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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

TOWN BOARD MEETING

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 20, 2021

2:30 P.M.

BEFORE: DONALD CLAVIN, JR.

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

Page | 2

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN CARINI

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA

TOWN CLERK MURRAY

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK POKALSKY

TOWN ATTORNEY NOCELLA

TOWN COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO

ACTING DEPUTY TOWN COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

TOWN COMPTROLLER'S ACCOUNTANT GRZAN

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 10/20/2021

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Well, Good Afternoon,
2 everybody.

3 This is the Hempstead Town Board Public
4 Hearing on the Assessment Roll for the Greater
5 Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District for the
6 fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022, as well
7 as, the preliminary budget for the Town of
8 Hempstead for the fiscal year commencing January
9 1, 2022.

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10 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
11 roll.

12 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

13 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Here.

14 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

16 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

17 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Here.

18 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

24 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

25 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 10/20/2021

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: I will ask Senior
2 Councilwoman Goosby to lead us in the Pledge of
3 Allegiance.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Hand over your ^{Page | 4}
5 heart.

6 (Whereupon, Senior Councilwoman Goosby led
7 the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and was
8 recited by the Assembly. After, the following
9 ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay, a reminder from
11 years past, today's Public Hearings, again, are at
12 2:30 and will be continued at 7:00 p.m.

13 Everyone who wishes to speak in the
14 afternoon finishes making their comments, because
15 the Public Hearing will be continued at 7:00 p.m.,
16 participants who speak at the 2:30 p.m. will not
17 be able to speak again at 7:00 p.m.

18 Every participant will be given one chance
19 to speak for up to three minutes in accordance
20 with the Town Board rules.

21 Madam Clerk, please, call the Public
22 Hearing on the Assessment Roll for the Greater
23 Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District for the
24 fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022.

25 CLERK MURRAY: We have the proposed

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 10/20/2021

1 Assessment Roll of the Greater Atlantic Beach
2 Water Reclamation District - for the fiscal year
3 beginning January 1, 2022.

4 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Does any Member of the ^{Page | 5}
5 Board wish to be heard on this matter?

6 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
7 the following ensued.)

8 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: All right, I don't have
9 any slips on this.

10 Does anyone in the Public wish to be heard
11 on this matter?

12 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
13 the following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: If not, may I, please,
15 have a Motion.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Mr. Supervisor,
17 I move to continue this Public Hearing to 7:00
18 p.m. this evening.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

21 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

25 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

1 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

5 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

7 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

8 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

9 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Madam Clerk, please,
10 call the next Item.

11 CLERK MURRAY: We have the Preliminary
12 Budget for the Town of Hempstead for the fiscal
13 year beginning January 1, 2022.

14 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay, any Member of the
15 Board wish to be heard on this?

16 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
17 the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: All right, I have a
19 couple of slips on this.

20 First, I will start with Felix Procacci.

21 All speaker go to the back where the podium
22 is, we appreciate it always.

23 If you would give your name and address,
24 thank you.

25 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci,

1 Franklin Square.

2 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Good Afternoon.

3 FELIX PROCACCI: How much is the 2022
4 budget total projected expenditures and total
5 projected revenues?

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6 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: The projected
7 expenditures are 500.3 million dollars and the
8 revenues equal 500.3 million dollars.

9 FELIX PROCACCI: How much reserves are
10 being used in the 2022 budget?

11 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Approximately,
12 twenty million.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: Twenty million.

14 How much was the 2022 budget cut from 2021
15 levels?

16 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: The budget is an
17 increase over the prior, it is under the inflation
18 rate.

19 It is up, approximately, four percent.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: Four percent.

21 How much was the 2022 salary amount cut
22 from 2021 levels?

23 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: It depends on
24 which salaries you are talking about.

25 FELIX PROCACCI: Total salaries of

1 the entire Town?

2 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: It depends on
3 which particular salaries you are talking about.

4 Um, there was certain groups, they were Page | 8
5 less than last year.

6 Um, there was a Union contract that was
7 signed prior to the completion of this budget that
8 is included in here but the salaries go from 171.3
9 to 180.4.

10 FELIX PROCACCI: That is the total?

11 When I summed it up, I got 5.37 percent
12 increase or nine million dollar increase Town
13 wide.

14 When you look at everything, that is the
15 question, is everything - - if you include all the
16 Departments, everything?

17 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: Right.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: The level I get and I just
19 want to compare what you get, I trust your numbers
20 more.

21 I got 9.15 million increase over 2021.

22 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: We have it at
23 9.1.

24 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay and I also, if you go
25 by way of the 2019 actual salaries,

1 the actual number which is provided in this
2 budget, I got a 14.8 per cent increase or twenty-
3 three million dollar increase.

4 Would you say that is correct?

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5 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: I can't verify
6 that.

7 Where are you getting your numbers?

8 FELIX PROCACCI: I totaled the 2019 actuals
9 from what you put in this year's 2022 budget.

10 I summed them all up and I compared them to
11 what you are budgeting in 2022.

12 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Right.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: And, I took the difference
14 and the difference I get is twenty-three million
15 or 5.8 percent difference.

16 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: That is over a
17 three-year period.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Yes, so, you would say
19 that is accurate?

20 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: '19, 2021, '22,
21 actually, it is a four-year period.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: That is right.

23 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: There is a Union
24 contract.

25 There is - -

1 FELIX PROCACCI: You agree with the number?

2 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: Unless I sit
3 down and figure it out, I will accept what you
4 say.

5 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay.

6 How much Federal CARES Act money is added
7 to the Town Reserves?

8 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: For this year?
9 Nothing.

10 FELIX PROCACCI: For both years, 2020 and
11 2021?

12 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: As per Town
13 Board Resolution, there was, um, seventy million.

14 FELIX PROCACCI: Seventy million added to
15 the Reserves?

16 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: Right.

17 FELIX PROCACCI: How much Federal CARES Act
18 money remains unspent?

19 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: Fifty-four
20 thousand dollars.

21 FELIX PROCACCI: Fifty-four thousand
22 dollars, the miscellaneous revenue is up fifty
23 million dollars in 2020 was that due to Federal
24 CARES Act money?

25 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: There is no

1 Federal Cares Act money in this budget.

2 FELIX PROCACCI: No, I am saying in 2020?

3 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Probably

4 referencing - -

5 FELIX PROCACCI: You're referencing 2020 in
6 this budget.

7 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: The Emergency
8 Rental Assistance Program, we have expenditures in
9 the budget for that and it is offset by revenue in
10 the budget.

11 FELIX PROCACCI: What you classify in this
12 budget for 2020 as "miscellaneous," what is that?

13 Is that the rental revenue?

14 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Yes, it is
15 primarily the rental revenue, yes.

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Has the audit for 2020
17 been completed yet?

18 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: No.

19 FELIX PROCACCI: When will that be
20 completed?

21 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: I can't tell you
22 for sure.

23 The auditors had their issues with, um, you
24 know, with the, um, the issue of the virus.

25 They weren't here until late in the

1 period.

2 I can't answer that.

3 I don't work for them and they don't tell
4 me when they are going to be finished. Page | 12

5 FELIX PROCACCI: I know, that was the
6 reason that was given last year.

7 And, North Hempstead, though, had their
8 audit completed in July, ahead of like the number
9 30th deadline and what I find interesting is Rating
10 Agencies usually, from my experience, they usually
11 wait until the audited numbers come out before
12 they make a determination this year and I believe
13 and even last year, they preempted the audit.

14 They gave a rating decision before seeing
15 the - -

16 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: John, were there two
17 rating upgrades?

18 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Yes.

19 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Good job, by the way.

20 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Thank you.

21 What they do, they take what your
22 projections have been in the past, they take what
23 you have submitted to the State Comptroller with
24 the annual updated documents and then they compare
25 it to when the audit is completed.

1 And, if they find that you are accurate
2 within, you know, a certain amount, um, they will
3 continue to use your estimates and that is exactly
4 what has happened for the two upgrades that we Page | 13
5 just received.

6 They looked at our projections.

7 They looked at what we filed with the State
8 Comptroller.

9 They compared it to the prior year's
10 estimates and the prior year's audit and they
11 found that our numbers are great and they use them
12 and it has happened with both Rating Agencies.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: I understand that but in
14 the past years, usually, they wait until after
15 September 30th, after the audit was completed
16 before they made - -

17 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: A bond issue was
18 coming up and we need to be rated by both Moody's
19 and Standard and Poor's.

20 FELIX PROCACCI: I notice there was a
21 difference between your August - - your April
22 numbers from Federal numbers was fifty-seven
23 million and then in the budget you put fifty
24 million dollars for Federal expenditures,
25 revenues.

1 So, anyway, thank you.

2 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

3 After, the following ensued.)

4 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mr.

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5 Procacci.

6 I appreciate you recognizing those bond

7 upgrades.

8 Good work, John.

9 Next slip I have here is for Bonnie Garone.

10 Good Afternoon, name and address for the

11 record. Thank you.

12 BONNIE GARONE: Bonnie Garone, Rockville

13 Centre.

14 I think this preliminary budget perfectly

15 optimizes the way this Town is run.

16 It tells a story to the public upfront in

17 the introduction to make it sound like you are

18 doing a terrific job.

19 Um, it is set up to provide jobs for your

20 cronies no matter how much it costs the residents,

21 it, um, does all you can possibly do to hide what

22 you are doing from the public.

23 And, um, I will give you examples of each

24 of those.

25 In your introduction, you say that the

1 "Town of Hempstead provides the lion share of
2 local services providing public education and
3 police protection."

4 Well, that is not true.

5 I mean you provide a lot of Parks and
6 Recreation.

7 Some parts of the Town are more favored
8 than those things than others.

9 You pick up some garbage.

10 You supply water even though you haven't
11 really helped the residents that are trying to get
12 out from under their exorbitantly expensive
13 private water.

14 You are responsible for the roads, which
15 most residents will tell you are in horrendous
16 shape.

17 You got the Building Department, which is
18 pretty much the same thing and the Animal Shelter
19 which is the subject of complaints and horror
20 stories for years.

21 So, um, as far as providing making sure you
22 can provide jobs to your cronies.

23 You have a Civil Service Commission with
24 personnel costs over a million dollars when you
25 could simply utilize the Nassau County

1 Civil Service Commission and eliminate those costs
2 completely, but you don't.

3 And, I wonder why.

4 You have your - - in terms of hiding things Page | 16
5 in this budget, just one example, you have all of
6 your public relations staff hidden in General
7 Services on Page 82, not perfectly identified as
8 such, but this they are.

9 And, as far as, um, appropriations in the
10 2021 budget, you had, "other" category, a five
11 hundred thousand dollars.

12 In this Preliminary Budget, you have "other
13 unspecified appropriations," of twenty-seven
14 million three hundred and fifty thousand five
15 hundred and fifty-four dollars that is twenty-
16 seven million of "other."

17 And, you don't tell the residents what
18 those are.

19 So, you know we all know that most
20 residents don't have the time to go through and
21 analyze or even read a two hundred and seven page
22 Preliminary Budget.

23 You know that and that is why you put it
24 together this way.

25 So, if there is a Newsday reporter

1 listening, you never write about the Town but this
2 is a public service, you need to tell people what
3 is hidden in this budget because most people are
4 not going to know and you should be ashamed of Page | 17
5 yourself.

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

8 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mrs. Garone.
9 It is always a pleasure.

10 I don't have any other slips, here.

11 Is there anybody else here that wishes to
12 be heard right, now?

13 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
14 the following ensued.)

15 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: And, if somebody left
16 their pocketbook, I was just notified it is out by
17 the front desk if you came in and left it, go
18 to the front desk to the Public Safety Officer.

19 If not, may I, please, have a Motion to
20 continue this Public Hearing to 7:00 p.m. this
21 evening.

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So moved.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

24 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

25 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 10/20/2021

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CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

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COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned to
continue at 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 Meeting held on October 20, 2021, at 2:30 consisting of pages 1 through 19 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.


NORTH SHORE
COURT REPORTERS
CHRISTIANE MASCOIA

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK

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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

TOWN BOARD MEETING

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 20, 2021

7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: DONALD CLAVIN, JR.

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

Page | 2

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN CARINI

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA

TOWN CLERK MURRAY

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK POKALSKY

TOWN ATTORNEY NOCELLA

TOWN COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO

ACTING DEPUTY TOWN COMPTROLLER CAPOBIANCO

TOWN COMPTROLLER'S ACCOUNTANT GRZAN

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Well, Good Evening,
2 everybody.

3 This is a continuation of the Town of
4 Hempstead Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll of ^{Page | 3}
5 the Greater Atlantic Beach Reclamation District
6 for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022 and
7 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Hempstead for
8 fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022.

9 We began today at 2:30.

10 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
11 roll.

12 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

13 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Here.

14 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

16 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

17 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Here.

18 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

20 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

22 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

24 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

25 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay, earlier we had
2 the Pledge of Allegiance, so, today's Public
3 Hearing began at 2:30.

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4 We are continuing to 7:00 p.m. this
5 evening.

6 As I stated this afternoon, because the
7 Public Hearings were continued to 7:00 p.m.
8 participants that spoke at 2:30 will not be able
9 to speak at 7:00 p.m.

10 Every participant will be given one chance
11 to speak up to three minutes in accordance with
12 the Town Board rules.

13 Madam Clerk, please, call the first Public
14 Hearing.

15 CLERK MURRAY: Proposed
16 Assessment Roll of the Greater Atlantic Beach
17 Water Reclamation District - for the fiscal year
18 beginning January 1, 2022.

19 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Does any Member of the
20 Board wish to be heard on this matter?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would just like to
22 recognize that the District's Counsel, Nick
23 De Sibio is here, present, in the event there are
24 any questions.

25 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you,

1 Mr. De Sibio for being, here.

2 I do not have any slips, does any Member of
3 the Public, here, wish to be heard on this item?

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

6 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: If not, may I, please,
7 have a Motion.

8 Okay, yes, give your name and address for
9 the record.

10 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Hempstead.

11 A point of clarification, first, just to be
12 clear, you said you can only speak as to what, one
13 issue, one Hearing or one time?

14 I need you to be clear because I am
15 confused.

16 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: We said earlier, today,
17 it has been consistent for a number of years, you
18 can speak once if you spoke this afternoon, this
19 is a continuation, you were heard and you had your
20 chance to speak this afternoon.

21 But, you can speak, tonight.

22 META MEREDAY: If I speak on this issue,
23 can I speak on other issues?

24 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: No, today is a Budget
25 Hearing, that is all we are talking about, the

1 Budget Hearings.

2 META MEREDAY: I understand, it is about
3 the Budget Hearing.

4 This is specifically about Atlantic Water ^{Page | 6}
5 issue and my concern has to do with the Water Bill
6 that is sitting at the Governor's Office and the
7 Town of Hempstead has failed to support this Bill
8 that would help ratepayers in this Township.

9 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: This is a Special
10 District with their budget, if you are speaking
11 about that, if not, the next Town Board, you can
12 address this as you always do.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Meta - -

14 META MEREDAY: Thank you, Councilman
15 Blakeman, for giving the taxpayers the courtesy
16 that they deserve for taking the time to come out
17 to these Meetings and look me in the eye.

18 We appreciate that because we don't seem to
19 get that from other people who get elected to sit
20 behind that counter.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, I just want to
22 explain to you that this is a special district and
23 we are in the Town of Hempstead just approving
24 their assessment roll that is all this matter is
25 about is their assessment roll and approving

1 it for a Special District.

2 META MEREDAY: Okay, that is why I need
3 clarification.

4 Thank you very much.

Page | 7

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: My pleasure.

6 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Is there anybody that
7 wishes to be heard on this item?

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

10 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: If not, may I, please,
11 have a Motion.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the
13 Public Hearing be closed and the Assessment Roll
14 be adopted.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second the Motion
16 to adopt.

17 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

18 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

19 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

21 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

22 COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

23 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

25 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

1 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

2 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

4 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

5 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

6 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Madam Clerk, please,
7 call the next Public Hearing.

8 CLERK MURRAY: Preliminary Budget for the
9 Town of Hempstead for the fiscal year beginning
10 January 1, 2022.

11 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: I have a couple of
12 slips on this that would like to be heard.

13 First, we will start with Stuart Kroll.

14 Good Evening, Mr. Kroll, if you would give
15 your name and address for the record.

16 STUART KROLL: Stuart Kroll, Great Neck.

17 I just have a couple of questions, comments
18 regarding the Animal Shelter budget.

19 The first item that caught my attention was
20 the budgeted amount of one hundred thousand
21 dollars for legal expenses at the Shelter.

22 It strikes me as an unusually large legal
23 expense for a Shelter.

24 We did have somebody that was not
25 qualified, didn't have the proper credentials

1 and a dog with aggressive history ended up maiming
2 somebody, basically causing severe damage.

3 I would like to know why this budget is so
4 high if people are working.

Page | 9

5 There are negligent people no matter what
6 they do, if they are negligent and don't have the
7 right qualifications, shouldn't that be their
8 expense rather than the Town's expense?

9 So, if anybody cares to answer that, feel
10 free to do so.

11 I guess not.

12 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: May I respond to
13 you.

14 STUART KROLL: Sure.

15 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: We don't create
16 lawsuits.

17 We are responding to the lawsuits that are
18 served on the Town of Hempstead and that is an
19 expensive proposition and that is legal fees.

20 It is Court fees and that is what it is.

21 It is an estimate based upon prior years,
22 experience and the number of lawsuits that are
23 generated.

24 We don't generate the lawsuits.

25 We have to defend ourselves.

1 STUART KROLL: You don't generate the
2 lawsuits but my question is if somebody is put in
3 a position of authority and working with animals
4 where people are involved and if there is anything ^{Page | 10}
5 against or lack of the proper credentials causes
6 the problem, causes a lawsuit should the Town be
7 responsible?

8 Should they personally be responsible?

9 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: That is your
10 judgment. It is not anything that we can do if we
11 are served, we have to respond.

12 STUART KROLL: The Town is responsible, I
13 understand.

14 Okay, there is an expenditure, also of ten
15 thousand dollars for advertising and promotion.

16 I hope, of course, is not spent in one
17 place, social media, promotion of the animals is
18 minimal.

19 How can we find good homes for the many
20 deserving dogs and cats with so little money?

21 The Shelter has recently dealt with and
22 still dealing with a large-scale hoarding
23 situation.

24 What is to happen with these cats?

25 Are they going to be sent to the

1 Good Shepard with money that wasn't intended for
2 such a purpose.

3 There is also a line item of twenty-seven
4 thousand dollars for placement of animals.

Page | 11

5 I would like to know what that means.

6 Does that actually mean placement of
7 animals?

8 What are they actually doing to promote
9 these animals?

10 If anybody cares to respond to that, would
11 be nice.

12 Every possible effort should be made to
13 socialize any animal that needs it and utilize
14 every means available to find them a good home.

15 We have been told that the Shelter is short
16 staffed, how is that possible with a payroll of
17 our four million dollars which is budgeted for the
18 next fiscal year?

19 Perhaps someone would care to tell me how
20 many fulltime employees working there, as well as
21 the number of part-time employees?

22 Is that information readily available?

23 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: It is in the
24 budget.

25 STUART KROLL: Okay, those employees are,

1 Obviously, very well compensated.

2 Part of the problem is that any Department
3 would have to have employees working there,
4 hopefully, very devoted working with them rather
5 than just Civil Service Employees, who by happen
6 stance end up working at the Shelter.

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7 No doubt many of them do care deeply, when
8 you have those in charged with the least qualified
9 and lie about their credentials and obscure the
10 real purpose of working with animals.

11 Maybe, perhaps, you can tell me how medical
12 costs went down fifteen thousand dollars from one
13 hundred and forty thousand dollars to one hundred
14 and twenty-five thousand dollars?

15 The Shelter has been dealing with numerous
16 cats hoarding situations, how is it possible that
17 there is less medical supplies needed than their
18 previously were?

19 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
20 After, the following ensued.)

21 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mr. Kroll.

22 We appreciate you always visiting the Town
23 of Hempstead.

24 Next, I have Diane Madden.

25 Good evening, give your name and address

1 for the record.

2 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden.

3 How much of the Federal CARES Act money,
4 the COVID Relief Funds were used to balance your ^{Page | 13}
5 2021 budget?

6 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Nothing.

7 DIANE MADDEN: How much of the COVID Relief
8 Funds were used to balance your 2022 budget?

9 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO; Nothing, zero.

10 DIANE MADDEN: So, you can't identify in
11 this budget any COVID money whatsoever?

12 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: There is money
13 in this budget for emergency rental assistance.

14 Um, there is a budgeted, estimate as to
15 what we anticipate will be spent in 2022 and it is
16 offset by the Gant from the, um, Treasury for that
17 purpose, that is the only thing that is in, here.

18 DIANE MADDEN: Why is that money still in
19 there?

20 I mean, there was a protest the other day,
21 why is that money still there and not given to the
22 vendors?

23 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: The money goes
24 through a process, most of it, I would say,
25 eighty, ninety percent of it has

1 | been obligated or paid out at this point in time
2 | and it is a three-year program.

3 | DIANE MADDEN: So, where is all the COVID
4 | money?

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5 | How do you identify that?

6 | Is it comingled?

7 | COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Every single
8 | draw down of the COVID funding, as we have said,
9 | many, many times was done via Town Board
10 | Resolution.

11 | DIANE MADDEN: I didn't ask that.

12 | I am asking where is the money?

13 | You're saying it is not in this budget?

14 | I think by your own admission, today, you
15 | said seventy million was in this budget.

16 | COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: I did not say
17 | that.

18 | DIANE MADDEN: So, where is the COVID money
19 | if it is not in this budget?

20 | COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: The COVID money
21 | in prior year - - and, it is our rainy day fund.

22 | DIANE MADDEN: How much is left?

23 | COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Of the seventy
24 | million?

25 | DIANE MADDEN: Right.

1 COMPTRROLLER MASTROMARINO: We had two
2 years, we utilized twenty million, approximately,
3 thirty.

4 DIANE MADDEN: Where did it go?

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5 COMPTRROLLER MASTROMARINO: I just said it
6 is in our fund balance, it is in our rainy day
7 fund.

8 DIANE MADDEN: So isn't the rainy day fund
9 apart of the budget?

10 COMPTRROLLER MASTROMARINO: The rainy day
11 fund is not part of the budget.

12 DIANE MADDEN: So you have the COVID money,
13 so, I understand this, so everyone understands
14 this, in a totally separate, isolated account?

15 COMPTRROLLER MASTROMARINO: The money was
16 drawn down.

17 DIANE MADDEN: It is just yes or no, is it
18 in a separate account?

19 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Ms. Madden, please, be
20 respectful.

21 DIANE MADDEN: I am being respectful. He
22 is dancing around every question, every question I
23 asked.

24 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: He is answering all the
25 questions.

1 DIANE MADDEN: I disagree.

2 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay.

3 DIANE MADDEN: The answer is yes or no.

4 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: You don't set the
5 guidelines on the answer.

6 Mr. Mastromarino can explain, which he did.

7 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: The money was in
8 a segregated account and according to our system
9 that we set up was drawn from that account into
10 our General Fund when the Town Board passed a
11 Resolution, so, it is in our General Fund.

12 DIANE MADDEN: Exactly, how much is left?

13 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Do you any questions
14 regarding this budget?

15 DIANE MADDEN: That is part of this budget.

16 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Approximately,
17 thirty million of the seventy.

18 DIANE MADDEN: Here is my proposal, that
19 you table this budget until everyone can identify
20 where this money is.

21 I don't understand how you could pass a
22 budget like this with a clear conscience when I
23 can't get a really straight answer as to where the
24 COVID fund are and why you even still have COVID
25 funds left.

1 What happens if the Federal Government
2 calls back this money?

3 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: It gets returned
4 to the Treasurer.

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5 DIANE MADDEN: Excuse me?

6 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: It gets returned
7 to the Treasurer.

8 DIANE MADDEN: Not if you spent it on
9 salaries and promotions and raises.

10 I think we would have a tax increase in
11 that case.

12 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: No, the process
13 we went through was carefully vetted.

14 It complied with every single step that was
15 issued by the Federal Treasury.

16 DIANE MADDEN: And, if that were true,
17 Supervisor Clavin would be at every single debate
18 that is out there, now, against Jason Abelow, so,
19 something is not adding up.

20 And, again, I ask you to table this
21 Resolution until everyone can understand where the
22 money is and, in fact, if you are using the money
23 to shore up a budget balance.

24 The other appropriation of twenty-seven
25 million, could you identify what that money

1 is?

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

4 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mrs. Madden,^{Page | 18}
5 I appreciate your thoughts.

6 I am going to, now, call up Johnathan
7 Prevost. (Phonetic spelling)

8 Good Evening, if you could give your name
9 and address for the record.

10 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: Sure, my name is
11 Johnathan Prevost. I have a question with regards
12 to the Parks budget for the updating the Parks,
13 that line item in the budget, I was reviewing to
14 see if the thirty thousand dollars allocated to
15 Coes Neck is in this budget?

16 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Coes Neck Park?

17 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: Coes Neck Park, sir, is
18 the Town of Hempstead.

19 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: Part of the Town
20 of Hempstead Park.

21 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: Have Meetings been
22 conducted with the communities that show what they
23 would like or is it just, you know a blanket job?

24 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: We have to defer
25 - - I don't know.

1 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: So, would it be
2 possible with the Civic Association and Supervisor
3 Clavin and Senior Councilwoman Goosby to discuss
4 this? Page | 19

5 PARKS COMMISSIONER: I know we have two
6 capital projects in the calendar year but as far
7 as improvements within the Operating Budget, I
8 don't believe that is there.

9 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay.

10 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: All right, I will talk
11 to you on the side.

12 Thank you, Town Board, I appreciate you.

13 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Stick around, he will
14 talk to you in the back room if you want to
15 follow-up.

16 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: Okay, for the bathrooms
17 at Coes Neck Park location, is it possible COVID
18 funds could be allocated for the bathrooms?

19 They are in desperate need of repair.

20 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: You will talk to him.

21 Follow-up on that.

22 PARKS COMMISSIONER: Absolutely.

23 JOHNATHAN PREVOST: My last minute and
24 eight seconds, I just want to point out that there
25 are several lights in Coes Neck that need to

1 be repaired because we have children practicing in
2 the Park.

3 It is an issue as a taxpayer.

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4 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay, great.

5 Please go in the back and take it down and
6 follow-up.

7 Thank you for bringing it to our attention.

8 Appreciate it.

9 Next, I have Laura Wiggins.

10 Good Evening, if you could give your name
11 and address for the record, please.

12 LAURA WIGGINS: Laura Wiggins, Uniondale,
13 New York.

14 I wish to ask the Town in reference to
15 Uniondale Public Library to review the tentative
16 budget for 2022.

17 The community cannot ask questions of the
18 Board.

19 There are five Members of the Board which
20 compiles and submits the budget to you for
21 approval.

22 There is, for example, account, 10/10
23 salaries.

24 Everyone is grouped, administration,
25 clerks, everyone, to the tune of almost

1 two million dollars.

2 Now, Uniondale has been without a Director
3 for a number of years.

4 Our Director is new.

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5 Our Assistant Director is quite new. We do
6 not know who is getting what.

7 But, we do know that financial positions
8 have been created.

9 We know that people have been promoted and,
10 of course salaries increased, yet, they sit on
11 four million dollars in a structure that cannot
12 accommodate or serve the community.

13 And, they have been doing this for a few
14 years.

15 The question is this budget with COVID
16 affecting us as it has, four million dollars, I
17 think is a little high, too high because they have
18 done nothing in the past three years, let alone,
19 ten years.

20 Suggestions have been made in regard to
21 where they may possibly purchase land to build a
22 structure and they have failed to follow through
23 on any suggestions.

24 For that reason and others, I am asking you
25 to review this budget because the five persons

1 who formulated this budget and I am not going to
2 publicly name names.

3 They are incompetent, especially one who is
4 the President at the time.

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5 He cannot conduct a Meeting. Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mrs.

7 Wiggins.

8 John, you will take that under advisement
9 when you receive the budget.

10 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: As part of the
11 process, we interview every Special District,
12 every Library District that is within the Town.

13 There are addendums to the budget.

14 The law says we have to publish their
15 budget.

16 The budget is generated by the individual
17 members of their legislative body, hopefully, at
18 the Hearing that they have.

19 Our responsibility is to look at the
20 expenses and to ask the questions and see if they
21 appear to be proper.

22 We have done that with this Library.

23 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Thank you, Mrs.

24 Wiggins.

25 LAURA WIGGINS: I have a question.

1 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: You are at the three-
2 minute mark.

3 If you stick around after, we are always
4 happy to talk to you.

5 Thank you.

6 Next, I have Ms. Mereday.

7 Good Evening, name and address for the
8 record, please.

9 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, taxpayer.

10 Um, um, I am hoping when I ask a question
11 that the time is stopped and it allows for whoever
12 that is paid to do this work, since I didn't have
13 the time to actually go through all of this today
14 because some of us kind of out, here, are trying
15 to actually save lives or keep people employed to
16 pay these high taxes.

17 I have a question, the only thing I can see
18 related to any Veteran-type services was "Veteran
19 Meeting Rooms," for fifteen hundred dollars.

20 Is there any change or increase or, you
21 know, epitome with regard to increasing Veteran
22 related services and outreach in this upcoming
23 budget?

24 Please, stop the clock at two minutes.

25 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: That fifteen

1 hundred is actually set by State Law.

2 META MEREDAY: I am glad we follow the
3 State and Federal regulations for something.

4 But, I am looking for what else is in this ^{Page | 24}
5 budget that is going to address the needs of our
6 over forty thousand Veterans.

7 Again, please, stop the clock so they can
8 look to the answer to the question.

9 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Ms. Mereday, she is
10 doing a great job with the clock.

11 META MEREDAY: I didn't name names.

12 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: She is doing her job.

13 META MEREDAY: Time is up. Everybody is
14 doing a great job and again, the clock is ticking
15 and I have not gotten an answer to the question.

16 COMPTROLLER MASTROMARINO: We do have a
17 number of, um, Veteran groups that is on the Town
18 as an expense and if there is anything that is of
19 a particular need for any Veteran organization or
20 needs of anything, um, that will be addressed
21 during the year.

22 META MEREDAY: It is not addressed during
23 the year, sir.

24 I am, here, during the year. I am out on
25 the streets addressing the needs of Veterans

1 that are not being addressed by my tax dollars.

2 So, I am asking, is the answer to the
3 question, more of the same?

4 Is that the answer to the question?

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5 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: No, it is not, Mrs.
6 Mereday.

7 We actually use our Department at DOORS
8 which is run by Mr. Mollet, that actually works
9 with the Veteran Groups on a regular basis.

10 In addition to that, we have a great team,
11 here with the Veterans that have a beautiful
12 office on the second floor where they are dealing
13 with the Vets on a regular basis.

14 They do a tremendous job.

15 We are proud of them.

16 We use the funds also coming from DOOR to
17 assist in programs.

18 META MEREDAY: And, again, where is the
19 report for that?

20 Could that, possibly, be put out instead of
21 all the inundation of campaign materials that is
22 really irrelevant because you are only getting
23 elected, at this stage of the game, it really
24 doesn't matter which Party gets elected because it
25 is the taxpayers that continue to get screwed.

1 I know you want to do this campaign
2 promise.

3 Everybody is great. Everyone is doing a
4 wonderful job and in most cases they are but you Page | 26
5 still have not answered the question with regard
6 to an actual increase in the resources that needs
7 to bring on great bodies to do the work, to meet
8 the increasing needs of our Veterans, particularly
9 following the pandemic, that is my question.

10 The other question is since there are State
11 regulations that pertain to the participation of
12 minority, women and Veteran businesses, Veteran
13 businesses generally hire Veterans but if we are
14 not bringing in our procuring contracts with
15 Veteran-owned businesses, we can't provide those
16 jobs.

17 So, again, where is the funding to address
18 the growing disparity with regard to Veteran
19 business development, minority business
20 development and women business development?

21 Please, stop the clock.

22 I got forty-eight seconds. I am owed the
23 ten seconds by the great person on the time clock.

24 (Whereupon, "that is me," was heard.

25 After, the following ensued.)

1 META MEREDAY: Everybody is doing a great
2 job but, go ahead.

3 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: There have been
4 bids put out.

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5 They do all indicate Veterans, minorities,
6 women and I do believe there have been contracts
7 that have been vetted.

8 META MEREDAY: I am talking about not
9 somebody's friends.

10 Okay, you got plenty of time, I only got
11 forty-seven seconds.

12 I will listen.

13 COMPROLLER MASTROMARINO: There have been
14 contracts that have been bid out to Veteran-owned
15 businesses.

16 We have done that.

17 We do, um, test for it and we do encourage
18 it and we have issued contracts to Veterans.

19 META MEREDAY: Who?

20 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Actually, I think it
21 was last year with the PPE, two million dollars of
22 contracts, one of them was to a Veteran-owned
23 business, that was in Nassau County, two million
24 dollars.

25 META MEREDAY: Okay, who else was a

1 Veteran-owned business?

2 This is 2021, Supervisor, so, you got one.

3 That is all you got for me?

4 All right, gee, okay.

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5 I saw Youth Services are getting very
6 little money.

7 I mean, again, roadwork, what about that.

8 Grand Avenue, you got all these
9 relationships between the Town and County but the
10 roads and the underserve, I guess, the, um, lesser
11 known, lesser patronage communities are still
12 getting shafted and someone mentioned earlier, I
13 witnessed the young people in Uniondale that are
14 practicing in the dark.

15 It is well lit out in the Plaza.

16 I will call it "Plaza X."

17 It is well lit out there but practicing in
18 the dark and using unsafe bathrooms in the
19 Township of Hempstead is that acceptable?

20 Is that doing a great job, Supervisor?

21 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
22 After, the following ensued.)

23 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Grand Avenue is a
24 County-owned road.

25 META MEREDAY: I know it is a County-

1 owned road.

2 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: We don't have any other
3 slips from people that wanted to speak here,
4 tonight, is there anybody in the audience that
5 would like to be heard that hasn't spoken already?

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6 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
7 the following ensued.)

8 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Okay if not, may I,
9 please, have a Motion.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor, I
11 move to adopt the Preliminary budget as the Annual
12 Budget for the Town of Hempstead for the fiscal
13 year beginning January 1, 2022.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I proudly second
15 that.

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.

1 CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

3 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I make a Motion we
6 adjourn.

7 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Before we do that, if I
8 may say thank you to John and the entire team in
9 the Comptroller's Office.

10 You have done a great job with this tax-cut
11 budget.

12 You got two bond upgrades with everybody
13 working together.

14 You work tirelessly to do a great job.

15 I think everybody owes you and your team a
16 great thank you.

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

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Move we adjourn.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

21 CLERK MURRAY: Supervisor Clavin?

22 SUPERVISOR CLAVIN: Aye.

23 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Carini?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 10/20/2021 7:00 p.m.

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COUNCILMAN CARINI: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK MURRAY: Councilman Muscarella?

COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.)

Time noted: 7:30 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing
testimony in the matter of the continued Meeting
of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on
October 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. consisting of pages
1 through 32 inclusive is an accurate
transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



CHRISTINE MASCOIA

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK