

**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

July 28, 2020

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: DONALD CLAVIN, JR.

SUPERVISOR

**APPEARANCES :**

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN CARINI

COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA

TOWN CLERK MURRAY

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/28/20**

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Good Morning, Ladies &  
2 Gentleman.

3 This is a special Noticed Meeting to  
4 consider only one matter that is a Resolution  
5 Granting CARES Act money to Northwell Health to  
6 establish multiple COVID 19 testing sites  
7 throughout the Town of Hempstead with two  
8 companion budgetary accounting Resolutions as set  
9 forth in the Town website.

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10 Anyone wishing to comment on this matter  
11 only was advised to send such comments and email  
12 and those comments will be read into the record.

13 Because of the COVID 19 and the pandemic  
14 and consistent with the orders of the Governor's  
15 Emergency Declaration, the Town's Emergency  
16 Declaration, this Meeting will be livestreamed so  
17 all Members of the Public who wish to listen and  
18 observe will be able to do so and it will be  
19 recorded, as well as, be transcribed.

20 Madam Clerk, please, call the roll.

21 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

22 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Here.

23 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

25 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

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1 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Here.

2 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

4 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

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5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

6 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

8 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

9 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

10 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Councilman Dunne, lead  
11 us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: All rise, face the  
13 American Flag, place your right hand over your  
14 heart and join me.

15 (Whereupon, Councilman Dunne, led the  
16 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the  
17 following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Before we all sit, if  
19 we can take a moment of silence for Congressman  
20 Lewis, an iconic, civil rights leader, a person  
21 who spoke his mind, but, you know, spoke in a loud  
22 voice, was a personal friend of Senior  
23 Councilwoman Goosby and was a icon in American  
24 history.

25 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was

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1 observed. After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: May I have a Motion to  
3 suspend the designated procedures of the Hempstead  
4 Town Board in light of the continuing COVID 19 Page | 5  
5 pandemic.

6 SENIOR COUCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So moved.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

8 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Madam Clerk, please,  
9 call the roll on the Motion.

10 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

11 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

12 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

14 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

15 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

16 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

18 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

24 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Madam Clerk, please,  
25 call the calendar.

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1 CLERK MURRAY: We have three related  
2 Resolutions. I will call them individually.

3 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Can you explain them.

4 CLERK MURRAY: We can do that, also and Page | 6  
5 they are all related.

6 The first Resolution authorizing the grant  
7 of funds to Northwell Health to be paid from  
8 monies received by the Town through the "CARES  
9 ACT" to establish multiple COVID 19 anti-body  
10 testing sites throughout the Town of Hempstead -  
11 TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD.

12 Resolution - Authorizing the transfer of  
13 monies received by the Town of Hempstead through  
14 the "CARES ACT" to fund unbudgeted necessary  
15 expenses incurred directly related to the COVID 19  
16 pandemic - Town of Hempstead

17 Resolution - Authorizing the amendment to  
18 the 2020 adopted budget to increase general fund  
19 estimated , an increase to the general fund  
20 appropriations, an increase to the general fund  
21 undistributed other expense account and the  
22 increase of the "CARES ACT" assistance revenue  
23 account in the Town of Hempstead general fund  
24 undistributed - Town of Hempstead.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/28/20**

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, as Board  
2 Members and anyone watching at home, Senator  
3 Schumer is a tireless advocate for the Town of  
4 Hempstead, in doing so, was able to secure one  
5 hundred and thirty-three million dollars in cash  
6 funding, that funding is to be utilized for the  
7 health, safety of the residents in the Town.

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8 And, we are doing so very diligently.

9 This is such an important step that we are  
10 holding this Emergency Meeting.

11 Northwell Health is not only the leader in  
12 New York State, they have been on the frontline of  
13 the pandemic since Day 1.

14 Some of the hardest hit facilities were  
15 located not only in Brooklyn, but, right, here in  
16 the Town of Hempstead, over in the Valley Stream  
17 facility.

18 What we are doing, here, today, is we are  
19 having a collaboration and this collaboration will  
20 save lives.

21 How is that so?

22 This collaboration will be awarded a two-  
23 million-dollar Grant to Northwell where they will  
24 be creating a dozen testing facilities throughout  
25 the Town of Hempstead.

1 As anybody knows and Councilwoman - -  
2 Senior Councilwoman, sitting near me, knows this  
3 pandemic has not hit every community evenhanded.

4 This pandemic has struck some communities <sup>Page | 8</sup>  
5 much more severe than others.

6 These facilities, as I said, will be  
7 throughout the Town where the focus is well on the  
8 hardest hit areas.

9 Northwell, with Michael Dowling and his  
10 entire team are amazing.

11 They came in, discussed with all the Board  
12 Members how they will be located, who they will be  
13 working with, from community leaders to civic  
14 leaders.

15 It will be in multiple languages and this  
16 will save lives.

17 That is what it comes down to.

18 My colleagues, as well as, anybody at home,  
19 you see what is going around this Country and we  
20 should be scared.

21 We have seen the worst, here in New York  
22 and we don't want a second wave and we don't want,  
23 you know, an occurrence of what we experienced in  
24 late March through April and the beginning of May.



1 And, teaming up with Northwell with these  
2 funds is exactly what should be happening.

3 You know, we utilized these funds not only  
4 to team up with Long Island Cares and Island  
5 Harvest to feed thousands of individuals and have  
6 home delivery.

7 We teamed up with all our hospitals here  
8 with this funding to alleviate the burden with  
9 PPE, but, I really feel that with the dialogue we  
10 had through Michael Dowling, with Northwell, this  
11 is a critical collaboration that is going to save  
12 lives.

13 And, with that, does any Member of the  
14 Board wish to be heard on this item?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Mr. Supervisor,  
16 if I might, first of all, I want to congratulate  
17 you on this initiative that was spearheaded by  
18 you.

19 I want to thank my colleagues for  
20 supporting this initiative.

21 A number of years ago, we had a hospital, a  
22 community hospital in Valley Stream, North Valley  
23 Stream, called "Franklin General Hospital,"  
24 Northwell, through negotiations with my Father,  
25 quite frankly, was representing the community, um,

1 they acquired Franklin General Hospital which is  
2 now known as Long Island Jewish Valley Stream, I  
3 can tell you, by the continuation of Long Island  
4 Cares, in my District, how many lives were saved. <sup>Page | 10</sup>

5 And, now we are partnering with Northwell  
6 and Michael Dowling on this initiative to test  
7 people so that we can make sure that we can open  
8 our schools, that we can open our businesses, that  
9 we can open our communities, get people back to  
10 work, get people back to school and make a safer  
11 environment for everybody.

12 So, I want to thank Don for bringing this  
13 initiative forward.

14 I think it is absolutely the right thing to  
15 do and I am proud to support it.

16 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Any Member wish to be  
17 heard on this item?

18 Councilwoman Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am very  
20 happy that we have someone that is coming in that  
21 we can depend on and come into our community,  
22 especially my community which is the hardest hit  
23 one in the whole Town of Hempstead.

24 And, I know there is over five thousand  
25 residents who were affected and it is very sad

1 because I think of the ones that have lost their  
2 lives.

3 Many lost their lives, people all around me  
4 from my church, my neighbors and so forth,  
5 hopefully that will save the lives of others.

6 I was very fortunate in that when I, um,  
7 contacted the virus, I was taken care of very well  
8 and even though I had it, my daughters got it and  
9 my young lady that works with me all the time had  
10 it, so, four of us and only because I went to a  
11 birthday party that somebody asked me to come to  
12 and someone else was supposed to come and didn't  
13 come because they got held up. So, he owes me for  
14 that.

15 But, anyway, I am very grateful and I am  
16 sure that we will be able to save the lives of  
17 others.

18 So, that is what the CARES monies will be  
19 used for and I agree with this one hundred  
20 percent.

21 So, thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Any other Members of  
23 the Board wish to be heard?

24 Dennis Dunne?

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1 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes, I am glad we are  
2 doing this because we have and I am sure most  
3 families have fear of the unknown.

4 The unknown is if you have the virus or not Page | 12  
5 and people are afraid to take the test because  
6 they are afraid they will find out that they have  
7 it, but, if you don't find out that you have it,  
8 you lose that early detection.

9 Early detection usual saves lives with any  
10 kind of disease.

11 So, if you get the test, you will find  
12 early detection and if you do have it and the live  
13 you save may not be your own, it maybe one of your  
14 family members or your neighbors or your friends.

15 So, you know, we encourage everybody. This  
16 is one way of encouraging people to get testing by  
17 having it in thirteen (13) different locations.

18 I am really proud to join with you  
19 Supervisor in supporting this legislation. Thank  
20 you.

21 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you,  
22 Councilman.

23 Any other Board Members wish to be heard?

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I think  
25 we will all say that Senior Councilwoman Goosby is

1 living proof that early testing, early detection  
2 and quality healthcare without a doubt saves  
3 lives.

4 And, I think we are all blessed that Senior <sup>Page | 13</sup>  
5 Councilwoman has healed, is all better and she is  
6 back with us.

7 Like I said, it is clear that testing does  
8 save lives and I am glad to see that leadership  
9 here in the Town of Hempstead is utilizing the  
10 Federal CARES money for the right reasons and we  
11 are making sure that people throughout the  
12 Township, the largest Township in America, a  
13 diverse Township that whether it is in the Five  
14 Towns or Levittown or down in the barrier island  
15 or up North in the Town of Hempstead or anywhere  
16 in the middle, there is opportunity for the Town  
17 of Hempstead residents to be tested and to make  
18 sure that we continue to flatten the curve here in  
19 New York and make sure we don't see a spike in  
20 coronavirus.

21 Job well done in utilizing, correctly  
22 utilizing the CARES funding to make sure we  
23 continue to keep people safe.

24 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you.

25 Any other Council Members wish to be heard?

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I really think  
2 we really need to thank Senator Schumer because he  
3 was very much instrumental in making sure we  
4 received this money.

5 And, I must thank our Comptroller, as well.

6 He is very smart. He kept up with  
7 everything that is going on.

8 He happened to see that we had to have an  
9 application in for this and he did it right away  
10 because it was a smart team.

11 He did that so we were able to get the  
12 amount of money that we got.

13 So, thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I just like to say  
15 that it is a show of support when the whole Board  
16 shows up on short notice for such an important  
17 event.

18 We are trying to get ahead of this.

19 This is testing that we are taking to you  
20 as opposed to you coming to the different  
21 facilities.

22 We want you to use it.

23 Use it to the potential, bring in Long  
24 Island, Town of Hempstead back to where it is,

1 please and all the residents so that we get back  
2 to a better normal way of life.

3 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Councilman Carini?

4 COUNCILMAN CARINI: I just want to thank Page | 15

5 Don, under his leadership partnering with  
6 Northwell Health will greatly expand the testing  
7 in the Town of Hempstead for our residents,  
8 another example of how to properly spend the CARES  
9 money.

10 And, thank you, Don. Thank you, Northwell.

11 This will be a long way to helping the  
12 residents of the Town of Hempstead.

13 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: I want to thank my  
14 colleagues because you know what, all of you are  
15 great.

16 Our lines of communication are open.

17 We share ideas and one person does not  
18 govern alone that is the benefit, I think, for the  
19 residents that we are focused, unified, all of us  
20 together on the betterment and safety.

21 I am delighted and honored to work with all  
22 of you.

23 And, Councilwoman Goosby is definitely  
24 feeling better because she is definitely a little  
25 feistier than perhaps she was for a little it and

1 that is great, but she is right, we want to,  
2 again, thank Senator Schumer, our partner in  
3 Washington, D.C.

4 We want to thank Northwell and Michael  
5 Dowling and his team for this collaboration which  
6 we hope is the first of many collaborations for  
7 the betterment and the benefit and safety of the  
8 Town residents.

9 And, I do also want to thank, publicly,  
10 John Mastromarino, our Comptroller in the Town.

11 John is very diligent with the Town's  
12 finances.

13 He is a stickler and he really did make a  
14 wonderful catch in recognizing based on the Town's  
15 population we are eligible for this funding.

16 So, John, without you making this catch, we  
17 wouldn't be where we are right, now and be able to  
18 do these great things with Northwell and Long  
19 Island CARES and Island Harvest and all of the  
20 others.

21 So, on behalf of everybody on this Board,  
22 we are lucky to have you here.

23 Thank you for being here.

24 As I previously stated, this is a special  
25 Town Board Meeting, as the public was advised,



1 | comments were limited to the sole purpose of the  
2 | special meeting, could be sent by email.

3 | We, indeed, have received email comments  
4 | and I would ask the Town Clerk to read those Page | 17  
5 | allowed that we received on this item.

6 | CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin, we have  
7 | two email responses from residents; one is from  
8 | John Clark to the Supervisor.

9 | "The people of Hempstead Town deserve  
10 | quality health care in three basic forms;  
11 | preventative to stay as healthy as possible,  
12 | curative when stricken with illness and  
13 | palliative, when all else fails to remain pain  
14 | free through terminal illness.

15 | "The CARES Act funding that Congress  
16 | approved for America is in a rather generous  
17 | proportions to our Town, can have positive affects  
18 | on all three forms.

19 | "If the Board, please, appropriate a  
20 | majority of the funds to the Northwell Health  
21 | System, an establish provider of quality health  
22 | care to establish additional public health testing  
23 | "throughout our Town.

24 | "This request on behalf of all of our  
25 | neighbors in the Town is made by your constituent,

1 John Clark from Wantagh, New York who looks  
2 forward to when Town Hall reopens.”

3 And, our second and last email in response  
4 to the three resolutions is from a Mr. Felix Procacci regarding Case Number 30283. He poses  
5 two questions, one, “why is it necessary to have  
6 resolutions to transfer money when that money was  
7 provided by the Federal government?”  
8

9 And the second questions, “who is  
10 responsible for ensuring that any CARES money  
11 transferred by the Town to Northwell Health is  
12 spent properly by Northwell Health?”

13 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: I will ask our Town  
14 Comptroller to explain why it is being transferred  
15 and the safeguards we put in affect to actually  
16 make sure we are diligently watching those funds.

17 John? Bring him a mic.

18 Thank you, John,

19 COMPTROLLER: When we received funds, I was  
20 of the mind and I did call the State Comptroller,  
21 these were not our funds.

22 We were custodians of the funds until  
23 a proper allocation of the disbursement of the  
24 funds, so, we took a very conservative approach.

1 We put it in a separate bank account, a  
2 liability account, not our money.

3 When the Town Board does disburse the money  
4 by Resolution, I, at that point in time, that is <sup>Page | 19</sup>  
5 the authority to draw down on the funds, put it  
6 into our Operating Account and disperse it.

7 So, our feeling from the very beginning was  
8 that these were not our funds.

9 We weren't going to play around with them  
10 and take any chance that they would get comingled.  
11 They are separate.

12 And, unused funds are mandated to be  
13 returned to the Treasury, so, using that as a  
14 criteria, the only way I wanted to draw down on  
15 the funds is through authorization by the Town  
16 Board.

17 What was the other questions?

18 CLERK MURRAY: The second question was,  
19 "Who is responsible for ensuring that any CARES  
20 money transferred by the Town to Northwell Health  
21 is spent properly by Northwell Health?"

22 COMPTROLLER: Well, the Grant to Northwell  
23 is a potential Grant.

24 They have to provide documentation,  
25 invoices and a claim form to show that the money

1 has been spent according to the criteria in the  
2 Resolution.

3 If that is not done, we can't disburse the  
4 funds.

5 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, John.

6 John it is a credit to you that you put in  
7 such a procedure that is open and transparent that  
8 residents get to see the actual expenditures of  
9 the CARES funds on a calendar.

10 I don't know if I have seen other levels of  
11 government that is doing it, so, I know New York  
12 State is sitting on five billion dollars of CARES  
13 funding.

14 I don't know if they are being as opened  
15 and transparent.

16 Maybe that is a question that whoever sent  
17 this letter in might want to ask of New York City,  
18 what they are doing.

19 But, at least, we can say we put in the  
20 safeguards, we put in the protocol to make it open  
21 and transparent, as well as going the extra yard  
22 because we want it to be, we hired an outside  
23 regulatory law firm to review any of these

1 expenditures before they are even allocated to  
2 make sure they fit in the criteria of the CARES  
3 funds.

4 So, thank you for that excellent  
5 explanation.

6 Just so everybody knows, John, the  
7 Comptroller said they did reach out to the State  
8 Comptroller's Office with this process and they  
9 thought it was a fine process to implement.

10 So, thank you very much.

11 Madam Clerk, can you call the roll or I  
12 make a motion to adopt all the items on today's  
13 calendar.

14 I apologize.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

16 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

17 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

18 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

21 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

24 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/28/20**

1 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

3 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

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5 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: May I have a Motion to  
6 adjourn.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I make a  
8 Motion to adjourn.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

10 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

11 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

12 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

14 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

15 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

16 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

18 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

24 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you to my Town  
25 Board Colleagues.

**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/28/20**

1 Thank you to Michael Dowling and the team  
2 at Northwell.

3 And, thank you for all the residents, you  
4 know what, stay safe. Page | 23

5 We will continue looking at and working  
6 hard for all of you.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Make sure that  
8 you go and get a test.

9 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: And get a test,  
10 absolutely.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Watch out for  
12 sharks.

13 (Whereupon, the special meeting of the  
14 Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)  
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**HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 7/28/20**

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
testimony in the matter of the Special Hempstead  
Town Board Meeting held on July 28, 2020,  
consisting of pages 1 through 24 inclusive is an  
accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



*CFM*

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK