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**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

MARCH 20, 2018

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

**APPEARANCES :**

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

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COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

MAJORITY LEADER/COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY (ABSENT)

TOWN CLERK CABANA

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK SEDACCA

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 (Whereupon, a citation was presented and  
2 photos taken as Supervisor Gillen was joined by  
3 Councilman Dunne to honor Coach Paul Schmitt of  
4 Nassau Community College and the team. Coach Page | 3  
5 Schmitt has nine National Wrestling Team  
6 Championships, named District Coach of the Year,  
7 16 times and inducted to the National Wrestling  
8 Hall of Fame.)

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Welcome to the  
10 Hempstead Town Board Meeting. Today, we will have  
11 a Public Hearing Calendar, followed by the  
12 Administrative Calendar, then, after the Board  
13 will stay and listen to the concerns of the  
14 residents.

15 Madam Clerk, please, call the roll.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

24 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

3 Please, stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4 I ask Councilman Dunne to lead us in the Pledge. <sup>Page | 4</sup>

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Please, join me.

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

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Before we begin our  
10 Town Board Meeting, we have a participant in our  
11 Camp Anchor Program, Joseph Barbella (phonetic  
12 spelling).

13 He is a young man of eighteen years who has  
14 autism and he has left his home sometime between  
15 1:00 and 3:00 a.m. and is missing in Franklin  
16 Square.

17 Anybody that lives in Franklin Square area,  
18 I would ask you to, please, check your backyards,  
19 sheds, behind fences. It is imperative that we  
20 find this young man before the snow storm hits  
21 this evening.

22 So, anybody that is in that area, if you,  
23 please, be sure to check your backyards. He did  
24 go missing in February and we found him in between

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 two fences, but, after a long search, so, please,  
2 spread the word.

3 Okay, Madam Clerk, would you, please, call  
4 the first Public Hearing. Page | 5

5 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Buildings to  
6 demolish & remove the detached garage & remove all  
7 litter & debris from the property- Baldwin (2058  
8 Chestnut Avenue) west side of Chestnut Street, 50  
9 feet North of Harvard Avenue - Department of  
10 Buildings.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip from Rori  
12 Gordon.

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

15 Can we go through this step by step,  
16 specifically, ow these Chapter 90's work.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Morning,  
19 Supervisor, Members of the Town Board.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning, can you  
21 speak to this specific Public Hearing.

22 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We received a  
23 document about this property on July 25, 2017  
24 about a garage in disrepair, um, we continued to  
25 monitor it.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 At this point, the structure is in poor  
2 condition but, um, basically, the back of it is  
3 missing, ninety percent of the South roof is  
4 missing, the front door, the garage door is gone, <sup>Page | 6</sup>  
5 so, they had plywood securing it, to hold it in  
6 place.

7 I presented the Town Board with pictures of  
8 this so you are all aware of that and, um, the  
9 professional engineer on record, basically, states  
10 it has to come down.

11 RORI GORDON: Thank you.

12 Is that the whole garage or the whole  
13 building?

14 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: This is just the  
15 garage.

16 RORI GORDON: So, the building is in good  
17 shape is what you are saying?

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I am saying the  
19 building does not have to come down at this time.

20 RORI GORDON: Okay, and, um, I did not see  
21 - - it says, here, in the specifics on the WEB  
22 site, um, the "surveyor's recommendation is  
23 attached, hereto," where is it?

24 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: What is the  
25 question?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 RORI GORDON: Okay, Number 5, "no effort to  
2 correct the existing unsafe and dangerous  
3 condition has been made. It is requested that  
4 this Town Board render a decision for the premises<sup>Page | 7</sup>  
5 of unsafe and dangerous hazards and public  
6 nuisance and the Commissioner of Buildings  
7 forthwith demolish and remove detached garage and  
8 remove all litter and debris from the property."

9 It gives the location and says, "Town of  
10 Hempstead in accordance with surveyor's  
11 recommendations attached hereto," and that the  
12 "Town be reimbursed pursuant to Section 90-13 of  
13 the Code of the Town of Hempstead."

14 I couldn't find the attachment.

15 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It might not have  
16 been put online.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can get you a copy  
18 of that.

19 RORI GORDON: Okay, thank you.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,  
21 Commissioner.

22 RORI GORDON: Do you want me to speak on  
23 the rest of the things?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are on the first  
25 Public Hearing, do you have anything else

1 to say about this?

2 RORI GORDON: No, it has to do with Number  
3 2.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are only talking Page | 8  
5 about Number 1, right, now.

6 RORI GORDON: So, I should leave and come  
7 back, okay.

8 I am not sure how it goes. Okay, thanks.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
10 that would like to be heard on the first Public  
11 Hearing?

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

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

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that  
17 the Public Hearing be closed and accepted.

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

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

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

11 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of  
12 Buildings to demolish & remove the two-story wood  
13 frame mixed use building with detached two-car  
14 garage & remove all litter & debris from the  
15 property - Uniondale (615 Uniondale Avenue) east  
16 side of Uniondale Avenue, fifty feet south of  
17 Jaffa Avenue - Department of Buildings.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Gordon?

19 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New  
20 York.

21 In this particular situation, is this  
22 building coming down?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner.

24 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Morning,  
25 Supervisor, Members of the Town Board.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 Yes, this will be to take the building  
2 down.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor, I  
4 would like to tell you I visited this area. It <sup>Page | 10</sup>  
5 needs to be down a year ago.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Senior  
7 Councilwoman.

8 RORI GORDON: I would not disagree with  
9 you. I visited it, as well, thank you.

10 Um, can you tell me, approximately, how  
11 many Chapter 90's where the buildings come down a  
12 year?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can get you this  
14 information.

15 Right, now, we are only addressing Public  
16 Hearing Number 2.

17 We would like to supply you with that  
18 information after the Board Meeting.

19 RORI GORDON: Who is going to supply me  
20 with that information?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can speak to Matt  
22 Hynes is waiving his hand. Right over there and  
23 we will work together to try to get you whatever  
24 information you need.

25 RORI GORDON: What is the next

1 process with this building?

2 What happens next?

3 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: After it gets  
4 approved by the Town Board, we will have an  
5 asbestos test done to determine the asbestos and  
6 have the asbestos removed and we will, depending  
7 upon that test, have it demolished.

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8 RORI GORDON: Okay, and who determines who  
9 demolishes it?

10 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It is either (A) by  
11 a contractor that we have on record already or we  
12 will put it out to bid.

13 RORI GORDON: Okay, what is the contractor  
14 of record?

15 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Lou Riggerio.

16 RORI GORDON: Okay, thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. I also have  
18 Karen Migdal.

19 (WHEREUPON, "It is the next case I want to  
20 speak on," was heard yelling out from the  
21 audience. After, the following ensued.)

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
23 that wished to be heard on Public Hearing Number  
24 2?

25 (Whereupon, no response was heard.)

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 After, the following ensued.)

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

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor, <sup>Page | 12</sup>  
5 move that the Public Hearing be closed and we  
6 accept this.

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

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

10 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

21 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public  
22 Hearing.

23 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of  
24 Buildings to demolish & remove the one & one half  
25 story wood frame one-family dwelling with attached

1 garage & remove all litter & debris from the  
2 property - West Hempstead (528 Willow Street)  
3 South side of Willow Street, 134 feet west of Joan  
4 Court - Department of Buildings.

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Karen Migdal.

6 KAREN MIGDAL: Good Morning, Karen Migdal,  
7 M-I-G-D-A-L.

8 I am from the law firm of Stein, Weiner &  
9 Roth.

10 I represent the mortgagee on this property.  
11 We have been pursuing foreclosure actively since  
12 2016, in that we have reached, um, um, grant of  
13 order and reference and the numbers and figures  
14 have been presented to Supreme Court.

15 We are requesting a stay at this point  
16 because we are awaiting a signed Judgment of  
17 Foreclosure.

18 We do have active people interested in  
19 bringing the property down at private cost rather  
20 than at Town cost, but until I get a signature  
21 from a Justice, um, the, um, my client is not  
22 willing to go into the property at this point.

23 I have spoken with the Commissioner. I have  
24 spoken with the Town supervisor and the man who  
25 did the survey that submitted for your review

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 and we are asking for a stay at this point so we  
2 can proceed on our own rather than the Town paying  
3 the costs.

4 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Supervisor, Members <sup>Page | 14</sup>  
5 of the Town Board:

6 My recommendation is we proceed with the  
7 Hearing, today and give her time to work on this,  
8 this way in case it falls through, we have the  
9 ability to take care of it.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I recommend that we  
11 approve the measure, work with our Department of  
12 Buildings, the Commissioner and give you the time  
13 that you need to address this.

14 KAREN MIGDAL: Thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
16 that wishes to be heard on this item?

17 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New  
18 York.

19 I have the same question on this item. It  
20 also says on the WEB site, "that the Town of  
21 Hempstead in accordance with the surveyor's  
22 recommendations attached," and they are not  
23 attached.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will get you a copy  
25 of the survey.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 RORI GORDON: Okay and, um, when you say  
2 you will give these folks time, do you put a time  
3 limit on it?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is a reasonable  
5 period of time.

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6 RORI GORDON: What is considered,  
7 "reasonable?"

8 Anything is possible in the Town of  
9 Hempstead.

10 I thought reasonable in my litigation would  
11 be two years, we are into like six, that is why -  
12 - I am not trying to break your chops.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Typically give thirty  
14 to sixty days to correct the issues, is that  
15 correct, Commissioner?

16 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Correct.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thirty to sixty days,  
18 I mean if they are in the brink of getting a  
19 foreclosure action, and they are going to hire the  
20 contractor to do the work instead of us, you know,  
21 might extend, you know, a couple more weeks, but,  
22 we try to work with them if they are doing the  
23 right things and making progress.

24 RORI GORDON: Thank you, Councilman, I  
25 appreciate it.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
2 that would like to be heard on this Public  
3 Hearing?

4 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After, <sup>Page | 16</sup>  
5 the following ensued.)

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

8 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Madam Supervisor, I  
9 move the Public Hearing be closed and the petition  
10 be adopted.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

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

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

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

3 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
4 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in Hewlett, Page | 17  
5 North Merrick (To amend Section 202-1 of the Code  
6 of the Town of Hempstead)

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have no slips on this  
8 Hearing.

9 Is there anybody that wishes to be heard?  
10 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,  
11 the following ensued.)

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

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move to close the  
15 Hearing and adopt the item.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

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 3/20/18**

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

4 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public <sup>Page | 18</sup>  
5 Hearing.

6 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
7 "Arterial Stops" in near Westbury (To amend  
8 Section 197-5 of the Code of the Town of  
9 Hempstead)

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have no slips on this  
11 Public Hearing.

12 Is there anybody that wishes to be heard?

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

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

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I move the Public  
18 Hearing be closed and the proposed local law be  
19 adopted.

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the  
21 Motion.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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

11 CLERK CABANA: Application of VS Central,  
12 Inc. Inc. for a permit to include existing  
13 gasoline service station within "GSS" District &  
14 to maintain existing improvements including three  
15 pump islands, 82 x 26.1 canopy over pump islands,  
16 operate self-service & operate a convenience store  
17 in conjunction with the existing repair facility  
18 at 360 Central Avenue - near Valley Stream.

19 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Good Morning,  
20 Supervisor.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

22 Would you, please, state your name and  
23 address for the record.

24 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Members of the Board, my  
25 name is Kevin O'Brien from the firm of

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 Murphy, Bartol & O'Brien with offices at 22  
2 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, New York, here, this  
3 morning representing the Applicant.

4 I also happen to have, here, this morning, <sup>Page | 20</sup>  
5 Mr. Chris Tartaglia, licensed professional  
6 engineer, principal of High Point Engineering.

7 They are the design professionals who  
8 prepared the plan before the Board.

9 Just before I get going, just an off the  
10 record comment, inasmuch as Chris and I present  
11 applications throughout Nassau/Suffolk and County  
12 and Metropolitan area, I have never seen a Town  
13 celebrate its residents and its institutions as  
14 much as you do.

15 So, it is terrific. We got all the  
16 different towns and stuff, to see that. Chris was  
17 a wrestler, himself.

18 I was a wrestler, myself, as well, not  
19 nearly as accomplished as these guys. I mean it  
20 is terrific to see, taking the time out to  
21 recognize the people who truly should be  
22 recognized.

23 So, I thought I would comment on that off  
24 the record.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1           ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Back on the record, um,  
2 this is an application of VS Central, Inc., an  
3 existing gasoline service station in Valley  
4 Stream, of course, the unincorporated area of       Page | 21  
5 Valley Stream, though, we are just kind of  
6 breathing on the borderline of the incorporated  
7 area of Valley Stream, um, which is located on the  
8 northwest corner of Central Avenue and Clarendon  
9 Drive.

10                   Just briefly, the Board knows and I will  
11 take two seconds out, why we are here before this  
12 Board seeking relief.

13                   Back in 1974, the Town adopted an Ordinance  
14 indicating all gasoline service stations should be  
15 located within the "GSS" Zoning District in order  
16 to continue to operate.

17                   So, we have been operating, actually, since  
18 1956 as a service station, but, what the own did,  
19 they came up with this amortization schedule  
20 saying by a certain time you need to be in the  
21 "GSS" Zoning District.

22                   And, while most of the service stations  
23 have, there are a few stragglers out there, such  
24 as this one in order to remain and continue to  
25 operate as a Gasoline Service Station.

1 That is, really, the principle reason that  
2 we are, here.

3 Now, there are certain, also kind of  
4 reasons that bring us to the table and the Page | 22  
5 gasoline service station business as Mr. Tartaglia  
6 can tell you, because he is involved with this on  
7 a daily basis, you know, it is an ever-changing  
8 business of regulations involving the service  
9 station industry, you know, one of the principals  
10 involving underground service storage tanks,  
11 wherein, the County has indicated years ago, it  
12 use to be steel tanks and, then, you have single  
13 fiberglass tanks and, you know, double-wall  
14 fiberglass tanks.

15 So, when we make those changes to the - -  
16 in conformance with the Town requirements, we made  
17 the application because the County changed its  
18 regulations that we cannot have underground  
19 storage tanks which are single wall over thirty  
20 years old.

21 So, the applications had been made to  
22 replace underground storage tanks in accordance  
23 with those County requirements.

24 So, now, we are, here, to make sure,  
25 essentially, that we are, you know, operating

1 what we consider pre-existing conforming use.

2 We are a service station that we like to be  
3 in the Town's, you know, correct zoning district,  
4 which is the Town's Zoning District, which is the <sup>Page | 23</sup>  
5 "GSS" Overlay.

6 As far as the actual, at this point in  
7 time, the permits were issued, the underground  
8 storage tanks were replaced in accordance with the  
9 County's an Town's requirements and, now, we are  
10 kind of trying to finish up the rest of this  
11 aspect of it.

12 We would like the ability to operate a  
13 self-service at this location, but, while  
14 operating self-service, still being mindful of the  
15 fact that between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
16 providing split island service for seniors and  
17 handicapped that are seeking full service at those  
18 particular times.

19 Um, we also - - there is a little office  
20 area, um, which is - - operates like the ability  
21 to operate sort of the snack shop/convenience  
22 store in conjunction with the repair facility that  
23 is currently operating there.

24 Now, we are mindful that the site is  
25 relatively tight in size.

1 And, what we are looking to do is as best  
2 we can and possibly refer to Mr. Tartaglia on this  
3 one to see what we can do to increase the  
4 aesthetic appeal at the location, perhaps  
5 supplement the landscaping.

6 I know Chris, you had worked on the  
7 landscaping.

8 Perhaps, maybe you can just, maybe mention  
9 to the Board - -

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do you have a  
11 rendering of what this will look like when you are  
12 finished?

13 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Yes, Councilman  
14 Blakeman.

15 For the record, Chris Tartaglia from High  
16 Point Engineering, appearing on behalf of the  
17 Applicant.

18 So, typically, we use these screens but I  
19 understand they are not working, so, we came  
20 across, today, with the hardcopy rendering that  
21 you see off to my left, but, um, as Kevin alluded  
22 to, I think we probably offered up, here with full  
23 disclosure, the bear minimum.

24 There are somethings that you can really do  
25 to enhance this site.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Lucky Gary Hudes  
2 still isn't, here.

3 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: In deed, I remember  
4 those days. Page | 25

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let's talk about it  
6 for one second, by the way, I appreciate that you  
7 are making an application to conform but I look at  
8 this side and I drive passed it a hundred times in  
9 the last six months, um, what can you do to clean  
10 this site up and beautify it?

11 You got signs, um, that are there that are  
12 very unappealing.

13 You got a roofline that looks like it is in  
14 disrepair.

15 You got equipment outside.

16 You got stickers all over the windows. It  
17 is really not a very appealing site.

18 And, I think for a small investment, you  
19 can probably clean it up and make it look really  
20 nice.

21 Um, we he some really good operators, here,  
22 in the Town that have really improved their sites  
23 and it actually increased their businesses.

24 It is a good investment for them.

25 So, tell me a little bit about what you can

1 do because this picture, here, it is very, very  
2 unappealing and you know the Village of Valley  
3 Stream is doing great things.

4 They are upgrading their retail areas and <sup>Page | 26</sup>  
5 this is right on the border of Valley Stream and I  
6 would like to show the Village of Valley Stream  
7 that we are doing our part, as well.

8 So, tell me a little bit about it.

9 You don't have a picture of what this will  
10 look like, a rendering after it is done?

11 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Yes, part of the  
12 aesthetics on the building and canopy, we are  
13 proposing a lot of changes but I think we are  
14 going to discuss some of those, today.

15 And, I believe Kevin is going to start with  
16 some of the signage and other stuff and I will  
17 speak to the landscaping which is also very  
18 important.

19 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Councilman, you are  
20 absolutely correct.

21 I have been there myself and I have spoken  
22 to the property owner, as well as, the operator of  
23 this location.

24 Um, I couldn't agree more, I think you are  
25 right, if the place looks good, it will improve

1 their business.

2 Sometimes under the mistake of promotional  
3 type of things, you know, they think that is going  
4 to assist their business, I think it actually  
5 distracts.

6 I have instructed - - and, I think there  
7 was some operational issues, quite frankly, over  
8 there that is on an operational end.

9 I took a look at it, myself, saw exactly  
10 what you saw.

11 I have been to the site as indicated  
12 numerous, operational issues, I believe, happened.

13 All the signs that they had, I instructed  
14 be removed and I think they have been removed, if  
15 you actually go there, today, you will see none of  
16 the signage that they had, that you may have seen  
17 in the past has all been removed.

18 So, I think there are operational issues  
19 that we can absolutely address that would both be  
20 aesthetically appealing and would assist in the  
21 operational business.

22 But, I don't think that is not enough,  
23 quite frankly, I think you need to do some solid,  
24 some organic changes.

25 One of the things that I noticed, myself,

1 the asphalt over there, the asphalt is in poor  
2 shape, now, no matter how much you sweep or you  
3 clean, that is not enough.

4 So, there are certain - -

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are they going to  
6 maintain the repair shop?

7 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Yes, yes, the repair  
8 shop and it is going to be there and even in there  
9 is an operational issue.

10 I understand what they do is they, um, most  
11 of their business it comes from local dealerships,  
12 so, that was one of the reasons I notice there was  
13 unregistered vehicles at the location because the  
14 vehicles hadn't been sold, but, I think what they  
15 were doing, quite frankly, is dropping off too  
16 many vehicles at a time, so, they have to just  
17 really more, once, again, operational piecemeal  
18 work.

19 So, this way you don't have the stacking  
20 and if they can't repair the vehicle the vehicle  
21 that day, they should bring it back to the  
22 dealership or whatever it is, so, you just don't  
23 have these unregistered vehicles.

24 So, once, again, that is more of the  
25 operational end which I have spoken to them.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 I think we can easily make those sort of  
2 adjustments but, I think, you know, Mr. Tartaglia  
3 can address the fact that there are certain  
4 structural basic improvements, physically that  
5 have to be made to really bring it off.

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6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If I could - -

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So - -

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If I may be free we  
9 go into that, obviously, I share Valley Stream  
10 with Councilman Blakeman, I have a few questions  
11 on the safety aspect of it, obviously, working to  
12 clean up the site is paramount, like Bruce said,  
13 the Village of Valley Stream is working very hard  
14 to do their best with their Village, but, these  
15 issues are pretty important, you know, the fact of  
16 having not enough area around the electrical  
17 panels, the fifty-five gallon drums with unknown  
18 liquids in them.

19 There were a few mentions of electrical  
20 hazards, you know, any time there is electrical  
21 hazards and fuel could, obviously, be a huge  
22 problem.

23 So, you know, we really need to make sure  
24 these things are taken care of and squared away  
25 before anything is moved forward because, I think

1 the last thing, not only Bruce and I, but anyone  
2 on this Board wants to see, is a complete disaster  
3 at a gas station.

4 Just a couple of weeks ago in Island Park, <sup>Page | 30</sup>  
5 we had a fuel truck that was putting fuel into the  
6 ground.

7 The driver who was pumping it in had static  
8 electricity and lit the tanker on fire.

9 It could have been a disaster.

10 Thankfully, the fire department stepped up  
11 into action right away but, it is those things we  
12 can sort of react to.

13 It is these things we should be proactive  
14 about and really address them before it becomes an  
15 issue.

16 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Councilman, I couldn't  
17 agree more.

18 I am familiar with the Island Park  
19 situation.

20 The fire department did a fabulous job.

21 Um, you know and sort of the beauty of the  
22 upgrade is, you know, the kind of equipment that  
23 they have years ago isn't necessarily the kind of  
24 equipment that they have, now, where, now, you got  
25 and Mr. Tartaglia, certainly can go over this

1 with the automatic shut off valve, this stuff that  
2 we are, basically having, gets shut off with all  
3 of these upgrades but, you are absolutely correct  
4 and I personally, when I became familiar with  
5 this, instructed everything be addressed.

6 And, um, I believe it has.

7 So, I will coordinate and welcome further  
8 inspection, you know, by the Building Department  
9 so that we can make sure that everything has been  
10 addressed, but, I believe - - I believe most, if  
11 not all, but I certainly will reach out and  
12 coordinate with the Building Department.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: There is a good  
14 amount of electrical issues.

15 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Understood.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBYZ: And, I am  
17 concerned about the bathroom, the bathrooms are  
18 totally unsanitary.

19 You don't even have paper in there.

20 There is a light switch that doesn't work.

21 This is really - - how do you operate with  
22 three people in this manner when they come to buy  
23 gas?

24 How could you do this?

25 It is really terrible.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1           There are a lot of other things, okay and  
2 you didn't maintain space, a clear space in front  
3 of the electrical panel, which he was just talking  
4 about and you had thirty days to clean all of this<sup>5</sup> Page | 32  
5 stuff.

6           How much has been cleaned up?

7           ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: It is my understanding  
8 there are certain things, such as, paperwork type  
9 of things that are open permits that need to be  
10 resolved.

11           I don't believe those have been because  
12 that takes, you know, sometime to resolve.

13           COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me make a  
14 recommendation because I echo my colleagues and  
15 their comments.

16           It is fortunate that we have a former Fire  
17 Chief on the Town Board, Dorothy has a lot of  
18 experience on this Board.

19           She is our Senior Councilwoman.

20           I think they are absolutely right and what  
21 I would recommend to the Board is that we reserve  
22 decision on this but finish your presentation and  
23 go back to your client.

24           We would like to see the health and safety  
25 issue addressed.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 I would like to see a rendering of what the  
2 property is going to look like.

3 And, we would like confirmation that the  
4 restrooms have been upgraded and that they will be <sup>Page | 33</sup>  
5 properly serviced, okay, but, finish, for the  
6 record.

7 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Absolutely, and I agree,  
8 like I said, I will coordinate with the Building  
9 Department because I would like to address this,  
10 address myself and further inspection to make sure  
11 everything has been addressed.

12 So, I guess with that in mind, I will refer  
13 to Mr. Tartaglia to the physical improvements and  
14 reserve my right if I need to respond to any  
15 interested observers.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Another thing,  
17 I would like to know are you going to do anything  
18 about the cement that is surrounding that is all  
19 broken and looks terrible?

20 What are you going to do with that?

21 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: I agree and I instructed  
22 similarly, like I said, you have the, um, asphalt,  
23 these are all - - they are operational issues,  
24 but, there are physical issues and those physical  
25 issues will be addressed, as well.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It is a mess.

2 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Absolutely.

3 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Councilwoman Goosby,  
4 starting with your comments, first, with regard to <sup>Page | 34</sup>  
5 the flowers and the plants, that is where the site  
6 engineer - - we can make a very big - - as I  
7 mentioned at the outset of our presentation, I  
8 think we have come across, perhaps, with minimal  
9 amounts, I think we can do a lot better job, um,  
10 but what we are going to propose is what we  
11 propose on most of our sites with some of these  
12 other operators that were mentioned earlier, any  
13 part of this site that is not used for parking or  
14 building or another necessary structure, we are  
15 going to make green.

16 In this particular location, the area lends  
17 the building, we are just providing minimal Code  
18 requirements, six foot wide landscape area, I  
19 don't see a reason why we can't landscape that  
20 entire back area, maybe it is not seen so much, we  
21 do have residents just to our border and we  
22 believe they are putting dense evergreen would  
23 provide the best buffer to those residents.

24 Out front, we provide a very small  
25 landscape area in this corner, I believe we can

1 enhance that, perhaps double or triple the size of  
2 that along Central and, then, also on the opposite  
3 end, I believe we have a ten or fifteen feet that  
4 we can do a semicircle landscaped area there, as <sup>Page | 35</sup>  
5 well.

6 Not only does that help to beautify the  
7 site and provide a place for plants and flowers  
8 but it also is to help to rationalize and control  
9 traffic, um, so that is definitely someplace where  
10 we can put a better foot forward with this  
11 application.

12 With regard to the softening of the  
13 aesthetics on the building, I have a black and  
14 white copy of the building and it is just stark  
15 brick with a very basic shingled roof.

16 There is some very sort of simple  
17 treatments we can give to this building, replacing  
18 the roofing tiles with something a little more  
19 residential in character, maybe providing some  
20 kind of hardy planking along the front of that  
21 building to give it a more soft look.

22 Those are relatively low costs but high  
23 impact items that we can do to the aesthetics of  
24 the building not to make it look as rough, if I  
25 can use that accurate as it look today.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1           So, I believe we will bring back, um,  
2 something a lot nice, um, in terms of code  
3 renderings and how we will improve this place as  
4 Kevin mentions all the super signs and unnecessary <sup>Page | 36</sup>  
5 advertisements if they are not gone, yet, Kevin  
6 and I will make sure the operator understands that  
7 they need to be gone.

8           SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: By the time  
9 our Building Department comes back from the  
10 necessary inspections, all of this will be taken  
11 care of.

12           ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: That is correct.

13           SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It will look  
14 like a new building and a nice bathroom?

15           ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: We can't make it look  
16 like a new building, yet, because we need the  
17 Board's permission.

18           Certainly, those items we can address the  
19 bathroom and the operational issues and the signs  
20 and stuff like that, absolutely, by all means,  
21 like I said, I will reach out to the Building  
22 Department and to Code Enforcement to coordinate  
23 and respond back to the Board to show you what we  
24 have done.

25           SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You know about

1 the a flag pole there?

2 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Absolutely.

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: That is something  
4 that has been brought up in other applications Page | 37  
5 when we remember, but I think everyone on the  
6 Board has been trying to, whenever an application  
7 comes in front of them, if there is empty space  
8 that could be filled, it is also nice to see a  
9 flag pole.

10 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Okay, we haven't  
11 considered that, we certainly will, absolutely.

12 So, if there is no further questions from  
13 the Board, I would just respond to any interested  
14 observers that might be here and some brief  
15 concluding comments.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You will come back with  
17 an enhanced landscaping plan?

18 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Absolutely.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't have any slips  
20 on this matter, is there anybody that wishes to be  
21 heard?

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move we  
23 reserved decision, oh, I am sorry.

24 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday. In answer  
25 to the question that I heard, I didn't put a

1 specific slip in to this issue but because of the  
2 discussion that took place, I felt as a taxpayer,  
3 I did have a right to question or, at least,  
4 comment with regard to the situation at hand.

5 If that is okay, Madam Supervisor, thank  
6 you, since you are the one presiding.

7 First of all, my concern - - Meta J.  
8 Mereday, Baldwin resident.

9 For the record, my concern is as we,  
10 residents and taxpayers do not have the benefit of  
11 looking at this information, tabled or not,  
12 because, I believe, I heard that the screens were  
13 broken, was that something that was known prior to  
14 the Meeting and not addressed?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The screens are down  
16 right, now, as of yesterday and we tried to fix  
17 them and they haven't been fixed yet.

18 META MEREDAY: So, there was no opportunity  
19 to bring in anything that was portable that would  
20 make it accessible for information?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: They did.

22 META MEREDAY: I am sorry, I can bearly see  
23 the colors, let alone if what that structure is  
24 and if there were no copies that were made as we  
25 did this.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Your comments are  
2 completely accurate, that is why I asked for a  
3 rendering.

4 I want to see what it looks like, um, so, <sup>Page | 39</sup>  
5 you know, I think you are right.

6 I think we got to get to the bottom why the  
7 screens are down.

8 They seem like they have been on and off  
9 for a year and it is supposed to be a relatively  
10 new system, so, I think your points are well  
11 taken.

12 META MEREDAY: I appreciate that.

13 Um, secondly, I do agree and I appreciate  
14 that this issue was going to be tabled since there  
15 were so many questions as the presentation was  
16 going on that I was writing down as to why these  
17 issue have been - - not been addressed before it  
18 was brought to this Body, as well as those of us  
19 who have to sit here, so, I hop that there be  
20 oversight and follow-up before this discussion  
21 takes place at a later date when many of us will  
22 probably not be here and we will actually read  
23 about this being inspected in the newspaper.

24 So, again, I am hoping that the due  
25 diligence that is necessary takes place.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 My concern as we are talking about, yet  
2 another gas station extends its facility, when we  
3 have major businesses, including from what I  
4 believe a Stop & Shop in Hempstead that is set to <sup>Page | 40</sup>  
5 close, I mean, that is detrimental to the  
6 residents in that community.

7 So, I am concerned what the Town of  
8 Hempstead is actually doing for an economic  
9 development standpoint with the majority of the  
10 issues on this particular calendar have to do with  
11 demolition of homes and properties that are  
12 costing - - it is not benefiting us from a tax  
13 base.

14 So, I just wanted to make note of, again,  
15 the concern of the equipment that is supposed to  
16 be essential to us as residents and taxpayers to  
17 be involved and fully engaged in distribution of  
18 our tax dollars to have all reasonable access to  
19 the information.

20 Because, like I said, even sitting here, I  
21 can't see what that is all about and residents are  
22 concerned.

23 And, to hear that there was fire involved  
24 with a fueling truck when you live in a community  
25 that has, now, six, 7-Eleven's along one strip



1 and you got businesses that are closing on a  
2 regular basis that really gets to be very  
3 detrimental, again, if something happened and we  
4 are priming ourselves to those types of disasters,<sup>Page | 41</sup>  
5 I am just hoping we don't have the same news crews  
6 standing in front of all you acting like you  
7 didn't know.

8 Thank you.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

10 Is there anybody else that would like to be  
11 heard on this Hearing?

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

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Madam Supervisor  
15 I move - -

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Councilman, if I  
17 can, I just want to clarify to make sure everyone  
18 understands, the fuel tanker fire was not at this  
19 location.

20 It was at a location in Island Park.

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am in the  
22 Village of Hempstead, certainly, I am very  
23 concerned with the Stop & Shop leaving.

24 It is in the Village.

25 We do not have anything to do with issues

1 and so forth in the Village.

2 It do. It is in my District. I am working  
3 with the Mayor and others to try to resolve this  
4 issue. Page | 42

5 I thank you for thinking of us, many of us  
6 it is the only supermarket we have and we  
7 certainly do not want to lose it.

8 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Quickly address any  
9 revisions in the landscape revisions, as well as  
10 you know, elevation drawings we file with the Town  
11 Clerk's Office, so, they will be available to the  
12 Public for viewing, anyone can see, that it will  
13 be on file with the Town Clerk's Office.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move  
16 that the Hearing be closed and that we reserve  
17 decision.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,  
20 please, call the roll.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby? Page | 43

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

8 ATTORNEY O'BRIEN: Thank you so much. Have  
9 a nice day.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, that  
11 concludes our Public Hearings.

12 We will, now, move onto the Administrative  
13 Calendar.

14 Madam Clerk, please, call the  
15 Administrative Calendar.

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor, on the  
17 Administrative Calendar, this morning, we have  
18 Items 7 through 39.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are there any Council  
20 Members that would like to sever any items on the  
21 Administrative Calendar?

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes, I will  
23 sever, I make a Motion that we move the  
24 Administrative Calendar and I wish - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the Motion.

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1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: And, now, I  
2 want to table 16 & 26.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a vote to <sup>Page | 44</sup>  
5 table Items 16 and 26.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

7 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I vote no because I  
18 don't think that Item 26 should be cancelled or  
19 tabled, rather this is an appointment of Jack  
20 Majkut to the IDA Board.

21 There has been a vacancy on the IDA Board.

22 I have provided the Council with a copy of  
23 his resume.

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I haven't seen  
25 one.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

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It did not come to me.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I certainly did in February of this year and I don't know why we have to table this further.

Mike is here. Ask him any questions. We could maybe go into Executive Session and you can ask him any questions that you have.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we table because I really need to know who he is.

It is extremely important to me that we have the right person on the IDA Board because the Village of Hempstead has more than any place in the whole State of New York, in addition to the fact that what happened in Valley Stream, I want to make sure.

I have no idea who it was. You did not discuss it with me and I have not seen his resume.

I stand on the record you forced me to do it.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It was on the calendar. I did circulate the resume.

As you can see, we had an issue. You spoke on this Councilwoman about a laundromat that got IDA benefits and was not actually doing right by the workers, the benefits that they were

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 required to deliver pursuant to the PILOT that  
2 they received, that is why I feel it is important,  
3 why I feel it is very important to have force of  
4 labor on our Labor Board. Page | 46

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I agree with  
6 you.

7 I have nothing against it but I still want  
8 to read his resume, so - -

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, I vote not.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I vote ye.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,  
12 now, call the roll on the rest of the  
13 Administrative Calendar.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Withdraw the vote on

1 the Administrative Calendar because we do have  
2 some slips that I did not see before.

3 I withdraw that Motion and now call up  
4 Felix Procacci.

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

7 Um, on Items Number 13 and 14, the Advisory  
8 Services and the Bond Counsel, the details of that  
9 cost and all wasn't put on the WEB site.

10 The law, which was passed back on February  
11 2, 2012, requires that any municipality,  
12 government agency that has a high speed WEB site  
13 provide the details of the Resolution unless it is  
14 not practical to do so in a non-practical  
15 situations if the documents that need to be put on  
16 the WEB site are like cheese-size drawings and you  
17 had a hundred of them, that is not really  
18 practical to scan it.

19 Although, if you have an auto-cad, I could  
20 do it for you.

21 You just make a "g" size and make it a  
22 separate rendering on your document.

23 You can do that.

24 So, you can put really large drawings  
25 provided you have them in electronic format,

1 which is what we don't do here and so things, the  
2 most critical things isn't put on the WEB site  
3 regarding these two issues is the cost for those.

4 So, technically, they are not noticed  
5 properly.

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6 They are required by law to have the full  
7 description because I don't think that the  
8 documents are in a state where they are too  
9 onerous to put them on the WEB site.

10 They are all base-sized drawings. It is  
11 very easy to do so.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, do you have  
13 something to say?

14 I did not put forth these resolutions, so,  
15 maybe the person who did can speak to this.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is on.

17 I didn't check the WEB site myself but the  
18 materials were given, um, to be put on the WEB  
19 site.

20 And, I spoke to someone this morning who  
21 told me, in fact, the materials were there, back  
22 up was there, as is the cost, so, I don't know - -  
23 I didn't check but I believe it is on.

24 I have it available to you to give to you  
25 but the Board certainly has it.



1 And, it is on the WEB site as far as I  
2 know.

3 FELIX PROCACCI: I looked at it this  
4 morning.

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5 I always get the latest, sometimes you  
6 update.

7 You don't put it on the WEB site.

8 It would be a good thing, but you update.  
9 You make a mistake and you update the resolution.  
10 You don't put a date. People might think they  
11 have the latest and append additional things.

12 But, I looked at it this morning, it was  
13 the front page of that of both these, beginning of  
14 the contract and, then, that was it.

15 And, it went into the next resolution on  
16 the detailed section.

17 There was the front page of it.

18 There was missing pages, that is what I saw  
19 this morning.

20 I doublechecked.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why can't you post  
22 that, now?

23 FELIX PROCACCI: It is okay. I rather get  
24 the documents, if you are going to post them  
25 because, once, again, it is a matter of doing

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 the proper research and ad hoc response.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree with you.

3 I want to make sure everything is put  
4 before the public on the WEB site.

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5 So, I will make sure we do a better job and  
6 make sure everything is there.

7 FELIX PROCACCI: One thing that would be  
8 really good, those details, if you would, put them  
9 in PDF searchable format.

10 I am not sure why they were scanned in as  
11 opposed to just - - very easy, if you have a WORD  
12 processor to PDF, then, the document is  
13 searchable.

14 Right, now, what I do every time, every  
15 time we are meeting, I make it PDF searchable.

16 I have a program that does it, so, my - -  
17 if you go to my site, you look for this, you can  
18 find it because it is PDF searchable.

19 Ours is pictures.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are making changes  
21 and upgrading, our Clerk and our resolution  
22 system, so going forward, that is something we  
23 will do if you want to share your comments  
24 afterwards, you can speak to Matt Hynes and we  
25 will take your comments and any suggestions that

1 you have.

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Um, on Number 20,  
3 groundwater monitoring wells, I know we have  
4 litigation against the Navy regarding this.

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5 I just posted a meeting regarding what is  
6 going on regarding the City, regarding that.

7 They had groundwater contamination from  
8 Roosevelt Field.

9 I sent you the video.

10 They had a special meeting, just the EPA  
11 was there.

12 I am not sure why we are, you know, why we  
13 are pursuing litigation when, you know, I  
14 understand the rules are that you know, at least,  
15 in Garden City, the government is going to pay - -  
16 the U.S. Government is going to pay ninety percent  
17 of the cleanup.

18 The D.E.C. from New York State is going to  
19 pay ten percent.

20 With all the litigation against the Navy  
21 and the other companies, when I asked about this  
22 back in 2016, we never sat down with them.

23 You can watch the video, sometime in June,  
24 I believe.

25 You never sat down with the potential

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 Defendants in the lawsuit and see if you can come  
2 to negotiating settlement because I downloaded all  
3 the documents spending tens of thousands of  
4 dollars in this litigation, maybe we can come to <sup>Page | 52</sup>  
5 an amicable settlement because I don't think that  
6 the government is adverse to cleaning up  
7 groundwater contamination.

8 They are doing it in Garden City.

9 It is going to be fourteen million dollars.

10 They estimate, they don't know for sure.

11 They had the monitoring wells in for  
12 several years and, now, they are going to be doing  
13 this.

14 They presented a plan on how to do the  
15 cleanup based on the results of monitoring.

16 Why we are engaging in litigation when we  
17 didn't even sit down and have substantive meetings  
18 when they have been adverse to helping at all,  
19 then, you go to litigation but that should be the  
20 last resort, not the first resort.

21 And, from the questioning, I asked the  
22 Board back in 2016, it seems like it was the first  
23 resort.

24 "We sent a letter."

25 "We got a negative response." We went right

1 to litigation and it is just a waste of taxpayers'  
2 money.

3 And, one more thing - -

4 (Whereupon, the five minute bell rang.

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5 After, the following ensued.)

6 FELIX PROCACCI: Just give me a couple  
7 seconds, Steven Lester, he is on the calendar on  
8 number 30, what is his purpose?

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Steven Lester is the  
10 Counsel for the Minority.

11 He is the Counsel, Senior Councilwoman  
12 Goosby's.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: It is kind of late.  
14 Usually you renew him in December.

15 You are just renewing that contract, now?

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The contract is being  
17 renewed.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, okay, thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Meta Mereday.

20 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin.

21 I already commented with regard to, um,  
22 Item 7 and 8, um, my issues with leading off this  
23 Administrative Calendar with demolitions, we need  
24 to do something about that.

25 Item 12 a question as far as authorizing

1 decrease, increase, what for?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy, I believe  
3 we are just moving money from one account to  
4 another account, is that correct?

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5 META MEREDAY: Again, what for?

6 I am sorry, I can't hear you. I already  
7 addressed 7 and 8.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Item 12.

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Thank you, Supervisor.  
10 The '18 budget - - the '17 budget called  
11 for, um, the payment for five Board Members.

12 The Housing Authority, they have since  
13 added one Board Member, so, we are, basically, at  
14 a cost of one thousand seven hundred and fifty  
15 dollars.

16 So, we are funding it by way of  
17 appropriating from the Fund Balance, one thousand  
18 seven hundred and fifty dollars to cover that  
19 cost, again, that is a 2017 issue.

20 META MEREDAY: But, we budgeted for five in  
21 2017.

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct, and they  
23 since have added one up and above the budget in  
24 '17.

25 META MEREDAY: Who did?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1           COMPTRROLLER CONROY: The Housing Authority,  
2 the Housing Authority issued - -

3           META MEREDAY: Who approved it?

4           COMPTRROLLER CONROY: The Housing Authority. Page | 55

5           META MEREDAY: But, it was - -

6           COMPTRROLLER CONROY: It has nothing to do  
7 with this Town Board.

8           What we do is we fund the Housing Authority  
9 on a reimbursement basis.

10           META MEREDAY: So, what they did they  
11 filled the position with six Board Members, the  
12 budget called for five.

13           We are appropriating from the General Fund  
14 the cost of additional Board Members of one  
15 thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars and you  
16 said it is from a Fund Balance.

17           So - - so, something is not going to be  
18 lost in Housing because you are appropriated this  
19 line for a budgeted individual that wasn't and  
20 adding an individual who wasn't budgeted.

21           COMPTRROLLER CONROY: An added individual.

22           META MEREDAY: Who was not budgeted.

23           COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Who was not budgeted,  
24 correct, by means to which to reimburse and get  
25 paid for, that is through a Fund Balance.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 META MEREDAY: Why couldn't they stay with  
2 five?

3 COMPROLLER CONROY: Well, that is a  
4 question you will have to pose to them. Page | 56

5 META MEREDAY: Well, I can't pose that if  
6 you already appropriated the funding, I never got  
7 an opportunity.

8 COMPROLLER CONROY: They fill the  
9 positions, I believe, they have the authority.

10 The Town Attorney can help me.

11 They fill the positions.

12 The position was compensated and we are  
13 reimbursing accordingly and the means by which to  
14 reimburse is to appropriate the Fund Balance.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are we required to  
16 reimburse, Mr. Conroy?

17 COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes, we are.

18 META MEREDAY: We are required to reimburse  
19 based upon a decision that was outside of a  
20 budgeted amount, so, we can just say, we want to  
21 add more people to this Body?

22 You can decide you want to add somebody  
23 else and we have to pay the cost of that, is that  
24 how that works?

25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: There was a vacancy and



1 it was filled.

2 META MEREDAY: But he said it was budgeted  
3 for five people.

4 COMPROLLER CONROY: Okay, we had budgeted <sup>Page | 57</sup>  
5 for filled positions.

6 We didn't budget for the vacancy.

7 META MEREDAY: Ah, welcome to the Town of  
8 Hempstead. Thank you.

9 COMPROLLER CONROY: Thank you.

10 META MEREDAY: Thirteen and fourteen, um, I  
11 concur with Mr. Procacci's concerns about that.

12 I am just curious as to how many actual  
13 bidders were reviewed and submitted, um, with  
14 regard to 13 and 14?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: None.

16 META MEREDAY: There were no bidders?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No.

18 META MEREDAY: So, you just accepted a  
19 single proposal?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I haven't voted yet.

21 META MEREDAY: Okay, so, this was accepted  
22 on a proposal, on what recommendation?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Those are professional  
24 services contracts.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am not sure who

1 recommended these firms, actually.

2 META MEREDAY: Oh, this is getting  
3 interesting.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think the  
5 Comptroller recommended them, is that correct, Mr.  
6 Conroy?

7 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I had input, yes.

8 META MEREDAY: You had input but that is  
9 not a recommendation.

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I, in fact, made a  
11 recommendation.

12 I had a longstanding relationship with Bond  
13 Counsel and this goes back to my days at O.T.B.,  
14 they are very, very, creative, um, I believe very  
15 competitive and, um, I made a recommendation and I  
16 look forward to working with them.

17 META MEREDAY: How is that competitive if  
18 it was all you, yourself and you were the  
19 Committee?

20 How is that competitive to not include  
21 other people that we are - - in dealing if issues  
22 are taking us on a very slippery slope when we  
23 talk about - -

24 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Madam Supervisor - -

25 META MEREDAY: I have a problem with that.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Mr. Conroy, isn't it true with respect to the General Finance Law of the New York State as long as Bond Counsel is listed in the Red Book, they are deemed qualified and Philip is indeed in the Red Book? Page | 59

COMPROLLER CONROY: That is true, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: So, you don't, under law, require a competitive proposal as long as Bond Counsel is listed in the Red Book.

We are not eliminating other bond Counsel. We are adding Bond Counsel.

COMPROLLER CONROY: This would make the third - -

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: There you go - -

COMPROLLER CONROY: Three, we will have three at this point.

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: They don't get paid from the Town but they get paid out of the issuance of bonds.

COMPROLLER CONROY: Based on a fee schedule and it is percentage of the bond issuance, correct.

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Thank you.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 META MEREDAY: A Bond is still a debt  
2 service that the taxpayers are responsible for,  
3 isn't that correct?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: The debt service  
5 overtime is paid from taxpayers, however, Bond  
6 Counsel is not - - they don't bill the Town  
7 hourly.

8 They are paid by transaction.

9 We are not eliminating Bond Counsel.

10 There is no need to do an RFP with Bond  
11 Counsel as long as they are listed in the Red Book  
12 that was my point.

13 META MEREDAY: So, no one else had any  
14 recommendations from individuals?

15 I am sure he is not the only person that is  
16 listed in this - -

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I think this Town  
18 would take Bond Counsel in the Red Book, they  
19 would be deemed qualified as Bond Counsel and we  
20 would take it under advisement.

21 META MEREDAY: How would they know to  
22 submit it if this was an internal scenario because  
23 it is professional services?

24 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I think Bond  
25 Counsels are aware and they constantly

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 make recommendations to us to see if they want to  
2 be included on the list.

3 META MEREDAY: Well, it is hard to make a  
4 recommendation when someone has a longstanding Page | 61  
5 relationship as was just put on the record, a  
6 longstanding relationship with some, isn't that  
7 kind of considered an inside track?

8 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Absolutely not.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me ask you a  
10 question, I understand that the fees are set.

11 They are not negotiable, is that correct?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: They are set, correct.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, whether we were  
14 paying "XYZ" firm or this firm, the bottom line is  
15 the costs to the debt is the same?

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Correct.

17 META MEREDAY: Friends helping friends,  
18 welcome to the Town of Hempstead.

19 Item Number 19, my concern, again and I  
20 will restate it because we are being, whether it  
21 is one store in one particular Village or not, it  
22 still impacts all of us as residents and I am  
23 concerned that there is a Resolution approving  
24 this site plan for this Whole Foods Market Place,  
25 um, in a location that, from what I understand,

1 is more industrial.

2 And, I would like, I would hope that the  
3 Town, as well as, the County will join in working  
4 with the Village of Hempstead because that Stop & <sup>Page | 62</sup>  
5 Shop is not a location just utilized by residents  
6 of the Village of Hempstead, the proximity of  
7 these residents being the only location.

8 I think it is something that we need to  
9 take quite seriously.

10 It is just a note of that.

11 Item Number 21, 22, 23, "granting three  
12 officials to the Town of Hempstead with authority  
13 to sign documentations."

14 I am concerned about anybody signing  
15 anything.

16 Um, who decided that?

17 Who are the people involved?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: New York State, these  
19 are New York State Grants.

20 New York State requires, at least, two  
21 signatures on bond applications and this is what  
22 this is about.

23 META MEREDAY: Who are they?

24 Who are the three?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: For which one?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

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META MEREDAY: Item 21.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: 21, if I serve off  
memory from reading the Resolution is the  
Supervisor, the Commissioner of Parks and the  
Counsel to the Parks Commissioner.

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is correct.

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is correct.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Which is always  
been the case and, obviously, it is being changed  
because of the Administration, the new Parks  
Commissioner.

META MEREDAY: So, it is just the change of  
name, not necessarily the category?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is correct.

META MEREDAY: The documentation, again,  
for the public should be made a little bit more  
clear.

I appreciate that.

22, "authorizing execution of the  
application for funding," again, my concern is - -  
always has to do with funding and any projects  
that incorporate the community and funding outside  
of this jurisdiction, any taxpayers, the project  
management is a concern for me and the outreach.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: These are GOSER

1 Projects.

2 We are getting monies for these projects.

3 META MEREDAY: Okay, I am still concerned  
4 as to who is actually executing the work and the <sup>Page | 64</sup>

5 involvement because we, too often, have outside  
6 contractors or personally related consultants,  
7 even though relationships aren't determined until  
8 later, I just, again, want to put that on the  
9 record.

10 22, what are the revised - - what is the  
11 revision for, the funding application, what were  
12 the changes?

13 It says, "revised application," what was  
14 wrong with the first one?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Which number are  
16 you on, now?

17 META MEREDAY: 23.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, please.

19 Thank you.

20 META MEREDAY: Always a pleasure.

21 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER: Likewise.

22 It is an increase in funding that we  
23 received for that project, so, it is good news.

24 META MEREDAY: Good news for who?

25 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER: Um, you're talking



1 about 22, 22 was the East Barnum, various road  
2 raises, um, that are happening in East Baldwin  
3 area, particularly Jackson Street, VanBuren  
4 Street, Haze and Washington, so, all of these areas <sup>Page | 65</sup>  
5 during high tides, they have a lot of flooding.

6 Road raises that are going to be happening  
7 on all these roads and we received an additional  
8 fifty thousand dollars.

9 We have 2.1 million.

10 This is an additional fifty thousand that  
11 is going to go towards those projects.

12 META MEREDAY: When those roads get raised  
13 and the flooding occurs, is that going to flow  
14 back into other parts of the community?

15 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER: No.

16 META MEREDAY: And, lastly, about the  
17 pothole situation, I see the Town of Oyster Bay  
18 has actually hired some experts to address some  
19 potholes.

20 Are we doing anything about that?

21 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER: Yeah, actually, we  
22 are doing that same exact thing.

23 We are doing in inhouse and we are up and  
24 running and we have a number on the GIS system and  
25 we have done it inhouse, but, now, we got about

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 half the roads already that are up on the GIS  
2 system, so, we are not actually putting it out to  
3 a consultant like the Town of Oyster Bay.

4 We are doing it inhouse.

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5 META MEREDAY: Okay, well, I appreciate the  
6 fact that your are doing it inhouse.

7 We like to see it in the community.

8 We have a lot of residents, their cars are  
9 getting messed up.

10 I see why we are getting so many repair  
11 stations up, here.

12 We have terrible Town roads, so, hopefully,  
13 we get it fixed.

14 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER: Yes.

15 META MEREDAY: Thank you.

16 Lastly, I want to - - I guess the  
17 rationale on 32, "the rescinding Resolution and  
18 awarded contract," what is that about?

19 Again, Item 32, the contract, 30-28 payment  
20 system - -

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, this is with  
22 respect to accepting credit card payments.

23 I believe this one went out to bid with and  
24 RFP.

25 This was the bidder that was the lowest

1 bidder, is that correct?

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That I correct,  
3 Supervisor.

4 META MEREDAY: Okay, it is about saving  
5 money?

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6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, it is about  
7 accepting credit cards throughout the Town  
8 facilities and it makes it easier for people to  
9 pay for services.

10 META MEREDAY: Wonderful, thank you.

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

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Rori Gordon.

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

16 Number 7, does the Building Department  
17 maintain a master list of Chapter 90's?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can get you  
19 information after the Meeting.

20 Is there anything particular in Item Number  
21 7, that you would like to address?

22 RORI GORDON: We - - yes, I see there are  
23 seventeen properties and it seems like an awful  
24 lot of properties and I am wondering how much  
25 money do we spend on these Chapter 90's in the

1 cost of a year?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe what we are  
3 doing, we are putting assessment on these  
4 properties.

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5 RORI GORDON: When you say, "assessment"  
6 they are getting rid of this?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Basically, when there  
8 is a public safety issue regarding the structure,  
9 um, rather than wait for someone to be injured,  
10 the Town comes in with a resolution to demolish or  
11 repair and, then, the cost of doing that is  
12 assessed with the property owner and the property  
13 owner has to eventually reimburse the Town.

14 RORI GORDON: Okay, on Number 8, um, what  
15 happened in this situation?

16 Can somebody explain that to me?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The winning bidder  
18 withdrew their bid and declined to perform the  
19 services.

20 So, we went to the next lowest bidder, is  
21 that right, Mr. Ra?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is correct, Madam  
23 Supervisor.

24 RORI GORDON: Number 2, earlier, we talked  
25 about Lou Riggerio has the contract, why would

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 there be a bid on this particular one?

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is a contract, that  
3 is a bid.

4 RORI GORDON: I am sorry, sir.

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is a bid.

6 RORI GORDON: What is a bid?

7 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Is that your question,  
8 did Lou Riggerio bid on it?

9 RORI GORDON: No.

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am sorry, I  
11 misunderstood.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I think she is  
13 asking if Riggerio does the work, why are we  
14 denying a different bid from someone else?

15 RORI GORDON: That is close enough, yes.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Well, it I probably the  
17 Building Commissioner, it is probably a different  
18 Riggerio bid on a certain, um, certain type of  
19 work and this might be a different type of work.

20 RORI GORDON: Can the Commissioner explain  
21 what is going on.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He is coming right up.

23 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP Good Morning,  
24 Supervisor, Members of the Town Board, what  
25 happened in this specific location is there is so

1 much asbestos inside of this house that, um, it  
2 would be astronomical to have it removed due to  
3 the amount of debris inside the structure, so,  
4 what we do on these cases, we put it out to public <sup>Page | 70</sup>  
5 bid, in this case, five bidders and they demo it  
6 as control demolition, so, that is why it was done  
7 that way.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It was beyond the  
9 normal routine of boarding up.

10 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is correct.

11 RORI GORDON: So, Lou Riggerio said he  
12 didn't want this job because I don't even see  
13 where Lou Riggerio was a bidder.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It went out for a bid.

15 I think you would think it is a good thing.  
16 I think it is a good thing.

17 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: He did bid on it.

18 RORI GORDON: Okay, where are the bids?

19 How come we don't get to see the bids?

20 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: The bids were  
21 published on the Town Board and accepted June of  
22 '17.

23 RORI GORDON: What was the date?

24 Because I certainly didn't see it.

25 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP June 20<sup>th</sup> of '17,

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 the bid was awarded to AZB Contracting and they  
2 told us they had personal issues.

3 I was waiting for a letter from them saying  
4 they were declining doing the job. Page | 71

5 Once we received the letter, now, we are  
6 going for the second bidder.

7 RORI GORDON: What I don't understand if  
8 Riggerio has a contract, he gets all of the work  
9 unless he decides he doesn't want it, is that how  
10 it works?

11 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: No, that is not how  
12 it works.

13 How it works is if it is an emergency job,  
14 they are giving it to them because he already has  
15 a contract with us.

16 If it is a job, if the house is full of  
17 debris and unable to remove all of the debris to  
18 remove the asbestos, it has to be done in a  
19 controlled environment.

20 That was not part of it, the original bid  
21 with him, so, any time we have to do that, we have  
22 to put that out to bid, in this case, Lou Riggerio  
23 did bid on it.

24 He is the lowest bidder.

25 RORI GORDON: How do you determine an

1 Emergency job?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you have anything  
3 else specific to say about this item?

4 I am happy to have you meet with Matt to <sup>Page | 72</sup>  
5 answer some of your other questions.

6 These meetings have been going on for six  
7 hours.

8 We kind of want to expedite things.

9 RORI GORDON: I think it is interesting  
10 millions of dollars are spent, million on these  
11 projects here and they are given to people and I  
12 don't know how.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This item went out to  
14 bid, Ms. Gordon and it was awarded to the lowest  
15 bidder.

16 RORI GORDON: But a lot of them don't, that  
17 is my point.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: In addition, the money  
19 that is expended on this, there is a lien against  
20 the property, so, the Town is ultimately not out-  
21 of-pocket.

22 RORI GORDON: Okay.

23 On Item Number 30, on Item Number 30, um,  
24 what is the rate of pay for this person, these  
25 legal services?



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sixty-five thousand  
2 dollars.

3 RORI GORDON: Okay and that is like the  
4 most the person would get for the year or is that <sup>Page | 73</sup>  
5 a contract for sixty-five thousand?

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is a contract for  
7 sixty-five thousand.

8 RORI GORDON: So, does he work fulltime?  
9 I don't understand.

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Paid by Councilwoman  
11 Goosby.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: He works seven  
13 days a week.

14 RORI GORDON: Okay, so, it is fulltime.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He is Counsel to the  
16 Minority, Minority on the Board.

17 RORI GORDON: Okay, and on Number 33, um,  
18 Mr. Regina is going to be moved, what,  
19 specifically, is he going to be doing, now?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Regina is going to  
21 become Counsel to the Majority of the Town Board  
22 so the counterpart to Mr. Lester is going to  
23 become Mr. Regina.

24 I understand that was a vacancy that hadn't  
25 been filled and it is being filled.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 It is being filled.

2 It is being paid for out of the budget, the  
3 funds allocated to the Town Board Majority.

4 So, they have chosen to hire this Attorney,<sup>Page | 74</sup>  
5 Mr. Regina to represent them.

6 RORI GORDON: That is Mr. Regina that works  
7 in the Zoning Board of Appeals?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, he is resigning  
9 that position.

10 He is taking the position of Counsel to the  
11 Town Board Majority, is that all correct, Mr. Ra?

12 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: That is correct,  
13 Supervisor.

14 RORI GORDON: Who is takin his place?

15 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Not determined, yet.

16 RORI GORDON: He is very good at what he  
17 does, um, okay, that is it, thanks.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

19 John Broadbiday? (phonetic spelling)

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

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He may have left, okay.

23 Is there anybody else that wishes to be  
24 heard on the Administrative Calendar?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I have

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 a few questions regarding Item Number 33, if I  
2 could just ask Mr. Sammon a couple of questions.

3 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Good Morning,  
4 Supervisor, Members of the Board. Page | 75

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Good Morning, Mr.  
6 Sammon.

7 Just so I could get an understanding so I  
8 can kind of keep track for myself, I know that the  
9 Town of Hempstead is required yearly to hire, is  
10 it thirty people off the Tozner list?

11 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes, the  
12 eligible list.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Have we hired  
14 anyone yet this year?

15 So, this and what I am getting to, there  
16 are people on this, um, resolution that are from  
17 the list?

18 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Five people.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Five people, okay  
20 and the people that are on the list, um, any  
21 disciplinary issues?

22 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Not that I am  
23 aware of.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, that is my  
25 only question.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 He said no disciplinary issues on the  
2 calendar with any of the personnel.

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Without saying names.

4 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes.

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: If you want to go into  
6 Executive Session, you can discuss it.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Is it anything that  
8 is serious that affects them moving and taking  
9 this position?

10 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I don't believe  
11 the Department considers that to be a problem.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, I will take  
13 your recommendation of Mr. Ra.

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You want to go into  
15 Executive Session?

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: As long as Mr.  
17 Sammon doesn't think there is an issue.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I want to say if you  
19 want to discuss the particular employee, there can  
20 be a motion to go into Executive Session.

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am okay. Does  
22 any other Members have an issue?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I would like  
24 to know who it is.

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I would like to go into

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

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Executive Session.

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You need a Motion.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make a Motion.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.

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TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The Board will go into  
Executive Session.

(Whereupon, the Members of the Board  
entered Executive Session. After the following  
ensued.)

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you  
call the vote on the Administrative Calendar.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I make  
the Motion we come out of Executive Session.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the  
Motion.

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?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 Just to be clear, we are coming out of  
4 Executive Session, is that correct?

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5 CLERK CABANA: Yes.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you,  
7 now, please, call the Administrative Calendar  
8 except for Items Number 16 and 26, which have been  
9 tabled.

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: Before I vote, I  
16 just like to comment on Item Number 29, I would  
17 like to comment on the Members of the CSEA Local  
18 880, those that are in the Building Department,  
19 the Engineering Department, the Clerk's Office,  
20 both present and post Sandy, have been dealt with  
21 the bulk of what we have been dealing with, Sandy  
22 permits and the waiver of those fees, I know very  
23 often individuals come to those respective  
24 departments with real issues, their lives were  
25 washed away in the Hurricane and I guess it is our

1 Job and our mission to help pick up the pieces.

2 I know it is very often they are dealt with  
3 impatience and, um, people that are aggravated,  
4 upset. Page | 79

5 Let's be honest, many of them had their  
6 lives washed away with the ocean and the fact that  
7 we have been able to waive these fees since the  
8 storm, just in the Building Department, alone, we  
9 have waived 6.1 million dollars in permit fees  
10 that have helped people get back to their homes,  
11 businesses back in action.

12 So, I just want to comment on our workers  
13 and our Departments for really stepping up. It is  
14 not really easy and know we are doing the right  
15 thing, I am proud to be apart of the Town of  
16 Hempstead and I am proud of all of you and I vote  
17 aye.

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

20 CLERK CABANA: Just to follow up from what  
21 Councilman D'Esposito has said from the Clerk's  
22 Office, we will continue to waive the fees for  
23 such things, marriage licenses, birth  
24 certificates, death certificates, passports, um,  
25 obviously many people lost vital records, so, any

1 of the victims from Sandy that I can help by  
2 providing a copy, courtesy copy, it would be my  
3 honor.

4 And, I also commend the CSEA and workers Page | 80  
5 for the Town of Hempstead and for all that they  
6 did and everything that they do and will continue  
7 to do to help the victims of Sandy.

8 And, continuing to call the roll,

9 Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I vote yes and  
11 agree with both of you.

12 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I vote yes on all items  
14 except for items Number 13 and 14 on which I vote  
15 no.

16 I ran for office on a platform of  
17 transparency and good government.

18 The Town of Hempstead voters elected me  
19 because they are tired of business as usual and  
20 patronage system of government that has been, at  
21 best, careless with taxpayers dollars,  
22 unfortunately, it seems that some are resistant to  
23 turning the page and award a new contractor, a new  
24 bond advisor and Counsel of their choosing,  
25 selected without going through an open and



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 Transparent RFP process is a prime example.

2 My office repeatedly asked the Council to  
3 issue and RFP for these services, if they felt  
4 strongly, we needed additional bond advisors and <sup>Page | 81</sup>  
5 counsels, they should do an RFP, but, they  
6 declined to do so.

7 And, in our personal lives, we regularly  
8 seek the benefits of competition, whether it is  
9 shopping at a store, purchasing a vehicle, nobody  
10 has to tell us it is a good idea to make price  
11 comparisons and quality comparisons in order to  
12 get the best bang for our buck.

13 A fair and open competitive process, also,  
14 helps discourage favoritism and encourages  
15 additional vendors to compete for our business.

16 That is why it is a good idea and good  
17 policy when soliciting services in excess of  
18 twenty thousand dollars to issue and RFP.

19 Most Towns and Villages, including Oyster  
20 Bay, North Hempstead, Babylon, Smithtown have  
21 policies in place.

22 My office has issued competitive RFP's or  
23 RFP's for every contract that we have proposed.

24 The Town of Hempstead, however, has not and  
25 as a result, our Council has been in the

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 Practice of awarding contracts to people who they  
2 favor without accountability.

3 On April 10<sup>th</sup>, I am going to introduce a  
4 Resolution to bring us in line with other  
5 municipal governments and require RFP be issued  
6 for professional services in excess of twenty  
7 thousand dollars.

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8 The taxpayers deserve transparency,  
9 accountability and good government that they voted  
10 for, therefore, because these contracts were put  
11 forth absent an RFP process, which I requested  
12 several times, I vote no.

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

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion to  
16 adjourn.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Before we  
18 adjourn - -

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion to  
20 adjourn.

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, no, no,  
22 point of order - -

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a point of  
24 order, I don't think Dennis voted.

25 Would you call Dennis Dunne.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I want this on  
2 the record before I vote.

3 I haven't voted.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, you have voted. Page | 83

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Well, still, I  
6 have something to say, you made a statement. She  
7 made a statement.

8 She made a statement that is totally untrue  
9 and certainly, I want to say I have never voted  
10 for anything that I didn't know was correct, just  
11 like I didn't vote for what you had today because  
12 I have never seen it.

13 I never met the man and you did not bring  
14 it to us.

15 You need to talk to us and let us know what  
16 you are doing.

17 Now, you know the reason we had to get  
18 somebody else because you did something that we  
19 knew absolutely nothing about.

20 You went all around us.

21 You didn't bother to tell us what you are  
22 doing.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What are you talking  
24 about Councilwoman Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am talking

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 about the one that came around us, as far as going  
2 to the Comptroller, you talked to him.

3 He came to us.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What are you talking Page | 84  
5 about Senior Councilwoman?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am talking  
7 about the bond issue we recently replacing those  
8 two people.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You're replacing them  
10 because I talked to them and I didn't talk to you.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You didn't  
12 talk to any of us.

13 You said "transparency."

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, replacing our bond  
15 counsel and bond advisors because they talked to  
16 my office and they didn't talk to you first, is  
17 that what you are saying, Councilwoman?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, no, there  
19 are six of us on this Board.

20 Each of us has one vote.

21 You disrespected me and don't let me tell  
22 other people what you have done.

23 Don't try this with me. You're talking  
24 about transparency.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: About bond advisors,

1 about refinancing our debt, saving taxpayers  
2 millions of dollars, you are absolutely right, I  
3 did talk to them about that.

4 I was very grateful that I did talk to  
5 them.

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6 I was grateful for the taxpayers of the  
7 Town of Hempstead.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know  
9 differently.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You know differently,  
11 okay, we can get you financial information to show  
12 you the money that is going to be saved and  
13 refinancing our debt and millions of dollars that  
14 were lost because we did not refinance our certain  
15 debt in December.

16 I will get that to your office.

17 Mr. Dunne needs to vote, now.

18 CLERK CABANA: I am sorry I didn't call  
19 you.

20 Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I just want to agree  
22 with everything that Councilman D'Esposito said  
23 about the Town's different Departments.

24 Thank you for bringing that to everybody's  
25 attention and I vote aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May we have a Motion to  
2 adjourn.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we  
4 adjourn this meeting.

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5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second the Motion.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

7 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

18 (Whereupon, the official meeting of the  
19 Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)  
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**HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 3/20/18**

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

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I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on March 20, 2018, consisting of pages 1 through 87 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



*MDW*

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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