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**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

7:00 P.M.

**BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,**

**SUPERVISOR**

**APPEARANCES :**

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

Page | 2

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA

TOWN CLERK CABANA

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TUMMINELLO

TOWN ATTORNY RA

1 (Whereupon, Supervisor Gillen and the Town  
2 Board Council recognized children's cancer awareness  
3 month. After, the following ensued.\_

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, good evening Page | 3  
5 everyone, welcome to the regularly scheduled Town  
6 Board Meeting.

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

11 There are meeting agendas available in the  
12 rear of the Pavilion, if you would like to be heard  
13 on any matters on our Calendar, please, go to the  
14 rear of the Pavilion, fill out a slip and hand it to  
15 the Public Safety Officer.

16 After our meeting is adjourned, the Town  
17 Board will follow our custom of three hundred and  
18 fifty years and remain in session to hear any  
19 residents that would like to be heard and address  
20 the Town Board on any matter.

21 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the  
22 roll.

23 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

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5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

6 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

9 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLENZ: I will note you will  
11 notice that Councilwoman King-Sweeney is not here,  
12 as many of you publicly know, she has resigned from  
13 her position and is moving to North Carolina.

14 Um, I am proud to have worked with  
15 Councilwoman King-Sweeney and partnered with her on  
16 so many initiatives like Ethics Reform, transparency  
17 Legislation, saving our water testing lab, Baldwin  
18 Redevelopment, on marijuana and vaping legislation.

19 She has been a great advocate for the  
20 residents of her District and she will be missed and  
21 we wish her the best of luck.

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

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Madam Supervisor, if I  
25 move, will you say nice things about me?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Absolutely.

2 Now, I ask everyone to stand and I ask  
3 Councilman Muscarella to lead us in the Pledge of  
4 Allegiance. Page | 5

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

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
9 please, call our first Public Hearing.

10 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
11 "Regulations and Restrictions" to limit parking in  
12 Elmont, Merrick, West Hempstead (To amend Chapter  
13 202 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 have  
20 a Motion.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the Public  
22 Hearing be closed and the local law be adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

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SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

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COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
"Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in East Meadow,  
Elmont, Garden City South, Inwood, Merrick, North  
Merrick, Oceanside, Roosevelt (To amend Section 202-  
1 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

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

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

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

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move  
2 that the Public Hearing be closed and the Local Law  
3 be adopted.

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4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.

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: Councilman Muscarella?

17 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

20 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:  
21 "Arterial Stops" in Merrick, near Valley Stream,  
22 Levittown, West Hempstead (To amend Section 197-5 of  
23 the Code of Town of Hempstead)

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
25 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that

1 would like to be heard?

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

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have <sup>Page | 8</sup>  
5 a Motion.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the Public  
7 Hearing be closed and the local law be adopted.

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

10 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

21 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

24 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re: "Bus  
25 Stops" in East Meadow (To amend Section 202-52



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips  
3 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would  
4 like to be heard? Page | 9

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

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

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

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

13 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

24 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,

1 please, call the next Public Hearing.

2 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law in  
3 relation to "Enacting a Blanket Prohibition on the  
4 sale of E-Liquid flavored tobacco products" (To <sup>Page | 10</sup>  
5 create a new Subsection "E" of Section 121-3 of  
6 Chapter 121 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Madam Supervisor, in view  
8 of the legislation that was passed by the Governor  
9 and it is, now in effect, we are waiting for a copy  
10 of that law so we can tweak what we are doing, if  
11 necessary or applaud what he has done.

12 But, right, now, at this point, not knowing  
13 if we are being redundant or not, we are going to be  
14 holding this.

15 I would like to make a motion to pull this  
16 from today and adjourn it for a future date.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree, Councilman, I  
19 think that is prudent in view of the pending State  
20 Legislation on this item.

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Not to belittle it or  
22 make it any less a problem than it is, but we heard  
23 this morning there are over five hundred and  
24 thirteen cases in the hospital with kids with lung  
25 lining problems which is indicative of vaping

1 Diseases.

2 And, they are hooked onto all sorts of tubes  
3 and machines.

4 It is awful and something has to be done Page | 11  
5 about it if the State legislation isn't adequate  
6 enough, we will do something about it.

7 But, we will wait and see, rather than be  
8 redundant.

9 I am glad that it has been addressed on the  
10 State level, but, now, we can vote on the item.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,  
12 call the roll on the adjournment.

13 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

15 (Whereupon, "I would like to speak on the  
16 adjournment, please," was heard calling out from the  
17 audience. After, the following ensued.)

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

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, do we speak on  
21 the adjournments?

22 (Whereupon, "yes, we do," was heard calling  
23 out from the audience. After, the following  
24 ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can speak at

1 Public section on it.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

3 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: First, I like to  
7 congratulate Councilman Dunne for taking leadership  
8 on this.

9 I am pleased, that Governor Cuomo is  
10 addressing this matter. I will vote aye to adjourn  
11 it and wait and see what the State regulations are.

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: I also like to  
18 thank Councilman Dunne because we started this  
19 sometime ago.

20 We did have a Press Conference on it. He  
21 realized how important it is, so, I certainly will  
22 vote yes.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

24 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

25 RORI GORDON: Is the Woodmere Club any

1 different than this kind of adjournment?

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

4 Please, Ms. Gordon, please don't shout out <sup>Page | 13</sup>  
5 from the audience.

6 RORI GORDON: I am just asking a question.  
7 You changed the rules.

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

10 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law entitled  
11 "Building Construction Administration" in order to  
12 strengthen the restrictions on Building Department  
13 employees from engaging in activities which are  
14 inconsistent with or create a conflict of interest  
15 with their duties or with the interests of the  
16 Building Department (To amend Chapter 86 of the Code  
17 of the Town of Hempstead)]

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci?

19 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. Yes, when  
20 we adjourned the Woodmere Club, the residents did  
21 get to speak on the adjournment.

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

24 FELIX PROCACCI: You changed the rules.

25 On the Building Construction Administration,

1 um, law, I read through it, they have here the  
2 question, maybe - - I can't find it.

3 How is this enforced and what are the  
4 penalties if it is violated?

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Pitnick, would you  
6 like to speak on this issue?

7 ATTORNEY PITNICK: Rich Pitnick, Counsel to  
8 the Supervisor.

9 Good Evening. The penalty would be  
10 potential violation of the Ethics Code under Chapter  
11 38, um, so, it would be referred to the Ethics  
12 Board.

13 The Ethics Board would make a decision on  
14 the matter and, then, potentially result in  
15 disciplinary action against the employee.

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, I have a problem  
17 with, um, with that because the Ethics Board is a  
18 political Board and I am not sure what they know  
19 about building construction.

20 And, my experience with the previous Ethics  
21 Board, very simple case, my view, whatever, six  
22 months to get back to me and to tell me that they  
23 weren't empowered to take my complaint.

24 And, I understand there is an ethics  
25 complaint against an employee currently and that

1 is over a week which it should have been fifteen  
2 days ago when I first brought forth that violation.

3 I didn't even want to bring it to the Ethics  
4 Board because I know it would be moot. Page | 15

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There is a new Ethics  
6 Board which has just been empaneled.

7 However, one of the Members of the Ethics  
8 Board has just resigned.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: Which one?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Morano.

11 He was appointed by the Republican Majority.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: Are they allowed to work  
13 with four?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra?

15 I think they have to make another  
16 appointment.

17 We are talking about the vacancy of the  
18 newly formed Ethics Board.

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am sorry, I was  
20 speaking to Councilman Blakeman.

21 The question is, what?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci is asking  
23 about the Ethics Board and the new Ethics Board was  
24 just empaneled.

25 The last appointment was at the last Board

1 Meeting by Senior Councilwoman.

2 However, someone has already resigned.

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Resigned.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, Mr. Procacci's Page | 16

5 questions is can the Ethics Board move forward with  
6 a vacancy?

7 Do we need to appoint someone before they  
8 move forward?

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We hope to have someone  
10 appointed very shortly but we are looking at some of  
11 the complaints that we have, now.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Has the Ethics Board  
13 convened, Mr. Ra?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Send a letter to the  
16 Ethics Board to ask them to convene.

17 FELIX PROCACCI: There is a real problem  
18 with the Ethics Board and I said it when you put  
19 this thing together being that I don't think a  
20 political Board should be selecting an Ethics Board.

21 It just doesn't mix.

22 I don't care who the political Body is and  
23 how it is constituted, they should be picking.

24 I recommend what you do with this building  
25 construction thing and all the laws in the Town



1 of Hempstead that you stay the penalty, that you  
2 stay the penalty for violation and the Compliance  
3 Officer, for example, for that employee, there is a  
4 stated penalty for certain kind of violations but <sup>Page | 17</sup>  
5 not other violations.

6 Then everything gets referred to the Ethics  
7 Board, which means, it goes on a six-month hiatus.

8 Nobody knows. It is all secret, which is  
9 not fair to the public.

10 If I report somebody in building  
11 construction doing something wrong, let's say it is  
12 my house, I have to wait six months follow up with  
13 this Ethics Board.

14 People follow up with the Town Board. They  
15 don't get back to you, since that is not really  
16 right, it needs to be a transparent process, so,  
17 people should be able to see what is going on.

18 The Ethics Board as constructed is wrong.

19 The selection is wrong.

20 It should never be by a political Body.

21 It should be by outside people selecting the  
22 Ethics Body with no connections to the Town Board.

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

25 FELIX PROCACCI: And, this shows the problem

1 right, here, that you know something happened  
2 tomorrow with building construction, who knows how  
3 long a resident would have to wait.

4 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang. Page | 18  
5 After, the following ensued.)

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Procacci.

7 Rori Gordon?

8 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New  
9 York.

10 86-4, the restrictions that you are  
11 amending, how long is the original 86-4 been on the  
12 books?

13 Do you have any idea?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't know offhand but  
15 I can get back to you with the information.

16 RORI GORDON: Has it been a few years or  
17 something that was recently voted since you have  
18 been in office?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The 86-4, it is a  
20 longstanding provision.

21 RORI GORDON: That is what I was trying to  
22 establish and since the 86-4, prior to what you are  
23 going to change it to, how many times has this  
24 actually been instituted in the Town of Hempstead  
25 where anybody was penalized for doing the basic law,

1 "No officers or employees in the Building Department  
2 shall engage in any activities consistent with the  
3 activities or the interests of the Building  
4 Department nor shall be during the term of his or <sup>Page | 19</sup>  
5 her employment be engaged directly or indirectly  
6 with any building business."

7 I am not going to read the whole thing.

8 Has anybody ever been penalized for this?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am not aware of any  
10 times that has been happened.

11 That is part of the reason why we are  
12 putting this resolution forward.

13 RORI GORDON: That is only during your term.

14 Will Mr. Rottkamp be able to tell us?

15 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Off the top of my head, I  
16 am not aware of it.

17 RORI GORDON: I am sorry?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I am not aware of anyone  
19 penalized.

20 That doesn't mean that anyone has never  
21 been.

22 RORI GORDON: It is common knowledge that  
23 when you go to the Building Department that several  
24 of the employees in the Building Department, they  
25 have side businesses that are related and

1 I am sure this is being passed, I believe, it has  
2 something to do with someone that was indicted but  
3 I, as Felix, have the same concern, what exactly is  
4 going to be done? Page | 20

5 But, it seems like you guys pass laws and  
6 nobody gets in trouble for the laws that you write.

7 It has been like that since I have been  
8 going to the meetings over and over and over, again.

9 And, just to pass laws to blow smoke up  
10 everybody's skirts, doesn't seem like the logic  
11 thing to so, so, I don't know who is going to decide  
12 if somebody broke the law.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think that is a fair  
14 comment and we will take a look, that is, to make  
15 sure there is a timely response in place from the  
16 Ethics Board and also to make sure laws are  
17 enforced.

18 One of the other issues that is put on the  
19 agenda, tonight has to do with nepotism in the Town  
20 of Hempstead.

21 We passed Ethics Reform Legislation that is  
22 trying to root out nepotism and people supervising  
23 their relatives.

24 The problem is it is difficult to enforce it  
25 because I don't know if everybody knows who the

1 Relatives are, so, in order to enforce our Code, we  
2 really need to know who is related to who.

3 That is an item that is trying to help us  
4 for enforcement, so, I think you raise a fair point <sup>Page | 21</sup>  
5 and it is certainly something we can do to look at  
6 to strengthen these laws.

7 RORI GORDON: We got a bunch of Schwartz's  
8 here and a bunch of Rottkamps working here.

9 There are a lot of - - a bunch of relatives  
10 working here.

11 And, you should do one of those pie charts  
12 when you are running for office and see who is all  
13 related.

14 Thank you, Supervisor, I appreciate your  
15 time.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Gordon.

17 I don't have any other slips on this Public  
18 Hearing, is there anybody else that would like to be  
19 heard?

20 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin  
21 resident.

22 Full voice, tonight.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am glad you got your  
24 voice back, Ms. Mereday.

25 META MEREDAY: Thank you so much.

1 With regard to the first I, um, I agree, I  
2 concur with Mr. Procacci and Ms. Gordon with regards  
3 to not being able to speak on the blanket  
4 prohibition. Page | 22

5 I do believe whether there are two residents  
6 or twenty, there was an item that was on the agenda  
7 for this evening and those that were able to attend  
8 this evening, should have an opportunity to speak on  
9 that particular issue to, at least, have it on the  
10 record.

11 I wanted to speak to that.

12 Um, with regard to this building construction  
13 administration, um, my concern, basically, is why  
14 are we stopping there?

15 It just seems like, um, we either follow a  
16 News 12 undercover story or something happening in  
17 Newsday before we actually enact the legislation  
18 that should have been in place and should have been  
19 administered and should have been executed to begin  
20 with.

21 We are becoming beyond an embarrassment, um,  
22 with the lack of scrutiny and transparency and  
23 oversight within a number of our Departments.

24 And, I also feel that the Building  
25 Department sometimes has been unjustly spotlighted

1 all the time for the work that they do and the  
2 resources, the lack of resources that they have.

3 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was  
4 heard. After, the following ensued.) Page | 23

5 META MEREDAY: Um, that is my concern with  
6 regard to why we are stopping there, one.

7 2. As Ms. Gordon pointed out, what is the  
8 enforcement?

9 Because, again, that is also a joke, you  
10 know, we waste a lot of paper, you know, you guys do  
11 a lot of flip flops.

12 You make a lot of statements in Newsday and  
13 on News 12.

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

16 META MEREDAY: And, the residents, we fear  
17 because of the taxes and lack of cost and lack of  
18 services and many of us don't have the relationship  
19 to get jobs - - we have the background, we have the  
20 experience but we don't have familial relationships.

21 We don't have the deep pockets to go to all  
22 the fundraising events, so, we can be put in the  
23 position to get the work.

24 So, if you are going to do this with regard  
25 to the law and you are going, um, to make sure

1 that it has some impact, let's this time, make sure  
2 it does have some impact and it doesn't come off of  
3 the backs of residents or let's say fleeing back of  
4 residents because so many are leaving and many of  
5 the others are suffering, particularly our Seniors  
6 who cannot leave but Veterans, our young Veterans,  
7 our older Veterans, you are not doing them a service  
8 by continuing to put these things on paper and not  
9 into practice.

10 Thank you.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

12 Is there anybody else who would like to be  
13 heard on this Public Hearing?

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

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion.

17 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I propose the local  
18 law be closed and adopted.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: 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 9/24/19**

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby? Page | 25

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

7 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

10 CLERK CABANA: Proposed "Handicapped Parking  
11 on Public Streets" in Baldwin, East Meadow, Elmont,  
12 Franklin Square, Inwood, Oceanside, Uniondale, near  
13 Valley Stream, Wantagh (Thomas Avenue, Grand Terrace  
14 Avenue, Adelaide Court, Arcadian Avenue, Kirkman  
15 Avenue, Commonwealth Street, Cathedral Avenue,  
16 Walcott Avenue, Nantucket Lane, Tilrose Avenue,  
17 Greengrove Avenue, Arcadian Avenue, Hickory Street)

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

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

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the  
25 Public Hearing be closed and the item be adopted.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

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COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Second.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

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: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Improvement and  
adoption of certain roads within Island Park (Barnum  
Isle) into the Town of Hempstead Highway System near  
Island Park  
(Barnum Isle) - Department of Engineering.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, before  
we hear from concerned residents this evening, I  
actually spoke to some residents today and I know I  
had a chance before the meeting to meet with Deputy

1 Commissioner Tierney and they do have concerns with  
2 regards to adopting certain roads that are near  
3 their homes.

4 Um, so, I am not adjourning the item because <sup>Page | 27</sup>  
5 I know they are here and sitting here and we will  
6 let them speak, but I do want to let them know I am  
7 going to be reserving decision so we can coordinate  
8 with the Building Department and the Department of  
9 Engineering to meet their needs and figure out how  
10 to do this the right way.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, we have a number  
12 of slips on this Public Hearing.

13 We have Paul Volasco? (Phonetic spelling)

14 PAUL VOLASCO: My name is Paul Volasco.  
15 (Phonetic spelling)

16 I live in Island Park. My concerns are if  
17 they raise the road a foot high, what happens to our  
18 driveways, our fences and our lawns?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, could you  
20 address that?

21 COMMISSIONER: The details of this road  
22 raise will be discussed at a public hearing, a  
23 public meeting, um, which, I believe, is two weeks  
24 from, now.

25 Honestly, all the affected residents will

1 be invited to that, but to answer your question,  
2 generally, what happens anything that is disturbed  
3 is replaced, depending on where you are.

4 If the elevation is above your current Page | 28  
5 residence, what the elevation of the road will  
6 determine, basically, what the elevation of the new  
7 property will be once it is restored.

8 But, generally, everything is restored and  
9 it is designed in such a way you won't be flooding,  
10 obviously, any more than you are.

11 The purpose is to raise the road to prevent  
12 flooding of the road, itself.

13 PAUL VOLASCO: On the driveway, if you lift  
14 the road a foot, our driveways will be involved.

15 COMMISSIONER: So, we deal with the  
16 situation a lot.

17 It is a little hard to say how your property  
18 will be affected without looking at the plans.

19 Like I said, we are going to have a meeting  
20 in two weeks from, now, where we meet with all the  
21 affected residents.

22 In addition to that, we will meet with each  
23 resident one-on-one because we need their sign off  
24 before we could even proceed.

25 So, you will know in great detail

1 exactly how your property would be affected, but, if  
2 you are in a case where, um, basically, raising the  
3 road and it appears that your driveway will be back  
4 pitched, what traditionally happens in that  
5 scenario, we add a guard running to your property  
6 for rainwater that would flow onto your property.

7 It is a little hard for me to say offhand  
8 without looking at the maps.

9 And, like I said, nothing proceeds without  
10 getting your signoff before we go ahead.

11 This was just a resolution to adopt certain  
12 roads that were being added that the Town doesn't  
13 own, um, but that are within the scope of the  
14 project and that is what this resolution is about.

15 Passing this resolution doesn't mean the  
16 project moved forward, it just means the road gets  
17 adopted.

18 PAUL VALESCO: Thank you very much.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, Commissioner, just  
20 to be clear, this resolution is just adding certain  
21 roads to the road projects.

22 It is not approving the project in total

23 COMMISSIONER: Correct, like I said, the  
24 project doesn't' move forward unless the residents  
25 signoff.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Does that help you, sir?

2 PAUL VALESCO: Yes it does.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

4 Cheryl Diesel? (Phonetic spelling)

5 CHERYL DIESEL: Happy to be here.

6 Councilman D'Esposito said we are not going to make  
7 a decision tonight because literally we had somebody  
8 come and hand letters to us yesterday.

9 So, we don't have a whole lot of time to  
10 site down and think this over.

11 So, I thank you for that.

12 Maybe we could actually meet one day with  
13 all of us because there are several people here on  
14 Atlantic which is going to be the most affected road  
15 because of the drainage going to go down there.

16 Um, we had road construction before, they  
17 did work on the drain there once before, about ten  
18 years ago and they, basically, destroyed my  
19 property.

20 It cost me a fortune to put everything  
21 back.

22 Of course, we were promised everything will  
23 be great.

24 Everything will be wonderful and fixing  
25 everything better than it was before, which

1 absolutely did not happen.

2 So, we are a little gun shy as to this whole  
3 entire project and gun shy picking up a private  
4 road. Page | 31

5 Right, now, we have jurisdiction over our  
6 road.

7 We don't know what the pros and cons are.

8 We haven't had time to look into it.

9 We just got the letter yesterday, so, I do  
10 appreciate you holding off on it.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

12 Ryan Sintinaro? (Phonetic spelling)

13 RYAN SINTINARO: High, so, my concern is if  
14 we give this road up and it is no longer private,  
15 um, the only way they would do the work is by  
16 adopting this road, correct?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, is that  
18 correct?

19 COMMISSIONER: Correct.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, that is correct?

21 RYAN SINTINARO: Ten years ago when they  
22 redid the drains and the roads how come they didn't  
23 need it then?

24 Why do they need it, now?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't speak to

1 what happened ten years ago because I was not here.

2 Commissioner, can you answer?

3 COMMISSIONER: I believe what he is  
4 referring to is we do have an existing easement, <sup>Page | 32</sup>  
5 drainage easements, um, and we may potentially be  
6 able to use that drainage easement in this  
7 particular case, but, the idea, here was that we  
8 wanted to fix the entire road using the goser funds,  
9 so, basically, try to get our biggest bang for the  
10 buck and give you guys a new road.

11 Um, probably what happened in the past was  
12 he used the existing drainage easements to do the  
13 work that we needed to do in this case.

14 We are trying to do a large scope project,  
15 so, we would need to essentially own the road to do  
16 that because we can't use, you know, our own dollars  
17 to fix private property, essentially - -

18 RYAN SINTINARO: Um, with that, if we give  
19 up the road as a private road, there is a piece of  
20 property at the end of the dead end trying to get a  
21 variance to build three houses.

22 And, they are calling it a driveway taking  
23 the curb, breaking it down and building a driveway  
24 to get three more houses back there at the dead end.

25 Giving up the private road, that is our



1 argument we have right, now.

2 It is a private road and you can't do it and  
3 giving that up will be giving up and giving them a  
4 variance and getting it approved for them to do this  
5 project that we don't really want done over there.

6 Um, it will take all the parking in the  
7 street that is barely there, now with the grandkids  
8 and children who like to play on the block.

9 We would be losing all of that.

10 I don't have a yard big enough to pay with  
11 him right, now, so, when my kid is old enough, I  
12 would play with him in the street.

13 Giving up that private road will give them  
14 that variance that they want.

15 COMMISSIONER: I completely understand your  
16 concern.

17 Us adopting that road does not equate to  
18 that person receiving the variance, that is two  
19 separate issues.

20 I think what the Councilman has suggested  
21 which is that essentially that this item be  
22 adjourned or tabled might be the best way to  
23 approach this.

24 It shouldn't hold up the project, itself, in  
25 any form.

1 We can sit down with you and alleviate any  
2 of those concerns and make sure that this won't lead  
3 to - -

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Commissioner, just <sup>Page | 34</sup>  
5 on the record, so I can be clear in making a  
6 decision this evening, as long as the Board goes  
7 with my recommendation, this is not in any way, um,  
8 jeopardizing any of our CPR funds or jeopardizing  
9 any of the projects in the area.

10 COMMISSIONER: No, we are not at that point.  
11 This was just something that needed to get  
12 done.

13 It doesn't need to get done today, but - -

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: So, if we take a few  
15 more weeks to discuss this with the residents, there  
16 is no concern that anything from the State will be  
17 jeopardized?

18 COMMISSIONER: Correct.

19 I apologize, we did hand out those letters  
20 yesterday in an attempt to make sure all the  
21 residents properly are informed, um, about what we  
22 are doing today.

23 Yeah, I think it is in the best interest to  
24 meet.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Commissioner.

2 Thank you, sir.

3 Walter Diesel?

4 WALTER DIESEL: Good evening. I am Walter <sup>Page | 35</sup>

5 Diesel. 122 Atlantic Place.

6 Everything is pretty much said, I want to  
7 thank Mr. D'Esposito, um, I am looking forward to  
8 meeting with you and discussing, also Mr. Tierney  
9 for being kind enough to spend some time with us  
10 prior to this meeting.

11 My concerns are the same as my neighbors.

12 Um, we are one hundred percent right here on  
13 our block, there is only three residents.

14 We are all here. So, we are very, very  
15 concerned about, you know, what is going to happen,  
16 here.

17 As my wife stated before, we have gone  
18 through this before and we were promised everything  
19 and we really didn't get a lot.

20 Um, I have a problem, um, I am the only  
21 waterfront property on the block and, um, things  
22 weren't done properly by the construction company  
23 that did this project before, um, especially with  
24 the storm drainage, they made a lot of promises that  
25 they there would be catch basins that catch

1 cans, the bottles and the large debris.

2 That was never done.

3 They said that, um, frequently they were  
4 going to clean the catch basins, that wasn't there<sup>Page | 36</sup>  
5 and obviously, that is why they didn't clean it  
6 because it is not there.

7 Um, they were also supposed to put a  
8 concrete slab down, so, when water does drain out of  
9 that drain, it doesn't undermine the bottom of the  
10 canal.

11 Um, they didn't put the concrete slab down  
12 either.

13 Now, the older storm drain did have that  
14 concrete slab.

15 Now, I was told maybe concrete is not the  
16 way to go anymore.

17 Now, I am sure there is some kind of  
18 material that can be used to keep this from eroding.

19 The other question that I had and is  
20 probably not the time or place to ask it, but I have  
21 to ask is, um, I don't understand why they can't run  
22 the drainage down Saratoga and out Shell Creek where  
23 the canal is thirty foot deep.

24 It has a very strong current.

25 We are on a dead end canal where there

1 is no current at all and the canal, itself, is only  
2 seven foot deep.

3 I have been there almost twenty-five years  
4 and since I have been there, our canal is filled in <sup>Page | 37</sup>  
5 well, or two and a half feet.

6 Now, again, I am the only one on the canal  
7 so, it affects me more than my neighbors.

8 I have a hoist.

9 When I first moved there, I was able to get  
10 my boat on and off the hoist any time.

11 Now, I have to pick and choose my times  
12 because at low tide, I can't get the boat off.

13 I have to come back early because I can't  
14 get it back on, so, one of my issues is we are  
15 putting another storm drain in, is that going to  
16 increase the damage, now.

17 You know, I don't know, this is something  
18 that we can discuss.

19 And, also, someone mentioned there is a  
20 meeting in two weeks, will we - - will - -

21 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

22 After, the following ensued.)

23 WALTER DIESEL: - - In due time, you know.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Commissioner Tuman,  
25 the meeting in two weeks, the notifications

1 will go out?

2 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will send out  
4 notification and since MR. Diesel, there are really <sup>Page | 38</sup>  
5 serious concerns you raise, we want to thank  
6 Councilman D'Esposito for raising this issue,  
7 tonight.

8 I think it is prudent for us to listen to  
9 the community and make sure all of your concerns are  
10 allayed before we go forward on this.

11 WALTER DIESEL: Okay, thanks.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you for your  
13 time.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Chris Rabus? (Phonetic  
15 Spelling)

16 CHRIS RABUS: Hello, thank you. Chris  
17 Rabus. 134 Atlantic Place South, Island Park.

18 Um, I am familiar with the Goser project and  
19 I gratefully appreciate, um, this coming our way and  
20 all the hard work that you guys have been putting  
21 forward.

22 Um, I am here representing my neighbors.

23 They are pretty elderly, as well, eighty-  
24 five and ninety-two.

25 They can't get out and I spoke to them

1 before coming to the meeting.

2 Our main concern with Atlantic Place South,  
3 if you look at where Atlantic Place South and  
4 Atlantic Place North are, after Sandy, I think Page | 39  
5 Walter had two boats in his yard.

6 Ronnie had two boats and I had another boat.

7 So, when the storm comes from the East, that  
8 whole side of the Town just get bombarded.

9 Furthermore, there is a school not too far  
10 from there.

11 So, I know the scope of work has been, um,  
12 pretty elaborate.

13 Surveys have been done time and time again.

14 You can look at data all you want.

15 Unless you physically come down and meet  
16 with the neighbors and pinpoint certain things, I  
17 have been on the canal since I was born.

18 My grandparents came down in 1939.

19 I am happy to still be there, but, there is  
20 so much to go into making of dead ends where the  
21 volume of water comes from and the debris, we take a  
22 brunt all Winter long.

23 And, if they are going to do Atlantic Place  
24 South and they are not going to do it fully - -  
25 "fully" meaning from start to finish, I don't

1 see the point in even starting the work at all.

2 So, our main concern is, um, yes there is a  
3 tentative plan, but we are hoping somebody comes  
4 down, meets with the neighbors, maybe points out  
5 some certain things and certain documents, some  
6 photographs, but currently since Sandy, the road at  
7 the very end, the dead end is sinking.

8 The curb is now level with the concrete.

9 So, the water is actually going over the  
10 curb undermining, freezing, but just, you know,  
11 again, grateful for the opportunity.

12 And, I hope they can come down and take a  
13 more granular look and physically see things with  
14 the eye, opposed to, you know, the surveys and the  
15 papers.

16 And, where is the drainage going to go?

17 It certainly brings it to light.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Chris, what we will  
19 do, Commissioner Tuman and I - - he will speak to  
20 you right after the meeting.

21 He will set up a date.

22 We will walk the block and go from there.

23 CHRIS RABUS: Last, but not least, I am here  
24 in support of my neighbors.

25 We look after each other's houses.



1 And, there is someone tentatively trying to  
2 put three homes on a piece of property.

3 This is not somebody from the community.

4 This is somebody that saw a piece of Page | 41  
5 property, got it for a good price.

6 They are trying to rezone it, make a quick  
7 buck and, you know, send their kids to college or  
8 something.

9 But, it is really unfortunate because this  
10 is a great block and they are a great bunch of  
11 friends.

12 Thank you.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

14 I do not have any other slips on this Public  
15 Hearing, is there anyone else that would like to be  
16 heard?

17 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday. I am concerned  
18 with regard to the utilization, I guess, of goser  
19 funds.

20 And, I am just curious as to what level of  
21 priority does this project have when we still have  
22 many residents, when we are mentioning Sandy.

23 We still have many residents that are not  
24 even in their homes, who are in jeopardy of losing  
25 their homes, who are still living and paying

1 rent, paying taxes on properties that they can't  
2 live in.

3 So, I am just curious what is the priority  
4 for this project? Page | 42

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I don't think the  
6 goser funds are for people in their homes.

7 I think the goser projects were all  
8 infrastructure projects.

9 I think that would be another plan set  
10 forward by the State, but, all the goser projects  
11 are infrastructure related.

12 Nothing to do with people in and out of  
13 homes.

14 META MEREDAY: Goser funds are being used  
15 for raising, for elevating homes.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I think that is New  
17 York Rising.

18 META MEREDAY: Some of that funding - -

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Right, but, it is  
20 two separate programs.

21 META MEREDAY: Okay, but for those residents  
22 that are hearing about goser or they are hearing  
23 about something that has to do with storm relations  
24 and they are not living in their homes and they are  
25 about to be foreclosed after a while, it is

1 State money.

2 Is it not State money?

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It is State money,  
4 but, it is State money that is earmarked for the <sup>Page | 43</sup>  
5 people, at this point, of Island Park, just like  
6 weeks ago, there was money that was earmarked for  
7 people of Oceanside or Point Lookout or Lido or  
8 Atlantic Beach.

9 META MEREDAY: But, you have residents that  
10 are here that are saying that they want to have a  
11 closer look.

12 I am still curious to hearing that we want  
13 to make sure that goser we are getting the bigger  
14 bang for the buck.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: But we don't choose  
16 where the goser money goes.

17 The projects are already coordinated with  
18 the State, who, then, work with the Town of  
19 Hempstead and then subcontractors to do the work.

20 We don't get the money and choose between  
21 putting people in and out of their home or doing the  
22 street over.

23 Commissioner Tuman, correct me if I am  
24 wrong.

25 COMMISSIONER: Yes, that is correct.

1 META MEREDAY: But it is based on  
2 recommendations.

3 Again, you are not deciding this just,  
4 basically, from using some GOOGLE map and saying we <sup>Page | 44</sup>  
5 will put this fund, here.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: No, there were  
7 groups put together probably within months of the  
8 aftermath of Sandy for each communities that were  
9 represented.

10 They started off with the community  
11 reconstruction zones, then, they went to the  
12 community reconstruction project.

13 There were groups in the Five Towns. Groups  
14 in Island Park and Oceanside.

15 Groups all along the barrier island who were  
16 attended after Sandy and they put their thoughts  
17 together in order to come up with projects that  
18 would improve infrastructure in their communities,  
19 that is what the money was earmarked for originally.

20 It had nothing to do with putting people in  
21 and out of their homes.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Tuman,  
23 could you just explain the goser application process  
24 and how that works.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I just

1 interject something; Commissioner, it is my  
2 understanding that these local communities made  
3 their own self determination of what they thought  
4 the priorities were in their community and the set <sup>Page | 45</sup>  
5 up by the Governor's office in that the committees  
6 were appointed by the State representatives, is that  
7 correct?

8 COMMISSIONER: I will be honest, I wasn't  
9 here for that process.

10 I do think you explained it well, Councilman  
11 D'Esposito.

12 Councilman D'Esposito explained it well.

13 Yeah, the committees were put together.

14 This was years ago.

15 Um, and, then, projects were selected. It  
16 was a very long process, um, and we are very far  
17 from the beginning of that process and this is where  
18 we are, today.

19 So, all that money has already been budgeted  
20 and is for these particular projects and for these  
21 particular areas.

22 We couldn't even move the money around if we  
23 wanted to, not that we are.

24 But, the State, itself, doesn't have the  
25 ability to do that.

1 All the money has been particularly slated  
2 for these particular projects and it is based out of  
3 community meetings and these hearings happened very  
4 early on when the decisions were made on how the  
5 money should be used.

6 META MEREDAY: I get that, but, goser, for  
7 people who may not know is Governor's Office for  
8 Storm Recovery, so, storm recovery, the Governor  
9 had a plan in place to raise homes a certain level  
10 and provided one hundred thousand dollars which was  
11 a ridiculous fee in weight size and distribution of  
12 the home.

13 And, FEMA said, "No, it is forty."

14 So, my concern is, again, we are talking  
15 about apples and oranges with the same raisins and  
16 prunes that the residents have to put up - - put up  
17 with since we live in a County where we pay the  
18 second highest taxes in the Country.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It is apples and  
20 oranges, that is what we are trying to explain.

21 META MEREDAY: I understand that.

22 I understand that.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: The apples we are  
24 trying to correct is infrastructure and the oranges  
25 are raising houses and we are using this money for

1 the apples because that is what they are earmarked  
2 for.

3 META MEREDAY: Well, if we are talking  
4 apples, then, if we are talking about roads, then, <sup>Page | 47</sup>  
5 the issue is where are we with the roads that still  
6 need to be fixed, if that is the case?

7 If we are talking about acquiring a private  
8 road where the residents are in fear, justifiable  
9 so, what is going to happen when they get their  
10 privacy snatched because the Town takes over the  
11 road and those of us have to lived with Town roads  
12 where the contractors are going down to where the  
13 pilgrims use to roll around on this land.

14 So, yes, there is a concern for those of use  
15 who still want the Town roads that we pay for to get  
16 fixed.

17 So, if anybody has a concern about the  
18 zoning processes in this township be very concerned  
19 about that and continue to come to these meetings  
20 because rest assure Sandy was 2012, we are, now, in  
21 2019.

22 Go to the South Shore, as you well know, in  
23 East Rockaway, because I live in Baldwin, we have  
24 students from East Rockaway High School in the empty  
25 school building, we had to fight the Town and the

1 County to keep from tearing down, so, yes, I am very  
2 concerned about infrastructure.

3 And, I am very concerned about every piece  
4 of fruit in the basket that I have to pay these high <sup>Page | 48</sup>  
5 taxes for.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

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

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

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

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITIO: I move that the  
15 Public Hearing be closed and the proposed  
16 improvement and adoption of certain roads in Island  
17 Park, we reserved decision for a future meeting.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

20 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.



**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

Page | 49

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

6 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

9 CLERK CABANA: There is one Item on the  
10 Decision Calendar.

11 There is the Application of S & S Realty,  
12 Inc. for a modification of Declaration of  
13 Restrictive Covenants affecting real property  
14 located on the northeast corner of Atlantic Avenue  
15 and Davidson Avenue - Oceanside.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on  
17 that item.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that we  
19 approve the decision.

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the  
21 motion.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

23 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

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1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

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5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

9 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,  
11 please, call the Administrative Calendar.

12 CLERK CABANA: There are Items 10 through 50  
13 on the Administrative Calendar.

14 I also have two Resolutions that are of an  
15 urgent or emergency nature.

16 This is a Resolution amending Resolution  
17 Number 360-2019 in relation to real property tax  
18 relief for Cold War Veterans.

19 This will be Item Number 59 on the Calendar.

20 I also have a Resolution authorizing the  
21 commencement of litigation and this will be Item  
22 Number 60 on the calendar.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would any of the Council  
24 Members like to sever any of the Items on the  
25 Administrative Calendar?

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1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes, I move that we  
2 adjourn without date, 17, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 43.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would you explain why  
4 you are going to adjourn all of these items without <sup>Page | 51</sup>  
5 date?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes, it was  
7 discussed in caucus and the caucus has decided that  
8 we will be adjourning 17, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 43.

9 (Whereupon, Rori Gordon called out from the  
10 audience "Can you say that one more time." After,  
11 the following ensued.)

12 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I move to amend Item  
13 53 to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Local  
14 Law on November 12, 2019.

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have to different  
17 motions going on, now.

18 First, we have a motion to adjourn Items 17,  
19 37, 39, 40, 42 and 43.

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second that.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just to be clear, for  
22 everybody in the audience, Item 17 is a Resolution  
23 to aware a contract to try to get typewriters out of  
24 our Clerk's Office.

25 It is an item that has been worked on

1 for an extensive amount of time with the cooperation  
2 of the Clerk, the IT Department, um, and the  
3 Technology Officer with the participation with  
4 everybody sitting, here, the Majority and various  
5 departments to try to modernize our Clerk's  
6 operation, to improve efficiencies in the Clerk's  
7 Office.

8 Madam Clerk, is there anything you would  
9 like to add about this time?

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I ask a  
11 question, first before she does.

12 Um, do you have any typewriters in your  
13 office?

14 CLERK CABANA: Yes.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You have to  
16 have some, don't you because there are some things  
17 you cannot put in a computer, you must use a  
18 typewriter, am I correct?

19 CLERK CABANA: Yes, yes.

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: How many  
21 typewriters do you need to use in order to be able  
22 to do some of the documents that come out of your  
23 office?

24 CLERK CABANA: How many total do we need to  
25 use?

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1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes.

2 CLERK CABANA: We certainly don't need to  
3 use seventy-two. There are seventy-two, right, now.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay, how many <sup>Page | 53</sup>  
5 people do you have working with those and these are  
6 items that you do not want anybody else to copy that  
7 you use a typewriter for, am I correct?

8 CLERK CABANA: I am sorry?

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: There are some  
10 items that must be used and you must use a  
11 typewriter?

12 CLERK CABANA: Yes.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, no, listen,  
14 let me finish.

15 The only reason I am saying this is because  
16 people have been told - - I am tired of people  
17 giving the wrong information.

18 You don't give the wrong information to the  
19 public.

20 You must let them know there are some things  
21 that you have to use a typewriter for, not for  
22 everything, you know.

23 A lot of things you don't and I am concerned  
24 on Number 17, I will tell you what my concern is  
25 about - -

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1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor, as you know,  
2 since I took office, I tried my best to make the  
3 services of the Clerk's Office as accessible and  
4 modern as possible that is what I told people I <sup>Page | 54</sup>  
5 going to do and that is what I continue to do. <sub>was</sub>

6 Um, even, you know before I took office, I  
7 studied the issue of Novus agenda.

8 I attended the Clerk's Association Meeting.  
9 I have spoken to Clerks from both political parties  
10 and both agree that it is a fantastic thing for the  
11 Clerk's Office.

12 Um, several municipalities including New  
13 York City Council, North Hempstead, several  
14 municipalities use it.

15 Um, we have held several meetings to discuss  
16 this including March of 2018, May of 2018, June of  
17 2018, September of 2018, October of 2018, February  
18 of 2019, April of 2019.

19 Um, we had meetings with different people  
20 and departments as the Supervisor said, several of  
21 the staff, here, the Council people were also  
22 included.

23 Many expressed what an excellent idea it  
24 would be.

25 Um, you know, as stated, there are

1 Typewriters and absolutely Senior Councilwoman, some  
2 typewriters are definitely needed in the office  
3 because certain forms, um, we need to use the  
4 typewriter to get that information on. Page | 55

5 But Novus agenda is for people to understand  
6 is a program whereby our calendar would be  
7 generated.

8 Um, presently the system that we have, now,  
9 um, is very paper centric.

10 Sometimes it is very hard to find, um, you  
11 know, the relevant information. Things get lost. I  
12 think this would be more efficient.

13 People, you would be able to search. You  
14 could put in one word and be able to search the  
15 agenda, whatever information you wanted would be  
16 able to pop up.

17 So, it would be just very user friendly.

18 There are so many reason why it would be a  
19 great thing for the Town.

20 Um, again, I mean we are the largest Town,  
21 we should be leading by example.

22 This is technology, I think, it is extremely  
23 important that we, in such a large township, that we  
24 do things in the most efficient manner possible.

25 Um, there is a lot in terms of the

1 hand-ups. I know that was an issue.

2 Hand-ups, also would be able to deal with  
3 that on paper, that system would not necessarily  
4 need to change. Page | 56

5 Um, again, I mean it is a shame that you  
6 want to adjourn it because I think it is in the best  
7 interest of the Town of Hempstead, many  
8 municipalities use it.

9 And, it has been tremendously successful  
10 everywhere, so, there is no reason it shouldn't be  
11 implemented here, but, if that is what the Town  
12 Board wants to do, I will respect your opinion.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would it  
14 also be transparency, it would generate an agenda  
15 that would be searchable for residents?

16 CLERK CABANA: Yes.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It would be generate an  
18 agenda in a more time-efficient manner.

19 It would prevent - - it would save work  
20 hours and make it easier for the staff, easier for  
21 the Clerk's staff, so, people walking items from the  
22 agenda all around Town Hall like they do right, now,  
23 that is what Number 17 is that they are trying to  
24 adjourn.

25 CLERK CABANA: And, having to get



1 signatures.

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Madam Supervisor, I am  
3 seconded all of those items. I think it is time to  
4 vote. Page | 57

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No, the public has the  
6 right to know - - excuse me, I have the Chair of  
7 this meeting.

8 The public has the right to know what is  
9 being adjourned.

10 Number 37 is an item related to occupational  
11 resources.

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

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, don't shout out.  
15 If you shout out, you will be warned once. If you  
16 shout out, again, you will be asked to leave.

17 Number 37 is an item of occupational  
18 resources.

19 The Commissioner has actually requested that  
20 we adjourn that item and he can speak to why if  
21 there is a question about that.

22 Number 39 relates to property management.  
23 When I arrived at Town Hall, we tried to find out  
24 what properties the Town owned and there was not a  
25 list.

1 The Town did not have a list of all the  
2 properties they owned.

3 Did you get that Jessie?

4 The Town of Hempstead did not have a Page | 58  
5 comprehensive list of all the properties that they  
6 owned.

7 And, so, we went out and we got a consultant  
8 to help us figure out what properties the Town  
9 owned.

10 And, we found out that we own things like  
11 parking lots, parking lots that benefit commercial  
12 property owners and we bear all the burden if  
13 someone falls down, the Town of Hempstead gets sued.

14 We have to plow it.

15 We have to maintain it and it is the  
16 commercial tenants that gets the benefit of this  
17 property and doesn't pay anything.

18 So, if someone goes to their store and falls  
19 down, the Town gets sued and we have to pay.

20 There is no benefit for the Town. The only  
21 benefit is for the commercial property owners.

22 This should have been addressed years ago.

23 It was never addressed, so, what this  
24 resolution is trying to do is bring in a consultant  
25 to look at all the properties that the Town

1 owns and generate revenue from idol properties, that  
2 is Number 1.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I ask a  
4 questions? Page | 59

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, you can speak  
6 after I am done speaking.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If you would like to  
8 go item by item on this particular matter,  
9 Supervisor, um, it is a fact that every property  
10 that the Town owns is on the tax rolls and it is  
11 easily identifiable.

12 But, if you would like, our Budget Advisor  
13 has a list of that and we will compile it and put it  
14 together.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't need you to put  
16 it together. Mr. Haber?

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I say what  
18 I have to say, just a moment, now, I know Mr. Haber  
19 is doing this.

20 Mr. Haber came to me with a list of  
21 properties in Roosevelt and in Roosevelt we have  
22 very little property and they are not large enough  
23 to do anything.

24 And, I tell you, we are not going to do  
25 anything with those properties over there that are

1 in that area. They put all those houses in there.

2 Roosevelt is filled with homes, already.

3 They took all the properties that we had for

4 commercial development and that is what they did. <sup>Page | 60</sup>

5 And, the small amount that we had, the

6 residents were determined how they would be used.

7 Some were not large enough to do a bank or

8 anything else, just some of the things in Uniondale,

9 they wanted to build things in there that should not  
10 be built.

11 We don't need anymore laundromats and things  
12 of that nature.

13 It is something that we need to let the  
14 residents to decide what they want where they live  
15 and why should we pay someone.

16 I don't know everything in Roosevelt.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: In Roosevelt, we have a  
18 parking lot that benefits a supermarket and there  
19 are tons of problems with that parking lot.

20 Last year, the Town taxpayers had to pay to  
21 repave that parking lot that benefits the  
22 supermarket.

23 The supermarket owner should have paid to  
24 repave that parking lot, not the taxpayers of this  
25 Town.

1 Mr. Haber, was there a comprehensive list of  
2 the properties?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We would not  
4 have a supermarket in Roosevelt if you did not take <sup>Page | 61</sup>  
5 care of this parking lot.

6 We have to.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I talked to the owner of  
8 that parking lot and I asked him if he would buy the  
9 parking lot from us and he said if it is a  
10 reasonable price, he would.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Let's see about  
12 that, people say that, because, people need that  
13 too, that is part of Roosevelt.

14 MR. HABER: Madam Supervisor, this goes way  
15 beyond a parking lot or idol lot in Roosevelt.

16 I have been in the commercial real estate  
17 business for twenty years and, um, everywhere you go  
18 you want to know what you own and how you monetize  
19 it and increase your revenue and increase your  
20 costs.

21 When I got here, I asked for a list of the  
22 Town properties.

23 I thought it would be an easy thing to  
24 obtain.

25 Somebody dropped off three CD's at my desk

1 that were done twenty years ago with a video camera,  
2 not by Section, Lot and Block, not by, um, property  
3 type, just by video.

4 Um, and not seeing and addresses, I thought <sup>Page | 62</sup>  
5 it was something that I thought was a joke, at  
6 first.

7 And, then, I realized it wasn't.

8 We went through an extensive RFP.

9 We chose a company to create a database, um,  
10 to show exactly what the Town owns and nobody from  
11 the Town had any idea of what we owned; single lots,  
12 parking lots, vacant lots, things that were not  
13 maintained, um, things that were just sitting there  
14 for decades, if not forever.

15 And, it turns out that the Town has over  
16 seven hundred and fifty pieces of property over four  
17 hundred billion dollars of property of real estate  
18 with a "B."

19 And, um, there are plenty of things that you  
20 can do to monetize them or know, at least, you have  
21 them and one of the reasons - -

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How did you arrive at  
23 that number?

24 MR. HABER: So, if you look at the report  
25 that we circulated to the Town Board, they went

1 through every piece of property, through the Nassau  
2 County assessed valuation and that is where the  
3 value came from.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Haber, my Page | 63  
5 understanding is that the vast majority of those  
6 properties you can't build anything on, they are so  
7 small.

8 So, Mr. Haber, we know where the properties  
9 are, now.

10 MR. HABER: Yes, we do.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why do we have to hire  
12 this firm at an expense?

13 MR. HABER: First of all, it is not an  
14 expense.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: They get a broker's  
16 fee.

17 MR. HABER: Anybody that disposes your  
18 property, there are thirty-five sliver lots.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We are giving an  
20 exclusive real estate brokerage agreement to a  
21 company that, basically, there was no competitive  
22 process for this.

23 MR. HABER: Councilman Blakeman, there was  
24 an exhaustive RFP.

25 We had six responses from the best names

1 in the business and, then, you have a very  
2 competitive rate.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do you have an  
4 analysis of that, that you can give us?

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Was a representative of  
6 the Town Board Majority at this meeting?

7 MR. HABER: I was not in that process, but,  
8 yes, they had somebody from the Town Board.

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Who was there?  
10 I was not there. You did come to my office  
11 with somethings that you wanted.

12 I know the residents don't want it. They  
13 have to have a space too, so, they can breathe.

14 They don't have a space to breathe. They  
15 can't even put a ballpark for the children.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Sinclair, do you  
17 know who was on that marine panel?

18 MS. SINCLAIR: Shelly Gresky. (as  
19 heard/phonetic spelling)

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is from  
21 Councilwoman Goosby's office.

22 MS. SINCLAIR: Yes. Rich Regina.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is Counsel to the  
24 Town Board Majority, right, so - -

25 MS. SINCLAIR: I want to make clear, after



1 we went through the initial study of the properties,  
2 we did, by request of the Counsel to the Town Board,  
3 deliver each a list with map locations months ago  
4 notifying them months ago, notifying them of our <sup>Page | 65</sup>  
5 intent to proceed with a disposition plan.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The Committee made a  
7 recommendation?

8 MS. SINCLAIR: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, who was on the  
10 committee and who voted on it?

11 MS. SINCLAIR: Again, the committee was made  
12 of two members of the - -

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: What you should  
14 have done, at least, let us know.

15 You didn't ask us to vote without our  
16 knowledge - -

17 MS. SINCLAIR: The purpose why we took that  
18 step is because I spent time working with the  
19 Counsel to the Town Board discussing with him the  
20 fact that we, now, have this inventory.

21 We went through a conversation about the  
22 detailed list, broken down by District, broken down  
23 by map because our intent was to say, now we have  
24 identified these resources.

25 We must look at a disposition plan.

1 So, we went through an entire mapping  
2 process pursuant to an RFP that was coordinated.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Ms. Sinclair,  
4 though from what our staff has told us with regard<sup>Page | 66</sup>  
5 to this matter, that they did not vote for this  
6 particular firm.

7 And, that there was no recording of the  
8 vote.

9 Do you have a ballot of some kind?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Regina, do you deny  
11 that you were involved in this process?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Did he vote on it?

13 MS. SINCLAIR: It is an RFP process.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The Supervisor's staff  
15 put the item on the agenda unilaterally, not in  
16 consultation from anybody from the Minority - -

17 MS. SINCLAIR: Not only did we follow the  
18 required RFP procurement process in the bipartisan  
19 committee and did go through a scoring process, we  
20 also had it vetted by your Compliance Officer.

21 There is no step of the process that was  
22 kept secretive or closed to anyone.

23 And, when we asked for members of these  
24 procurement committees.

25 It goes through your - - your Chief

1 of Staff of the Town Board and you say who are the  
2 people from these Councilmanic Districts that should  
3 be on these procurement committees.

4 Here is at no point where we are operating <sup>Page | 67</sup>  
5 in a vacuum.

6 This is completely coordinated.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me a  
8 minute, I have to say they did an evaluation.

9 They did not vote.

10 My staff does not vote on anything  
11 pertaining to my District without consulting me.

12 MS. SINCLAIR: We don't vote in  
13 procurements.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You just said a  
15 few minutes ago you voted on it.

16 MS. SINCLAIR: I misused the word, "vote."

17 We have a procurement committee that goes  
18 through a vetting process that requires scoring on  
19 certain components.

20 Every RFP that makes it way to this Board  
21 should have gone through that same process.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, this item was scored  
23 by Members of the Senior Councilwoman's staff, by  
24 Members of the Town Board Majority, with Mr. Regina,  
25 involved with the Chief of Staff to the Republican

1 Majority involved.

2 They were all involved in this process and  
3 they submitted scores, is that correct?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Scores are Page | 68  
5 different from voting.

6 MS. SINCLAIR: But nobody voted on the RFP.  
7 We are not a Board.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: The people they  
9 voted on did not vote. They cannot vote on land.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are not selling land,  
11 Senior Councilwoman Goosby.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here is the issue,  
13 okay, there maybe a process that you went through  
14 but from a value judgement that we have to make on  
15 the Town Board, this is a pretty big issue.

16 Are we going to give an exclusive to one  
17 company?

18 And, I am not sure everybody understood that  
19 on the committee, are we going to give an exclusive  
20 brokerage agreement that Mr. Haber says is worth  
21 four billion dollars to one entity?

22 I have been on the Board for the Port  
23 Authority of New York/New Jersey that hold much more  
24 property, much more valuable property, we would  
25 never give an exclusive to anyone brokerage company

1 because you want the brokerage companies to compete  
2 with each other, that is where we have an issue on  
3 this and that is what we want clarity on it.

4 And, that is why we are asking to table it. Page | 69

5 We are not voting against it.

6 We are not making a value judgment yet but,  
7 I don't know why we are making such a big deal with  
8 the fact we like a little more time to look at this  
9 before we give an exclusive to a brokerage company  
10 that is going to get in, Mr. Haber's evaluation a  
11 four billion dollar commission agreement.

12 I mean that is a lot of money.

13 MR. HABER: First of all, you are not  
14 selling any piece of property.

15 You are not selling Town Hall which is seven  
16 hundred million dollars.

17 And, every single RFP we procure, it gives  
18 an exclusive to that vendor, whether it is paving a  
19 road or doing any particular property or project,  
20 whatever we are talking about.

21 This will be a broker that will come to the  
22 Board property by property which will vote on for a  
23 commission, that is below market standards to  
24 dispose of.

25 You are not giving an exclusive to anyone.

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1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to take a  
2 little closer look at it.

3 I think that is fair and reasonable.

4 I don't know why we are making such a big <sup>Page | 70</sup>  
5 deal about it.

6 MR. HABER: It has been months and months of  
7 a process that has been painfully made sure it is  
8 bipartisan and everybody is involved and blocking it  
9 for no reason and we have these assets - -

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The Town Board didn't  
11 put this on the agenda, the Supervisor put this on  
12 the agenda, correct?

13 MR. HABER: I have to believe so.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will say I did put it  
15 on the agenda after it was scored after exhaustive  
16 months of bipartisan review.

17 Mr. Regina, were you confused at any part of  
18 the process?

19 Were you confused about this?

20 TOWN BOARD ATTORNEY REGINA: I wasn't  
21 confused.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think there is  
24 difference between a scoring process and the fact  
25 that we have to make a value judgment on whether

1 or not we are going to give an exclusive brokerage  
2 agreement to one firm to potentially dispose of all  
3 our properties that I have an issue with because I  
4 don't know many organizations that are as large as <sup>Page | 71</sup>  
5 us that would give an exclusive like that.

6 MR. HABER: Every organization that I have  
7 been involved with public or private would have one  
8 person representing them, otherwise it could be  
9 chaotic.

10 It would be a free for all every time you  
11 sell a property.

12 I categorically disagree with you.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You and I have  
14 different experiences and I think I have been  
15 probably on the same level as you have or a higher  
16 level when it comes to this.

17 MR. HABER: I unfortunately, respectfully  
18 disagree.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Haber or Ms.  
20 Sinclair, did we come up with a comprehensive plan -  
21 -

22 MR. HABER: It is a plan.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: - - of what properties  
24 are good to sell because they are not generating  
25 revenue?

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: They are not  
2 generating - -

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, Senior  
4 Councilwoman, you can speak after I am done.

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5 They should be generating revenue for the  
6 Town and properties we could maybe use for non-  
7 profit or use for affordable housing or use  
8 something beneficial.

9 And, by hiring this company, we are not  
10 deciding what we are going to do to address the  
11 Senior Councilwoman's concerns.

12 We are not deciding by awarding this  
13 contract to come up with a comprehensive disposition  
14 plan.

15 We are not saying we are going to sell  
16 anything that would not come before the Town Board,  
17 again, isn't that correct?

18 MR. HABER: That is one hundred percent  
19 correct.

20 My final point being that most  
21 municipalities on Long Island including Nassau  
22 County have an exclusive brokerage agreement with an  
23 RFP process.

24 So, I am not sure where you get your  
25 information.



1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I can tell you that I  
2 know that is completely untrue.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr. Haber, did  
4 you not come to my office and tell me about Page | 73  
5 properties that you thought should be sold?

6 MR. HABER: I came to your office to discuss  
7 properties in Roosevelt that were available to  
8 hopefully help create situations where we can  
9 maximize the ability for people to have affordable  
10 or workforce housing for your community.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: What did I tell  
12 you I had a meeting with the residents in Roosevelt  
13 because that piece of property they wanted to put  
14 fourteen houses.

15 No one wants to live in a house and they  
16 don't have a yard, a backyard.

17 It is not going to happen.

18 They don't want it and I don't make them.

19 I think everything has been taken away from  
20 them as it is.

21 Where you live, I bet you one thing, you  
22 have enough property to have whatever you want to  
23 have.

24 People, here, want to have that, too.

25 MR. HABER: Madam Councilwoman, I came to

1 you after you delayed the meeting for two months and  
2 put up one particular property, that is fine.

3 There is seven hundred and fifty others that  
4 we can talk about. Page | 74

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Not in  
6 Roosevelt, not in Roosevelt.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Can I weight in on this  
8 for one second; when I came, here two years ago, two  
9 and a half years ago, over two years ago, the, um,  
10 former administration had the Parks Department look  
11 up every strip of property that they had and a lot  
12 of the properties, seven hundred and fifty  
13 properties are like little strips that they have to  
14 mow.

15 It is Town property, the community would be  
16 upset if they didn't, so, these little pieces of  
17 property, you are not going to sell and if they are  
18 going to sell them, why are we spending taxpayers'  
19 money to go out and do all of this stuff when we  
20 have people that work for the Town of Hempstead that  
21 could be putting this comprehensive plan together?

22 We have a lot of great minds right here  
23 working for the CSEA that could put the plan  
24 together for us.

25 And, we don't have to go out and spend

1 Taxpayers' money, again, you know, a month before  
2 elections trying to give away contracts.

3 We are not going to let this happen.

4 I don't want to see our taxpayers spend Page | 75  
5 money where they don't have to spend money on and  
6 what we can handle and have the CSEA workers do.

7 I don't want to see it go outside of the  
8 Town of Hempstead.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I respectfully disagree.  
10 We have income property that could be generating  
11 revenue for the Town, that is not being utilized.

12 These sliver lots could be sold, sold at a  
13 nominal cost to the adjacent property owners taking  
14 it off the Town's, um, burden.

15 We won't have to mow them anymore and it  
16 would add to our tax revenue.

17 So, um, just for a moment, also, Item Number  
18 40 is a resolution that relates to acid recovery and  
19 Number 42 is a contract with Seamans to generate  
20 energy, saving costs.

21 These items could save taxpayers millions of  
22 dollars.

23 Could they not, Mr. Haber?

24 MR. HABER: The Seamans project is Item  
25 Number 42, um - -

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1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, point of  
2 order, I don't believe a Motion to adjourn is  
3 debatable, could we get a ruling on that, Mr. Ra?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Haber, would they <sup>Page | 76</sup>  
5 generate millions of dollars of savings for  
6 taxpayers?

7 Could you answer the question.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of order, can we  
9 have a ruling?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Could you answer the  
11 question, Mr. Haber?

12 MR. HABER: The savings and energy  
13 efficiency from updating facilities is no cost.

14 The taxpayers would save eleven million  
15 dollars over twenty years of energy savings and  
16 positive cashflow of six million dollars by doing no  
17 work on behalf of the Town.

18 It is all guaranteed by savings.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is this the LED work?

20 MR. HABER: Yes, it is.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, since we are  
22 going to violate Robert's Rules of Order, Mr. Haber,  
23 I am told by people in the Town of Hempstead that  
24 our Town workers can do most of this work and that  
25 we don't have to sub it out to a private contractor.

1 So, that we keep our people working.

2 So, that they have the work that is  
3 necessary to keep the Town moving forward in the  
4 right direction. Page | 77

5 Energy efficiency, saving the Town money  
6 that we should use our Town workers rather than  
7 private contractors when we can.

8 That is what I am told that this is just a  
9 question of changing fixtures.

10 MR. HABER: Well, can I give you - -

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Am I right or wrong?

12 MR. HABER: You are wrong, not only is it  
13 changing five thousand four hundred and sixty-three  
14 LED fixtures that haven't been changed for the last  
15 God knows how many years, um, it is sixteen high  
16 efficiency pool pump motors.

17 It is seventy-five kilowatt cogeneration in  
18 Echo Park.

19 It is nineteen high efficiency transformers  
20 at sites, computer management for every computer in  
21 the Town.

22 The Town isn't capable of doing these things  
23 but - -

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why don't we go back  
25 to the drawing board, again.

1 We are just asking to table this. I don't  
2 know why we are debating it and see Mr. Haber what  
3 can be done by our Town workers that does not have  
4 to be done by private contractors and should be done <sup>Page | 78</sup>  
5 by private contractors, is that fair?

6 MR. HABER: No, and I will tell you why.

7 The reason why it is not because this has  
8 been going on for a year and a half.

9 You spend tens of thousands of dollars for  
10 outside Counsel to make sure this is done properly  
11 and in a bipartisan manner.

12 Your Commissioner knew what was going on and  
13 the eleventh hour you pull this.

14 And, over that year and a half, you would  
15 have almost two hundred thousand dollars in savings  
16 in positive cashflow already.

17 Every day you wait you waste money.

18 Time is money.

19 And, you may not think global warming is  
20 real or not, but every day you waste in changing  
21 these light bulbs throws off more carbon.

22 There is a sense of urgency, lack of sense  
23 of urgency in all three things we are talking about  
24 that I find flabbergasting.

25 It is something we have all been working on

1 Together and the man hours wasted by delaying this.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, finally, Item  
3 Number 43, contracts relating to the establishment  
4 of a 311 Response Center. Page | 79

5 This is something that this Board approved  
6 in their capital plan.

7 There is no big secret what we are doing  
8 there.

9 Once, again, we worked on it for months on a  
10 bipartisan panel.

11 Everybody knew about it.

12 Everybody was involved, but, now, just  
13 delaying it, um, I think it is all for purely  
14 political reasons.

15 So, now, everybody in the public is aware of  
16 the great good government, transparency savings of  
17 taxpayers' dollar items that this Council is moving  
18 to adjourn.

19 Madam Clerk, will you call the roll.

20 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I vote no on the  
22 adjournment.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

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COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby? Page | 80

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I vote no.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have a second motion that is pending.

Mr. Muscarella, could you, please, state your Motion with respect to Item 53, I believe.

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Absolutely, I vote to amend Item 53 to hold the Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law on November 12, 2019.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just mentioning so that the public is aware, this is the resolution to ban the intentional release of balloons.

I believe our Department of Conservation and Waterways supported this.

I am not sure why we are delaying it.

I don't think we can delay this item.

Madam Clerk, will you call the roll.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: First of all, since we are violating Robert's Rules of Order, I am going to tell you why I am going to join with Mr.



1 Muscarella and his Motion because I don't want a  
2 situation where kids are in a backyard having a  
3 birthday party and they release balloons and they  
4 are subject to criminal prosecution.

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5 I think we should find a better way to do  
6 this.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Well, the resolution is  
8 intentional release of balloons and really - -

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What are they going to  
10 do, question whether or not they intentionally  
11 released the balloons or not?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I mean, honestly,  
13 intentional means - -

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is going a little  
15 too far.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: - - not penalizing kids  
17 and calling them criminals.

18 It is really intended to be, um,  
19 preventative because we found that our Camp Anchor  
20 campers did a balloon release and then were told the  
21 balloons were biodegradable and they thought it was  
22 safe and okay after that balloon release happened at  
23 Camp Anchor, there was a lot of controversy.

24 It became a teaching moment, certainly for  
25 me, um, that even though companies manufacturer

1 Balloons as biodegradable, they are not always, in  
2 fact, biodegradable and if they are biodegradable,  
3 it may take seven years to decompose and in that  
4 time it exposes wildlife to sever danger because <sup>Page | 82</sup>  
5 they eat them.

6 And, we see dolphins, fish, die from eating  
7 these materials.

8 Also, they degrade and they sit on our  
9 beaches and they pollute our beaches.

10 SO, the intention of this legislation is  
11 really to be a teaching moment.

12 We are hoping that people know that these  
13 balloons are not biodegradable and you cannot have  
14 intentional release of balloons like at an event, at  
15 a wedding, at a party, at something like that, that  
16 we will be penalized but really the hope is that we  
17 won't need to enforce this because, once we spread  
18 the word, people will not do that because I think  
19 most of the people in our citizenry don't want to  
20 hurt wildlife.

21 They don't want to pollute our beaches.

22 They are buying these products because they  
23 think that they are doing something that is not  
24 going to harm our environment and harm our wildlife  
25 and they are being deceived by the manufacturers.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think there is a  
2 better way to do it than potentially holding people  
3 in the Town of Hempstead liable, facing a penalty of  
4 fifteen days in jail for releasing a balloon. Page | 83

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

6 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No.

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: I don't want to  
16 see a kid accountable just like a kind in Florida, a  
17 seven year old, I don't want to see that, aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

19 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: On the Administrative  
21 Calendar, I have a number of slips, Felix Procacci?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Can I amend onto one of  
23 the items, Item 44, Town of Hempstead IDA, they are  
24 allowed to, um, lease vehicles coming from the  
25 State, if it is up to us, we wouldn't have car,

1 but it is not up to us, it is State law.

2 I would just like to amend to say that the  
3 cars that they purchase should be American made.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: These are off the State  
6 contract.

7 I don't know.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: They should take  
9 American cars off the State contract.

10 Councilman Dunne is right.

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: If the cars are not  
12 "American made," they will have no cars beginning  
13 October 1<sup>st</sup>.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Bakith, I  
15 believe that the cars that you leased are not  
16 American made, do you have the ability to have  
17 leased cars that are American made cars?

18 COMMISSIONER: Based on the energy  
19 efficiency - -

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Could you speak into the  
21 microphone.

22 COMMISSIONER BAKITH: George Bakith,  
23 Department of Planning.

24 The cars in question are very energy  
25 efficient and the lease price on them is the

1 lowest on the State contract.

2 So, a decision was made - -

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The question was on the  
4 American made, do you have - -can you choose Page | 85  
5 American made cars?

6 COMMISSIONER BAKITH: You can get them off  
7 the contract, but, different models are much more  
8 expensive.

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: When you say, "much more  
10 expensive," what are we talking about?

11 COMMISSIONER BAKITH: These are \$299 up in  
12 the \$400 dollar range, \$425.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How many cars?

14 COMMISSIONER BAKITH: I don't have them  
15 here. It is five cars.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is five cars.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, let's try to buy  
18 American.

19 COMMISSIONER BAKITH: We are not buying  
20 cars.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Leasing.

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We have to vote on my  
23 amendment.

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The other issue he may  
25 have procurement rules, the money that they use

1 are Federal Grants.

2 And, I am not sure whether or not a Motion  
3 of this type, um, and if you say, "if possible,  
4 wherever it is possible," I am not sure he has that <sup>Page | 86</sup>  
5 leeway.

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Federal Government, it  
7 says to buy American, also.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I interrupt, all  
9 right, um, Councilman Dunne, I would ask you to  
10 withdraw your amendment and that we just give the  
11 sense of the Board to Mr. Bakith, you should be  
12 given consideration to buying American cars and if  
13 there is not a tremendous difference in price by  
14 American.

15 Okay, Dennis, we just don't know what the  
16 laws are.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We don't want to violate  
18 the law.

19 I think everybody will agree buy American if  
20 you can or lease American if you can, but, we don't  
21 want to violate any State law.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci?

23 FELIX PROCACCI: I object to the  
24 adjournments.

25 They are ridiculous.

1 So, on Item Number 41, that was adjourned  
2 right, as far as the Town Board, you know, has to  
3 give hand-ups sixty minutes prior to the  
4 commencement of a meeting.

5 First of all, that violates and you have  
6 been violating Robert's Rules of Order and you have  
7 been violating our own procedures that we wrote,  
8 here at our convenience.

9 I get constantly interrupted without getting  
10 - - first, the person getting permission from the  
11 Presiding Officer, which is the rule in the Robert's  
12 Rules of Order.

13 And, we don't mind doing that one.

14 This is violating State law because and we  
15 have been doing this constantly and the reason why  
16 resolutions have details is because of me, when it  
17 became law in 2012, nobody wanted to do it, but I  
18 kept on bringing it up for two months and the Board  
19 reluctantly agreed to do that.

20 The resolution is supposed to be on the  
21 website a reasonable time prior to the meeting.

22 So, for example, when you are going to fire  
23 Commissioner Pritchard, you knew you were going to  
24 fire him for a long time.

25 I don't think you decided that morning that

1 you were going to fire him.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Honestly, I did not know  
3 until thirty minutes before the meeting.

4 FELIX PROCACCI: You were the exception. Page | 88

5 The thing is a reasonable time, meaning you  
6 knew, so, it should have been on the resolutions,  
7 Thursday, Friday, when you put them up.

8 You just don't come in fifteen minutes or an  
9 hour before, even two hours before because residents  
10 who look at these resolutions may want to speak on  
11 that issue and unless there is an urgent nature,  
12 like the State law is going to change or we have to  
13 be in compliance with some Federal regulations and  
14 there is no Board meeting in between and you have to  
15 do that and that is an exception.

16 Yes, we understand it would have to be  
17 there sixty minutes before, but this violates on its  
18 face.

19 This doesn't give any considerations to the  
20 New York State Open Meetings law.

21 And, the thing is the biggest problem with  
22 this is and I wrote it down.

23 I copied it off the website because the  
24 enforcement is the problem that I have to FOIL an  
25 Article 78 against you guys which costs, at a



1 minimum for all the expenses, four hundred and  
2 twenty-five dollars plus my time.

3 And, then, I have to get some dopy Judge  
4 that doesn't know the law or doesn't want to Page | 89  
5 prosecute or wants to ignore it or I can go to the  
6 Ethics Board and they can do the same thing.

7 So, this one has to be modified.

8 You shouldn't vote on this.

9 We should adjourn this one because we have  
10 to rewrite it because, right, now, it is illegal.

11 So, now, follow Robert's Rules of Order and  
12 adjourn this one.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci, so, this  
14 is supposed to address the emergency Resolutions,  
15 um, we have had a problem where items are handed up  
16 as Emergency Resolutions and I agree with you,  
17 Emergency Resolutions should be emergencies, but, we  
18 have seen Emergency Resolutions being handed up,  
19 they are called "emergencies," like, let's fire the  
20 Sanitation Commissioner, today.

21 Um, although, you know, I don't know how  
22 that would happen between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., um,  
23 and, then, we do a vote when it is an emergency.

24 I don't think it is an emergency. I don't  
25 think it is an emergency. I vote no, but I can

1 be overrules, so, but this is so to address  
2 emergency hand-ups.

3 We have seen things that aren't emergencies  
4 called "emergencies." Page | 90

5 And, we have seen emergency resolutions,  
6 just being dropped in front of me at the Board  
7 Meeting and nobody out there had an opportunity to  
8 look up at what the emergency hand-up is.

9 So, this is, at least, trying to take some  
10 ameliorative action to make sure that, at least, the  
11 people who sit up, here are supposed to vote on  
12 something and have an adequate amount of time to, at  
13 least, read it before they come up here and are  
14 expected to vote on it and that we can make some  
15 photocopies and put them out with the agendas, so,  
16 you and other people, the public can actually read  
17 the hand-up before it goes before the Town Board.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor - -

19 FELIX PROCACCI: But - -

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - I am talking,  
21 Felix.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: The point is they are not  
23 going to do that.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am talking, Felix.

25 Basically, I can't predict the vote with

1 absolute certainty, but, I think this will probably  
2 pass based on my conversations with my colleagues  
3 because we have had the same problem with you.

4 So, now, we said, all right, let's make it <sup>Page | 91</sup>  
5 fair, both sides have to give sixty minutes, minimum  
6 notice to the other side of hand-up resolutions  
7 because your office has dumped them on us, as well.

8 So, it is not one sided.

9 It has been both sides and if we do vote on  
10 this, it is because we want an even playing field  
11 where both sides have adequate notice with regard to  
12 the emergency resolutions.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't recall a time  
14 that I dumped something in front of you at a Town  
15 Board Meeting.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It has happened.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: When?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Many times in the past  
19 we come here, you have never given us emergency  
20 resolutions, hand-ups.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think they are always  
22 circulated beforehand but I could be wrong.

23 I have to go back and check.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You have done some in  
25 the back room.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I didn't certainly hand-  
2 up seventy-three amendments to a budget with no  
3 opportunity for you to review them.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is our Page | 92  
5 prerogative, that is the process that is dictated by  
6 Town Law and State Law.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is bad government.

8 FELIX PROCACCI: No, no, it is not dictated  
9 by State Law.

10 State Law says you have to put it on the  
11 website prior to this.

12 And, just one more thing - -

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

15 FELIX PROCACCI: This law will do nothing,  
16 you know why?

17 Because if the Board doesn't vote on it, if  
18 the Majority wants to overrule this anytime, they  
19 want to overrule it, they will do so and there is no  
20 stated punishment.

21 And, we have to spend four hundred and  
22 twenty-five dollars and go to Court.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Procacci.

24 FELIX PROCACCI: That's it, so, this law is  
25 useless as written.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Procacci.  
2 Mary Ellen Kreye?

3 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye. 463  
4 Locust Avenue, Uniondale. Page | 93

5 I was in favor of 17, but there is no sense  
6 in mentioning that.

7 On Number 27, these site plans, um, is there  
8 an opportunity for us to see what kind of site plans  
9 they are for, property in East Meadow?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Rottkamp,  
11 would you be able to share a copy of the plans with  
12 Ms. Kreye so she can take a look at them?

13 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Is that where the former  
15 Jewish Center was located?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move the  
17 Administrative Calendar.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

19 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I am waiting for an  
20 answer.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, Commissioner  
22 Rottkamp said that he would be happy to provide you  
23 with a copy of the survey.

24 MARY ELLEN KREYE: You are going to vote  
25 before I had a chance to look at it.

1 And, the same thing with the following one,  
2 the negative SEQRA declaration, I am wondering if,  
3 um, what particular relief is being done?

4 Something is being demolished and something <sup>Page | 94</sup>  
5 is be built?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Which one?

7 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Charles Lindbergh  
8 Boulevard.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There has been a SEQRA  
10 determination that there is no negative  
11 environmental impact on this property, but, we are  
12 adopting that, but, it is not approving the project,  
13 itself.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: The project still has to  
15 come before you.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, is this  
17 project Number 28 has that already been approved?

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I think it is a  
19 matter of right, Supervisor.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, it is a matter of  
21 right.

22 MARY ELLEN KREYE: You are saying there is  
23 no, um, impact as far as increasing actually almost  
24 three times?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Generally with

1 projects - - Commissioner, maybe you can speak to  
2 this.

3 There is always a SEQRA Dec. determination,  
4 if there is a positive impact or negative impact, <sup>Page | 95</sup>  
5 um, for a bunch of our projects.

6 This one is saying it is a negative dec.

7 There is no impact.

8 You can correct me if I am wrong,  
9 Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes, Supervisor,  
11 this is for SEQRA.

12 Basically, this is for, um, the charter  
13 school that is there and they are looking to put an  
14 extension onto that school.

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Correct, so, it is coming  
16 before the Board that is tripling the square  
17 footage?

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I believe it doesn't  
19 have to come before this Board.

20 It might have to go before the BZA.

21 I haven't seen the plans, yet, so, I don't  
22 know.

23 MARY ELLEN KREYE: When does the public get  
24 the determination or opportunity to see this?

25 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: First of all, the

1 SEQRA has to be approved by the Town Board.

2 After, it gets approved by the Town Board,  
3 then, the contractors will file the plans with us.

4 And, we will see if they need any further <sup>Page | 96</sup>  
5 approvals from the Town Board or from the Zoning  
6 Board of Appeals.

7 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Is there a plan to  
8 increase the height of the project?

9 Is this going outward or don't you know?

10 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I believe they are  
11 trying to add a part to the Middle School and for  
12 the High School, I believe the High School, one is  
13 going to be three stories.

14 I haven't seen the contractor's plans yet.

15 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Okay, thank you.

16 I had a question on 37 and 38, now, um, and  
17 we decided not to discuss 37 and, yet, 38 seems  
18 almost the same thing.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: The  
20 Commissioner asked that we table 37 for the time  
21 being.

22 MARY ELLEN KREYE: How is that different  
23 from 38?

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It has to do with two  
25 different employees in two different slots, that



1 is why they are two different resolutions.

2 The new Commissioner, the New Commissioner  
3 is moving personnel around and changing, um, some of  
4 the things that he is doing there. Page | 97

5 So, that is why there is two resolutions and  
6 he is putting out two different contracts for two  
7 sets of employees.

8 One set is - -

9 MARY ELLEN KREYE: What is a one stop  
10 operator service, please?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner?

12 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: He is here. I am sorry,  
13 I didn't realize he was here, sorry.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Would you stop the clock,  
15 please.

16 MICHELE HANSON: I did.

17 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Give me five seconds  
18 more, please.

19 COMMISSIONER: Good Evening, Supervisor and  
20 Board:

21 Just to clarify 37, as Counsel has said, we  
22 did not get all of the information with respect to  
23 that particular item and time for it to be on the  
24 calendar, tonight, so, we respectfully ask that it  
25 be adjourned.

1 With respect to 38, that is the one stop  
2 operation system that is part of the Town of  
3 Hempstead where a client can come in and with it  
4 being a one stop operating system.

5 Everything they need, they can get in the  
6 backdoor.

7 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Now, are these for job  
8 opportunities or - -

9 COMMISSIONER: Training job opportunities.

10 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, it says Gruel  
11 Industries?

12 COMMISSIONER: Correct.

13 MARY ELLEN KREYE: So, they are the  
14 trainers?

15 COMMISSIONER: Correct.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Commissioner.

17 MARY ELLEN KREYE: And, another adjourned  
18 item is the 41 and I felt that was a very reasonable  
19 useful thing to approve.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 41 is actually not  
21 adjourned.

22 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Oh, really, good, so, I  
23 hope you vote for it and I think the other one 52  
24 definitely very important.

25 So, I hope you approve of that.

1 Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

3 Meta Mereday?

4 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Baldwin.

5 First, I hope my time is not allotted for  
6 items I did not get a chance to review,  
7 particularly, the add-ons, 59 and 60.

8 I think it put us at a disservice as  
9 residents if we are being told we are sitting in the  
10 room that you have these, again, these emergency  
11 additions.

12 And, we don't have the opportunity to, um,  
13 review that to discuss that particularly when you  
14 are talking about real property relief for Veterans,  
15 so - -

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you would hold the  
17 time for a minute.

18 So, Mr. Ra, you can correct me if I am wrong  
19 for real property tax relief, the Cold War Veterans,  
20 we are simply amending.

21 There is a certain notice that needs to be  
22 provided, um, it was originally contemplated that it  
23 would be provided with the tax bills.

24 However, we are, now, going to provide it -  
25 - distinguish it from the tax bills who is

1 a Cold War Veteran and who is not.

2 So, that notice will go out with the receipt  
3 so we can give the proper notice that is required by  
4 law. Page | 100

5 Um, but we can segregate who are the Cold  
6 War property Veterans who need this notice.

7 Is that accurate, Mr. Ra?

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Correct.

9 META MEREDAY: In most cases, if we are  
10 talking about the Cold War, those Veterans are in  
11 their eighties.

12 I mean how else can we actually notify them  
13 or in fact or their widows with regard to this  
14 relief.

15 It doesn't seem like we do enough. I am  
16 excited for parades and pancake breakfasts - -

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The notification is going  
18 to be put in the bill so they are going to get it  
19 with the bill and notification to all notifying  
20 everybody Cold War Veterans, if you don't know your  
21 Cold War Veterans and you will see that and say, oh,  
22 that is me.

23 You can't do a separate mailing on it.

24 We can't do certain mailings. Putting it on  
25 the bill, it answers the call.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just to clarify,  
2 actually, it is going with the receipt.

3 The legislation already passed, originally,  
4 but, again, it is contemplated the notice would go <sup>Page | 101</sup>  
5 with the tax bill but, now we are changing it.

6 The notice will go out with the receipt.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We passed it in April.

8 META MEREDAY: Yeah, I understand that, but,  
9 again, we are dealing with the fact that we have  
10 still many of our, for the most part, Cold  
11 War/Korean War Veterans that don't know that they  
12 are entitled to benefit from the American  
13 Reconciliation Act of 2008.

14 I think you can do a little bit more with  
15 regard to getting the notification.

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We can't do enough for  
17 our Veterans.

18 META MEREDAY: We are not doing enough for  
19 our Veterans and that is really part of the problem.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Mereday - - if you  
21 could just stop the clock.

22 On the emergency hand-up was authorizing the  
23 Town Attorney to commence litigation, I don't want  
24 to go to far into it, but, we have problem - -

25 META MEREDAY: That is okay.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: - - We have a problem  
2 with one of our contract and we need to start  
3 litigation.

4 META MEREDAY: The Town of Hempstead and the <sup>Page | 102</sup>  
5 County of Nassau stays in the race with regard to  
6 litigation.

7 I don't want to waste my time and energy  
8 with that one, that is just enough with that.

9 My ongoing issue with regard to contracts  
10 with it pertains to Items 29, 30, 31, 32.

11 We are talking about diversity and someone  
12 had to remind me we are going in an election season  
13 because all of this fervor about contracts and jobs,  
14 um, and creating opportunities for employees, I  
15 don't really remember hearing this in any of the  
16 previous meetings with other types of contracts or  
17 opportunities that were put out, here, that money  
18 gets outsourced out.

19 I guess it all depends on who you are  
20 connected to because I still do not see where we are  
21 actually contracting to anybody different, possibly  
22 a Veteran-owned business, a Minority-owned business  
23 or Woman-owned business.

24 So, I guess unless you are a friend or  
25 relative, um, you really don't get an opportunity to

1 do any work, here, because it is not - - it is not  
2 noticed, here and no one seems to be speaking to  
3 that issue, um, particularly, if we are talking  
4 about following the law.

5 And, as you were saying earlier, yes, you  
6 have to do the least responsible bidder when you are  
7 dealing with Federal contracts and the fact that we  
8 are talking about not exercising Robert's Rules of  
9 Order, as Felix Procacci said earlier, you haven't  
10 done it.

11 You have never done it, so, we can't act  
12 like all of a sudden you want to follow it, now and  
13 you haven't followed it before.

14 It would be nice to give it a try, but, I  
15 guess, once, again, it has to come out in some kind  
16 of Newsday or News 12 expose that this Township is  
17 still not exercising any full outreach and  
18 significant aspects as it pertains to inclusion of  
19 diverse businesses - -

20 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

21 After, the following ensued.)

22 META MEREDAY: - - within contracts.

23 And, lastly, with regard to the Item 17, the  
24 fact that you had, you know, again hardworking  
25 departments, um, within the Clerk's Office and she

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Your time is up.

2 META MEREDAY: I asked for time with regard  
3 to paperwork that was not here.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We stopped the clock for <sup>Page | 104</sup>  
5 you.

6 META MEREDAY: No, it was thirty seconds  
7 allocated.

8 I need ten seconds so I can finish.

9 As, I said, the Town Clerk's Office you have  
10 the Clerk, here and her staff is also very  
11 hardworking.

12 The fact that she presented her case quite  
13 sufficiently and she is not able to get the  
14 equipment and the resources that she needs, again,  
15 is disservice to those of us who have to sit here  
16 for hours to see the circus.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

18 META MEREDAY: Thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Marsha Berrios?

20 (Phonetic spelling)

21 (Whereupon, "I will pass on it," was heard  
22 calling out from the audience. After, the following  
23 ensued.)

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ryan Meter? Karen  
25 Johnson?



1 KAREN JOHNSON: Hi, my name is Karen - -

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you speak into the  
3 microphone.

4 KAREN JOHNSON: Thank you, Supervisor  
5 Gillen, Town Council and their Staff:

6 My name is Karen Johnson.

7 I am with Long Island Energy. We are local  
8 organization that works to educate our communities  
9 on environmental issues and to encourage to take  
10 action to protect our environment.

11 You're probably well aware of the State of  
12 our waterways, especially with beach cleanup with  
13 Operation Splash.

14 But it is worth repeating some facts.

15 A lot of the plastics in our environment are  
16 in the form of tiny pieces called micro-plastics we  
17 can't easily see them, so, our beaches can stay  
18 clean, out water can look clear at first glance but  
19 make no mistake about it, the plastics are there.

20 Plastics are in every beach, in every ocean  
21 and every waterway in the World, including here on  
22 Long Island.

23 The latest report shows not only are these  
24 toxins, plastics in our waters and in the fish we  
25 eat but they are in us.

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Balloons are part of this problem.

When they are released into the sky, the return to the earth and regardless of where they land, they can be eaten by wildlife or can entangle animals with their strings and wreak havoc on their bodies.

If there is something we can all agree on is that we don't want animals to suffer and we don't want to ingest plastics.

I am here to ask the Town Council to take action making the intentional release of any type of balloon illegal.

Exceptions could obviously be made for balloons using governmental or scientific research.

The Town of Hempstead has to be part of the solution to suffering marine life and to the future viability of our waters.

Balloons are an important part of that.

But, the Town Council could actually go further.

In addition to addressing balloon releases, it could do three more things; eliminate single use plastics in its municipal building cafeterias, eliminate single use plastics in future contracts with concessionaires and let's drink our

1 clean, local tap water out of reusable containers  
2 instead of paying for bottled water at all Town  
3 Council Meetings.

4 All the energy will be here to help you Page | 107  
5 educate the communities and to support any efforts  
6 you make on behalf of our environment.

7 Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

9 So, that Item was adjourned to November 12<sup>th</sup>.

10 Is that right, Mr. Ra?

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: November 12<sup>th</sup>.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is when the Public  
13 Hearing will be heard, again, on this time.

14 If you could come back, otherwise, the Board  
15 has heard your comments.

16 Thank you.

17 Okay, the next slip that I have are all on  
18 balloon legislation which has been adjourned to  
19 November 12<sup>th</sup>, um, so, unless you're going to speak  
20 on anything else on the Administrative Calendar,  
21 then I ask you to please come back at that Public  
22 Hearing on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

23 And, then, I have Marsha Bard?

24 Is there anything else you would like to be  
25 heard on besides balloons?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 MARSHA BARD: Yes, I would.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you here for the  
3 balloons?

4 MARSHA BARD: Yes.

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That has, now, been  
6 adjourned. We will have a Public Hearing, now, on  
7 November 12<sup>th</sup>.

8 Okay, um, Shelly Goldman, did you want to be  
9 heard on anything besides the balloons?

10 (Whereupon, "no, I guess it can wait," was  
11 heard calling out from the audience. After, the  
12 following ensued.)

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, Randall, Sorcher,  
14 did you want to be heard on the balloons?

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

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you are unable to  
18 come back on the 12<sup>th</sup>, you could wait until Public  
19 Comment.

20 I will call you first if you want to be  
21 heard, first, because you waited to hear this, okay.

22 I do not have any other slips on the  
23 Administrative Calendar.

24 Is there anybody else that would like to be  
25 heard on the Administrative Calendar?

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 PEARL JACOBS: Yes, I would.

2 Pearl Jacobs, Uniondale. I just want to  
3 just make a comment on Item 17.

4 I cannot fathom how this Board would impede <sup>Page | 109</sup>  
5 efficiencies for the Clerk's Office.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, I am sorry,  
7 you will have to save that for Public Comment.

8 It has been adjourned.

9 PEARL JACOBS: Okay, thank you.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
11 that would like to be heard on the Administrative  
12 Calendar?

13 (Whereupon, "I want to speak on balloons,"  
14 was heard from the audience. After, the following  
15 ensued.)

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Balloons, you can do in  
17 Public Comment, you can comment in Public Comment.

18 Right, now, we are opening the floor for the  
19 Administrative Calendar.

20 Is there anybody else that would like to be  
21 heard on the Administrative Calendar?

22 (Gesturing)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, you can be heard on  
24 52. 52 has not been adjourned.

25 THERESA POLANKA: Theresa Polanka

1 (Phonetic spelling) CSEA Local 880.

2 I would like that tabled because I would  
3 like to look at that further.

4 I think that is a little intrusive on my <sup>Page | 110</sup>  
5 members.

6 If you want to find out somebody's relative,  
7 I think you should do that prior, before they are  
8 hired.

9 So, as far as I am concerned, if you find  
10 out somebody is a relative or in a relationship, you  
11 are going to target that, I don't find that  
12 acceptable.

13 So, I want that tabled until I take a  
14 further look at that and I am asking for your  
15 cooperation.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Would you be upset if  
18 we voted against it because we also think some of us  
19 feel it is very intrusive?

20 KAREN JOHNSON: Well, I want you to vote  
21 against it.

22 I don't want that at all.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else  
25 that would like to be heard on the Administrative

1 Calendar?

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

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you, <sup>Page | 111</sup>  
5 please, call the roll on the Administrative  
6 Calendar.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, on the  
9 Administrative Calendar, I vote yes on all things,  
10 um, I believe that the Item that was just spoken of  
11 about the disclosure of relatives is absolutely  
12 necessary for us to enforce our Code of Ethics,  
13 which mandates that people cannot supervise their  
14 relatives.

15 Um, it is difficult for us to enforce that  
16 because we don't know who is related to each other.

17 Sometimes relatives don't have the same last  
18 names.

19 I received an unanimous letter about all  
20 these people, Commissioners are supervising their  
21 son-in-law, um, other people who are married  
22 supervising each other.

23 They don't have the same last name.

24 There is no way that we can know that this  
25 Board unanimously passed the Ethics Legislation and

1 it is not to - -it doesn't matter if people are  
2 related they shouldn't be supervising each other.

3 It is not an intrusion of their privacy. It  
4 is just to know who is supervising who and whether  
5 or not they are related so we can enforce our Ethics  
6 Code.

7 Right, now, our Ethics Board - - because  
8 right, now our Ethics Board doesn't know who is  
9 related to who.

10 I also vote no for Item Number 47 on the  
11 personnel calendar with respect to Anthony Busante  
12 (phonetic spelling).

13 And, with respect to Item Number 35, I  
14 recuse myself because EAC was my client in my prior  
15 law practice.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Madam Clerk, before  
17 you continue the roll, just a question with regards  
18 to personnel, I don't know if Mr. Sammon, is here,  
19 if he could answer.

20 Um, the name that the Supervisor mentioned,  
21 Mr. Busante, was that from the Tozner list?

22 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes, sir.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Is there any way we  
24 can include that in that Motion to take the next  
25 person off the Tozner list so someone doesn't



1 have to wait and it clears through the investigation  
2 of Human Resources?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think that if it is  
4 possible to include another name on the Tozner list, <sup>Page | 113</sup>  
5 that we should do it.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can we do it without  
7 having the next Board Meeting, I believe?

8 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR SAMMON: You can't  
9 approve employment of an individual without Civil  
10 Service approval.

11 The next individual that would go to the  
12 next round has to give us an application, has to be  
13 reviewed by Civil Service, approved before this  
14 Board can take action.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, so, if we can  
17 do it pending Civil Service approval.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for bringing  
19 that up, Councilman D'Esposito, because I do want to  
20 say I am very happy that the people I tried to take  
21 off the Tozner list in the Spring are finally being  
22 taken off the Tozner in the Spring are finally being  
23 taken off the Tozner list and I do apologize if they  
24 were skipped over to approve people ahead of them on  
25 the Tozner list in the past that was something that

1 I voted against.

2 Um, apparently, it was done with the consent  
3 of the Union President.

4 I don't think that was the right thing to <sup>Page | 114</sup>  
5 do.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I vote aye with  
8 respect to all items on the Administrative Calendar  
9 with exception of Item 52 I vote no.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I vote aye with - -

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: On the personnel list,  
13 I vote no on the individual Mr. Busante.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye on all, no on 52  
15 and no on 47 only with regard to Mr. Busante.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye on the entire  
18 calendar except for Item 52 and the part of 47 that  
19 says Anthony Busante, I say, no. No on 52. Thank  
20 you.

21 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I vote no on 52  
23 and I vote no on Mr. Busante and aye on the rest.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

25 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I vote on aye on all

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 9/24/19**

1 except no on Number 47 with reference to Anthony  
2 Busante and no on 52.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion to  
4 adjourn. Page | 115

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I make a motion  
6 to adjourn.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

9 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

20 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

21 (Whereupon, the official meeting of the  
22 Hempstead Town Board held on September 24, 2019 was  
23 concluded. )  
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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on September 24, 2019, consisting of pages 1 through 116 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