

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

APRIL 2, 2019

10:30 P.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

TOWN COMPTROLLER CONROY

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Welcome everyone. I
2 would like to take this opportunity to
3 congratulate the Elmont Memorial High School Model
4 U.N. Team on their victory at the 31st Model United Nations Conference at the University of Chicago on
5 February 10th.
6

Page | 3

7 The Conference is an International
8 competition that attracted twenty-five hundred
9 students from across the globe.

10 Eight Elmont students won first place in
11 their committees and two students won second place
12 in their committees.

13 These students showed firsthand that to
14 proper as a Nation or even as a Town, it is
15 imperative to put the needs of the people of their
16 community first.

17 I am so proud of these young scholars and
18 the way they work together to solve complex issues
19 as they maintain peace.

20 Please, join me in congratulating the
21 Committee award winners, Nneka Emeagwali.

22 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Faith Green.

24 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Munahil Sultana.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Britney Bennett.

3 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Gloria Greene.

Page | 4

5 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Nicole Jean-Pierre.

7 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Jorvany Jean.

9 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Preston Pressoir.

11 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Janice Erhunmwunsee.

13 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Orobo Ogbovoh.

15 (Whereupon, applause was heard.)

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We also would like to
17 congratulate the faculty advisors Nkenge Gilliam
18 as well as Chaperone Phillip Cabrera and Principal
19 Kevin Dougherty.

20 Congratulations.

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

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, come up, we
24 have citations.

25 (Whereupon, citations and photos were

1 presented. After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right. Good
3 Morning, everyone, welcome to this regularly
4 scheduled Town Board Meeting.

Page | 5

5 For those of you who have never attended a
6 Town Board Meeting before, we will first have
7 Public Hearings followed by an Administrative
8 Calendar.

9 There are meeting agendas available in the
10 rear of the Pavilion if you like to be heard on
11 any matter, please, go to the rear and fill out a
12 slip which you can hand to a Public Safety
13 Officer.

14 After the meeting is adjourned, the Town
15 Board will follow our custom of three hundred and
16 fifty years and remain in session to hear
17 residents who would like to address the Board on
18 other matters.

19 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
20 roll.

21 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

24 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

Page | 6

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

6 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I, now, ask Council
11 Member Dennis Dunne to lead us in the Pledge of
12 Allegiance.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: All rise facing the
14 Flag, place your right hand over your heart and
15 join me.

16 (Whereupon, Councilman Dunne led the
17 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the
18 following ensued.)

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, if I may
21 have a moment for personal privilege, um, on
22 September 11, 2001 we lost a lot of Americans at
23 the attach on the World Trade Center, one was my
24 nephew, Tommy Jerkins, who was a Court Officer,
25 who was giving first aid on the ground floor

1 when Tower 2 collapsed on him. One of the others
2 and there were many, was Police Officer George
3 Howard, from the Port Authority Police Department.

4 George was not supposed to be working that ^{Page | 7}
5 day.

6 He volunteered to come in. He was off duty
7 and rushed to the World Trade Center and while he
8 was administering aid the building collapsed on
9 him, as well.

10 It is estimated that between NYPD, FDNY,
11 PAPD and the State Court Officers that twenty-five
12 thousand lives were saved by the First Responders.

13 George Howard's Mother, Arlene Howard
14 passed away this week and although she wasn't a
15 resident of the Town of Hempstead, she was a
16 resident of the Town of Oyster Bay.

17 She was active in many organizations in the
18 Town of Hempstead, many Veteran organizations.

19 On her passing, she was ninety-five years
20 old and she was one of the first women to join the
21 United States Navy.

22 She was a World War II Veteran.

23 She was a person who gave strength to all
24 of those including myself who lost friends and
25 family on 9/11, even though she lost her son.

1 As a matter of fact, the most poignant
2 thing was she met with then Present Bush, (43) at
3 the World Trade Center site when President Bush
4 came to speak and she presented President Bush Page | 8
5 with George Howard's Police Shield from the Port
6 Authority of which President Bush stated that he
7 carries that with him every day.

8 I would ask that we rise for a moment of
9 silence for George Howard and Arlene Howard and
10 all of the innocent victims of 9/11.

11 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was
12 observed. After, the following ensued.)

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Arlene was County
15 Commander of the American Legion which has monthly
16 meetings in Hempstead.

17 She was a wonderful woman. Thank you for a
18 moment of silence.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,
20 please, call the first Public Hearing.

21 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of
22 Buildings to demolish and remove a one-story wood
23 frame, one-family dwelling with attached garage
24 and remove all litter and debris from property -
25 Garden City South (319 Harvard Road, West side of

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 Harvard Road, 200 feet South of Princeton Avenue -
2 Department of Buildings.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a number of
4 slips that would like to be heard.

Page | 9

5 The first is Nancy Bernins. Please, come
6 forward and sit at the table.

7 Good Morning, state your name and address
8 for the record, please.

9 NANCY BERNINS: Nancy Bernins. 12 Jeffrey
10 Lane, Bridgeport, New Jersey.

11 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: Good Morning, my name is
12 Bradley Siegel. I am the Attorney hired by Ms.
13 Bernins regarding this matter.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good morning.

15 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: My address is 590 Stuart
16 Avenue in Garden City, the Siegel Law Firm.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, you may proceed.

18 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: If I may, on behalf of
19 Ms. Bernins, Ms. Bernins is here as a family
20 member for Mr. Tineman (phonetic spelling), the
21 first matter on the calendar with regards to
22 proceeding, where the Town has put forth to
23 demolish his home.

24 Ms. Bernins has been in touch with the Town
25 Official, Mr. Schwartz.

1 She is in the process of getting appointed
2 officially on behalf of the estate and the reason
3 we are here is to allow her to, um, be appointed
4 and to see that the house does not get demolished. Page | 10

5 It is a terrible tragedy for those that
6 don't know occurred within the Town, one of the
7 residents, um, who is not in full mental capacity
8 was found dead.

9 Um, Ms. Bernins reached out to her cousin
10 back in December and was concerned.

11 I will let her speak to that and the
12 purpose of us being here is to see that this house
13 not be demolished and let her to be duly
14 appointed, um, so, that she can take the affairs
15 and put them in order and take care of her family.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Counselor - -

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sorry. First of all, I
18 am very, very sorry for the tragedy, for your
19 loss but I believe that Notice was given to the
20 family about the situation.

21 This house and the Department has
22 determined it is a public risk to public safety.

23 Commissioner, if you would come and speak
24 about the history of this property.

25 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Morning,

1 yes, the Town received complaints about this
2 property in 2017 and then on June 27th of 2018.

3 We received a call from Nassau County
4 Police Department VSU and Adult Protective
5 Services that they had to breakdown the door to do
6 a well-check and they did a well-check,
7 unfortunately, they found the person living inside
8 unconscious and unresponsive at that time and they
9 took him to the hospital.

Page | 11

10 At that point, we did a survey of the
11 house. It was full of debris and combustible
12 material about two feet up.

13 There were two lights working in the home.

14 There was no kitchen working, no bathroom
15 working.

16 There was, um, food, debris throughout the
17 entire home, so, we secured the home at that time.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Commissioner, is
19 there any eminent danger to the public at this
20 time?

21 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Um, at this time,
22 we probably caught forty rats that were in the
23 neighborhood.

24 I believe there are members of the
25 community, the neighbors that are here today

1 that I believe would like to speak about the
2 conditions of this house and is definitely a
3 nuisance.

4 The condition inside are terrible, um,
5 electrical safety issues, fire safety issues, etc.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, have
7 there been outreach to the family of the person
8 that lived in the house, any outreach and Notice
9 to them to correct the problems, the violations
10 within this house?

11 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes, we reached out
12 and she has spoken to Mr. Schwartz, my office and
13 I believe they are trying to get title.

14 I believe she is one of the cousins and she
15 is trying to get all the other cousins to sign off
16 so she can get control of the house.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, what is
18 being done in the meantime to protect the
19 neighborhood?

20 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Right, now, um, the
21 property is secured.

22 And, as I said, we caught, approximately,
23 forty rats and we are still in the process of
24 doing that.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, who is

1 paying for the eradication of the rodents?

2 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: The Town of
3 Hempstead hired a company.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, the owners of the ^{Page | 13}
5 home would have financial responsibility for that,
6 is that correct?

7 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Now, Counselor, how
9 long will it take for your client to get legal
10 authority to act on behalf of the house?

11 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: My client, Ms. Bernins
12 has been diligently working to get into that place
13 to get appointed.

14 Her cousin was found dead in Suffolk
15 County.

16 It is unknown how he got there.

17 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: He didn't drive.

18 The Suffolk County Medical Examiner just
19 last week, um, authorized, identified the body,
20 officially and, now, Ms. Bernins is in the
21 position to get a death certificate and to
22 proceed.

23 So, she was in touch with Mr. Schwartz, I
24 believe, of Inspector Services.

25 He is in charge of that and he has been

1 telling her all along, so, to answer your question

2 - -

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the story
4 with the Temporary Letters?

5 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: Ms. Bernins has hired a
6 separate estate attorney, so, she is working
7 through that.

8 I don't think it happens in a day.

9 It could take a couple of weeks, so, she is
10 trying to do that.

11 They are expediting the process.

12 In terms of the Notices, um, Ms. Bernins
13 was in touch with Mr. Schwartz in January, January
14 4th one of the Notices under Chapter 90 was sent to
15 Mr. Tinum, who, of course, is dead and to his
16 parents and then after that, they sent another
17 Notice, again to the same - -

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I understand. It
19 sounds like a very complicated situation - -

20 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: My point is, Mr. Schwartz
21 is aware, now of Ms. Bernins - -

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The problem is the
23 people in the neighborhood, the rodent problem and
24 obviously the condition of the property, so, the
25 fact of the matter is that we have to be forward

1 and make sure that the property is secured and the
2 rodents are eliminated so they don't create a
3 blight on the neighborhood, at the same time, we
4 understand that your family has property rights. Page | 15

5 So, um, Commissioner, typically, we give
6 thirty days to get everything in order.

7 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is true.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, if I were you, I
9 would let the Court know, the Surrogates Court
10 know that you need some kind of emergency
11 authority with respect to the house that you act
12 diligently to get that.

13 And, we also give thirty days before we do
14 anything to give you a chance to get your affairs
15 in order.

16 So, if you do these things and you show
17 progress, they won't demolish the house but if you
18 don't they will demolish the house.

19 So, those are the things that you have to
20 do in order to get relief and get things done,
21 because you see, you have to understand, the
22 neighbors can't tolerate the situation the way it
23 has been allowed to exist for too long.

24 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: And, Ms. Bernins is aware
25 of that to the extent that this is happening

1 with the rodents.

2 Ms. Bernins' interest is aligned with the
3 Town.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is there a mortgage ^{Page | 16}
5 on the property?

6 NANCY BERNINS: No.

7 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: No.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, it is free and
9 clear?

10 NANCY BERNINS: Free and clear, yes.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Who owns the property
13 free and clear?

14 NANCY BERNINS: Right, now, it is limbo
15 because Robert is deceased and there is no estate
16 established.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Was title held in
18 Robert's name?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: They have to get it
20 to the estate, so would you be willing to assume
21 financial responsibility if the Town immediately
22 took a more aggressive action with respect to the
23 rodent situation?

24 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: Well, I would say, Ms.
25 Bernins just to answer that, would like to

1 independently verify what has been alleged
2 regarding the rodents and what is needed.

3 We will do - - the survey report, the
4 report by Town Engineer Cashin, I believe, it
5 doesn't recommend demolition.

Page | 17

6 It recommends making the house safe and
7 secure.

8 So, what the report says, which you all
9 have, is if it is, um, if the Town deems it needs
10 to be demolished - -

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

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the
14 situation?

15 Does it need to be demolished or just
16 remediation?

17 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It needs to be
18 remediated.

19 By the way, we can't just go in and start
20 moving the belongings that way, so, it would be up
21 to the people if she can get title to do that,
22 again, there is so much food and debris in there,
23 so, as we continue to catch the rats, until it is
24 cleaned out - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What would stop you?

1 I mean there is nobody to complaint if you
2 went on the property, hired a group to clean the
3 inside of the house.

4 NANCY BERNINS: I could do that.

Page | 18

5 I would like to do that.

6 I was advised by the Building Department
7 that I did not have the right to enter the
8 property because I don't have registered
9 administration - -

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, in other words,
11 if we passed this, today, the game plan of the
12 Building Department is to go in and clean the
13 house but not demolish it?

14 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: No, we would
15 demolish the house.

16 So, again, the problem is that we just
17 can't take control of what is inside there.

18 I don't know if he has valuables in there,
19 but we don't have title to the house.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why do you have to
21 demolish the house, if it is not - - you just
22 told me it need remediation?

23 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Well, again, they
24 can't do it and we are in this Catch 22 - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If we give you

1 Authority to go forward you can go in and clean
2 the house if you can't demolish it, you can clean
3 it, right?

4 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We don't have a Page | 19
5 contract to do that. We can look into that.

6 NANCY BERNINS: I can look into that.

7 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: The interior of the
8 house is heavily impacted.

9 It probably will cost more to empty the
10 house out than to demolish it.

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Can I just interrupt
12 for a second.

13 Why don't we hear from the neighbors before
14 we form a decision because I am concerned this is
15 going to be proceeding.

16 NANCY BERNINS: I haven't had access.

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Has the petition to
18 compel production of probate - -

19 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: Ms. Bernins has hired a
20 lawyer that handles all of this.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Has anything been filed
22 yet?

23 NANCY BERNINS: I don't have a death
24 certificate yet.

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: The problem is going

1 to be - - I am familiar with Surrogates Court
2 proceedings, thirty days is never going to happen.

3 You are talking six to nine months.

4 While I appreciate you and your family, I ^{Page | 20}
5 am not really sure of the relationship to the
6 family under the Surrogates Court, you're a
7 cousin, but a lot of people could be ahead of you
8 under the State statute to take its place of the
9 administration.

10 NANCY BERNINS: There is an Uncle ahead of
11 me.

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Okay, that is very
13 important, the Uncle will had precedence over you.

14 NANCY BERNINS: He has signed a waiver.

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: A waiver of what?

16 NANCY BERNINS: Giving me authority to move
17 forward.

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: He will be appointed
19 before you, so, he is probably the person he
20 should talk to.

21 While I appreciate your sentiment - - raise
22 your hands who are neighbors, here from Garden
23 City South.

24 I would like to hear from them. Where do
25 you live, ma'am?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: What is the reason to
2 demolish this house?

3 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Hold on one second,
4 where do you live? Page | 21

5 NANCY BERNINS: I live in New Jersey.

6 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Okay, these people
7 live in Nassau County, Garden City South.

8 They are our constituents and they are our
9 taxpayers.

10 I like to hold your comments in abeyance.
11 I like to hear from the taxpayers, citizens,
12 because they are constituents, then, we can
13 address your issue.

14 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: So, I am a Town of
15 Hempstead resident, what is the reason this house
16 would be demolished?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Why don't you meet
18 her at the house. I am joking.

19 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: What is the reason this
20 would be demolished because there are rodents?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: The real tax holders
22 that are, here, are the neighbors on the street
23 that are dealing with this.

24 Let's hear from them, then, we can make
25 a decision.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have slips of people
2 that would like to be heard on this Hearing.

3 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: What is the reason why
4 the house would be demolished because there are Page | 22
5 rodents?

6 There is a disconnect.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
8 comments.

9 I will be calling the next slips for the
10 Public Hearing.

11 Ellen Andarsick?

12 ELLEN ANDARSICK: Good Morning, Ellen
13 Andarsick. I am from Franklin Square, New York.

14 I live in the Town of Hempstead and I am
15 representing the community and we have been around
16 and seen and spoken with the Building Department.

17 The house is unsafe.

18 Um, if you have small children, I certainly
19 wouldn't let my children out playing in the area
20 there because of all the rodents that have been
21 seen.

22 I spoke with a neighbor last night, well,
23 yesterday afternoon and she says at nighttime when
24 they are home, they shine lights over by the
25 house, they find rodents running around the

1 house and so forth and in the neighborhood and not
2 only that, but there are two schools located, um,
3 several blocks from this house which is Gary High
4 School/Junior High School and also Washington
5 Street School which is the grammar school.

6 And, our main concern is the children and
7 the neighbors that live right around it and next
8 door and in that vicinity of that house because of
9 the rodents.

10 I asked yesterday with the Code Enforcer,
11 fi I could see inside the house and they refused
12 my entrance into the house because of all the
13 debris and all of the clutter that is inside of
14 the house whatsoever.

15 So, we feel that the house should be, um,
16 demolished and, then, rebuilt again.

17 And, we would also like to know if there
18 has been a family member around?

19 Where was she when this person, Robert
20 Tinum (phonetic spelling) needed help when he
21 passed away?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ma'am, do you have
23 anything to add?

24 MARGARET KELLY: Yes, I am Margaret Kelly.
25 I also signed up to speak.

1 I am President of the Community League of
2 Garden City South.

3 This was brought to my attention back in
4 June when Mr. Tinum was removed from the house. Page | 24

5 Um, and since, then, I passed by multiple
6 times, um, there have been no improvements to the
7 exterior.

8 The exterior is an eyesore to all the
9 neighbors that are in the area.

10 And, at any given time, we can see rats,
11 okay.

12 And, as Ellen has said, um, the school is
13 right there.

14 The house is, um, a very true danger to
15 those children that pass by, that walk by and pass
16 this house during the day.

17 Um, until the problem inside the house - -
18 and, I understand the gentleman, um, that was
19 taken out was for medical reasons, um, he had been
20 defecating and urinating in the area, all that
21 human waste gets soaked into the floorboards and
22 the structure of the house deteriorating
23 immensely.

24 So, it is not a matter of removal of the
25 debris that is inside, but, it is a matter of

1 gutting out that house, taking it back to the
2 beams and hopefully, the beams will withstand, um,
3 a new structure.

4 In addition to that, um, the rats aren't Page | 25
5 going to go away like anybody will tell you.

6 If there is one, there is a million.

7 There will be nests throughout that house,
8 not only the house but the garage, both
9 structures.

10 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
11 following ensued.)

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There are two slips.

13 MARGARET KELLY: There are two structures
14 that need to come down.

15 People that live there, they look at this
16 day in and day out.

17 I have a letter from the community to the
18 Board and attached to that is a front picture of
19 the house and this is after Nassau County Police
20 Department had to cut their way through the bushes
21 and the front overgrowth to get to the house to
22 breakdown the door to get into this gentleman that
23 needed help.

24 My question is for this woman and believe
25 me my heart goes out to her for the loss of her

1 Family member, but, this was back in June of 2018,
2 why wasn't somebody stepping up at that point to
3 make this house safe for this man to come back?

4 He was under Nassau County. They were the ^{Page | 26}
5 ones, not the Town of Hempstead.

6 He was at Nassau County Hospital. He was
7 released five days after being admitted.

8 Where was his family then?

9 Why didn't somebody step up at that point
10 to take care of the problems so the man could go
11 back to a safe home?

12 It wasn't done.

13 Now, it seems to be in an estate issue.
14 The people of this community cannot wait for
15 thirty days or sixty days or ninety days or as Mr.
16 Ambrosino stated months for Surrogates Court.

17 This is the livelihood of people that pay
18 good taxes and need to come home every day and
19 look at this house and look at rats running
20 around.

21 I am sure they have rats because they don't
22 stay in one place.

23 I would appreciate consideration of this
24 house being demolished, as well as all the
25 structures on that property and let's start

1 new and give the people that are paying their
2 taxes what they deserve as Town of Hempstead
3 residents.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
5 comments.

6 Felix Procacci?

7 Give that to Michele. (Handing letters and
8 photo to Michele Hanson.)

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

11 First of all, I want to say I have had a
12 house - - two houses on my block were in the
13 similar situation.

14 One had a whole drug lab in the basement
15 and, um, and the guy died.

16 It was abandoned. There was no plumbing,
17 no heating, no electricity, no anything on the
18 house and it was sold at auction and the
19 contractor who bought it, renovated it and took
20 out the structure and there was a lot of work
21 done.

22 Um, there was Code Enforcement, Friday, in
23 front of this house in Garden City South just
24 sitting there doing nothing.

25 I am not going to ask why.

1 I will not get a straight answer why they
2 were sitting there and doing nothing in front of
3 the house.

4 I don't know what purpose that serves, but, ^{Page | 28}
5 it appears that this house was not so damaged
6 beyond repair, that it can be cleaned out.

7 If there is imminent danger, like Joe Ra
8 said, if there is a reason to go in the house, he
9 made the argument with the zombie home law and
10 everything else that we passed a few years ago, if
11 there is a public safety issue, I am not sure why
12 the Town can't go in and just clean it out because
13 it is an urgent nature.

14 You just want to rip it down. You just
15 don't want to do the simple thing and it out,
16 which will, then, you could put the traps and
17 catch the rats, even if you tear it down, the rats
18 will scatter.

19 You will still have the rats there.

20 You need to clean out the debris to fix the
21 structure.

22 So, it seems like you're, you know, putting
23 - - using the cannon to do a job that a rifle can
24 do.

25 You are just over the top.

1 You have to tear down a house because you
2 have rats?

3 Would you tear down your house if, you
4 know, came back and there was like forty rats or Page | 29
5 would you just get rid of the rats?

6 I mean that, you know, you should use some
7 prudent judgment tearing down a big thing and it
8 is very costly and you could, basically, just get
9 rid of the rats and use that - - all that police
10 power that Joe Ra said that this Town has.

11 It is an urgent issue.

12 It is public safety, health and safety.
13 You passed all these laws, HUD and safety use
14 that, you know that theory and clean out the
15 house, get it so it is safe.

16 Give the lady a chance to get title or
17 whoever gets title and, then, they can remediate.

18 I live across the street from a house that
19 was like that for four years and you know the Town
20 didn't come by and there was another house there
21 for two years, right on my block, you know, two
22 hundred feet from my house and they didn't rip it
23 down and use extraordinary measures haven't been
24 taken.

25 And, people from Uniondale come and

1 complain all the time about this and you are not
2 ripping down the house left and right, here.

3 It is only two years.

4 There are houses seven, eight years in
5 Uniondale and they complain and they don't get
6 ripped down.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Felix, is your
8 house block close to Harvard Road?

9 FELIX PROCACCI: No, it is not.

10 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I was wondering why
11 you were there watching our Code Enforcement.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: I wasn't hanging out
13 there.

14 I went to see it.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Oh, okay, gotcha.

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, it was on the
17 agenda.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am just
19 wondering. I am sure the people that live on
20 Harvard were wondering.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: I live on Barnes Street.
22 I had two houses boarded up.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It was just a
24 question.

25 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
2 following ensued.)

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: All right.

4 FELIX PROCACCI: It is an irrelevant
5 question, too.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Robert Andersen?

7 ROBERT ANDERSEN: Hello, my name is Robert
8 Andersen. I live at 320 Yale Road in Garden City
9 South.

10 This is my wife, Linda.

11 I have lived in my house for thirty years
12 and my house is directly in back of 319 Harvard
13 Road and that has been an eyesore for almost
14 thirty years and it has gotten much worse the last
15 several years.

16 Back in 2003, a large tree fell on top of
17 319 Harvard Road and it stayed there for thirteen
18 years before the Town of Hempstead came in and,
19 um, fore it down and cleaned out the vegetation
20 back in 2016, I believe.

21 Um, the grounds have never been kept up.
22 There is standing water.

23 In the Summer, we have a terrible mosquito
24 problem.

25 I personally trapped and killed over

1 one hundred rats in the last three years.

2 LINDA ANDERSEN: And, we had the expense of
3 taking care of them.

4 Nobody did it for us.

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, has the
6 Department of Health been notified about this
7 property?

8 LINDA ANDERSEN: The tree that sat on the
9 house, the gutters were never cleaned.

10 The amount of mold that must be in that
11 house is probably beyond belief.

12 For thirteen years, that tree sat on that
13 house, okay and the only thing that has ever been
14 done to that house in thirty years was the roof
15 was replaced by the Town, I believe did it.

16 It has just been a disgrace that house.

17 No one has ever done anything to clean up
18 the yard there.

19 I mean it just stayed that way for thirty
20 years.

21 And, the family never intervened ever and
22 we never, ever saw a guest at that house, never.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would you stop the
24 clock and let the Commissioner, if you wouldn't
25 mind and let the Commissioner speak into the

1 microphone.

2 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes, Supervisor, we
3 notified the Department of Health years ago,
4 Nassau County Department of Health, years ago.

Page | 33

5 Nassau County Department of Health use to
6 trap rats, set traps.

7 They don't do that any longer, that is why
8 the private exterminators have to do it, as she
9 stated, they are all over the neighborhood.

10 It has been going on for a long period of
11 time.

12 And, Councilman, to answer your question,
13 why don't we knock it down, just clean it out and
14 stuff, the amount of debris that is inside that
15 structure would cost to hand carry all that stuff
16 in a huge lien on that property making it less
17 desirable for one to purchase and build another
18 home.

19 Number 2 is all the utilities inside the
20 house are not working.

21 As I stated, when we got there, there was
22 one light working upstairs on the first floor.

23 There was one light working in the
24 basement, so, the whole electric system is shot,
25 sewage system, the water, all these things

1 would have to be done as one of the residents said
2 previously, because of the two feet of debris,
3 when you walk into the house, your head - - I am
4 not tall, is hitting the ceiling of the room.

5 Okay, there is two and a half feet of
6 debris on the floor.

7 The problem is once we remove that, then,
8 we can take a better look at the structure.

9 However, under Chapter 90, it talks about
10 nuisance homes and that is what this is.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, um, it seems
12 that, basically, the whole story is that this has
13 been going on for a long time that the relatives
14 have not taken any action for years and years,
15 that the rodent situation and the unsightly way
16 which the property is kept - -

17 LINDA ANDERSEN: Mosquitoes.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mosquitoes, has been
19 going on and on.

20 When the government comes in to take
21 control of somebody's private property, it is an
22 extreme remedy and we have to be very judicious in
23 what we do.

24 However, in this case, after listening to
25 you and the previous speaker, it seems to me that

1 it is warranted for us to take over this house and
2 demolish it, um, because of what is going on.

3 This is one of the extreme cases that I
4 have heard and, um, so, you can do something in Page | 35
5 the meantime.

6 I am sure you have been doing things, but,
7 I think in the meantime, we should get private
8 exterminators there to try and keep it contained
9 until the house can be demolished and rodents
10 eradicated.

11 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: There is so much
12 food inside of the house and as you will hear from
13 one of the neighbors, there is so much garbage and
14 he never threw garbage out, a half-eaten banana or
15 half eaten donut was thrown on the floor, so, the
16 rats are not going to leave.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Right, right, no, no
18 listen, this is and sometimes an example, we are
19 warranted to demolish the house.

20 COMMISSIONER ROTTKMAP: So, the Town Board
21 is aware when we do - - when the Town Board
22 approves, we give them another thirty days to
23 rectify the situation, if they are working on it
24 and they are working diligently, on the 31st day,
25 we don't go there and knock it down.

1 We work with them as long as they are
2 moving forward.

3 The problem is, in a case like this, where
4 there is really no ownership, as Councilman Page | 36
5 Ambrosino said, it could be nine months and we
6 could be in the same boat and it is not fair to
7 the neighbors.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,
9 Commissioner.

10 LINDA ANDERSEN: Imagine a tree sitting on
11 the roof of a house for thirteen years, what the
12 mold situation must be in that house, okay,
13 thirteen years it sat there.

14 This guy never cleaned anything.
15 He never had company in thirty years.
16 I don't think I ever seen a light on in
17 that house, honestly.

18 ROBERT ANDERSEN: As I said, I have lived
19 there thirty years and I think I saw Mr. Tinum, I
20 think that is his name, six times altogether and -
21 - but nothing was ever done to the property unless
22 the Town came in and, you know, cut down the
23 vegetation.

24 And, every time they did that, we had a rat
25 problem.

1 Again, as I said, I killed more than one
2 hundred rats over the last three years.

3 LINDA ANDERSEN: We didn't enjoy the
4 expense of taking care of that.

Page | 37

5 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Thank you, Mr. &
6 Mrs. Andersen, we heard your testimony.

7 We are on your side.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
9 comments.

10 Rosemary Lansey? (Phonetic spelling)

11 ROSEMARY LANSEY: I will be quick.

12 My name is Rosemary Lansey. I live at 28
13 Harvard Road, two houses away from the house.

14 I lived there twenty-three years and
15 exactly the same as the previous couple have said,
16 the house has never been maintained but it has
17 been vacant for nine months and my backyard has
18 been invested with rats.

19 I have had the Health Department to my
20 house three times.

21 I have the certifications.

22 There is nothing you can do because as the
23 Commissioner said, the rats aren't hungry, so,
24 they are not eating the rats food.

25 They are hanging out in the neighborhood.

1 It is aesthetics.

2 Besides trapping the rats, the look of the
3 house, it has the "X" on it and the Town comes,
4 which our taxpayers are paying, the Town is coming ^{Page | 38}
5 and cleaning out the property every few months to
6 get rid of the brush, overgrowth, so, it is just,
7 basically, the same as everyone else.

8 It is not fair to us; the neighbors have to
9 live with this house.

10 It has already been vacant for nine months
11 and before that, it was not well maintained
12 either, so - -

13 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: We agree with you.

14 ROSEMARY LANSEY: I see that. That's it, I
15 just wanted to represent the neighborhood.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. Thank you
17 for your comments.

18 Cay Fatima?

19 CAY FATIMA: Thank you, Town Council.

20 I don't look like any of your neighbors I
21 am sure with regards to the - - I am not adjacent
22 but I am very sympathetic to the community and the
23 homeowners.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Fatima, I am sorry
25 to interrupt, could you, please state your name

1 and address, please.

2 CAY FATIMA: Cay Fatima, Catherine Marshall
3 & Associates, Lakeville, Long Island.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Page | 39

5 Go ahead.

6 CAY FATIMA: I lost ten seconds, as the
7 referee - -

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am sure you can
9 make up that ten seconds.

10 CAY FATIMA: All the Council people, here,
11 are very well aware of what is going on in these
12 communities.

13 And, no one has been addressing any of the
14 situations except this Council person, this
15 gentleman, here, as to the responsibilities of the
16 taxpayer.

17 But, then, as taxpayers, the Town Board has
18 the responsibility that it happens to be
19 negligence, okay, if this gentleman was allowed to
20 live under these conditions and, then, after he
21 has been dead nine months.

22 Properties, in my community, have been
23 vacant and abandoned for nine years and the Town
24 has not done anything, so, there is some onerous,
25 also on the Town of Hempstead and the Building

1 Department and the Sanitation Department.

2 We can't let these homes get so bad that we
3 got to demolish them.

4 Homeowners that want to come, families, Page | 40
5 young families, Veterans, who would like to
6 purchase homes like this, um, and, unfortunately,
7 the family of the decease have to go through all
8 of the Probate issues, so, it is a thin line to
9 do.

10 But, I don't want any of these residents or
11 the homeowners to be deceived as I was deceived
12 the last time I was here.

13 You give someone thirty days, after the
14 thirty days, if the banks aren't working, if the
15 Courts aren't working, if the community aren't
16 working, um, um, no neighbor should have to endure
17 one hundred rats, you know, send that bill to Mr.
18 Ra for the Town to pay for that.

19 Okay, I shouldn't have to.

20 You have responsibilities.

21 For the remainder of my time, please,
22 someone in the Council, address why is it taking
23 so long for the Building Department to come in and
24 say there is negligence.

25 There is mental health issues, here.

1 There is something going wrong.

2 You show me a person that is not taking
3 care of their property, I will show you a person
4 that needs some, um, services, that go beyond
5 sanitation and Building Department.

6 And, um, the mental health services needs
7 to be addressed, as well, thanks.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Fatima, our
9 Building Department and our Code Enforcement
10 Officers do not have the authority to enter
11 people's houses forcefully and Commissioner, you
12 can correct me if I am wrong, we were called to -
13 - first called to the scene to examine some
14 vegetation that was overgrown at the house.

15 We issued violations for that.

16 And, Commissioner, please, jump in if I am
17 speaking incorrectly and then we were called by
18 the Police because the Police, Nassau County
19 Police Department, who has the authority to
20 forcefully enter someone's home went in and they
21 brought in the County Department of Social
22 Services, we, as a Building Department, do not
23 have that authority to just go in people's homes
24 and make mental health evaluations of them.

25 Is that correct?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is correct.

2 CAY FATIMA: I agree with you there, but
3 the Building Department can call the Police
4 Department, okay, if we suspect that there is
5 something because I have spoken with the Police
6 Department, they have the direct, um, cell phones
7 to the Building Department.

Page | 42

8 So, I know they are in direct connection.

9 They work together. They work in tandem,
10 together, that can be done, that can be done.

11 We have to devise a way. We have to think
12 of a way.

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

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

16 CAY FATIMA: Thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other
18 slips on this Public Hearing, is there anyone else
19 that would like to be heard?

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

22 Is the Supervisor - - who is going to
23 answer my questions?

24 I don't see Joe Ra. I don't see the
25 Supervisor.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are up, here,
2 Rori.

3 RORI GORDON: Okay.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: She has a microphone ^{Page | 43}
5 in the back, sometimes.

6 RORI GORDON: Thank you.

7 Is the Supervisor of Inspection Services,
8 Roy Schwartz in charge of seeing all Chapter 90
9 properties?

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: What did you
11 say?

12 I couldn't understand you.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I can't understand.

14 RORI GORDON: Is the Supervisor of
15 Inspections, Roy Schwartz, in charge of overseeing
16 all Chapter 90 properties?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The one that is
18 ultimately responsible is the Commissioner of the
19 Building Department and this Board.

20 RORI GORDON: Okay.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There are people that
22 have various responsibilities, but, the ultimate
23 responsibility rests with our Commissioner and us.

24 RORI GORDON: Regarding Chapter 90 Law to
25 avoid taxpayers endless litigation which costs

1 the Town and taxpayers hundreds of thousands of
2 dollars, what measures have been taken to make
3 changes to the Code since litigation commenced
4 like Philip Williams versus the Town of Hempstead ^{Page | 44}
5 and Ray Schwartz in the 2016 case?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why don't you wait
7 for Public Comment because that law has absolutely
8 nothing to do with the application before us.

9 RORI GORDON: Well, it does because what I
10 am going to say is besides sending endless notices
11 to Chapter 90 locations, what due diligence does
12 the Town do to locate property owners?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What due diligence do
14 we do to locate property owners?

15 RORI GORDON: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We try to give
17 notice.

18 RORI GORDON: Besides sending it there,
19 there is conflict.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am going to let
21 Senior Councilwoman Goosby let you speak and go
22 ahead, even though I don't think this has anything
23 to do with this application.

24 RORI GORDON: Besides sending notices to
25 Chapter 90 locations, I asked what due

1 Diligence the Town does to locate property owners?

2 I feel the conflict in the Code leaves the
3 interpretation made by its procedural issues
4 regarding proper service of property owners,
5 proper service of Chapter 90 would be most logical
6 to be sent by certified mail, return receipt.

7 I think it would be in the Town's best
8 interest to take on a more responsible position
9 and research the property owners or persons which
10 may have affiliation with the property owner,
11 perhaps do a title search and Internet search, as
12 the person maybe deceased and a more definitive
13 outcome would arise due to the more due diligence
14 as opposed to sending endless certified letters
15 without return receipts.

16 I think the revamping of the Chapter 90 Law
17 would be advantageous for future cases and will
18 not be exposed to litigation and unwarranted
19 expense to the taxpayer.

20 Relatives of Robert Tinum, I don't know how
21 to say his name, sorry, property owner of 319
22 Harvard Road, Garden City South are here, today,
23 are looming to commence litigation, although the
24 circumstances maybe different in the two cases,
25 the outcome is ultimately the same for the

1 Taxpayers.

2 Taxpayers will be paying attorney's fees
3 and neither the Building Department or the Town
4 Attorney or Town Board has done anything to make Page | 46
5 amendments in the Code after the Philip Williams
6 case.

7 It only makes outside Counsel wealthy.

8 Failure to make changes in the procedural
9 operations of the Chapter 90 Law, at least, vague
10 as to the interpretation has put the Town Building
11 Department, once, again, in a precarious position.

12 Being proactive helps not only the taxpayer
13 but the homeowner, as well.

14 I hope this situation receives some
15 consideration since I see the Code being flawed
16 and not being addressed by this Town Board.

17 Had this been a different era where
18 Commissioner Joe Nocello reviewed Chapter 90's, I
19 believe this situation would be handled more
20 differently.

21 I believe the lack of knowledge of the
22 supervisor and the demanding positions that they
23 hold due to the downfall of our Building
24 Department.

25 This is not the only situation the

1 Building Department has had as of recent.

2 I think an investigation of the Department
3 is in order and I am not sure - - six out of
4 seven Board Members voted down Laura Gillen's
5 proposal less than two months ago.

Page | 47

6 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
7 following ensued.)

8 RORI GORDON: Thank you.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, I do not
10 have any slips on this Public Hearing, is there
11 anyone else that would like to be heard?

12 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: Ms. Bernins would like to
13 have a chance - -

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No, she already had her
15 time to speak, I am sorry.

16 ATTORNEY SIEGEL: There are two points that
17 were not addressed, one, her as a family member,
18 the other that the inspection the Board showed
19 that the Town found there were no rats.

20 These allegations about rats are vague.

21 There are no dates and time on the
22 inspection report.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

24 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
25 roll.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Before I vote,

Page | 48

5 Commissioner, I have one question for you, if you
6 want to go in, you don't have the authority.

7 Hypothetically, if you had the authority to
8 go in and remediate and place a lien on the house,
9 the cost of that lien would exceed the lien, the
10 imposed lien to demolish, so, the estate would be
11 hurt by remediating the property and the value of
12 the property would go down if this lady petitions
13 the Court for fiduciary letter, she has an
14 obligation to the estate to maximize the value.

15 So, by demolishing the house, it is
16 benefiting the estate.

17 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: That is correct.

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Secondly, when you
19 demolish the house, if it passed today, please,
20 exercise caution and put a barrier so vermin
21 doesn't extend to the neighbor, can you do that?

22 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes, we do and we
23 have to get a letter from Nassau County saying
24 there are no rats and we have fifteen days to
25 knock it down.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I appreciate your
2 diligence. I stand with the residents, I vote
3 aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

Page | 49

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Nobody should have to
6 live like that, so, I definitely vote aye as well.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
16 call our next Public Hearing.

17 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of
18 Buildings to demolish and remove a one and one
19 half story wood frame one-family dwelling with
20 attached garage and remove all litter and debris
21 from property - Levittown (175 Barbara Lane) East
22 side of Barbara Lane, 115 feet North of Roxbury
23 Lane - Department of Buildings

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Rori Gordon?

25 RORI GORDON: I said what I have to say for

1 all three properties, thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other
3 slips on this Public Hearing, is there anyone else
4 that would like to be heard on Public Hearing
5 Number 2?

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

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
9 have a motion.

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make a Motion that we
11 close the Hearing and move the item.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the
13 Motion.

14 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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 BOARD 4/2/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
4 call the next Public Hearing. Page | 51

5 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of
6 Buildings to demolish and remove a one and one
7 half story wood frame, one-family dwelling with
8 detached garage and remove all litter and debris
9 from property - Merrick (29 Fisk Avenue) northeast
10 Corner of Fisk Avenue and Fletcher Avenue -
11 Department of Buildings.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Cay Fatima?

13 CAY FATIMA: I am Cay Fatima,
14 representative of Catherine Marshall Associates,
15 Lakeview, Long Island.

16 We do advocacy with regard to community
17 issues, such as, zombie homes.

18 Again, I wanted to make - - address and
19 probably leave the remainder of my time to the
20 Council people.

21 I, um, very much like what I heard in this
22 previous speaker's, um, responses to the
23 responsibility of what we are doing with these
24 Article 90's.

25 I know there is another property

1 that I researched that had an Article 90 issued in
2 2016 and the home still hasn't been demolished,
3 so, it seems to be pick choose, pick choose.

4 We go here. We go there, um, if homes are ^{Page | 52}
5 invested with rodents, then, obviously, they are
6 being invested in other homes.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam, that was Item
8 Number 1.

9 This is Public Hearing Number 3, which is
10 the property in Merrick, are you talking about
11 that?

12 CAY FATIMA: Yes, I am talking on all of
13 these homes.

14 Can the Building Commissioner speak on why
15 they are demolishing this home?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, can you
17 please come forward?

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Ah, yes, this house
19 in Merrick is in extremely poor condition.

20 There are holes in the roof. The structure
21 is not well. This house needs to come down.

22 CAY FATIMA: Okay, how long has it been in
23 poor condition, sir?

24 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We first got the
25 call back in 2012 and the, um, people were

1 doing some maintenance on it and it wasn't
2 structurally needing to come down in 2012.

3 And, we continued to monitor it over the
4 last several years and at this point, it does need ^{Page | 53}
5 to come down, now.

6 CAY FATIMA: So, how many years are we
7 talking, seven years, sir?

8 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yeah, six and a
9 half, seven years.

10 CAY FATIMA: So, taxpayers have been paying
11 for building inspectors to go for seven years.

12 The house needed to come down in 2012.

13 You said you kept monitoring it. Every
14 year you monitor it every month.

15 Talk about the monitoring, please.

16 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: We got a complaint
17 in the Complaint Department.

18 We go and look at the house. At this
19 point, we have to make sure that it is safe and
20 secure and what we do is we continue to monitor
21 that, dropping by making sure that it is secure,
22 so the neighborhood children don't break into it
23 and get hurt and things like that.

24 CAY FATIMA: So, this process went on four
25 seven years, sir?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It was secured the
2 entire time, so, it wasn't a problem.

3 It became a problem when the roof started
4 to fail and the ceiling started to collapse due to ^{Page | 54}
5 the water getting into the house, as the
6 conditions got worse, it is to the point our
7 engineer came in and said, now, it has to come
8 down.

9 It didn't need to come down.

10 It didn't need to come down previously.

11 CAY FATIMA: So, it is vacant for seven
12 years, is it bank owned?

13 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Um, I believe, I am
14 not sure who owned it at this point, um, back at
15 that time.

16 CAY FATIMA: Look at your paper, you have a
17 pile of papers, someone owned it.

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Can I ask a quick
19 question, Commissioner, the increase of opioid
20 problems, aren't kids going into houses that are
21 vacant more often than not?

22 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Especially if they are
24 unsafe like that, we got to do something and shame
25 on us if you don't, correct?

1 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: And, this house is
2 still in foreclosure.

3 CAY FATIMA: So, it is still in the Court
4 properties, do we have any ordinances, any rules, ^{Page | 55}
5 anything on the books in New York State since
6 2012, any politicians speak on that, that could
7 have assisted the Town of Hempstead in making sure
8 (A) that the taxpayers of the Town of Hempstead
9 are not paying to secure these things?

10 There has been thirty-three million dollars
11 taken by the New York State Attorney General to
12 assist Towns - - to assist Towns so that
13 taxpayers are not overburdened with these
14 problems.

15 Can any Council person, politician,
16 appointed person speak on that?

17 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Any work that the
18 Town does on behalf of a property is putting a
19 lien on that specific property.

20 The taxpayers do not bear that cost.

21 CAY FATIMA: So, the taxpayers bear the
22 cost on the property.

23 Values being lowered, but their tax
24 assessments staying the same. The property values,
25 if people wanted to sell their home next

1 to it, such as homes that are going to be on the
2 agenda today or previous agendas that means that
3 we are just stuck with the problem.

4 There has to be some one that can address Page | 56
5 this issue before my time is up.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is what
7 is going on, now.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is what we are
9 doing, now, when we are alerted to problems with
10 the home, we go out, se send our Code Enforcement
11 Officers.

12 We inspect the property.

13 We evaluate the issues, if there is a
14 violation - -

15 CAY FATIMA: Seven years?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We try to get the
17 property in good condition.

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It can take
19 seven years, more than seven years, like the one
20 we just had, that is what we had to do.

21 We have to follow the rules and regulations
22 of the State.

23 CAY FATIMA: The rule says - - it doesn't
24 say seven years.

25 You show me a rule that says seven

1 years.

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am not going
3 to argue.

4 CAY FATIMA: There is no argument because ^{Page | 57}
5 it is not true, okay.

6 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
7 following ensued.)

8 CAY FATIMA: There is no rule that says it
9 takes seven years, not after 2012.

10 You show me that rule, that law that says
11 it can take seven, eight, nine, ten, fifteen
12 years.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
14 comments. I do not have any other slips on this
15 Public Hearing, is there anyone else that would
16 like to be heard?

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

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

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I move the
22 Hearing be closed and the item be adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
call the next Public Hearing.

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
"Regulations and Restrictions" to limit parking in
East Meadow, near Valley Stream, West Hempstead
(To amend Chapter 202 of the Code of the Town of
Hempstead)

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

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

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

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

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move
4 that the Public Hearing be closed and the local Page | 59
5 law be adopted.

6 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Second.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

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

23 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
24 "Park or Standing Prohibitions" in Baldwin,
25 Bellmore, Elmont, Uniondale (To amend Section

1 202-1 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
3 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
4 like to be heard? Page | 60

5 PEARL JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs, Good
6 Afternoon, President of the Nostrand Gardens Civic
7 Association.

8 Um, I just need some clarification as to
9 where these prohibitions will be implemented in
10 Uniondale.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Reed.

12 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Good Morning,
13 Supervisor.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

15 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: This particular
16 issue in Uniondale regarding New Street in
17 Uniondale.

18 PEARL JACOBS: New Street and, um, can you
19 specify the criteria?

20 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: It is a restriction
21 for a resident. They are blocking her driveway
22 and it will help getting in and out of the
23 driveway.

24 PEARL JACOBS: And, I would like to make a
25 comment.

1 I know Mr. Ra he is not here at the moment
2 but I did, um, send Mr. Ra an email on March 6th at
3 the last meeting I spoke regarding serious parking
4 issues in residential areas of Uniondale an I did ^{Page | 61}
5 send an email to him.

6 And, I am going to read it publicly.

7 It says, um, "Mr. Ra, thank you" - - I am
8 sorry, hold on.

9 It says, "Good Afternoon, Mr. Ra, at the
10 February 26th Town Board Meeting, I spoke
11 concerning the need to implement parking
12 regulations in Uniondale, the lack of parking
13 regulations in Uniondale continues to adversely
14 affect the quality of life for numerous
15 homeowners.

16 "The primary goal for Nostrand Gardens
17 Civic Association is to achieve positive quality
18 of life for Uniondale.

19 "I am respectfully requesting to meet with
20 you to discuss parking regulations and enforcement
21 to discuss this most important matter."

22 Um, that was March 6th and Mr. Ras has yet
23 to respond to me.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think it would be
25 better to speak to Mr. Reed.

1 He control our traffic issues, so, if you
2 speak to - - Mr. Reed, speak with Ms. Jacobs
3 after, outside and Senior Councilwoman would also
4 like you to speak with her about what the
5 discussions with Mr. Reed are.

6 PEARL JACOBS: Thank you. As taxpaying
7 constituents and also President of the Civic
8 Association, don't you agree Mr. Ra should, at
9 least, respond to my email?

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr. Ra has so
11 many things, how can we have him do that?

12 PEARL JACOBS: Please, don't make excuses
13 for him.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Listen,
15 listen, I am not making excuses.

16 PEARL JACOBS: Please, don't.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am the
18 Councilwoman for that area and I would like if you
19 - -

20 PEARL JACOBS: Senior Councilwoman Goosby,
21 I am not going to get into a back and forth,
22 today.

23 I would be respectful if he, at least, he
24 responded to me, even if he said he can't speak
25 with me at that time.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is not
2 his job.

3 PEARL JACOBS: Well - -

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am trying to
5 tell you - - Page | 63

6 PEARL JACOBS: He could have steered me in
7 the right direction.

8 I will speak with you, Mr. Reed. Thank
9 you.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra didn't mean to
11 show you any disrespect.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, he did
13 not.

14 There are so many things that he does.
15 We have ways of getting this done.

16 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday. Senior
17 Councilwoman, you're microphone was still on if
18 you weren't aware of that.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you.

20 META MEREDAY: No problem. Meta Mereday,
21 Baldwin resident.

22 I would like to know the location of the
23 areas designated for Baldwin.

24 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: That location is on
25 the corner of Grand Avenue and William Street

1 for the side portion of the resident's home.

2 Again, restricted parking, parking in this
3 guy's driveway, the ability to get in and out of
4 his driveway, to get rid of the cars, so he can Page | 64
5 get in and out of the driveway.

6 META MEREDAY: So, that is the only one for
7 Baldwin in that area.

8 I definitely agree, um, because that is a
9 significant crossing for us.

10 It is a dangerous area since we still have
11 an issue with the lack of Crossing Guards.

12 I mean it is an issue I keep bringing to
13 the forefront.

14 A Police Officer was almost hit along with
15 myself one block away from that crossing, so, it
16 is something that we need to be aware of that.

17 So, I just wanted to make sure we were in
18 sync with the location.

19 Um, and how does this tie in with the
20 connection with the Police Officers to enforce
21 this once you put the signs up?

22 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Once we put them up,
23 I talk to the resident and if they still continue
24 to have a problem with the parking, with parking
25 violations, they notify the Police and the

1 Police will come down and duly enforce it.

2 META MEREDAY: Okay, thank you.

3 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Welcome.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We get the

5 notices from the residents, themselves, the

6 various changes on the street.

7 They send it to us and he gets it and they

8 have to go through and make sure everything is the

9 way it should be there.

10 META MEREDAY: I appreciate that.

11 I am well aware of the process. I guess

12 that would be an educational tip for those that

13 weren't aware of it.

14 I just wanted to know where it was.

15 Thank you.

16 Why is this mic not working?

17 With these high taxes we should have

18 audio/visual.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other

20 slips on this Public Hearing, is there anyone else

21 that would like to be heard?

22 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,

23 the following ensued.)

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I

25 have a Motion.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

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

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the Page | 66
5 motion.

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please

21 call our next Public Hearing.

22 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
23 "Traffic Regulations in the Vicinity of Schools"
24 in Merrick (To amend Section 197-13 of the Code of
25 the Town of Hempstead)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
2 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone who would
3 like to be heard?

4 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After, ^{Page | 67}
5 the following ensued.)

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

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

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second the MOTION.

12 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

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

3 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re: "Bus
4 Stops" in North Bellmore (To amend Section 202-52^{Page | 68}
5 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

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

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

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

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make a Motion that we
14 close the Hearing and we vote on the item.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I second the
16 Motion.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

18 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye. Page | 69

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
8 call the next Public Hearing.

9 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re: "Real
10 Property Tax Relief for Cold War Veterans" (To
11 amend Section 10C -3 of Chapter 10C of the Code of
12 the Town of Hempstead)

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
14 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
15 like to be heard?

16 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin
17 Resident.

18 Just a couple of questions with regard to
19 this Real Property Tax Relief, what does that
20 constitute?

21 Um, and what is the impact and how will
22 those who qualify for it be notified?

23 ATTORNEY: Thank you, Supervisor, the State
24 Law was recently amended to increase the limits
25 for the production of World War Veterans and the

1 State Law specifically authorized by Local Law
2 municipalities to raise those limits.

3 We have done that with that, all those who
4 are applicable get the maximum benefit from the Page | 70
5 enacted legislation.

6 As far as notification goes, I don't know
7 what the regulations are but we should make sure
8 that all those who benefit are notified.

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I can address that,
10 also, with those that already have it, have
11 been notified.

12 And, it is going to be increased.

13 Number 2, we did a full-core press on this.
14 We did a Press Conference.

15 We are going to continue to put this in the
16 media, especially if it passes the Board, today.

17 We will go out, again, to those Veterans,
18 male and female that own a home, that served
19 during the Cold War that they are made aware of
20 this.

21 People are unaware.

22 META MEREDAY: Right.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We will continue. We
24 will do another Press Conference to let all the
25 Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion

1 Post, Disabled American Veterans, there are a lot
2 of people in the Vietnam Veterans of America, Cold
3 War Veterans, all the organizations, we will hit
4 to make sure they are aware of this new law. Page | 71

5 META MEREDAY: Do you have any idea as far
6 as the Town of Hempstead, how many?

7 We don't have numbers, that is my problem,
8 here.

9 We keep talking a full-core press and you
10 admitted it yourself Councilman Dunne, that people
11 still don't know.

12 So, there is still Veterans out, here that
13 don't know, who are impacted, who are not getting
14 the information.

15 I mean, we have Korean War Veterans that
16 don't know since 2008, the Korean War is, now,
17 considered a War.

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: People don't read the
19 paper anymore, that is why the Veterans
20 Organizations is the next best things and Veterans
21 and their wives and widows, that go to auxiliary
22 meetings, they talk at Senior Centers.

23 They talk and we bring it to the Senior
24 Centers.

1 I have been part of that outreach, also,
2 where we go and we try to leave pamphlets at
3 different stores, at shops.

4 So, we are going to do a new full-core
5 press on this because it is a good thing.

6 Every time we do something for the
7 Veterans, we got to get the word out to everybody.

8 Not everybody hears the words, not
9 everybody reads the paper.

10 Not everybody watches T.V.

11 Not everybody goes to a Veterans Post but
12 they do go to the stores.

13 So, we try to put things in the stores.

14 META MEREDAY: But, they also read their
15 mail but, again, we don't seem to understand we
16 need to do the research, you know, set up a matrix
17 demographics.

18 We claim we have numbers.

19 When we say Long Island has the largest
20 Veteran population, we don't know how this breaks
21 down, even though this region has a large
22 percentage of Korean and World War II Veterans in
23 the Country, but, we still don't have a number.

24 So, I am just hopeful we can get beyond
25 that.

1 We are going to do a full-core press and
2 hope for the best?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Meta, first of all, I
4 think you raise a very valid issue. Page | 73

5 Um, and it seems to me that there might be
6 a remedy for that as far as notice goes.

7 So, with Councilman Dunne's permission,
8 since he is the sponsor of this legislation, um,
9 we will consult with the Town Receiver of Taxes
10 and see if a slip of paper with a Notice can be
11 put in with a tax bill so everybody gets notice.

12 So, if you are a Cold War Veteran or you
13 know a Cold War Veteran or you are related to one,
14 that you would get notice.

15 We will check the feasibility, do you
16 agree, Councilman?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Absolutely, if you want
18 to amend this legislation, I think, put that in
19 there I will second it.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do you want to make
21 that Motion.

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make the Motion that
23 we direct the Receiver of Taxes to put notice in
24 everybody's mail that goes out that Cold War
25 Veterans are eligible for this and explain it in

1 layman's terms so they understand that is a good
2 thing that they are doing.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I wouldn't just say,
4 "everything," must the tax bill. Page | 74

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Just the tax bill, yes,
6 yes.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second that.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor, as
9 far as Nassau County is concerned, we cannot
10 approve whatever they send out.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can't tell the
12 County what to do but we can make a suggestion.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Suggest that
14 they are aware of it so fi they send out notices,
15 as well.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Ms. Mereday, we
17 have a new Director of Communications, Donna, over
18 there, um, maybe you can connect with her and talk
19 about a direct communication plan, how we can
20 reach out to more residents.

21 She is a wealth of knowledge on that and
22 would be a great addition to that.

23 META MEREDAY: I can do that, thank you so
24 much.

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
3 on this Public Hearing.

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Vote on the amendment. Page | 75

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is clear we are
6 voting on the amendment of Resolution 8 to include
7 a slip with the tax bill making Veterans aware of
8 this change in the law.

9 Do I have a Motion?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Councilman Dunne
11 moved it and I seconded it.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

13 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

16 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Madam Supervisor, there
3 seems to be some issue on the first Public Hearing
4 as to whether or not it was properly seconded, may ^{Page | 76}

5 I respectfully request that the Clerk call the
6 roll, again.

7 Do a Motion and a second on Item Number 1.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, we are voting
9 on the amendment.

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am sorry.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, can you
12 call the roll on Public Hearing Number 8 as
13 amended.

14 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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 BOARD 4/2/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: There seems to be some
4 issue whether or not the first Public Hearing was ^{Page | 77}
5 properly seconded, so, just to clear up the
6 record, do we have a Motion and a second and a
7 recall of the vote on Item Number 1, Public
8 Hearing 1.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on
10 Public Hearing Number 1.

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I move the Public
12 Hearing be closed and the petition be adopted.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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 BOARD 4/2/19

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Thank you.

Page | 78

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Ra.

6 Madam Clerk, will you call the next Public
7 Hearing, please.

8 CLERK CABANA: Application of Gabrielli
9 Truck Sales, LTD, for a Special Exception (Public
10 Garage) to grant an extension for truck repairs
11 and outside storage of vehicles and to include the
12 existing building and modifications - INWOOD -
13 South side of Bayview Avenue, West of Alameda
14 Street.

15 ATTORNEY REALI: Madam Supervisor, Members
16 of the Board:

17 My name is John Reali. I am the Attorney
18 for the Petitioner Gabrielli Truck Sales, LTD.

19 And, my offices are located at 410 Jericho
20 Turnpike in Jericho.

21 This is a petition to modify the existing
22 special use permit to Gabrielli by this Board in
23 October, 2014, to use the premises as a public
24 garage for truck repair with outdoor storage of
25 vehicles.

1 Um, I would like to give you a background
2 on this application.

3 These premises were purchased by Gabrielli
4 Truck Sales, LTD., in the County of Nassau in Page | 79
5 February, 2015.

6 These premises were approved by Nassau
7 County Public Works Department for storage and
8 repair of their vehicles since 1966.

9 Gabrielli Truck Sales has been occupying
10 the premises as tenant of Gabrielli Inwood, an
11 affiliate of the petitioner.

12 As set forth, we are bounded on the West by
13 a Park, on the North by warehouses on Bayview
14 Avenue on the East - - on the South by Nassau
15 County Public Works salt dome and on the East by
16 houses.

17 The main entrance to our property is on
18 Bayview Avenue.

19 And, there is another gate on Alameda
20 Street which we keep partially closed and only use
21 for our employees to gain access to our parking
22 lot in the back of our building.

23 The subject premises is zoned "Y"
24 Industrial.

25 The facility is used and will be continued

1 to be used to service municipal trucks sold to
2 Nassau County, State of New York and other
3 agencies.

4 It is, now, and again will continue to be Page | 80
5 used as a public garage for truck repairs and
6 outside storage of vehicles in accordance,
7 especially, the permit obtained in 2014.

8 Vehicles sold are covered by warranties by
9 the manufacturers and Gabrielli Truck Sales owned
10 franchise for Mack, Ford and Kenworth, full
11 warranties upon these manufacturers.

12 They have nineteen employees at this
13 location and if the Town Board approves, our
14 application and the building, we expect to add
15 thirty additional employees making a total of
16 forty-nine employees.

17 They work two shifts.

18 The works is done from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00
19 midnight on weekdays and on Saturday from 6:00
20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

21 And, we are closed on Sundays.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Counselor, all the
23 work that is performed at this site is done
24 indoors?

25 ATTORNEY REALI: Yes.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There is no outside
2 work done?

3 ATTORNEY REALI: No.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

5 ATTORNEY REALI: Occasionally, when an
6 extra tall truck comes in, we have to leave part
7 of the truck outside and put just the cab inside
8 where the engine is and they work on the engine
9 because we can't put - - open the doors.

10 The doors are only eleven feet, seven
11 inches high.

12 The proposed addition will raise the roof
13 and the doors to sixteen feet which will allow us
14 to bring the entire vehicle in, however big it is
15 and close the doors and make it nice and neat.

16 Um, the current building has ten thousand
17 six hundred and sixty-six feet and the proposed
18 addition will increase the size to twenty-four
19 thousand three hundred and twenty square feet.

20 We have a part agreement with the Town of
21 Hempstead IDA where we plan to create good jobs
22 and increase the employees as previously
23 mentioned.

24 Again, we cannot increase the number of
25 employees until we get a larger building.

1 Early 2015 we filed an application with the
2 Building Department for a larger building.

3 Since, then, we have been working with the
4 Building Department to get their approval. Page | 82

5 Um, since the building was built by the
6 County around 1960.

7 The County was not required, although they
8 did file planning permits and CO's, we had to
9 retrofit the building.

10 We had to bring everything up to speed and
11 everything up to code before we could apply for
12 this current extension.

13 As a result of this, factors have brought
14 us to this point, now.

15 We have been good neighbors since we took
16 over the property.

17 We have cleaned up the facility. We have
18 removed old fuel tanks and old fuel pumps.

19 The site plan shows the building is
20 shielded from seeing the truck and we also show a
21 flagpole on the North side of the northwest corner
22 of the building.

23 We believe that the proposed use will not
24 have an adverse effect on the character of the
25 neighborhood.

1 And, the use of the premises will be in
2 harmony with the Town of Hempstead Zoning
3 Ordinance.

4 The applicant will not have an adverse or ^{Page | 83}
5 negative impact on the real estate values in the
6 neighborhood.

7 It will not have, um, any impact on the
8 useful services.

9 Again, we believe this project will result
10 in a beautiful new building, will enhance the
11 neighborhood.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Counselor, do you
13 have any witnesses other than yourself?

14 ATTORNEY REALI: I have the architect, here
15 and one Vice-President.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, basically, we met
17 on two occasions, um, during those meetings I
18 requested with the Building Department that you
19 modify your plans to include beautification, the
20 planting of trees and certain other improvements.

21 It appears that you did that.

22 Is your client willing to covenant that all
23 of the improvements and all of the beautifications
24 and all the plantings will be maintained according
25 to high standards?

1 ATTORNEY REALI: I am sure not a problem.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I just want to say
3 that of all the problems that I have in Inwood,
4 you seem to run a very clean operation with the
5 people in the community, and they don't have any
6 serious issues with your operation and the fact
7 that you are going to beautify it, that you will
8 be working inside and you are going to beautify
9 the area, so, thank you, Counselor.

10 We would like to hear if there is anybody
11 in the community on this application.

12 Is there anybody that wishes to be heard on
13 this application?

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

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, I will move to
17 approve the application.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Bensoti? (phonetic
20 spelling)

21 (Whereupon, "he left," was heard calling
22 out from the audience. After, the following
23 ensued.)

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There is a Motion.

25 I made the Motion, Councilman D'Esposito

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Seconded it.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you call the next Hearing.

CLERK CABANA: Application of Lawson Boulevard, LLC. for a special exception (Public garage) to permit use of the subject parcels to be used for an auto body repair shop business with the outdoor storage of vehicles under repair - Oceanside - between Lawson Boulevard & Notre Dame Drive.

ATTORNEY BROWNE: Good Morning.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

2 ATTORNEY BROWNE: Supervisor, Members of
3 the Board, Christian Browne from Sahn, Ward &
4 Coschignano. 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard,
5 Uniondale, appearing for the applicant on this
6 special exception application.

7 As the Clerk noted, this concerns an
8 application to utilize two parcels that are
9 adjacent to each other on either side of Lawson
10 Boulevard.

11 The first is known as 3510 Lawson
12 Boulevard, that is the West parcel.

13 And, the second is known as 3511 Lawson
14 Boulevard or the East parcel.

15 Both of them are owned and operated by the
16 applicant and they are functioning as one
17 business, as an auto body repair business.

18 The applicant has been operating out of the
19 East building for, approximately, the past three
20 years.

21 And, recently expanded into the West
22 building.

23 Um, both of these facilities were, um,
24 damaged in Hurricane Sandy and were essentially
25 vacant - - well, not essentially, they were

1 vacant when the applicant took title to both
2 properties.

3 He has since refurbished and then
4 rehabilitated them.

5 It is actually a nice-looking auto body
6 facility.

7 I think you have some photographs and I can
8 hand, um, some additional photographs, um, if the
9 Board would like to see both facilities.

10 Um, the East building is where the office
11 is located for the business, as well as a, um,
12 floor in the back where body work is done and
13 where the two spray booths are located.

14 Both of those spray booths are licensed and
15 approved by the Nassau County Fire Marshal
16 already.

17 That building has fourteen parking spaces
18 in the front, the front yard area that can be
19 utilized by customers, although most customers in
20 a business like this are dropping off and leaving
21 their cars for repair.

22 So, there is not a tremendous parking
23 demand but there are fourteen parking spaces
24 there.

25 Twenty-seven spaces are required by the

1 Code, so, as part of the process, there are some
2 Zoning Board work, um, necessary, as well before
3 we can get a formal Certificate of Occupancy.

4 All of the office functions are on the East ^{Page | 88}
5 side, so, all customers who are dropping off and
6 filling out paperwork and so forth go to the East
7 building.

8 They drop off their vehicle.

9 They leave from there and as I said, also,
10 in that facility behind the office area is a large
11 open floor area for repair work and where the two
12 spray booths are located across the street in the
13 West building, um, that building, again, was
14 damaged by a fire, became vacant and formerly the
15 Leonetti Brothers Moving Company warehouse.

16 It was abandoned for some time and in
17 disrepair.

18 It has been fully refurbished.

19 Again, I think you have some photographs
20 there.

21 You see a very nice job in, um, upgrading
22 the building.

23 No customers use that side of the street.

24 It is exclusively used for body work.

25 There are no spray booths in that building.

1 So, it is really just a large open floor of
2 a former warehouse where the body work takes
3 place.

4 And, as mentioned in the last application, ^{Page | 89}
5 all of the work does take place indoors in both
6 facilities.

7 There is nothing at all that goes on
8 outside of these buildings except that on that
9 West parcel some cars are stored overnight that
10 are waiting repair.

11 You can see that West parcel is located
12 against the Long Island Railroad right-of-way.

13 There are no homes anywhere near there.

14 It is "L" Shape.

15 So, there is a nice depth.

16 The cars can be kept to the back in the
17 parking lot and behind the building.

18 There are twelve parking spaces on that
19 building where twenty-three are required.

20 But, again, those spaces are not used by
21 customers or employees and I should mention the
22 business does supply about twenty-five people that
23 work during, you know, regular shift and those
24 workers, office workers and the repair workers
25 simply park on Lawson Boulevard and a handful

1 of them also come by public transportation to the
2 site.

3 The business operates 8:00 to 5:00, Monday
4 to Friday, occasionally we will operate on
5 Saturday mornings depending on the need of the
6 business, but, generally, not passed noon if they
7 are there on Saturdays.

8 And, they are closed on Sundays.

9 As I mentioned, there are twenty-five
10 employees, um, working at any one time.

11 Both parcels are zoned "Industrial," zone.

12 And, as you can see and I know many of you
13 are familiar with this area, it is a highly
14 Industrial area, all of the uses that surround and
15 abut the premises are either commercial or
16 industrial in nature.

17 There are no residential parcels in the two
18 hundred foot radius.

19 Obviously, none abutting.

20 There are no side streets that would allow
21 for customers or overflow parking in any way
22 impair or otherwise affect residential areas
23 because Lawson Boulevard, particularly, in this
24 section is entire Industrial in nature.

25 Again, I would just emphasize that the

1 Building is rehabilitated.

2 They are very nicely, very nicely done.

3 I was in both of them and I was impressed
4 especially for an industry often where people are ^{Page | 91}
5 associated with grime or junk.

6 It is really quite nice.

7 It is an improvement to Lawson Boulevard.

8 It no way affects the area.

9 And, we would ask you to give the use
10 approval so that the applicant can move onto
11 finish out its work in the Building Department.

12 And, just one final point I want to make, I
13 know there was an inspection report done prior to
14 the Hearing, which is the Town's practice.

15 Those issues identified, um, have already
16 been resolved or are in the process of being
17 resolved.

18 The permits that the Building Inspector
19 requested have been filed, so, there is, now, a
20 permit filed for the fence.

21 There is a fire damage permit filed, both
22 of those have permit numbers.

23 Um, the sidewalk obstructions have been
24 cleared.

25 Sign permits have been filed.

1 Fire extinguishers have been unblocked and
2 checked by the Fire Department and they apparently
3 passed muster.

4 If you like, we would get rid of the false ^{Page | 92}
5 palm trees.

6 We will throw them overboard.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr. Browne, a
8 couple of questions.

9 Thank you for your presentation.

10 ATTORNEY BROWNE: Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I just want to
12 reiterate and for the record and make sure that
13 the items that have been a concern for the
14 Building Department that were handled during the
15 inspection on March 11, 2019 are being taken care
16 of and in the process of permits being applied
17 for?

18 ATTORNEY BROWNE: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Commissioner
20 Rottkamp, you can attest to that?

21 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you.

23 ATTORNEY BROWNE: I have these two permit
24 numbers.

25 As I said, we filed the building permits

1 and the sign permits, I believe the case is going
2 to end up at the Zoning Board for parking and
3 probably the fence and once that is completed, all
4 the permits will be closed out and hopefully we Page | 93
5 will get a new C.O.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Perfect.

7 Just a couple of things to also mention,
8 for those in the Oceanside community, if they are
9 listening at home, I know the hours are going to
10 be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday,
11 obviously, on the weekends as needed.

12 ATTORNEY BROWNE: Right.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If he can make sure
14 to keep in mind any of the residential.

15 In the rear, obviously, not the line
16 necessarily but around the area of tow trucks, um,
17 and I also would like to say for those of you who
18 know Lawson Boulevard, it is a tough stretch.

19 It is not the best of areas.

20 There are some businesses that work very
21 hard to keep it clean and Norstar is one of them.

22 You guys, all of your shops are very clean.

23 Your trucks are always clean and they
24 always proudly support a lot of the community, you
25 know, so, Mr. Valenti, the work that you do

1 in the community has not gone unnoticed.

2 And, Councilman Dunne, in case you are
3 wondering they are probably some of the most
4 patriotic people.

Page | 94

5 There are more flags on their buildings,
6 then, there are in any other buildings in the Town
7 of Hempstead, so, and I appreciate that.

8 And, just listen, what you bring to Lawson
9 Boulevard is very nice, um, like it was mentioned
10 by Mr. Browne, it is an area of Industrial.

11 And, it is very rare that in an Industrial
12 area you have a nice palm tree, so, I appreciate
13 that.

14 So, keep up the great work. As long as
15 those items are addressed, I don't really see us
16 having any problems.

17 So thank you very much.

18 ATTORNEY BROWNE: Thank you for your
19 comments, Councilman.

20 For the Board Members knowledge, my client
21 is here, the operator of the business, he is
22 anxious to do this right and get fully legalized
23 and I think he does bring a nice - - it is an
24 enhancement to that area which suffers from a lot
25 of vacant buildings and warehouses and so forth.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr. Browne, just
2 one last thing, I know that is always an issue on
3 Lawson Boulevard and I know you guys already do a
4 great job of it, just continue to make sure that ^{Page | 95}
5 we do our best of not blocking lanes on Lawson
6 Boulevard as it is always a tough issue.

7 I know you guys are doing your best but
8 just if there is any new workforce coming in with
9 the addition of the new building, please, remind
10 them that Lawson Boulevard is one of those tough
11 stretches, far right, always the far right lane is
12 tough.

13 I don't want to see anybody get hurt.

14 I don't want to see any accidents and we
15 don't want to see traffic.

16 ATTORNEY BROWNE: Thank you, Counselor.

17 We appreciate your support.

18 I have nothing further, Madam Supervisor.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Browne.

20 I do not have any slips on this Public Hearing.

21 (Whereupon, "May I ask a question," was
22 heard calling out from the audience. After, the
23 following ensued.)

24 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New
25 York.

1 Mr. Browne, stated the building was damaged
2 by Hurricane Sandy, Superstorm Sandy, what was the
3 preliminary damage assessment of this property?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We don't have that Page | 96
5 information right, now.

6 I will try to get you the information from
7 the Building Department.

8 RORI GORDON: Would Mr. Browne be able to
9 answer that question.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Browne, do you
11 know?

12 ATTORNEY BROWNE: I am afraid I don't know
13 the specifics, the history, just that they were
14 vacant and suffered some form of damage.

15 RORI GORDON: I would certainly be welcomed
16 to that information.

17 Thank you, Supervisor.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else
19 that would like to be heard?

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

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

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the
25 Hearing be closed and the application be

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Granted.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

ATTORNEY BROWNE: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Madam Clerk,
would you, please, call the Administrative
Calendar.

CLERK CABANA: Yes, there are Items 17
through 53 on the Administrative Calendar.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would any of the
Counsel Members like to sever any of the

1 Items on this calendar?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I don't
3 want to sever any items but, I do want to, um,
4 make a Motion regarding, um, a number of the
5 items.

Page | 98

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Before we do that,
7 I do have an emergency resolution that I would
8 like to hand up.

9 It is a resolution accepting a gift of
10 ownership of a website name www.tohli from the
11 Receiver of Taxes from Donald X. Clavin.

12 COUNCILMAN DONNE: I second that.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, this is supposed
14 to be an emergency resolution?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It is sort of an
16 emergency being that there are signs, Town
17 correspondence, there are twelve thousand water
18 bills sent out on February 27th with the old
19 website on it.

20 What we would like to do, if we can approve
21 this today, perhaps we can put a link on the old
22 website linking us to the new website so nobody is
23 caught off guard and unable to get to Town of
24 Hempstead resources.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: My understand is

1 that this gift was purchased by the Receiver of
2 Taxes over a month ago so I don't understand why a
3 month later it is an emergency.

4 The definition of an emergency is "an Page | 99
5 unforeseen combination of circumstances, the
6 resulting state that calls for immediate action."

7 Can you, please, tell me how this is an
8 emergency that something that was purchased by the
9 Receiver of Taxes - - we have been waiting for
10 this political stunt for a while, a month ago.

11 Why is this an emergency, Councilman?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: First of all, this
13 is not a political stunt.

14 I stated before about two minutes ago, that
15 there are signs, Town correspondence, there are
16 water bills being sent out, there are signs on
17 Parks on Town facilities that has the old website,
18 so, all we are asking to do is make sure that
19 people have the ability to have a link from the
20 old website to the new website that you designed.

21 So, my Motion is it is an emergency. We do
22 as the Town Board decides and we will go from
23 there.

24 My Motion stands.

25 I have an emergency

1 Resolution accepting a gift of ownership of the
2 website named, www.tohli from the Receiver of
3 Taxes, Donald X. Clavin, Jr. and I believe there
4 was a second.

Page | 100

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, since we have
6 launched - - first of all, the old Town of
7 Hempstead website was .li, which stand for the
8 Republic of Liechtenstein, so, the old Town of
9 Hempstead website was being hosted in a foreign
10 country, I believe, Vaduz.

11 We decided to bring our website, our Town
12 of Hempstead website back to the United States,
13 so, we got a .gov website.

14 Since we launched our new url,
15 Hempstead.gov last Summer, we have had nearly six
16 million hits.

17 Of that traffic, people were redirected
18 from our old website, Liechtenstein website and
19 only slightly more than eleven thousand times
20 since last Summer, that accounts for two tenths of
21 the percent of our total traffic.

22 Also of that eleven thousand, less than
23 three thousand were redirected since last January,
24 that means people have learned of the new url and
25 no longer searching for the Liechtenstein

1 Address.

2 As months go on, redirect traffic from
3 tohli will become virtually nonexistent.

4 Again, .li is not recognized as a standard Page | 101
5 top level domain and sponsored and administered by
6 the University of Liechtenstein.

7 Why is the largest Town in America using
8 such inherently flawed technology to host the data
9 of its residents?

10 Furthermore, when you look up our old
11 domain name, it is owned by a private vendor,
12 Matthew Kane who was based in California, an
13 outside consultant.

14 Before we brought our website inhouse at no
15 cost to the taxpayers, saving thousands of dollars
16 every month in fees for the taxpayers of the Town
17 of Hempstead, the tax collector's politically
18 motivated gesture is laughable as he has ignored
19 inherent cyber security risks associated with a
20 domain that is sponsored, registered and partially
21 administered by a constitutional monarchy in a
22 different continent.

23 I believe you are in charge of security at
24 the Board of Elections, have you done a complex
25 cyber security risk?

1 Oh, you have?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: My question to you
3 is - -

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I love to see. Can you ^{Page | 102}
5 turn it over to Newsday?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I will take care of
7 that after the meeting.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: My question to you,
10 then, if there were so many people that were being
11 redirected, then, why were water bills sent
12 February 27th at the old website?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You will have to ask
14 the Commissioner.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I m not asking the
16 Commissioner, I am putting forward an emergency
17 resolution.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Our new .gov name gives
19 the Town access.

20 United States Readiness Team which deal
21 with any and all incidents involving the
22 intentional and unauthorized access to our cyber
23 infrastructure, there is technology that has been
24 active and available since 1985, and no one in
25 this Town ever bothered to take advantage of

1 it.

2 This is just another example of politics
3 trying to interfere with good government.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, point of ^{Page | 103}
5 information; is it Liechtenstein or Liechtenstein?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can call up the
7 University of Vaduz and find out.

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I have been to
9 Vaduz and it is Liechtenstein and it is a
10 constitutional monarchy.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, I think, first, we
12 have to have a vote on whether or not bringing
13 back Liechtenstein is very imperative and an
14 emergency for every taxpayer in the Town of
15 Hempstead.

16 Let's have a vote on whether or not this is
17 an emergency.

18 Madam Clerk, please, call the roll.

19 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: On behalf of all the
23 Town of Hempstead Liechtenstein, I vote yes.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

Page | 104

5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am

7 abstaining from this.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Now, that is Item,
11 what?

12 CLERK CABANA: 54.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 54. Does anyone else
14 want to sever - -

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Not sever,
16 Supervisor, but, I have a number of Motions I
17 would like to make at this time with respect to
18 the Administrative Calendar.

19 CLERK CABANA: Before when I called the
20 Administrative Calendar, I said Items 17, it
21 should be Items 11 through 54, I am sorry.

22 Sorry, Bruce.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, I move Items 17
25 through 54 is it?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: 11 through 54 and,
2 then, I will have amendments after that one
3 Motion.

4 All right, I move to adopt Items 11 through ^{Page | 105}
5 54, however, I also move Items 20 be adjourned
6 without date.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just a moment, Mr. Ra,
8 I need you to comment on this, Item 20 is a
9 resolution to pay my attorneys who represented me
10 in my lawsuit.

11 It is Abrams, Fenstermann.

12 Mr. Blakeman, I don't think - - you were a
13 member of that firm.

14 I don't think you are qualified to make
15 that statement.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I haven't been a
17 member of that firm in five years, um, so - -

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have our ethics
19 counsel, here, Mr. Leventhal, maybe you can opine
20 on this.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are you saying I have
22 a conflict because I am moving to adjourn this?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I personally wouldn't
24 feel comfortable moving and making a Motion or
25 voting on anything that has to do with my

1 former law firm.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Isn't this sort of
3 similar to the vote that you made on an insurance
4 broker; a gentleman who was related to the guy
5 that use to work for also chaired your campaign
6 committee?

Page | 106

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

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: My law firm is not on
10 the resolution.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Sorry, Bruce.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There has never been a
13 resolution having to do with my former law firm.

14 It was his brother's.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: How do you know it
16 was his brother?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Eventually, we found
18 out his brother, a relative of someone that worked
19 at my law firm worked at the company that came
20 before me.

21 I don't see any ethical conflict
22 whatsoever, but, that is not the matter at hand.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have absolutely no
24 financial interest in Abrams, Fensterman law firm.

25 I have known members of the firm for

1 years.

2 I consider them friends. I don't think
3 that is the reason to recuse myself but, if you
4 want Ethics Counsel to opine on it, if I should
5 abstain, recuse myself, vote on it, what do you
6 think, Steve?

Page | 107

7 ETHICS COUNSEL LEVENTHAL: A question when
8 an issue of conflict of interest arises is whether
9 there is an actual or potential conflict of
10 interest.

11 Up to this point, I have not heard any
12 facts that would give rise to a conflict of
13 interest.

14 Councilman Blakeman has indicated he has no
15 financial relationship with the firm and there is
16 no reason to believe that he would derive a
17 personal benefit from how the Board voted on this
18 particular matter.

19 So, absent other facts that have not been
20 mentioned here that I am not aware of it, I don't
21 perceive a conflict of interest.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you and by the
23 way for an explanation, I am requesting that it be
24 adjourned so that we can check into legality.

25 I am not against paying Abrams,

1 Fensterman their legal fees so long as it is
2 according to all our rules and regulations and
3 that it is pursuant to an act of the Town Board.

4 I asked Mr. Ra to look into the matter.

5 I am merely making a Motion to adjourn. I
6 have no idea how my fellow members of the Board
7 are going to vote on it.

8 Some feel, I am told, that we should not do
9 - - we should not pay fees of Abrams, Fensterman
10 absent a, um, judgement by a Court.

11 Um, I am not sure about that and that is
12 the only reason why I said that I think we should
13 adjourn.

14 Let's see what happens.

15 So, I move to adjourn that without date.

16 I also move that Item 25 be removed from
17 the calendar as it is already provided in Section
18 128.56 of the Town Code.

19 I also move to amend Item 27 and Item 28 as
20 follows:

21 With respect to Item 27, I am shocked to
22 find out that our total contribution to Villages
23 wo have auxiliary police units and those that are
24 in the Town of Hempstead that have auxiliary
25 police units that we only have been

1 Contributing five hundred dollars to those in the
2 Villages and a thousand to those in the Hamlets of
3 the Town of Hempstead.

4 And, I think that it is, um, wrong.

5 That contribution that we make is so low.
6 These are people that are out in the snow. They
7 are out in the rain. They are out on their days
8 off.

9 They volunteer their time and the least we
10 can do is make a more reasonable contribution.

11 I don't know if this is even adequate but,
12 at least it lets the volunteers and the auxiliary
13 police department know that we care about them and
14 that, um, we feel that they should get a better
15 contribution from the Town.

16 I also move that Item 38 be removed from
17 the calendar - - excuse me, let me go back to 27,
18 my Motion is that we increase from five hundred to
19 one thousand dollars, our contribution.

20 In Item 28, we increase our contribution
21 from one thousand to two thousand.

22 Item 38 be removed from the calendar.

23 That Item 46 to be amended to adjourn the
24 hearing dates of the following employees until
25 September 24th and the reason for that is

1 that we did not budget for them to be hired in
2 this quarter.

3 I think that all the members of the Town
4 Board realize that we have a reasonability to
5 appoint people from the TOZNER list and that these
6 people are worthy of being appointed and they are
7 entitled to it but that we would adjourn this from
8 September 24th when we did budget for the hiring of
9 these individuals; Dawn Marie Bernal, Dujuan
10 Chaplin, Alexandra Charalambous, Robert Hayes,
11 Douglas Knab, Jr., Anthony Musante, Meghan Ready
12 and Vincent Simone.

13 I also move that we add the additional
14 names from the TOZNER list that are in the
15 Sanitation Department where we do have it budgets
16 for them to be hired; Dirk Moffit, Salvatore
17 Barone, Matthew Block and Joseph Almodovar and
18 they be immediately hired as we have
19 accommodations in the budget for them to be hired
20 immediately.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Subject to Civil Service
22 approval.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second that Motion.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I would just like to
25 point out I agree with Councilman Blakeman that

1 our auxiliary police certainly are worthy and
2 deserving of getting an increase in funding but to
3 say it is shocking, it actually was in the budget
4 that you voted in favor of.

Page | 111

5 Um, in addition, with respect to the
6 addition of the additional personnel, Number 46, I
7 have never seen a personnel action request from
8 any of these people.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can we move the
10 motion?

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I seconded it.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Felix Procacci?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: As amended.

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

16 Um, on the calling of the Hearing for the
17 Ethics Law, I say that we should postpone that
18 date because, um, first, you know, my
19 recommendation from the beginning was always to
20 bring this to residents, you know, because I feel
21 as far as any Ethics, we have meetings at this
22 Town Hall.

23 I don't see that happening, enforced by the
24 individual employees for various reasons or the
25 Board Members and I think the only way to

1 enforce ethics is to allow the public to make, you
2 know, those inquiries.

3 I believe, I am not sure if it is in there
4 this version, I know it was in the previous Page | 112
5 version.

6 I didn't get through the whole thing, but,
7 once, again, it is a very complex document.

8 So, I think it should be brought to the
9 public, first before we um, vote on it.

10 Also, I just want to point out in our
11 existing ethics law, as far as the financial
12 disclosure, we are in violation of it and I have
13 been bringing this up for a year, now and nobody
14 here brought an ethics inquiry to the Board of
15 Ethics, right, raise your hand if you did, if I am
16 wrong.

17 So, we are not enforcing the current ethics
18 law and you have power and I have nothing.

19 I have no - - John Ryan told me I don't
20 have authority to bring an inquiry to the Board of
21 Ethics.

22 All the employees in the Town of Hempstead
23 do and I don't.

24 And, it hasn't been done and we are in
25 violation of the law.

1 Also, on the various offices and positions,
2 once, again, I FOIL-ed the leave of absences and I
3 was just told first, I was denied and I asked for
4 the reason which is required by law and they said ^{Page | 113}
5 it is an unwarranted invasion of privacy and,
6 then, I asked can you explain that unwarranted
7 invasion of privacy and I was told to appeal it to
8 Charles Kovit.

9 And, what do you think Charles Kovit is
10 going to say?

11 He is just going to say it is an
12 unwarranted invasion of privacy without expanding
13 on it because nobody has expanded on it which is
14 typical when you make an inquiry to the Town
15 Attorney's Office, you just get something, period
16 and no explanation as to why.

17 That is my problem with these things and,
18 um, the Board of Ethics can't be picked by the
19 Town Board.

20 It is a conflict of interest. I think that
21 needs to be picked by somebody else.

22 It has to be somebody outside the realm of
23 the Town Board because there is conflicts of
24 interest.

25 Um, and I brought up one more thing,

1 I made my first inquiry to the Compliance Officer
2 this week, because we violated our Procurement
3 Policy and I feel a violation of any rule is a
4 violation of ethics.

5 So, I am asking him to look into that
6 financial consultant that we hired, where it was
7 fifty thousand dollars and there was no bid per
8 our procurement policy - -

9 (Whereupon, the bell rang. After, the
10 following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Diane Madden?

12 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden, Hempstead.

13 Um, I just like to understand that better,
14 Councilman Blakeman, with the hiring, could you
15 just review that one more time?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Sure thing, we have a
17 Court Order that requires us to hire off of what
18 is called the Tozner list, okay, that is the name
19 of the lawsuit and, basically, we budget for that
20 every year.

21 We typically do the Tozner list hirings in
22 the 4th quarter to save the taxpayers money.

23 Um, we budgeted for it.

24 We are going to do it.

25 It is our obligation to do it.

1 And, quite frankly, it is the right thing
2 to do.

3 A lot of these people were promised
4 fulltime work.

5 They were given part-time employment.

6 They never made it fulltime work and it
7 really was a situation that was unjust and unfair,
8 so, we recognized we not only have a legal
9 obligation, we have a moral obligation to these
10 people.

11 So, since it wasn't in the budget for the
12 eight that were on this list, but, it is for the
13 4th quarter.

14 We are adjourning this Motion with the
15 anticipation that on September 24th, these people
16 will be hired fulltime form the list as required
17 by law and is the right thing to do.

18 With respect to the other four that we are
19 now adding from the Sanitation Department, the
20 Sanitation Department has within their budget the
21 money to hire these four, so in order to show our
22 good faith to the Union, the bargaining union that
23 represents the employees of the Town of Hempstead,
24 the CSEA as a matter of good faith, we have
25 indicated to them that we would hire

1 Immediately four people from Sanitation that are
2 on the Tozner list because we do have money for
3 that.

4 That we would hire the eight that are on Page | 116
5 the list, today on the 24th in the fourth quarter
6 when we have the money for it.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If I could add
8 to that, the four that we have on the list, today
9 are based on the business meeting from the
10 Commissioner of Sanitation.

11 They are in desperate need of employees
12 there.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr. Ra, would
14 you, please explain to them this list of how we
15 became about the Tozner list, what happened and
16 who started it?

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Many years ago, there
18 were started a process in the Town with part-time
19 people who worked part-time and classified as
20 "part-timers," but they worked fulltime hours.

21 There was a lawsuit brought by the CSEA by
22 the Town stating that these people have to be
23 fulltime.

1 They need fulltime specifications in
2 everything they do except the Town confirming to
3 classify them as part-time.

4 There was a Federal Lawsuit and as a result Page | 117
5 of that Federal Lawsuit, there was a stipulation
6 of settlement where the Town agreed to hire thirty
7 people off what became known as a Tozner list
8 because Tozner was one of the Plaintiffs.

9 So, every year until the Tozner list is
10 expunged, the Town has to hire thirty people per
11 year off of that list.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Tell them what
13 started it in the first place, the Town didn't
14 have to do it.

15 When, who initiated it?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Was it Senior
17 Councilwoman Goosby?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY; That's right.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Come on, these are
20 easy questions, Joe, even I know the answer.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Senior Councilwoman
22 Goosby advocated and fought for these part-timers
23 and the Federal lawsuit was brought.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Conroy, could you
25 opine whether or not we have money for the

1 eight people that were on the list, now and
2 whether we will have the money we are postponing
3 this Hearing to September 24th.

4 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: I would be happy to, ^{Page | 118}
5 Councilman, as far as the Hearing, today for
6 Sanitation, what we have done, it is incorporated
7 into the budget, the '19 budget was vacancies
8 worth eight hundred and sixty-five thousand
9 dollars.

10 What we did of those vacancies, we carved
11 out twenty hirings for Tozner and funded those
12 according to two hundred and twenty-five thousand
13 dollars.

14 Heretofore, what we have exhausted in terms
15 of funds in Sanitation is three hundred and
16 thirty-five thousand dollars.

17 So, what is remaining is, approximately,
18 three hundred thousand dollars, in addition to
19 that.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Would that be
21 adequate for the hiring of the four sanitation
22 workers?

23 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Yes, it would. Yes,
24 it would.

25 In addition to that, we have one leave

1 of absence which is worth about eighty thousand
2 dollars and occurred since the beginning the year
3 an should that stick with the remaining of they
4 year, there is another eighty thousand dollars on ^{Page | 119}
5 top.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What about the hiring
7 of the eight people on the list, now, rather than
8 the fourth quarter, would that create a budget
9 issue?

10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I believe it would. I
11 have to go back and check the math on that.

12 I have to check what they would be hired
13 at, but, it could mostly create a problem in the
14 budget.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Loccaruba, could
16 you speak on that issue, please.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr. Loccaruba
18 has those figures?

19 MR. LOCCARUBA: Good Morning, initially,
20 put forward the folks off the Tozner list at the
21 Supervisor's request based on the way that the
22 budget was crafted an subsequent at the budget
23 hearings, it was never once mentioned that the
24 funding for the Tozner folks was not going to be
25 there for the entirety of the year.

1 We were looking to do this consistent with
2 how we did it last year where we appointed people
3 throughout the course of the calendar year.

4 With respect to there being no funding,
5 even on this current agenda, the transfer of
6 Patricia Asebato (phonetic spelling) from the
7 Building Department to the Parks Department
8 freezed up a prorated amount of money of fifty
9 thousand dollars from the Building Department.

10 Yet, the Comptroller said there is no money
11 to hire somebody off the Tozner list for forty-one
12 thousand, so, we are not sure where those
13 calculations are being made and where.

14 It stated there is no money for those folks
15 on the Tozner list.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Mr. Conroy, when
17 the budget was adopted, were the people that were
18 on the Tozner list budgeted to be hired, now or in
19 the 4th quarter?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: To be hired in the 4th
21 quarter and more, specifically, December of the 4th
22 quarter.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We want to amend
24 that, now, so, that it doesn't have to wait to the
25 end of the year - -

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just a point of
2 clarification, that is the way it has historically
3 been done.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I finish.

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse us, one
6 at a time, please.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

8 Basically, according to the estimates that we
9 looked at, if we delay until, um, September 24th,
10 it can save the Town, approximately, two hundred
11 dollars, does that sound in the ballpark?

12 COMPTROLLER CONROY: About a quarter of a
13 million dollars.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, just to clarify,
16 historically, people on the Tozner list that are
17 people that waited a really long time to go from
18 part-time to fulltime, it was a priority of my
19 administration that we implemented last year, this
20 is not, now, to not make those folks wait to
21 December to get fulltime employment.

22 So, last year, it was a priority of my
23 administration to try to get some relief get those
24 people fulltime working who waited so long for
25 this opportunity, get them on the payroll, get

1 them fulltime and we implemented last year putting
2 them, I guess, approximately, quarterly.

3 We divie up the list.

4 We are required to hire thirty people each ^{Page | 122}
5 year.

6 We divied up the list and we put these
7 people forward so that some people who had been
8 waiting on the list and there is an order to the
9 list who had been waiting on the list could get
10 the opportunity to work fulltime to do something
11 nice for our workers and to get - - make them
12 feel that we, in the Town of Hempstead, care about
13 them.

14 We did this last year, this is not new.

15 We did it last year.

16 We wanted to do it this year and the people
17 that we put forward - - I put forward these people
18 on the Tozner list are the people that are next in
19 order to get that.

20 And, when we did the budget, we anticipated
21 that we would do what we did last year, put
22 forward the people on the list in order they have
23 been waiting and put them forward.

24 Mr. Loccaruba, when we did the budget,
25 there was money for it, so, I am a little

1 Confused saying there is no money for it.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think, Supervisor
3 and by the way, I share your concerns with respect
4 to the people on the Tozner list and that is why, ^{Page | 123}
5 you know, we are going to do the four sanitation
6 workers today and we are not going to say to the
7 eight because that would be unjust and unequitable
8 for them but that we delay because it would cost
9 the taxpayers an extra quarter of a million
10 dollars.

11 I believe last year we did them all in
12 December, so, we did the list in order in December
13 last time, now, we are going to start in
14 September.

15 So, it is an improvement and we are putting
16 on the four sanitation people, today which is an
17 improvement.

18 So, I think we are all on the same page.

19 We have to do it but we have to do it in a
20 fiscally responsible way and, perhaps this year's
21 budget will address the issue of trying to
22 accelerate that process.

23 But, under the budget that we have, now,
24 those hires were anticipated for the 4th quarter,
25 am I right, Mr. Conroy?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Can I ask a
3 questions, Mr. Conroy, last year I think all those
4 people that were on the Tozner list were included ^{Page | 124}
5 in the number that the Supervisor included that we
6 hire, you know, am I right?

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Were they
9 included in that one hundred and ninety-nine?

10 COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Were they
12 included in that one hundred and ninety-nine?

13 COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay, those
15 were the people Tozner list, so, we did it at the
16 end of the year last year.

17 COMPROLLER CONROY: Correct.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That was 2017, in 2018,
19 the people came off the Tozner list before
20 December.

21 It is a matter of fact. I would be happy
22 to show you the resolution where we hired people
23 off the Tozner list before December.

24 You're thinking of 2017, prior to this
25 administration.

1 In my administration - -

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, I am not.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: People came off the

4 Tozner list in 2018 before December.

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is what

6 the lawsuit was all about, those were included in

7 one hundred and ninety-nine.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I would be happy to

9 show you the lawsuit.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, I don't

11 want to hear you about your lawsuit because you

12 sued me and I didn't vote against it.

13 I don't want to hear it.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: With regard to

15 the number, so, we can just understand the

16 proposed eight, um, employees on the Tozner list,

17 right, now, you're giving the approximate number

18 that would cost today ab out two hundred and sixty

19 thousand dollars that we haven't budgeted, but, if

20 we continue in two weeks to do another eight and

21 the following two weeks another eight, we are

22 looking at a number that would greatly increase

23 between now and the proposed September date, so,

24 it is not a one time hit of two hundred and sixty

25 thousand, that is unbudgeted.

1 We started adding up all these Tozner
2 employees, we get to a pretty big number that has
3 not been budgeted, so, it is a lot more than just
4 a quarter of a million dollars that we are looking Page | 126
5 at potentially going forward with these
6 advancements of the Tozner list hirings, is that
7 correct?

8 COMPROLLER CONROY: It is correct, to the
9 extent that we have to schedule out all of those
10 hirings, the timing to determine and compare that
11 to the budget and have the actual to compare to
12 the budget to arrive at exactly what that adverse
13 effect would be.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Adverse effect,
15 I think it is fair to say would be greater.

16 It would be north of a quarter of a million
17 dollars that we just referenced and it is not in
18 the current budget.

19 COMPROLLER CONROY: It would be safe to
20 say that.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I wanted to
22 state for the public and for the members of the
23 union, who are here, um, I think that all of us on
24 the Board care deeply about our Union workers, all
25 of our employees, um, but, we also have

1 a fiduciary responsibility to all of the Town of
2 Hempstead residents and that is why we delivered
3 a four percent tax cut.

4 And, it is my job as Council Member to look ^{Page | 127}
5 after the financial wellbeing of these residents
6 and to keep my promises so that is why we are
7 going forward with this.

8 This is a direct business meeting as
9 demonstrated by the Commissioner of Sanitation to
10 hear these workers and it is budgeted for.

11 It would not be responsible for me and my
12 other Board Members to go ahead and, um, hire
13 these people off the Tozner list just to curry
14 political favor.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I add to,
16 we have a problem, now, this is April.

17 This is during the time we do much more
18 cleaning and making sure things are more in order
19 in the Sanitation Department than any place else
20 and the residents are expecting that.

21 So, we need these people.

22 They asked for people. We need them to be
23 able to, um, do - - we need to do, starting in
24 April, so, we need Sanitation people now.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aren't you

1 glad you asked the question.

2 DIANE MADDEN: I don't really understand.

3 It seems to me that this is a matter of
4 weeks, twelve weeks, is that correct?

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes.

6 DIANE MADDEN: So, I don't understand why
7 you are grandstanding on this, Laura.

8 I don't, I really don't.

9 I can tell you after being involved
10 eighteen years and here and now what I hear from
11 many employees in the departments, they don't feel
12 protected by you.

13 So, why are you taking this issue over a
14 few months?

15 I agree that there are many employees that
16 are deserving of fulltime work.

17 Um, that are waiting too long but it seems
18 to me very reasonable to wait until September so
19 you keep the taxpayers in mind.

20 Thank you.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy, if you
22 could stay there for a few minutes, we have a move
23 that is on the personnel calendar that I believe
24 you approved for, for Patricia Asebato (phonetic
25 spelling) and my understanding is that

1 there is no money in the budget for this move.

2 Why was it put on the agenda?

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: With all due respect,
4 Supervisor, I would have to go back and check my ^{Page | 129}
5 records.

6 There are twenty-six departments. There is
7 a lot of activity.

8 I don't have that readily available.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Don't you have to sign
10 off on personnel actions?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Those are in my notes,
12 again, I have to go back to refer to my notes to
13 answer the question.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Could you look at your
15 notes before we vote on this because I understand
16 there is no money in the budget for Patricia
17 Asebato and you are saying that there is no money
18 in the budget for all of these Tozner people that
19 have waited for years.

20 Although my Finance Director, who worked on
21 the budget with you said that was in the budget
22 that we budgeted like we did last year to
23 promote these people to give them the
24 opportunity of fulltime like Dawn Marie Bernel,
25 Dajuan Chaplin, Alexandria Charalambous,

1 Robert Hayes, Douglas Knab, Anthony Musante,
2 Meghan Ready and Vincent Simone, people who have
3 been waiting years to be fulltime, who are,
4 Number 1 through - - 1,2,3,4,5,6, 7, 8 on the
5 list.

6 They have been waiting and, now, they are
7 going to be delayed.

8 You tell their families.

9 Diane Madden might not think it matters,
10 but, there families think it matters if they get
11 fulltime.

12 So, my Finance Director said we anticipated
13 it in the budget that she worked on with you.

14 But, I have information that Patricia
15 Asebato, there is no money in the budget for her,
16 but, we are moving her.

17 (Whereupon, Diane Madden approaching
18 microphone. After, the following ensued.)

19 DIANE MADDEN: You rang, I came up.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy - -

21 DIANE MADDEN: I came here many times to
22 speak on Mr. Benvento (phonetic spelling) who
23 waited many years.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, Ms. Madden,
25 please, step away from the microphone.

1 Nobody gets more than three minutes.

2 Mr. Conroy, please, answer my question.

3 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I am a little confused
4 about your questions.

5 If I can explain; 26 departments, the
6 budget calls for what we have is salary
7 adjustments and vacancies to fulfill those
8 positions that you are referring to.

9 There is quite a bit of personnel action,
10 moves since January 1st.

11 So, what we did we count for all the funds
12 - - against what are available.

13 Those Funds are vacancies and salary
14 adjustments, so, any of those assignments I signed
15 off.

16 I have work papers supporting all of my
17 actions.

18 Unfortunately, I don't have it with me and
19 if I did, the binder is about this big.

20 (Indicating.) So, I, again, I don't fully
21 understand your question.

22 I can tell you the integrity of this
23 process is intact and I stand behind anything that
24 I have signed and I am in a position to justify.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Loccaruba, with
2 respect to Mr. Asebato, were you told that there
3 was no money in the Parks budget to accomplish
4 this move?

5 MR. LOCCARUBA: It is not that I was told,
6 Supervisor, it is what is contained on PAR from
7 the Comptroller's Office.

8 The Town Fund with respect to availability
9 he checked off, "no."

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, according to you,
11 there is no money for this move?

12 MR. LOCCARUBA: According to the work that
13 we have done, all the transactions that occurred
14 in this particular incident, there are no funds
15 available.

16 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I have papers
17 supporting all of this.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: How can you support
19 this move if there are no funds available?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: It is in this
21 particular incident, the move they are talking
22 about is Sanitation, which is, basically, flushed
23 with money.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: My question is you say
25 you can't support taking people off the Tozner

1 List because there is no money available but, yet,
2 I have a personnel action from Ms. Asebato and you
3 said there is no money available, so, why is this
4 on the agenda? Page | 133

5 COMPROLLER CONROY: Ms. Asebato, I
6 apologize if I am mispronouncing it, is in the
7 Parks Department, separate and distinct
8 departments, carries its own funds for things like
9 raises or reinstatements and hirings and the like.

10 I signed this. It looks like I signed this
11 on March 13th and according to my records and all
12 work in the Parks Department, there were no funds
13 available to accommodate this PAR.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, why is it on the
15 agenda?

16 You say we shouldn't vote on things when
17 there is no money available, but, there is no
18 money available for this move.

19 COMPROLLER CONROY: I don't put the agenda
20 together.

21 I can't answer.

22 What I do is comment on funds available and
23 my comments are limited to funds available.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, would you recommend
25 that this motion is moot and should not go

1 because there are no funds available?

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: I am not in the
3 position to recommend anything.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would you recommend
5 that we don't hire Tozner people because there is
6 no money available, so, if you are saying there is
7 no money available for this transfer, I am asking
8 you to make a recommendation.

9 COMPROLLER CONROY: I didn't recommend
10 don't hire the Tozner people.

11 What I said was if we are to hire the
12 Tozner people, as it stand, today, the timing of
13 it would not be appropriate as compared to what
14 was budgeted for their hires.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are the sufficient
16 funds in the Parks Department to make adjustments
17 to hire Ms. Asebato?

18 Is that her name?

19 COMPROLLER CONROY: As indicated to.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are there funds in
21 the Parks Department to hire Ms. Asebato?

22 COMPROLLER CONROY: As of the date that I
23 signed it, which was March the 13th, there were not
24 sufficient funds.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr. Sammon,
2 could you explain why were where we are right,
3 now.

4 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Good Afternoon,
5 Members of the Board: Page | 135

6 This particular employee is budgeted for
7 the Building Department for several years.

8 Previous, she was fulltime in CSEA.

9 Upon, the change of administration, the
10 CSEA, the request came from Ms. Asebato to return
11 to the Building Department but to be transferred
12 to the Parks Department instead.

13 Her salary is currently budgeted for the
14 Building Department and the Parks Department.

15 I think it was anticipated that with the
16 less savings throughout the course of the year,
17 money would become available in the Parks
18 Department for this transfer.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, basically, it is
20 awash because you are taking the money that would
21 have been spent in the Building Department and you
22 are spending instead in the Parks Department
23 because someone ask for a transfer to that
24 Department?

25 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: That is

1 correct.

2 The funds should follow from the Building
3 Department over to the Parks Department.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Have the funds
5 transferred?

Page | 136

6 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: I believe this
7 regulation will bring that about.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is that accurate?
9 Is there a transfer of funds in this
10 resolution?

11 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Those are two separate
12 and distinct funds.

13 You have the Parks Department and the
14 Building Department.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: They are two separate
16 funds.

17 You can't move money back and forth.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You can have a fund
19 transfer, can't you, if you have board action?

20 COMPTROLLER CONROY: What happens, you
21 can't transfer intra transfer, between funds.

22 At the end of the year, what you can do,
23 you can appropriate fund balance to cover this
24 shortfall, if you will.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Correct.

1 So, basically, it is just an accounting
2 issue versus the real issue of not budgeting to
3 hire the eight people until the 4th quarter, hiring
4 them, now, would cost in excess of two hundred and
5 fifty thousand dollars to the taxpayers.

6 We are going to hire them anyway on
7 September 24th.

8 We understand that we have to do it.

9 It is the right thing to do.

10 It is the just thing to do.

11 I don't know what we are arguing over,
12 Supervisor.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think people have to
14 live within their budgets.

15 I think that is good government.

16 I think that is fiscal responsibility.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, it is a
18 request for a transfer.

19 We accommodate people all the time, that
20 work in the Town of Hempstead, who may want to
21 move from one to another and we make
22 accommodations at the end of the year.

23 We have people who leave Buildings to
24 Parks, so, there is savings in the Building
25 Department.

1 There is a little more money spent on
2 Parks.

3 It is awash.

4 It is not any additional expense to the
5 taxpayers versus what you want to do, so, I really
6 don't understand why we are making such a big deal
7 about it.

8 Ms. Asebato, who has become very famous,
9 today.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, of course, I am not
11 making any negative comments about Ms. Asebato,
12 who I understand is a kind employee, um, but I
13 think fiscal responsibility is important and you
14 have to live within your budget.

15 And, we should adhere to the budget that we
16 have and not spend money that we don't have.

17 Thank you, Mr. Sammon.

18 Mr. Conroy, actually, I have a couple of
19 questions for you, um, on Resolution Number 18,
20 which is the resolution to increase the amount to
21 amend the contract increase, the amount that was
22 spent on the study for transient-oriented
23 development and, gain, I think this is great.

24 I think transient-oriented development is
25 great.

1 Kaman Engineering is a fine firm, is going
2 a good job for us, but, I just have financial
3 questions relating to this matter, um, this is an
4 increase about one hundred and seventy-five
5 thousand dollars to the original contract, is that
6 correct?

7 COMPROLLER CONROY: Yes, I believe it is
8 not to exceed two hundred and seventy-five
9 thousand, two fifty as adjusted hire.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right and so if you
11 look at the resolution, it refers that the, um,
12 increase will be paid out of a particular line
13 from the budget, um, it is under Hempstead Part
14 Town Easement Services Fund Account,
15 Number03001290004151C, that is in the resolution?

16 COMPROLLER CONROY: That is correct.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, um - -

18 DEPUTY COMPROLLER: Supervisor, just for
19 clarification, Item Number 18, this was approved
20 in November by this Board.

21 There was a typographical error.

22 This was a corrected resolution.

23 I just wanted to clarify it.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are paying it in
25 2019, is that correct?

1 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER: The checks would be cut
2 in 2019 but the authorization came from last
3 November.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, Mr. Conroy, are Page | 140
5 you aware that the 2019 budget only has a twenty-
6 five thousand dollars allocated for this budget
7 line?

8 COMPTROLLER CONROY: That is subject to
9 check. I have to go back and check.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a copy of the
11 budget, here, if you want to check it.

12 Would you like to check it?

13 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Twenty-five thousand
14 dollars.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There is not enough
16 money in the line to pay for this increase, we
17 have to transfer money, is that correct?

18 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Or appropriate fund
19 balance.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Why isn't there a
21 companion resolution to transfer money to this,
22 to make sure that we have enough money to pay for
23 this?

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I can't answer that,
25 Supervisor.

1 I get these resolutions on Friday.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There is only twenty-
3 five thousand dollars, how are we going to pay for
4 this? Page | 141

5 Where is the money going to come from?

6 COMPTROLLER CONROY: On the line items in
7 this particular, doesn't, it may be positive
8 variances that we can transfer, as I mentioned
9 appropriation of fund balance.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, if I may
11 be heard, so, basically, what we have here, today
12 is a correcting resolution on a resolution that
13 you voted for in November that was passed
14 unanimously in November and now we are bringing up
15 the fact that there may not be enough funds in
16 this particular line knowing full well that at the
17 end of the year, we sit down and we have a lot of
18 different areas where we don't spend in one area,
19 we spend in the other.

20 We make valuable judgements.

21 We make choices based on what is best for
22 Town residents and what is best for the taxpayers.

23 And, we do this every year.

24 So, I don't understand what the point is.

25 You voted for this.

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I voted for it.

It is something that is good.

It is something that you support. It is something that I support.

It is something that is desperately needed in the Town of Hempstead, especially, in my District.

So, I really don't understand what the issue is today.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilman Blakeman, just to respond, I don't have any issue.

I am very much in favor of transient-oriented development.

What I am not in favor of is shoddy accounting.

You just can't move money from line to line to line.

We flagged this issue when we saw this resolution.

We said there is no money in this line.

You could have corrected it. Why is it on the agenda?

DEPUTY COMPTROLLER: Supervisor, again, as I indicated, the Comptroller's Office last October and I indicated to them two weeks ago, the

1 Kaman proposal that was approved in November
2 referenced the additional, approximately, one
3 hundred thousand dollars that they were requesting
4 as part of this project, the funds were available ^{Page | 143}
5 in 2018's budget.

6 You are talking about the 2019 budget.
7 There is a fund balance left over, that money was
8 already earmarked. This is just correcting.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The money from 2018 is
10 for 2018 bills.

11 Yu can't - - and, correct me if I am wrong,
12 Comptroller, you can't get bills from 2019 and
13 okay, we are going to take it from 2018.

14 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER: The bills the
15 Comptroller's Office is going to receive in 2019
16 referenced the work that was authorized in 2018
17 and were earmarked.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, hold on,
19 hold on, Supervisor, it happens all the time.

20 We get bills in 2018 that we don't pay
21 until 2019.

22 We get bills from 2017 sometimes that we
23 don't pay until 2019 for a variety of reasons.

24 COMPTROLLER CONROY: If I can go through
25 the mechanics of that.

1 The anticipated expenditure in '18 that
2 would be two hundred and twenty-five thousand, we
3 encumber the money, which means we set it aside
4 for an expenditure in '18.

5 If it does not get spent in '18, by way of
6 that journal entry of fund balance appropriation
7 or in this case restoration, it ends up at the end
8 of the year in fund balance.

9 So only having two hundred and twenty-five
10 thousand in the '19 budget to your question,
11 Supervisor, how would we pay for this, we would
12 just reverse the restoration of the fund balance
13 that we did in '18 and appropriate it in '19,

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, to be clear, first
15 of all, in 2018, I believe there was one hundred
16 thousand earmarked on this line, I believe,
17 expenditure for sixty thousand, even if you take
18 the 2018, there is not enough money to cover one
19 hundred and seventy-five because the figures don't
20 add up to that.

21 Um, and second of all, the way we are
22 paying for this is we are going to pay out of fund
23 balance, correct, is that what you are saying?

24 COMPROLLER CONROY: In this particular
25 line item, I will also say, many line items in a

1 positive variance are restored to fund balance.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right, so, let's be
3 transparent to the taxpayers and say if we are
4 going to pay for this, we are going to pay out of ^{Page | 145}
5 fund balance, we could very well be.

6 This is a great resolution and it is a
7 great project and it is really a good thing we are
8 doing.

9 But, let's have transparency about where
10 the funds are coming from.

11 If there is not enough money in the line,
12 let's move the money to the line so the taxpayers
13 know exactly where these dollars are coming from
14 and how they are being moved.

15 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, I believe
16 we do, in fact, do that and it is year-end, all
17 inclusive restoration and/or appropriation of fund
18 balance which we went through that at the end of
19 last year.

20 We go through it once a year.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right, now, we have a
22 resolution that we are paying something on a line
23 that we don't have enough money for it.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is not the case,
25 Supervisor.

1 The money was earmarked for '18.

2 It wasn't spent in '18.

3 There is a fund balance.

4 The money is there. There is nothing that ^{Page | 146}
5 is not transparent.

6 There is nothing that is trying to deceive
7 the public.

8 The fact of the matter is we thought we
9 would spend the money in '18. The work is being
10 done in '18. Things got delayed. It is, now,
11 going to be, um, corrected with this resolution.

12 But, it is money that we approved that you
13 approved back in November and there is money for
14 it.

15 There is no shell game, no subterfuge.

16 There is nothing going on.

17 There is no smoke. There is no smoke at
18 all, so, there is no fire.

19 I don't know what we are arguing about,
20 here.

21 We are arguing about the fact that we put a
22 resolution on because somebody made a clerical
23 error on the resolution and we are just, um,
24 correcting that.

25 It is just a corrected Motion, corrected

1 Resolution.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have a resolution
3 that says we are going to pay fees on a line that
4 doesn't have any fees, that is the point.

Page | 147

5 Thank you, Mr. Conroy.

6 Ms. Mereday?

7 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Baldwin
8 resident.

9 Um, in other news, Number 17, I just wanted
10 to get clarification, is this tied into the
11 situation with the plume?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, this is related
13 to, um, soil testing, ask borings related to the
14 plume.

15 META MEREDAY: What is the problem with
16 that overall activity as far as residents being
17 informed about impending health challenges?

18 How many residents are going to be
19 disrupted by this process?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, are you
21 here?

22 COMMISSIONER: Good Afternoon, Supervisor,
23 Town Board:

24 Item 17 relates to entry access agreement
25 to allow the contractor to do vertical

1 Borings, free monitoring wells at this particular
2 location, Nichol Drive in Levittown.

3 It is part of the ongoing investigation
4 work that is being done.

5 It relates to the extent that the plume
6 exists.

7 Part of the agreement requires notifying
8 the adjacent property owners, um, to use
9 protective measures at that site and they store
10 materials at that site.

11 We have done hundreds of these over the
12 past twenty years related to the plume.

13 META MEREDAY: Okay, but isn't it,
14 according to what I believe was written in Newsday
15 a couple years ago, the plume is kind of beyond
16 this area?

17 COMMISSIONER: This is actually on the
18 eastern boundary of the plume.

19 This relates to remedial work that will be
20 done shortly.

21 We are trying to get concentration numbers
22 in this area.

23 We will build a remedial plant.

24 Yes, we know it actually extends further
25 South than this but this is more concerned about

1 the East/West alignment of the plume.

2 META MEREDAY: All right, thank you.

3 Um, briefly, with regard to 18, because I
4 think that one is taken up an hour and a half at Page | 149
5 this point, I just find it interesting and I agree
6 with the Councilman that this project is very
7 important.

8 But, I also agree with the Supervisor that
9 since we study rock formations and airflow and how
10 high grass grows, um, and we can justify paying
11 for it at the end of the year with a balance, we
12 can't seem to give long-awaited employees the
13 salary and I would guess the requisite benefits
14 that they need to pay the high taxes to live here.

15 We may say this will be taken care of in
16 September or December, but, this is April 2nd.

17 I am sure these people have - - and
18 actually, as a matter of fact, I know two or three
19 people that are among those eight, but, it is a
20 matter of livelihood how they eat, how they pay
21 their bills, how they get to their jobs, whether
22 it is part-time or fulltime.

23 So, I think that we need to kind of relook
24 at the things we pay for, for research that we can
25 justify with the fund balance and try to

1 utilize those resources for, hey, maybe research
2 about the climate and conditions related to our
3 Veterans.

4 But, in this case, paying salaries for, ^{Page | 150}
um,
5 employees who have been waiting that long, that is
6 all I am going to say about that one.

7 21, I agree.

8 I think that is definitely important.

9 So, I think 21 and 22, they tie into
10 together.

11 27, um, it is appalling but, again, we are
12 not prepared for disasters being in a vulnerable
13 location.

14 So, if this is, again, what I am always
15 told these small steps that people are supposed to
16 be, say, feed some major tragedy or national
17 disaster occurs, then, I guess that is what I have
18 to settle for at this point.

19 29, um, again,, 29 and 30, I am just trying
20 to understand what these panels, is there going to
21 be inside benefits or do those who participate on
22 this panel will we see them later on coming up for
23 contracts for the related work?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, this is - - these
25 two resolutions are in response to, um, the

1 change in policy that we implemented as a Board
2 last year requiring an open-ended process for
3 professional services for the Town.

4 So, people responded to an RFQ.

5 They were either interviewed. Their
6 proposals were reviewed and so this is just an
7 approved list of vendors of lawyers and
8 engineering consultants who are now able to do
9 business with the Town as a much broader list than
10 we used in the past.

11 META MEREDAY: When you say, "broad," it is
12 inclusive of whom?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We put an RFQ
14 requesting qualifications and anyone could
15 respond, not only people from the Town which had
16 some law firms from Rochester responded, I
17 believe, Rochester.

18 It is on the resolution.

19 Anybody who responded was evaluated and if
20 they met certain requirements, um, they are put on
21 this approved roster.

22 META MEREDAY: Okay.

23 35, I just wanted to know how much?

24 36, what is the distribution for this
25 increase?

1 Where is the money?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Oh, it is from - - it
3 is a movement - - Mr. Conroy, are you still, here?

4 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Yes.

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe and you can
6 correct me if I am wrong, moving money from a
7 Grant account into an Operating account, so we can
8 go ahead and do this work, is that correct?

9 COMPTROLLER CONROY: We got a Grant.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, we got a Grant and
11 we are moving money from the Grant account to the
12 Capital Outlay account.

13 META MEREDAY: So, that is just going to be
14 distributed throughout from what I gather?

15 (Whereupon, the three minute bell rang.
16 After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is being properly
18 moved from an account, so, we can pay expenses
19 associated with this project.

20 META MEREDAY: And, if I can ask the
21 question about 35, licensing fee.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Six thousand two
23 hundred and twenty-seven dollars and ten cents.

24 META MEREDAY: Okay and lastly, I did
25 request, I had a few seconds left, so, I will

1 be brief, um, I did request the possibility as
2 other municipalities showcase their diversity with
3 these contracts, I still have yet to see one with
4 the amount. Page | 153

5 I think it is an injustice not to put the
6 amount of these contracts on these because
7 residents don't have access to that, if there is
8 that unique possibility in 2019 that the Town of
9 Hempstead of doing business with a minority or
10 women-owned business, heaven knows, disabled-owned
11 Veterans that is listed by the name of the vendor.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

13 META MEREDAY: Thank you.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Cay Fatima?

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

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mary Ellen Kreye?

18 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Good Afternoon, Mary
19 Ellen Kreye.

20 436 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

21 On, Item Number 13 is 880 Jerusalem Avenue,
22 is that the former farm stand?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, what Item?

24 MARY ELLEN KREYE: 13, 880 Jerusalem
25 Avenue.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, could you
2 speak to this address.

3 COMMISSIONER: Okay, open and abandoned
4 one-story commercial building.

5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Yes, I saw that, the
6 description.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think 1030 Arthur
8 Street, is that correct, Commissioner?

9 MARY ELLEN KREYE: No, I am asking
10 Jerusalem Avenue, the commercial building is that
11 the former farm stand?

12 Is that the corner property?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think she is asking
14 do you know offhand if there is a farm stand on
15 Jerusalem Avenue?

16 I am not sure if it is the address of the
17 farm stand.

18 COMMISSIONER: I am not sure. I can get
19 you that information.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will get you that
21 information, Mrs. Kreye.

22 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I couldn't imagine what
23 commercial property was in that location.

24 On the - - so, I would like to move on and,
25 um, Number 28, how many Villages are, you know

1 included in that?

2 How many each, please?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Number 28, it is
4 Baldwin, Bellmore, East Meadow, Elmont, Five
5 Towns, Lakeview, Levittown, North Bellmore,
6 Oceanside, Point Lookout, Roosevelt, Seaford,
7 South Hempstead, Uniondale, Wantagh and West
8 Hempstead.

Page | 155

9 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, you do not have a
10 breakdown of how many villages and how many
11 hamlets?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, those are all
13 places where Item 28 is relevant.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: But the breakdown since,
15 um - -

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is only
17 unincorporated areas to be clear.

18 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Oh, so, this relates
19 only to unincorporated areas?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Correct.

21 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I didn't realize that.

22 So that the increase is for those, what is
23 it, about thirteen, fifteen hamlets?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe it is
25 seventeen hamlets in Item 28 and five

1 Incorporated areas in 27.

2 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Um, so, just to be
3 curious is that included in the budget since that
4 is such an issue? Page | 156

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: To be honest, the
6 original amount is what was included in the
7 budget.

8 These increases were not anticipated in the
9 budget.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, Item Number 34, I
11 think it sounds interesting that you're renting
12 out part of the premises of the old Town Hall so,
13 the Industrial Agency pays rent to the Town?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, that is an
15 independent agency, independent of the Town, so,
16 historically for a number of years, they have had
17 their offices in the old Town Hall and this is
18 just extending their lease agreement with the
19 Town, um, for five years and we have checked, this
20 is market value.

21 MARY ELLEN KREYE: On Item Number 38, what
22 is the spray pad?

23 Is that something for children's Park?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is removed from
25 the calendar.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 It was removed but that is recreational,
2 kind of like a sprinkler for children to play in.

3 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I didn't realize that
4 was that and I think that is it. Page | 157

5 Let me just check.

6 COMMISSIONER: BP Mobile Mart on Jerusalem.

7 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Really, Mobile Mart on
8 the corner of Nostrand Avenue, I saw cars in there
9 a few weeks ago.

10 So, I am flabbergasted.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Check with, not
12 Code Enforcement, Mr. - - where is our attorney?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Rori Gordon?

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

16 On Number 30, does one thousand dollar per
17 diem include Federal Court appearances, Civil
18 trials and depositions?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe everything.

20 It is municipal rates.

21 Mr. Ra, do you know offhand to answer this
22 question?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Those are municipal
24 rates.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The question is

1 would it include depositions?

2 RORI GORDON: Depositions, Federal Court
3 appearances and Civil trials.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Thousand dollars a day Page | 158
5 is trial work and two hundred fifty an hour is
6 outside.

7 RORI GORDON: It just says, "Supreme
8 Court."

9 Does it include Federal Court?

10 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

11 RORI GORDON: Okay, thank you.

12 Does a thousand dollars a day include all
13 expenses including travel time?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Basically, a 9:00 to
15 5:00 day.

16 RORI GORDON: Can you repeat that; I didn't
17 hear you?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: A 9:00 to 5:00 day.

19 RORI GORDON: Travel time is included?

20 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

21 RORI GORDON: Okay, thank you.

22 Just continuation of the previous policy
23 that the Town is paying attorneys all along, is
24 that correct?

25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

1 RORI GORDON: Who reviews the invoices from
2 the attorneys of outside counsel?

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Town Attorney's Office
4 and then the Comptroller. Page | 159

5 RORI GORDON: Previously, on September 5,
6 2017, you told me you reviewed.

7 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: From time to time, I
8 review them.

9 RORI GORDON: Okay, okay.

10 I just wanted to know, thank you.

11 On Number 32, I would like to sit in on the
12 next State certification class with the Building
13 Department as all the issue that are going on in
14 the Building Department, I want to make sure that
15 all the people who are supposed to be attending
16 are attending educational classes.

17 Can I do that?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think it is only
19 opened to employees.

20 Would you want a job with the Town, Rori?

21 RORI GORDON: I would do it for free.

22 No, I would like to further my education.

23 SENIOR COUNCILMAN GOOSBY: No, you cannot
24 do it for free.

25 RORI GORDON: I would like to further

1 my education.

2 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We pay that per person.

3 RORI GORDON: I understand that.

4 There are fifty-five employees that sit in ^{Page | 160}
5 this room and it sits well over two hundred.

6 You can attend a Professor's class if you
7 are not a student.

8 Why are residents not allowed to attend
9 when the Town is paying four thousand six hundred
10 and seventy-five dollars for the seminar?

11 I just want to watch.

12 I want to educate myself.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are paying for our
14 personnel to attend.

15 RORI GORDON: How do you identify who
16 attends and who doesn't?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner?

18 COMMISSIONER: Good Afternoon, every Code
19 Enforcement Officer of the Town of Hempstead and
20 their initial training must do twenty-four hours
21 of recurring training every year as a member of
22 AMCO.

23 The Town is looking to approve that to
24 offset the cost of this class.

25 This class is always done by everyone

1 of the Building Officials in Nassau County, the
2 Villages, Fire Marshal's Office.

3 They are all in this room, as well.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,
5 Commissioner.

6 RORI GORDON: On Number 45, why is the
7 Building Department still charging twenty-five
8 dollars for searches when I handed up an advisory
9 decision from the State over two months ago?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are looking into
11 this issue; I believe there is a code for - - we
12 are looking into the issue but we are waiving it
13 in this emergency instance for those Sandy
14 homeowners.

15 RORI GORDON: No, no, I am talking about
16 the day-to-day operations when I come in and I
17 want to search a house, I pay twenty-five dollars.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, we received your
19 opinion and we are looking into the issue.

20 RORI GORDON: Okay, also the Town deems
21 there is substantial damage and there is no claim
22 for FEMA, why they have to raise their homes.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is not on the
24 Administrative Calendar.

25 I would be happy to explain that to you.

1 RORI GORDON: Okay, it is really an
2 important reason that you are doing this, why are
3 people stuck in this yellow, red position?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Because the Town
5 assessed the initial property damage assessments
6 of their homes after Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and
7 they coded houses with different color codes based
8 on their initial assessment of what the damage
9 was.

10 And, they know these files exist in the
11 Building Department and now just notified people
12 that this file exists.

13 People are calling up and asking for them.

14 So, we are waiving the fees for these
15 people.

16 RORI GORDON: That is really not the
17 purpose of my question.

18 How did we get there?

19 How did we get to this position?

20 Why wasn't this information readily
21 available in the last six and a half years?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't answer that
23 question.

24 RORI GORDON: Who can?

25 Somebody can.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
2 After, the following ensued.)

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't answer the
4 question. You have to ask people from the prior ^{Page | 163}
5 administration.

6 RORI GORDON: How about the Building
7 Commissioner?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Gordon.

9 RORI GORDON: You put it out there, Laura,
10 I want to know the answer.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Rottkamp, will you
12 speak to Ms. Gordon.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: In the back room.

14 RORI GORDON: I don't want to speak in the
15 back room.

16 I think this is really an important matter.
17 It has been in the Press.

18 Can you imagine if it was your home or your
19 home or your home and you get a letter in the
20 mail?

21 I am speaking on behalf of the people that
22 are uneducated.

23 They are sweating bullets.

24 They are coming down, here like raving
25 lunatics.

1 I think it needs to be addressed and it is
2 part of the reason why you put this forward.

3 What happens to these people if they have
4 to raise their homes and Sandy money is gone? Page | 164

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We didn't send
6 that letter.

7 I didn't have anything to do with that
8 letter.

9 RORI GORDON: I think, Laura, did the right
10 thing.

11 It has been hidden for six and a half
12 years.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Your time is
14 up.

15 RORI GORDON: Ms. Sweeney, you should be
16 really upset because most of those people are in
17 your district.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Yes, I have had
19 a lot of follow-up meetings and there are a lot of
20 productive conversations going on.

21 Commissioner, would you like to say a few
22 words.

23 I am not a fan of disparaging people in
24 public when you don't have all the facts.

25 So, Commissioner, would you like to say

1 a few words about this so we can correct some
2 misunderstanding.

3 RORI GORDON: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER: Basically, what happened was ^{Page | 165}
5 after Sandy, after 2012, the Building Department's
6 requirements were to do a preliminary assessment
7 of the properties so that the Town residents were
8 capable of getting Federal money, that is the only
9 reason it was done.

10 And, we went from home to home and we said,
11 okay, it looks like there is a little bit of
12 damage, a little bit of water was in this house.

13 We will mark this house as yellow.

14 If there was anything that was severely
15 damaged, we took care of it at that time and they
16 were marked as red.

17 If there was no damage, we marked it as
18 green.

19 The information in those files was 2012.

20 So, that is historical data, that was
21 produced in 2012.

22 So, that is why those colors do continue to
23 remain.

24 RORI GORDON: Correct me if I am wrong,
25 doesn't it require the Building Department

1 to go back and do a reassessment, not six and a
2 half years later?

3 COMMISSIONER: Are you going to talk to me?

4 RORI GORDON: I am asking you a question. Page | 166

5 COMMISSIONER: So, basically, what we did,
6 with all of these evaluations, as the Town Board
7 knows, the Town Board has waived over six and a
8 half million dollars of permit fees over the last
9 six years.

10 So, all of those people have come in and
11 submitted, um, their, you know, permits and stuff
12 like that.

13 And, we have been working with those people
14 all the way since day one.

15 This Town Board has notified residents
16 through mailings, through the media, through the
17 Building Department when we went to everyone's
18 home telling them they need to file for building
19 permits.

20 It is in their best interest to file
21 because we said if ten years from, now, you don't
22 and you take out a permit and you go to sell your
23 house, how is someone going to purchase your home
24 knowing it wasn't fixed correctly.

25 So, this is not a money grab by the

1 Town.

2 That is why the Town decided to waive six
3 million dollars in fees to encourage people to
4 come forward as far as the preliminary damage
5 assessments done in 2012.

6 You as a homeowner know if you had one inch
7 of water in your house or if you had five feet of
8 water in your house, that is not a shock to you,
9 okay.

10 If you own the house at that time, you knew
11 that information.

12 You were told to come in.

13 We were helping people. We had over thirty
14 community meetings.

15 We had a mobile Town Hal that we sent to
16 every community and we advertised that we were
17 there to issue these permits to help the residents
18 to get back on their feet.

19 So, they can come to us.

20 As a matter of fact, two or three years
21 after the storm, I got a call from Florida, which
22 was FEMA that, basically said that has never been
23 done in the history of Federal disasters in this
24 Country and that person wanted to actually come up
25 and interview me because it was such a

1 great idea.

2 We did everything humanly possible to let
3 the people know the preliminary damage assessments
4 were just that, okay, what the status of the house
5 was when we were there in 2012.

6 If people would have come from day 1 and
7 filed paperwork with us and came to us, we issued
8 them permits on the spot for things to redo their
9 homes, now, six and a half years later, people did
10 not come forward and submit to us, how do we go
11 out and after them.

12 FEMA has a law where we can actually go out
13 and issue an appearance ticket for those homes and
14 it is a two hundred and fifty dollars a day fine
15 if they don't file.

16 So, that was something that we decided to
17 do and probably would be a good idea because
18 people were hurt enough through this storm.

19 We extended our hours.

20 We have gone through the communities.

21 We are still in community meetings.

22 We are doing everything we possible can to
23 have the residents come in and file their building
24 applications.

25 If people decide not to do that, that is

1 out of my control.

2 The problem is when people come in they are
3 given - - they have to go to Nassau County and get
4 both the assessed value of what the house was and
5 how much work they did.

6 If they come into us today and bring us
7 that information, we can issue them a permit and
8 they can move forward.

9 The preliminary damage assessments really
10 don't give you any information except for what we
11 saw from the front of the house.

12 Most of the homes we couldn't get into
13 because, again, they were flooded.

14 There was damage.

15 There was, um, then, we had a Nor'easter
16 after that where it was freezing out.

17 People didn't have power for weeks, so,
18 people weren't in the homes when we went there.

19 However, we knocked on the doors. We left
20 information packets with our contact information
21 telling them exactly what they should do to help
22 this process along.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Commissioner, to
24 you and your Deputies and all your Staff in the
25 Building Department, thank you for the work that

1 you do.

2 I know it is never perfect. It was an
3 unprecedented time and you guys stepped up. So,
4 thank you.

Page | 170

5 RORI GORDON: You never did answer the
6 question.

7 FEMA does require you to go back not six
8 and a half years later.

9 They require you to go back.

10 Why didn't the Town Code Enforcement
11 Officers go back and make a determination as to
12 what it really was not what they saw six and a
13 half years ago?

14 COMMISSIONER: We did go back and that's
15 the purpose of - -

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This item is not on the
17 agenda.

18 So, we need to move on.

19 COMMISSIONER: To answer the question for
20 the Town Board, though, we did go back and those
21 are the houses that we stored up and secured, that
22 is what our responsibility is if nobody is in and
23 they are bank owned.

24 We have them secured, that is what we do so
25 it doesn't collapse on anyone.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know on my
2 own going around to some of those areas, you did
3 good.

4 That is the first time that we had anything Page | 171
5 like that here on this Island.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I do not have any
7 slips on the Administrative Calendar, Madam Clerk,
8 will you call the roll?

9 PEARL JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs, Supervisor, I
10 just have a quick question regarding, um, Item 46,
11 the four people on the Tozner list that are
12 waiting for fulltime employment, are they diverse
13 candidates?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry?

15 PEARL JACOBS: Are they diverse candidates?
16 Are they diverse?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: My understanding is
18 they are in order from oldest to youngest, um, is
19 that correct, Mr. Sammon?

20 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Oldest on the
21 list.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Oldest on the list.

23 PEARL JACOBS: I am asking are they
24 minority employees?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 PEARL JACOBS: Are they diverse?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Speak into the
3 microphone, Mr. Sammon.

4 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: The employees ^{Page | 172}
5 are qualified for the eligible list are placed in
6 order based on their hiring date.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is the way it is
8 done.

9 PEARL JACOBS: I asked if they were diverse
10 candidates?

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No problem.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: They got on the list
13 pursuant to - - Mr. Ra, can you jump in if I am
14 incorrect, they got on the list pursuant to Court
15 Order that requires certain people to get on the
16 list pursuant to a Court Order that requires us to
17 put certain people on the list and it has to do
18 more than with their hours than their diversity,
19 is that correct?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is based on
21 longevity.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, if they happen to
23 be diverse because they are here - -

24 PEARL JACOBS: I wanted you to clarify it.
25 Thank you.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Madam Clerk?

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So on the

4 Administrative Calendar, I vote yes but to the
5 following exceptions, on Item 18, I absolutely
6 agree with the study being performed, self help
7 spurs economic opportunity in the Lawrence/Inwood
8 area, but I cannot vote for an item that has no
9 funding in place in spite of asking for a proper
10 line to be used or transfer of funds to take place
11 to this resolution as written.

Page | 173

12 And, right, now, it is not funded.

13 I still want to see this project be
14 properly funded but until we have a proper
15 companion resolution, I vote no.

16 Um, on the personnel calendar, I vote yes
17 to everything with the exception of Ms. Asebato,
18 again, no comment on this employee.

19 I think she is a great employee, but, there
20 is no funds available for this transfer, so, I
21 vote no on that.

22 With respect to Richard Cordero, Michael
23 Woods, no justification has been given to me as to
24 why these promotions are needed in the Sanitation
25 Department.

1 Um, Jayson Latonsio, no justification was
2 given to me or provided to me for this promotion,
3 so, again, I don't have any disparaging comments a
4 about these employees.

5 They maybe great employees but, I have no
6 reason why, I have no information on why they were
7 promoted.

8 Um, with respect to Lee West, who is a new
9 hire, I vote no until such time as the Town has
10 realized its less savings number of 8.15 million
11 dollars from retirement savings.

12 I cannot support any new hirings other than
13 those off the Tozner list, so, I vote no on those
14 five requests.

15 And, I also vote no on Item 54.

16 With respect to Item 29 and 30, I vote yes
17 on those and those two resolutions and the results
18 for procurement policy changes that I put forward
19 last year in order to encourage competition and
20 create an atmosphere for companies that are shut
21 out for years and have an opportunity to do
22 business with the Town of Hempstead.

23 I applaud my Board Members who voted in
24 favor of this resolution and the Town of
25 Hempstead.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Well, on Item 20,
3 Bruce Blakeman's resolution to adjourn, I support
4 that, that motion, the motion to adjourn. Page | 175

5 On Item 25 that has been removed, I support
6 the amended.

7 Item 27 that doubles the amount of money to
8 be paid to the Civil Defense Auxiliary Police.

9 There was also Item 28, I vote yes on Item
10 Number 46 as amended.

11 But, Mr. Ra, so shouldn't the Blakeman
12 Motion to adjourn be heard, first if that is not
13 adjourned, what are doing? Right, doesn't make
14 sense.

15 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: First, the vote is
17 on the adjournment.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Whatever Councilman
19 Ambrosino wants to do.

20 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: No, no.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What is the proper way
22 to do it, Mr. Ra?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Vote on the motion.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: To adjourn, Item 20.

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Without date?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

2 Councilman Ambrosino wants to vote on the
3 amendment first and we will go to the rest of it.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right, now, the Clerk ^{Page | 176}
5 is going to call the roll on adjourning Item
6 Number 20 which is the resolution to pay to the
7 Abrams, Fensterman firm.

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Yes.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: No.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: No.

18 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY I abstain.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: No.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Now, the item is before
23 the Town Board, Item Number 20.

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The administrative
25 calendar.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 Mr. Ambrosino, continue your vote.

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: So, I vote on Item
3 Number 20, no.

4 Item Number 44, no and on the items removed Page | 177
5 and amended, I vote yes, including 54.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, now that 20
10 is on the calendar, I vote no on 20.

11 No on 44 and regarding 54, I would just
12 like to point out, um, although I was accused of
13 political grandstanding, while the Supervisor was
14 in fact political grandstanding, I want to point
15 out that currently right, now on our website, if
16 you go to the Parks registration to register for
17 classes, it still has www.tohli on the site.

18 Um, the Clerk's Office who does not have
19 her own IT, still has www.tohli on the bottom of
20 the FOIL.

21 So, perhaps moving forward, like I said,
22 this is just to move people in the right direction
23 either we can delete the stuff off the bottom of
24 the pages or maybe the executive on the 4th floor
25 that handles IT digging through Town Board and

1 Workers emails, he could focus on taking off
2 www.tohli off the sites.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I also just want to
4 clarify because I voted before we did the whole Page | 178
5 thing about the adjournment, I have to clarify.

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Wait until we finish, we
7 are in the middle of a vote. That is procedure.

8 The procedure is everyone gets a vote.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, do I need to
10 wait to the end to clarify my vote that I already
11 casted.

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Not, now, wait to
13 everyone has voted.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Plus I was not called.

15 You all wanted me to vote first, right.
16 You made a Motion to enforce the rules, force me
17 to vote, first. I voted and, then we did another
18 vote and then we did the administrative calendar
19 and I wasn't called.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of order,
21 Supervisor, you already voted but I am sure that
22 if you have anything to add to your vote at the
23 end of voting, we will all be glad to hear it.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, I would hope so.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of order - -

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Since I was supposed to
2 vote, first and you want me to vote first and she
3 called the administrative calendar a second time
4 and I was not called, Mr. Ambrosino was called
5 first, I just merely wanted to clarify that Item
6 Number 20 was - - might not have been clear in my
7 prior vote.

8 I adhere to everything that I said to my
9 prior vote that can become part of the record, but
10 with respect to Item Number 20, I vote yes and it
11 would cost taxpayers more money if we don't pay my
12 attorney's fees, then, we will have more
13 litigation.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I vote no on Item 20.
16 No on Item 44 and yes on everything else.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I abstain on
19 20 and 44 and I vote yes on everything else
20 including the amendments.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I vote no on
23 Item 20 and 44, um, I vote yes on the rest and I
24 want to publicly thank the CSEA for a very open
25 and productive dialogue and sharing most of the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 4/2/19

1 Board's belief that we need to stick to our budget
2 and have fiscal responsibility.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Senior Councilwoman
4 Goosby?

Page | 180

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I make a
6 Motion to adjourn.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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 (Whereupon, the official meeting of the
23 Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)

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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 April 2, 2019, consisting of
pages 1 through 181 inclusive is an accurate
transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK