

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 13, 2020

2:30 P.M.

BEFORE: DONALD CLAVIN, JR.

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

- DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN
- SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY
- COUNCILMAN CARINI
- COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO
- COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.
- COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA
- TOWN CLERK MURRAY
- DEPUTY TOWN CLERK POKALSKY
- CHIEF OF STAFF NOCELLA
- TOWN COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO
- ACTING DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BUDGET 2:30 SESSION 10.13.2020

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Good Afternoon,
2 everybody, this is the Town of Hempstead Public
3 Hearings for the Assessment Roll for the Greater
4 Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District for the ^{Page | 3}
5 fiscal year commencing January 1, 2021 and the
6 preliminary budget of the Town of Hempstead for
7 the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2021.

8 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
9 roll.

10 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

11 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Here.

12 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

14 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

15 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Here.

16 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

18 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

19 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

23 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

24 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: I, now, ask Councilman
25 Dunne if you would lead us in the Pledge

1 of Allegiance.

2 (Whereupon, Councilman Dunne, led the
3 Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the
4 following ensued.)

Page | 4

5 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Because of the
6 Governor's Executive Orders and also because of
7 the COVID-19 pandemic, today's two Public Hearings
8 will allow for both in-person participation and
9 telephonic participation using Go-to-Webinar.

10 The instruction for the telephonic
11 participation using Go-to-Webinar, as well as the
12 permanent documents regarding today's Public
13 Hearings are on the Town's website.

14 Today's Public Hearing begins at 2:30 p.m.
15 and will be continued to 7:00 p.m.

16 Once everyone who wished to speak in the
17 afternoon finishes making their comments because
18 the Public Hearings will be continued to 7:00
19 p.m., participants who speak at 2:30 will not be
20 able to speak again at 7:00 p.m.

21 Every participant will be given one chance
22 to speak up to three minutes in accordance with
23 the Town Board's rules.

24 After the Clerk calls each Public Hearing,
25 the public who are at Town Hall will first make

1 their comments and participants on Go-to-Webinar
2 will be allowed to comment.

3 All participants in Go-to-Webinar must
4 click the "raise your hand" icon button or Go-to-^{Page | 5}
5 Webinar as explained in the instructions on the
6 Town's website.

7 If you do not click the "raise your hand,"
8 button, you will not be called upon.

9 All participants, in Go-to-Webinar are
10 muted until the Moderator calls your name to
11 speak.

12 You must pay attention for your name to
13 begin speaking when your name is called or the
14 Moderator will go on to the next person.

15 If you do not respond, the Moderator will
16 not recall anyone's name, so, pay attention for
17 your name, please.

18 If you are participating in Go-to-Webinar
19 and watching on Livestream, then, you must mute
20 your Livestream when it is your turn to speak or
21 you will not be understood.

22 When you're done speaking or your time is
23 up, the Moderator will again mute you on the Go-
24 to-Webinar.

25 Please, note, that anyone using profanity,

1 straying completely off topic will be immediately
2 dropped by the Moderator from the Meeting.

3 Madam Clerk, please, call the Public
4 Hearing on the Assessment Roll for the Greater
5 Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District for the
6 fiscal year commencing January 1, 2021.

7 CLERK MURRAY: The proposed Assessment Roll
8 of the Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation
9 District for the fiscal year beginning January 1,
10 2021.

11 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: I believe, Mr. Kovit
12 wishes to address this Board on this matter. Mr.
13 Kovit?

14 ATTORNEY KOVIT: Supervisor and Members of
15 the Board:

16 After the October 1st Town Board Meeting,
17 the Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation
18 District received updated assessment information
19 from the Nassau County Assessor and based thereon
20 provided an updated Assessment Roll to the Town on
21 October 2nd.

22 The Assessment Roll was reviewed by the
23 Town Comptroller and filed in the Town Clerk's
24 Office on October 7th pursuant to the New York Town
25 Law Section 239, the Town Board has the authority

1 to consider and accept the amended Assessment
2 Roll.

3 Therefore, I recommend the Board update the
4 Assessment Roll of the Greater Atlantic Beach
5 Water Reclamation District to reflect the most
6 recent Assessment Roll received in the Town
7 Clerk's Office on October 7th.

8 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mr. Kovit.

9 Does any Member of the Board wish to move
10 to update the Assessment Roll of the Greater
11 Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District as
12 described by Mr. Kovit?

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Mr. Supervisor,
14 I move that the Greater Atlantic Beach Water
15 Reclamation District's most recent assessment be
16 properly brought before the Board.

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

18 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Does anybody in the
19 audience or participating in the Go-to-Webinar
20 wish to comment on the proposed motion?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor, I
22 just like the record to reflect that the
23 District's Attorney, Nick DeSibio is in the
24 audience.

25 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Mr. Moderator, is there

1 anyone on the Go-to-Webinar raising their hand on
2 this issue?

3 ATTORNEY REGINA: Supervisor, no one is
4 raising their hand.

5 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Madam Clerk, may I
6 please have a Motion.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor, I
8 move that the Hearing on the Greater Atlantic
9 Beach Water Reclamation District's most recent
10 assessment roll be continued until 7:00 p.m. this
11 evening.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

13 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

14 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

15 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

18 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

19 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

25 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

1 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

2 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Madam Clerk, please,
3 call the next item.

4 CLERK MURRAY: We have the Preliminary
5 Budget of the Town of Hempstead for fiscal year
6 beginning January 1, 2021.

Page | 9

7 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Does any Member of the
8 Board wish to be heard on this?

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

11 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Members of the
12 audience, that is here to speak on this, let me
13 check.

14 We have a couple of people that like to be
15 heard on this, I will start with Felix Procacci.

16 Name and address for the record, please.

17 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci, Franklin
18 Square.

19 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Do you live on a
20 street, sir?

21 What street is that?

22 FELIX PROCACCI: On Barnes Street.

23 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you.

24 FELIX PROCACCI: Has the Town completed its
25 2019 audit, yet?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BUDGET 2:30 SESSION 10.13.2020

1 COMPTRROLLER MASTROMARINO: No, because of
2 the COVID virus and lack of ability to get into
3 the Town and the lack of the auditors, they had to
4 shut down their own office.

Page | 10

5 They are in the process of starting the
6 audit and it is not complete.

7 FELIX PROCACCI: How many reserves are used
8 in the 2021 budget?

9 COMPTRROLLER MASTROMARINO: We are proposing
10 to use, approximately, nineteen million.

11 FELIX PROCACCI: Nineteen million in
12 reserves. The budget indicated that some of the
13 Departments are being cut in the 2021 budget.

14 Um, I went through it thoroughly. There is
15 quite a few being cut than a lot more being
16 increased.

17 Um, which departments are being cut, in
18 particular, you know, the most?

19 COMPTRROLLER MATROMARINO: It is kind of
20 self-explanatory, if you go through each budget
21 line by line, page by page, you will see the 2020
22 budget and next to it you will see the 2021
23 budget.

24 FELIX PROCACCI: I did go through that.

25 The reason why I asked the question is

1 because overall you say you are using nineteen in
2 reserves, I went through the entire budget, I got
3 sixteen million over, you know, over from last
4 year.

5 Since you are freezing taxes, the sixteen
6 million has to come from somewhere.

7 You say you need nineteen. You are
8 probably right, um, also yeah - -

9 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: It is nineteen.

10 FELIX PROCACCI: Nineteen, okay, I believe
11 you. I am not - - I don't have as much data as
12 you did.

13 Um, has the Town borrowed the forty million
14 dollars to repair the road in the Town of
15 Hempstead?

16 Back on March 31st, we passed a Resolution
17 to borrow the money.

18 In May, Newsday wrote a story that we were
19 going to do a stimulus of forty million dollars to
20 fix the roads in the Town of Hempstead.

21 I went on the municipal bond websites and I
22 couldn't find any issues at all for 2020.

23 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: We haven't yet
24 actually pulled the trigger on that.

25 We anticipate before the end of the year

1 Possibly November or early December to go out to
2 the market.

3 FELIX PROCACCI: Yeah, it is better to do
4 the roadway when it is warmer. Page | 12

5 We have to use more expensive asphalt it
6 costs more to do it in the cold weather if you are
7 going to try that and you're limited because of
8 the temperature.

9 So, I thought we were going to do the
10 forty-million-dollar stimulus plan last May and we
11 are not doing that.

12 Um, also, the postage, I see that the
13 postage budget has exceeded this year's budget.

14 In May you already exceeded the entire
15 year's budget for postage and the next year you
16 are looking to do a six hundred and fifty-
17 thousand-dollar increase.

18 Why are you increasing postage six hundred
19 and fifty thousand dollars for next year?

20 I remember as Candidate Clavin said he was
21 against mailings and minimal mailing and, now, we
22 are increasing it like fifty percent, close to
23 fifty percent.

24 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: A lot of the
25 mailings this year were because of the COVID

1 Virus.

2 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand. Now, you
3 are budgeting for next year an additional six
4 hundred and fifty next year.

Page | 13

5 Are you planning on another virus?

6 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Mr. Procacci, in all
7 due respect, um, I don't think you are a medical
8 expert and you know what, we don't know where we
9 are going to be next year.

10 So, please, he is not budgeting for another
11 virus.

12 Please, don't frame it that way. It is
13 inappropriate.

14 FELIX PROCACCI: Well, it is put that way
15 to me that the reason why you spent money on
16 mailings this year is because of - - was because
17 of COVID and quite frankly, most of the mailings,
18 especially the early ones were inaccurate.

19 They didn't have social distancing and
20 didn't have mass usage.

21 So, they really - - you misled people until
22 the CDC came along and gave a different point of
23 view.

24 Thank you so much.

25 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you and thank you

1 for recognizing the tax freeze.

2 Diane Madden?

3 Charles Kovit, did you want to bring
4 something to the Board's attention.

5 CLERK MURRAY: Question on the amendment.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move to amend the
7 Assessment Roll of the Greater Atlantic Beach
8 Water Reclamation District.

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: Lisa Alazankys?

25 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,

1 the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Marie Handel?

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

5 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Does any member in the
6 audience at Town Hall wish to be heard?

7 Hold on, somebody is running. Hi, how are
8 you?

9 Name and address for the record?

10 MARYANN TIANGA: Maryann Tianga. (Phonetic
11 spelling)

12 I was told by somebody there is no opening
13 for me, today.

14 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: It is just a budget
15 hearing today.

16 MARYANN TIANGA: Okay.

17 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: All right, thank you.

18 Mr. Moderator, I will kick it over to you
19 for the exciting part of the program to see if
20 anybody has clicked the "raise your hand" button
21 and likes to be heard?

22 ATTORNEY REGINA: Mr. Supervisor, no one
23 has clicked "raise your hand" on this Public
24 Hearing.

25 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay. Any other Member

1 wish to be heard on this?

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

4 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: If not, may I have a Page | 16
5 Motion to continue this Public Hearing at 7:00
6 p.m. this evening.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So moved,
8 Supervisor.

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: See everybody at 7:00
25 p.m. o'clock. Thank you.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BUDGET 2:30 SESSION 10.13.2020

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

(Whereupon, the Hempstead Town Board Budget
Hearing was adjourned until 7:00 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing
testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town
Board Meeting Budget Hearing held on October 13,
2020, 2:30 session consisting of pages 1 through
17 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my
cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK