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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 30, 2019

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

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APPEARANCES :

- DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN
- SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY
- COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO
- COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.
- COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA
- TOWN CLERK CABANA
- DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TUMMINELLO
- TOWN ATTORNY RA
- DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI
- FINANCE DIRECTOR SMITH

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING 10/30/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Good
2 Morning, everybody, welcome to a Special Meeting
3 of the Hempstead Town Board.

4 Today is the resumption of our Budget
5 Hearing.

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6 Since this Meeting is a Special Meeting,
7 there will be no Public Comment Section at the
8 conclusion of the meeting.

9 There are Meeting agendas in the rear of
10 the Pavilion, if you like to be heard on any
11 matter, please, fill out a slip and give it to one
12 of our Public Safety Officers.

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

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

1 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

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

4 (Whereupon, Councilman Muscarella led the ^{Page | 4}
5 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the
6 following ensued.)

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

9 CLERK CABANA: Preliminary Budget, Town of
10 Hempstead for the fiscal year beginning January 1,
11 2020.

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

14 We have Donna Ryan.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor,
16 before we begin, I would like to know if anyone is
17 aware of the fact that there is a possibility we
18 may lose 3.8 million dollars from my budget?

19 Are you aware of that?

20 You are not aware?

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

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You have a
24 letter dated October 30th that came to you,
25 "Honorable Laura Gillen," and this is from

1 Assemblyman Ed Ra warning us that the money that
2 we normally get for AIM, which was supposedly set
3 up in a different area is coming out of the monies
4 that we would get from the sales taxes, are you ^{Page | 5}
5 aware of that?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have addressed this
7 matter, haven't we, Ms. Smith?

8 MS. SMITH: Good Morning, Councilwoman.

9 Um, we are speaking of the AIM funding.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: AIM's funding
11 that we are not getting.

12 It was separate but, now, what they want to
13 do, they haven't finished it, take the money that
14 we would get from AIM's from the sales tax
15 revenue, which means that we are being shorted
16 probably 3.8 million dollars from the budget that
17 we planned.

18 MS. SMITH: So, my understanding is the
19 AIM's funding will continue.

20 They are looking to, um, fund us through
21 the Internet sales tax.

22 It is going to be, um, and that is part of
23 the error in the Board assuming that there be an
24 increase in the sales tax for the County.

25 I spoke with the County and asked, um,

1 what is the status of the AIM's funding, which
2 because the County is in receivership, um, would
3 probably need to be sent back to the Comptroller's
4 Office to be distributed.

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5 There is no thought of our not getting the
6 funds.

7 It is just from whom we will be getting it
8 from.

9 At the moment, it is showing up, um, in the
10 County Budget.

11 But my last conversation with the County a
12 week ago indicated that because of the laws
13 concerning Counties that are in receivership, they
14 would be unable because of the NIFA Board, they
15 would be unable to distribute that amount directly
16 to us and that they are looking to send it back.

17 This is from the Budget Director of Nassau
18 County.

19 They are looking to send that money back so
20 that the Comptroller, the State Comptroller's
21 Office would be able to give this to the Town.

22 I know Domenic and I have spoken.

23 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: What I
24 would say about this, Councilwoman - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Before you do,

1 I would like to jump in.

2 So, Assemblyman R, my Assemblyman, also,
3 sent me that letter.

4 And, I started looking into it and I asked ^{Page | 7}
5 for information about this issue and I received a
6 copy of communication by the State Comptroller
7 which was sent to Nassau County Towns and
8 Villages.

9 I will read the pertinent part for those
10 Towns and Villages located in Erie County or
11 Nassau County.

12 "The new law as currently written has no
13 mechanism in place for OSC to make AIM-related
14 payments in the State's fiscal year 2019 to 2020."

15 So, basically, what they are saying is that
16 there is no legal mechanism for that and what
17 Assemblyman Ra is saying is that State legislation
18 is required for that.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: And, also if I
20 understand this correctly, we are going to make up
21 the shortfall of the AIM funding by getting
22 Internet or sales tax revenue, right.

23 So, that would be revenue that we are
24 already entitled to, so, what the County is
25 telling us is that we are actually paying for

1 our funding.

2 Do I have that correctly?

3 MS. SMITH: No, you don't.

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, maybe you can ^{Page | 8}

5 explain it a little better because the way I read
6 it, if we are already entitled to certain revenue
7 and, then, they are going to take the shortfall of
8 the 3.8 million dollars that we are entitled to
9 by, not only the State Comptroller, who issued
10 notification to Towns and Villages.

11 And did we receive this notification?

12 Was it ever shared with the Board that we
13 needed to make up 3.8 million dollars because we
14 may not get paid for it?

15 I know months back this was an issue with
16 Towns and Villages throughout the Town of
17 Hempstead were short millions of dollars.

18 I think there was even a Press Conference
19 here where we had Villages, I know that the
20 Villages of Freeport had a big shortfall and we
21 were told by the State government, you know,
22 "don't worry about it, it is taken care of."

23 There was a big celebration that we are
24 getting the money back but, yet, we are receiving
25 a notification from the State Comptroller and

1 then from the State Assemblyman that there is no
2 way for them to figure out how to give us the
3 money.

4 And, we are really just playing a guessing ^{Page | 9}
5 game if we are going to get the money from sales
6 taxes or internet tax.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will just point out,
8 Councilman D'Esposito at the commencement of the
9 budget-making process in July of this year, just
10 as I did in July of 2018, I invited every single
11 Council Member to be a collaborative part of this
12 budget process.

13 So, if, at anytime you wanted to discussed
14 the budget with me and any concerns that you had
15 for your districts about AIM funding, about
16 anything, you were welcomed to do so.

17 Zero people responded.

18 I never heard anything.

19 This is the first I am hearing about this.

20 Oh my gosh, this brand new concern about
21 AIM funding.

22 Never heard a word about it before.

23 And, we adjourned the budget hearing last
24 time, I believe it was October 16th was the date, I
25 reached out two different times to each and

1 every single one of you and said, let's work
2 collaboratively if there are going to be any
3 further amendments. We can all work together and
4 agree on these prudent measures and let's just do
5 what is best for the taxpayers.

6 That is what our job is to do, not to make
7 the budget-making process - - I am talking.

8 You can talk when I am done, sir.

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Point of
10 order.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am talking. A point
12 of order, I am speaking, Councilwoman.

13 We could have spoken collaboratively about
14 the budget, but, you chose not to do so.

15 So, instead, you are bringing up things at
16 a budget hearing at the last minute.

17 If you are really concerned, you should
18 have reached out to my office.

19 You should have reached out to Mr.
20 Longobardi and we could have discussed this all
21 collaboratively.

22 But, I think what I am hearing is that you
23 are concerned about there might be a 3.8 million
24 dollar shortfall, is that the concern that I am
25 hearing?

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We just got
2 this mail.

3 It came 10:30, how could we have known in
4 June or July. Page | 11

5 We just got it. This is something new that
6 the State is doing because we did not know this
7 money was coming from the money that we are
8 supposed to receive from taxes.

9 They are planning to take the money.

10 You just got this letter. You see, we got
11 a copy.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: But my phone number
13 hasn't changed.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Well, listen
15 your formula has to change because the money that
16 you should be getting for tax revenue is not tax
17 revenue.

18 They are going to take the AIM money out of
19 it.

20 I was in Albany.

21 I was with one of the other members at the
22 Association of Towns.

23 I really testified before the State Budget
24 Hearing along with, um, many of us.

25 We did, seventeen of the lawmakers.

1 We even walked around and the thing was it
2 was said, "don't worry about it. We will take
3 care of it."

4 They did not.

5 We no longer get the AIM money the way we
6 get it.

7 We are going to get it only from the money
8 that we should receive.

9 I know that because I have been already
10 called yesterday, I called the State Comptroller.

11 I wanted to know how this is going to be
12 done.

13 They said, they don't have a mechanism and
14 the possibility is we may not have any control
15 over it.

16 It may have to come from the people in the
17 County and they don't have a way to do this.

18 We did not know this before, that is why we
19 are talking about it, now.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You knew about it
21 yesterday but you didn't call me about it,
22 Dorothy, did you?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You didn't
24 call me, either.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I saw you last night.

1 You could have brought it up with me last night.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: This is a Budget
3 Hearing, right?

4 This is where we discuss the budget, so, Page | 13
5 that is what we are doing, now.

6 We all appreciate the generous invite but,
7 today, we are here to talk about the budget.

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

10 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Right, now, there
11 is a concern of a shortfall of 3.8 million dollars
12 in the budget, that is what we are focused on,
13 that is what we are talking about.

14 We are not here to make snippets for
15 campaign videos.

16 We are here to talk about the budget.

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

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are here to talk
20 about the budget.

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me, I
22 didn't finish.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: 3.8 million dollar
24 shortfall in the budget, there is actually quite a
25 simple solution to go back to the original

1 Fiscally, conservative projections on revenue
2 which are increased by about four million dollars.

3 So, if you go back to more conservative
4 projections will probably fix any potential
5 shortfall.

6 There you go. Simple solution.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am sorry, Senior
8 Councilwoman - - but I think we disagree with
9 those projections.

10 I like to call Mr. Mastromarino up so he
11 can explain where we came up with those
12 projections.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Before Mr.
14 Mastromarino speaks, it has come to my attention
15 that this communication was given to the
16 Comptroller's Office just a few days ago.

17 It was immediately sent to Ms. Smith, who
18 is your Budget Director and that, um, I believe
19 there was some email traffic and concern about
20 this issue with your own Budget Director, who said
21 that, you know, this is not a sure thing.

22 Ms. Smith, do you have a contingency plan
23 if the 3.8 million dollars is not received?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I just want to point
25 out that Ms. Smith is not the Acting

1 Comptroller.

2 You threw her out. Mr. Longobardi is. So,
3 why don't you ask him.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Ms. Smith prepared Page | 15
5 the budget.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: She works
7 here.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Smith assisted the
9 Comptroller's Office.

10 Those two gentlemen, right, there, sitting
11 beside Ms. Smith, collaboratively prepared the
12 budget.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me, Ms.
14 Smith, I would like you to answer because you are
15 the one who had all this information that you said
16 you checked with County employees. Please,
17 answer.

18 MS. SMITH: Can you ask the question,
19 again.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do we have a
21 contingency in the budget proposal by the
22 Supervisor in the eventuality that we don't get
23 the 3.8 million dollars.

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: 3.8 million.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: 3.8 million, yes.

1 MS. SMITH: There is nothing informing us
2 that we won't be receiving this money.

3 So, no, the contingency budget that the
4 three hundred thousand was actually cut by the
5 Board, that is a small portion of our contingency
6 but that was cut by the Board at the last round.

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: You said three
8 hundred thousand, right?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I just finish up
10 with Ms. Smith.

11 Ms. Smith, there is no reason to believe
12 that we have a communication - - I will give you a
13 copy of it, if you like.

14 I am sure you have seen it already.

15 There is a communication from the
16 Comptroller that says - -

17 MS. SMITH: What is the date of that
18 correspondence?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I don' believe it is
20 dated.

21 I believe you received this communication
22 within the last twenty days.

23 MS SMITH: I will have to take your word.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I will show it to
25 you.

1 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I didn't get it until
2 two days ago.

3 Two days ago, I get this, just so you
4 understand what AIM is.

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5 AIM is Aid and Incentives for
6 Municipalities that comes from the State.

7 AIM related payments, 3.8 million dollars
8 is in jeopardy, right, now and we are working all
9 this time and we get a bullet hole shot in the
10 back of the head two days ago because you didn't
11 share this with me because I didn't go to your
12 meeting?

13 Well, I had another thing to do.

14 I couldn't go to your meeting.

15 We were meeting on the budget many, many
16 times.

17 This wasn't known to us.

18 Now, all of a sudden you pull the rug out
19 from under us and say, oh, by the way, the AIM
20 money - -

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't put the rug out
22 from anybody.

23 I don't control AIM funding.

24 I don't know what you are talking about,
25 Councilman, perhaps you can call the State

1 Comptroller's Office and ask who controls AIM
2 funding.

3 I don't control AIM funding.

4 You don't control AIM funding.

5 It is State funding.

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: You knew about it, you
7 didn't share it with us.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You said Ed Ra told you
9 all about it.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There is no
11 contingency plan in the event that we do not
12 receive the 3.8 million dollars, that there is - -
13 excuse me, there is no plan to raise revenue.

14 There is no plan to cut spending,
15 basically, if we don't get the 3.8 million
16 dollars, we will have a 3.8 million dollar hole,
17 is that correct?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Laccarubba, can you
19 respond.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wait, I am asking
21 your Budget person.

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: And, she is
23 entitled to do that.

24 She is employed for all of us.

25 The money comes from all of the people

1 that live in the Town of Hempstead.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There is no
3 contingency plan, is there?

4 MS. SMITH: The contingency budget was cut ^{Page | 19}
5 by the Board, yes.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Cut by all of you.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The contingency was
8 cut by the Board?

9 We never knew that there needed to be a
10 contingency plan because the State Comptroller
11 sent this out the day after our last budget
12 meeting, our last budget meeting - -

13 MS. SMITH: But - -

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me, can I
15 finish.

16 MS. SMITH: Sure.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Our last budget
18 meeting was on October 16th, this was received by
19 you and the County, I am not saying you got it
20 that day, but you certainly got it within a couple
21 of days of that.

22 So, let's say you got it the 20th or 21st,
23 there is a 3.8 million dollar potential hole in
24 the budget and there is no contingency plan.

25 MS. SMITH: I received this - - did

1 I share this with you, Mr. Longobardi, we had
2 spoken about this.

3 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: We have
4 spoken about AIM, but I have not seen this actual Page | 20
5 communication.

6 MS. SMITH: I have not seen this before,
7 so, I don't know where this is from.

8 I did not see this.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is from
11 the State Comptroller.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Wait, wait, Ms. Smith

13 - -

14 MS. SMITH: Yes, sir.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There was an email
16 sent where you discussed that just a couple of
17 days ago.

18 MS. SMITH: No.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Councilman
20 Blakeman, if I could ump in for a second, there
21 was an email sent back on 10/27 from Ms. Smith to
22 Mike Capobianco, Mr. Mastromarino, Longobardi, the
23 Chief of Staff for both the Town Board and the
24 Supervisor.

25 "I have attached the Nassau County local

1 Government assistance paid for 2020 and 2019.

2 "I called Nassau County to ask why the
3 percentage of global sales tax revenue increase is
4 not reflected in the percentage of the Town of
5 Hempstead on their disbursement page.

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6 "They indicated that their sales tax in
7 revenues in 2020 include additional amounts to
8 Nassau County expected for AIM sales funding."

9 So, again, the way that I read that - -

10 MS. SMITH: I didn't understand what we
11 were talking about.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: That is what the
13 email says, so, let me finish - - let me finish,
14 excuse me, I am a Member of the Town Board.

15 I will speak, okay.

16 What this says to me is that the State has
17 absolutely no way to pay us our 3.8 million
18 dollars and what they are saying is that they will
19 take 3.8 million dollars in tax revenue that we
20 were already supposed to be given and they will
21 pad it into that.

22 So, basically, what the Town of Hempstead
23 is doing and what the taxpayers would be doing is
24 paying for our 3.8 million dollars in aid.

25 It really doesn't make sense to me.

1 MS. SMITH: So, may I clarify, you are
2 reading one part of the email.

3 You are not reading the other part.

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I will continue
5 reading. Should I continue reading?

6 MS. SMITH: No, I would prefer to speak to
7 what started that email.

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, okay.

9 MS. SMITH: The one million that the Board
10 suggested that we will be receiving next year was
11 concerning to me.

12 And, I could not - - I went online to see
13 what is the basis for the million.

14 At the end of my research, I reached out to
15 Mike and to the Comptroller and I said, Mike, I
16 cannot find anything that supports the million
17 that the Board suggests that we will be receiving
18 in sales tax.

19 In addition to what we had discussed during
20 the, um, budget preparation process, can you share
21 with me what the consultants had?

22 That is what the email would have said
23 working on behalf of the Board is using to support
24 increasing the revenues that was the nature of the
25 email that preceded, um, my follow-up email.

1 Mike sent to me the Executive Summary sales
2 tax number for the County which indicated that
3 there was an increase.

4 My call to the County indicated that they ^{Page | 23}
5 have changed the way they are reporting sales
6 taxes and the global number because they have
7 included their portion of the AIM funding, not
8 everyone else.

9 So, if you took that global number, you
10 will be escalating your sales tax number
11 incorrectly because they have included their AIM
12 funding on the sales tax line that was - - nobody
13 reached out to me to clarify my email.

14 So, I thought I was clear, so, I said,
15 Mike, here is what the County is showing as
16 disbursements for the Towns and Villages, that
17 receive sales taxes and it is way lower than what
18 the consultant working on behalf of the Board is
19 suggesting we will be receiving.

20 Is there any explanation?

21 And, Mike response to me was, "I will share
22 this with the consultant."

23 I don't know if that clarifies this.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Smith, you were

1 concerned that the increase from our original
2 budget, which was fiscally conservative, the
3 increases in the projected revenues didn't seem to
4 tie to what the consultant said.

5 He cited "Executive Summary" in the
6 County's budget but not the actual numbers, is
7 that correct?

8 MS. SMITH: I was trying to understand the
9 logic for the increase because Mike and I have
10 worked closely on different numbers.

11 And, we go back and forth, neither of us
12 accept the other numbers.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Why don't we - -

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me,
15 Councilman.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Can I say
17 something, I think there is a lot of uncertainty,
18 here.

19 And, we promised that we were going to have
20 an efficient, transparent, um, open and fiscally
21 conservative budget.

22 And, I don't see any contingency, here in
23 the event that we don't get the 3.8 million
24 dollars.

25 And, the Comptroller has said, right, now,

1 there is no mechanism to get it, so, I for one,
2 would like to see the contingency plan before I
3 vote.

4 I move to continue this Hearing until
5 Monday, 11/4 that we should have a night meeting
6 to allow more people to come out at 7:00 p.m.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the
8 Motion.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sure, you can speak on
10 the adjournment, Mr. Procacci.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I would like
12 to read something first, Mr. Procacci because you
13 may need to hear this.

14 "The Office of the State Comptroller sent a
15 letter to Municipal Leaders late last week,
16 notifying them they may not get payments they have
17 customarily received from the State in past years.

18 "During this year's budget process, the
19 State eliminated aids and incentives from
20 municipalities for one thousand three hundred and
21 twenty-six Towns and Villages.

22 "It deemed it not to rely on the funds. It
23 cut the program to any of these municipalities
24 where AIM funding represents less than two percent
25 of 217 total expenditures.

1 "Under the new law, all Cities and one
2 hundred and thirty-seven Towns and Villages in New
3 York continue to get the funding."

4 Okay, now, the only thing that I know the ^{Page | 26}
5 State when I told everybody about this because I
6 did go to the Budget Hearing in, um, Albany.

7 The Supervisor did put something in the
8 newspaper that the Governor has put millions here
9 in the Town, but, I haven't seen the millions.

10 I thought maybe that is what she is working
11 with, the millions that the Governor sent to this
12 Town.

13 And, that was published in the Hempstead
14 Times.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Go ahead, Mr. Procacci.

16 FELIX PROCACCI: I just want to first bring
17 up the legislation I brought up numerous times,
18 February 2, 2012, disclosure of records scheduled
19 for discussion at local Meetings, New York State
20 Law.

21 I worked very hard to get the Town to
22 comply somewhat with it back then.

23 It took me two months and we got something.

24 No records of this meeting were provided
25 prior to all of it, all the amendments from

1 the previous meeting were not provided prior to
2 the meeting.

3 The interpretation by the Committee in open
4 government is reasonable and everybody in law is ^{Page | 27}
5 reasonable.

6 Now, you passed the law saying - - ruled
7 for sixty minutes, sixty minutes.

8 If someone is looking at 9:30 in the
9 morning whether something is going to happen, most
10 people don't have that time to get to a meeting if
11 they have been given one hour notice.

12 I would like you to give this to the
13 Supervisor.

14 If anyone is interested, I will make copies
15 of it but meetings, the records that are going to
16 be discussed at the meeting must be provided to
17 the public in advance.

18 If you did have amendments, as you
19 predicted and I went to Council's website and they
20 are predicting higher than 3.5 percent tax cut and
21 it was going to be done in a transparent and
22 accountable to our taxpayers.

23 In order to do that, you need to provide
24 the records in advance so I can check whether it
25 is transparent and accountable.

1 If you are going to cut things, I want to
2 see it is being cut in a reasonable manner.

3 If you are going to add things, I want to
4 see that is being done in a reasonable manner. Page | 28

5 If you give it to me while I am sitting
6 there 10:00 o'clock in the morning, that is not
7 reasonable.

8 So, the whole process - -

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Procacci, if I
10 may interject for one second, we were prepared to
11 offer amendments today and vote on the budget
12 today.

13 Um, we just became aware of this situation,
14 um, it was actually generated by the Supervisor's
15 Budget Director.

16 Senior Councilwoman Goosby, who is our
17 chief advocate on the Association of Towns and is
18 very involved in this, understands it better than
19 anybody else discussed with us that this could be
20 a potential problem in the budget.

21 So, um, basically, we were prepared to
22 offer amendments today and we will abide by the
23 sixty-minute rule when we offer amendments to the
24 budget if we continue this Hearing as my Motion
25 stated to Monday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m.

1 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, that doesn't explain
2 why we didn't get the amendments in advance on
3 Wednesday, October 16th.

4 That doesn't explain why we didn't get the ^{Page | 29}
5 amendments in advance last year around the same
6 time.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Did you get the
8 amendments?

9 You got the amendments sixty minutes before
10 a potential vote because we had two Hearings
11 scheduled for October 16th.

12 We had an afternoon Hearing and we had an
13 evening Hearing.

14 FELIX PROCACCI: That is not - -

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, you actually got
16 the amendments, um, hours before we were to vote
17 on it.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: First of all, that is not
19 reasonable time.

20 The amendment is suppose to be on the Town
21 website prior to the meeting, a reasonable time
22 prior to the meeting, so, if somebody is planning
23 on going to a meeting, they will not decide 9:30
24 in the morning whether I am going to go to work
25 today or go to a Town Board Meeting.

1 It generally doesn't happen that way.

2 When you normally post amendments,
3 resolutions on the Friday or the Thursday prior to
4 the Tuesday Meeting, so people would look at that
5 document and say, oh, this is something about my
6 neighborhood, I am interested so, I will take off
7 from work.

8 I will leave work earlier.

9 I am going to that meeting Tuesday.

10 If you let us know 6:30 in the morning,
11 most people are not on their computers looking.

12 First of all, it is not on the computer.

13 We will actually come to Town Hall, whether
14 they will talk on it because they don't even know
15 it is there.

16 It is totally unreasonable and I gave the
17 Supervisor the law.

18 I hope you all read it, that is the Number
19 1 thing.

20 It is the problem no matter what you say
21 about this.

22 I just want to get one more sentence in
23 because I was interrupted a lot, I said it this
24 year.

25 I said it last year and I said it all

1 through my life, if you have a conservative
2 approach or a risky approach, you take the
3 conservative approach and you use the excess
4 monies generated.

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5 If you generate an extra five million
6 dollars in sale tax revenue, great.

7 Use it for the roads. Give it back to the
8 taxpayers.

9 Let the people know there is a five million
10 dollar surplus and what do you want to do with it?

11 Do you want us to give it back as a tax cut
12 or would you rather have your roads fixed?

13 That is my position.

14 That is my position going on ten years.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.

16 Procacci.

17 Is there anybody else that would like to be
18 heard on the adjournment?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Good Morning, Donna.

20 DONNA RYAN: Good Morning, actually that
21 was my request - -

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, could you
23 start by stating your name and address for the
24 record.

25 DONNA RYAN: Donna Ryan, 146 Swan Lane,

1 Levittown, New York 11756.

2 Um, my point was that, I am a Senior
3 Citizen and I am retired, so, it is not difficult
4 for me to come to a meeting. Page | 32

5 However, I would request that it be
6 adjourned to an evening meeting, so, all my
7 neighbors and friends who are interested can make
8 it.

9 They all work, so, they couldn't make it,
10 today, but, they would be here for an evening
11 meeting, that's all.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Ryan.

13 Just so you know for the future, when we
14 have a Budget Hearing, there is always an
15 afternoon and evening scheduled - - meeting
16 scheduled.

17 So, there was both an afternoon and evening
18 scheduled meeting the first time we had the Budget
19 Hearing, just that it has been delayed a couple of
20 times.

21 Ms. Mereday, I think you wanted to be
22 heard?

23 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin
24 resident.

25 Um, I am concerned as always with regard

1 to the Budget having reviewed it, um, in its
2 preliminary state and I continue to be concerned
3 with regard to the lack of innovation or expansion
4 in resources to do anything of substance for, um, ^{Page | 33}
5 our Veteran services, disabled Veterans and
6 particularly providing business opportunities, um,
7 for Veterans.

8 Eighty-five percent of Veterans prefer to
9 work with other Veterans but when you don't have
10 any programs that are fiscally viable in that
11 arena.

12 With regard to an adjournment and for
13 evening meetings, I have always been an advocate
14 for that, you know.

15 I have been told by some people sitting
16 behind the dais, "people don't show up," well,
17 there are a number of reasons because for one, you
18 don't really promote the fact if you don't want
19 people to come.

20 And, secondly, it is the time period and as
21 Felix said, the lack of information, any timely
22 fashion.

23 Um, again, with all due respect, sixty
24 minutes before a meeting, that is ridiculous to do
25 that, to do it that way and to not have those

1 Opportunities where even, you know, the road show,
2 so to speak, when these types of situations come
3 up from the State, we are losing more money from
4 the State than this particular initiative that, Page | 34
5 unfortunately, taxpayers are going to have to bear
6 the brunt.

7 I was not part of following the budget
8 hearings but I was following the hearings as it
9 pertains to Veteran services from New York State
10 where those cuts would also be significant.

11 And, unfortunately, it is not going to be
12 made up any differently within the County or the
13 township which, again, puts a burden on those of
14 use who are on our own struggling to stay where we
15 pay the second highest taxes in the country.

16 And, to fill in the gaps for the resources
17 that we feel our tax dollars should go for.

18 So, you know, as far as this adjournment,
19 again, if it requires the time and to give you the
20 time to get that information to review the
21 information, I am for it.

22 But, I think, again, as Felix said and he
23 has stated previously, there is always something
24 when it comes to this and there are those things
25 that happen at the last minute, but, you still

1 have to give the public a little more courtesy and
2 consideration.

3 We don't have the staff.

4 We don't have the resources, the support, ^{Page | 35}
5 the direct link to get this information, digest it
6 and to make you know those scenarios in place to
7 get Seniors here, to get other people here, young
8 people here, who need to hear about this.

9 The people that are leaving in droves,
10 including our Veterans because they can't afford
11 to live here.

12 You know for those who have worked on the
13 County line, we have a Town and Village Committee
14 in Nassau County that has yet to date for the
15 years I have been here, anything that relates to
16 providing resources to the County level for the
17 Town.

18 We need to get better at that.

19 So, I do support an adjournment.

20 I think we need to do a better job getting
21 the information to the public.

22 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

23 After, the following ensued.)

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

25 Is there anybody else?

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

4 I like to thank the Board.

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5 I think it is important to reschedule this
6 meeting for the evening.

7 I also ask that it be advertised.

8 Um, I was at a meet and greet last night
9 with the Supervisor.

10 She didn't even mention we are spending a
11 lot of money here, today, um, I think that is most
12 important for the public to know.

13 Also, the fact that it hasn't passed.

14 I would ask you to, please, refrain, Laura
15 Gillen from telling everyone you have reduced
16 taxes because we don't even have a budget passed
17 yet and you are out everywhere at these meet and
18 greets saying how much money you have saved and
19 have reduced the taxes this year.

20 It hasn't happened.

21 Also and I know this is off topic, can
22 someone tell me if the Ethics Board is in effect
23 right, now?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There are Members of
25 the Ethics Board that have been appointed.

1 DIANE MADDEN: But have they met.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra?

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No.

4 DIANE MADDEN: Because you told people last ^{Page | 37}

5 night that you referred things to the Ethics Board
6 and yet they haven't met.

7 And, also, Senior Councilwoman Goosby,
8 could you, please, tell me, I just didn't really
9 hear what you were saying about Cuomo and the
10 Supervisor's claims that we have been given
11 millions.

12 Could you just, please, repeat that?

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am a Member
14 of the Association of Towns and have been for a
15 long, long time and on the Executive Board and as
16 such, I along with one other Member and the
17 Director testified before the State Budget Hearing
18 and I spoke - - we met, about seventeen of the
19 representatives there and she didn't come.

20 So, people were asking where she was.

21 So, I went.

22 And, because of that, she put in and I knew
23 we didn't get it as you can see, she put in the
24 paper where I live, oh, the governor gave us
25 millions and million and millions and million

1 and I have it.

2 She can't say she didn't say it because I
3 kept that and I sent it up to the Association of
4 Towns, as well.

5 And, that is the kind of thing she gave me
6 because I went and I spent my time walking around
7 in that capital with my cane but it was important
8 to me that we receive the AIM's money.

9 We wanted to be increased because that
10 money helps us in many ways.

11 It helps us with the roads.

12 And, also, we have an Anchor Program, you
13 know, which we help all of our residents who need
14 - - have special needs and that is why it was
15 important for me to go and do that.

16 But, we didn't get it.

17 The money, he decided he was going to send
18 it into the County, but, now, listen, we get sales
19 tax from the County, but instead of them - -
20 instead of getting that sales tax and he preying
21 on the fact that since he has increased the sales
22 tax on the, um, you know, everything that we buy
23 from online that will make up the money.

24 And, if we get - - let's say, we were
25 getting seven million.

1 We ae not getting that much, but, if we
2 were getting that 3.8 million, it would come from
3 whatever it is coming from the State tax, so, that
4 instead of getting it separate as we use to, we Page | 39
5 will be getting from the sales tax, itself.

6 So, that is what I am concerned about.

7 DIANE MADDEN: Thank you for that.

8 I am concerned, as well and look I am not
9 surprise about the Governor issue, I think the
10 Supervisor's biggest issue is trying to tell the
11 truth.

12 Um, and she fails to do that, so, thank you
13 very much.

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

16 ELLA UGARBOTE: Good Morning, everyone, my
17 name is Ella Ugarbote (phonetic spelling) and I
18 live at 1 Leonard Drive, East Rockaway.

19 And, I am in complete agreement with
20 everyone that spoke before me that this meeting
21 should be adjourned and that you should have
22 evening meetings to make it more convenient and
23 accessible for everyone.

24 My husband would have liked to have been
25 here.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I proposed a calendar
2 last year that had half of the Board meeting at
3 night and it was changed by the Town Council.

4 ELLA UGARBOTE: Well, again, I like to
5 reiterate, ma'am that these meetings should and
6 must be held at night.

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7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree. I agree.

8 ELLA UGARBOTE: Because you waste a lot of
9 taxpayer money and the people you serve and work
10 for are not able to make these meetings.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree, that is why I
12 put forward a calendar that had half of our
13 meetings in the evening and I circulated a
14 calendar for next year, I think, that has half of
15 the meetings in the evening.

16 ELLA UGARBOTE: You should provide more
17 advertisements as to when these meetings are
18 proposed besides your calendar.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Listen, let me
21 tell you the only reason you have had any Town
22 Board meetings at night, here was because I
23 proposed it when I became a Member of the Board
24 and the Board went along with me and we had
25 several of them not all of them because many

1 People work, some people don't.

2 It gives you an opportunity to come,
3 various people but we don't all have them at night
4 because we do have families too, you know, so, we ^{Page | 41}
5 need to be home sometimes in the evening because
6 people come.

7 We have been here as long as 12:00, 1:00
8 o'clock in the morning, you know and that really
9 doesn't make sense.

10 So, you know, we will have some, but they
11 won't be all and you know, it is important that is
12 why I first proposed them because the people that
13 are in my District work and they can't come during
14 the day.

15 So, she didn't start that, I did.

16 ELLA UGARBOTE: Again, I thank you.

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

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else
20 that would like to be heard on the adjournment?

21 DANIEL BURGESS: Good Afternoon, my name is
22 Daniel Burgess. I am from Freeport, New York in
23 the Village.

24 And, I think I just want to explain, I took
25 time off from work to come to the meeting to only

1 have it adjourned.

2 So, I am not very, very happy.

3 And, I think if we had the evening meetings

4 or day meetings like, um, was proposed, it would Page | 42

5 be very helpful but to take the time to come to

6 the meeting only to have it adjourned a couple

7 minutes into the meeting, is contra productive and

8 I like to know if somebody can explain to me what

9 that does.

10 Does that mean we have a shortfall in the

11 budget?

12 I am in Freeport. We may have a shortfall,

13 also.

14 How are you going to rectify the budget so

15 it makes sense?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Burgess, the

17 Council Members just raised this concern which

18 they said they knew about it already and instead

19 of talking about it and trying to come up with a

20 solution, today, so, we wouldn't have to have

21 another budget hearing, they are just trying to

22 kick it down the road until the night before the

23 election.

24 I am sorry that you took time off from your

25 work, um, to come here but if they vote to adjourn

1 the meeting, then if you want to be heard, you
2 will have to come back at the next Board Meeting.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Explain to him
4 that is not true what she is saying.

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, the last
6 I checked, Senior Councilwoman Goosby is not
7 running for election this year.

8 Um, when we found out about this, which was
9 only a couple days ago, we found out that you knew
10 about it before your budget and you definitely
11 knew about it after our amendment hearing on the
12 16th because on the 17th, you were alerted, again,
13 to this issue by the Democrats, not the
14 Republicans, the Democratic State Comptroller Tom
15 DiNapoli and nobody from your staff.

16 You did not let us know that this was an
17 issue.

18 So, here we are ready to offer amendments
19 today and all we are asking for is a little time
20 to have a contingency budget so in the event we
21 don't get the money that we got a plan, that is
22 all it is about, sir, just so we have a plan in
23 the event we don't get it.

24 We hope we get it. We hope we get more so
25 we will have more money like Ms. Mereday

1 said to repair more roads, to do more things, to
2 get more money back to the people, to cut taxes,
3 if we got more revenue from the State and more
4 sales tax revenue, I think those are the things Page | 44
5 that all of us want to do but the fact of the
6 matter is we need time to have a contingency plan
7 so that if there is a 3.8 million dollar shortfall
8 that we know what we are going to do at that
9 point.

10 DANIEL BURGESS: It makes sense to me to
11 have a contingency plan.

12 I think something should have been in place
13 at the very beginning, at the onset and it seems
14 dysfunctional at some point.

15 I ran Boards before, um, we know what is
16 coming.

17 Somebody should be expecting the shortfalls
18 and having something in place and having something
19 ready to go.

20 To explain it, now, it is kind of
21 difficult.

22 And, as a Town resident, I am concerned.

23 I am concerned.

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: If we had
25 known about it, we did not know we were not

1 getting the money that we are supposed to get.

2 DANIEL BURGESS: I know you very well.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know you
4 know me and I know you know I don't lie.

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5 DANIEL BURGESS: And, I know you well.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is right.

7 DANIEL BURGESS: That is why I am here but
8 I think that it seems a little dysfunctional and
9 as taxpayers, residents, we have to get our act
10 together, so, when we come, we come prepared.

11 So, I have to come back, again and expect
12 that it is not in place.

13 We don't even know what we are going to do
14 with the money when we get it.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree with you.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: She is wrong.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry that your
18 time was wasted this morning.

19 Councilman Blakeman has twice moved to
20 adjourn the Budget Hearing and I proposed a tax
21 plan that delivered a tax cut to the residents and
22 they just don't want to vote on it.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is not
24 it, sire.

25 She has been going on the fact last year

1 we did give a tax cut and she was trying to raise
2 the taxes but, we lowered it and she is taking
3 credit for that, too, now.

4 We want to work with her, this is what we ^{Page | 46}
5 have to go through, you know, this is what we have
6 to go through.

7 DANIEL BURGESS: Why are we so confused?

8 As residents - -

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am not
10 confused.

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Sir, I don't think
12 anybody up, here is confused.

13 I mean the facts are the facts.

14 Last year the Town Board put forward a tax
15 cut budget.

16 The Supervisor decided to vote no.

17 Now, this year, she has been out flaunting
18 that she has also lowered taxes this year.

19 It is not about being confused.

20 We all understand it.

21 The only one that seems to be confused is
22 the Supervisor.

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

25 DANIEL BURGESS: The facts are the facts.

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Absolutely, the
2 facts are the facts.

3 DANIEL BURGESS: Are we going to cut the
4 budget? Page | 47

5 Are we going to cut the budget? Than this
6 number is not right or is this number right?

7 Am I looking at a number that I can plan
8 with or it is not a right number?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I think the Board's
10 plan is to deliver a tax decrease.

11 That is our plan.

12 That was our promise to the taxpayers.

13 And, that is the promise that we are going
14 to fulfill.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is what I did with
16 a proposed budget.

17 It was a fiscally conservative budget that
18 delivered a tax decrease.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: But, last year she
20 voted against the tax decrease.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Where we are, right,
22 now, sir, is that you have to come back for the
23 budget - -

24 DANIEL BURGESS: Argue later. I got a
25 minute left.

1 You guys can have this argument later.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Sir, if you didn't
3 realize why we don't go to the meetings, now you
4 understand. Page | 48

5 DANIEL BURGESS: I want my minute.

6 My question is very, very simple.

7 If you have a proposed budget, okay and you
8 have a tax cut, what is this - - first, it is so
9 many pages.

10 You can't read it.

11 What does it mean if it is a proposed
12 budget and there is a shortfall?

13 What does this mean?

14 Because if there is a deficit, you got to
15 get the money from somewhere, so, somebody just
16 tell me.

17 I got thirty-six seconds.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sir, they can probably
19 tell you where they get it from; reserves.

20 So, historically, in the prior two
21 administrations there were shortfalls almost every
22 year and they depleted our reserve fund by
23 seventy-four million dollars.

24 That is where they get it from.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: That is actually

1 false; the last administration added money to our
2 fund balance - -

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I can
4 pledge to you, today, that I am not voting for any ^{Page | 49}
5 budget that affects our fund balance.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good, you did in the
7 past, but, I am glad you are changing your mind.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I have been
9 here all this time, you are lying.

10 DANIEL BURGESS: It is dysfunctional
11 because constituents, as residents, we have to
12 have a Board that works together for us, not for
13 your arguments.

14 We want a Board that works for every single
15 resident of the Town of Hempstead.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, do I, sir.

17 DANIEL BURGESS: And, I have thirteen
18 seconds left, I will be at the next Board Meeting,
19 I will hold you guys to it.

20 I will take the time off, again.

21 I will be, here.

22 A proposed budget should have a contingency
23 plan.

24 A proposed plan should also tell us where
25 we are going to use our funds.

1 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

2 After, the following ensued.)

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Unlike the Supervisor, I
4 am not sorry you came. Page | 50

5 I am glad that you came and I expect to see
6 you in a couple of days. God Bless you. Thank
7 you.

8 LUCILLE DEFINA: So, Danny, welcome to the
9 World of wasting your time coming to the Meetings
10 that are meaningless and sitting here and watching
11 something so comical except that it is affecting
12 our everyday lives and that is where it is a big
13 problem.

14 You know, nothing is getting done under
15 this administration.

16 Clearly, Laura Gillen has come in and has
17 been able to accomplish nothing.

18 I dread going back to the old
19 administration but I don't know what is worse, so,
20 I guess either way, the stupid taxpayers of
21 Hempstead are screwed.

22 There is no doubt about that.

23 This has been the most dysfunctional two
24 years and it needs to get to a point - -

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 LUCILLE DEFINA: It needs to get to a point
3 that things start getting done.

4 Before I go any further, I just want to
5 know if I am speaking on the adjournment, does
6 that mean that I can speak, again, when we have
7 the real Budget Hearing?

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8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes.

9 LUCILLE DEFINA: Thank you, because all I
10 care about, all I ever come here for is the
11 animals and the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter.

12 I will talk about that at the Budget
13 Meeting.

14 But, what I want to say, now, this is all
15 very suspicious because I watched the last Town
16 Board Meeting and it was very strange how in the
17 11th hour all of a sudden it was adjourned because
18 Blakeman seemed to think that we need more people,
19 even though, no one knew a thing about this
20 meeting.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me - -

22 LUCILLE DEFINA: A-hun.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The last I checked,
24 everybody, including the Supervisor, voted for
25 that adjournment.

1 And, it was seconded by Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby.

3 Please, don't characterize me. It was the
4 Board, unanimously, including the Supervisor voted ^{Page | 52}
5 for that adjournment.

6 LUCILLE DEFINA: Gillen, she just seems to
7 have her head in the clouds.

8 But, if you watch the videotape, it was
9 clear how you went to each one of your Board
10 Members and whispered in their ear and all of a
11 sudden, go ahead.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Did I whisper in the
13 Supervisor's ear?

14 LUCILLE DEFINA: No, not hers, of course.
15 This is a game that you are playing.

16 You are playing it with our dime and you
17 know you're shaking your head.

18 I am not for you. I am not for them. I am
19 not for any of them, but, unfortunately, we are
20 stuck with you guys.

21 We are truly stuck with you and this is a
22 big game.

23 It is not secret, yes, now, her platform
24 that she is campaigning on is lowering taxes.

25 And, look where we are; adjourning

1 All these problems are coming up in the 11th
2 hour and I blame you that you don't have an
3 administration that is smart enough to see this.

4 I am a dumb, stupid taxpayer but watching Page | 53
5 this videotape at home, knowing something is
6 coming up the pipeline, they got something up
7 their sleeve, how do you disagree to this stuff?

8 How does your administration not know
9 something is going on?

10 You have to be a lot smarter.

11 And, in the last two years, you have proved
12 that you are not, so, we need a smart
13 administration and if it means them coming back
14 in, I just want somebody in here who is going to
15 do something for the taxpayers and the animals
16 locked up in your Shelter.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Defina.

18 Does anybody else want to be heard on the
19 adjournment?

20 SIMONE SIMONA: Good Morning, Simone
21 Simona. (Phonetic spelling/as heard)

22 I am from Valley Stream and um, today was
23 kind of really an eye opener on how you guys work.

24 But, that being said, I think you should
25 adjourn it because, obviously, there is an issue

1 here that you don't have a contingency for and I
2 understand that you said that, you know, the
3 meetings are - - the first meeting was in the
4 morning and at night, but, if you are doing a
5 budget hearing, you should broadcast and put in a
6 morning meeting and a night meeting.

7 Also, even though it has been adjourned, I
8 am fortunate, I am a stay-at-home Mom.

9 I can come but there are plenty of people,
10 plenty of people that work and you know what, you
11 are playing with taxpayers' money and they want to
12 know where it is going to.

13 So, you should do it at night.

14 And, you should adjourn it to a night.

15 Any budget hearing should be a nighttime
16 budget hearing because the people who put you in
17 there are the ones that you are taking the money
18 from.

19 That is it, thank you.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

21 Is there anybody else that would like to be
22 heard on the adjournment?

23 Anyone else?

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

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Madam Clerk.

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, this has been a lot
4 of political theater.

5 The AIM funding was reported in the
6 Newsday.

7 There was contingency that was cut and if
8 there were a concern, I wished the Councilmen had
9 discussed it with me so we wouldn't have to, once,
10 again, avoid voting on a budget that proposes a
11 tax cut to the residents.

12 I think the voters should be concerned that
13 they want to vote the night before Election Day.

14 Um, I put forward a fiscally, conservative
15 budget.

16 They increased by million of dollars
17 projections in revenue, um, without sound numbers
18 for it and all we can do is cut back those
19 projections in revenue and have a fiscally sound
20 budget that could withstand any reduction in AIM
21 funding.

22 I vote no on the adjournment.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, um, I am going
25 to vote aye because I feel that we need to have

1 a contingency plan because the State Comptroller
2 has indicated there is no legal mechanism for us
3 to receive the 3.8 million dollars.

4 And, I think that it is very important that ^{Page | 56}
5 we have that plan in place.

6 We have heard from the residents.

7 This is what they want. We talked about
8 transparency.

9 We didn't know about this.

10 Apparently, the Supervisor knew about it
11 but we didn't know about it, so, there was no
12 communication and I don't know why the Supervisor
13 would say we didn't communicate.

14 Your office is the one that knew about it,
15 so, I think that is Number 1.

16 And, Number 2, I heard from a lot of people
17 in the community ab out the fact that we have a
18 day meeting and a night meeting when we vote on
19 the budget.

20 We are not doing that and we are not doing
21 that and I think we should do that.

22 I think that is why my motion to continue
23 this meeting is to continue until 7:00 o'clock on
24 Monday, so, that we absolutely vote before
25 Election Day so people know where we stand.

1 And, so, that we give people an opportunity
2 to come out at night and hear it and be able to
3 voice their opinion on what we plan to do with
4 their taxpayer dollars in the next coming year.

5 So, I vote aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: First, I find it
8 bizarre that we keep talking about the fact that
9 the Supervisor wants to fight so hard to lower
10 your taxes this year when last year, at our Budget
11 Hearing, she proudly voted no to a tax cut budget
12 that would have saved the Town of Hempstead
13 residents tax money out of their pockets.

14 So, that is Number 1.

15 Number 2, is I like to ask the
16 Comptroller's Office, um, to request a Letter of
17 Intent from the NIFA Board, as well as the County
18 Executive, um, as to whether we are going to get
19 our AIM funding and how we are going to get that.

20 I would like that in writing, so we have an
21 understanding, so, we can all have clarity and not
22 be confused.

23 Okay, you guys got that?

24 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI: Yes.

25 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO: Yes.

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you. I
2 appreciate that.

3 I vote aye on the adjournment.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I am not sorry you
6 people came down and spoke today.

7 I am very glad you came today because you
8 gave us some information that you showed us that
9 the people do care about what we are doing about
10 the money we are going to spend and what money we
11 are not going to get.

12 Two minutes ago I got this, two minutes, I
13 got the AIM contingency, the Aid Incentive for
14 Municipalities, money, 3.8 million dollars that
15 might not be coming to us, now.

16 There is not mechanism to make that happen.

17 So, 3.8 million dollars may come out of the
18 Amazon tax money that we are already counting on
19 getting, that the County told us that we are going
20 to get.

21 Oh, wait a minute, we are going to
22 shortfall you, that gets so confusing that I don't
23 want to continue.

24 I vote aye on the item.

25 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

1 Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Well, I would
3 like to say I certainly will vote ay because,
4 first of all, 3.8 million dollars, I know that
5 money, I don't know where it is coming from.

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6 I just want to make sure that we get it.
7 We should have gotten the money that we always get
8 from AIM from the State, but, we are not getting
9 that anymore.

10 They changed the formula.

11 And, the way it changed, we don't know
12 where it is coming from.

13 We don't know if it is going to be put from
14 the sales tax and how it is going to be
15 distributed because no one knows and that is what
16 is bother me.

17 3.8 million dollars is a lot of money and I
18 probably will never have that in my lifetime, but,
19 it is a lot of money for the residents that live,
20 here and I am concerned.

21 And, I will definitely vote aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I would like to say
24 that I stick to my commitment for a tax decrease.

25 It is not a shortage when the State

1 has additional revenues that we are entitled to
2 and the County has those additional revenues but
3 yet, for some reason we can't quantify the fact
4 that we are entitled to due to internet sales.

5 So, I am voting yes to Monday's date
6 adjournment.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Have a good day.

8 (Whereupon, the Town of Hempstead Town
9 Board stands adjourned until November 4, 2019 at
10 7:00 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 30, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.
consisting of pages 1 through 61 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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