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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 16, 2019

2:30 P.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

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APPEARANCES :

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 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, good
2 afternoon, everyone, welcome to the Hempstead Town
3 Board Budget Hearing.

4 There are meeting agendas available in the ^{Page | 3}
5 rear of the Pavilion.

6 If you wish to be heard on any item on the
7 agenda, you can get a slip from one of our Public
8 Safety Officers and they will bring it up for you
9 to be called.

10 Today, we will only be having Public
11 Hearings on the budget.

12 There will be no Administrative Calendar ,
13 no Public Comment Session.

14 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
15 roll.

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

24 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am here.

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

2 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I, now, ask Councilman
4 Dunne to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Page | 4

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Face the American Flag,
6 place your right hand over your heart and join me.

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

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Madam Clerk,
11 will you call the first Public Hearing.

12 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Assessment Roll -
13 Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District
14 - for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
16 on this matter, is there anyone that would like to
17 be heard?

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

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May we have a motion.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move
22 that we continue this item until 7:00 p.m. this
23 evening.

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
25 Motion.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

13 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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

16 CLERK CABANA: Preliminary Budget - Town of
17 Hempstead - for the fiscal year beginning January
18 1, 2020.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip from Mary
20 Ellen Kreye.

21 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Mary Ellen Kreye. Locust
22 Avenue, Uniondale. I had a question about the
23 difference between the Water District Fund and the
24 Water District themselves; for example, Uniondale
25 and others as opposed to Bethpage, Hicksville,

1 Franklin Square, they are a separate group?

2 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: The
3 Districts that you referenced, Uniondale, our Town
4 of Hempstead Water Districts, meaning that they Page | 6
5 are funded by this Board and controlled by this
6 Board.

7 The other Districts that you referenced,
8 Bethpage, Hicksville are commissioner-operated
9 districts, which have an independent Board that
10 makes their decisions.

11 MARY ELLEN KREYE: I see, thank you.

12 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: You're
13 welcome.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Kreye.
15 Felix Procacci?

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci.

17 Don Clavin has proposed some budgeted
18 initiatives if he is elected Supervisor.

19 These are cutting the Supervisor's budget
20 by fifty percent, getting rid of take-home cars
21 and getting rid of unnecessary Deputy
22 Commissioners.

23 These are good initiatives, but, it is
24 important that the Town Council lead by example.

25 To make this a fair process, the Town

1 Council should also agree to cut its budget by
2 twenty-five percent.

3 It is important that the Town Council show
4 the public that it is willing to share the pain of ^{Page | 7}
5 budget cuts and not just make it look like they
6 are picking on a particular department or person.

7 It is important to note that the
8 Supervisor's budget hasn't been a million dollars
9 for, at least, twenty years; in other words, four
10 Supervisors ago.

11 In addition, it is important that the Town
12 Board should, first, pass a resolution that
13 mandates any future changes to a budget must come
14 before the Town Board for a vote.

15 This is necessary so the public would be
16 notified if the Town decides to reverse their
17 budget cuts.

18 I believe these initiatives should be voted
19 on unanimously, that is they can't be split.

20 Town Board Members must vote for all of
21 them or none of them.

22 In order for this to be done with some
23 thought, I propose that the Board, the Town Board
24 continue to take public comment about the budget
25 today and adjourn this Hearing to sometime before

1 the end of October.

2 By seriously considering this type of
3 initiative by actually voting on it, this will
4 show voters how serious the Town Board is in
5 cutting expenditures for the long term and not
6 just to show up one of their fellow Board Members.

Page | 8

7 In addition, as I mentioned at previous
8 meetings, it is necessary to put the titles and
9 salaries for all departments, department employees
10 in the budget.

11 For example, the Franklin Square Park
12 District Budget still doesn't list the employee's
13 titles and salaries.

14 This is absolutely necessary for residents
15 to understand how their money is being spent.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, could you
18 meeting with someone from my staff and give them a
19 list of what you propose.

20 You said your proposal has to be done all
21 together or not at all?

22 FELIX PROCACCI: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I like to see what it
24 is, thank you.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,

1 Mr. Procacci.

2 I do not have any other slips on this, is
3 there anyone else that would like to be heard?

4 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After, ^{Page | 9}
5 the following ensued.)

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

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we
9 adjourn to 7:00 o'clock this evening.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

12 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

24 (Whereupon, the Town of Hempstead Budget
25 Meeting recessed at 3:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony
in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Budget Meeting held on October 16, 2019, at 2:30 p.m.
consisting of pages 1 through 10 inclusive is an
accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

Page | 10

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK

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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

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HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 16, 2019

7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

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APPEARANCES :

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

Page | 2

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA

TOWN CLERK CABANA

TOWN ATTORNY RA

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, good
2 evening, everyone, welcome to the Town of
3 Hempstead Budget Hearing which is, now,
4 continuing.

5 There are meeting agendas available in the
6 rear of the Pavilion.

7 If you want to be heard on any matter,
8 please, fill out a slip and hand it to one of our
9 Public Safety Officers who will hand it up to us
10 so we can call on you this evening.

11 We are only talking about the two Public
12 Hearings that are on the agenda which are both
13 related to the budget.

14 There will be no Administrative Calendar
15 and no Public Comment.

16 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
17 roll.

18 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I, now, ask Councilman
6 Muscarella to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Please, stand, hand
8 over your heart.

9 (Whereupon, Councilman Muscarella led the
10 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After,
11 the following ensued.)

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,
13 please, call the first Public Hearing.

14 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Assessment Roll -
15 Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District
16 - for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020.

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

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

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May we have a motion.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Supervisor, I
24 move that the Assessment Roll for the Atlantic
25 Beach Sewer and Water District be adopted.

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

3 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wait, wait, they

7 changed their name the Greater Atlantic Beach

8 Water Reclamation District.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

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 our next Public Hearing.

24 CLERK CABANA: Preliminary Budget - Town of

25 Hempstead - for the fiscal year beginning January

1 January 1, 2020.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip from Mr.
3 Kroll.

4 STU KROLL: Stu Kroll, Great Neck. Let's ^{Page | 6}
5 see, I wanted to talk about some of the budget
6 items regarding the Animal Shelter, some of them
7 struck me as a little bit odd.

8 So, can someone explain it to me, the first
9 one I saw, there was no money allocated for first
10 aid and supplies.

11 According to the Union people, there have
12 been people, volunteers, people have been getting
13 bites quite often.

14 We have a dog trainer that, obviously, lied
15 about her credentials, so, how could we not have
16 first aid supplies there?

17 I mean, that seems a little odd.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Lacarubba?

19 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: Dominic,
20 correct me if I am wrong, but, I believe that is
21 being corrected.

22 MR. LACARUBBA: Yes, it has been.

23 STU KROLL: Okay, good.

24 Next item I noticed was a little strange to
25 me, two hundred and seventy-five thousand

1 Dollars that was allocated for legal services.

2 This is the Animal Shelter, I mean, this
3 isn't - - what is that for?

4 I know our friend, Pastore has been named ^{Page | 7}
5 in five lawsuits, is this defending him?

6 What is all this money being allocated for
7 at the Animal Shelter?

8 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: Legal
9 services are allocated in various departments
10 based on need, based on possible, um, open cases,
11 things like that, so - -

12 STU KROLL: That answers my question, open
13 cases, okay.

14 That is fair enough, I guess.

15 Under part-time wages, I think we now have
16 a five and a half million dollar budget, at least,
17 four million dollars goes to salaries that I can
18 see, um, Ms. Fonte is making fifty-five dollars an
19 hour, is that counted in the part-time wages?

20 And, how many hours is she actually
21 working?

22 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: I would say
23 it is counted in the part-time wages.

24 I don't know how many hours she is working
25 directly.

1 STU KROLL: Okay, there is also an item in
2 there, a line item for forty-two thousand dollars
3 for other salaries, I am just curious what other
4 salaries are there? Page | 8

5 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: This is
6 actually for a lump sum payments that have to be
7 paid out should somebody retire, somebody leave.

8 The other is health, health insurance
9 payments in there.

10 STU KROLL: Okay, that is fair enough, I
11 guess.

12 There is also a twenty-seven thousand
13 dollar item in there for placement of animals.

14 We know where forty-two hundred dollars at
15 one point was going for per dog to being sent to
16 Kim Strong up in Utica, that obviously, worked out
17 very well.

18 Um, that twenty-seven thousand dollars,
19 what type of placement are we talking about.

20 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: Again, that
21 would be based on the needs of the departments,
22 so, the placement would be however the department
23 determined where the animal could be placed.

24 STU KROLL: And, who would make that
25 determination?

1 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: That is
2 determined by the Department and people running
3 the Animal Shelter, itself.

4 STU KROLL: It doesn't exactly fill me with ^{Page | 9}
5 confidence, okay.

6 The last item I want to talk about there
7 was nine thousand dollars that was requested for
8 advertising and promotion, nine thousand dollars
9 set aside, it was actually, it was ten thousand
10 dollars was requested, so, I have to congratulate
11 everybody.

12 You guys are, obviously, very budget
13 conscious and we saved a thousand dollars on the
14 backs of the animals.

15 We have five and a half million dollars for
16 the Shelter, which, as I said, four million-plus
17 goes to the salaries, surely in the name of
18 decency, we can try to get more money for these
19 animals to get adopted by allocating a reasonable
20 amount of money for promotions.

21 I think nine thousand dollars is an
22 absolute disgrace to be honest, what can I tell
23 you.

24 All right, thanks.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Kroll.

1 Diane Madden?

2 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden, full
3 disclosure, I am running for Hempstead Town
4 Supervisor.

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5 Um, the Animal Shelter budget, first of
6 all, did anyone ever explain what all the
7 amendments were?

8 And, I don't really want to use much of my
9 time on this, from the last meeting.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I didn't put forward
11 the amendments, so, maybe one of you would like to
12 explain one of the amendments.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, basically, we
14 went through the budget, our first pass at the
15 budget, our first review of the budget, we found
16 out that there was money that was allocated, um,
17 for various items that we thought we could reduce
18 that expenditure.

19 We also looked at the revenue side and we
20 thought that the revenue in some areas was being
21 underestimated and that was based on data that we
22 received from the County of Nassau concerning both
23 mortgage tax revenue and also sales tax revenue.

24 So, basically, we feel that the money
25 should be in the pockets of the taxpayers

1 and not spent in a way that we feel is not in the
2 best interest of the taxpayers.

3 So, we offered the amendments with
4 additional cuts.

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5 And, also, we adjusted revenues to more
6 accurately reflect what we feel the revenue
7 figures will be for the next year.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Capobianco, you
9 were involved in doing revenue projections, is
10 that correct?

11 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yes, I was.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you speak into the
13 microphone.

14 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yes, I was.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, when you were
16 doing the revenue projections, were you trying to
17 hide revenue from the taxpayers?

18 MR. CAPOBIANCO: No, absolutely not, but,
19 the Town's budgetary consultant made different
20 assumptions than I had done previously and in
21 source information that he received, he had
22 different source data that he feels the
23 projections that he is proposing to the Board to
24 be made are more appropriate than what I made.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, is it fair that

1 you just took a more fiscally conservative
2 approach to the projections?

3 MR. CAPOBIANCO: You could say that, but,
4 you could also say that he had other data that I ^{Page | 12}
5 didn't have, that is one, also, possibility.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, Supervisor, I
8 don't think it is fiscally conservative when you
9 are taking money from the taxpayers that you don't
10 have to take, that it is better if it is in their
11 pockets, in their wallets than in government and
12 bureaucracy.

13 And, Mr. Capobianco, would you agree that
14 the amendments more accurately reflect what the
15 County projections were than the amount that was
16 in the Supervisor's initial budget?

17 MR. CAPOBIANCO: The amendments that were
18 made were based upon what information the
19 budgetary consultant from the County's budget as
20 opposed to what I was using, based on historical
21 data that I had.

22 Like I said, it is a different source, um,
23 different projections, in essence.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Revenue is just
25 projections, it is not actual money that we have

1 that we are hiding?

2 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That is correct.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, it is not
4 a question, you know, of whether you are hiding it ^{Page | 13}
5 or not hiding it.

6 I think it is a question of whether or not
7 you are going to ask the taxpayers to write a
8 check for "X" amount of dollars or " Y" amount of
9 dollars and you are underestimating the revenue
10 than you are asking the taxpayers to pay more to
11 make up for that difference.

12 And, I think that is where we have our
13 philosophical difference.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Capobianco, were
15 you trying to hurt the taxpayers of this Town when
16 you made your projections?

17 MR. CAPOBIANCO: No.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

19 DIANE MADDEN: So, were one of the
20 amendments, the Supervisor's budget?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

22 DIANE MADDEN: And, how much is that cut
23 by?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you have the figure
25 in front of you?

1 They cut out my budget for part-time and
2 seasonal staff, but they didn't cut out their own
3 budget for part-time and seasonal staff, just
4 mine.

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5 DIANE MADDEN: The reason I personally take
6 issue with that is that as Supervisor, should I
7 win this election, I will need that budget.

8 I will be cutting every other budget along
9 with the Town Board, but I am not coming in with
10 two million or any amount of money for patronage
11 jobs.

12 So, I do take issue with that.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Actually, I have a
14 question; the seasonal and part-time in the
15 Supervisor's budget that was cut by the Board, was
16 that in the budget last year or did your office
17 operate without seasonal and part-time employees?

18 MS. SMITH: The Supervisor's budget did not
19 anticipate, um, seasonal and part-time last year.

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, thank you.

21 MS. SMITH: However, Councilman - -

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: All I wanted to
23 know if it was in last year's budget, last year
24 there was nothing in the budget for seasonal or
25 part-time employees in the Supervisor's budget.

1 MS. SMITH: That is correct.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: This year it was
3 added, so, it was removed by the Town Board as
4 part of our amendment, so, just to clarify, there ^{Page | 15}
5 is nothing being taken away because there was
6 nothing prior.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is not correct.

8 Ms. Smith, could you elaborate further.

9 MS. SMITH: The Supervisor was allowed 2.1
10 million.

11 I am going to use round numbers, in
12 changing our staffing, um, allocated a certain
13 portion because we needed the help in the office,
14 we did not exceed the budget that the Board
15 allotted, so, we are very comfortable that we were
16 being responsible.

17 There were lines for the fulltime folks,
18 who, in some cases, did not use the full amount
19 and we used the excess money to hire part-time.

20 So, no, the Town did not - - the Board did
21 not give us a seasonal line, but we created that
22 by being fiscally responsible with the dollars
23 that were allocated by the Board.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: By hiring part-time, we
25 don't have associated costs with fringe,

1 isn't that correct?

2 MS. SMITH: Correct.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Which is quite
4 considerable costs that we are not paying health Page | 16
5 insurance or other things for these part-time
6 employees and for our seasonal.

7 We are able to offer opportunities to
8 students to come and work in my office over the
9 Summer, law students who came and got great
10 experience, got a little bit of money to help them
11 over the Summer to offset some of their expenses
12 and gave them a great opportunity.

13 We had a young man who worked with our
14 Counsel to the Supervisor, who is a Hofstra law
15 student.

16 He was great. We are grooming people who
17 may be able to come back, here and become part of
18 our workforce one day.

19 It was a great opportunity and it is a
20 shame it was cut from my budget but they didn't
21 want to cut it from their own budget.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: That is extremely
23 nice of you.

24 All, I was trying to point out is that it
25 was added to the budget this year and it was

1 not in the budget last year.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It was not added to the
3 budget, what Ms. Avril - -

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am just pointing ^{Page | 17}
5 out nothing is being taken out because it wasn't
6 in the budget.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me,
8 excuse me, excuse me, one at a time, please.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It wasn't added to the
10 budget, we just took money that already was
11 allocated to hire fulltime staff and we just tried
12 to itemized them and delineate it to make it part-
13 time and seasonal.

14 We were just trying to be clearer with the
15 funds that were allocated to my office because we
16 made an effort in our budgeting process to start
17 line item and itemizing things to give the public
18 a better understanding of where those lump sums
19 are going that is what we were trying to do.

20 And, it is very much a shame it was cut
21 from my budget.

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Well, I don't
23 think so, Supervisor, first of all, I would like
24 to note, none of the people that work in your
25 office does anything to help anyone of us with

1 anything that we do.

2 So, we have separate government, anyway,
3 you know as far as your people are concerned.

4 I asked you when you came if you would, Page | 18
5 please, not have your staff and our staff, we are
6 all one and we all work for the taxpayers and that
7 is what we are not - - what we are doing.

8 I am very concerned, too, because you said
9 you have over two million dollars, already, you
10 know, for people that work for you, not for the
11 rest of us.

12 So, if you still have the two million, how
13 are you coming up with someone that is going to
14 work preliminary or part-time or seasonal, that is
15 what I don't understand.

16 I could not get that in my head, so, maybe
17 you can explain that.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe your budget
19 is collective, the Council's budget, we all
20 represent the same amount of people.

21 Your budget is 1.4 million dollars more
22 than my budget.

23 SENIOR COUNCILMAN GOOSBY: We have six
24 Councilmanic Districts that we take care of.

25 I take care of my District and all the

1 others take care of their Districts.

2 We are Council Members and we each have
3 Districts.

4 You are not responsible for the Districts ^{Page | 19}
5 that we have but you do try to take over.

6 A Councilmanic District started - - this is
7 the 20th anniversary of Councilmanic Districts that
8 we worked so hard and this community is aware of
9 that.

10 I work part-time supposedly but I am out
11 there.

12 I am out, I work forty hours a week and
13 more because I try to take care of our residents
14 and that is what it is all about.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Just looking at the
16 budget, here, unless I am reading this
17 incorrectly, I know the Supervisor claims I don't
18 have the ability to read, but in the budget that
19 is presented, Page 74, 2019 budget amended the
20 final number is two million one hundred and
21 fifteen thousand two hundred and seventy-six
22 dollars.

23 2020 Departmental requests which would be
24 this budget, two million one hundred and sixty-
25 four thousand nine hundred and fifty-tw0 dollars,

1 so, if we are just reallocating money from the
2 Supervisor's budget, why is there an increase when
3 there are no positions that have been removed?

4 The only decrease is when the Town Board, ^{Page | 20}
5 when it goes from tentative to preliminary, when
6 the Town Board removes the seasonal and part-time.

7 MS. SMITH: Last year the Board removed the
8 employees that services the Help Desk, the Help
9 Line, um, among the folks that were removed was an
10 employee who has continued to work on the Board in
11 subsequent amendment, moved that employee back to
12 the Supervisor's office.

13 This was a decision that the Board made.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay.

15 MS. SMITH: I will avoid naming the
16 employee but that employee's salary counts for the
17 difference that you see and the Comptroller's
18 Office can speak to that.

19 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: That is
20 correct.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Ms. Madden, are
22 you saying that if you should win the election
23 that 2.1 million dollars is not enough for you to
24 run your office?

25 DIANE MADDEN: That is what I am trying to

1 come to what is the current budget for next year?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: For the Supervisor's
3 Office?

4 DIANE MADDEN: Correct.

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Two million - -

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Go ahead, Anthony.

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I believe the
9 preliminary 2020 preliminary, two million one
10 hundred seven, eight fifty two.

11 DIANE MADDEN: That is generous. Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are you willing to
14 cut that?

15 DIANE MADDEN: Um, not by an awful lot, no,
16 because I wouldn't be bringing in - - I will be
17 bringing in outsiders, non-politically driven
18 outside experts, as many as that much money will
19 allow.

20 And, I am not suggesting they will come in
21 making one hundred thousand dollars.

22 They may come in each making forty thousand
23 dollars, but, I think there is a lot of changes
24 that have to take place in this Town.

25 And, I believe the people that will come

1 in will have no issue working with the Board, with
2 the Commissioners, with the Deputy Commissioners.

3 They are not going to come in as a
4 challenge or another party, they are not looking Page | 22
5 for jobs.

6 They are looking for change.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You will have a lot
8 of hundred and fifty thousand, one hundred and
9 thirty thousand, one hundred twenty thousand
10 dollar jobs, if you are elected, so, those are
11 pretty well paying jobs.

12 DIANE MADDEN: What is the overall salary
13 for the Town - - I am using a lot of time here and
14 I just want to know - -

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Get back on your
16 agenda.

17 DIANE MADDEN: Exactly. For you to take
18 issue with salaries that are going to be for very
19 meaningful employees that are going to make
20 changes that are needed, I would think twice about
21 that because, again, I am not coming from a place
22 where I am looking to bring in salaries and jobs
23 after jobs, after jobs.

24 In any case, who can access the advertising
25 money that was reduced from ten to nine?

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you talking about
2 in the Animal Shelter?

3 DIANE MADDEN: Yes, please.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, that would be the Page | 23
5 Animal Shelter personnel, the Director.

6 DIANE MADDEN: Who, specifically, because
7 ten thousand wasn't used?

8 There are animals that have to get out of
9 there and no one used it last year.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I guess, ultimately, it
11 would be at the discretion of the Commissioner and
12 the Director of the Shelter.

13 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: Part of
14 the operations of the Animal Shelter.

15 DIANE MADDEN: The crematory costs, where
16 can I find that?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, what costs?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: The crematory,
19 she says.

20 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: It is part
21 of account 4900.

22 DIANE MADDEN: I am sorry?

23 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: It is part
24 of account 4900, if you look, I am apologize, I
25 just changed the page, one second.

1 MR. CAPOBIANCO: I apologize, my fault, it
2 is part of 4151.

3 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: Fees and
4 services. Page | 24

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMN GOOSBY: It is for the
6 Animal Shelter.

7 DIANE MADDEN: What is within the health
8 line, what does that cover?

9 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That covers all the
10 outside vet services that we have.

11 The Town has, approximately, I would say,
12 one, two, three, four, five, six plus the
13 laboratory services that are required by the
14 Shelter.

15 DIANE MADDEN: The trainer, where can I
16 find that salary?

17 MR. CAPOBIANCO: The trainer, you mean the
18 behaviorist?

19 DIANE MADDEN: There was a straight line
20 item to have a qualified trainer at the Animal
21 Shelter.

22 I don't see that.

23 MR. CAPOBIANCO: The behaviorist that would
24 be - -

25 DIANE MADDEN: Yes.

1 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That is part of the 4151
2 account, fees and services.

3 DIANE MADDEN: What is the total amount
4 there?

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5 MR. CAPOBIANCO: I believe it is for the
6 entire line, which includes, um, includes the
7 cemetery which we just spoke about, the
8 behaviorist and, um, Dr. Singh, so, that is,
9 approximately, about less than one hundred
10 thousand dollars.

11 DIANE MADDEN: So, what happened to the job
12 that use to be a Civil Service title, where did
13 that go?

14 And, why is it just shoved in with
15 something else, the second most important job at
16 the Shelter?

17 It was a Civil Service test.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will have to look
19 into it and get back to you, Ms. Madden.

20 DIANE MADDEN: Where can I find the T and R
21 expense?

22 MR. CAPOBIANCO: T and R is part of the
23 health account. I don't think that is separate.

24 There isn't a separate account for T and R
25 expenses.

1 It is blended with all others, um, of the
2 same purpose, meaning health account, fees and
3 services, depending on what the scenario is being
4 done, whether it is medical supplies or veterinary ^{Page | 26}
5 services.

6 DIANE MADDEN: Where can I find the
7 lawsuits that are currently - - the four lawsuits
8 and also the audit lawsuit, is that within any of
9 this budget money?

10 MR. CAPOBIANCO: The representative
11 services is in the 4158 account which is legal
12 services, which is budgeted at two hundred and
13 seventy-five thousand for 2020.

14 DIANE MADDEN: And, that is for the outside
15 attorney that the Town is paying for to stop an
16 operational audit?

17 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That is not part of that,
18 no.

19 DIANE MADDEN: Where is that lawsuit money?

20 MR. CAPOBIANCO: I don't know anything
21 about that.

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The number he gave you
23 was a bulk number, so, it would come out of that.

24 He is not being paid two hundred and
25 seventy-five thousand dollars, that is a bulk

1 Number.

2 DIANE MADDEN: That is for the anticipated
3 four lawsuits and the audit lawsuit?

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Correct.

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5 DIANE MADDEN: Where can I find the total
6 number of all the litigation costs for the Town?

7 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
8 After, the following ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: For what period?

10 DIANE MADDEN: For last year, just take last
11 year.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, do you know
13 what the figure is?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You can FOIL it and we
15 will have to get it for you.

16 DIANE MADDEN: There is no number, here,
17 that shows what the taxpayers have paid and have
18 in outside litigation costs from 2018.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That wouldn't be in the
20 budget.

21 DIANE MADDEN: There is not an anticipated
22 amount?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think the anticipated
24 amount is what we have set aside for that, is that
25 correct?

1 DIANE MADDEN: I am not talking
2 specifically for the Shelter, I am talking about
3 Town wide?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Each department, if
5 you go through the budget, each department has an
6 allocation for outside Counsel and legal expenses.

7 DIANE MADDEN: For every department, so
8 every lawsuit is related to a certain department?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, it is allocated
10 if people sue the Town, it is because someone had
11 a slip and fall at one of our Parks and beach, the
12 legal fees would be allocated towards that.

13 If it was General Services, it will be
14 General Services.

15 Um, if it was Highway, if there was a
16 traffic accident with one of our pieces of
17 equipment, then, it would be allocated for that.

18 DIANE MADDEN: To get the number for 2018,
19 that was totally paid out, I would have to FOIL
20 that?

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes, because it is not
22 kept in bulk, it is kept by the, um, the case, by
23 the lawsuit.

24 DIANE MADDEN: Okay, thank you.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

1 I think Senior Councilwoman, you would like
2 to announce some people.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I just like to
4 announce the fact that there are young people here ^{Page | 29}
5 from my District.

6 They are the Teens Empowered to Advocate.

7 They are from Saint John's Baptist Church
8 in West Hempstead.

9 Reverend William Thomas, who is my friend
10 and Pastor and Sheila Thomas, his wife is CEO of
11 TEA they were brought here by the coordinators,
12 Ms. Cheryl Lovelace and Ms. Michelle Daniels
13 Dubois, so, thank you for coming.

14 (Whereupon, applause from the Town Board
15 Members and the audience was heard. After, the
16 following ensued.)

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: They thought
18 this was a regular Town Board Meeting, but it is
19 not.

20 It is one where you see we are talking
21 about the budget, so, at least, you got the chance
22 to hear something that you would not have heard
23 any other time because this happens once a year,
24 so, I am doing this, if you need to leave it is
25 okay.

1 It is up to you if you want to stay. Stay,
2 happy to have you.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for visiting
4 with us.

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5 So, I do not have any other slips on this
6 Public Hearing, is there anybody else that would
7 like to be heard?

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

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, at this
11 time, I would like to move that the Hearing be
12 continued until October 30th, a Wednesday, at 10:30
13 a.m.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
15 Motion.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilman, could you
17 just explain why you think we need to adjourn it.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, I have had a
19 number of community meetings throughout the past
20 two weeks and I heard from my constituents and
21 they have priorities that I don't believe that are
22 addressed either in the budget or in our
23 amendments, I think we can do a better job cutting
24 expenses and I think we also need to look at
25 operational issues that have been affected by

1 this budget that was proposed.

2 And, I think that in my case, I want to
3 look at it and I think that my constituents, Felix
4 Procacci made a good point and I thought about it ^{Page | 31}
5 and I think that we have to look at cutting and we
6 have to look at our operations and we have to give
7 the public another opportunity to be heard,
8 especially because tonight is somewhat of a
9 typhoon and I think the fact that we had only
10 three speakers that we usually have more at a
11 budget hearing.

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

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

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COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

SENIOR COUNCILMAN GOOSBY: I move we
adjourn.

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COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

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.

(Whereupon, the budget hearing was
adjourned to October 30, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony
in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Budget
Meeting held on October 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.
consisting of pages 1 through 33 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

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