

**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

**ONE WASHINGTON STREET**

**TOWN HALL PAVILION**

**HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550**

**JULY 2, 2019**

**10:30 A.M.**

**BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,**

**SUPERVISOR**

**APPEARANCES :**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

- DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN
- SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY
- COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO
- COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.
- MAJORITY LEADER/COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY
- COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA
- TOWN CLERK CABANA
- DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TUMMINELLO
- TOWN ATTORNY RA
- ACTING DEPUTY TOWN COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 (Whereupon, before the regular meeting of  
2 the Hempstead Town Board, the Town Board honored  
3 High School students from Newsday's Extraordinary  
4 Seniors edition. Citations and photos were taken. <sup>Page | 3</sup>  
5 After, the following ensued.)

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Good  
7 Morning, welcome everyone to today's Town Board  
8 Meeting.

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

12 There are Meeting agendas available in the  
13 rear of the Pavilion.

14 If you would like to be heard on any  
15 matter, please, go to the rear of the Pavilion and  
16 fill out a slip indicating what you would like to  
17 be heard on.

18 After the Meeting is adjourned, the Town  
19 Board will follow our custom of three hundred and  
20 fifty years and remain in session to hear  
21 residents that would like to address the Board on  
22 other matters.

23 Today, we have a very large calendar with  
24 almost one hundred and fifty items on it, so, we  
25 will be strictly adhering to the three-minute

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 time limit for speakers so we can move through the  
2 Meeting and everyone can have an opportunity to be  
3 heard.

4 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the Page | 4  
5 roll.

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

19 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I, now, ask Councilman  
21 Blakeman to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Please rise, if you  
23 are able and join me.

24 (Whereupon, Councilman Blakeman led the  
25 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

After, the following ensued.)

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, remain standing. I like to observe a moment of silence to remember the passing of Detective Luis Alvarez,<sup>Page | 5</sup> who was a First Responder at 9/11 and a passionate advocate for the rights of First Responders to receive treatment.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: And, if I just could follow up on that; Detective Alvarez was a Member of the New York City Police Department, served in the Special Operations Units, assigned to the Bomb Squad on 911 and when we take an oath of office as New York City Police Officers and when we rise through the ranks, we also live by our motto, which is, fidelis usque ad mortem, which in Latin means, faithful unto death.

And, there is nobody recently who has really lived that motto.

Um, within the last week, he has shown to his very last breath, he was, in fact, fidelis usque ad mortem.

To my Brother Detective, rest in peace.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I like to add to that horrible accident that happened on Hempstead Turnpike in Levittown, a thirteen year old young

1 person and a nineteen year old driver, it is  
2 called an accident, it is called an accident  
3 because it is. If we could have a prayer for the  
4 nineteen year old and the child.

5 Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was  
7 observed. After, the following ensued.)

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, everyone.

9 Madam Clerk, will you, please call the  
10 first Public Hearing.

11 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of  
12 Buildings to demolish & remove the inground  
13 swimming pool & remove all litter & debris from  
14 property - EAST MEADOW (2694 Forest Avenue) south  
15 side of Forest Avenue, 290 feet West of Hilda  
16 Street - Department of Buildings.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
18 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would  
19 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 DUNNE: I move we close the  
25 Hearing and vote on the item.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

3 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

Page | 7

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

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: Senior Councilwoman King-  
14 Sweeney?

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

18 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

21 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of  
22 Buildings to demolish & remove one story frame  
23 family dwelling with attached garage & remove all  
24 litter & debris from property - WEST HEMPSTEAD (  
25 407 Scaneateles Avenue) South side of

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 Scaneateles Avenue, 114 feet West of Woodfield  
2 Road - Department of Buildings.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
4 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would  
5 like to be heard? Page | 8

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

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

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the  
11 Hearing be closed and the petition be granted.

12 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Second the Motion.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

14 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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: Senior Councilwoman King-  
25 Sweeney?



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

Page | 9

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
6 please, call the next Public Hearing.

7 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of  
8 Buildings to demolish & remove the inground  
9 swimming pool & remove all litter & debris from  
10 property - WOODMERE (302 Eastwood Road) northeast  
11 corner of Eastwood Road and West Broadway,  
12 Department of Buildings.

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

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

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the  
21 Hearing be closed and the petition be granted.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

Page | 10

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
10 Sweeney?

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

14 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

17 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
18 "Regulations and Restrictions" to limit parking in  
19 Baldwin, East Meadow, Merrick, North Merrick,  
20 Oceanside, Roosevelt, Uniondale (To amend Chapter  
21 202 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

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

25 PEARL JACOBS: Yes, good morning,

1 Pearl Jacobs, President of the Nostrand Gardens  
2 Civic Association in Uniondale.

3 I have a question, first and foremost, the  
4 location in Uniondale?

Page | 11

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Reed?

6 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Good Morning,  
7 Supervisor, Town Board Members: Tom Reed  
8 representing Traffic Control.

9 That issue in Uniondale is Cranberry  
10 Street.

11 PEARL JACOBS: Also, I would like to pose a  
12 question regarding is there any semblance of  
13 traffic regulations, um, or an officer, traffic  
14 officer that comes and checks these parking areas  
15 and parking restrictions?

16 There are a lot of problems in Uniondale  
17 regarding parking.

18 I just received a call from a neighbor last  
19 night, um, who lives in proximity of the Coliseum,  
20 across from the Coliseum and they literally  
21 removed her pole that had "no parking,"  
22 regulations from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

23 I believe it was there for thirty years and  
24 removed the whole pole.

25 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: I would be

1 happy to get the location from you and look into  
2 it and see what the reasoning was.

3 PEARL JACOBS: My question is there any  
4 traffic agent or regulation, do you have any sort <sup>Page | 12</sup>  
5 of enforcement officer that comes out and checks  
6 the parking prohibitions?

7 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: That would be the  
8 Police Department, if you see an issue with the  
9 parking.

10 PEARL JACOBS: You don't have traffic  
11 agents in the Town?

12 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Not my part.

13 PEARL JACOBS: Does the Town?

14 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: My procedure is to  
15 put the signs up.

16 PEARL JACOBS: Does the Town have traffic -  
17 -

18 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: We have Code  
19 Enforcement people.

20 PEARL JACOBS: But that is for - - is that  
21 specifically for parking or is it for buildings or  
22 what?

23 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Well, Code  
24 Enforcement does do some enforcement in the Town  
25 Parking lots, um, the railroad stations.

1 Residential streets are monitored by the local  
2 Police Department.

3 PEARL JACOBS: So, I will give you that  
4 information and I also will report this to the Page | 13  
5 police.

6 TRAFFIC CONTROL REED: Any resident can ask  
7 to remove parking restrictions or ask - -

8 PEARL JACOBS: Well this sign has been in  
9 front of her home, she had - - this was there for  
10 thirty years and you have to understand, she lives  
11 across the street from the Coliseum and she also  
12 has some issues from neighbors on the block with  
13 multiple family homes, so, that is the issue right  
14 there.

15 She wants the sign back.

16 Thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I ask if you would like  
18 to be heard on any matter, please, fill out a slip  
19 in the back, if you like to be heard.

20 I do not have any other slips on this  
21 particular Hearing, is there anybody else that  
22 would like to be heard?

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

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may

1 I have a Motion.

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

Page | 14

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the  
6 Motion.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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: Senior Councilwoman King-  
19 Sweeney?

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,  
25 call our next Public Hearing.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
2 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in Baldwin,  
3 East Meadow, Elmont, Inwood, North Merrick,  
4 Oceanside, Uniondale (To amend Section 202-1 of the <sup>Page | 15</sup>  
5 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: May I have a Motion.

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

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the  
16 Motion.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

18 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-

4 Sweeney?

Page | 16

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

8 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please  
10 call our next Public Hearing.

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

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
15 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone 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 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I move that the  
22 Public Hearing be closed and the item adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

Page | 17

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re: "Bus Stops" in East Meadow, Oceanside (To amend Section 202-52 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.)

1 After, the following ensued.)

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

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I move we close the  
5 Hearing and approve the item.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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: Senior Councilwoman King-  
19 Sweeney?

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,  
25 call our next Public Hearing.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
2 "Traffic regulations in the Vicinity of Schools"  
3 in Uniondale (To amend Section 197-13 of the Code  
4 of the Town of Hempstead) Page | 19

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

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

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

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we  
13 close the Public Hearing and accept the proposal.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
2 Sweeney?

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

Page | 20

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

6 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

9 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re: "U-  
10 Turns Prohibited" in Hewlett (To amend Section  
11 197-2 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

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

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

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

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the  
20 Public Hearing be closed and the local law  
21 adopted.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

Page | 21

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
10 Sweeney?

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

14 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

17 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
18 "Gross Weight Restrictions" in Franklin Square -  
19 Ferngate Drive (To amend Section 192-1 of the Code  
20 of the Town of Hempstead)

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

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

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the  
3 Public Hearing be closed and the local law be  
4 adopted.

Page | 22

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
18 Sweeney?

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

22 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

25 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law

1 Entitled: "Code of Ethics" in order to strengthen  
2 provisions related to nepotism (To amend Chapter 38  
3 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

4 Um, I also have a companion resolution a Page | 23  
5 Proposed Local Law entitled, "Code of Ethics" in  
6 order to expand the definition of "Relative" to  
7 include family members of a Town employee's spouse  
8 (To amend Chapter 38 of the Code of the Town of  
9 Hempstead)

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip for Felix  
11 Procacci.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. Um, I ,  
13 um, I oppose, um, modifying this ethics law in any  
14 way until we select, as far as I know, we haven't  
15 and correct me if I am wrong, the proper members  
16 of the Board of Ethics.

17 Currently, we don't have it.

18 I had called the Supervisor's Office and  
19 the Town's Helpline the last few weeks, several  
20 times and I have gotten no response.

21 I got a response from the Helpline and they  
22 told - - referred me to go to the Town Attorney's  
23 Office.

24 I like to point out that the Town's Code  
25 for Ethics says to go to the Secretary of the

1 Board of Ethics.

2 And, I asked who that was and I got no  
3 response.

4 And, so, I oppose any changes to this law <sup>Page | 24</sup>  
5 until we select the Board of Ethics and what is  
6 needed because once, again, as written, this is an  
7 inept law.

8 And, what is needed to be added are similar  
9 things that we added to the Compliance Officer Law  
10 where we have to prohibit political activities.

11 We have to also, you know, indicate that  
12 conflict exists if the Town Board interfaces with  
13 the Board of Zoning Appeals, that should also be  
14 defined as a conflict of interest, not just a  
15 conflict between, you know, vendors who do work  
16 with the Town and also what needs to be added  
17 immediately, willful violations of Town Code, Town  
18 rules, State law, Federal law.

19 Because, right, now, it is a matter of just  
20 going to Court - - going to Court, filing a  
21 lawsuit.

22 And, as we know, residents don't have the  
23 funds that the Town has to just take every case to  
24 an Article 78, I mean I have the time, somewhat to  
25 do it, but, the vast residents don't and I



1 can't do everything.

2 People need to have an outlet when they see  
3 that the Town Board or the Town employees are  
4 violating Town rules, they have to be able to  
5 report to the Board of Ethics.

6 And, we don't have an outlook.

7 I don't even know the person who the  
8 Secretary of the Board of Ethics is and that  
9 person has a conflict.

10 I don't know who to contact, otherwise, all  
11 these need to be defined before you start changing  
12 the law.

13 Also, the Board of Ethics people cannot be  
14 committee people like John Ryan is campaigning  
15 with Muscarella and Don Clavin, videos that he is  
16 making.

17 He appears in the newspaper. He is the  
18 Head of the Board of Ethics.

19 He is campaigning, that is a conflict of  
20 interest.

21 I know it has been discussed and they said  
22 there is nothing.

23 It is a conflict of interest in any other  
24 world there would be, except, here.

25 We ignore those obvious conflicts of

1 Interests.

2 Thank you.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci, I would  
4 like to point out that my appointment to the Board <sup>Page | 26</sup>  
5 of Ethics is actually on the calendar, today.

6 FELIX PROCACCI: I am aware of that, but,  
7 the thing is there are suppose to be five Members  
8 including the Town Attorney - -

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

11 FELIX PROCACCI: - - Selected by a  
12 particular formula, specified in the law and that  
13 hasn't been done.

14 I looked through the calendar, if I am  
15 wrong, correct me but I don't think it has been  
16 done per the law.

17 We are violating the Ethics Law right, now.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Procacci.

20 I do not have any other slips on this  
21 Public Hearing, is there anybody else that would  
22 like to be heard?

23 DIANE MADDEN: Yes, Diane Madden,  
24 Hempstead, full disclosure, I am running for Town  
25 of Hempstead Supervisor.

1 Um, I would like to know between 11 and 12,  
2 can someone tell me the Committee Members so far  
3 of the Board of Ethics?

4 Did I understand correctly Mr. Ra is part <sup>Page | 27</sup>  
5 of this Committee, is that correct?

6 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Whatever it is, John  
7 Ryan, today, Grace Moran will be added and do you  
8 know who the third person is? (gesturing to staff)

9 FELIX PROCACCI: (calling out from the  
10 audience) I do.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Who is it, Felix?

12 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: New members are being  
13 appointed.

14 DIANE MADDEN: Could you, please tell me  
15 how that process - -

16 FELIX PROCACCI: (calling out from the  
17 audience) Anthony Ferrara and Cole Persod and  
18 John Ryan, that is from the previous law, not the  
19 current law.

20 They weren't selected for the new law.

21 DIANE MADDEN: So, Mr. Ra, you were  
22 involved in this Committee?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Excuse me?

24 DIANE MADDEN: You are involved with this  
25 Committee in some way, this Ethics Committee?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: When there is a  
2 complaint for it, yes, I will be involved.

3 DIANE MADDEN: So, I am very troubled by  
4 that because based on the Animal Shelter laws Page | 28  
5 these have been dissipated within the Town  
6 Attorney's Office, clearly violated specifically  
7 the standard laws, specifically, when a nine year  
8 old Pitbull was released back to its owner, not  
9 spaded to produce more Pit bulls who already  
10 populates our Animal Shelter and suffer the most  
11 under both Administrations.

12 Any comment, Mr. Ra?

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: What number on the  
14 calendar is this, that we are talking about?

15 DIANE MADDEN: Number 11 and 12.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The Board of Ethics?

17 DIANE MADDEN: Yes.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Pitbull?

19 DIANE MADDEN: Well, it is an example, it  
20 questions who is involved with this Committee when  
21 your office has violated our own Town laws.

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't know that there  
23 is, I have not seen evidence and issue with  
24 Pitbulls.

25 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, who can I - -

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't know.

2 DIANE MADDEN: I have made many complaints,  
3 made many ethic complaints.

4 Who could I make that complaint to, that Page | 29  
5 the Town is breaking its own laws?

6 Who can I make that complaint to, please?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The Board of Ethics,  
8 send the complaint to the Board of Ethics, Ms.  
9 Madden.

10 DIANE MADDEN: In general?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

12 DIANE MADDEN: One more question; um, and  
13 correct me if I am wrong, Councilman Blakeman, you  
14 had mentioned a few years ago that there should be  
15 an amendment made regarding employees that are  
16 married or in a relationship.

17 That had previously caused a problem.

18 I am not suggesting that is in every case,  
19 was that ever followed up?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I had two discussions  
21 with constitutional experts who said to me that  
22 might be problematic.

23 It might violate privacy laws, so, um,  
24 there was no follow-up after that.

25 DIANE MADDEN: So, what would be the

1 Worse-case scenario if you had enough reason and  
2 there were situations where, you know, it was  
3 unethical or the behavior was, um, unethical,  
4 wouldn't that speak to specific, I mean to brush  
5 it all off and to say - -

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Unethical in what  
7 way?

8 DIANE MADDEN: Unethical in certain  
9 relationships throughout the Town of Hempstead  
10 within Departments.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Romantic  
12 relationships are you talking about?

13 DIANE MADDEN: Correct.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I was told by  
15 constitutional experts, it is problematic to  
16 legislate that, the affairs of two people unless,  
17 um, there is a complaint, it creates a hostile  
18 work environment or that a superior to someone,  
19 basically their boss was of that person's work or  
20 that person's time or that person's salary in an  
21 unethical way, then, that would be something that  
22 would fall outside of the area of the right to  
23 privacy.

24 But, basically, people can date whoever  
25 they want.

1 They can have whatever kind of relationship  
2 they want with whoever they want, so, as long as  
3 they don't violate the law.

4 DIANE MADDEN: And, if they do violate the <sup>Page | 31</sup>  
5 law, where does that complaint go?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If they violate the  
7 law, well, there is a couple of things if they  
8 violate the Town law, the complaint should go to  
9 the appropriate authority, certainly if it  
10 involves sexual harassment, we have protocol for  
11 that, the Sexual Harassment Officer.

12 There are a number of them that are listed  
13 in our procedures, in our Town Employment Book  
14 that, you know, let's say it was somebody that  
15 they were suppose to go to that was a Sexual  
16 Harassment Officer, that was, in fact, involved in  
17 it, then, they could go to somebody else.

18 There is a protocol for them to go through.

19 And, we can get you the protocol if you  
20 like.

21 We will get the written procedures if it  
22 were sexual harassment.

23 If it is for other things, it would be for  
24 procedures like that creating a hostile work  
25 environment, stuff like that.

1 DIANE MADDEN: I like those procedures, is  
2 your office going to give it to me?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is Rich Regina  
4 around?

5 Rich, get her a copy of that.

6 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You're welcome.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other  
9 slips on these Public Hearings, is there anyone  
10 else that would like to be heard?

11 ATTORNEY LEVENTHAL: Thank you, Madam  
12 Supervisor and Members of the Board:

13 My name is Steve Leventhal and I am Ethics  
14 Counsel to the Town.

15 And, I would like to say a few words about  
16 the two matters that are currently before the  
17 Board.

18 First, when this, um, when the current  
19 bipartisan Code of Ethics was adopted by this  
20 Board, there was a general agreement about three  
21 things.

22 First, is that it was a vast improvement  
23 over the previous Code of Ethics or any Code of  
24 Ethics that existed in the entire history of this  
25 Town.



1 Secondly, that the Code of Ethics is and  
2 should be a work in progress.

3 And, that the Board would be open-minded  
4 about considering changes and improvements as Page | 33  
5 experience warranted.

6 Third, there was a general recognition that  
7 nepotism under-minds public confidence in  
8 government and it is appropriate subject for  
9 regulations and those regulations should and ought  
10 to be effective regulations.

11 So, the current proposal before the Board  
12 makes the nepotism provisions of the current Code  
13 of Ethics which are already meaningful and  
14 effective more robust.

15 In addition to regulating the use of ones  
16 Public Office to benefit a relative, the Code, if  
17 these proposals are adopted, will, now, regulate  
18 the use of Public Office to benefit the relative  
19 of a spouse or the spouse of a child or sibling.

20 A superior officer or employee may not  
21 participate in the supervision of a subordinate  
22 relative or, now, it will also say, "seek  
23 influence, personnel decisions regarding a related  
24 party."

25 The proposal before the Board elaborates

1 what we intend a related party not to participate  
2 in and that would include supervision assignments  
3 scheduling, um, evaluations and compensation.

4 In addition, the current proposal would  
5 provide that a subordinate related party may not  
6 be assigned to the same office as in a superior  
7 related party, if that superior related party is  
8 an elected official, a department head, a division  
9 head or Deputy except in three instances:

10 First, it is required under Civil Service  
11 Law.

12 Second, if it is required by Collective  
13 Bargaining Agreement.

14 And, third, if the Board of Ethics  
15 considering the facts of the particular case makes  
16 a finding that the superior related party can  
17 effectively recuse himself or herself from any of  
18 those personnel decisions and that doing so will  
19 not have the affect of undermining public  
20 confidence in the agreement.

21 So, the Board of Ethics will be required to  
22 make those findings regarding the specific case  
23 present.

24 Finally, the Board of Ethics Members,  
25 themselves, may not be a relative of a Town

1 Officer or employee or the relative of a spouse or  
2 the spouse of a child or sibling.

3 So, those are the changes.

4 I think they are improvements to the  
5 current Code.

Page | 35

6 I recommend their adoption and if I may  
7 just state one more thing, I have a long history  
8 working with Grace Moran in the field of Ethics.

9 She is an absolutely excellent candidate  
10 for the Board of Ethics.

11 She was the first female President of the  
12 Nassau County Bar Association.

13 She was, um, the, um, attorney for the  
14 Grievance Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

15 She is an active practitioner in the area  
16 of ethics.

17 She has excellent judgment, extensive  
18 experience and I commend you for that appointment.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Leventhal.

21 Thank you for your cooperation and your  
22 help in making these amendments to the Code of  
23 Ethics and thank you for your support for Ms.  
24 Moran.

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I wish to echo

1 the Supervisor's comments.

2 Thank you, Steven for all of your help.

3 I think you have done such a good job

4 negotiating among all of us.

Page | 36

5 We are going to offer you to United States  
6 government for those negotiations.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Just watch your step.

9 (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the  
10 following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, I do not  
12 have any slips on those Public Hearings, is there  
13 anybody else that would like to be heard?

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

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

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move the  
19 Motion.

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

22 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

Page | 37

5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
8 Sweeney?

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

12 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
14 please, call our next Public Hearing.

15 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law entitled,  
16 "Department of Occupational Resources" in order to  
17 ensure oversight of the Department by requiring  
18 Town Board approval for expenditures and  
19 submission of an annual balanced budget (To amend  
20 Chapter 64 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

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

24 FELIX PROCACCI: I put in a slip.

25 As I said at the last meeting,

1 this is an unnecessary law because I did go back  
2 as I said.

3 I went through State law, New York State  
4 Town law and the Town Comptroller, the finance Page | 38  
5 person, whatever, if you have one, is supposed to  
6 include all receipts of money and all  
7 expenditures.

8 So, this hasn't been done.

9 I believe I got the law, here.

10 It was first passed in 1979, yeah, May 22,  
11 '79.

12 It was effective MAY 24, ;79.

13 This law should be thrown out.

14 This is like having - - why don't we have a  
15 separate law for every department, Sanitation  
16 Department, this is Chapter 64 of the Department  
17 of Occupational Resources, why don't we have  
18 separate laws for Sanitation, Personnel,  
19 everything?

20 We don't need this law.

21 The Federal Government gives us money and  
22 we have to account for that money.

23 We pass a resolution to receive the money  
24 just like we have several on the calendar, today  
25 except Items 43, 95, 97, 104 on the

1 Administrative Calendar.

2 We are accepting money.

3 We are spending money that was given to us,  
4 the same thing.

Page | 39

5 Why do you put the Department of  
6 Occupational Resources in a different category  
7 when you put things in a different category that  
8 don't belong in different categories?

9 You complicate issues.

10 I suggest that we get rid of this amendment  
11 - - this resolution and change this to dropping  
12 the whole damn thing and making it like everybody  
13 else like it should be.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, that is what we  
15 are trying to accomplish - - stop the time,  
16 please.

17 Mr. Procacci, I can't speak to why that  
18 went forward in 1979, um, not only was I not,  
19 here, I probably couldn't even understand what  
20 that resolution was back, then.

21 Um, maybe I don't know - - Mr. Ra, you  
22 could elaborate on that, with all due respect.

23 But Felix, what we are trying to do with  
24 this resolution is to bring Door under the same  
25 purview and have the same standards that

1 we had for other departments with Door, now.

2 FELIX PROCACCI: I get that.

3 I went back to all the budgets. I looked  
4 at, with my FOIL request, Door, except for 2019 <sup>Page | 40</sup>  
5 has never been part of the budget.

6 Sometimes they put some commentary in the  
7 beginning of this.

8 2019 was the first time that we actually  
9 detailed it out, which is really good.

10 Like I said, I don't like making a category  
11 when that category shouldn't exist, you just  
12 complicate things.

13 You guys in the Legal Department, they find  
14 any crack becomes a maze.

15 Someone who is a lawyer or even very  
16 persistent trying to figure this out becomes a  
17 spaghetti cook because, now, you have to really,  
18 you know, trust this law which is not applicable  
19 because State law preempts.

20 You have too many things going on at one  
21 time.

22 It makes litigation very expensive and I  
23 know that for a fact, very complicated because I  
24 have been involved in it and currently involved in  
25 it.



1 And, don't treat it any different. State  
2 law applies. State law applies.

3 There is no need to do it.

4 Don't make it more complicated than it  
5 needs to be.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Procacci.

8 I do not have any other slips on this  
9 Public Hearing, is there anyone else that would  
10 like to be heard?

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

13 I just, to reiterate and to get some  
14 consensus on what are the steps, again, moving  
15 forward, um, this whole level of, again,  
16 disappointment with regard to how this has come ab  
17 out when, again, we are getting - - residents are  
18 getting assurances that there is a vetting process  
19 and oversight and review and protection of our  
20 resources, um, and just to read about this, once,  
21 again our lives played out for us all the taxes  
22 that we pay in Newsday and the Town's ability of  
23 our elected officials continue to be diminished by  
24 this ongoing lack of transparency and this type of  
25 situation.

1 So, um, I am just trying to get some idea  
2 as far as what are the steps in place moving  
3 forward as it pertains to review of contracts, um,  
4 movement of employees, whether they are retiring <sup>Page | 42</sup>  
5 or not retiring?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are talking about  
7 the Door resolution.

8 META MEREDAY: I am talking about that as  
9 well, but, I am saying this resolution, the fact  
10 that you have to have this type of resolution,  
11 what the genesis of this resolution is deep seeded  
12 in the scenario that created this way, that  
13 brought more people in, elected officials and  
14 residents need to have some clarity as to how  
15 their interests are going to be protected.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, this is to increase  
17 oversight of the Department of Occupational  
18 Resources to require, you know, that all their  
19 contracts have to come before the Town Board just  
20 like every other department in the Town and that  
21 they have to submit budgets to us.

22 So, it is increasing oversight and it will  
23 increase transparency in that department, as well.

24 META MEREDAY: But what other agencies and  
25 entities within the Town are basically

1 operating on their own that we have to find out  
2 about these types of situations in Newsday and,  
3 then, becomes another resolution that is kind of  
4 where the concern is, that is where the question <sup>Page | 43</sup>  
5 is, again, vetting process in this regard, um,  
6 complete lack - - so, basically, who is going to  
7 be held accountable?

8 This is a private sector entity.

9 If this was a business of a major company,  
10 there would be more than what is taking place  
11 here, but actually there would have been steps  
12 ahead of this.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, I think people  
14 have been held accountable, Ms. Rotata (phonetic  
15 spelling/as heard) is no longer working for the  
16 Department of Occupational Resources and the  
17 Commissioner has left.

18 META MEREDAY: Okay, who is fulfilling that  
19 role?

20 Who decides how that decision is going to  
21 be made?

22 Again, there are other people that are  
23 involved besides the Commissioner and Ms. Rotata,  
24 I am talking about the elected officials that were  
25 in position to protect my interests.

1 So, I just want to know is it going to be  
2 another Newsday expose or something else on News  
3 12 about another department, another entity that,  
4 "was able to fly under the radar," that is what I <sup>Page | 44</sup>  
5 am saying.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, I think putting  
7 forth that resolution is trying to protect your  
8 interest and the taxpayers' interests that there  
9 is oversight in this Department.

10 So, I think this resolution is an example  
11 of elected officials doing something to protect  
12 the taxpayers.

13 META MEREDAY: Is the recording process  
14 going to be made available to the public so we can  
15 monitor this, as well?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Financial audits of  
17 departments, financial budgets, they are all  
18 published online, now.

19 META MEREDAY: Okay.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other  
21 slips on this Public Hearing, is there anybody  
22 else that would like to be heard?

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

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none,

1 may I have a motion.

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

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

Page | 45

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
17 Sweeney?

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

21 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
23 please, call the next Public Hearing.

24 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law to be  
25 entitled "Whistleblower Protection Act,"

1 in order to establish procedures to protect  
2 employees who disclose illegal or improper  
3 governmental activities from retaliation in the  
4 form of adverse personnel actions (To establish Page | 46  
5 Chapter 36 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 FELIX PROCACCI: I submitted a slip on that  
10 one too. Felix Procacci.

11 Like I said, at the last meeting, this law  
12 isn't worth the paper that it is written on and it  
13 still isn't to report as a whistleblower to the  
14 Town Attorney, who is Executive Leader of the  
15 Franklin Square Republican Club is absolutely  
16 ridiculous.

17 It is an absolute conflict of interest and  
18 also reporting the wrongdoing to the Supervisor,  
19 it depends on who the Supervisor is.

20 She doesn't have or he doesn't have a Board  
21 to take action.

22 It is a useless excuse.

23 If I reported this to Supervisor Santino,  
24 Supervisor Murray and it ended there, that is  
25 where it ends.

1 I never went any further.

2 So, this law has no teeth.

3 And, essentially, it should be scraped and  
4 select a committee who is totally isolated from <sup>Page | 47</sup>  
5 this Board.

6 This Board should have no bearing, should  
7 have no part in selecting the people who sit on a  
8 committee in which employees are going to spill  
9 their guts about some wrongdoing in this Town.

10 I never seen it happen.

11 The had a person a year ago who reported -  
12 - it was an individual resident, who reported that  
13 their car was blocked in by another Town employee.

14 They respected the Town employee's privacy  
15 because it was under investigation.

16 It was one of those things under  
17 investigation and never learned what happened.

18 Mark Bennia was a different case there.

19 We put him on the front page.

20 So, people are treated differently.

21 I get we don't talk about personnel  
22 decisions is absurd.

23 Roy Gunther, his rights were violated.

24 I am sure there are more than just him who  
25 had, um, got violations by the Building

1 Department, but he was put on the front page of  
2 Newsday.com.

3 But other employees who have committed  
4 similar offenses have not and their names remain Page | 48  
5 unanimous and they respect their privacy.

6 So, a double standard exists.

7 So, this is a piece of garbage to say the  
8 least.

9 This is a real piece of garbage, this law,  
10 it is not worth it.

11 I guess I should warn every Town employee,  
12 don't ever trust the Town Attorney and don't ever  
13 trust, in general any Town Supervisor to do the  
14 right thing.

15 It may work out for you, it may not.

16 And, I can tell you right, now, for one  
17 hundred percent sure, you report something to the  
18 Town Attorney, you aren't going to get anywhere.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Felix, you are not  
20 in favor?

21 FELIX PROCACCI: No, I really love it.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you want to speak on  
23 an item, you have to fill out a slip.

24 If you want to speak on a Public Hearing,  
25 you have to fill out a slip for every



1 Public Hearing.

2 We have to move through this calendar.

3 We have almost one hundred and fifty items  
4 on the calendar; if you want to be heard on any <sup>Page | 49</sup>  
5 item, please, fill out a slip.

6 DIANE MADDEN: I just have a general  
7 question.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Could you, please,  
9 identify yourself for the record.

10 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden, Hempstead,  
11 full disclosure, I am running for Hempstead Town  
12 Supervisor to turn this whole place upside down.

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

15 DIANE MADDEN: Could someone, please, tell  
16 me whose benefit is this for?

17 Because I can tell you in eighteen years, I  
18 hear from a lot of employees and the majority of  
19 those employees that everyone takes pictures of  
20 and everyone says our CSEA and, blah, blah, blah,  
21 they are fully aware that if they complain to any  
22 of you that they risk having a target on their  
23 back and that their information will not be  
24 confidential.

25 So, I would like to ask and kind of circle

1 back to what Felix said and ask if this Board  
2 would consider putting together a Committee that  
3 would safeguard these people and truly make them  
4 feel as if they are protected, as if they are Page | 50  
5 being heard and give them some assurances that  
6 whatever their grievances maybe addressed because,  
7 right, now, and I would love the new Union  
8 President's position on this.

9 I don't know if she agrees or disagrees, I  
10 like to know, but, in my opinion and from my  
11 experience over many years, the employees, this  
12 means nothing to them.

13 This is all more of a dog and pony show.

14 So, would the Board consider - - reconsider  
15 who would be on such a Committee and who would be  
16 involved in such a Committee?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't think this  
18 statute is a dog and pony show.

19 And, I think it offers real protection to  
20 our employees, that is why I put it forward.

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

23 DIANE MADDEN: Well, I don't and I think  
24 that if you speak to not necessarily the high-  
25 ranking employees but if you speak to the

1 lower-ranking employees, I think that they would  
2 disagree.

3 Thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other <sup>Page | 51</sup>  
5 slips on this Public Hearing, is there anyone else  
6 that would like to be heard?

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

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I move that we close  
10 the Hearing that this item be adopted.

11 May I have a second.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

14 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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: This does  
24 apply to everyone that is receiving pay from the  
25 Town Board from this whole Town, right, anybody

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 and everybody, am I right, Supervisor, all  
2 employees plus us?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I vote yes.

Page | 52

5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
6 Sweeney?

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

10 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,  
12 call our next Public Hearing.

13 CLERK CABANA: Proposed "Handicapped  
14 Parking on Public Streets" in East Meadow, Elmont,  
15 Franklin Square, Inwood, Oceanside, Wantagh,  
16 (Chester Drive, East Meadow Avenue, Meacham  
17 Avenue, Herbert Avenue, Rintin Street, First  
18 Avenue, Clinton Avenue, Knight Street, Odell  
19 Street)

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

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

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may

1 I have a motion.

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I move to close the  
3 Hearing and approve the item.

4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I like to second Page | 53  
5 that.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
18 Sweeney?

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

22 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,  
24 call our next Public Hearing.

25 CLERK CABANA: Proposed renewal of a

1 Contract for furnishing fire protection services  
2 within the Silver Point Fire Protection District  
3 (Inwood Fire District)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips <sup>Page | 54</sup>  
5 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would  
6 like to be heard?

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

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

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, first of all, I  
12 would like to thank our staff, here at the Town of  
13 Hempstead and certainly the Commissioners and  
14 Members of the Inwood Fire District for working on  
15 this agreement.

16 It is going to protect people in our  
17 community and I want to congratulate our  
18 outstanding firefighters and Board of  
19 Commissioners for the outstanding work that they  
20 do in Public Safety and Fire Protection.

21 So, I gladly will move this item and put  
22 this measure forward.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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: Senior Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed increase and improvement of the Franklin Square Park District - Town of Hempstead - Department of Parks & Recreation.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have Tom Feeney?

TOM FEENEY: Hi, Tom Feeney from Franklin Square.

Hello, Supervisor Gillen and Council

1 Members.

2 I enjoy the Park since my kids grew up. I  
3 live across the street.

4 The kids use the playground, the baseball <sup>Page | 56</sup>  
5 fields, the pool and tennis courts and I have been  
6 using the tennis courts.

7 This is about the tennis courts, what I am  
8 talking about.

9 I have been using the tennis courts for  
10 twenty-five years and they deteriorate over time  
11 and they really need to be resurfaces.

12 We had a meeting a couple months ago and  
13 with the Town, they did a patch job and there are  
14 a lot of cracks in the Park and they painted over  
15 it.

16 But, there are so many complaints from  
17 everybody that play.

18 There are a lot of Seniors. We play there.  
19 We like to recreate and other people come during  
20 the day but we like to - - I see North it is a  
21 beautiful Park.

22 They resurfaced it. I have been playing  
23 there for many years and in 2007, well, we don't  
24 have the asphalt, blah, blah, blah and I have been  
25 complaining to Phyliss and asked for the



1 money.

2 It is only 50, 60k to make a nice Park, so,  
3 we can use the Park and the Seniors and young  
4 people can learn to play tennis.

Page | 57

5 It keeps us moving around and, um, I guess  
6 I am done.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Sir, thank you for  
8 brining this to our attention.

9 We were aware there were some issues, um,  
10 with the tennis courts, um, I was told that they  
11 were repaired.

12 If you would like them resurfaced, we will  
13 certainly consider putting that in the capital  
14 plan.

15 Obviously, you're aware it is a Park  
16 District, so, basically, um, that would be  
17 included in the Park District Capital Plan.

18 TOM FEENEY: I understand.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, look, I think we  
20 can do it, in fact, Councilman Muscarella was  
21 telling me he plays there.

22 TOM FEENEY: He plays there.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: He thinks it should  
24 be resurfaced.

25 We will try to put it in the capital plan.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 We will stay on the repairs. We will get  
2 it into the capital plan.

3 TOM FEENEY: Thank you very much.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sir, we have allocated <sup>Page | 58</sup>  
5 three hundred thousand dollars towards this Park  
6 District right, now.

7 It is just generically allocated, so, it is  
8 not designated for any specific purpose.

9 We did have a meeting regarding trying to  
10 get some community feedback on what improvements  
11 are most important to them.

12 So, certainly, I appreciate you coming here  
13 and that is something we will bring back when we  
14 come together with the community as one as one of  
15 the priority items.

16 TOM FEENEY: Thank you very much.

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Sir, before you go,  
18 how is Muscarella's game?

19 TOM FEENEY: He is getting better.

20 (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the  
21 following ensued.)

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Felix, you have to fill  
23 out a slip.

24 FELIX PROCACCI: I did. I put it all on  
25 one slip.

1           Anyway, I am against appropriating one  
2 penny more for the Franklin Square District until  
3 the community has full accounting of the 4.2  
4 million dollar budget which was about 1.9 million,<sup>Page | 59</sup>  
5 if I remember right in 2004 and in ten years in  
6 2004 to 2014, approximately, it went up one  
7 hundred percent.

8           We don't have much. I FOIL-ed the  
9 documents.

10           I FOIL-ed the Administrative charges.

11           You know what comes back? No records  
12 exists.

13           At one point, I did get a list of employees  
14 when it was about four million dollars, eight  
15 hundred thousand dollars in employees, roughly.

16           Where is the rest of the money going, 3.2  
17 million dollars?

18           Usually employees are the bulk of any  
19 department's expenses.

20           The idea that we have a slush fund, what I  
21 call it, is actually absorbed, the idea that we  
22 are adding more money, here.

23           We just increased it 5 percent, two hundred  
24 thousand dollars over the year, no accounting for  
25 how that money is being spent.

1 I have been working on this since 2014  
2 FOIL-ing documents and I get nothing.

3 Now, you want more money.

4 I don't know where it is being spent.

5 Nobody knows where it is being spent. Your  
6 own Comptroller doesn't know where it is being  
7 spent.

8 So, wait until we have an accounting.

9 How can you keep on spending more money on  
10 our Park District.

11 I don't understand it.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Capobianco, are you  
13 here?

14 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO: Yes.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you work with Mr.  
16 Procacci to get him the information that he needs.

17 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO: I would be  
18 delighted.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: No records exists, it came  
21 from his office.

22 It came from Kevin Conway's office, no  
23 records exists.

24 Do you know how many times I FOIL-ed this?

25 Do you know how many times I FOIL-ed this?

1 Many times, at least four times in 2014.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, he said he  
3 would get you the information.

4 Give him a chance until the next meeting. Page | 61

5 I just wanted to address something;  
6 everything at Rath Park is based on what the  
7 majority, the vast majority of the residents in  
8 the Park District want for the Park.

9 So, basically, when they came to us many,  
10 many times with a lot of support that they wanted  
11 a Williams sport specified, um, baseball field, so  
12 that they could compete on a higher level and  
13 compete for tournaments, that would bring people  
14 from around the metropolitan area into Franklin  
15 Square, which would not only showcase our  
16 beautiful Parks, but, also improve our economy by  
17 bringing people in from outside to spend money  
18 here, that was one of the things that we  
19 considered.

20 And, we decided to do which was, you know,  
21 somewhat of a costly, um, you know, expenditure  
22 but it was what the people wanted, you came here,  
23 you talked about our pools that you wanted us to  
24 be responsive with the pools.

25 You talked to us about, I believe, track

1 and field you coach.

2 You asked us to make improvements.

3 We did that. The parking lot, we made

4 improvements with the sprinkler system, so,

Page | 62

5 basically, we respond in Park Districts pretty

6 much to what the residents want.

7 And, it is our obligation to tell them how

8 much it is going to cost.

9 So, basically, um, it is driven by what the

10 Members of the District want.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, I just like to

12 point out items, Public Hearings 17 through 21 all

13 relate to bonding for expenditures that were

14 already approved just part of the capital plan

15 that State law requires, not permissive referendum

16 on the bonding.

17 It requires a Public Hearing on the

18 bonding.

19 So, really, what we are talking about is

20 the bonding for these projects.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: First, everything Mr.

22 Blakeman said has nothing to do with what I am

23 talking about and - -

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You said you want

25 financial disclosure; Mr. Capobianco?

1 FELIX PROCACCI: I didn't get that, going  
2 back to April, 2014, I have been asking for  
3 financial disclosure and for five years I haven't  
4 gotten it.

5 Now, a miracle is going to occur, I am  
6 going to get it, then you are going to make  
7 something up that doesn't exist.

8 I even asked your Finance Director, Avril  
9 Smith for it and she had nothing except very vague  
10 documents.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Smith, are you  
12 here? Ms. Smith?

13 FELIX PROCACCI: Let me finish what I have  
14 to say.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you have this  
16 information, Ms. Smith?

17 Can you please come forward.

18 AVRIL SMITH: Part of the information that  
19 was available at the time and Mr. Procacci  
20 received what we had at the time, he was pleased.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am going to repeat  
22 what you said, you provided the information to Mr.  
23 Procacci.

24 You provide the information that was  
25 available.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 AVRIL SMITH: That was available.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Did you hold any  
3 information from Mr. Procacci?

4 AVRIL SMITH: Not at all, not at all. I <sup>Page | 64</sup>  
5 was working in concert with Mr. Capobianco.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you, please, speak  
7 the microphone.

8 Please speak at the microphone.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, you were  
10 pleased, she said.

11 Were you please, Felix?

12 FELIX PROCACCI: Not really, partially,  
13 but, the thing is once, again, Avril Smith did the  
14 best she could.

15 I am not criticizing her one bit.

16 She said it was not available.

17 It is not her fault because this happened  
18 last years and she just got here.

19 She can't make up what the past was. How  
20 could she do that?

21 Nobody can do that.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Smith, were records  
23 missing, is that the problem?

24 AVRIL SMITH: I am not sure, any  
25 information I gave Mr. Procacci came from



1 the Comptroller's Office, they are the  
2 recordkeepers of the Town.

3 I worked with Mr. Capobianco to give you  
4 what is available.

Page | 65

5 Once, again, I invite you, again, to walk  
6 you through that.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Ms. Smith, he was  
8 pleased?

9 AVRIL SMITH: Certainly pleased based on  
10 the response to me.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, if you were  
12 unpleased, give us a list of what you think is  
13 missing and we will try to get it for you.

14 FELIX PROCACCI: 3.2 million dollars-worth  
15 of expenditures?

16 But anyway, on the Averill Park issue,  
17 which is not the Rath Park issue where there was  
18 flooding, my daughter - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wrong Park.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: No, no, you mentioned the  
21 flooding, the flooding, I want to clarify  
22 something, please, so, the thing I brought up on  
23 the flooding had to do with the Averill Park which  
24 is still under water.

25 My daughter said she had to go

1 through more than a foot of water on her bicycle.

2 It hasn't been fixed yet.

3 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

4 After, the following ensued.)

Page | 66

5 FELIX PROCACCI: I wasn't criticizing you  
6 at all.

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

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

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

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the  
15 Public Hearing be closed and I am glad that we are  
16 joining together and making improvements in the  
17 Rath Park Fire District, primarily - -

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Park District.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Park District, thank  
20 you and, basically, obviously, is the safety of  
21 our residents that use our Parks.

22 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I would like to  
23 second that.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

Page | 67

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed increase & improvement of the Town of Hempstead Park District - 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 7/2/19**

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

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I  
4 move that the Hearing be closed and the item be Page | 68  
5 adopted.

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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: Senior Councilwoman King-  
19 Sweeney?

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
25 please, call our next Public Hearing.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Proposed increase &  
2 improvement of the Town of Hempstead Street  
3 Lighting District - Town of Hempstead - Department  
4 of General Services, Street lighting district. Page | 69

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

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

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

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that  
13 the proposed item be adopted.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second the motion.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
2 Sweeney?

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

Page | 70

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

6 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

9 CLERK CABANA: Proposed increase &  
10 improvement of the Woodmere/Hewlett Parking  
11 District - Town of Hempstead.

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

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

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I  
18 have a motion.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the  
20 Public Hearing be closed and the increase in  
21 improvement of the Woodmere/Hewlett Parking  
22 District be approved.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

Page | 71

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed increase & improvement of the Town of Hempstead Refuse Disposal District - Town of Hempstead (Department of Sanitation)

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

MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye. 436

1 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

2 I kind of lost track, so, I do have  
3 questions on all three, 18, 19 & 21, what are the  
4 increases and what is being done in these  
5 situations, please?

Page | 72

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, let's see, 18 is,  
7 um, different facility upgrades.

8 Is the Parks Commissioner, here?

9 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Park District about  
10 specifications?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Some of these upgrades  
12 for projects that we are still figuring out and  
13 what we are going to prioritize - - Commissioner  
14 Leno, do you have anymore specific information  
15 about 18?

16 COMMISSIONER LENO: Doing work from various  
17 Parks that is part of the work, Mr. Procacci was  
18 speaking about, drainage, about the drainage  
19 system of Averill Park, um, bathrooms in Coes  
20 Neck, masonry work at Echo Park, Elmont Road  
21 bathrooms and Shell Creek spray bath.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,  
23 Commissioner.

24 And, Commissioner, I also like to take a  
25 moment to thank you and your staff for the



1 | incredible job that you did this weekend for the  
2 | "Salute to Veterans."

3 | We had bad weather, you improvised and you  
4 | did a great job.

Page | 73

5 | I thank you and thank all of your staff.

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

8 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: The outside where it is  
9 | taped off, it has been taped off.

10 | COMMISSIONER LENO: Children that use the  
11 | stairwell for the school, it needs to be fixed.

12 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: My question was about  
13 | Echo Park.

14 | COMMISSIONER LENO: Okay.

15 | MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thanks for the  
16 | clarification.

17 | The street lighting?

18 | SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is someone here about  
19 | street lighting?

20 | Mr. Barner, (phonetic spelling) if you  
21 | could clarify the street lighting.

22 | JOHN BARNER: John Barner, Town of  
23 | Hempstead.

24 | Street lighting, basically, what is  
25 | happening with the Street Lighting District

1 Infrastructure repairs, we have an aging system  
2 out there with the largest Public Works Utility  
3 Street Lighting Division, probably the State of  
4 New York with the exception of New York City.

5 Most of our problems exist in the  
6 underground wiring system, which is somewhat 40  
7 years old plus, basically, the project that PSEG  
8 is doing, now, with the utility poles, we have to  
9 install new system electrical needs that goes to  
10 our underground lights.

11 We have, approximately, 17 thousand  
12 underground lights out there.

13 And, this is where the bulk of the  
14 expenditure will be going to upgrade and bringing  
15 it up to the new current Codes.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

17 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Who would expect that  
18 those taller poles would require such a large  
19 expenditure and difficulty for the Town?

20 JOHN BARNER: What is happening with those  
21 is that the poles, itself, is not the expense for  
22 the Town.

23 We have an electrical wiring system - -

24 MARY ELLEN KREYE: No, I mean that - -

25 JOHN BARNER: - - to install.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 MARY ELLEN KREYE: As a result of these new  
2 taller poles, thank you.

3 JOHN BARNER: You're welcome.

4 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, the Refuse Disposal <sup>Page | 75</sup>  
5 District?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Conroy,  
7 Commissioner Conroy?

8 COMMISSIONER CONROY: The bulk of the money  
9 for the Refuse Disposal and various projects at  
10 our transfer stations, Merrick Transfer Station.

11 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Okay.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Merrick  
13 Transfer.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Where you bring the  
15 garbage, okay, thank you very much.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,  
17 Commissioner.

18 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
20 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone else that  
21 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 7/2/19**

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

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

Page | 76

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
17 Sweeney?

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

21 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,  
23 call our next Public Hearing.

24 CLERK CABANA: Application of AAA NADERI  
25 HOLDINGS, LLC for a Special Exception (Public

1 Garage) to make some minor interior and exterior  
2 alterations to the existing one-story stucco  
3 building and attached metal storage shed, staying  
4 within the existing building's footprint located <sup>Page | 77</sup>  
5 at 659 Woodfield Road - WEST HEMPSTEAD - East side  
6 of Woodfield Road, 139.5 feet North of Eagle  
7 Avenue.

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Supervisor, I have a  
9 letter from the Attorney from AAA NADERI HOLDINGS,  
10 LLC.

11 Unexpectedly their client was called out of  
12 Town and is traveling Abroad.

13 They as that the matter be adjourned  
14 without date.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can I have a Motion for  
16 adjournment?

17 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I move to adjourn  
18 this.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

21 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby? Page | 78

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-

7 Sweeney?

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

11 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That concluded our

13 Public Hearings.

14 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the

15 Decision Calendar.

16 CLERK CABANA: There are two items on the

17 Decision Calendar.

18 The first is the Application of 3222

19 Hempstead Turnpike, LLC., for a Special Exception

20 (Public Garage) to remove the existing one story

21 3400 foot retail building and replace it with a

22 one story, 5,352 foot building to serve as an

23 automotive service and repair facility,

24 approximately 658.94 feet, West of Gardiners

25 Avenue - Levittown.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on  
2 this item.

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make a Motion that we  
4 move for a decision. Page | 79

5 SENIOR COUNCILMAN GOOSBY: Second.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
18 Sweeney?

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

22 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, call the  
24 next item, please.

25 CLERK CABANA: Application of WANTAGH

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 3215, LLC., for a permit to include existing  
2 gasoline service station with "GSS" District to  
3 demolish existing building, a new one-story, 2,996  
4 feet convenience store and gasoline service  
5 station facility will be constructed adding six  
6 (6) MPD's providing (12) fueling stations will be  
7 constructed as will a 20' by 136' canopy covering  
8 the MPD's - WANTAGH.

Page | 80

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on  
10 this time.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I  
12 move that the application be approved.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 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.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman King-  
2 Sweeney?

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

Page | 81

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

6 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
8 please, call the Administrative Calendar.

9 CLERK CABANA: On the Administrative  
10 Calendar, I have Items 25 through 139.

11 I also have 11 resolutions that are of an  
12 urgent or emergency nature.

13 The first is a resolution authorizing the  
14 Supervisor to renew the Town's Fire multi-peril  
15 and flood insurance policies and public safety  
16 insurance and to pay associated premiums.

17 This will be Item 140 on the calendar.

18 The second resolution is the resolution  
19 authorizing the Commissioner of the Town of  
20 Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources to  
21 execute a contract for information, technology,  
22 data-base management and developmental local area  
23 and network administration and web developmental  
24 consulting services between the Town of Hempstead,  
25 Department of Occupational Resources and

1 Diversified Microsystems, Inc.

2 This will be Item Number 141 on the  
3 Administrative Calendar.

4 The third resolution is a resolution  
5 authorizing the Commissioner of the Town of  
6 Hempstead, Department of Occupational Resources to  
7 execute the information technology, One-Stop  
8 operating system coordination and staff training  
9 contract between the Town of Hempstead, Department  
10 of Occupational Resources and D.M. Consulting,  
11 Inc.

12 This will be Item Number 142 on the  
13 Administrative Calendar.

14 The fourth resolution is a resolution  
15 authorizing the Commissioner of the Town of  
16 Hempstead, Department of Occupational Resources to  
17 execute the One-Stop Staff Services contract  
18 between the Town of Hempstead of Occupational  
19 Resources and Long Beach Adult Learning Center.

20 This will be Item Number 143 on the  
21 Administrative Calendar.

22 The fifth resolution is a resolution  
23 authorizing the Commissioner of Town of Hempstead  
24 Department of Occupational Resources to execute  
25 the disability employment initiative consulting

1 services contract between the Town of Hempstead  
2 Department of Occupational Resources and Career  
3 Employment Options, Inc.

4 This will be Item Number 144 on the  
5 Administrative Calendar.

6 The sixth resolution is a resolution authorizing  
7 the Commissioner of the Town of Hempstead  
8 Occupational Resources to execute the One-Stop  
9 Staff Services contract between the Town of  
10 Hempstead, Department of Occupational Resources  
11 and Goodwill Industry of Greater New York and  
12 Northern New Jersey, Inc.

13 This will be Item 145 on the Administrative  
14 Calendar.

15 The seventh resolution is a resolution  
16 authorizing the Commissioner of the Town of  
17 Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources to  
18 execute the One-Stop Operating Services contract  
19 between the Town of Hempstead, Department of  
20 Occupational Resources and Goodwill Industry of  
21 Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.

22 This will be Item number 146 on the  
23 Administrative Calendar.

24 The eighth resolution is a resolution  
25 authorizing the Commissioner of the Town

1 of Hempstead, Department of Occupational Resources  
2 to execute the Outward School Youth Services  
3 contract between the Town of Hempstead, Department  
4 of Occupational Resources and EAC Network.

5 This will be Item Number 147 on the  
6 Administrative Calendar.

7 The ninth resolution is a resolution  
8 extending the temporary suspension of the  
9 enforcement of Section 144-3.G of the Code of the  
10 Town of Hempstead in relation to regulation of  
11 permissible hours for the conduct of structural  
12 work on buildings.

13 This will be Item Number 148 on the  
14 Administrative Calendar.

15 The tenth resolution is a resolution  
16 extending temporary period of waiver of all  
17 Building Department and Board of Appeals' fees in  
18 connection with applications to repair or replace  
19 dwellings damaged or destroyed by the effects of  
20 Hurricane Sandy and expanding upon relief afforded  
21 to Hurricane Sandy victims.

22 This will be Item 149 of the Administrative  
23 Calendar.

24 The eleventh resolution is a resolution  
25 extending temporary waiver of Town Clerk fees for

1 Passports and a copy of birth certificates, death  
2 certificates, marriage licenses and persons whose  
3 residences that were damaged by the effects of  
4 Hurricane Sandy.

Page | 85

5 This will be Item 150 on the Administrative  
6 Calendar.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Madam Clerk, I  
8 will give you a break.

9 I have a resolution of an emergency nature  
10 to be added to the calendar.

11 This item is a resolution appointing Dr.  
12 Eric Mollett as Commissioner of the Department of  
13 Occupational Resources.

14 This item would be 151 on the calendar.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would any of the  
16 Council Members like to sever any of the items on  
17 the Administrative Calendar?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Those are all added to  
19 the calendar without objections unless there is an  
20 objection from someone from the Board.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would anybody like to  
22 sever any of the items on the Administrative  
23 Calendar?

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

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No sever. May I have a  
2 Motion on adopting Items 24 through 151.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that we  
4 adopt items 24 through 151. Page | 86

5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, we have a number  
7 of slips from people that would like to be heard  
8 on the Administrative Calendar, the first is  
9 Lucille Defina.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Ms. Defina.

11 LUCILLE DEFINA: Lucille Defina, Merrick,  
12 New York.

13 Um, the question I had was for Item 136,  
14 what is the reason for that resolution?

15 Why does it differ from what was there  
16 before as far as the Animal Shelter Director?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Ms. Defina, you are  
18 talking about 136, the resolution calling for a  
19 Public Hearing?

20 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay.

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: That is just  
22 calling a Public Hearing.

23 It is not the actual Public Hearing.

24 If you have an issue with the date - -

25 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: 98?

2 LUCILLE DEFINA: No, no, that is not the  
3 one.

4 Oh, so, okay, it is a resolution calling Page | 87  
5 for a Public Hearing to August 6<sup>th</sup>, what is that  
6 Hearing about?

7 It is to amend Chapter 152, so, what I am  
8 trying to understand is why are you amending  
9 Chapter 152, how does it differ from the amendment  
10 before?

11 ATTORNEY REGINA: Based on Nassau County  
12 Comptroller's recommendations and financial review  
13 of the Shelter, there was a mention of the waiver  
14 of fees.

15 This clarifies the language in the Code  
16 with respect to who can waive a fee and how it is  
17 properly documented.

18 LUCILLE DEFINA: So, this is only  
19 pertaining to waiving the fees?

20 ATTORNEY REGINA: Correct.

21 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, so, now, is it going  
22 to differ, is the Animal Shelter Director not able  
23 to waive the fee anymore?

24 ATTORNEY REGINA: Currently, the Code isn't  
25 clear whether the Shelter Director has the

1 authority to clarify that language for both the  
2 Shelter Director and the Assistant Director.

3 It will also put documentation in place so  
4 the Commissioner's Office is notified when a fee <sup>Page | 88</sup>  
5 is waived.

6 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: So, I understand,  
8 we are not voting on this today.

9 This is simply on the calendar to call a  
10 Public Hearing for August 6<sup>th</sup>.

11 LUCILLE DEFINA: Okay, it is just  
12 everything that came out of that audit, it is just  
13 one little thing, you would think you would be  
14 getting a new Shelter Director instead of changing  
15 what he can't waive in fees.

16 It doesn't surprise me.

17 Thank you.

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you.

19 Felix Procacci.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. On the  
21 Administrative Calendar, Number 108, as far as  
22 authorizing the Board for litigation for potential  
23 impacts of claims regarding groundwater, um,  
24 before we start spending any additional money  
25 because we are already entangled in a lawsuit



1 with Grumman and other companies, if you look at  
2 the calendar for that litigation consultation with  
3 the Judge and everything, the Court dates go out  
4 for 2020 and, um, it is a lot of money and before <sup>Page | 89</sup>  
5 we start spending a lot of money on more  
6 litigation, make sure we have a case, first,  
7 before we start, um, doing that.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, how would you  
9 do that without a lawyer?

10 FELIX PROCACCI: Well, the thing is you  
11 have a whole bunch of lawyers that you spend four  
12 million dollars plus on, I am not sure what they  
13 do.

14 If you look into whether there is a case  
15 before you start, you know, spending a lot of  
16 money to engage in a lawsuit.

17 You announce the lawsuit even though you  
18 don't speak on pending litigation.

19 Right, you announce that lawsuit back in  
20 2016 in order for Santino to make a headline.

21 You should have kept it quiet because we  
22 don't speak on pending litigation.

23 Also, as far as appointing Grace Moran, I  
24 don't know her, but, the thing is, once, again,  
25 you don't have an Ethics Board.

1 You don't have an Ethics Board.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: With respect to your  
3 complaint regarding the litigation, we are taking  
4 them on, at a contingency basis, isn't that right, <sup>Page | 90</sup>  
5 Mr. Ra, taking on a contingency only?

6 If they win, they get a portion of our  
7 award.

8 We are not spending any taxpayers dollars  
9 on litigation.

10 We really need it because it is going to  
11 cost us ab out forty million dollars to make our  
12 Wells safe.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: I don't operate to that.  
14 I didn't object to the litigation that  
15 Santino did back in 2016, only the way they did  
16 it.

17 When I asked, do we have any meetings with  
18 Grumman planned, they said no.

19 What did we do?

20 All we did is send them a letter and ask  
21 for a bunch of money.

22 They said no.

23 We didn't respond and we entered into  
24 litigation.

25 I don't think that is the right way to go

1 about it.

2 Going back to the Ethics Board, Grace  
3 Moran, she maybe a great person.

4 We don't have any Ethics Board.

Page | 91

5 Your office didn't respond to me and the  
6 Town of Hempstead hotline, helpline responded  
7 saying I had to send everything to the Town  
8 Attorney.

9 I asked the question, supposed inquiries  
10 about the Town Attorney and they never responded.

11 So, as far as I can tell form the best  
12 information received from the Town, we don't have  
13 an Ethics Board.

14 I think you have to read our law and get a  
15 Board, first per the law.

16 Get rid of all the political cronies on  
17 that Board.

18 I don't know, aside from John Ryan, if  
19 there are any others, I don't know those people.

20 John Ryan campaigned for other candidates  
21 and that should not be part of the Ethics Board.

22 Once, again, the leave of absences are not  
23 on the thing.

24 It says "hand" or something like that.

25 Once, again, there should be a space

1 for leave of absences, the number of retirees.

2 You ran on this.

3 They said one hundred retirees, eight  
4 million dollars. You promised residents all of this. Page | 92

5  
6 Now, the residents have the right, now, to  
7 verify what this Town Board said they would do  
8 with their tax cut budget.

9 Are we really saving that money that we  
10 said?

11 Are we going to dig into Reserves and not  
12 have a structurally-balanced budget?

13 That is the reason you need to put the  
14 thing on the Resolution.

15 And, I am running out of time.

16 You need to do it and stop the lip service.

17 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

18 After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.

20 Procacci.

21 Annmarie DeSalvo?

22 (Whereupon, "unfortunately, she had to  
23 leave," was heard calling out from the audience.

24 After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Elizabeth Tristan.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 ELIZABETH TRISTAN: Can you hear me okay?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes.

3 ELIZABETH STRESTON: Very good. Thank you,  
4 my name is Elizabeth Streston. (Phonetic spelling) Page | 93

5 I live in Long Beach. I know too well that  
6 as Council Members, you are concerned about the  
7 cost of Ernst and Young trying to get the Oscar  
8 and Golden Globe and for, now, you should focus on  
9 the complete audit of your Building Department.

10 This is not my first time, here, to request  
11 that the Council Members come to an agreement to  
12 protect your current and future residents from  
13 anymore heartache and financial hardships because  
14 the procedures of the Building Department.

15 I understand the difficulty you may have in  
16 approving this but, I don't understand how you can  
17 not see there is a problem?

18 Sometimes problems cannot be fixed in-house  
19 and a fresh pair of eyes is what you need to look  
20 at it and it is required.

21 You need fresh eyes.

22 Stop playing politics with people's lives.

23 You're coming up on seven years on  
24 Superstorm Sandy.

25 People are not home because they have

1 been waiting and in some instances for over a year  
2 for a permit, sitting in the back of the room and  
3 New York Rising and find reliable, honest  
4 contractors.

Page | 94

5 I am a firm believer in collaboration.

6 The City of Long Beach Building Department  
7 did an outstanding job determining what houses  
8 were substantially damaged and those that needed  
9 to be repaired and the lucky ones whose houses  
10 were determined green with FEMA's assistance.

11 I asked you have you looked at all at the  
12 houses that have been deemed "red" and "yellow" in  
13 your Town of Hempstead?

14 That would be a question.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have.

16 ELIZABETH STRESTON: Sir?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I looked at the  
18 houses in my District.

19 ELIZABETH STRESTON: I also have taken a  
20 ride and seen the "red" houses, if they were  
21 raised.

22 In too many instances, they are not.

23 As Council Members, it would be your  
24 responsibility to find funding for those homes hat  
25 need to be raised because they missed out on the

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 GOSER funding, also known as New York Rising.

2 It takes, approximately, two hundred  
3 thousand for a house to be lifted.

4 There are residents on the South Shore that <sup>Page | 95</sup>  
5 do not have this pocket change.

6 Doing it, now, will only exacerbate the  
7 wounds of the storm on an already fragile  
8 homeowner and taxpayer.

9 This is a step that is much needed in  
10 planning for your Town's future, including the  
11 focus of revitalization.

12 For all the homeowners that have called me  
13 in desperation and the late evening hours, I  
14 implore you all to pass this resolution.

15 And, this new thing that I just got which I  
16 am sure you will address is just politics.

17 Thank you.

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

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms.

21 Streston. (phonetic spelling)

22 Ms. Streston, when you said, "this new  
23 thing," that you just got, are you talking about  
24 this Press Release, "Hempstead Council Members to  
25 Re-engineer the Building Department," is that

1 what you are talking about?

2 I just got this right, now.

3 I have never seen this before, but, we had  
4 a long time to get our Building Department's house<sup>Page | 96</sup>  
5 in order.

6 And, I think that we really need - - we  
7 have known about this issue.

8 We have been working on this audit for a  
9 year and a half.

10 ELIZABETH STRESTON: No skin off my teeth,  
11 I don't live here. I am lucky but your people  
12 call me.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I didn't call  
14 you.

15 ELIZABETH STRESTON: Your residents call me  
16 in the own of Long Beach because of your Building  
17 Department.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to say  
19 something about the Building Department, um, when  
20 I had some residents in Meadowmere Park that  
21 needed assistance in completing their applications  
22 and completing their process for their permits,  
23 um, I asked the Building Department to go to  
24 Meadowmere Park and meet with the residents which  
25 they did.



1 And, they came back and by and large, they  
2 solved the people's problems, so, we brought Town  
3 Hall to the people in my District.

4 And, I am proud of the results that we were <sup>Page | 97</sup>  
5 able to get.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't think anybody in  
7 this Town can be proud of what happened to the  
8 Sandy victims who are, now, faced to possibly  
9 elevate their homes because of a lack of  
10 communication from the Town of Hempstead.

11 We cannot let that happen, again.

12 For a year and a half, I have been working  
13 with the Commissioner of the Building Department,  
14 the panel that selected Ernst & Young.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Calm down.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Consisted of the  
17 Building Department Commissioner, the Deputy  
18 Commissioner, a representative from my office and  
19 a representative from the Town Board,  
20 collaboratively.

21 They screened the applicants.

22 Our Compliance Officer deemed both firms  
23 qualified.

24 But the panel recommended Ernst & Young.

25 If you have a problem with the costs, I am

1 fine.

2 Let's amend the Resolution on the floor and  
3 go with the lower bidder.

4 I don't care.

Page | 98

5 We need a fresh set of eyes.

6 Anyone who votes "no" on this audit is  
7 saying our Building Department is fine and I don't  
8 think that your offices and your constituents will  
9 say our Building Department is fine.

10 We get complaint after complaint about how  
11 long it takes to get a permit in the Town of  
12 Hempstead.

13 You can always be better.

14 I would like our Building Department to be  
15 the gold standards for municipalities across this  
16 State.

17 With an audit, we maybe able to get there.

18 We need fresh eyes on this Building  
19 Department.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I would  
21 respectfully disagree.

22 I would rather spend the three hundred to  
23 six hundred thousand dollars that it has been  
24 estimated for an audit to hire a few Planning  
25 Examiners, to open up our Building Department

1 on Saturdays and Sundays, to allow hardworking  
2 families, who can't make it during the day and  
3 contractors who might be overwhelmed have an  
4 opportunity to come on a Saturday or Sunday to  
5 Town Hall and to meet with our Building Department  
6 to get their permits, to get their issues  
7 resolved.

8 I think that if we spend much less than the  
9 three hundred to six hundred thousand dollars that  
10 is being proposed on an audit to hire these people  
11 to approve the overtime to put the people there,  
12 we are down to, I believe, somewhere between  
13 eleven and twelve Planning Examiners to process  
14 over then thousand applications a year.

15 So, the way that we address that is we give  
16 the people more services and we don't need an  
17 auditor to tell us to do that with six hundred  
18 thousand dollars, an expenditure for that auditor,  
19 that is Number 1.

20 Number 2, Councilwoman - - Majority Leader  
21 Councilwoman Erin King-Sweeney will also highlight  
22 how we plant to address the issues concerning some  
23 of the, um, potential improvements that we can  
24 make to the Building Department.

25 The Building Department is not perfect, but

1 I think, basically, we need to give them the  
2 resources we have to listen to them, as well as  
3 our residents on the best way that we can approach  
4 these issues.

5 And, from that, I am telling you from what  
6 the residents have told me and the contractors  
7 that work with the Town, we need more Planning  
8 Examiners.

9 We got to be open on weekends and we got to  
10 make ourselves more accessible to the people and  
11 we got to put ourselves in the situation where if  
12 someone goes to the Building Department, it is a  
13 one-stop shop.

14 They go to the Planning Examiner.

15 They say to the Planning Examiner, okay,  
16 these are my applications and the Planning  
17 Examiner, rather than looking at it in a very  
18 narrow view and then sending that person home and  
19 then coming back and realizing that there are four  
20 other things they have to do, they get one-stop  
21 shopping.

22 They get somebody in the Planning  
23 Department and the Building Department, rather,  
24 that is going to sit down with residents, with  
25 contractors and sit down with them and tell them

1 what they need to do at one meeting and not bring  
2 them back four or five times.

3 That is going to require us to hire  
4 Planning Examiners.

5 I think that I what makes more sense, that  
6 is what I think we should do and opening it up to  
7 people on Saturdays and Sundays for those people  
8 that can't afford to take a day off from work,  
9 they will have the opportunity to come and are  
10 able to interface with our Building Department.

11 Those are concrete solutions, not a more  
12 ideas of having an audit and spending all this  
13 money to a New York City audit firm.

14 And, by the way, if I understand that  
15 correctly, if I am wrong, Commissioner, was your  
16 cousin on the presentation of Ernst & Young?

17 He is back there.

18 Well, he told me he was and, basically, he  
19 wanted to be recused from that process and he  
20 stated that.

21 So, I don't know why we do that, that in  
22 and of itself would create a public relations and  
23 perception problem with the Town.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He is shaking his head.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me, I think

1 that Councilwoman Erin King-Sweeney has some  
2 proposals that she will make.

3 And, I think that will be a big  
4 improvement.

Page | 102

5 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was  
6 heard. After, the following ensued.)

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Sinclair?

8 MS. SINCLAIR: Sure, during our first  
9 meeting with Ernst & Young, um, one of the  
10 gentleman presenting asked Mr. Rottkamp since the  
11 last meeting if his Mother or cousin were still on  
12 staff and they discovered at that meeting they  
13 were second cousins and what Mr. Rottkamp  
14 requested is an opinion that they would not  
15 violate the Ethics Law appearing before us.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He didn't know if he  
17 was his cousin?

18 MS. SINCLAIR: No.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, Mr. Rottkamp  
20 voted, didn't he?

21 MS. SINCLAIR: He submitted his  
22 recommendation, his scoring for procurement and he  
23 also submitted his concerns as to whether or not a  
24 second cousin would constitute a violation of  
25 Ethics rules.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Rottkamp, would  
2 you, please, come down, here.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Ms. Sinclair,  
4 wouldn't you agree it creates a perception problem <sup>Page | 103</sup>  
5 if Ernst & Young comes back and says the Building  
6 Department is doing great, doing fine and someone  
7 is going to say, Commissioner Rottkamp's cousin  
8 was part of the presentation committee, isn't that  
9 a perception issue that we would have to deal  
10 with?

11 MS. SINCLAIR: Well, I think I have a lot  
12 of confidence that they will not come back and say  
13 everything is doing well.

14 Second thing, I would say in light of all  
15 the conflicts we find here, a second cousin that  
16 has been removed, that was determined by our  
17 Ethics Committee not to be a violation of the  
18 Ethics Rule, was not an issue for us.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is the second cousin a  
20 relative?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I finish?

22 So, Ms. Sinclair, so, you could identify  
23 areas where the Building Department could improve?

24 MS. SINCLAIR: We have been discussing with  
25 the Commissioner the last nineteen months - -

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You could do that,  
2 right?

3 MS. SINCLAIR: What I am saying is that - -

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why do we have to Page | 104  
5 hire an auditor?

6 MS. SINCLAIR: To look into their operation  
7 and to find a pathway for them, the evaluation of  
8 their staffing levels, of their policy procedures  
9 and how they are handling the business of the  
10 Town's constituents need to be looked at by an  
11 outside source.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do we need more  
13 Planners?

14 MS. SINCLAIR: We agree with that.

15 In fact, we have hired staff since we have  
16 been here, but, staffing isn't only the issue.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What issues are there  
18 other than staffing?

19 MS. SINCLAIR: When we requested a policy  
20 procedure manual from that Department, we received  
21 a thick stack of contradictory emails of opinions  
22 on various issues with no consistency or way to  
23 implement them successfully with the number of  
24 employees in that Department.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can't we do that



1 internally without spending three hundred or six  
2 hundred thousand dollars?

3 MS. SINCLAIR: I was told with confidence  
4 by the Commissioner and his Deputies that is the <sup>Page | 105</sup>  
5 policy procedures manual that we stand by.

6 That is simply unacceptable.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: To who?

8 MS. SINCLAIR: To the Town.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms.  
10 Sinclair.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I don't  
12 understand what you are saying.

13 Speak a little bit slower so I can  
14 understand what you are saying.

15 You are saying the Building Department told  
16 you that they could not hire more people, what are  
17 you saying?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Policy procedures.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Please, let  
20 her explain to me if you don't mind.

21 Go ahead.

22 MS. SINCLAIR: There has been a demand for  
23 staff since we got here - -

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes.

25 MS. SINCLAIR: Since that time, we have

1 | been working with the Commissioner and hired  
2 | several people to replace them.

3 | SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: He has?

4 | MS. SINCLAIR: Yes, he has. And, through <sup>Page | 106</sup>  
5 | attrition and through the way the budget has been  
6 | constructed, he has implemented staffing levels  
7 | that we don't disagree that there is a staffing  
8 | issue.

9 | What I think we think in looking at all  
10 | this in addition to site plan reviews, you do not  
11 | have a functioning Planning Department with  
12 | Planners in it.

13 | You can't even effectively - -

14 | SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think that is a very  
15 | important point, a Planning Department that has no  
16 | Planners in it.

17 | SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Can I speak.  
18 | You are not being very nice.

19 | Wait, listen, I don't want that, what I  
20 | need to understand is what you are saying.

21 | Explain to me, again.

22 | She disturbed me.

23 | MS. SINCLAIR: The staffing levels.

24 | SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know we need  
25 | staff because so many people have retired.

1 MS. SINCLAIR: Yes.

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So, we were  
3 really low on staff, okay and, then, we are not  
4 hiring people.

Page | 107

5 We have people working part-time, so, there  
6 are many, many new holes in that Department.

7 We don't have anyone to do the work, in  
8 addition, to the fact that they are sitting on top  
9 of each other and we don't have enough space for  
10 them.

11 You go through the space, I went down to  
12 look at it, myself because I want improvement,  
13 but, I want people to have a space to work.

14 I want them to move off a whole big  
15 section.

16 They are sitting with two or three people  
17 on top of each other.

18 Move out of there.

19 In addition, all the people that left,  
20 here, how many left and how many have been  
21 retired?

22 MS. SINCLAIR: The total since 2017, the  
23 way that the budget is constructed, when those  
24 folks retired, there weren't salary lines for the  
25 Commissioner to hire folks, so, we have a lot

1 and we hired three folks.

2 And, just to point out, there are still  
3 part-time employees in that department.

4 They all remain hired, a couple part-time Page | 108  
5 employees.

6 Again, I don't disagree with the staffing  
7 levels, um, are concerned in that, again, because  
8 of the way the budget is structured, you cannot  
9 replace those folks.

10 In addition, I also asked him for a space  
11 plan, that contemplates utilizing the  
12 Communications Department and DGS to find a way to  
13 accommodate the space needs.

14 Again, I don't disagree space is an issue,  
15 here.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why is the  
17 Communications Department in the Building  
18 Department?

19 And, why are the Planning Examiners  
20 separated?

21 I understand that the Commissioner - -

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think the  
23 Commissioner needs to answer the question, not Ms.  
24 Sinclair.

25 Commissioner Rottkamp?

1 I Chair the Meeting.

2 You go through the Chair.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am not going to  
4 allow you or anybody else to interrupt me.

Page | 109

5 I never have an I never will.

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

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me finish. You  
9 can run the meeting the way you want.

10 I was talking and you can't cut me off.

11 So, Commissioner Rottkamp, I understand  
12 there was a request made to the Supervisor's  
13 Office to move the Communications Department out  
14 of the Building Department, is that correct?

15 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes, Councilman,  
16 that is correct.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, you were denied  
18 that?

19 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Um, we are starting  
20 to work on that, now.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You are starting to  
22 work on that, did you get it or not?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Lacarubba, did you  
24 deny that request?

25 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I requested it for

1 a year and a half ago.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You asked a year and  
3 a half a go and they did not do it?

4 MS. SINCLAIR: That is not true.

Page | 110

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is not  
6 true.

7 That is not true what he is saying because  
8 I was there and I do know what happened.

9 I listened to you, now.

10 I want to work with you, I do, everybody,  
11 here.

12 So, some of the things you are saying, I  
13 never heard.

14 I would appreciate it if you had said  
15 something to us.

16 We are here as Board Members.

17 We are not here all day as you are, you  
18 know, I am here a lot and I shouldn't be as much  
19 as I am.

20 But, I really like to know because we  
21 really want to do what is best for our residents.

22 So, you know, working together is what we  
23 need to do.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: While we are  
25 talking about staffing, I have a couple

1 of questions, obviously, it made the news  
2 yesterday and we are talking about staff.

3 We are talking about our employees and I  
4 have to ask a question, if we have to go into Page | 111  
5 Executive Session, I will make that Motion.

6 But, yesterday's Press Conference, the  
7 Supervisor said, um, that her office has received  
8 countless complaints about alleged corruption in  
9 the Building Department.

10 Now, I am a little confused because the  
11 Town Board, I will ask my colleagues, have you  
12 heard anything from the Supervisor's Office with  
13 regards to alleged corruption?

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Absolutely  
15 not.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I don't know if we  
17 have to go into Executive Session, where was the  
18 corruption?

19 Who did it?

20 What was it about?

21 This is something that needs to be  
22 answered.

23 And, you had a Press Conference, I guess  
24 none of the other Democratic Senators from Long  
25 Island were available, yesterday, but Senator

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 Brooks mentioned if we don't pass the audit today,  
2 a vail threat from a State Senator, very nice, he  
3 said if we don't pass this audit today and vote to  
4 have the audit of the Town of Hempstead, that he  
5 is going to have the State conduct an audit.

Page | 112

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me - -

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If that is going to  
8 be done, then, you know what, why are we spending  
9 three hundred and thirty thousand dollars on Ernst  
10 and Young?

11 Let's call Senator Brooks and have him do  
12 it.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me, I  
14 move that we go into Executive Session, that there  
15 is something that need to be said and I really  
16 don't want to say it, here.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: All in favor?

19 (Whereupon, a vote of aye was heard from  
20 all board members. The Hempstead Town board  
21 retired into Executive Session. After, the  
22 following ensued.)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, we are back  
24 in session.

25 I still have slips for the Administrative



1 Calendar.

2 I have Kevin Moran.

3 KEVIN MORAN: Good Afternoon, my name is  
4 Kevin Moran.

Page | 113

5 I am here on behalf of the Long Island  
6 Builders Institute and myself, I am the President  
7 of the Wantagh.

8 Um, I am just here to say I fully support  
9 the proposed operational assessment policy here,  
10 today.

11 I think it would be a great idea to have a  
12 thirty party outside to see how the Building  
13 Department is working and whatever kind of  
14 proposal that can help make it work more  
15 efficiently - -

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you take a look at  
17 the microphone.

18 They are working on it.

19 KEVIN MORAN: Are we good?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can hear you.

21 KEVIN MORAN: Anyway, so, we support this  
22 initiative.

23 We encourage you to vote yes on the  
24 proposal.

25 Like I said, we really do believe it

1 would be great to have a third party take a look  
2 at the Building Department and take our views into  
3 consideration.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you for <sup>Page | 114</sup>  
5 coming, particularly since you are a Wantagh  
6 resident and a resident of mine.

7 KEVIN MORAN: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I appreciate  
9 that.

10 I think it is fair to say there are a lot  
11 of improvements that can be made with the Building  
12 Department and not to attack any one individual,  
13 but, collectively, I think it hasn't been an  
14 overly pleasant experience for a lot of the  
15 residents.

16 And, I am saying that living on the South  
17 Shore living on the water, the Town that I  
18 represent is on the water and particularly  
19 impacted by Sandy.

20 Um, with all that said, your desire, your  
21 organization's desire to have an audit, I  
22 understand that.

23 I think that I am wondering, though, if we  
24 can't achieve that, the idea that we put forward  
25 this morning and I am sure you haven't had

1 a chance to digest that, yet, two things we would  
2 propose is an ad hoc audit, a review team, so, we  
3 would have assembled professionals, possibly  
4 someone, such as, yourself; builders, developers, <sup>Page | 115</sup>  
5 um, people who have had negative experiences as a  
6 result of Sandy, that type of group.

7 And, we would bring them in to, in fact, do  
8 an assessment, an audit and business practices at  
9 no cost.

10 The cost, I think, that is what my Board  
11 Members are concerned about, this three hundred  
12 range and above, um, maybe we can achieve the  
13 similar objective.

14 In addition, we would be proposing a  
15 Director from current staff, so that person can  
16 try to analyze, um, waste that we can improve in  
17 the Building Department to get it to be cutting,  
18 um, to be that golden standard where it should be.

19 And, move forward with the zoning  
20 commission and, um, I think that would dovetail  
21 nicely, so, we can bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

22 KEVIN MORAN: I will definitely bring back  
23 what has been presented today by the Board to our  
24 office.

25 I haven't read it, so, I can' comment on

1 it.

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Take a look at  
3 it, so, maybe, we can have a further conversation  
4 about it.

Page | 116

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Moran, I have  
6 some questions for you.

7 Thank you for coming today.

8 Um, so, I assume that you represent a  
9 number of builders that are operating in the Town  
10 of Hempstead.

11 KEVIN MORAN: Over one hundred and fifty  
12 builders across Long Island.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How do you think your  
14 Board would feel if we opened the Building  
15 Department on Saturdays and Sundays, so, that they  
16 would have an opportunity seven days a week to  
17 access our Department?

18 KEVIN MORAN: Well, I am sure they would  
19 definitely appreciate the opportunity.

20 I do believe the best way to solve the  
21 structural issues that they are facing with the  
22 Building Department is to have a third party look  
23 into what is going on.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, did you ask  
25 your Board whether or not they would rather us

1 spend the money on longer hours with more Planning  
2 Examiners versus an audit?

3 You haven't had that opportunity, have you?

4 KEVIN MORAN: Me, personally, I haven't. Page | 117

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Would you bring that  
6 back to them because I think from talking to a lot  
7 of your individual members, I had a lot of  
8 communication with especially the Board of  
9 Directors that the biggest complaint is delay.

10 That is the biggest complaint and the fact  
11 of the matter is we don't have enough Claims  
12 Examiners.

13 We don't have enough staff, so, you are  
14 faced with a choice.

15 My guess is their recommendation to us  
16 would be hire more Plan Examiners, basically, we  
17 know and your Members know, that is 1.

18 That is one of the problems.

19 KEVIN MORAN: Sure, that definitely could be  
20 true and absolutely, I will bring that back to  
21 Mitch Palley but at this time, our position is  
22 that we support the outside audit.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are giving you  
24 some alternatives.

25 We understand that was your view of the

1 Audit.

2 Now, we are saying from a value judgment,  
3 some of us on the Board feel the money would be  
4 better spent on longer hours and more Plan  
5 Examiners and more staff because the Number 1  
6 complaint we get is delay.

Page | 118

7 Thank you, sir.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You haven' had an  
9 opportunity to bring this to your Board because  
10 you never heard about this until this morning, is  
11 that correct?

12 KEVIN MORAN: This morning is the first  
13 time it was brought to my attention, yes.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Me too and we have been  
15 talking about this for a year and a half.

16 Thank you, Mr. Moran.

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Before he leaves, do you  
18 think the Commissioner's suggestion for over time,  
19 the Commissioner's suggestion of the new computer  
20 system compatible to New York City, which is very  
21 efficient, um, more space which has been denied  
22 them, more people, fifteen people, do you think  
23 the money, that one hundred thousand dollars would  
24 better serve your constituency with the overtime,  
25 with the computers, with the space, with the

1 more people rather than spending the three hundred  
2 thousand dollars on a study that is not going to  
3 get that done?

4 We are not going to get the people.

5 We are not going to get the overtime.

6 We are not going to get the space.

7 We are not going to get the computer  
8 system.

9 We are going to spend the taxpayers' money  
10 on one agency to come and tell us what the  
11 Commissioner has already told us has to happen.

12 It hasn't happened, so, the house of cards  
13 is falling down.

14 He is not terrible. They guy is great. He  
15 told us the answer, maybe they wouldn't do it.

16 If they did it, your guys would be happy.

17 They would be able to come in a wider  
18 spaced area, know where the plans are in one area,  
19 you know, all the people that have got to take of  
20 it.

21 He has lost fifteen people in a year and a  
22 half.

23 They just testified to that.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, Commissioner - -

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The computer is

1 antiquated, now, he asked for a new computer  
2 system, three hundred thousand dollars is a good  
3 start for that computer system.

4 Commissioner, do you have policy and  
5 procedures in the Building Department?

6 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes, you do.

8 I have seen it, a thick book of policy and  
9 procedures.

10 They will have to go and start to get  
11 people in there to streamline it, to check it out  
12 and fix that because right, now, policy and  
13 procedures is mixed up with different ways of  
14 doing it.

15 So, we have some work to do.

16 Help is on the way.

17 KEVIN MORAN: We are happy to hear that and  
18 I am looking forward to any improvements that can  
19 be made.

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you. Thank you,  
21 Commissioner for giving us those suggestions.

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

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilman, if you are  
25 concerned about the three hundred thousand



1 Dollar cost for Ernst & Young, that was a  
2 recommendation of the panel, it was put forward,  
3 but, I would be happy to adjourn, amend the  
4 resolution rather and go for the lower bidder.

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It was something we were  
6 told that can fix it and you want to fix it, you  
7 want to go outside and bring in other people to do  
8 something that overtime is needed.

9 The computer is needed to be updated.

10 You need more space, so, these people when  
11 you walk in, it is like clutter.

12 It is so disgusting.

13 Dorothy Goosby was there and she was saying  
14 it was horrible how these people come to work  
15 every day, where the morale is down.

16 You know, we have to help our CSEA workers.

17 We have to get more people in that  
18 department so we can get the job done, so, they  
19 get the job done, period.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You don't want to make  
21 an amendment to award it to the lower bidder,  
22 Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I don't want to put it  
24 out to anyone.

25 Let's try what the Commissioner said.

1 He is the expert.

2 He is the pro, not us.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeah, if I may  
4 respond, I don't understand the logic.

5 The recommendation was for Ernst & Young  
6 with a budget for the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase, three hundred  
7 thousand.

8 I assume there would be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase because  
9 it says "First Phase," which would probably be  
10 much more and you are saying, let's forget about  
11 what the Committee said and go with the second  
12 bidder because it is less money.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I put it forward  
14 because that was the recommendation of the panel.

15 However, if you think three hundred  
16 thousand is too much to invest in trying to have a  
17 gold standard for our Building Department and you  
18 are going to complain there was a lower bid, you  
19 can amend and go with the lower bid.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, what I  
21 would be willing to do is to form a committee of  
22 the Town Board Staff, I am only speaking for  
23 myself, I am not speaking for my colleagues and  
24 your staff and see what we can fix internally.

25 And, then, after that, if we felt that

1 we needed an audit, then, we would agree on a  
2 policy and procedure to go forward with that audit  
3 that I would be willing to do as a compromise.

4 I am just speaking as myself, as one  
5 Council Member.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I also want to  
7 point out, if I can, we keep referring to the fact  
8 that the panel, um, wanted to move this forward.

9 Let's understand that the panel was put  
10 together to grade the bids.

11 They didn't come together an all of them  
12 agree we need an audit.

13 Their job was simple to grade the bids that  
14 came in and make a decision on which one they  
15 thought was better in the situation, not whether  
16 we needed to do it, only the fact that they were  
17 making a decision on the two that were in front of  
18 them, which one made sense.

19 It had nothing to do with the panel saying,  
20 yes, we need an audit of the Building Department.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We put this out to bid.

22 We convened a panel and the Commissioner  
23 was disappointed because he was not part of that  
24 panel.

25 So, he wanted to be involved in the

1 process, so, we brought everybody again and he was  
2 part of the process; trying to work  
3 collaboratively to get tis audit done.

4 We waited, we waited and we negotiated and <sup>Page | 124</sup>  
5 negotiated.

6 I never heard any of these suggestions  
7 about opening on the weekends or other suggestions  
8 at any point during this process.

9 I am just hearing about them, today.

10 Um, and then, the bid expired.

11 So, then, we had to put it out to bid,  
12 again.

13 So, then, we put it out to bid, again, and  
14 there was a problem with the vendor who responded.

15 We only had one response. The problem with  
16 the vendor that responded, they didn't meet the  
17 requirements of the RFP, so, we had to put it out  
18 to bid, again.

19 We are here a year and a half later.

20 This is the first time I am hearing any of  
21 these suggestions during this whole time,  
22 Councilman.

23 You could have come to me and said, let's  
24 try to work on this together.

25 I was open. You had a Town Board

1 Representative on that panel.

2 You could have raised any of these  
3 suggestions, then, we didn't hear anything, not a  
4 peep because every time we try to push this  
5 forward, it is shutdown.

6 We need independent people to help us fix  
7 our Building Department.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, you were  
9 told by other Members that we wanted to sit down  
10 and work together and fix the Building Department.

11 You were the only one that was pushing for  
12 an audit.

13 We were perfectly happy to sit down and  
14 talk about revisions to the Code, streamline the  
15 process, potentially get a concierge service so  
16 that when people go it is one-stop shopping.

17 They go up, they are told this is what you  
18 got to do.

19 You go here. You got to go there.

20 Getting the Communications Department out  
21 of the Building Department, getting more Planning  
22 Examiners, that is all the stuff we were willing  
23 to talk to you about.

24 But, steadfastly wanted to go with the  
25 audit.

1 It is a policy difference between us.

2 We can agree to disagree.

3 Reasonable people can disagree. We

4 recognize that.

5 We could have a better Building Department

6 but not by spending money on an outside auditor,

7 who is just going to come up with a report and

8 their report, they will come up with a report

9 because, obviously, they don't want people to say,

10 you spent three hundred thousand dollars, what did

11 you come up with?

12 We rather the three hundred and I think it

13 is more like six hundred thousand dollars, when we

14 talked to builders, which I have, developers,

15 residents, common people, their complaints is it

16 takes too long.

17 Some of the rules are too convoluted.

18 And, the other thing is access.

19 So, we looked at it and said, maybe we

20 should open up on Saturday, open six days a week.

21 Well, I represent a District where almost

22 forty percent of my District are observing Jews,

23 who couldn't come on a Saturday.

24 So, we said, why don't we open on Saturday

25 and Sunday, make it accessible to everybody.

1 Surely, you can't be against that.

2 The difference we have is on a policy  
3 basis.

4 You want to spend it on some fancy auditor Page | 127  
5 and we think we have a solution to the problem by  
6 hiring more Planners, by bringing people in and  
7 asking them what is your biggest complaint, that  
8 is our policy disagreement.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree with the policy  
10 disagreement.

11 I do believe that we need experts.

12 I am not an expert. I could not tell you,  
13 Commissioner, how you could better run your  
14 Building Department nor do I want to because I  
15 have no expertise in this field.

16 Councilman Blakeman says he has some  
17 expertise and I don't doubt that you do but I  
18 don't think anybody else here is qualified to tell  
19 you how you can fix your Building Department.

20 I think we need experts to streamline the  
21 process.

22 I think it is a valuable investment of  
23 taxpayers' dollars.

24 I think it is hypocritical to say we can't  
25 spend one hundred and seventeen thousand dollars

1 or three hundred thousand dollars to try to give  
2 our residents the best Building Department  
3 possible when between January and April we doled  
4 out almost a million dollars in raised and  
5 promotions that weren't budgeted.

6 Okay, let's put our taxpayers' dollars to  
7 work, that is going to be something real to the  
8 residents.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is not going to be  
10 something real.

11 It is only going to be a report.

12 And, Supervisor, I have consulted with  
13 experts.

14 I consulted with seven hundred and sixty  
15 thousand experts, our residents, they will tell  
16 you what is wrong if you just listen to them.

17 We need to listen to the residents.

18 We need to listen to the contractors.

19 They are the ones that are telling us how  
20 to fix it.

21 Those are the people that I rather listen  
22 to than have some fancy auditor come in at three  
23 hundred to six hundred thousand dollars when the  
24 money could be spent on more Planning Examiners  
25 and by having longer hours.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 If you disagree, we agree to disagree, but,  
2 that is where I come down on the issue.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If I could add,  
4 I do think there is a widespread agreement that we <sup>Page | 129</sup>  
5 had challenges in the Legal Department - -

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Building Department.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am sorry,  
8 Building Department.

9 And, I think that we have a bunch of good  
10 ideas how to tackle them and how to tackle them.

11 And, how about, I hate to agree with Bruce  
12 but how about we do give this a shot internally.

13 See if we can move forward with it.

14 Put a pretty tight deadline on it with the  
15 idea of saving money and going forward with these  
16 proposed changes and open to other ones and  
17 revisit this in sixty, ninety days.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I think we can all  
19 agree with the men and women that work in the  
20 Building Department, really do their best and  
21 there is tons of talent there.

22 There is hundreds of years of institutional  
23 knowledge and I think that if we provide the  
24 correct tools to the Building Department, they  
25 will have the ability to turn this around.

1 SENIOR COUNCILMAN GOOSBY: And, more staff,  
2 because they don't have enough staff and space.

3 I did say that, Supervisor, last time, a  
4 year and a half ago. Page | 130

5 I did go down to the Building Department.  
6 I talked to staff there.

7 I walked around there.

8 They are like a bunch of like rats in a  
9 cage. I can almost say that. They are so close  
10 together and no one can breathe and we have all of  
11 that space, which I did say that going back in the  
12 Minutes, you will see it, that you have the  
13 Communications Department, two or three people in  
14 a whole area that could be sued for this Building  
15 Department.

16 They need it an more staff.

17 I was there.

18 Also, I saw the records that are in one  
19 room, you know, I was told people who were working  
20 there part-time are no longer working there, so,  
21 they are not there and those things need to be  
22 protected and put away.

23 Okay, and if we had someone come in and  
24 tell us what is wrong and what are we going to do  
25 as far as people?

1 We are going to need to do it, that is  
2 money used, as well, so, therefore, we can't hire  
3 anymore people.

4 So, why can't we try and see if that works, <sup>Page | 131</sup>  
5 first and, then, if it doesn't, we go to what you  
6 have.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well I do agree we do  
8 have a challenge with staffing requirements in the  
9 Building Department.

10 A lot of the problems were caused in 2019's  
11 budget, the "less savings," that was supposed to  
12 be achieved in that department is over half a  
13 million dollars of employees that we can't hire  
14 because they are supposed to be attributed out of  
15 the Building Department when we really have more  
16 need for more people there.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, in your  
18 proposed budget, did you propose any additional  
19 hiring of any additional Planning Examiners or to  
20 increase overtime in the Building Department or to  
21 extend the hours of the Building Department  
22 knowing that those were issues?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't prepare the  
24 Building Department's budget, the Commissioner  
25 does.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You propose the  
2 budget.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I did but I got the  
4 figures from the Commissioners.

5 Was that part of your budget that you  
6 submitted, Commissioner?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Many people  
8 retired.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He said, yes.

10 (Whereupon, "let's move on," was heard  
11 calling out from the audience. After, the  
12 following ensued.)

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Let's get to the next  
14 speaker, Allan Kennemer?

15 ALLAN KENNEMER: Hi, my name is Allan  
16 Kennemer. I reside in East Meadow, New York for  
17 the past twenty years.

18 I am also on the Board of Directors for the  
19 Long Island Builders Institute.

20 I am here today to speak on behalf of being  
21 a resident and what I experienced through the  
22 Building Department for the past few years.

23 Nobody is pointing fingers at anyone, here.

24 We want to see improvements, whatever that  
25 maybe.

1 Um, you know, we work with a lot of  
2 Building Departments.

3 We work with Oyster Bay. We work with  
4 Babylon and we work with Smithtown and it is  
5 coming in to look at it and evaluate it and try to  
6 make improvements for everybody.

7 And, this is an opportunity to improve.

8 We can hire more people but those same  
9 people will come into the same system that we have  
10 today.

11 We really need to evaluate the system that  
12 we have, you know.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the systemic  
14 problem that you are identifying?

15 Because I had indicated we want to hear  
16 from people like you, so, tell us what are the  
17 systemic problems?

18 Maybe we can fix them.

19 I rather hear from you about what the  
20 problems are.

21 Aside from the staffing, you had said it is  
22 systemic problems.

23 Tell us, sir, we like to be educated.

24 ALAN KENNEMER: So, we have to have a clear  
25 path for builders, for developers, for remodelers,

1 for homeowners to know what the steps of the  
2 process are and they have to be consistent no  
3 matter who you are, where you live, anywhere in  
4 the Town of Hempstead.

5 What I hear and I do, a lot of the  
6 remodeling, my biggest time on the job is doing  
7 countertops and I hear from my remodelers, you  
8 know, it is too much of a problem to go get a  
9 permit to do this.

10 So, a lot of work is taking place without  
11 permits and it is because of the difficulty of the  
12 thing to get the permits, which in turn we are not  
13 getting revenue for the permits.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, sir, let me ask  
15 you a question, if the Town Board made a decision  
16 that remodeling that didn't involve structural or  
17 anything to do with health and safety, if we  
18 eliminated that process, that would be an  
19 improvement?

20 Because I understand other Towns I either  
21 looked at have done that, you know for minor  
22 renovations, if some wants to redo their kitchen,  
23 they shouldn't have to get a permit, okay, that is  
24 something that is valuable because I tend to agree  
25 with you, I think that going through a whole

1 process to take a sink out and a dishwasher and  
2 you want new counters and you want a new - - help  
3 me, here, new island with granite on it or  
4 whatever, they shouldn't have to go to the  
5 Building Department.

6 They shouldn't have to spend money on a  
7 permit.

8 They shouldn't have to wait four or five  
9 weeks to get their permit.

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

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: See, that is valuable  
14 to us.

15 I agree with you. I agree with you and  
16 that is something that hearing from you has more  
17 value to me than hearing from some report because  
18 you are the guy that is out there in the field all  
19 day.

20 You are the one that works with the  
21 homeowners and you know what a pain in the neck  
22 the thing is.

23 ALAN KENNEMER: Absolutely.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is something  
25 that I would propose, I can tell you that.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 ALAN KENNEMER: Okay. Let me check my  
2 notes, here.

3 I know we touched on it a little bit, so,  
4 the firm was chosen by an independent Committee, <sup>Page | 136</sup>  
5 correct?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It was not chosen by  
7 anybody on the dais.

8 ALAN KENNEMER: Right, so, it was a  
9 complete outside Committee.

10 Was that on their, you know, in their  
11 judgment was the best value?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That was the top  
13 scoring vendor.

14 ALAN KENNEMER: Okay of the two, there were  
15 only two, correct?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Correct.

17 ALAN KENNEMER: Okay, okay, so, yesterday  
18 at the Press Conference, Senator Brooks talked  
19 about going to the State level if it is not  
20 approved, today.

21 I really think that is going to cost us aa  
22 lot more than five hundred thousand in the long  
23 run by the time we get delays for the State to  
24 come in to evaluate for them to only probably tell  
25 us things that are happening.



1 We have to have a third party come in and  
2 review this to give us suggestions, you know, they  
3 have been to other Towns.

4 They have seen what is happening there. Page | 137

5 So, we need to get feedback from there, so,  
6 we can grow.

7 I much rather us handle things inside these  
8 walls than to have Albany and somebody else come  
9 in and tell us what to do.

10 So, I want to do something a little out of  
11 the ordinary, but, I like to ask the people in the  
12 audience who is against this Bill?

13 (Whereupon, "What do you mean, against,"  
14 was heard calling out from the audience. After,  
15 the following ensued.)

16 ALAN KENNEMER: Is everybody for the review  
17 of the Building Department by the third party?

18 Who is not in favor of that?

19 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.  
20 After, the following ensued.)

21 ALAN KENNEMER: Okay, I will leave it at  
22 that.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

24 Next speaker we have is Lenny Minervini?

25 LENNY MINERVINI: Thank you, Supervisor

1 and Legislators for talking the time to hear from  
2 a voice of a concerned constituent.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you pull the mic a  
4 little closer to you, please.

5 LENNY MINERVINI: My name is Lenny  
6 Minervini. I live at 272 Chestnut Avenue in  
7 East Meadow and I have been a Hempstead resident  
8 for thirty-two years.

9 I am an independent contractor working for  
10 builders, developers and homeowners for over  
11 thirty years.

12 Working with builders and developers, one  
13 of the biggest complaints about working on Long  
14 Island was the time and energy exhausted on  
15 Building Departments and the time consuming  
16 process and inconsistencies.

17 I know builders who have left to go build  
18 in the Carolinas and there are others considering  
19 leaving for Texas for the same reason.

20 Hearing the horror stories that homeowners  
21 first victimized by a Hurricane and, then, the  
22 Town of Hempstead is heart wrenching.

23 I applaud the efforts of the Supervisor for  
24 dealing with this issue and look forward to making  
25 an investment to ensure that the situation is

1 investigated correctly with a set of outside eyes.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

3 Robin Archbold: My name is Robin Archbold,  
4 um, a resident of Merrick, Town of Hempstead.

5 I have been in support of this independent  
6 audit because like everybody else has said a pair  
7 of outside eyes would be beneficial to improving  
8 the efficiencies within the Building Department.

9 Um, I told my story here before.

10 A lot of people are familiar. I was a  
11 victim of Sandy.

12 I went through the necessary, um, steps and  
13 protocol taking out permits, um, after Sandy, was  
14 issued a repair permit, um, only to find out six  
15 months after my house was completely repaired  
16 that, um, I was substantially damaged and had to  
17 elevate.

18 Um, just finished up the elevation, now,  
19 um, two years, again, displaced from my house.

20 Um, I heard the other side and what is  
21 being said about, um, the concerns of the Building  
22 Department, I feel that somebody independent or  
23 the suggestion that you made to form a Committee  
24 of independent people to look into what is going  
25 on, I don't think, um, I think that could happen

1 but we have been talking about this independent  
2 audit for a year or more and I don't understand  
3 why, now, today, that suggestion is being made  
4 when a year has gone by and maybe there could have  
5 been improvements in the Building Department  
6 already.

7 So, now, you are saying okay sixty, ninety  
8 days until we form a Committee or get people  
9 together and, then, start looking into it.

10 We are talking, now, probably five years  
11 down the road the Building Department may get a  
12 new computer system.

13 It seems absurd.

14 I mean the time is, now, so, whether it is  
15 somebody independent coming in to look at what  
16 needs to be done or you forming some kind of  
17 Committee to look into it, either way, things need  
18 to be done, improvements need to be made.

19 I don't believe the people that are in the  
20 Building Department in charge right, now are  
21 suitable to making decisions on what improvements  
22 in the future, although their input is valuable.

23 I think it should be done immediately.

24 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

25 After, the following ensued.)

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. Steven  
2 Arriaga. (Phonetic spelling)

3 STEVEN ARRIAGA: Great pronunciation, by  
4 the way. Page | 141

5 Steven Arriaga, it has been mispronounced  
6 since Kindergarten.

7 Um, Good Afternoon, everyone, thank you so  
8 much for this opportunity.

9 My name is Steven Arriaga. I am the proud  
10 President of Wenshaw Park Civic Association is  
11 located in Merrick, New York and we are officially  
12 a not-for-profit 513C organization.

13 I represent two hundred and fifteen  
14 homeowners, proudly.

15 We are the oldest Merrick Association as we  
16 served the community since 1958.

17 Today, I am here to represent Case Number  
18 28619, Item 46 on the agenda, the resolution  
19 authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding with  
20 the organization to install decorative street  
21 signs, Stop signs, specifically, at various  
22 locations in Wenshaw Park.

23 I first would like to start off by thanking  
24 the Town of Hempstead.

25 The Board has been tremendous with our

1 Community over the years.

2 Um, Councilman Dunne, your Office, Joseph  
3 Davenport and Mr. Reed have been tremendous  
4 partners of our amazing community over the years  
5 with various beautification initiatives.

6 Our community cares deeply about our  
7 neighborhood so much that they have fundraising  
8 over twenty thousand dollars, um, for the sole  
9 purpose in the Town of Hempstead, trust me our  
10 taxes, we pay each year, this investment in our  
11 community that demonstrates the community pride  
12 that our Civic has celebrated with the Community  
13 since 1958.

14 We funded the purchase of twenty decorative  
15 signs for our community.

16 And, the Town has partnered to install in  
17 giving us that Norman Rockwell 1950's painting for  
18 the Town of Hempstead and, we hope the generations  
19 will admire for years to come.

20 I have a picture in case you have not seen  
21 it for the Supervisor for the signs that have been  
22 installed, Phase 1 and Phase 2, really beautiful.

23 Anyone that enters our Community will see  
24 how beautiful it is and gives us historic charm  
25 for our neighborhood.

1 Um, as highlighted, the MOU, this project  
2 started with Phase 1 in 2014, followed by Phase 2  
3 in 2017 and, now, we are ready for the final Phase  
4 in 2019 that encompasses our decorative Stop signs<sup>5</sup> Page | 143  
5 that other Towns in the Town of Hempstead have  
6 installed, such as, Lynbrook that we modeled  
7 against.

8 And, so, we thank you, again and look  
9 forward to completing Phase 3 with the help of the  
10 Town of Hempstead, hopefully with your approval  
11 today in the late Summer, early Fall, 2019.

12 Lastly, back in April, 2011, a portion of  
13 our community, Shore Drive, was approved as part  
14 of the capital improvement project for repaving  
15 and trust that we know that the roads across the  
16 Town of Hempstead are in direr repair.

17 We recognize that it is very hard to get  
18 all the roads completed but we want to applaud the  
19 new capital improvement - -

20 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

21 After, the following ensued.)

22 STEVEN ARRIAGA: - - budget that you have  
23 approved, so we look forward to the development of  
24 the beautification.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. Thank you,

1 sir.

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you. The  
3 beautification of your hometown, it gives you  
4 pride where you live and we are all for that.

Page | 144

5 I purchased five statues of military  
6 people and put them in the Veterans Park at my own  
7 expense and I donated to the Park.

8 It makes you feel good when you go home.  
9 It is different than other communities, so, um, I  
10 am very happy and excited and pleased we are  
11 continuing on with the efforts.

12 And, anytime you want to donate something  
13 to the Town, we will be happy to take it.

14 STEVEN ARRIAGA: We have a very active  
15 neighborhood in the community that is fully  
16 invested in the community.

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: As far as the roads and  
18 the repairing, the road repair is one thing,  
19 redoing roads is something different and our  
20 Engineering Department has a special road schedule  
21 for that.

22 STEVEN ARRIAGA: Right.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: And, the roads in  
24 Merrick, thank God are not really bad as the rest  
25 of this large Township in the Country, so, there



1 are really some bad areas that we need to do  
2 right, now and that is being addressed.

3 We will get to you. Help is on the way,  
4 not as quickly as you want.

Page | 145

5 STEVEN ARRIAGA: We totally respect that,  
6 as you said, prioritization, not only the budget  
7 but also the way they went about prioritizing the  
8 roads, right, all the roads need to be done in a  
9 thoughtful and careful manner.

10 We want to applaud you for the approach you  
11 are taking and thank you.

12 We do represent the community and our roads  
13 are un direr need, as well.

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you for coming in,  
15 today.

16 STEVEN ARRIAGA: Thank you for your time.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

18 STEVEN ARRIAGO: Here is a picture of the  
19 signs.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

21 Michael Ingum? (Phonetic spelling)

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

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Stephanie Capillano?

25 STEPHANIE CAPILLANO: Stephanie

1 Cappilano, (phonetic spelling) Wantagh, advocate.

2 I also years ago when I went to College for  
3 social work and I work with domestic abuse and  
4 hotlines, Big Brothers & Sisters, I have passion,  
5 as you know, is for the animals, as well.

6 They are living, breathing animals.

7 Any Shelter to be provided for, it is a  
8 waste of your money, if not - - I also learned it  
9 is a business, the hard way years ago, it can be a  
10 business for some of these recues and it seems  
11 like it is for our shelters.

12 Many people are into it for the money and  
13 the jobs.

14 It must be people that really care as with  
15 children, you would never want to hire anybody to  
16 take care of these children - -

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mrs. Cappilano - - stop  
18 her time.

19 What item are we talking about on the  
20 Administrative Calendar?

21 STEPHANIE CAPPILANO: Oh, I am sorry.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you here for Public  
23 Comment?

24 STEPHANIE CAPPILANO: I signed up for  
25 Comment.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can just come back  
2 and finish your comments.

3 STEPHANIE CAPPILANO: That is okay.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

Page | 147

5 Mary Ellen Kreye?

6 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye. 436

7 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

8 Um, Item Number 34, 45 and 95 and 97.

9 I would like to compliment the Department  
10 of Conservation and Waterways on the collaborative  
11 efforts.

12 They do a great job and um, I definitely  
13 appreciate that.

14 I would like to ask what is the criteria  
15 for a Permissive Referendum?

16 Because I tried to look at these. At first  
17 I thought it was one hundred thousand dollars but  
18 that is not the case.

19 So, why are some of these budget items  
20 requiring Permissive Referendum and others not?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is Mr. Ra here?

22 I believe and I am going to be subject to  
23 correction by Mr. Ra, um, that we have these, are  
24 all related to the capital plan and the capital  
25 projects that we are going to be funded to

1 Bond Resolutions, I believe that when it is in a  
2 special district, it requires a public hearing but  
3 if it is not in a public hearing it is subject to  
4 Permissive Referendum.

5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Now, does that mean - -

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, the  
7 Comptroller's Office is going to explain it.

8 COMPTROLLER: Supervisor, if the Capital  
9 Bond Resolution is for over five years, then it  
10 requires to be the subject of Permissive  
11 Referendum.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your - -  
13 that correction.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I don't know what you  
15 mean, I am sorry.

16 I don't understand what you mean by over  
17 five years.

18 COMPTROLLER: Each one of the Bond  
19 Resolutions that is presented, here, there is a  
20 timeframe how long the Bond can be advertised and  
21 the law, specifically, specifies if it is over  
22 five years, then, it is subject to Permissive  
23 Referendum, which is another advertising process  
24 that has to be made.

25 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Does that mean - - a

1 Referendum to mean we vote on it?

2 Are we going to have fifty thousand of  
3 these things that you vote yes or no?

4 COMPTROLLER: You don't vote on it. This <sup>Page | 149</sup>  
5 is different, um, it is carved differently in the  
6 law.

7 What happens if there is something wrong in  
8 legality of the Bond, there is a separate time  
9 period in which residents have the opportunity if  
10 the process that you have to follow per the State  
11 law that says certain actions occurring and if I  
12 find something wrong with the Bond Resolution  
13 request, it will be pulled, but, it is a legal  
14 process that has to go through.

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, it is not really - -  
16 to me a Referendum - - so, this is not really a  
17 vote.

18 It is not really a vote?

19 COMPTROLLER: By the Board.

20 MARY ELLEN KREYE: By the Board?

21 COMPTROLLER: Yes.

22 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Well, how is that  
23 different from what they are doing today?

24 COMPTROLLER: It is not. It is just  
25 another time period that the State law requires,

1 I guess in their wisdom, when these laws were  
2 passed, they said if it is over a certain time  
3 period, it requires additional diligence or  
4 something of that nature.

5 I don't know. I couldn't tell you when it  
6 was first started.

7 It was probably, um, years ago.

8 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

9 COMPTROLLER: Okay.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Not that I understand  
11 any better.

12 (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the  
13 following ensued.)

14 COMPTROLLER: If it is over five years, it  
15 is subject to Permissive Referendum, that is it.

16 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

17 Item Number 59, what kind of additions to  
18 the Animal Shelter, please, 59 on Page 7?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, are you  
20 here, Commissioner Marino?

21 COMMISSIONER MARINO: Good Afternoon, which  
22 number?

23 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Number 59.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Number 59.

25 COMMISSIONER MARINO: One hundred thousand

1 Dollars, um, that is going to be work done that is  
2 going to be mostly for the, um, fixing internal  
3 cages of the Animal Shelter.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: It is just repairs?

6 Because this says, "additions" so, repairs  
7 and additions are not the same thing.

8 COMPTROLLER MARINO: No, no, the additions  
9 of cages and internal cages.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, this will be - -  
11 not be any improvements or increased in the actual  
12 footprint of the - -

13 COMPTROLLER MARINO: No, it will not.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

15 On, um, Item 93, I am wondering why we need  
16 an architect to deal with solid waste?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Conroy,  
18 can you explain that, please?

19 COMMISSIONER CONROY: This resolution is to  
20 hire an engineering firm and we have been doing it  
21 for years.

22 We have been monitoring our landfill to  
23 make sure there is no leakages that monitor the  
24 water and at the end of the year, we get reports  
25 and make sure levels are correct.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CONROY: You're welcome.

3 MARY ELLEN KREYE: On 110, electric

4 sharing, what is that?

Page | 152

5 Is that electrical vehicles or number 110

6 on Page 12?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This proposal is a

8 pilot program to have, um, to install electric

9 charging stations, um, to provide a zip car, to

10 provide environmentally friendly car.

11 I believe this is going to be adjourned,

12 actually, this item is going to be adjourned.

13 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Interestingly enough, I

14 saw charging things in parking lots in Oregon.

15 On Number 127, on Page 14, um, what kind of

16 positions, please?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon?

18 MARY ELLEN KREYE: It is Page 14, Number

19 127.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe employees

21 going to the Parks Department.

22 HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR: There re no

23 personnel resolutions. It is online.

24 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Some people are

25 retiring?



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There are ten people  
2 are online and then there are some people getting  
3 promotions, I believe in the Parks Department, is  
4 that correct, Mr. Sammon? Page | 153

5 HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR: The two people,  
6 four people are being appointed off Parks, that is  
7 correct, Supervisor and the titles changed in  
8 Sanitation, um, various leaves of absences, um,  
9 and that is it.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Thank you.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Someone from Sanitation  
12 passed a test.

13 They need a driver. There are some getting  
14 upgraded in Sanitation.

15 HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR SAMMON: Promotion  
16 in Recycling 1 to Recycling 2, successful  
17 completion of getting his commercial license.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Sammon.

19 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR SAMMON: Sure.

20 MARY ELLEN KREYE: On 134, Community Choice  
21 Aggregation Energy Program, I know you are calling  
22 for a Hearing.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

24 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I like to know what it  
25 is.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you see Mr. Haber,  
2 he will explain it to you.

3 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.  
4 After, the following ensued.)

Page | 154

5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I would like to suggest  
6 there be some kind of time limit on the Board  
7 Members for their comments because sometimes, um,  
8 Board Members repeat themselves over and over and  
9 they are taking time from our lives and which I  
10 find very weary.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will take it under  
12 advisement.

13 Meta Mereday?

14 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Baldwin  
15 resident.

16 Um, where does one begin?

17 Item 32, just concerned with regard to what  
18 outreach took place?

19 It is an ongoing concern that I have with  
20 regard to the lack of diversity and inclusion  
21 which clearly smacks of the lack of voices being  
22 heard.

23 And, again, not having a full fledged MWBE  
24 program in the Township, so, what I have  
25 distributed, again, for a teachable moment is

1 the summary of the New York State MWBE only any  
2 Bill that was passed to expand and reauthorizing  
3 Article 15-A which provides pretty much the  
4 infrastructure for the State's MWBE Program.

5 I think the points in there with regard to  
6 outreach having an advocate, State-wide advocate,  
7 I think this Township truly needs an advocate  
8 because there are so many residents here, clearly,  
9 voiceless in terms of the reputation and I warrant  
10 suggestions that those residents that are here,  
11 individual organizations that are here, come in  
12 the next couple months when they have the Budget  
13 Hearings, when there is echoes in the room because  
14 I was one of those that pleaded to this Board to  
15 increase the representatives and the resources for  
16 the Building Department, considering that  
17 Superstorm Sandy hit in 2012.

18 Um, a lot of the faces that are speaking  
19 today, I don't remember seeing them in any of the  
20 Hearings, whether they are in the evening or in  
21 the daytime.

22 I know of a lawsuit, as a matter of fact,  
23 from a resident in Freeport that is being sued by  
24 a contractor and it is interesting that Channel 4  
25 is still here, that they did an expose on the

1 Contractor from a company.

2 I will not put their name here, but it has  
3 already been posed, who has, basically, absconded  
4 with millions of dollars from residents' funding. <sup>Page | 156</sup>

5 A number of residents, their houses are  
6 sitting on pallets, have not been raised.

7 They are paying taxes.

8 I would encourage the Township to  
9 coordinate its efforts with the local  
10 municipalities, the local villages, as well as,  
11 the County to get on board to address the needs  
12 and the cries of our residents with regard to  
13 Sandy.

14 Um, lastly, I was charged by Ralph Esposito  
15 from Nassau County Veteran Services to make sure  
16 that Item 40 does pass.

17 I assured him that it would.

18 Um, and, again, it is my hope that our  
19 Veterans and I do thank the Town Clerk for her  
20 continued efforts in providing those resources for  
21 our Veterans that we get that information out,  
22 that to better serve their needs as far as working  
23 - -

24 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

25 After, the following ensued.)

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 META MEREDAY: Hopefully, the comments from  
2 the Board previously, stated do not take too long.

3 I will be back for Public Comments because  
4 some of us are sitting here on our own time and Page | 157  
5 dime and then we have to make the money to pay  
6 these taxes.

7 Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Just a quick correction,  
10 it is Ralph Esposito, a great guy over at Nassau  
11 County Veteran Services.

12 Thank you for recognizing him.

13 META MEREDAY: I told him he didn't need to  
14 be here all day and that I would speak up for him.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Susan Ryan?

16 SUSAN RYAN: Good Afternoon, um, I just  
17 apologize I haven't been listening to, um, the  
18 previous speakers, um, the questions I have is  
19 with - - is about the audit of the Building  
20 Department permit department.

21 And, in terms of hiring somebody to look at  
22 the process for the Building Department - -

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There has been a lot of  
24 discussion about this item.

25 The proposal is to bring in an outside

1 Independent company to come in and look at the  
2 Building Department.

3 There has been discussion about the cost of  
4 those services.

5 Um, it was an independent panel that  
6 recommended Ernst & Young which is not the lower  
7 price.

8 It is the higher price.

9 Um, I offered, if the Board did not want to  
10 take the recommendation of the panel and wanted to  
11 go with the lower priced vendor, that is certainly  
12 something that we could do on the floor.

13 I wouldn't oppose it. I think we just need  
14 an independent company to come in and there is  
15 some disagreement with the Board, with the Town  
16 Council about whether or not if we can do it  
17 ourselves.

18 SUSAN RYAN: I was saying, you know, and we  
19 brought this up before, um, the Building  
20 Department in terms of the process for permits has  
21 been very onerous for people when they are doing  
22 construction on their houses.

23 They are not sure what the fees are going  
24 to be.

25 It I just really problematic to obtain

1 that.

2 I would really urge that we move forward on  
3 getting the right person to do this or right group  
4 to do this.

Page | 159

5 I mean it is an important issue to serve  
6 the taxpayers.

7 I urge we move this forward and get the  
8 right people to do it, um, regardless of the  
9 prices.

10 It is holding up the process for the  
11 taxpayers.

12 Um, the other question I had was on the,  
13 um, it looks like there is a lot of bonding going  
14 on, especially, the Parks Department.

15 And, it looks like there is going to be a  
16 raise in fees, so, I am concerned it looks like  
17 there is double dipping for, um, the taxpayers to  
18 pay the interest on refinancing and, then, also  
19 with fees in Parks.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, um, the bonding  
21 resolutions are all related to the capital plan  
22 which has already passed.

23 SUSAN RYAN: Okay.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is acquiring the  
25 funding and do the bonding that is necessary in

1 order to implement the capital plan.

2 We have a lot of them today.

3 We are doing all the funding. Mr.

4 Capobianco, if I am not speaking correctly, um, Page | 160

5 and, um, the Park fees, I believe we are reducing

6 Park fees for active military.

7 So, we are reducing fees.

8 SUSAN RYAN: Good, okay.

9 And, lastly, I think I missed the part of  
10 the Ethics that I think really needs to be, you  
11 know, with Ethics, I know you are going to put in  
12 voices that need to be identified, but it really  
13 needs to go - -

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It has passed.

15 SUSAN RYAN: Perfect, so, I did my job,  
16 today. Thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

18 Bonnie Salsone?

19 BONNIE SALSONE: Good Afternoon and  
20 Committee, thank you for having this venue.

21 I am actually, here, today because I just  
22 want to say that I do support, um, the independent  
23 panel.

24 Um, I heard great things about Ernst &  
25 Young reviewing the Building Department, um,



1 that type of audit on what they do and how they do  
2 it and how they don't do it more importantly.

3 Um, I would like to support that the, um,  
4 audit looks at all the activities from the  
5 Building Department including fraudulent  
6 contractors, licensed contractors, the  
7 unbelievable long wait and dysfunctional wait to  
8 get permits, especially, for Sandy victims.

9 I am a Sandy victim.

10 My house is still on the ground.

11 Um, there is still a lot of Sandy homes up  
12 in the air.

13 As was mentioned earlier, there is a lot of  
14 fraudulent contractors that have been through the  
15 Building Department that still are allowed to go  
16 through the Building Department.

17 I don't know how these guys are getting  
18 permits but I definitely, definitely think that  
19 having one person, one woman in the Building  
20 Department issuing permits for Superstorm Sandy  
21 since the onset - - I am from Lido Beach and I  
22 will never forget the first night all these men  
23 came in to Long Beach, one of the schools and said  
24 if you need help go to the Town of Hempstead  
25 Building Department.

1 And, they mentioned this woman's name and I  
2 was thinking how could one person be responsible  
3 for all of these permits for all of these people.

4 It is absolutely ludicrous to me. Page | 162

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me, ma'am, you  
6 make a very excellent point and you weren't here  
7 earlier?

8 BONNIE SALSONE: I wasn't, I apologize.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No worries, I just  
10 want to tell you that, um, there are some of us  
11 who think the money would be better spent hiring  
12 more people rather than getting a report to tell  
13 us that we need more people, so, we have taken  
14 that into consideration and that is why there are  
15 things we are thinking about right, now, whether  
16 the money would be better spent just hiring the  
17 people that you need because you are right, one  
18 person can't take care of that.

19 Eleven Planning Examiners can't take care  
20 of ten thousand applications a year.

21 I think we all agree with that.

22 BONNIE SALSONE: Okay.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you for coming.

24 BONNIE SALSONE: I did hear you say that  
25 earlier and it is not replacing one person, it is

1 looking at how the whole system operates.

2 It is just absolutely crazy. I went up to  
3 look at a set of pieces of paper from a realtor to  
4 get a piece of paper at a house in Hewlett, it  
5 took me an hour and a half to get one piece of  
6 paper with the lines and waiting for the lines and  
7 people don't know what is going on.

8 So, I don't know that only money spent  
9 hiring more people is that answer.

10 I think a complete, um, audit needs to be  
11 performed to see how people are functioning under  
12 what conditions, what are the factors, what are  
13 the, you know, the ways they are supposed to be  
14 working together, working independently.

15 It just doesn't seem like it is a very  
16 cohesive group to me.

17 And, it doesn't seem like everybody knows  
18 what is going on up there.

19 It just seems like it doesn't work well to  
20 me.

21 So, I definitely, definitely support an  
22 audit.

23 Thank you.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, ma'am.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, could

1 I ask that the representatives from Ernst & Young  
2 come forward, I have some questions.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there someone here  
4 from Ernst & Young? Page | 164

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

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No, there is no one,  
8 here, from Ernst & Young.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAM: Well, I would like to  
10 know how long it will take them to do the audit?

11 I would like to know whether or not there  
12 is going to be a Phase 2?

13 And, how much that would cost the  
14 taxpayers?

15 I would like to know from them what  
16 Building Departments on Long Island have they  
17 audited before?

18 I can't believe that we have an Item, here,  
19 worth three hundred plus thousand dollars and we  
20 don't have Ernst & Young here to answer  
21 rudimentary questions that we would have and  
22 there is no one from Ernst & Young.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ernst & Young came and  
24 presented to a representative for the Town Board  
25 and I am sure all that information you could

1 have obtained from Mr. DeSalvo who represented the  
2 Town Board on that panel.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeh, but, Supervisor -  
4 -

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilman, you were in  
6 my office last week and I talked about the  
7 Building Department audit.

8 I asked you to support it.

9 You didn't tell me anything about the new  
10 proposal to stay open on the weekends.

11 You didn't ask me any of this information  
12 about Ernst & Young.

13 I would have been happy to provide it for  
14 you when you were sitting in front of me.

15 I thought we were working collaboratively  
16 instead I get this proposal handed to me at the  
17 dais when we were working on this for a year and a  
18 half.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeah, but, Supervisor  
20 - -

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I would have been happy  
22 to give you that information.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I don't  
24 think that is the issue, I think Ernst & Young, if  
25 they wanted the contract, should, at least, come

1 here and tell us what they were planning to do.

2 What their methodology was, um, basically,  
3 how long they think the report will take?

4 Will there be a Phase 2?

Page | 166

5 How much will that cost?

6 You know, what is the timeframe?

7 If the timeframe is a year?

8 I rather spend money to act, now, than wait  
9 a year for them to issue a report.

10 I think they should have been here, that is  
11 just one Councilman's opinion.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, Mr. Blakeman, we  
13 vote on contracts all the time.

14 I never heard you say that every contractor  
15 has to appear before the Town Board.

16 If that is something that you want to do,  
17 you can do that.

18 We can vet every single person that is  
19 getting a contract, here to answer any questions  
20 you have.

21 But, this is the first time I am hearing  
22 that request and we had a panel where you had a  
23 designated representative who could have asked  
24 questions that you wanted.

25 This process has been going on for a year

1 and a half.

2 What we see here, people is delay, delay,  
3 delay, excuse not to have outside eyes come in and  
4 evaluate our Building Department, that is what we <sup>Page | 167</sup>  
5 have, here.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor - -

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All the proposed  
8 changes - - excuse me, I am speaking right, now.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I apologize.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All the proposed  
11 changes that they are suggesting, comprehensive  
12 picture of how we can increase and improve the  
13 functionality of that department and all going to  
14 cost a heck of a lot more than one hundred and  
15 seventeen thousand or three hundred and change  
16 thousand dollars audit overtime, restructuring a  
17 whole Department and reconfiguring the structure  
18 of the office space of the Building Department,  
19 all of this is going to cost a lot of money.

20 And, to say that we can't invest one  
21 hundred and seventeen thousand or three hundred  
22 thousand and change, I don't have the exact figure  
23 in front of me, to get someone in there and not  
24 just experiment with changes of an outside  
25 professional come in and tell us what the best

1 way is to fix that Building Department, we are  
2 going to waste more money to do improvisation than  
3 we would have experts.

4 Experts come in, as I said, I am not  
5 qualified to tell Mr. Rottkamp the best way to run  
6 his Building Department.

7 And, I don't think if I sit there with  
8 other people and other builders, which aren't  
9 qualified to tell the Building Department this is  
10 how you can streamline efficiencies, I have no  
11 expertise in that field.

12 I don't pretend to. What I am proposing  
13 and what this resolution does bring in people that  
14 have expertise in this department who are not  
15 partisan, who are a well respected company to come  
16 in, a company that was chosen by the panel to come  
17 in and provide objective insight on how we can  
18 make sure what happened to those Sandy victims  
19 does not ever happen in the Town of Hempstead.

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

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Supervisor, first  
23 if all, I am a little confused because, now, you  
24 are saying the panel chooses.

25 I thought the Town Board chooses.



1 So, first of all, they - - let me finish,  
2 they make a recommendation to which we deliberate,  
3 you're a champion of transparency.

4 You said that many times, now, you are  
5 saying if we have private meetings or there are  
6 staff meetings, that Ernst & Young or any other  
7 contractor doesn't have to come before us and  
8 explain why they should get the contract if we  
9 have questions.

10 And, by the way, you asked me the question  
11 should every contractor come in, if I were getting  
12 the contract of three hundred or six hundred  
13 thousand dollars or I was the CEO of that company,  
14 I would make sure that one of my people were there  
15 to answer questions before this Board.

16 So, basically, I do feel they should have  
17 been here.

18 Any contractor that has business before the  
19 Town, I think they should be here because we have  
20 the right to ask the questions and the public has  
21 the right to know.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Blakeman, did you  
23 ever make a request that Ernst & Young come and  
24 appear before you, today?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I told you when we

1 met, if you want to bring up our private  
2 conversations in your office, that I had doubts  
3 about the audit, that I wasn't leaning towards it.

4 I was very transparent with you.

5 I kept an open mind. I kicked it around  
6 with various other Council Members, they came up  
7 with some ideas.

8 I came up with some ideas.

9 And, we started talking to people on staff.

10 I spent a considerable amount of time with  
11 Board Members of your association, sir.

12 I talked to the residents and they were  
13 giving us ideas.

14 I think a concierge service is a great  
15 idea.

16 Get one person right in the middle of the  
17 Building Department when you come in say, what  
18 kind of application you want?

19 Okay, here is the checklist.

20 You got to go here. You got to go there.

21 Come back and see me after you see all  
22 those people. Come back and see me to make sure  
23 that when those people leave, they know exactly  
24 what they have to do so they don't have to jackass  
25 back to the Town ten times.

1 That is a great idea opening on Saturdays  
2 and Sundays is a great idea.

3 Hiring more Planning Examiners is a great  
4 idea.

5 Spending three hundred to six hundred  
6 thousand dollars on a report that we will not get  
7 for a year, to me, we disagree.

8 I don't think that is a good idea.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We do disagree and I  
10 don't think it is very transparent to be having a  
11 discussion at the dais about something I have  
12 never seen before.

13 Margaret Castillo?

14 MARGARET CASTILLO: Good Afternoon, um, I  
15 am Dr. Castillo from the Town of Hempstead, also a  
16 Sandy victim.

17 I have spoken before and, um, I actually  
18 have to work all day because I feel it is  
19 extremely important that you have this audit.

20 As a Sandy victim and I can speak for all  
21 my neighbors when we are walking our dogs, this is  
22 a constant conversation how we are mistreated at  
23 the Department of Buildings.

24 Rebecca First caused my family, my husband  
25 and myself, my special needs child and my

1 older children that were in High School to be out  
2 of our home for two additional years because of a  
3 game.

4 I don't even know what to say about it. Page | 172

5 It was a complete game.

6 This cannot be repaired by opening on  
7 Saturdays and Sundays.

8 I am sorry, Mr. Blakeman, there is not way  
9 that the Department of Buildings can be repaired  
10 by being opened on Saturdays and Sundays.

11 The only way it can be repaired is by an  
12 audit that show how to improve what is going on,  
13 what is wrong and then a remedy to fix it.

14 And, I don't think that can be done  
15 internally.

16 I worked for the Department of Education  
17 for New York State.

18 When a school is failing, we don't ask the  
19 school to audit itself.

20 A team comes in, a team comes in of experts  
21 which audit what is going on.

22 We monitor it, then, we make  
23 recommendations for improvements and, then, we  
24 check on them for accountability.

25 There is no accountability in the

1 Department of Buildings.

2 Thank you and there needs to be and I  
3 implore all of you to vote yes for this.

4 It is three hundred and fifty thousand  
5 dollars but look at the budget as a whole, three  
6 hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be well  
7 spent to improve it.

Page | 173

8 And, you know what you will do, you will  
9 put all your constituents in a place of peace when  
10 they know they have to go to the Department of  
11 Buildings because if you haven't gone there, maybe  
12 if you have gone, if you have a friend in the  
13 Department of Buildings, you get different  
14 treatment.

15 It is - - just pulling into this parking  
16 lot begins the stress and anxiety or sometimes in  
17 the morning when you wake up and you are like "I  
18 have to go to the Department of Buildings."

19 And, it is so unfair and they hold our  
20 lives in their hands when it comes to repairing  
21 our home.

22 My home is not repaired, yet.

23 We are going to be seven years and two  
24 years of it was caused by nonsense at the  
25 Department of Buildings.

1 And, even, now, I am having a problem with  
2 the plumbing.

3 The plumber took off, the crooked  
4 contractor, so, I have to go find a plumber.

5 This is what I am told by the Department of  
6 Buildings.

7 "You go find a plumber who will take over  
8 this job."

9 The job is already completed.

10 I have to find a plumber to come and take  
11 over a job that is already completed, so, they  
12 will inspect and sign off.

13 It is ridiculous.

14 They system is broken.

15 The system needs to be fixed.

16 So, talk about waiting. So, I looked at  
17 the inspections - -

18 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.  
19 After, the following ensued.)

20 MARGARET CASTILLO: I came here, I got my  
21 file.

22 I looked at the inspections - -

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Castillo, I am  
24 sorry - -

25 MARGARET CASTILLO: - - Two of them were

1 done twice, what a waste of money.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Dr.  
3 Castillo.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was <sup>Page | 175</sup>  
5 heard. After, the following ensued.)

6 MARGARET CASTILLO: Okay, thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Diane Madden.

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Just a quick remark; a  
9 crooked contractor has nothing to do with our  
10 Building Department.

11 (Whereupon, "yes it does," was heard  
12 calling out from the audience. After, the  
13 following ensued.)

14 MARGARET CASTILLO: It does, absolutely.

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: No, it does not.

16 When I was a County Legislator, we made  
17 sure that anybody who did work for Sandy was  
18 licensed because there were so many unlicensed  
19 people doing work.

20 Everybody who thought they were a handyman  
21 became a contractor automatically.

22 So, it is not the Building Department. The  
23 problem was a lot of phony contractors out there.

24 We have some really good contractors; six  
25 hundred on the Island that are really good.

1 And, they lost work because these phonies  
2 came in, so, it is not the Building Department.

3 It is not the good contractors.

4 It was the phonies that took the money and <sup>Page | 176</sup>  
5 absconded and ran off and didn't do the work.

6 So, please, don't day it is the Building  
7 Department that made this problem.

8 (Whereupon, "I disagree," was heard calling  
9 out from the audience. After, the following  
10 ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Ms. Madden?

12 DIANE MADDEN: Item Number 59 to start,  
13 please; can someone, please, tell me what that  
14 money is being utilized for?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe the Deputy  
16 Commissioner said it is to bring in new cages, is  
17 that correct?

18 COMMISSIONER: And, repair the old cages  
19 and install new ones.

20 DIANE MADDEN: Is that dog cages,  
21 specifically or cat cages?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, I believe  
23 that is dog cages, is that correct?

24 COMMISSIONER: Correct.

25 DIANE MADDEN: Those cages are not that



1 old.

2 I am not - - I am kind of confused, what  
3 are the specific issues?

4 And, I only ask because bonds have been  
5 taken out before for items that I don't believe  
6 were even in the building, right, now, such as  
7 surgical suite that I am told is rarely even used.

Page | 177

8 So, I am just wondering what the issue is  
9 with the cages?

10 By all means, if they need repair, that is  
11 one thing, but, one hundred thousand dollars,  
12 those cages are not old.

13 They are relatively new.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Laccarubba, do you  
15 know the issues with the cages?

16 MR. LACCARUBBA: I can tell you,  
17 specifically in Kennel 4, we have issues not only  
18 with the cages and those doors but issues with the  
19 posts, themselves.

20 They all need to be cut and replaced, that  
21 they are rotting on the bottom.

22 Some of those cages you can physically  
23 shake them with your hands and the whole section  
24 rattles.

25 DIANE MADDEN: 4, Kennel 4?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 MR. LACCARUBBA: Yes, Kennel 4.

2 DIANE MADDEN: Just so the Board  
3 understands, that there is more money on top of a  
4 five million dollar budget, where the budget was <sup>Page | 178</sup>  
5 raised one million dollars in one year alone, so,  
6 you can have a state-of-the-art facility and I am  
7 all for it.

8 We can well afford that.

9 Your problem with the Animal Shelter is  
10 leadership.

11 Your problem with the Animal Shelter is  
12 mismanagement.

13 And, no amount of money is going to fix  
14 that.

15 You need to change personnel. Thank you.

16 Um, Item Number 98, can someone tell me a  
17 little bit more about this situation, is this an  
18 outside vet used?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe that we have  
20 a policy and you can jump in, that someone  
21 fostering a dog for us and the dog has to go to a  
22 Veterinarian, we will reimburse them whatever  
23 Veterinarian they take them to.

24 COMMISSIONER: Supervisor, this was an  
25 emergency situation.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 DIANE MADDEN: It was not a contracted Vet.  
2 Normally, the go to the contracted Vet, so  
3 - -

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The dog was treated at <sup>Page | 179</sup>  
5 Baldwin Animal Hospital.

6 COMMISSIONER: Yes, that is correct.

7 DIANE MADDEN: Do we have a contract with  
8 them?

9 COMMISSIONER: I don't believe so.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra or Deputy  
11 Commissioner, is the policy that if you have a dog  
12 or a cat that is being fostered and needs  
13 immediate care that you can take to whatever Vet  
14 you choose and we will reimburse them?

15 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

16 DIANE MADDEN: I am sorry.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you are fostering a  
18 dog at an Animal Shelter and some emergency arises  
19 and you need to take the dog to be treated, the  
20 Town will reimburse you because you had to run out  
21 and get emergency care.

22 DIANE MADDEN: Item 127, employees, I like  
23 to know if there are new hires at the Animal  
24 Shelter, any personnel changes, new positions,  
25 anyone from fulltime or part-time to fulltime?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon, there is no  
2 one at the Animal Shelter, right?

3 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR SAMMON: No.

4 DIANE MADDEN: So, to clarify the issue and Page | 180  
5 I believe Mr. Ra you contradicted yourself in the  
6 past, I asked publicly if you need a resolution to  
7 hire employees part-time, I heard that is being  
8 done at the Animal Shelter.

9 It continues to be done at the Shelter and  
10 yet, I am not seeing that on Resolutions.

11 So, what is the policy once and for all?

12 Do you need a resolution to hire part-  
13 timers or do you not?

14 Because in the past, you said, "yes, you  
15 need a resolution."

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: If we are talking about  
17 regular part-timers, the answer is no, you don't  
18 need a Town Board Resolution.

19 If you are talking about consulting and  
20 coming on part-time, then, you need a resolution.

21 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, um, so, one final  
22 question with "various jobs," I have been told for  
23 a very long time that the Animal Shelter is  
24 bringing in Dr. Iovena (phonetic spelling) to  
25 evaluate the animals medically,

1 behaviorist, everything to a  
2 Behavior Department problem and a training  
3 problem, which is of no surprise to me, I have  
4 expressed it since 2014 is she being hired?

5 I am assuming it would have to be on this  
6 or not, maybe Chris Chinculli (phonetic spelling)  
7 can answer that question.

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

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Chinculli is  
11 staff.

12 He is not going to answer questions on  
13 behalf of administration.

14 The administration has their people.  
15 He just works for the Town Board.

16 DIANE MADDEN: Maybe someone from the  
17 Animal Shelter, then.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is this person being  
19 hired?

20 DIANE MADDEN: Right, that is what I was  
21 asking.

22 I have been told that they are bringing in  
23 - - you have posted RFP's, um, I was just very  
24 curious as to whether she is being brought in.

25 There are ongoing issues with

1 the RFP.

2 By the way, I have been asking both  
3 administrations to, please, put it on the  
4 Shelter's official FACEBOOK page, twenty-three  
5 thousand followers.

Page | 182

6 It is free advertising.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is that person being  
8 hired?

9 MR. CHINCULLI: She is not being hired as  
10 far as I know.

11 We had discussions with her in terms of  
12 coming in or looking to see if she would come in  
13 on a part-time basis, but there has been nothing  
14 eminent as far as I know.

15 DIANE MADDEN: Well, at this point, you are  
16 going to lose one of the best employees that you  
17 possibly have at the Animal Shelter.

18 Topnotch Veterinary background, expert in  
19 behavior, expert in aggression issues and like I  
20 said a Veterinarian, so, I am not understanding  
21 why after a scathing, physical audit and so many  
22 things pointing to mismanagement, misuse of money  
23 that we still don't have one single person at the  
24 Animal Shelter that can assess these animals.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am

1       sorry, Ms. Madden, your time is up.

2                You said this person put in a resume?

3                COMMISSIONER: Yes and we have spoken, as  
4 far as we will go.

5                SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Barbara Thomas?

6                (Whereupon, "I will pass," was heard  
7 calling out. After, the following ensued.)

8                SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Joe Record?

9                JOE RECORD: Good Afternoon, ladies and  
10 gentlemen.

11                It is such a pleasure to see local  
12 government at work.

13                SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you being  
14 sarcastic?

15                (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the  
16 following ensued.)

17                JOE RECORD: I am not, absolutely not. I  
18 am a longtime resident and veteran.

19                My name is Joe Record. I am a license real  
20 estate agent and broker in Franklin Square.

21                And, I live in West Hempstead.

22                I just have a comment about the Building  
23 Department and I am so happy whatever the  
24 solution, whatever the decision is, that you  
25 address some of the issues that

1 could be timesaving and money saving.

2 Timesaving for all of us and money saving  
3 for the taxpayers, as well.

4 Um, for thirty-six years, I have been  
5 selling residential real estate.

6 Every single home has permit certificate  
7 issues, um, that need to be resolved before  
8 conveyance.

9 So, today, I came to visit the Building  
10 Department and check on one of my clients.

11 I met and had to take the time up for, at  
12 least, five folks upstairs, um, and take this time  
13 up to, um, find out what is on file for building  
14 permits, certificates of completion and what is  
15 not.

16 So, when I do my visual comparisons of the  
17 home, I can - - we can get to it.

18 Um, in the Town of Hempstead, it is pretty  
19 lengthy and a time-consuming operation to learn  
20 that information to help our communities.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, sir, wouldn't it  
22 be better if that information was available  
23 online.

24 JOE RECORD: Absolutely, that is my  
25 comment.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Commissioner, where  
2 are you?

3 We put some information online. We haven't  
4 put all that information online? Page | 185

5 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: The application  
6 forms and that stuff is online.

7 The information he is requesting is not  
8 online.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, why can't we put  
10 open permits and certificates of completion and  
11 certificates of occupancy online?

12 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Because we need new  
13 computer software to do that.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Have you asked for  
15 that?

16 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Sir, you just brought  
18 to our attention an issue that we will address  
19 with respect to putting that stuff online so you  
20 don't have to come here for three hours.

21 You can go on your computer, see if there  
22 are any open permits, see if there is a  
23 Certificate of Completion, see if there is a  
24 Certificate of Occupancy.

25 Will that help you?

1           JOE RECORD: In the Bureau of Queens, it is  
2 all available online.

3           COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I know that is why we  
4 should upgrade.

5           Thank you, sir. We heard something and,  
6 now, we will take action.

7           It is the point I was making before; we  
8 learn more from you guys than we would have  
9 learned from any report.

10          JOE RECORD: Just so glad I happen to  
11 stumble in here.

12          (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the  
13 following ensued.)

14          SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

15          COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Stumble back any  
16 time.

17          JOE RECORD: I will.

18          SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, we have no more  
19 slips on the Administrative Calendar.

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

22          (Whereupon, "Excuse me, I wanted to speak  
23 about the Building Department," was heard calling  
24 out from the audience. After, the following  
25 ensued.)

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You only get to speak  
2 once on the Administrative Calendar.

3 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the  
4 roll.

Page | 187

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move to adjourn  
6 Item 110 to August 6<sup>th</sup>.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Now, we will vote on  
9 adjourning Item 110 to August 6<sup>th</sup>.

10 Madam Clerk, please, call the roll on the  
11 adjournment.

12 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: This is on the  
18 adjournment, right?

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Yes.

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-

1 Sweeney?

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

Page | 188

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Madam Clerk,  
6 now, we will call the roll on the Administrative  
7 Calendar.

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, on the  
10 Administrative Calendar, I vote aye on all matters  
11 except for the matter Item Number 147, which is  
12 the extension of a contract to EAC.

13 EAC was my client at my old firm, so, I  
14 abstain on that one.

15 Um, also with respect to Item Number 148  
16 which is the appointment of a new Commissioner for  
17 Door.

18 I also abstain, um, I circulated a resume  
19 to the Town Board. I invited them to review the  
20 resume of somebody that I put forward in contrast.

21 I was handed the resume of a Reverend  
22 Mollett when I appeared at the dais.

23 This is not the way we should hire a  
24 Commissioner to oversee one of our departments,  
25 especially, one that has been plagued with some

1 Scandal.

2 I have no problems with Reverend Mollett.

3 He maybe the best and most qualified person  
4 for this position.

Page | 189

5 I would have loved to have had a chance to  
6 review his resume and to have met with him and  
7 interviewed him.

8 This is the way a Town Board should hire a  
9 Commissioner, not by dropping a resume on the dais  
10 the day of the Hearing, so, I abstain from 148.

11 Again, Reverend Mollett you could be the  
12 best person for the job, I just haven't had a  
13 chance to talk to you about the job and that is  
14 the reason why I am abstaining.

15 Item 151, and, then on Item 92 I vote no  
16 simply because this is an application from 2010, I  
17 believe that a lot changed from 2010 and we should  
18 reevaluate the picture since it is 2019.

19 Also, on Item Number 127, I vote no on the  
20 following personnel; John Kocienda, Michael  
21 Normandia, Robert Ward and Dennis Sisco.

22 These personnel actions, items were dropped  
23 on my desk minutes before the calendar closed with  
24 no discussion, no justification.

25 I cannot support it.

1 From what I can ascertain, less than sixty  
2 days ago, the Parks Department gave two  
3 individuals the Park Supervisor, two titles  
4 because there was a need.

5 Now, because those two individuals are  
6 lower on the list and Civil Service requires you  
7 to pull people higher on the testing list, um, and  
8 there are people here, it appears to me, each of  
9 the people that were appointed a couple of weeks  
10 ago, so, it doesn't seem to make any sense.

11 It seems like a waste of money.

12 If we need two supervisors, we should  
13 follow Civil Service procedure, and take the  
14 people from the top three, so, I vote no on these  
15 provisions.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, I vote aye with  
18 the exception of Item 109 for the reasons I  
19 previously stated.

20 Um, with respect to hiring a new  
21 Commissioner for DOR, I did not need to interview  
22 Reverend Mollett.

23 I have know Reverend Mollett for over  
24 twenty years.

25 He has been a Pastor in our Town for

1 a longtime.

2 He is a Marine Corp. Veteran who served his  
3 country with great distinction.

4 He is a man of integrity.

Page | 191

5 He is a man of honor.

6 He has worked very closely with many non-  
7 for-profit organizations on projected that were  
8 meant to create jobs, projects that were meant to  
9 help Veterans, projects that were meant to help  
10 people in our community, in the Town of Hempstead.

11 He has an outstanding reputation and it is  
12 a privilege and honor for me to vote for him.

13 And, I thank you, Reverend Mollett for  
14 stepping up to the plate.

15 I know you didn't need this job.

16 It is a tough job, you know, it has to be  
17 done but thank you, again, for once, again,  
18 answering the call to service, answering the call  
19 to duty to help us here in the Town.

20 Straighten out DOR so we can make sure we  
21 create jobs and provide economic prosperity to all  
22 people in the Town regardless of color,  
23 regardless of ethnicity, religion or their  
24 background.

25 Thank you so much Reverend Mollett.

1 I vote no on 109.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I vote aye with the  
4 exception of 109 to which I vote no.

5 And, I also want to welcome Dr. Mollett to  
6 the Town of Hempstead family.

7 Dr. Mollett, like Bruce mentioned, has  
8 really been a beacon not only in his community and  
9 not only for the Baptist Church in Freeport but he  
10 has been a beacon in many communities.

11 He has supported our Veterans.

12 He is a supporter of local non-profits  
13 where he helps make sure that they ascertain the  
14 funds that they need to move forward.

15 And, he is also training first responders,  
16 here, in the Town, certainly as a Chaplain in the  
17 Freeport Fire Department and the Freeport Police  
18 Department.

19 So, Dr. Mollett, congratulations. God  
20 Bless and thank you for taking on this challenge  
21 and moving DOR forward.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Okay, I vote yes on  
24 everything except for 109, I vote no for.

25 And, I want to say as a fellow Marine



1 for the Town, it is a great thing Reverend Mollett  
2 not only served the United States Department as a  
3 diplomatic officer and came home, in addition, he  
4 received many military and State Department awards  
5 and as my colleague just mentioned, he worked with  
6 the Freeport Police Department, Freeport Fire  
7 Department.

8 He was Village of Freeport Police Block  
9 Grant Committee.

10 He was on that Block Grant Committee, that  
11 is something that we need in that office.

12 He was on the Board of Ethics and Vice-  
13 Chairman of the Human Rights Committee.

14 This man fills all the bills that is  
15 necessary to do an outstanding job in that  
16 department.

17 I am so proud that he is going to be there.

18 Yes on everything except for 109 which I  
19 vote no and welcome aboard, Doctor.

20 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you very  
22 much.

23 I wanted to vote no but I am going to vote  
24 yes.

25 And, the reason I really like to vote

1 no, I don't like anyone to take my vote and use  
2 it.

3 You know, when I told you I get calls,  
4 Senator Brooks, I called him last night and I  
5 spoke to him and let him know, also, that I don't  
6 like it when someone does this before a vote, the  
7 day before, to try to force people to vote.

8 I don't like it, but I will vote yes with  
9 you this time.

10 And, as far as Dr. Mollett is concerned, I  
11 don't think you could have anyone that he has  
12 worked with youths and that is really important,  
13 especially, in my District.

14 In my District, DOR serves youngsters that  
15 are underserved and young people whose parents are  
16 sort of a little below the line of normal people.

17 He works with them already.

18 He has already worked with the Veterans.

19 He has a wonderful group of Seniors that he  
20 works with as well.

21 I know him as a Pastor.

22 I know his Father. I knew his Father and I  
23 knew his Mom an I know all the people that come to  
24 his church love him.

25 The only thing I don't like is they

1 stand too long.

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

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: But I know he <sup>Page | 195</sup>  
5 will do a wonderful job with DOR.

6 And, the person that you did recommend, I  
7 was here yesterday to 2:00 or 2:30, I never  
8 received his resume but they did bring it to my  
9 office around 4:30 or something like that.

10 I didn't see it until this morning.

11 I don't know the person. I haven't seen  
12 him.

13 So, I do know that he does live here.

14 (Gesturing to Dr. Mollett.)

15 He lives out East some place but Reverend  
16 Mollett lives here, that is important to me.

17 So, I certainly vote yes on Reverend  
18 Mollett.

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Senior Councilwoman, I  
20 don't think you articulated how you voted on the  
21 rest of the calendar.

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: The rest of  
23 the calendar is yes.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I vote yes

1 on everything except Item 109, I vote no but I do  
2 hope that we can come together, um, and address  
3 the very legitimate concerns of the Town of  
4 Hempstead residents with regard to the Building Department, whether it is moving forward on this  
5 and adopting an Ad hoc Review Committee and  
6 Director, hopefully, we can address and make some  
7 significant changes.  
8

9 As far as Pastor Mollett but I am not sure  
10 that you know about this, at every Town Board  
11 Meeting we are going to require you give an  
12 inspirational speech for fifteen minutes just to  
13 kick off the meeting.

14 Okay, all good, congratulations and welcome  
15 on board.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

17 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I vote no on 109  
18 and yes on all others.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, now, we need a  
20 motion to adjourn.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Before we  
22 adjourn, if I could just - - this is a little bit  
23 of a public service message; on July 24<sup>th</sup>, myself  
24 along with Senator Monica Martinez and Nassau  
25 County Legislator Sylvia Bino are going to hold

1 a 2019 Long Island Breast Cancer Forum.

2 It is going to be a bi-County Forum that  
3 will be hosted in Farmingdale, 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

4 I know the Supervisor and our Clerk and our <sup>Page | 197</sup>  
5 County Executive are going to be participating  
6 and, um, the information is on my FACEBOOK page.

7 Of course, you can contact my office but it  
8 is going to be a great event with medical  
9 professionals.

10 We will have some fun. Talk about the  
11 awareness of the importance of early detection of  
12 breast cancer and since many of you have come  
13 along my journey, as I fought breast cancer, I am  
14 pleased to inform everyone that after six months,  
15 I finally, now, after an MRI and everything looks  
16 good.

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

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: The reason I  
20 share my story, my family has dealt with this  
21 issue, it is really overwhelming majority of the  
22 cases, it is just the beginning of a healthier  
23 life and it is constant surveillance.

24 It is tough to do but it is worth it, so,  
25 get out and run, attend our forum on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

1 Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilwoman, we are  
3 all happy to hear your good prognosis.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you, I Page | 198  
5 appreciate that.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I might add  
7 the fact that for sixteen years in a row, that I  
8 am doing my breast cancer form right, here in Town  
9 Hall on October 19<sup>th</sup> and I hope that we get some  
10 publicity this in Newsday and Channel 12, but they  
11 don't cover anything that I do.

12 One ting that we did have last, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of  
13 June, we had a celebration here in the Town of  
14 Hempstead where everybody was, exhibits of some of  
15 the proposals that we used, in the waiting area,  
16 what is that called, whatever, you can go look at  
17 those and see.

18 It is time that we really learn to be  
19 brothers and sisters as we truly are.

20 So, I appreciate if you go there.

21 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I would just like  
22 to say at this time, I was at the event of Senior  
23 Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, I brought my family.

24 It was one of my first Town events.

25 It was one of the most spirited, nicest.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1 It was an event about the proclamation of  
2 Abe Lincoln that took two years to travel all over  
3 America.

4 It wasn't until the General showed up and <sup>Page | 199</sup>  
5 said you are free in Texas that became known  
6 today's era where we can tweet.

7 We can get on the Internet.

8 We can get and have instant news.

9 It is a breath of fresh air that we learn  
10 our history and we go back and learn the culture  
11 and I want to thank Dorothy Goosby for letting  
12 everybody know that this is an event that  
13 everybody should attend.

14 My family and I will be there next year.

15 Thank you, Dorothy.

16 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was  
17 heard. After, the following ensued.)

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Move we  
19 adjourn.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

21 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/2/19**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby? Page | 200

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-  
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

(Whereupon, the official meeting of the  
Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on July 2, 2019, consisting of pages 1 through 201 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