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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

7:00 P.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 SEDACCA
- TOWN ATTORNY RA
- DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDI
- FINANCE DIRECTOR SMITH
- DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Good
2 Evening, everyone.

3 Welcome to the latest installment of the
4 Budget Hearing. Page | 3

5 This is a Special Meeting of the Hempstead
6 Town Board.

7 Since this is a Special Meeting, there will
8 be no Administrative Calendar.

9 There will be Public Comment at the
10 conclusion of the Meeting.

11 There is a meeting agenda available in the
12 rear of the Pavilion.

13 If you want to be heard on the budget, fill
14 out a slip which maybe obtained from the Public
15 Safety Officer.

16 Because this is a continuation of the prior
17 Budget Hearing, you already have been heard on the
18 budget, you will not be called up to speak again,
19 except to the extent I just been handed an
20 amendment.

21 If you have already addressed the Town
22 Board on the Budget, generally, you may speak
23 today on the amendment.

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

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

12 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I, now, ask Councilman
14 D'Esposito to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: With your hand over
16 your heart, I pledge.....

17 (Whereupon, Councilman D'Esposito led the
18 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the
19 following ensued.)

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

22 CLERK CABANA: Preliminary Budget, Town of
23 Hempstead for the fiscal year beginning January 1,
24 2020.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do we have any motions

1 or proposed amendments to the Budget?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes, I move to
3 amend the Preliminary Budget by reducing the
4 salaries and wage amounts of the Town Board
5 Majority, the Supervisor's Office, the Receiver of
6 Taxes and the Town Clerk's Office and by reducing
7 the tax levy of the Town of Hempstead Refuse
8 Disposal District as shown in this amended
9 resolution.

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10 Copies of which are, now, being distributed
11 to the Board and the Public.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on
13 the amendment.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the
15 Motion.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
17 call the roll on the amendment.

18 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Since I have been
20 handed this amendment, um, and it seems to be
21 disproportionately - - I just have been handed
22 this amendment.

23 I asked for it. There was a Press
24 Conference about it this morning.

25 We asked for a copy of it but I was not

1 given it until right, now, so, I have to vote no
2 against this amendment because I haven't had a
3 chance to read it and it seems to target my office
4 disproportionately, which has a budget about 1.7^{Page | 6}
5 million dollars less than the Town Council, even
6 though collectively we represent the same amount
7 of people.

8 And, it also seems to targeted at part-
9 timers who receive no benefits.

10 I don't know if there are people, here that
11 are going to be impacted on the Tozner list.

12 So, I vote no on this.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I vote aye.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: This is on the
16 amendment.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I vote aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

25 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I don't think
2 as far as I know, the part-timers are not targeted
3 on this new Resolution, Supervisor.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I have slips. ^{Page | 7}
5 have a slip from Diane Madden.

6 Ms. Madden, you have already been heard on
7 the budget, if you like to speak on the amendment,
8 you are welcomed to.

9 (Whereupon, "no thank you," was heard
10 calling out from the audience. After, the
11 following ensued.)

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Stuart Kroll? I
13 believe you have already spoken on the Budget.

14 Laura Wiggins?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Come up if you
16 want to speak.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just have a seat and
18 state your name and address for the record before
19 you start speaking, Ms. Wiggins.

20 LAURA WIGGENS: Okay, pardon me, this is
21 the first time that I have addressed the Board,
22 so, I am a little nervous.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Don't be nervous.

24 LAURA WIGGENS: The name is Laura L.
25 Wiggins. I reside at 1051 Jerusalem Avenue,

1 Uniondale, New York.

2 Okay, and, I would like to make a few
3 comments on the Uniondale Public Library Budget.

4 First of all, I know that every
5 organization has to have a budget, but, the budget
6 should be formed in a manner that is, shall we
7 say, aiding the business and Uniondale Public
8 Library is a business.

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9 There is only one problem, there is no head
10 of the Uniondale Public Library.

11 The last Director of the Uniondale Library
12 was in 2014.

13 Since, then, those that came to get
14 experience, number 3 or 4, they did not come in
15 with the title of "Director," they came in with
16 the title such as "Purchasing Agent."

17 They left in a few months after acquiring
18 what they needed to move on.

19 At present, there is no Director at
20 Uniondale Public Library.

21 The Board which governs, in my humble
22 opinion, has done a poor job.

23 For example, they have spent one hundred
24 and thirty-seven thousand dollars to refurbish
25 four bathrooms; two have baby tables.

1 The bathrooms took two and a half years to
2 be refurbished.

3 Two weeks ago, there was a flood in the
4 bathrooms which went into the auditorium. Page | 9

5 The auditorium was closed for two and a
6 half years, about seven years ago, because it is
7 sitting on a water table.

8 The Board wished to expand in the Library.

9 They can't do that.

10 Why?

11 They are sitting on a water table.

12 Second flood in the auditorium has caused
13 an unhealthy condition; mold in the auditorium, at
14 present where once the blue carpet is, now, blue
15 and orange.

16 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
17 After, the following ensued.)

18 LAURA WIGGENS: If I may - -

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you could try to
20 wrap up your comments.

21 LAURA WIGGENS: Yes, I am going to.

22 The Board was presented with a petition
23 from the community asking for a particular party
24 who has worked diligently in the community for
25 over fifteen years has written grants, secured

1 Grants, has written, um, what is it?

2 Has written for, has presented - - oh, my
3 goodness has secured Grants for the Library.

4 Um, the position of Assistant Director, ^{Page | 10} she
5 was not considered for it, although the signatures
6 were over three hundred.

7 Now, what I am saying to you - -

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Just wrap it up.

9 LAURA WIGGENS: I am going to wrap it up
10 real fast.

11 What I am saying is this, how can you
12 adopt, okay, permits, a group of individuals who
13 have been negligent in taking on their fiduciary
14 responsibility.

15 There is no Director.

16 There is no audit.

17 You have a one line which gives a total
18 cost of salaries.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

20 LAURA WIGGENS: That is not permissible.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Wiggins, I am sorry

22 - -

23 LAURA WIGGENS: I ask you, please, what is
24 needed is a forensic audit on the Uniondale Public
25 Library and the budget is to be frozen with

1 Supervision since the Town of Hempstead is the - -

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Wiggins.

3 You already gone over your three minutes.

4 I have kept other people to three minutes, ^{Page | 11}

5 so, thank you.

6 The Uniondale Public Library budget, Mr.

7 Longobardo, can you explain to Ms. Wiggins, we

8 don't prepare that budget.

9 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDO: As the

10 Supervisor said, the Town does not prepare the

11 budget.

12 The budget is prepared by the Board of the

13 Uniondale Public Library.

14 And, they have control over expenses.

15 They have control over hiring of the

16 Director.

17 So, unfortunately, while you bring those

18 issues to us, um, the issues you raised have to be

19 addressed to the Board of the Library.

20 LAURA WIGGENS: The Board will not address

21 it since the Town is the overseer for the hamlet

22 of Uniondale, that is why I am here because we can

23 go to the Board and the Board will turn their

24 heads, then, they present a budget, but the budget

25 is not presented - -

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry. I have to
2 call up the next speaker.

3 We can continue this discussion afterwards.

4 I have your contact information.

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5 Patrick Keating?

6 PATRICK KEATING: Good Evening.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Evening.

8 PATRICK KEATING: Patrick Keating, Baldwin
9 resident.

10 I have three topics for discussion, real
11 quick; the first one, if I could ask in the
12 budget, where can we locate, specifically, the
13 actual cash amounts that are set aside for the
14 Overlay project within Baldwin?

15 I can't seem to find it outlined.

16 With that being said, (A) how much is
17 available to date?

18 And, (B) does this include the ten million
19 dollars that the Governor provided to us?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The ten million dollars
21 is a completely separate Grant.

22 It is not part of our budget.

23 PATRICK KEATING: Okay, (2) within sixty
24 days to meet FEMA requirements for the corrective
25 action for the Town of Hempstead Building

1 Department; (A) how much will that cost to meet
2 this requirement?

3 (B) once submitted, what is included in
4 estimated total dollars for that.

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5 And, (C) if you do not meet the FEMA
6 requirements within those sixty days, what is your
7 back-up plan to date?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, we have been
9 working with FEMA, actually, my office reached out
10 to bring FEMA back to close out their community
11 assistance visit.

12 Um, that is not part of the budget process,
13 but, I would be happy to follow-up with you and
14 answer all your questions.

15 We are trying to keep the discussion today
16 on the budget.

17 We already started taking some ameliorative
18 actions to address some of the concerns of FEMA.

19 And, I would be happy to talk to you about
20 them offline.

21 I think I have your contact information.

22 PATRICK KEATING: Yes.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, so, we will
24 follow-up with you afterwards, okay, Mr. Keating?

25 PATRICK KEATING: And, lastly, with

1 your multi-year capital plan, have you been able
2 to refinance any of the debt from the Town of
3 Hempstead?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, we have
5 consistently refinanced debt as it became eligible
6 to refinance and we saved millions of dollars.

7 PATRICK KEATING: Who was that through?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What was that?

9 Who are we using to refinance the debt?

10 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDO: It goes out
11 to bid.

12 PATRICK KEATING: Who took it this time?

13 I was wondering, do you know?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If we don't have that
15 information, we will let you know, sir.

16 I will get back to you.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Give him a
18 chance to give it to you, sir.

19 We made pretty good money on it too.

20 PATRICK KEATING: Yeah?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So, we saved
22 some money for the Town this year.

23 PATRICK KEATING: Correct, especially, for
24 Baldwin, who is at stake of maybe losing some
25 money.

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Hold on, he is
2 getting you the information.

3 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER LONGOBARDO: We will get
4 it for you. We thought we had it.

5 PATRICK KEATING: Have a good evening.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

7 Lucille Defina?

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

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Felix Procacci?

11 And, this is just on the amendment.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci.

13 Um, first, the most important thing before
14 you even get to the amendment, this meeting
15 illegal.

16 The amendments were not provided on the
17 website prior to the meeting per the Open Meetings
18 Law, New York State Meetings Law, which I provided
19 at the last meeting.

20 I have mentioned this a dozen times.

21 In addition, they weren't provided even at
22 the door when I walked in.

23 I literally got them minutes before the
24 meeting started.

25 So, this meeting is illegal.

1 And, I emphasize to the Press, please,
2 write this because they are all lawbreakers, here,
3 all of them.

4 Right, here, you are looking at them. ^{Page | 16}
5 They
6 are all lawbreakers and the Parliamentarian,
7 there, Joe Ra, he goes a long with it.

8 He should step up and say this is illegal
9 but he doesn't do that because he doesn't care
10 about the law.

11 He is a lawyer. The Town Attorney does not
12 care about the law.

13 Now, can you explain each of these bullet
14 points?

15 Because I don't have the time, I only have
16 a few minutes to look up each of these Codes and
17 look at the percentages.

18 Can someone tell me what these are?

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you explain these,
20 Bruce?

21 It is your amendment, right?

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr. Mastromarino?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Basically, we heard
24 from people, they wanted us to come back,
25 especially on, um, staffing, Town Council and all
the elected officials cutting our own staff,

1 cutting the Supervisor's Office.

2 We are cutting the Receiver of Taxes. We
3 want to have additional savings, tax cuts for the
4 taxpayers of the Town of Hempstead.

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5 So, um, I found a way to do that.

6 And, Felix, I think you would realize this.

7 FELIX PROCACCI: I can't see what this is.

8 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: John

9 Mastromarino. 240 Fletcher Avenue, Valley Stream,
10 New York.

11 The changes are in the Town Board Majority
12 reducing fulltime wages, two hundred and fifty-six
13 thousand six hundred and fifty-one dollars.

14 Reducing part-time wages - -

15 FELIX PROCACCI: That is something - - I
16 don't have that.

17 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: You are asking me
18 for the details, I am giving it to you.

19 FELIX PROCACCI: Yeah, the details, tell me
20 what each of these are?

21 I don't know what you are reading, what is
22 this one?

23 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: The difference,
24 these items are reduced in the budget.

25 You have to give what the budget is

1 showing, now, which is two million one sixty-four,
2 four twenty-two and what it is going to be reduced
3 to.

4 It is going to be reduced to one million ^{Page | 18}
5 nine zero seven, seven, seven one.

6 By the elimination of fulltime wages and
7 part-time wages in the Town Board Majority.

8 These are the Codes in the Bud get.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand.

10 What positions are being eliminated?

11 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: There are two
12 positions; Executive Assistant to the Town Board
13 and one Legislative Aide and part-time, twenty-
14 five thousand dollars.

15 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, then, the next one?

16 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: The next one in
17 the Supervisor's budget is reducing fulltime
18 wages, two hundred and sixty-five thousand
19 dollars.

20 It represents a Special Assistant to the
21 Supervisor and Executive Assistant to the
22 Supervisor.

23 And, that is your from and to numbers that
24 you are reading.

25 Going to the others; in the Receiver of

1 Taxes and the Town Clerk - -

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Wait, wait, you are going
3 ahead.

4 Did you talk about this one, yet?

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5 (INDICATING)

6 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: Yes, that is
7 twenty-five thousand dollar reduction in part-time
8 wages.

9 See the fifty-five thousand dollars?

10 FELIX PROCACCI: I can read numbers but I
11 just don't know what positions you are actually
12 cutting?

13 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: I am telling you
14 part-time wages; twenty-five thousand dollars.

15 FELIX PROCACCI: This one over, here, what
16 is this one?

17 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: That is one
18 hundred and forty-four thousand, seventeen twenty
19 to forty-four thousand, so, that is a reduction.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: I can read numbers, sir.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: He wants to know what
22 the Code means, what the Code means.

23 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: I have to take
24 out the budget and take a look.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Why don't you

1 take out the budget and take a look.

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You know what
3 it is, all it is, is the same ones that we had
4 before and all he is doing is taking more money Page | 20
5 from them that is it, what you had when we got the
6 first one.

7 It is the same ones except reducing it a
8 little more.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody that
10 can explain what the Codes are if Mr. Mastromarino
11 can't do it?

12 Could you, please, tell Mr. Procacci what
13 the Codes are?

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is not
15 nice. He can do it.

16 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO: The 1330
17 Code is the Receiver of Taxes part-time wages.

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is what
19 he is telling him.

20 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO: It is the
21 Receiver of Taxes, part-time wages.

22 CONSULTANT MASTROMARINO: That is what I
23 told you.

24 DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO: The next
25 one is Town Clerk, that is 1410 Code.

1 It is part-time wages, again, 341849 to
2 249839.

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you, Mr.
4 Capobianco for confirming everything Mr.
5 Mastromarino just said.

6 FELIX PROCACCI: The problem I see, the
7 Receiver of Taxes, part-time wages, you go back in
8 history and you look how much the Receiver of
9 Taxes, the budget has grown since Don Clavin has
10 been the Receiver of Taxes, his budget has gone up
11 eighty percent while the taxes have gone up
12 according to the numbers I got, fifty-four
13 percent.

14 And, the Supervisor's budget has gone up
15 about fifty percent in rough numbers, now, you're
16 taking a big chunk of money out of the
17 Supervisor's budget but you are not doing the same
18 thing for the Receiver of Taxes' budget, that is
19 why I wanted you to detail this out.

20 This is a lopsided thing and you can tell
21 because Supervisor Gillen said so.

22 You didn't even consult her office, so, I
23 don't understand how you do a budget without
24 consulting the people that you are going to
25 affect.

1 How would you like it if someone cut your
2 budget without even telling you what they are
3 going to cut out of your budget?

4 That is not the way you do things.

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5 This meeting is illegal.

6 This meeting is illegal.

7 These numbers should have been put up on
8 the website prior to the previous meetings.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Felix, you are
10 asking how our people cut wages without people
11 know, it is exactly what the Supervisor did.

12 FELIX PROCACCI: You are cutting a
13 Department Head, a Department's wages without
14 consulting the Head.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Listen - -

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It is exactly what
17 the Supervisor did when she put forth her budget.

18 There were Commissioners that didn't know
19 that people were cutting - -

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There were discussion
21 with every Commissioner.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, I bet if we
23 brought every Commissioner up, here, they would
24 say definitely.

25 FELIX PROCACCI: I will just tell you

1 right, now - -

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am going to tell
3 you right, now, you had no problem when that was
4 the case when the budget was originally presented Page | 23
5 but, now, we are presenting numbers, today,
6 cutting from, not only the Receiver of Taxes, not
7 only the Town Clerk, but the Supervisor and the
8 Majority on the Town Board.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: Like I said, it is so
10 lopsided.

11 It is not funny.

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

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, it is not. We
15 are cutting more from the Majority than we are
16 from the Supervisor.

17 How do you say that is lopsided?

18 We are following the lead that you gave us.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is not accurate.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: You are not accurate.

21 Listen to this - -

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me - -

23 FELIX PROCACCI: I will leave after this.

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me, you
25 shouldn't allow him to talk.

1 FELIX PROCACCI: The Town Board passed a
2 resolution changing the budget before they changed
3 the budget right, now, all these things, like
4 part-time wages, you hire part-timers without
5 resolutions.

6 So, you can put all this money back and the
7 public will never know, even if they read the
8 resolution at every meeting.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are you for the four
10 percent tax cut?

11 FELIX PROCACCI: I am not for this kind of
12 protocol.

13 I sent an email to you, all of you right
14 after that meeting when I suggested cutting the
15 executive things, which I agree with.

16 I said you all should work together, that
17 is what I said, too.

18 You want to cherry pick what I say. I want
19 you guys to work together.

20 To cut someone's budget without consulting
21 them, that is dead wrong.

22 You can say whatever you want, it is wrong.

23 And, this meeting is wrong because you
24 didn't present it to the public prior to the
25 meeting.

1 You didn't put it on the website prior to
2 the meeting.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: What about the
4 fact, listen, we have to do something.

5 We didn't even know that we were losing 3.
6 8 million dollars until the day we were, here.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Wilhelmina Funderburke?

8 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: Good evening.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Evening, Ms.
10 Funderburke, if you would state your name and
11 address for the record.

12 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: Wilhelmina
13 Funderburke. 156 East Clinton Avenue, Roosevelt,
14 New York, over fifty years.

15 The first thing to start with is that it is
16 very unfair to the young lady that was up, here,
17 speaking and you kept telling her, stopping her
18 and telling her, her time was up when the
19 gentleman came, I was watching that clock, his
20 time started over, you didn't say one word.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe he kept
22 speaking because people were asking him questions
23 and he was responding.

24 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: No, I was sitting
25 right, here.

1 I didn't have a hearing aid and I heard it,
2 that is not fair.

3 If you are going to do it for one, you have
4 to do it for everybody or don't do it. Page | 26

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is why I try to
6 hold everybody for three minutes.

7 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: Pardon me.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I try to hold everybody
9 to three minutes, ma'am.

10 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: But you didn't do
11 it before.

12 I am talking about just what happened
13 tonight.

14 I am sitting right here.

15 The young lady said to you she said I will
16 be finished up in a minute.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, I let her.

18 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: You didn't
19 interrupt him one time.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms.
21 Funderburke.

22 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: Thank you.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you have anything to
24 say about the budget?

25 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: I am not going to

1 get up until I am finished.

2 I am telling you right, now and don't
3 interrupt me, okay.

4 I want to be treated like the gentleman who ^{Page | 27}
5 just left here, thank you.

6 Okay, the question that I like to ask is in
7 Newsday, it was reported that 3.8 million dollars
8 that is why you didn't pass the budget the last
9 time, you had a meeting, I wasn't here.

10 Um, the Board did not know that the 3.8
11 million dollars had not been approved that the
12 Town was supposed to receive, has it been approved
13 that the Town is going to receive the 3.8 million
14 dollars?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is still in
16 question.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: According to,
18 I can tell you this, the reason we found out,
19 first of all that we weren't, was through
20 Assemblyman Ed Ra.

21 If he didn't tell us, we wouldn't have know
22 it, that was the day we were supposed to pass the
23 budget, that is why we didn't.

24 The information came into the Supervisor on
25 the 29th and the 30th.

1 She didn't explain it to us at all.

2 She didn't tell us that at all.

3 We didn't know that, so, when we found out
4 about it, I was very upset about it because I knew^{Page | 28}
5 the money was coming to the County but I didn't
6 know how it was coming and how it was done and
7 when we got a letter from the County Comptroller
8 that there was no mechanism for us to receive that
9 money - - 3.8 million dollars would have created a
10 big hole in our budget.

11 So, finally, um, this was a Wednesday or
12 Thursday, there was an article in Newsday put an
13 article, whatever, they say not what we say, they
14 always say it differently.

15 Um, she said that she was trying to find a
16 way to work with NIFA and others to make sure that
17 we got that money and I think she is going to have
18 a meeting on November 12th and she is going to
19 assure that we get the 3.8 million dollars that
20 would have left a big hole in our budget.

21 She knew it and she had gotten a letter,
22 but we didn't.

23 So, we should be getting that money through
24 NIFA.

25 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: The question

1 that I am asking is, are you sure you are going to
2 receive this money?

3 I haven't heard anyone yet, say, yes, we
4 are certain we are going to get this money because ^{Page | 29}
5 from reading the paper, it says it was explained
6 that, you know, the Board has said if they don't
7 receive this money, it is going to be a big
8 deficit if this budget is passed, am I correct or
9 am I wrong?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN Yes.

11 No, actually, we have received assurances
12 from the County Executive and the Presiding
13 Officer of the Legislature that the 3.8 million
14 will be there.

15 And, we also consulted with our financial
16 people and we feel that in the unlikely event it
17 is not there, that we would be able to develop a
18 contingency plan to make up for that.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay and I can
20 tell you, now, we had a meeting with our attorneys
21 which we are entitled to do, that is part of the
22 regulations of the State of New York and we
23 received a letter that we were in violation that
24 we should go to school, that they should take us
25 back to school to learn how we are supposed

1 to function, that is because the person that wrote
2 it didn't know how we function.

3 We function - - we can have a private
4 meeting as long as we have attorneys and we are Page | 30
5 seeking information, which we did.

6 So, somebody had that wrong, too, a lot of
7 wrong things going around, here.

8 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: Well, I have been
9 coming to quite a few meetings and just about
10 every time I come, the Board is complaining that
11 something that the Supervisor has done or plans to
12 do have not been discussed with the Board.

13 This I don't understand how in the World a
14 Supervisor thinks she has more power than the
15 Board Members.

16 I don't understand that.

17 Everybody is supposed to be discussing
18 things with the Board.

19 And, then, you make a decision and the
20 Board is not supposed to come to the meeting and
21 to the public and say, oh, we can't vote on this
22 today because we are just hearing about it.

23 That is definitely not - -

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You know what, ma'am, I
25 just got an amendment to the budget today

1 that they didn't discuss with me, that they had a
2 Press Conference at 11:00 o'clock and at their
3 Press Conference, I asked for a copy of it and I
4 didn't get it until tonight.

5 So, they are doing exactly what you are
6 saying.

7 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: They are doing
8 exactly what you have been doing all year, that is
9 what they are doing, because I come to these
10 meetings a lot.

11 I missed quite a few because I had surgery.

12 I come to these meetings quite a lot, not
13 only that, I read Newsday every day, which is not
14 fair any way, but, I know from coming to these
15 meetings every month, every time I come, you got
16 to postpone something and come back because the
17 Board - - you did not inform the Board before this
18 issue came up, so, you know, what you are saying,
19 now, is something that you have been doing all
20 along.

21 You know, it should stop because it is a
22 waste of our time too, because if everything is
23 done right when you come to the meetings, you can
24 vote on what you are going to vote on if the Board
25 know and then we don't have to come back.

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

3 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: I am not finished,
4 so, I am not about to get up, I will tell you Page | 32
5 that.

6 The next thing I want to say to you is that
7 I have been reading a lot - - this has nothing to
8 do with the budget.

9 I have been reading a lot in the paper
10 about you selling property in Roosevelt - -

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, today we are only
12 talking about the budget.

13 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: I don't care.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We are only talking
15 about the budget, today.

16 We are not selling property in Roosevelt.

17 We are only talking about the budget,
18 today.

19 It is a Special Meeting.

20 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: You need to speak
21 to the people in Roosevelt.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There is nothing on the
23 market in Roosevelt right, now, except privately-
24 owned property.

25 The Town is not selling any property

1 at the moment.

2 Thank you.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: At the moment.

4 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: The Western Beef Page | 33

5 parking lot is not publicly owned, that is owned
6 by the Town, okay.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Indeed it is.

8 Okay, we don't have - - is there anybody
9 else that would like to be heard on the budget?

10 Is there anybody else that would like to be
11 heard on the budget?

12 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: One thing for
13 sure, they can't get up until I get up and I don't
14 think anybody is going to pick me up.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else
16 that would like to be heard on the budget?

17 WILHELMINA FUNDERBURKE: I will get up this
18 time.

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Ma'am, I appreciate
20 everything that you said.

21 Thank you for coming. Thank you very much
22 for being, here.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No one else on the
24 Budget?

25 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,

1 the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, may I have a
3 Motion on the budget as amended.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that we pass ^{Page | 34}
5 the budget as amended.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the
7 Motion.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
9 call the roll.

10 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Tow years in office,
12 two years of tax cuts for residents, I am proud to
13 present a budget proposal that cuts taxes for
14 residents and I am delighted that the Town Council
15 has decided to follow my lead on that.

16 I take complete credit for this tax cut
17 because I am quite confident that residents would
18 not be getting their taxes cut since the went up
19 99.3 million dollars until I arrived.

20 I think holding a vote on the budget on the
21 night before an election is clearly political
22 theater after delaying it twice.

23 Residents can see through it.

24 Never before to my knowledge has it taken
25 five separate meetings of the Town Board

1 to complete the Annual Budget Process.

2 I vote ay on the budget, something that we
3 should have done weeks ago. Thank you.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, I am very proud
6 to vote aye - -

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: She is
8 leaving. What do we tell her - -

9 (Whereupon, Supervisor Gillen left the
10 meeting room. After, the following ensued.)

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - We cut taxes by
12 eight percent over the past two years, aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Speaking of
15 political theater; first and foremost, I like to
16 comment on the two years in office that the
17 Supervisor was just speaking of and point out that
18 in her first year in office, there was a tax cut
19 proposed, to which she "proudly" voted "no."

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

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I will start there.

23 She has taken that no vote and over the
24 last two years, especially, over the last six or
25 seven months has decided to tell the Town

1 of Hempstead, the largest township in America,
2 that she, in fact, cut taxes.

3 Just continuing to spread lies and it is
4 sad all those commercials with Mother Theresa, she ^{Page | 36}
5 must be spinning with that, said, "I am proud to
6 stand with the Town Board."

7 Senior Councilwoman Goosby reached across
8 the aisle and the people that are sitting on this
9 dais are the ones over the last two years have
10 produced an eight percent tax decrease for the
11 Town of Hempstead residents; I vote aye.

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

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I will be real brief.
16 It was a lot of work, an awful lot of work by an
17 awful lot of people to get to this point, absent
18 leadership from the top person, that is supposed
19 to be on this Board, the Supervisor.

20 Absent that leadership, we came with a
21 giant tax cut to me, four percent is giant and
22 shame on anybody that tries to take credit that
23 anybody else did.

24 I will leave it at that and I will vote aye
25 on this budget.

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am very
3 proud to be a part of this Board.

4 We are working together to make sure that Page | 37
5 we save money for our taxpayers and it is
6 important because our people really need to have
7 as much saving as they could since what happened
8 to them before.

9 I am very sorry that the Supervisor feels
10 she cut taxes, because we did it the first time.

11 We did not. She wanted to raise taxes.

12 We cut the taxes and this time, we have cut
13 them even further.

14 And, it is not going to hurt our people.

15 It is not theater. We did not know that we
16 were going to get a - - were not getting the 3.8
17 million dollars from the AIM Program that we
18 should have gotten.

19 The Governor changed it this year.

20 The AIM Program money always came directly
21 to the Town.

22 And, some of you may not know we use that
23 money for roads and we also use it to help the
24 people who are disadvantaged at our Anchor
25 Program, that is where the main money goes.

1 And, it is sad that we were worried
2 because you know if we had not gotten that 3.8, it
3 probably would have been a 12 percent tax hike and
4 she would have been right in it and we would have ^{Page | 38}
5 gotten caught in it because what she was trying to
6 do it and go ahead and pass the budget and not
7 know we would be 3.8 million dollars short, that
8 is what bothered me.

9 It has nothing to do with the person but
10 when you sit on this Board and you take an oath
11 that you are working for the people, I think that
12 is what you should do and that is why I will vote
13 yes.

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

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

17 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I am proud - - I
18 have a little bit of a cold, here so, I am going
19 to keep it shorter than Dennis Dunne.

20 I am very proud to be a Member of this
21 Board.

22 I am very proud to make sure we put the
23 taxpayers first and that we execute good
24 government and efficient government. I vote aye.

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I have to say

1 this, I am very disappointed with Newsday and the
2 Herald and Channel 12.

3 I have cut my subscription. I stopped my
4 subscription to Newsday. Page | 39

5 They are not free to all of us, all of us.

6 You never see anything about my District,
7 that is going on, that the children do, that our
8 people do.

9 We are part of this community.

10 We are part of Nassau County and they act
11 as if we aren't.

12 It has been on one person this whole time.

13 I never have seen that in my career a
14 newspaper or Channel 12 that has done what they
15 have done.

16 They are talking about the theatrics, I
17 don't know who is paying them or who is doing
18 whatever they are doing but it is wrong.

19 And, this is the United States of America.

20 After 9/11, we said we were all one but
21 that is gone, now, so, thank you all very much.

22 I make a Motion to adjourn.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Roll call,
25 Madam Clerk.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING 11/4/19

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CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

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COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye. Thank
you all for coming.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Goodnight
everybody.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Get home safe.

(Whereupon, the Special Budget Meeting of
the Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony
in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Budget
Meeting held on November 4, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.
consisting of pages 1 through 41 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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