 intentionally, there is a problem.

11 So, let's look at the big picture, okay.

12 Let's take a step back because too much is
13 happening, now, that we are not addressing it.

14 We are throwing those quick fixes out,
15 there.

16 It maybe politically incorrect. It maybe
17 remotely sexy for the newspaper but, it is not
18 really addressing the issue and let's get the
19 Town and the County together to deal with the
20 potholes in the situation.

21 We are paying all these construction
22 companies.

23 We are paying for all of this roadwork and
24 the roads in this area are atrocious.

25 Let's fix the major problems.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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Let's get this done. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Is there anybody else that would like to be heard?

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

Um, I wasn't going to speak on this.

I was recently at a Garden City Meeting and they are thinking about trying to get the County to put speed cameras in certain areas, especially Stewart Avenue and you can watch it on my WEB site.

I think it is the February 6th Meeting where they put the signs in and the people are still speaking, a woman came forward and her car was totaled right in front of her children, right in front of her house when she was turning into a driveway.

You know, the enforcement, all these, you know great ideas and I agree with this as far as speed limits, the thing is, then you get the difference in speed which is really the killer.

Now, you got people going fast, abiding by the law and you got the problem, so, the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 enforcement, education of drivers, it is really
2 a tough problem.

3 I encourage you to watch the video of the
4 Garden City Meeting, the first meeting in Page | 25
5 February because they really discussed it in
6 depth.

7 There was no clock on anyone talking about
8 it and they are really trying to work it, the
9 Mayor, the Trustees and they are all you know,
10 discussing it in this meeting setting.

11 And, I think, you know, you have to have
12 more of that and you have to really educate
13 the drivers because giving the tickets, we gave
14 out thousands of tickets and Nassau had a great
15 idea putting speed cameras in front of the
16 schools, it was nonsense.

17 It was really a money generator. It didn't
18 really solve the problem.

19 Now, people are going twenty miles an hour.
20 They are going to show it causes problems that
21 also caused the problem.

22 So, I think it is great to do it.

23 I mean I am all for it.

24 If everyone went thirty that would be
25 great.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 You have to somehow get people to abide by
2 the law, that is a tougher nut to crack.

3 Thank you.

4 RICHARD SCHURIN: Richard Schurin. 167 Page | 26
5 Jefferson Avenue, Island Park, New York.

6 Um, Austin Boulevard is one of the most
7 dangerous roads on the Island, I believe in the
8 State.

9 On average, one person pedestrian is
10 killed, literally killed, on a two-mile stretch
11 of Austin Boulevard.

12 Um, it has been the case over the last
13 dozen years.

14 Um, the Island Park Civic Association for
15 decades, literally twenty years or more have
16 been advocating for the Boulevard to be
17 redesigned and redone.

18 And, the Study was done many, many years
19 ago.

20 Plans were in place and for various
21 reasons, um, the work has been stalled, delayed,
22 literally for decades, as a result, people have
23 been killed, literally killed, once a year.

24 As I said, there was a pedestrian killed on
25 the road last October.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 I went and spoke at the Nassau County
2 Legislature meeting, Denise Ford and all the
3 other Legislators at the time and urged them to
4 commence work on the project, as soon as Page | 27
5 possible, um, then the project was delayed,
6 again, for another two and a half years.

7 Basically, what I am getting at is this is
8 a serious ongoing calamity in Island Park.

9 Island Park has suffered through for
10 decades.

11 They are reducing the speed limit in time,
12 whether or not it will have a material
13 difference on that, I do believe the Study that
14 was done for a long time, many, many millions of
15 dollars to be done, all of an effect and I know
16 it is not your jurisdiction, but, I would urge
17 you and whatever P.R. statements you put on
18 promoting, this reduction in speed limits to
19 mention that and to urge Nassau County to
20 finally act and proceed with their plans in
21 doing that.

22 So, I am asking you to take this
23 opportunity, um, to tie together with what has
24 been going on for a very long time and urge them
25 to get it done so more people aren't killed,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 literally killed by children crossing that road
2 all the time and other children.

3 You know, it is one of the dangerous roads
4 in the State.

Page | 28

5 Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
7 time.

8 Is there anybody else that would like to be
9 heard on this time?

10 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, if I
11 may, I have two letters that I would like to
12 read into the record, if that is all right.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: The first is from
15 another School Board Member, Kathleen McDonough.

16 "Dear Town of Hempstead Board Members:
17 Good Morning, I want to take this opportunity to
18 share with you why I strongly encourage you to
19 lower the speed limit on Austin Boulevard in
20 Island Park.

21 "As a lifelong resident, I have had
22 firsthand experience of the dangerous speeding
23 vehicles on Austin Boulevard.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 "For fifty-plus years, my family has owned
2 a home on Georgia Avenue, which is located
3 between Long Beach Road and Austin Boulevard.

4 "During this time period, we have witnessed ^{Page | 29}
5 many car accidents and more than a few times
6 almost become a statistics heading South on
7 Austin Boulevard, there is a bend in the road
8 before Georgia Avenue, vehicles travel at high
9 rates of speed above the posted forty miles an
10 hour are sometimes unfamiliar with the bend are
11 caught off guard and they do not anticipate a
12 traffic signal there.

13 "For many, vehicles proceed through the red
14 traffic signals unable to stop in a timely
15 "manner.

16 "Last year alone, while waiting at the
17 traffic light, my Mother and I missed a man
18 traveling at a high rate of speed around a bend
19 collided with a motorcyclist who proceeded out
20 of the side street.

21 "Georgia Avenue and Austin Boulevard
22 counts for an average of two vehicle accidents
23 per calendar year.

24 "While most of my comments pertain to
25 Georgia Avenue and Austin Boulevard, I can

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 assure you that they are not limited to this one
2 location rather widespread throughout the entire
3 boulevard.

4 "Now, as a parent of two small children, ^{Page | 30}
5 cringe having to travel Austin Boulevard with
6 them.

7 "Whenever possible, I will travel on Long
8 Beach Road or the Incorporated Village of Island
9 Park to avoid the potential dangers. In
10 addition, while walking to patronize local
11 businesses, businesses from my Mother's home on
12 Georgia, we choose to walk down Long Beach Road
13 rather than one house away on Austin Boulevard
14 because vehicles tend to travel on the posted
15 "speed limit of thirty miles an hour.

16 "The potential dangers are too significant
17 to risk leaving a chance of Austin Boulevard.

18 "Austin Boulevard can be compared to
19 driving through an obstacle course.

20 "Vehicles regularly race down Austin
21 Boulevard traveling above the posted limit at
22 fifty to sixty to seventy miles an hour during
23 the day.

24 "Delivery and tow trucks often idol in the
25 center-turning lane obstructing your view.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Drivers can regularly be seen making illegal U-
2 turns and lane changes without warning, sudden
3 stops to avoid a pothole.

4 "And, many lives have been lost on an Page | 31
5 average one year, recently or altered because of
6 the vehicular accidents along the Boulevard.

7 "I encourage you to honor the safety
8 requests and hopefully be an end to this.

9 "Residents should be able to walk to our
10 Parks, restaurants and schools without
11 endangering their lives from speeding vehicles.

12 "As a Board of Education Trustee for the
13 Island Park Schools, I would like to thank,
14 personally, Councilman D'Esposito for bringing
15 "this speed limit to a vote, today.

16 "Therefore, I implore you to listen to
17 safety concerns while you cast your vote today
18 to approve lowering the speed limit to thirty
19 miles an hour."

20 That is Kathleen McDonough, a Member of the
21 School Board.

22 The next one is P.T.A, "Would like to
23 express our gratitude that Austin Boulevard
24 raceway issue is being addressed.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 "As parents, first, we have major concerns
2 of safety and concerns for the children of
3 Island Park.

4 "Many of these students attend Lincoln
5 Middle School, which is a few feet away from
6 Austin Boulevard.

Page | 32

7 "While we do see forty mile an hour
8 sometimes on the road, cars and trucks continue
9 to ignore the speed limit.

10 "Due to the speeding, we have seen cars
11 lose control, hit pedestrians, drive up onto
12 curbs, hit poles and even into storefronts.

13 "While we do appreciate the Town of
14 Hempstead's consideration of lowering the speed
15 limit to thirty miles an hour, we also like to
16 see large signs close to school grounds, say,
17 'school zone," and "twenty-five miles an hour.'

18 "Look at Long Beach School, for example,
19 the school sits on a bay, at least, two-foot
20 ballfields between it and building on the main
21 roadway, yet, they have school zone limitations.

22 "Again, we thank you for addressing this
23 matter and look forward to seeing the necessary
24 changes for the safety of our community but most
25 importantly for the safety of our children.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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"Your efforts will not go unnoticed."

With those two letters being read, I just want to thank, not only different organizations in the community, I want to thank Dr. Bovino. I want to thank Jack Vobis from the School Administration and School Board for standing behind it.

I want to thank the help of Legislator Denise Ford and I also want to point out, I agree with many of the speakers that if these issues aren't addressed and the speed is not enforced, the signs do nothing.

But, I do feel confident with the recent change at the Nassau County Police Department.

I have spoken to Commissioner Patty Ryder a few times on this issue.

I have spoken to the Commanding Officer of the 4th Precinct and I am confident, um, just as they have stepped up enforcement on Lido Boulevard, I think that Austin Boulevard will have enforcement needed to hopefully make the changes.

It is, always, I think, when we deal with speeding we often compare it to Ocean Avenue in Malverne when you come off that Parkway, you

1 know, you better slow down or you probably are
2 going to get pulled over.

3 I think that is where we are headed with
4 this.

5 And, I want to thank Commissioner Ryder for
6 being understanding and to be willing to put the
7 resources necessary to really make this work.

8 And, the last thing I would like to say,
9 this probably will never happen, again, but, I
10 do agree with Richard Schurin, the work that is
11 being done or needs to be done on Austin
12 Boulevard needs to be moved forward as quick as
13 possible.

14 And, I hope changing the speed limit will
15 move that a little bit expeditiously.

16 And, I just want to ask all my Board
17 Members to support this measure.

18 With that being said, I move that the
19 Public Hearing be closed and for the safety of
20 the children and the community of Island park,
21 the item be immediately adopted.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I would
23 also like to second the Motion for two reasons,
24 one, Councilman D'Esposito is an expert in
25 public safety and he knows his District well.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 The second reason is personal, my parents
2 met on the canal off Austin Boulevard in Island
3 Park and if it wasn't for Island park, I
4 wouldn't be here, so, I, at least, owe it to Page | 35
5 them to second it.

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: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

22 Madam Clerk, would you, please call the
23 next item.

24 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:

25 "Real Property Tax Relief For Cold War Veterans

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 in the Town of Hempstead" (To amend Subsection B
2 of Section 10C-4 of Chapter 10-C of the Code of
3 the Town of Hempstead)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have no slips on this ^{Page | 36}
5 matter.

6 Is there anybody that wished to be heard?

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

9 META MEREDAY: First, I do support this.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Could you state your
11 name.

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

14 Without a doubt, I support this but, I
15 continue to question what we are doing as a
16 Township with regard to making sure that our
17 Veterans are safe in their homes, addressing the
18 high rate of foreclosure, the eviction process and
19 the trauma that ensues with that.

20 Secondly, how are we effectively reaching
21 out to all the Veterans and their families who are
22 entitled to this when we have and I have been told
23 this over and over again and I am supposed to be
24 so encouraged by the fact that we have one Veteran
25 Counselor, so to speak, for the Township that has

1 over forty thousand Veterans.

2 So, how are we effectively making sure that
3 all Veterans are aware of this type of service?

4 And, how can they effectively utilize it? ^{Page | 37}

5 Because I know quite a few of the Veterans
6 from the Cold War Era, Korean War Veterans, who
7 don't even know that they are entitled to
8 significant benefits as of legislation for 2008.

9 So, it is kind of hard when you have the
10 one person with his support staff, when he is
11 working by appointment or in his office and he has
12 to handle one client to effectively reach forty
13 thousand other Veterans.

14 So, again, I question where we are as a
15 community when we continue to incorporate the same
16 types of initiatives over the last five, then,
17 almost, fifteen years with no growth, no
18 investment and no expansion in the actually
19 resources and day-to-day human capital to make
20 this effective to the Veterans who are struggling
21 as we speak.

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Can I respond?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Just two quick things,
25 two quick, things, one, I responded to you last

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Meeting and I am not going to repeat everything I
2 said last meeting because a lot of it is in the
3 works, that is part one.

Page | 38

4 Part 2, we are letting the Cold War
5 Veterans know, our Receiver of Taxes has done
6 mailings upon mailing to let the Veterans know
7 about the conferences that he is having, workshops
8 all over the Town of Hempstead and I have been
9 included in some of them and I am sure quite a few
10 of the Council people have been there to hear and
11 share the knowledge of this, what is happening.

12 Number 2, we are going to continue, today,
13 hopefully, I am sure we have the votes, today, to
14 continue this.

15 We are letting the people know through the
16 mailings.

17 You complained. Our Receiver of Taxes has
18 done mailings to let the people know. That is why
19 we do the mailings, exactly to do what you were
20 complaining about, one time you came here and you
21 said you are not doing it.

22 So, I don't know how to please you but we
23 are doing everything we can.

24 META MEREDAY: Is it about pleasing me or
25 is it about doing the work that needs to be done

1 for our Veterans?

2 It has nothing to do with pleasing me.

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

Page | 39

5 META MEREDAY: Where are the numbers?

6 Where are the numbers?

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Mailings, this is
8 exactly what we are doing it for.

9 META MEREDAY: The thousands of dollars
10 that you spend, with all due respect, Councilman
11 Dunne, the thousands of dollars that you spend in
12 the mailings, which goes - -

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: To let the people know
14 about this, yes.

15 META MEREDAY: With all due respect, I want
16 my time, if I can finish my statement, thank you.

17 The money, the millions of dollars that
18 this Township spends likely more so than the
19 County spends, this Township spends millions of
20 dollars, almost three times more than the County
21 spends.

22 What is the tracking on that?

23 How many Veterans of the estimated forty
24 thousand Veterans, one, actually, were eligible
25 for this, two, have actually applied for this?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 And, three, are actually benefiting from
2 it?

3 So, can somebody, staff person - -

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mrs. Mereday, Mrs.
5 Mereday, I believe fifteen hundred. We have
6 approximately, fifteen hundred Veterans who have
7 taken advantage of this program and recipients of
8 this aid.

9 I think this is a good measure because of
10 the change in State Law, it enables us to make
11 this a permanent program for our Veterans.

12 And, if you have suggestions on ways we can
13 communicate benefits to our Veterans, make sure
14 all of our Cold War Veterans are able to take
15 advantage of this, I certainly welcome your
16 suggestions and we will try to do more so Veterans
17 can take advantage of it.

18 META MEREDAY: Again, with all due respect,
19 my 1:59 seconds, I have been told I come here and
20 complaint about nothing getting done.

21 I would love to actually in one of those
22 infamous and highly costly mailings actually see
23 the benchmark numbers, what is the actual number?

24 What are we spending the money on to
25 actually address these services and if someone is

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 going to tell me that I should be impressed
2 because this group is working towards maybe
3 incorporating two additional parking spots or free
4 passes to our Parks, I am supposed to be impressed ^{Page | 41}
5 for that, for our Veterans.

6 No, I am not impressed.

7 The Veteran community is not impressed.

8 So, let it be said, no, I am not satisfied
9 and guess what, I will continue to complain.

10 I will continue to have my voice heard and
11 whether changes are done here or in the Election
12 booth, change will happen.

13 Thank you.

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

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: If you attended any of
17 the workshops that help Veterans to secure this -
18 -

19 META MEREDAY: That mailing must have
20 missed my home. I was not invited.

21 I was not included.

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: You get all the
23 mailings.

24 META MEREDAY: Not the ones we have,
25 different events that I read in the paper.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Do you belong to the
2 Veteran organizations or auxiliary of a Veterans
3 organization, you will find out that they get the
4 information. Page | 42

5 META MEREDAY: I find out they are the ones
6 that contact me, Councilman Dunne, when they have
7 members who are about to be evicted, when they
8 have - -

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: They contact you?

10 META MEREDAY: Yes, they do, so, to the
11 Elected Officials, yes, they do.

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Really.

13 META MEREDAY: Yes, they do.

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Well - -

15 META MEREDAY: I don't remember seeing you
16 in Nassau County the other week talking about the
17 initiative that they were doing in Nassau County
18 with regards to the Police Department.

19 I didn't see you there.

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The County does what
21 they do.

22 The Town does what they do.

23 META MEREDAY: We pay Town and County taxes
24 so, we are getting double dipped for the lack of
25 services that pertains to our Veterans.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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

3 META MEREDAY: So, let me say I am still
4 looking for the number, like I said.

Page | 43

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Let me tell you
6 something - -

7 META MEREDAY: Numbers speak.

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I got nothing but
9 compliments. I am not here to impress you.
10 I am here to help the Veterans.

11 META MEREDAY: You are here to help the
12 taxpayers who I am included.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: At the Marine Corp.
14 League, they are telling me in church, at the
15 supermarkets, "you know what, that was so nice
16 that parking spot, really meant a lot to my
17 husband" or "meant a lot to my son."

18 META MEREDAY: Okay.

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We are thinking of them.
20 We are thinking of them, that might keep them from
21 doing what you are really, you know, proclaiming.

22 META MEREDAY: Let's think about the
23 Veteran who is eighty-four years old, who is
24 facing eviction, let me see if that parking spot
25 works for him.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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Thank you.

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

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else ^{Page | 44}
that wished to be heard on this item?

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

I wasn't going to speak on this issue, of course, I am for it, but, you asked for suggestions about how we can inform Veterans, I think that everybody gets our mailing for our bills, our tax bills and receipt after you pay it, so, we get, at least, four, at least a year, put a - - make it very clear, one card, as wide as the envelope when they open up the bill the first thing they see, "Are you a Veteran?"

Here is the name of the Veteran person at the Town.

Here is the name of the Veteran person at the County.

You're entitled to tax, you know, benefits and everything.

Here is the WEB site. You go and explain what you are entitled to, so, we are detailing online or you can go on the back of the card,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 you can put a phone number you can call.

2 So, it will be very clear and it won't be
3 additional mailings. It won't be another piece of
4 paper. It will be every time you get - - four a ^{Page | 45}
5 year, it will come in the mail and it will be very
6 clear.

7 It won't have a politician's name on it.

8 It will benefit the Veterans. It will be
9 the same thing for the Senior Citizens.

10 "Are you a senior citizen?" Are you
11 disabled?"

12 Whatever the benefits are. It will be
13 targeted for that. It will be very inexpensive.

14 Most of it will be the postage and it will
15 be in the same mailing, so, they will get four of
16 those a year and it will be a card and direct you
17 to who you call for more information.

18 And, it won't be the glossy picture of the
19 person or anything like that.

20 It will be targeted information, what you
21 need to know to get these benefits.

22 Thank you.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am scared to say
25 this, but, Felix, it is a great idea.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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

3 DONNA CASAZZA: Donna Casazza, Rockville
4 Centre.

Page | 46

5 Just two points, um, with respect to the
6 American Legions and the VFW, I would say as a
7 spouse of an American Legion Member, a Vice
8 whatever he is, Commander, they really don't know
9 about the tax, um, discounts.

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

12 DONNA CASAZZA: I will tone it down a
13 little bit.

14 I think an outreach program to each of the
15 Posts. They have a monthly meeting where all the
16 County Members go to educate them would be good
17 because Felix, even eighty and ninety years old
18 are not going to be savvy with the Internet and
19 they will not know that.

20 Tow other points, one, my husband,
21 personally, loves his little spot at Home Depot,
22 so, he says, "Oh, this spot is for me."

23 So, sometimes the Veterans do like that
24 little extras.

25 But the other thing, the hidden treasure

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 is, believe it or not, this discount for the
2 Veterans, it doesn't go to special district taxes.

3 If you look at your tax bill, my tax bill,
4 my County tax bill, fifty percent of my taxes are ^{Page | 47}
5 special taxes, special district taxes and I do not
6 get that discount, that is a lot of money.

7 And, that needs to be looked at, to be
8 honest with you.

9 Volunteer Firefighters, they get the
10 discount for the school districts, but they are
11 not reciprocal with respect to special district
12 taxes and it starts in the Town and that is where
13 the dollars come and that is where it would be
14 helpful to the Veterans.

15 Thank you.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

17 Is there anybody else that would like to be
18 heard on this?

19 NANCY SKEETE: I am Nancy Skeet. I reside
20 at 841 Lake Place in Uniondale.

21 I am President of the Uniondale Community
22 Council Civic Group.

23 My husband and I are both Veterans and my
24 biggest concern is the taxes.

25 Yes, we do get tax breaks.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Yes, the Town did give us a list of
2 everybody that gives you a discount.

3 However, you know, we have a problem in
4 Uniondale with overcrowding, you know, everybody ^{Page | 48}
5 wants to go to school in Uniondale and our schools
6 are so overcrowded that there are people on
7 Northern Parkway, children taking classes in the
8 basement.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ma'am, are you speaking
10 - - we are calling people to speak on the item.

11 NANCY SKEETE: I understand that.

12 You are going to raise our taxes to expand
13 the school.

14 I get my Veteran discount, but, however,
15 the tax thing to expand the schools is going to
16 cause my property taxes to go up, at least two
17 hundred dollars a year.

18 Lord know what is going to go up when in
19 May, when they run the regular - - I am sorry,
20 um, when they run for the School Board and they
21 run the regular budget, Lord knows what it is
22 going to be.

23 They are outpricing us as Veterans. We are
24 not getting a break, here.

25 So, I have to pay for people that over

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Crowd their houses of six or eight kids that all
2 don't live and are not related and they should be
3 rezoning us as commercial for all of those houses
4 that are overcrowded, you know, that because we ^{Page | 49}
5 can't find a place to park on our streets.

6 There are ten bags of garbage on each house
7 and there is a limit of five, supposedly.

8 But, nobody does anything.

9 It is ridiculous.

10 It is just you end up losing a lot of
11 people, the Veterans.

12 Our Post in Uniondale, there are only two
13 Members left on the Board because they are dying
14 and they are not getting replaced.

15 Young people don't even belong to the
16 Legions, so, they are not getting the benefits.
17 It is a real problem, a real issue.

18 And, I hope it gets the rezoning for
19 commercial, those houses would benefit our
20 taxpayers.

21 There is no reason. Count the number of
22 people living in the houses.

23 Does anybody think the idea about rezoning
24 for commercial is a good idea?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ma'am, any other item

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 that is on the agenda - -

2 NANCY SKEETE: On this particular one, no.
3 On other ones, I will be back.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Page | 50

5 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Supervisor, the
6 person who spoke before on the inability of this
7 legislation to extend to special districts, the
8 reason is, it is legislation we opt in.

9 So, the remedy, we agree with you. We
10 would love to do it.

11 We are not permitted to extend it beyond
12 the algorithm taxes, so, the State legislation
13 restricts you only allowing you to impose the
14 exemption on the algorithm portion.

15 If the State legislation were opt in,
16 allowed us to go to special districts, we would.

17 It is similar to the IDA and other special
18 districts that cut out, that is really the remedy
19 from Albany.

20 We will join with you to lobby Albany to do
21 that.

22 NANCY SKEETE: I agree, it also starts at
23 the County level too, that is what the legislature
24 is here for.

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: It is dropped - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 in other words, it is opt in, State down.

2 We opt into what the State allows us to do.

3 But the remedy is up in Albany.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Page | 51

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Supervisor, I would like
6 to move that the Hearing be closed and the item be
7 adopted.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
9 Motion.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
11 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: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

23 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye, I would
24 like to thank Dennis Dunne for your leadership in
25 bringing this item forward.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

Page | 52

5 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Revised Public
6 Parking Field Maps in Seaford (Field S-4)

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have no slips on this
8 item, is there anybody who wished to be heard?

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

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I
13 move that the Hearing be closed and the item be
14 adopted.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

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: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

Page | 53

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

7 CLERK CABANA: Application of BOLLA EM
8 REALTY, LLC for a variance from provisions of
9 "GSS" Ordinance to operate a convenience store at
10 an existing gasoline service station, as well as
11 area sign parking variance relief from the
12 Gasoline Service Station District required - near
13 Westbury- southwest intersection of Carman &
14 Stewart Avenues with frontage on Carman Avenue of
15 181 feet and 150 feet on Stewart Avenue.

16 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Good Morning, Madam
17 Supervisor and fellow Board Members:

18 David N. Altman, law firm, Harris Beach.

19 My address is 538 Broadhollow Road,
20 Melville, New York.

21 I am Attorney for the applicant.

22 Seated to my right is Christopher Tartaglia
23 from High Point Engineering.

24 Next with me this morning, Madam
25 Supervisor, is John Breslin from Breslin Realty.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 John is a license real estate appraiser and
2 real estate expert.

3 He has appeared before this Board a number
4 of times in terms of zoning and various Page | 54
5 applications and toward that end, I am going to
6 hand in an original and 8 or 9 copies of the
7 report.

8 In addition, I have with me this morning,
9 Frank Cuccho. Frank is a licensed New York State
10 Engineer and he is an expert in traffic
11 engineering.

12 Frank has, also, appeared before this Board
13 on many occasions, including related to Bolla
14 matters that have previously come before the Board
15 and his firm, also, has prepared a report relative
16 to the parking and traffic, particularly, since
17 this application seeks a parking variance.

18 And, I will hand that into the record, as
19 well.

20 For purposed of moving the application
21 along to the extent that this Board has any
22 questions, these gentlemen are certainly available
23 to address and answer those questions on behalf of
24 the Board, anybody else in the audience.

25 Um, that being said, I have a few remarks,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Madam Supervisor, I will keep this brief.

2 Many Members on this Board and hopefully
3 the Chair is familiar with Bolla.

4 Bolla is a well-recognized gasoline service ^{Page | 55}
5 station provider, here on Long Island and
6 throughout the New York Metropolitan area.

7 They are nationally recognized for their
8 quality, service quality.

9 Um, and the application that is before this
10 Board relates to the property known as 865 Carman
11 Avenue in Westbury, New York.

12 It is known on the Nassau County Tax Map as
13 number - - Section 45, Block 440, Lot 7.

14 It is at the southwest corner of Stewart
15 Avenue and Carman Avenue.

16 The property is currently zoned "Business
17 X" and is situated in the Gasoline Service Station
18 or the "GSS Overlay District."

19 The property has, approximately, one
20 hundred and fifty feet of frontage on Stewart
21 Avenue and one hundred and eighty-one feet of
22 frontage on Carman Avenue.

23 The lot area is over sixteen thousand
24 square feet.

25 Um, the southwest portion of the site,

1 the site tapers, if you move southerly is
2 approximately, the southwest site line is seventy-
3 three feet and the western lot line where the
4 existing building is situated today is,
5 approximately, one hundred and twenty-six feet.

6 The property has been used as a gasoline
7 service station for the better part of fifty
8 years, now, with a C of O initially been issued
9 for gasoline service station at the property on
10 June 7th of 1970.

11 That is a C of O, 115209. There are a
12 number of other Certificates of Compliance which
13 are part of the record and part of the submission
14 before the Board, today relative to that
15 particular station.

16 Um, prior to Town Board approval relative
17 to this particular station, um, going back to
18 1996, March 26th of 1996 and that was Resolution
19 302 of '96 which included this station within the
20 GSS Overlay District.

21 And, it allows, at that time, for self-
22 service which the applicant does propose, today.

23 In addition, there were certain C & R's in
24 connection which have been - - already been
25 submitted to the Board.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 The station that exists, today, the
2 applicant proposed to raze and rebuild.

3 We are putting in place and instead of what
4 exists today, a brand-new gasoline service station^{Page | 57}
5 which reflects the contemporary demands of retail
6 gasoline service stations here on Long Island.

7 There will be six fuel dispensers which are
8 going to be perpendicular to Stewart Avenue
9 providing enough fueling positions.

10 They are, essentially, located on the
11 northern half of the premises.

12 And, you can see up on the video board up
13 to my left and to my right canopy are the fueling
14 pumps.

15 There will, in fact, be a canopy where
16 there is none, today.

17 That canopy measures seventy-six by thirty-
18 one or, approximately, twenty-three hundred and
19 fifty-six square feet.

20 The applicant does propose to construct a
21 new structure, approximately, twenty-nine hundred
22 fifty square feet is being used for a store.

23 If you look at the video display boards,
24 you will see that located on the southern portion
25 of the site.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 In addition, the applicant provides nine
2 parking stalls including one ACA stall.

3 On the North side of the convenience store,
4 there will be an outdoor trash enclosure. Page | 58

5 On the westerly portion of the convenience
6 store, that trash enclosure is, approximately, ten
7 by nine by six and the Bolla typical building
8 design architecturally to match the building, as
9 well.

10 You will notice there are currently two
11 curb cuts, um, on Stewart Avenue and two on
12 Carman.

13 With respect to Carman, the applicant
14 proposed to consolidate that one curb cut.

15 With respect to Stewart Avenue, the
16 westerly-most curb cut will remain right in, right
17 out.

18 With respect to the curb cut that is
19 closest to the intersection on Stewart, the
20 easterly curb cut based upon comment that we
21 gotten back from Nassau DPW which will modify what
22 was initially submitted, we will narrow that curb
23 cut a further little way from the intersection.

24 And, that is going to be right out only.

25 Now, one of the unique things about this

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 particular site, we have the ability to pull up
2 an aerial of this site, sort of is isolated in,
3 that around it to the West and to the South is
4 undeveloped land.

Page | 59

5 It is grass. It is part of the existing
6 facility.

7 To the West which I believe is a Capital
8 One Bank.

9 Um, to the South on Carman Avenue, you have
10 mixed use, retail, commercial with commercial
11 stores on both the East and West side of Carman.

12 Directly across the street, the southeast
13 corner, you have a Mobil Station.

14 It has been there for a number of years,
15 that Mobil Station includes a Mobil Mart.

16 And, on the North side of Carman Avenue,
17 you have fencing and single-family residences.

18 You can also see on the northeast corner a
19 little vacant portion, there.

20 But, we are not introducing a new use to
21 the area.

22 The use, itself, is well established as a
23 gasoline service station.

24 The, um, repair service bays, I think there
25 are three, three, today, they will be removed.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 We will not have auto repairs anymore,
2 which is in keeping with what Bolla has built.

3 And, we will be operating a convenience
4 store instead.

Page | 60

5 To the extent that this Board has any
6 questions of me, I am happy to run through the
7 list of variances.

8 There are a number of them, but, at least,
9 with regard to the modifications of the curb cut,
10 itself, that typical variance is no longer
11 required, is that correct?

12 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Correct.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: One quick question.

14 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Sure.

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The, um, across the
16 street on the North side, northwest of the site
17 are houses, is lighting going to be different?

18 Is it going to shine in the back of the
19 homes?

20 I use to represent them when I was in the
21 Legislature, so, I know the area very well, is
22 that going to be a problem?

23 Did you address the lighting? Is the
24 lighting going into the back windows?

25 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: I appreciate the question

1 Councilman.

2 The answer is no, but I will turn it over
3 to Chris Tartaglia to just explain the lighting,
4 how it works.

Page | 61

5 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Good afternoon.

6 For the record, my name is Chris Tartaglia,
7 Principal onwer of the firm High Point
8 Engineering, on behalf of the applicant.

9 Councilman Dunne, with regard to your
10 question on lighting, we have submitted a lighting
11 plan to the Town as part of the review process.

12 We do it on all applications within this
13 Township and others.

14 But to your point, to answer your point,
15 what our lighting plans indicate is that lighting
16 levels at our lot line on the South side of
17 Stewart Avenue are all in the single digits, one
18 to two foot candles is very dim.

19 In fact, the lighting in this room, here is
20 probably in that two to three candles, here at our
21 property line on our side of the street would be
22 representative of that.

23 Across the street by the middle of Stewart
24 Avenue, we are zero.

25 There is literally no light transpass

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 beyond, um, the really the lanes of Stewart
2 Avenue.

3 All the lighting is directed downward onto
4 the subject property and it would be shielded in ^{Page | 62}
5 an unusual manner very similar to lights in this
6 room where the bulb doesn't protrude down below
7 the surface of the lens.

8 So, in other words, that helps to keep
9 light, trespassing lights downward so there is no
10 impact on the property across the street.

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: If there is, by any
12 chance, you can also put a shield there?

13 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Yes, we are in effect
14 indicating with the lights being flushed within
15 the housing themselves does create a natural
16 shield but, absolutely, if there were any
17 complaints or concerns, we would address it.

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: When were
20 these pictures taken?

21 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: About two
22 weeks ago.

23 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: I will address that. I
24 know Councilwoman Goosby always asks us, I am
25 happy to answer it.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 We are aware of the Building Department's
2 Code Enforcement Site Inspection on the 27th, with
3 respect to the, um, issue of other vehicles, um,
4 un used or unrepaired vehicles sitting on the Page | 63
5 site, obviously that situation is going away as
6 part of this redevelopment.

7 In fact, I understand, speaking to Mr. - -
8 um, Bolla's office on Friday and yesterday, I
9 believe that they were tearing out the facility
10 this past weekend.

11 So, a number of those issues will be
12 addressed to the sum of the open permits, we know
13 that, as well.

14 The Town did some of the FOIL requests and
15 the Town Board, those all will be addressed as
16 part of the razed, rebuilt, here.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Well, that
18 should be addressed before this application, that
19 is the case.

20 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: That has all been cleaned
21 up, Councilwoman.

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: All of it?

23 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: My understanding is it
24 was, but, I will verify.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do any

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Members of the Board have questions of the
2 applicant?

3 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
4 the following ensued.) Page | 64

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Does anybody else want
6 to be heard on this matter?

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

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Madam Supervisor, I make
10 a Motion that we close the Public Hearing and the
11 decision be reserved.

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

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

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 (Whereupon, Councilman Ambrosino recused
18 himself.)

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

Page | 65

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

6 Madam Clerk, could you please call the

7 Decision Calendar.

8 CLERK CABANA: Yes, Supervisor.

9 There is one item on the Decision Calendar,
10 an application for Woodcrest Village Park
11 Associates to rezone from "Residence CA" District
12 to "CA-S" Residence District - West side of
13 Rockaway Avenue, approximately 102.83 feet North
14 of the northwest corner of West Atlantic Avenue &
15 Rockaway Avenue - Oceanside.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion.

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the
18 decision be granted.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

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

22 (Whereupon, Councilman Ambrosino recused
23 himself.)

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

Page | 66

5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: 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

12 Administrative Calendar.

13 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor, on the

14 Administrative Calendar, this morning, we have

15 Items 9 through 35.

16 I also have a Resolution of an urgent
17 matter that reads, "Resolution authorizing Anchors
18 Electric Service, Inc., to Emergency Repair of
19 street lights at Town Hall Complex, One Washington
20 Street, Hempstead, New York.

21 This item would be Item 36 on the calendar.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Madam Clerk.

23 Would any Members of the Board like to
24 sever any items?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I just have a

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 question, I only have 34 items on my calendar, so,
2 is the new item 35 or 36?

3 CLERK CABANA: The new item is 36.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, at the ^{Page | 67}
5 request of your office, I would like to, um,
6 adjourn Items 10 and 12 and at the request - -

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: She didn't
8 call it.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am sorry, I didn't
10 hear - -

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: She didn't
12 call it.

13 I move the Administrative Calendar in its
14 entirety with the exception of 10, 12, 20 which I
15 move to remove from the calendar.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I have a number
18 of slips of people that wish to be heard on the
19 Administrative Calendar.

20 We have Felix Procacci.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
22 Barnes Street, Franklin Square.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: 10, 12 and 20?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ten, 12 and 20 have
25 been tabled.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
2 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

3 I would like to speak on Item Number 30,
4 part of the investigative services. Page | 68

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay, you're
6 right.

7 FELIX PROCACCI: I am concerned about this
8 only because, um, we have had a number of
9 investigations virtually since I have been here,
10 since 2010, internal investigations, very highly
11 paid employees, usually sons and daughters of
12 higher officials who have been investigators, Mr.
13 Enright, um, I believe, his wife still works,
14 here.

15 I am not sure.

16 But, the thing is and there has been
17 predominately around the Animal Shelter and when I
18 asked for those records, I have, um, received, um,
19 I don't know if it was the most recent one, last
20 year I asked for records regarding investigations,
21 I was told that it would be delayed for twenty
22 days because it was a voluminous number.

23 I said, okay, fine.

24 And, I was told, again, a few days before
25 it was due, it was going to be delayed for six

1 months until September.

2 I said I don't need all those pages,
3 whatever it is, can I get the titles of the
4 investigations?

Page | 69

5 No, we cannot give you the titles.

6 Dates the investigations started and ended?

7 No, we can't give you the dates it started
8 and ended.

9 So, there is no checks and balance for an
10 internal investigation in the Town of Hempstead.

11 And, also, I believe last year or the year
12 before, I forget, we did hire investigators.

13 I didn't try to FOIL those records.

14 The real question is, are they doing
15 anything and the results of those investigations,
16 what happens to them?

17 And, who is making decisions?

18 Because, for example, at the Animal
19 Shelter, you were told for months on end that
20 there was a D.A. investigation, meanwhile, the
21 principals, the people who were accused, Diane
22 Franchese, Diane Madden, um, Lucille Defina and
23 Frances Luscarì, who were accused of wrongdoing
24 and were banned from the Shelter - -

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci, this is

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 an item on the calendar to hire outside
2 investigators, not internal investigators for
3 specific issues within our Town Attorney's Office.

4 FELIX PROCACCI: I get that.

Page | 70

5 The question is, I am giving an example of
6 those so called "investigations," where the public
7 had no insight between how we spend our money.

8 What happens to the work conducted that
9 this produced by these investigators?

10 Will the public be able to see what they
11 have done?

12 Will they get some feeling of what the
13 investigation is about?

14 Because we - - there have been numerous
15 complaints made, here and everything just goes
16 into the wind and disappears and there is no - -
17 we spend tens of thousands of dollars and possibly
18 more, but, yet, there is no accountability for it.

19 Can you stop the clock? Joe Ra is talking.

20 I mean, that is an example. Look
21 misconduct, local misconduct, she should be fired
22 for this.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, calm down.
24 Let's stop the clock while they are conferring.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, thank you.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 FELIX PROCACCI: She should be fired,
2 misconduct.

3 It is the reason for firing somebody.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, come on.

Page | 71

5 FELIX PROCACCI: It is wrong. She has been
6 doing this for eight years.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You got your extra
8 ten seconds. We are not going to abridge your
9 rights.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry. I was
11 listening to Mr. Ra.

12 I can't speak to what happened in
13 investigations in the past because I was not,
14 here.

15 FELIX PROCACCI: I get that.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What I have asked for,
17 I have asked for outside investigators to look
18 into two specific matters within the Town
19 Attorney's Office, um, there are matters, they
20 will be investigated and depending upon on what
21 the results of the investigations are, you know,
22 we will see what happens.

23 We don't know what the investigations are
24 going to determine, at this point, but we have
25 retained outside investigators, so, the public

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 can have some confidence that independent people,
2 outside of Town Hall, are looking into these
3 matters.

Page | 72

4 FELIX PROCACCI: Well - -

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, excuse me, if
6 I may.

7 FELIX PROCACCI: Sure.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, I think that we,
9 on the Town Board, concur with the Supervisor.

10 And, quite frankly, with the Town Attorney,
11 who also was supportive of this measure, where
12 there is an investigation in the Town Attorney's
13 Office to avoid the appearance of actual
14 conflicts, this private investigation firm will be
15 used for that purpose and other purposes where we
16 feel that we need an outside investigator.

17 This investigation firm has no political
18 ties to either Party and isn't even located in the
19 Town of Hempstead and it is made up of FBI Agents,
20 N.Y.P.D. Detectives and Nassau and Suffolk
21 Detectives, retired, so, um, this is an attempt to
22 make sure that there isn't a problem and there
23 isn't a conflict with respect to confidentiality.

24 I think that some of the information that
25 you might want is certainly available and some

1 of it is confidential because in a lot of
2 respects, we are talking about personnel decisions
3 and, um, these investigations should be conducted
4 in confidentiality so that we are not abridging Page | 73
5 any individual's rights.

6 FELIX PROCACCI: I agree with all the stuff
7 and concept.

8 And Roy Gunther had the right to
9 confidentiality but he was all over the newspapers
10 when he had a violation.

11 I am sure there are a lot of people getting
12 building violations in the Town of Hempstead, but,
13 they don't make it to the front page of
14 **NEWSDAY.com**, you know, the thing is just there are
15 two standards, here.

16 And, the Town Attorney is the last person I
17 want conducting an investigation.

18 He lied to me on many occasions and he
19 should not be - -

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

22 FELIX PROCACCI: He should not be - -

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra is not
24 conducting this investigation.

25 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand that.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He has cooperated and
2 supported hiring outside investigators to conduct
3 the investigation in his office.

4 I would ask you to, please, keep your
5 comments polite.

Page | 74

6 FELIX PROCACCI: I try to, when you get
7 lied to so many times, it is really hard to do
8 that.

9 I ask questions and I get blatant lies, it
10 is hard to be polite when you get that kind of
11 response.

12 Um, I ask that any - - I ask that the Town
13 Attorney does not handle any of the records, that
14 any FOIL requests go through your office.

15 Because, once, again, I brought these
16 issues up, I am trying to be as polite as
17 possible, but, we got Windows and Restaurant Law,
18 that is a bogus law, that we are spending tens of
19 thousands of dollars concocting that scheme and
20 that is an example of how the Town uses its power,
21 the confidentiality, hiding records from the
22 public in order to get a political objective,
23 which is wrong.

24 We tabled the mass mailing thing, which was
25 more descriptive, then the short-term rental

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 ban, yet, we are not hearing it.

2 And, he lied last time when he said it was
3 Noticed properly.

4 These are examples. These are real life ^{Page | 75}
5 examples as to why the Town Attorney's Office,
6 headed by Joe Ra should not be handling or
7 involved in any way in investigations.

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

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He will not be involved
11 in investigation, that is why we have outside
12 investigators.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: Even talking to the
14 investigators because once, again, investigators
15 don't work in a vacuum.

16 They are working with people that employ
17 them and if Joe Ra is consulting with the
18 investigators or anyone from his office, it is
19 very suspicious.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is why we are
21 having outside investigators.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: Who do they report to, you
23 or him?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: They will be reporting
25 to someone independent outside the Town

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Attorney's office.

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Who is that person?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: They will be reporting
4 to me and the Town Board.

Page | 76

5 FELIX PROCACCI: Town Board, okay, we are
6 going to politicize this thing.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Not politicize, Mr.
8 Procacci, it is not politicized.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: When I ask for records,
10 let's see how they work out.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, the FOILING
12 through the Town Clerk's Office.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: Yes, let's see how that
14 works out because I go through with you on many
15 occasions, I have showed you the actual date that
16 Joe Ra lied about things.

17 It is very clear.

18 There is no reason for the Windows and
19 Restaurant Law.

20 It was bogus.

21 It was targeted. If this investigative
22 service is going to target, I don't know what it
23 is about.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We re not commenting on
25 it.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 We have to see what allegations - -

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Absolutely, no, I am not
3 asking you for that.

4 I am giving you examples of malfeasance in ^{Page | 77}
5 the past, that is actually proven, not just beyond
6 a reasonable doubt.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I understand.

8 FELIX PROCACCI: It is irrefutable, yet,
9 everybody goes along with it, here.

10 Everybody goes along with it.

11 The reason when I reported - -

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Felix, your time is up,
13 you have to stop.

14 FELIX PROCACCI: It has to do with this guy
15 you are hiring, what the conduct of it and I am
16 giving you examples.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Who he reports to.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I understand. I
20 understand.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: It is related to, it is
22 not out of leftfield.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Felix.

24 Next, we have Art Gipson.

25 ART GIPSON: Good Morning, Supervisor

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Gillen, Members of the Town Board.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

3 ART GIPSON: Still morning.

4 After speaking with you at the Long Island ^{Page | 78}

5 Event, I want to thank you for your speedy and
6 correct response to the problem of Master
7 Plumbers' Licenses being lent out for a fee in the
8 Town of Hempstead.

9 It is a big problem.

10 It has been going on for a long time.

11 It is a disservice either to legitimate
12 contractor/Master Plumber and also to the
13 residents of the Town of Hempstead.

14 There is one individual I can speak of that
15 bragged to me he has over two hundred and fifty
16 plumber licenses in the State of New York, New
17 Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida and
18 Arizona.

19 He has no employees other than himself.

20 And, this is all this gentleman does for a
21 living.

22 And, obviously, it is a cash business for
23 the obvious reasons.

24 So, this could put a big dent in that and,
25 also help legitimate contractors on Long Island.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 When the biggest Town in the Country moves
2 forward with something like this, it will send a
3 message to all the other Towns and this will
4 reverberate all along Long Island.

Page | 79

5 It will also - - the problem that I
6 witnessed in the past where contractors come,
7 developers come in and, then, they bring out-of-
8 State contractors, even when they receive IDA
9 monies and things like that, they still have the
10 gall to go out and bring in contractors from
11 Connecticut or New Jersey to perform the plumbing,
12 the sprinklers, the heating on these projects.

13 This will create local jobs for local
14 people and that is what we all really should be
15 behind.

16 I want to thank you for moving so quickly
17 on this and let you know that if there is anything
18 that Plumbers Local Union can do to assist in this
19 manner, we are at your disposal.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

21 ART GIPSON: Thank you.

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

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Valerie Lampe?

25 VALERIE LAMPE: Valerie Lampe, Baldwin.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 And, um, so, I have some questions
2 pertaining to Item Number 18.

3 Um, we have an eight hundred thousand
4 dollar plus H.R. Department, why are we
5 contracting and outsourcing H.R. professionals?

Page | 80

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Lampe, can I answer
7 your question.

8 We - - this is only to pay this company for
9 services that were rendered last year.

10 It is not a full contract.

11 VALERIE LAMPE: I understand that.

12 I remember when it was on the agenda in
13 January.

14 So, I am trying to understand why we needed
15 that service in the first place.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, if you can
17 answer that.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: This company was
19 utilized by Human Resources to file for 211
20 waivers, personnel to get a waiver, so, they can
21 make more than thirty thousand dollars a year
22 after they retire.

23 VALERIE LAMPE: No, it is a fairly common
24 waiver for those types of employees, but, what I
25 am trying to understand, first of all, how did we

1 go about contracting?

2 Was this contract RFP-ed?

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No, I don't believe so,
4 personal services. Page | 81

5 VALERIE LAMPE: So, the two people who were
6 named in this contract to benefit from the
7 coaching and the resume writing and the other
8 services, um, Castalas (phonetic spelling) and
9 what was the other guy's name, Tuscani, (phonetic
10 spelling) something like that, why those two?

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Those were the two
12 people that had been identified as individuals
13 that we wanted to hire, who were needed.

14 VALERIE LAMPE: Weren't they already
15 employed by the Town, though?

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You need a waiver every
17 year or two years, every two years, right, every
18 two years you need the waiver.

19 VALERIE LAMPE: So, it is my understanding
20 - -

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: They are not easy to get
22 is the answer, so, this firm specializes in that.

23 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay, so, the woman, Joan
24 Enright, another name was blasting, that was
25 brought up, was she ever employed by the Town

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 of Hempstead?

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

3 VALERIE LAMPE: So, there was no RFP for
4 this contract, but, we gave it to someone that use^{Page | 82}
5 to work for the Town of Hempstead?

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

7 VALERIE LAMPE: At one hundred and fifty
8 dollars an hour and if I am a Town employee and I
9 feel like I am being passed over or discriminated
10 against, um, and I see other employees where the
11 taxpayers get to pay one hundred and fifty dollars
12 an hour to coach an prime two specific employees,
13 so, that they can get this additional benefit,
14 don't you think that these employees that feel
15 passed over are going to look at this and say,
16 hey, why not me? How come I don't get a special
17 coach at one hundred and fifty dollars an hour?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I think what Empower Me
19 does is they assist in the, um, preparation of the
20 application and in answering questions and filing
21 the documents with the State to receive the
22 waivers.

23 VALERIE LAMPE: According to an H.R.
24 professional, who I was just consulting with, it
25 is not actually the employees who apply but the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 hiring firm or Township in this case, they are the
2 ones that apply, so - -

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We apply for the waivers
4 on their behalf.

Page | 83

5 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay and so I want you to
6 know this is just the truth.

7 I did a little homework and research. I
8 spoke to a couple of different employment
9 attorneys who specialize in, um, you know, their
10 focus is employment law, where they are bringing
11 suits against municipalities on behalf of the
12 workers.

13 They are very interested in this.

14 They literally said, "tell Mr. Procacci we
15 want to see this tape and how the Board and Town
16 Attorney are going to be answering these
17 questions."

18 Because it seems this is how it appears,
19 correct me if I am wrong, these two people, I have
20 nothing against them.

21 I never, ever met them, Mr. Castalas, Mr.
22 Tuscani, they were carved out and they were able
23 to benefit to the tune of one hundred and fifty
24 dollar coaching, interview coaching, resume
25 writing, so, that they could access this waiver

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 that allows you to, um, you know, receive pension
2 benefits and salary.

3 It is known in the H.R. world as double
4 dipping, is that correct?

Page | 84

5 Hello, hi, hi.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I wasn't here, Ms.
7 Lampe, but, I believe that this was to get a 211
8 waiver for these individuals last year.

9 As I said - -

10 VALERIE LAMPE: Right.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: - - This is
12 retroactive.

13 VALERIE LAMPE: It is on today's agenda.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right.

15 VALERIE LAMPE: I want to understand.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Without, um, commenting
17 on your premise, exactly, what happened, here, the
18 Town of Hempstead applied for 211 waivers for
19 these two people and that is the short answer.

20 That is all I am going to say on the
21 subject.

22 VALERIE LAMPE: But, that is incomplete,
23 but, look, this is what I am going to say, um,
24 this - - if you guys built this room, I
25 understand Supervisor Gillen you have inherited

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 a litany of past-due bill which are in arrears.

2 Thank you very much, former Supervisor
3 Santino for that, but, I want to just - - look,
4 most of you guys are Attorneys and I want to
5 really think about this because this, in my humble
6 opinion and the opinions of the H.R. professionals
7 and the employment attorneys, who I have been
8 speaking with on this issue, as well as other pole
9 who have worked for many Townships, this looks
10 like favoritism, patronage and cronyism and if you
11 put this through, you're laying precedence and you
12 are ringing the dinner bell for the Attorneys who
13 will file suit after suit on behalf of disgruntle
14 workers that feel they have been passed over.

Page | 85

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is just to pay
16 somebody for services that were already rendered.

17 VALERIE LAMPE: It is not paying the bill.

18 It is about how this was favoring a couple
19 of employees and - - and, also how that person
20 gets the job.

21 Is it because they were related to
22 somebody?

23 Is it because they use to work for the Town
24 and they like her?

25 I mean I don't know her.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 She might be great and amazing what she
2 does.

3 There are other SPHR designated
4 professionals out there who can do the same thing. ^{Page | 86}

5 Did we just hand out another contract
6 because we like somebody?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't answer that
8 question.

9 I wasn't here.

10 VALERIE LAMPE: I understand but what you
11 can do - -

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will do RFP's on all
13 contracts going out.

14 VALERIE LAMPE: Going forward, I know, but
15 what you can do, you can table this the way it was
16 tabled in January.

17 Why was it tabled in January?

18 Mr. Ra, why was this tabled?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe it is
20 prospective for services going forward, the
21 language - -

22 VALERIE LAMPE: It was not. It was
23 services dating back in August, so, why was this
24 tabled?

25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The language in the

1 Resolution was misleading.

2 The Supervisor is correct.

3 The language in the Resolution was
4 misleading.

5 VALERIE LAMPE: Which language was
6 misleading?

7 Because I looked it up.

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The language as to
9 whether or not it applied to the 2017 or 2018.

10 VALERIE LAMPE: I have copies of that.

11 I don't find any differences in the
12 language.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is why it was
14 tabled.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You are
16 commenting on what happened - -

17 COMMISSIONER: Good Morning, Members of the
18 Board, um, with regard to 211 waivers, um, this is
19 a standard practice in law enforcement agencies
20 throughout the State of New York.

21 They are investigators who are retired law
22 enforcement agents and, therefore, have proper
23 training to engage as investigators.

24 This is a standard practice for 211 waivers
25 for retired law enforcement personnel as

1 Investigators.

2 The D.A uses them. The State Attorney
3 General uses them.

4 Um, the Town Attorney is correct, there was ^{Page | 88}
5 some confusion on the Resolution, when it was
6 first presented.

7 This is for the efforts of my former Deputy
8 Joan Enright, who is - - who has been in the 211
9 process over the years.

10 She was my Deputy for fifteen or twenty
11 years.

12 These are the efforts we put out in 2017 to
13 get 211 waivers for these two investigators.

14 We did get them for 2017.

15 VALERIE LAMPE: I know what the 211 was but
16 I am out of time - -

17 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
18 After, the following ensued.)

19 VALERIE LAMPE: Can I ask him questions
20 afterwards, like on a sidebar or something because
21 the truth is that was not my question.

22 I am aware now of what the 211 waiver is
23 and that was not what I was asking.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He will be happy to
25 answer your questions.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 VALERIE LAMPE: Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Diane Madden.

3 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden, East Meadow.

4 Items 16 and 17, could some one explain to ^{Page | 89}
5 me, um, in further detail.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is - - at the last
7 Board Meeting, Ms. Giris, I believe, brought up
8 bills that were never paid from last year, so,
9 this is taking care of paying the bills that were
10 not paid last year, from last year's budget.

11 So, we are going to pay the people that
12 should have been paid last year.

13 DIANE MADDEN: Could you, please, tell me
14 how far back these invoices date?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy, thank you.

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, yes, last
17 Town Board, these two, um, off-site veterinary
18 services, Central Veterinarian and Port
19 Veterinarian, the Town Board passed a Resolution
20 to encumber for the calendar year, '18, specific
21 amounts for their services.

22 And, at that point, what was raised is that
23 there were some outstanding bills in '17 that had
24 not been paid.

25 My office, then, researched that, had a

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 meeting with Members of the Animal Shelter,
2 particularly those Members who, um, basically, did
3 administrative work.

4 They were under the understanding that they ^{Page | 90}
5 would hold back the invoices and pay them in '18.

6 So, there was a misunderstanding on their
7 part.

8 We straightened it out and what these two
9 Resolutions do, they amend the prior Resolutions
10 so as to increase not to exceed payment, so, as
11 particularly to pay these bills, any bills will be
12 charged and accounted for in 2017, appropriately.

13 So, with regard to how far back they go, I
14 believe they go back as far as August of '17.

15 I am also told from Member of the Animal
16 Shelter that Dr. Sing did reach out to each one of
17 these entities and he was assured - - he assured
18 them that they would be paid, that there was a
19 process to pay them and the process would take
20 some time.

21 They assured him that no way would services
22 be interrupted.

23 And, I am also told services were not
24 interrupted.

25 DIANE MADDEN: So, are you suggesting that

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Ms. Giris was lying to the Board when she said
2 that a dog died on a transport when the dog was
3 denied service at one of these Vets because the
4 bills were not paid?

Page | 91

5 COMPROLLER CONROY: I am not suggesting
6 that at all.

7 What I am telling you, what was told to me
8 by those in the Animal Shelter that champion this
9 cause.

10 I was told in no uncertain terms were, they
11 were not interrupted.

12 As far as the dog passing, they had no
13 knowledge of that whatsoever.

14 DIANE MADDEN: Who told you that?

15 COMPROLLER CONROY: Members of the Animal
16 Shelter, particularly, the accounting
17 representative, I believe, her name is Christ and
18 the Director is Mike Pastore.

19 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, so, Chris told you
20 there was no interruption of any medical service?

21 COMPROLLER CONROY: Both Members told me
22 that.

23 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, thank you.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Rich Schurin.

25 RICHARD SCHURIN: Richard Schurin. 167

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Jefferson Avenue, Island Park, New York.

2 I would just like to thank you,
3 Councilwoman Erin King-Sweeney for Resolution
4 Number 19, the agreement between the Town of
5 Hempstead and Long Beach School District with
6 regard to the use of the Lido Golf Course and, um,
7 Alex, your Aide, that, you know, something had to
8 be done and continue the tradition and you came
9 through and I thank you for that.

Page | 92

10 And, um, I ask other Members of the Board
11 to, please, move that Resolution to continue the
12 relationship between the Town and the golf teams
13 at Long Beach High School.

14 My son, being a member, I appreciate that.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is his handicap?

16 RICHARD SCHURIN: Seven, not bad, right?

17 It is about ten better than mine.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: About fifteen better
19 than mine.

20 RICHARD SCHURIN: He is good and I am happy
21 he will continue with the team.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: He plays for Long
23 Beach?

24 RICHARD SCHURIN: Right.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: My Dad played for

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Long Beach, a big fan of Long Beach.

2 RICHARD SCHURIN: Yeah, it has a sports
3 tradition and the relationship between the golf
4 team and the Town, the golf courses is very long. ^{Page | 93}

5 I encourage you, if you can, speak to
6 whoever is managing it to continue the formal
7 relationship, but, also, continue the personal
8 relationship to, you know, they can maintain that
9 good relationship.

10 I, thank you.

11 And, with respect, I have a question with
12 respect to Item Number 31, it is an amendment of a
13 prior Resolution, I believe I looked at the
14 Resolution, there is no description of what it is
15 about.

16 I just wondered if it is possible to get a
17 short - - what is being amended there?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon will speak
19 to that.

20 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: As the Board is
21 aware, this is a standard Resolution on each Town
22 Board Calendar and, basically, it just covers the
23 personnel adjustments.

24 It modifies the Department's budgets from
25 the original January 1st.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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RICHARD SCHURIN: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Rori Gordon.

RORI GORDON: Good Afternoon. Rori Gordon,
Hauppauge, New York.

Page | 94

I was just wondering if someone could walk me through the process of a Chapter 90.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, Commissioner, maybe you can come up.

My understanding, Mr. Ra and correct me if I am wrong, certain times building are unsafe and our Building Department will come in and perform services and make the building safe and then, we put them on the assessment to make up the cost, is that correct?

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is correct.

RORI GORDON: Can we get a little more detail than that?

Last week there was a house on Bresky (as heard) Lane, what was the outcome of that, last week - - I am sorry, two weeks ago?

COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Afternoon, Supervisor, Members of the Town Board:

That Resolution was to demolish a one and a half story, wood frame dwelling with attached garage.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 We received complaints about this property
2 for years and we had our engineering firm, along
3 with our Code Enforcement Officers go out and do a
4 structural analysis and determine that this house ^{Page | 95}
5 needed to come down.

6 RORI GORDON: Was it boarded up prior to
7 that?

8 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes, it was.

9 RORI GORDON: Okay, so, it was boarded up
10 prior to doing, um, the engineering firm coming
11 out?

12 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Correct, when we
13 boarded it up prior to that, when we boarded it
14 up, it was boarded up for a couple of years and
15 over that time period, the structure deteriorated
16 to the point where it needed to come down.

17 RORI GORDON: Okay, it is the
18 responsibility to board up the houses?

19 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Currently, that is
20 on the calendar, yes.

21 RORI GORDON: Because I no longer see
22 Cashin in today's situation or are those just the
23 engineering companies?

24 Is it still Cashin or is it something else?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: No, it is still
2 Cashin.

3 What today's Resolution, Number 9 is for
4 the engineering company Cashin and Associates. Page | 96

5 RORI GORDON: How do you determine which
6 engineering company you use?

7 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We put out an RFP,
8 I believe, it was two years ago and, um, we
9 selected this engineering company.

10 RORI GORDON: You only use one?

11 COMMISSISONER ROTTKAMP: We only have one,
12 correct.

13 RORI GORDON: Okay, what is Environmental
14 Management?

15 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Environmental
16 Management is the asbestos - - we have to
17 determine if there is asbestos before we knock
18 down a house, so, they will come out and do an
19 asbestos report.

20 If there is asbestos, it has to be removed,
21 legally.

22 RORI GORDON: So, every house that you
23 knock down, you have an engineering report done
24 and asbestos report done?

25 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is correct.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 RORI GORDON: Um, big moneymaker for those
2 two companies, that is very interesting.

3 Okay, and ultimately, um, who decides who
4 does the demolition on the house? Page | 97

5 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Again, the Town
6 puts out a contract and I believe it was about two
7 or three years ago and one company that won it, it
8 was out by bid.

9 RORI GORDON: It goes out by bid?

10 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Correct.

11 RORI GORDON: Are we talking about each
12 individual project goes for bid?

13 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: No, we put out a
14 bid, um, a couple years ago for an asbestos
15 company, a demolition company, a boarded-up
16 company, this was all publicly bid and the lowest
17 bidders were accepted.

18 And, it is a five-year contract, so, all
19 these people keep for five years and they do
20 whatever we need.

21 RORI GORDON: I am sure - - Mr. Schwartz,
22 does he not know the answer that you have to coach
23 him?

24 MR. SCHWARTZ: No, no, it is not coaching
25 him.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 RORI GORDON: I am just checking.

2 Okay, um, my other question is when the
3 demolition is done, how do you decide on who does
4 the demolition? Page | 98

5 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Again, it is by the
6 contract that was preapproved by the Town Board,
7 after a bid several years ago.

8 Sometime what we will do if a project comes
9 in, where the asbestos is too high, sometimes we
10 bid on one specific location, but for the most
11 part, for the emergency contractors, all of our
12 bids are done by LEG who is a bid.

13 RORI GORDON: Well, that is not true,
14 because I found two other contractors that do the
15 work.

16 Here is what I don't understand, you are
17 saying it goes out for bid, is that correct?

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It was put out to
19 bid, correct.

20 RORI GORDON: All the houses that got
21 knocked down go out to bid?

22 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is not what I
23 said.

24 What I said is the company that we have on
25 contract was put out to bid and, then, either

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 those contractors will do it or if for some reason
2 we put one - - specifically, they don't do it, we
3 will put out another bid for one specific
4 location.

Page | 99

5 If we feel the price is too high, we will
6 put it out, again.

7 RORI GORDON: I am talking about strictly
8 demolition.

9 I am not talking about asbestos.

10 I am not talking about anything but
11 demolition.

12 How do you determine who gets the
13 demolition jobs?

14 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Again, depending on
15 the price, if the price comes in too high, we will
16 put it out to bid and that will depend on the
17 amount of material that is inside the home because
18 that all has to be carted away.

19 RORI GORDON: And, how do we get the
20 numbers on these things, you know?

21 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It is all put on
22 Town Board Resolutions.

23 RORI GORDON: No, all we get are the final
24 numbers on the Town Board Resolution.

25 How do we know how much it costs to car it

1 away?

2 Isn't that a separate bill that goes, you
3 know to - - the vendor brings it in, how does
4 that work - - I am trying to get an education on Page | 100
5 how it works.

6 I am not quite following it.

7 I got asbestos. I get that part. I get
8 the boarding up. I get that part. I am not quite
9 sure how you decide on who knocks down the house
10 and how it is determined to be an emergency
11 situation to knock the house down.

12 Can you explain that to me?

13 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Again, the way it
14 is determined, the Code Enforcement Officer will
15 be looking at the house.

16 When they feel it is structurally unsafe,
17 what we will do is go out with our engineering
18 firm and, then, they will provide us with the
19 report and state, yes, they agree with us or no
20 and every time they have agreed with us because
21 the houses are in bad shape.

22 RORI GORDON: Okay. I am sorry, I am just
23 not clear.

24 When it is a contract for securing a
25 demolition, shouldn't they all go out for contract

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 or are you saying there is a contract already in
2 place?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me, if I can
4 weight on this.

Page | 101

5 Commissioner, there are a lot of contracts,
6 a lot of houses that we demolish, correct?

7 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: No, that is not
8 correct.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We either correct it
10 or then we demolish it.

11 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We do a lot of
12 house boarding up.

13 Every one that we have demolished, it has
14 come before the Town Board.

15 RORI GORDON: When it comes before the Town
16 Board - - you are very annoying.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me a second,
18 excuse me a second, they are trying to help you.

19 The Commissioner doesn't know every little
20 thing that goes on in the Building Department,
21 like that, will you have some patience and be
22 courteous to them.

23 They are trying to help you. They are
24 trying to get you answers.

25 RORI GORDON: Yeah, you are right, he can't

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 know everything because he doesn't fit the
2 qualifications.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is an issue you
4 brought up, here, before, but, right, now, we are ^{Page | 102}
5 trying to answer your questions.

6 RORI GORDON: But, I want to see how much
7 he knows, so, I know.

8 Eight hundred and fifty thousand people are
9 being taken care of, don't you think that is fair?
10 Isn't that part of your job?

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am very satisfied
12 with the answers that I get from the Building
13 Department and I call them frequently with a lot
14 of constituent complaints and the answers I get.

15 I am very happy with them and on the rare
16 occasion where I don't think they are doing a good
17 job, I am very happy to tell them but that is a
18 rare occasion.

19 RORI GORDON: Do you know who Michael
20 Utweiser (phonetic spelling) is?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do I know who?

22 RORI GORDON: Michael Utweiser (phonetic
23 spelling), he has been around a long time.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, I don't.

25 RORI GORDON: Why is the clock ticking

1 when he talks?

2 Michael Utweiser was a 19 year old boy who
3 was walking down the street in Bellmore and the
4 Town of Hempstead did not do their job and a
5 building fell down and killed him.

6 Why?

7 Because the Inspectors didn't do their job.

8 There are a lot going on in this Building
9 Department that I just don't understand.

10 I do a lot of FOIL-ing. Everybody knows I
11 spend a lot of time there.

12 God knows they know me on a first-name
13 basis.

14 If I don't uncover what is going on, you
15 guys aren't.

16 You guys are busy.

17 You all got to do what you got to do.

18 There are a lot of things. On day someone else is
19 going to die and it is going to make you look very
20 bad, okay, that is Number 1.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: In my experience,
22 whether it be myself or any Member of this Board,
23 if anybody, any constituents, any residents, any
24 taxpayer brought to our attention anything that
25 had anything to do with public safety or public

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 health, whatever Department was responsible, so,
2 if it comes to our attention, whether it is
3 Dorothy Goosby.

4 It could be Erin King-Sweeney, Anthony
5 D'Esposito, Dennis Dunne, it could be the
6 Supervisor, herself or Ambrosino, whenever there
7 was a public safety or public health issue and it
8 was brought to out attention, we made sure it got
9 the attention of the various departments.

10 So, that is my experience, but, anyway,
11 what I am trying to say is they are trying to help
12 you, so, let them confer if they have to give you
13 the right answers.

14 RORI GORDON: So, are you saying it is a
15 complaint-drive department?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, can I tell you
17 something.

18 I believe that all our departments have to
19 be proactive but, it is the largest Township in
20 America.

21 If it was called a "City" instead of a
22 "Town" it would be the second largest City in the
23 State, second only to New York City.

24 So, yes, there is a lot of things going on
25 in the Town, but, we can't know about everything.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 So, we rely on constituents to tell us if
2 there is a problem in their particular community,
3 so, we can remedy it.

Page | 105

4 RORI GORDON: So, let me ask you a
5 question, based on what Commissioner Rottkamp has
6 just told us, the homes that get demolished, they
7 don't go out for bid, is that correct?

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The homes don't.
9 There is a bid with a contracting company to
10 demolish the homes, that is correct.

11 RORI GORDON: Is that correct? That is not
12 what you said.

13 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I said a bid was
14 put out several years ago for a demolition
15 company.

16 They are already on contract, so, we use
17 them for emergencies.

18 Um, anytime if we get a call right, now,
19 for a fire or anything like that, we have to knock
20 something down, I don't have time to come back to
21 the Town Board and hire a demo company - -

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I say something,
23 you are not understanding the difference.

24 There are circumstances where when we do
25 something as a Town, there is a bid that goes out

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 and an RFP that goes out for each and every item,
2 what they have is a contract that has been
3 approved by this Board that gives the Commissioner
4 the right to go out and on an emergency basis so ^{Page | 106}
5 they don't have to wait two weeks to come to the
6 Town Board to do things like board up or
7 ameliorate any kind of hazard, any kind of safety
8 issue.

9 That is a standard contract. Every
10 municipality in the State has a similar contract
11 to go out on an emergency, but that contract was
12 approved and their fee schedule was approved by
13 this Board.

14 RORI GORDON: Now, okay, so, Wheelan, is
15 that considered an emergency?

16 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It is an emergency,
17 yes, okay, but it is not a critical emergency
18 where it is going to collapse any second.

19 RORI GORDON: Okay, when you are going to
20 use a person, are you going to put it out for a
21 bid?

22 Is it an emergency situation?

23 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That probably will
24 be going out to H & G.

25 What we have to do, we have to go inside

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 to determine how much debris is inside, as the
2 Councilman said, he is correct, when we put out
3 the contract, it is specific on cubic feet.

4 We need to know how big the house is, so, ^{Page | 107}
5 we know how much their fee is.

6 However, when the house is filled to
7 capacity with garbage and debris on top of it,
8 that needs to be carted away.

9 It is additional costs.

10 It is additional material. If, at that
11 time, we don't feel that the contractor in place
12 has given us a correct price, then, I will go out
13 individually to bid that project.

14 RORI GORDON: Why do I not see that bid in
15 front of that Town Board?

16 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: This contract,
17 today is to pay the engineering.

18 RORI GORDON: Not this contract.

19 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is what we are
20 talking about.

21 RORI GORDON: I am trying to determine,
22 now, the demolition contract that was last week,
23 we are talking about all these contracts.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are talking about
25 what is on the Administrative Calendar.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 In terms of your other questions, I am sure
2 Mr. Rottkamp would be happy to answer you on a
3 sidebar.

4 RORI GORDON: Wouldn't you like to know ^{Page | 108} the
5 demolitions, how they work?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are working on the
7 Administrative Calendar, now, so, to the extent
8 your questions on this Calendar is what we are
9 talking about.

10 RORI GORDON: Can I read the Code? It
11 says, "except in emergencies as provided in 19-15
12 of this Chapter, any contract for the servicing
13 and making safe of the demolition and removal of
14 the building in excess of five thousand dollars
15 shall be awarded through competitive bidding."

16 I have seen these resolutions, does this
17 competitive bidding exists? It doesn't.

18 Okay, that is the problem.

19 Do you not agree with me, at least, on
20 that?

21 No, okay, why?

22 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Because the
23 competitive bid was done.

24 A competitive bid went out. It was sent
25 out by Purchasing.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 We got all the demo companies to bid on it
2 and we accepted the lowest bidder.

3 RORI GORDON: Okay, I will bring the rest
4 of my documents next time. Page | 109

5 Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next, we have Lucille
7 Defina.

8 LUCILLE DEFINA: Good Afternoon. I would
9 like to talk about Items 16 and 17.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Could you just state
11 your name and address for the record?

12 LUCILLE DEFINA: Lucille Defina, Merrick.

13 Um, so, what I would like to understand is
14 the back money that was not paid, are we
15 understanding that Pastore and Caprese decided not
16 to pay them, to withhold payment for emergency pet
17 care?

18 Am I understanding that correctly?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy, could you
20 answer that?

21 This predates my time on the Board.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Could you, please,
23 repeat the question.

24 LUCILLE DEFINA: What basis did they
25 withhold payment for almost a year on the two

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 current contracted Vets, emergency Vets?

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: First of all, it is
3 not almost a year.

4 As I stated earlier, the first invoice that ^{Page | 110}
5 was not paid timely was in August.

6 They discussed it with Dr. Sing, (as heard)
7 as I mentioned earlier, reached out to both of
8 those entities and said, "Look, there is a process
9 to get you paid in government."

10 There is a Town Board Resolution, whereby,
11 not to exceed a certain amount. We have reached
12 that scope.

13 LUCILLE DEFINA: Um - -

14 COMPROLLER CONROY: Let me finish, so, I
15 can clear it up.

16 LUCILLE DEFINA: You are going in a totally
17 wrong direction, already.

18 COMPROLLER CONROY: Okay, I am sorry.

19 LUCILLE DEFINA: You said Dr. Sing (as
20 heard) reached out to them, first of all, he is
21 our contracted Vet, correct?

22 He is not even our inside Vet.

23 When did he reach out to them, now,
24 recently or in August?

25 In August, did he say, we are not paying

1 you?

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: Approximately, around
3 the time they became aware that the Resolution was
4 about to exceed the amount and it was said,
5 "listen, we can't get these paid timely."

Page | 111

6 At that point, he reached out, that would
7 have been - - subject to check, somewhere around
8 the neighborhood of August of 2017.

9 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, so, they knew the
10 rest of the year, the balance of the year, they
11 would work without payment because they trusted
12 the Town and Dr. Sing, that they would be paid
13 after the process was done?

14 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

15 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay.

16 COMPROLLER CONROY: To quote Mr. Pastore,
17 who was quoting Dr. Sing, the response Dr. Sing
18 got when he made mention to the fact that these
19 two entities would not be paid timely, they had
20 mentioned that, "fine," this is a quote that I
21 got.

22 And, as it turned out, they did not get
23 paid in a timely fashion.

24 They are about to be paid after this Town
25 Board does, in fact, approve that Resolution, that

1 no animal was turned away.

2 There was no interruption of service and
3 there was no death of a dog, from what I was told.

4 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, I am not even going ^{Page | 112}
5 to touch on that because as always with the Animal
6 Shelter issue, there is two different stories all
7 the time.

8 So, it is the people who are telling the
9 truth.

10 The people who are lying against the
11 people, I don't know, I don't want to discuss
12 that.

13 What I am trying to figure out, as far as,
14 contract veterinarians, I think it is kind of
15 strange that a contract veterinarian would discuss
16 this with other contracted veterinarians.

17 I mean, why does - - I think that is odd.

18 The other thing is what about other
19 contracted Vets?

20 This Shelter year after year had an
21 abundance of contracted Vets, such as, Island
22 Trees, Baldwin Animal Hospital, Hilton, numerous
23 Vets, what happened to them?

24 Did we stop renewing their contracts?

25 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can only speak to

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 the particulars regarding 16 and 17, as it
2 pertains to these off-site veterinarian hospitals.

3 That you will have to take up with the
4 vendors at the Animal Shelter.

Page | 113

5 LUCILE DEFINA: Am I able to get an answer
6 on this?

7 Do we no longer - - have we stopped?

8 I know this is before you, but, you should
9 know that we had an abundance of contracted
10 veterinarians for the Animal Shelter.

11 Is that no longer the case?

12 Do we, now, only have two contracted Vets
13 and solely for the purpose of emergency Vets?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are putting out a
15 bunch of RFP's for the Animal Shelter.

16 I went through my whole laundry list of
17 what we are doing.

18 LUCILLE DEFINA: I know, I am asking you a
19 question.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right, now, we are
21 talking about the items on the Administrative
22 Calendar.

23 We are trying to move through the
24 Administrative Calendar and, then, we will get to
25 Public Comments.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 So, I think - - anymore questions about
2 the items, specifically, on the Administrative
3 Calendar?

4 LUCILLE DEFINA: The other thing is we are ^{Page | 114}
5 issuing a check to this Porter Veterinarian, which
6 everyone was very concerned and upset about.

7 Valerie spoke to someone in your
8 administration.

9 He assured her that Porter not exist and it
10 was a typo, is that correct?

11 Because, here it is.

12 It appears, again, in this paperwork. It
13 appears in your Resolution and it is clear, here,
14 looks like you are issuing a check to Porter
15 Veterinarian.

16 And, it does not exist. So, can I get
17 clarification on that.

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: If you read the
19 Resolution - -

20 LUCILLE DEFINA: It says, d/b/a, doing
21 business as.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Right.

23 LUCILLE DEFINA: What is that about?

24 Because if you speak to New York Specialty
25 Veterinarian, they said they never heard of Porter

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Animal Hospital.

2 So, if you research it - -

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have a W-9, in my
4 office, which is a disclosure memorializing what ^{Page | 115}
5 is exactly in this Resolution.

6 (Whereupon, "no way, I am sorry, I am going
7 to pull one of these," was called out from the
8 audience. After, the following ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, you can't
10 call out from the gallery.

11 (Whereupon, "can I come up, like they do,"
12 was heard called out by Valerie Lamp. After, the
13 following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can't come up
15 right, now. Let Mr. Conroy finish and, then, you
16 can speak out.

17 (Whereupon, "no way," was heard calling out
18 from Valerie Lampe. After, the following ensued.)

19 COMPTROLLER CONROY: If there is an error,
20 we will do our due diligence, that the correct
21 entity is paid.

22 LUCILLE DEFINA: Why would Mitch tell
23 Valerie that it was a typo?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't know. I can't
25 speak to that.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 And, we were relived about that because since
2 the last Town Board Meeting, what you are talking
3 about, if I understand you correctly, is a
4 specific name of the entity that we are about to
5 disburse money at.

Page | 116

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

7 LUCILLE DEFINA: Yeah.

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Come back to my office
9 and I will make sure we correct it and the amounts
10 that will be disbursed are disbursed to the entity
11 that exists.

12 LUCILLE DEFINA: Well, I think that is
13 important.

14 I looked at other Resolutions.

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I will go back to my
16 office and make sure.

17 We will correct it and that the amounts
18 that will be disbursed are disbursed to the entity
19 that exists.

20 LUCILLE DEFINA: Well, I think that is
21 important.

22 I looked at other Resolutions.

23 If we disbursed it to an entity that
24 doesn't exists, it is a problem.

25 What about if it was an entity that was

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 just put into play, a division that was put
2 together a few months ago, I mean what if?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: I will go back and
4 make sure (A) that entity exists and the correct Page | 117
5 name is what is in our system to appropriately cut
6 that check to that entity that, in fact, rendered
7 the service.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, I am clear, do we
9 know whether this is the correct entity on Item
10 17?

11 COMPROLLER CONROY: Now, that it is
12 brought up, it is subject to check.

13 Do, I know that for sure?

14 Have I seen the actual W-9, if you will?

15 I have not. I am told there is one on
16 file, now, that I am, now, I will check it out
17 making sure.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You have information
19 that it is not the correct entity?

20 LUCILLE DEFINA: Again, I am the middle
21 person, that is why she wanted to come up and
22 speak.

23 We found out that New York Specialty Vet
24 had no knowledge, never heard of the name.

25 There is some Porter Animal or Veterinarian

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 on the Internet that was something that opened up
2 and was closed down, some kind of LLC.

3 There was plenty of reason to doubt or
4 worry about.

Page | 118

5 They even had bad, negative reviews.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Forget that.

7 LUCILLE DEFINA: I know it seems that it
8 was an entity that opened and closed.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe what you were
10 told was that the entity that was identified on
11 the contract and on the invoices, but if there is
12 some doubt whether or not we are paying the
13 correct entity, we could do a name search, you
14 know, on New York State Department of Corporations
15 to make sure this is, in fact, a licensed, what
16 the correct name, is that right, Mr. Ra?

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The - -

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The disclosure that
19 we have indicates that Porter owns that.

20 LUCILLE DEFINA: They do not. She knows
21 more of that.

22 VALERIE LAMPE: I can fix this in thirty
23 seconds.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Come up.

25 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay, very simple, the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Department of State does have Porter Veterinarian
2 Clinic online, however, I spoke to a Forensic
3 C.P.A. partner of a large firm, Global and that
4 company is defuncted. Page | 119

5 I called a listed number for it, it is a
6 completely different Vet Clinic located in
7 Manhattan.

8 I brought this to your attention,
9 Supervisor Gillen and Mr. Ra and your department
10 and I also called the veterinarian clinic, that is
11 the d/b/a on the Resolution and they don't know
12 anything about Porter.

13 So, a check should not be cut to - -

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who did you speak to?

15 LUCILLE DEFINA: The manager in the
16 Farmingdale location, um, which is the actual
17 contract.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Did the manager who
19 owns it - -

20 LUCILLE DEFINA: The parent company of the
21 d/b/a is Pet Vet.

22 It is not Porter, so, to cut a check to
23 Porter.

24 I don't know who owns it.

25 My googling came up with a name.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 I can't find the guy anywhere.

2 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.

3 After, the following ensued.)

4 LUCILLE DEFINA: I am just letting you know Page | 120

5 the check should not be cut to the d/b/a Porter.

6 I don't know how Porter made it back on the
7 Resolution.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe that is the
9 entity that sent us invoices, is that correct?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is correct.

11 VALERIE LAMPE: No, according to Mr.
12 Fautnick (as heard) who had a copy of the - -
13 where is he?

14 Mr. Fautnick (as heard) you have a copy of
15 the actual invoice in your hand when we spoke,
16 right?

17 MR. FAUTNICK: I don't have the invoices
18 with me. We spoke with you on the phone a week
19 and a half ago.

20 VALERIE LAMPE: And, the invoice was coming
21 from the d/b/a located in Farmingdale, correct,
22 not Porter.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think we can all
24 agree we want to pay the people who rendered
25 services - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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VALERIE LAMPE: Right.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: But we can find out who rendered the services last year and make sure we pay the right people.

Can we take care of that, please.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, Councilman Ambrosino googled it while we were having the discussion and they are, in fact, in operation - -

VALERIE LAMPE: No, they are not.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - In business.

VALERIE LAMPE: No, they are not. No, they are not.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is what the Internet says.

VALERIE LAMPE: The Department of State does not have the most up-to-date information. I have a d/b/a which was rendered prior to incorporating, the Department shows the incorporation date as of two years ago, however, since then, they are completely defunct and they do not have any WEB site, any location, any phone number.

I am just saying, so, here is the bottom line; Porter does not exist.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 If you want to do a little more digging,
2 Mr. Ambrosino and more importantly, I think it is
3 very interesting that company found its way onto
4 the Resolution, twice and it is not the parent Page | 122
5 company of the d/b/a.

6 So, if you are going to cut a check, all we
7 want is them to get paid.

8 We want the emergency services to be
9 available.

10 Just pay the right institution.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, so, we have
12 some tax documents from this company.

13 We will make sure we will pay the right
14 people.

15 We want to pay the right people.

16 VALERIE LAMPE: That is what this is all
17 about.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, it says, "Porter
19 Veterinary Services, P.C."

20 VALERIE LAMPE: When is that dated?

21 They were established in November, 2015 and
22 they are out of business.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will look into it. I
24 have a taxpayer document right, here.

25 VALERIE LAMPE: What is it dated?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 They are not the parent company.

2 If you call the d/b/ in Farmingdale, they
3 will tell you their parent company is "Pet Vet."

4 And, they never heard of "Porter."

Page | 123

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, we look into it
6 and make sure.

7 VALERIE LAMPE: Okay, thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: They do exist and they
9 did services for us.

10 Next, I have Mary Ellen Kreye.

11 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye. 436
12 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

13 On Item Number 9, um, 774 Macon Place, has
14 that been boarded up, already and then it is being
15 charged for the services, is that correct?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, could you
17 ask the question, again?

18 MARY ELLEN KREYE: 774 Macon Place, has
19 that been boarded up and paying for the services,
20 is that correct?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner will
22 answer your question.

23 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Afternoon,
24 Supervisor, Council Members:

25 Yes, that is correct.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, my concern is this,
2 I believe this is the one that is owned by, um,
3 now, owned by Uniondale Community Land TRUST.

4 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I have to look at ^{Page | 124}
5 the form.

6 (Whereupon, "talk into the microphone," was
7 heard calling out. After, the following ensued.)

8 We did have some services done to the
9 property.

10 I don't know if it was before they took
11 title to the property, but, I know she has spoken
12 to Mr. Lipinski and will talk to her further about
13 numbers.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Do you know who is being
15 assessed for that thirteen hundred dollars,
16 please?

17 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It goes onto the
18 property taxes whoever is the current title owner
19 or taxpayer.

20 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I see, so, even if it
21 was done prior to, we are going to get stuck with
22 it?

23 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Unfortunately,
24 yeah, that is why the Town checks for violations,
25 um, I don't know if it came up on the tile report.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 It should have, unless it dates work out in
2 such a way he bought it before an open and
3 investigation.

4 I doubt it, but it does take a lot to
5 report it.

Page | 125

6 MARY ELLEN KREYE: That I am not aware of
7 it.

8 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We can look into
9 it.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I appreciate it. Thank
11 you.

12 Item Number 28, the certified pesticide
13 application, I am hoping that in the use of the
14 pesticides that we use the least environmentally
15 impact type of pesticides would be used, so that
16 they do not affect pollinators adversely.

17 Is there a kind of resolution or a, um, a
18 work process that requires the least environmental
19 impact, not to use those. I am not sure, leonics
20 or something that is so bad for the pollinators.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't tell you
22 exactly what pesticides we use.

23 I am not sure. There is an effort to be
24 environmentally conscious in the Town of
25 Hempstead.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 So, I can look into that for you.

2 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I appreciate that.

3 Thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Page | 126

5 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call - -

6 I didn't have a slip for you, are you on

7 the Administrative Calendar or Public Comment?

8 (Whereupon, "yeah, yeah, yeah," was heard

9 calling out. After, the following ensued.)

10 JIM ALCUS: Good Afternoon to the Town

11 Board. My name is Jim Alcus. 238 Broadway,

12 Amityville.

13 First, I would like to say, um, of the

14 Board, it is pretty nice to see the circus seems

15 to be over.

16 It is nice to see adults in a room, that is

17 the first thing I would like to say.

18 I would like to speak in reference to

19 Number 30, the investigators.

20 I will let you know that I support that one

21 hundred percent.

22 I think it is a great idea.

23 And, if you do get an unbiased

24 investigator, I suggest you have him contact me as

25 soon as possible.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 I actually have some extremely great raw
2 data because, um, I knew there was abuse of power
3 committed, here.

4 It is a serious cover up and fortunate for ^{Page | 127}
5 me, I have several friends in law enforcement,
6 myself, so, I was able to catch it and I have it.

7 I have a real good - - I have been
8 contemplating putting it on Youtube just to bet a
9 big laugh at about it because I am sure that the
10 officials that I had spoken with would really get
11 a shock about it all.

12 I got it from your Legal Department,
13 straight through your Building Department, so, if
14 I knew I had somebody I could really trust that I
15 know wouldn't sweep it under the carpet, I would
16 love to share it with them.

17 And, in reference to, um, what Mr. Blakeman
18 said about the Building Department, I have to
19 respectfully disagree with that statement.

20 I have, um, been attempting to deal with
21 them and it reminds me of the good old boys club,
22 somebody does something wrong and everybody else
23 just covers for him.

24 And, sadly, um, doing what I do for a
25 living, it has been sad to watch and I know there

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 are really good people, up, here and I know you
2 guys actually aren't in those particular
3 departments, but, it is just sad that when an
4 adult knows another adult was abusing somebody,
5 they don't do something about it.

Page | 128

6 They cover it up and that is really sad.

7 So, I would love to work with the gentleman
8 or woman or whoever you guys get and, um, you
9 should have them give me a call.

10 You guys have a nice day and I hope 30
11 passes.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

13 Madam Clerk, would you please call the roll
14 for Items - - I don't have a slip for you, Ms.
15 Mereday, for the Administrative Calendar.

16 META MEREDAY: I put some specific notes.
17 I didn't look at the Calendar until I walked in
18 the room because I had to circle to find a place
19 to park.

20 I am sorry, Meta Mereday, Baldwin. I was
21 told by the nice Security Guard that the pylon was
22 in front of the spot in the Visitors' Section
23 because it was someone coming to the Town Board.

24 I thought I was somebody coming to the Town
25 Board.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Um, so, anyway, I had to circle until a
2 nice gentleman directed me to the spot.

3 I generally like to be prepared.

4 But, some of the issues I want to bring up, Page | 129

5 I won't necessarily rehash what already has been
6 said except to say it is sad that it seems for the
7 taxes that we pay in this Township that it seems
8 we pay for the lack of oversight, misinformation
9 and misrepresentation, so, that is always
10 interesting to hear about.

11 Item 14, um, as it was said earlier, it
12 seems for some of the Members on the Board, that
13 all I do is "complain" and not offering anything
14 positive.

15 Here is a suggestion and idea, a free
16 thought, why not consider passing out a flyer,
17 since this will be part of a salute, a Veterans
18 event that would highlight, maybe highlight some
19 of the actual achievements or things that happened
20 in the Township for Veterans and to update the
21 Veteran Community about some of the things that
22 they are entitled to.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think that is a good
24 idea.

25 META MEREDAY: Thank you. I just want to

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 make sure that is on the record, that I don't
2 complain, I advocate and, then, I try to address
3 it with solutions.

4 Number 17, I am just hoping, again, that
5 issue gets taken care of and that sad to say, I am
6 pretty sure this is not an isolated incident with
7 this documentation, so, if you are talking about
8 investigating and auditing, we really need to do a
9 better job on all the contracts because taxpayers
10 are really getting up in arms with what is
11 happening.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Ms. Mereday, right,
13 now, the great weight of the evidence that it is
14 proper from everything that we have looked at.

15 If, for some reason, it is not proper,
16 someone has perpetrated a fraud on the Town and
17 believe me, if someone perpetrates a fraud on the
18 Town, I think I can speak for all my colleagues,
19 we will follow that wherever it goes and they will
20 pay the consequences.

21 META MEREDAY: Okay, does that include if
22 it goes to a chain of family members, close
23 friends, relative?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wherever it goes, I
25 will be an advocate and I am sure my colleagues,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 as well, but I will be the advocate if there was
2 any subterfuge or any fraud perpetrated on the
3 Town, on the taxpayers, but, right, now, the great
4 weight of the evidence is that it was proper.

Page | 131

5 META MEREDAY: Okay, I just find it
6 interesting when we are told as residents to bring
7 these issue to the table and I am hoping and I am
8 standing on your word because I have known you for
9 a number of years, I am standing on your word that
10 you will see this through, even for us, past
11 history.

12 Item 22 and Item 23, I do want to commend
13 Councilwoman Goosby, as well as the Supervisor's
14 staff and I know I have had some discussions with
15 some people, including Members from Councilwoman
16 Erin King-Sweeny's Office with regard to the
17 celebration of the African American History Month,
18 so, I do want to compliment the Town on that
19 occasion.

20 With regard to - - I am sorry, you are
21 shaking your head, Councilwoman, do you not want
22 to take, you don't want to acknowledge I am
23 thanking you and giving appreciation?

24 I am just trying to be clear - -

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I didn't do

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 the program.

2 META MEREDAY: You didn't do the program,
3 okay.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Page | 132

5 META MEREDAY: Accept a compliment,
6 everybody on the Town Board.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We try to be, thank you
8 very much.

9 META MEREDAY: Okay, and I did find it
10 interesting there was a focus on Veterans and I
11 think for whomever had gotten some advance notice
12 and, again, Councilman Dunne, I didn't get advance
13 notice. I got notice about the event and since I
14 am a person of color and proud of that heritage, I
15 do try to participate at events of that nature.

16 I did not get notice that there was going
17 to be such a strong Veteran component to that
18 program.

19 So, I think, again, that we really need to
20 incorporate all of the resources and individuals
21 who do stand up for those particular
22 constituencies being involved with that so, thanks
23 to whomever was involved.

24 On Item 31, and I am probably going to
25 follow up, I guess that channel with, um, Felix

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 Procacci because he is much more astute with all
2 of that.

3 But, it just seems to me that these types
4 of items kind of get tucked in here when we are Page | 133
5 talking about amending Resolutions for various
6 offices and things of that nature and I am just
7 hoping that I don't have to do the due diligence
8 and dig up the research to find out that there are
9 more confidential assistants and things of that
10 nature that are being assigned to various
11 positions.

12 Because we seem to pay in the Township
13 salaries that the taxpayers couldn't even support
14 to pay for these houses that they are running out
15 of in the middle of the night.

16 And, in conclusion, like everyone, I will
17 try to be timely for a change.

18 I just want to say there are those
19 instances where the information is provided and I
20 am so happy that there are other residents here
21 who are as vigilant as we need to be and for the
22 staff that is paid to work with the Township as
23 they need to be to make sure that our tax dollars
24 are being spent more wisely, particularly with
25 Item 18 because I also had questions about

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

1 what time of coaching and that type of thing.

2 We need to address that and incorporate the
3 views of our residents.

4 And, to the point where I don't provide Page | 134
5 information and solutions and ideas, um, that is
6 not true.

7 I provide information to whoever contacts
8 me from the Board, particularly staff people from
9 Councilwoman King-Sweeney's Office.

10 I did provide information to some of your
11 staff members, Supervisor Gillen and I haven't
12 gotten any response back.

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

15 META MEREDAY: So, it is kind of hard to
16 come before you and be told, yes, we welcome your
17 ideas and your input and things of that nature and
18 we see where our tax dollars are mis-spent and we
19 volunteer our own time and intellectual property
20 and we don't get the courtesy of a response.

21 So, I just wanted to put that out there and
22 thank you all very much.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

24 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
25 items on the Administrative Calendar, call the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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Roll.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

Page | 135

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: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

May I have a Motion to adjourn.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we
adjourn.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second.

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

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

(Whereupon, the official meeting of
the Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/6/18

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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 March 6, 2018, consisting of
pages 1 through 137 inclusive is an accurate
transcription of my cryptic notes.

Page | 137

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK