TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OYSTER BAY
REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2021
10:13 a.m.

HEARING - BUDGET

To consider the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Oyster Bay for the Year 2022 (M.D. 9/14/21 #18).

JOSEPH SALADINO

RICHARD LaMARCA

SUPERVISOR

TOWN CLERK

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR JOSEPH S. SALADINO
COUNCILWOMAN MICHELE M. JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN LOUIS B. IMBROTO
COUNCILMAN THOMAS P. HAND
COUNCILMAN STEVE L. LABRIOLA
COUNCILWOMAN LAURA L. MAIER
COUNCILWOMAN VICKI WALSH

ALSO PRESENT:

RICHARD LaMARCA, TOWN CLERK
JEFFREY P. PRAVATO, RECEIVER OF TAXES

Minutes of the meeting taken by:

TRACIE A. CINQUEMANI Reporter/Notary Public

ON TIME COURT REPORTING 516-535-3939

2.1

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to this meeting of the Town of Oyster Bay Town Board for Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

For those joining us this morning, you will have an opportunity to be heard on matters brought before the Town Board, as well as during the public comment as we do at each and every Board meeting.

And, as always, this meeting is being live-streamed on social media as well as on the Town's website, oysterbaytown.com. These proceedings are recorded and later transcribed.

Your voice is important to us, as always, and statements and comments and input from the public, relative to our meetings, are always welcomed and respected, and we just ask that everyone coming up to speak, or everyone in the gallery, respects who the speakers are and acts professionally with the Board.

To submit comments online so that your input can be considered, they should be e-mailed to publiccomment@oysterbay-ny.gov; or they can be mailed to us at Town Attorney, 54 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay, New York 11771.

2.1

Leading us in prayer today, as we begin every Board meeting with prayer, is Deacon
Raymond P. D'Alessio, of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle.

Deacon, would you please join us at the podium?

DEACON D'ALESSIO: Thank you, Supervisor.

Let us bow our heads.

Almighty Creator of all things sacred and virtuous, we come to you today in gratitude and faith for our many blessings. We ask you on this day to bestow your spirit upon this, our Town governing body, and all who will participate in these discussions and deliberations.

Enlighten us to act without hostility, partiality and intolerance. And always morally with justice, with integrity, humility, kindness and compassion, respectful for one another's opinions and ideas.

Impart on us the gifts of wisdom and knowledge, the ability and willingness to compromise and conduct ourselves in the best interest of those we serve, to be ever mindful of protecting the rights and liberties granted to us

2.1

under the laws and ordinances of our great Nation.

Finally, guide us to protect and use wisely the resources of others entrusted to us, and give us the foresight to protect what you have created in the majesty of nature for all generations to enjoy, admire and cherish, and we ask all these things by virtue of our faith in your holy name.

Amen.

ALL: Amen.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you very much, Deacon, for your friendship, your spiritual leadership, and your commitment to your congregation and to our community.

God bless you.

DEACON D'ALESSIO: Thank you,

Supervisor. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance this morning is a terrific person, a very dedicated Veteran and a wonderful friend, United States Navy Combat Veteran, Sal Polito.

Sal served during the Vietnam War from 1966 to '68 in the Navy aboard a destroyer that ran many classified missions in very dangerous waters.

2.1

Sal, the honor is ours and the podium is yours.

MR. POLITO: Good morning, Supervisor Saladino and all the rest.

I want to say this to everybody here that it was a proud thing for me to be serving the United States, and I'm here to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage present recited the Pledge of Allegiance, after which the following transpired:)

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you, Sal.

If you all would remain standing for a moment.

We are very proud that Sal now works in our Division of Veterans Services and helps our Town Veterans as an advocate, serving their needs, and ensuring that our Veterans get all of the services from the federal government, from the State, all of the services they have earned. And our Veterans mean quite a lot to us — this Town Board, the elected officials, and the community that is Town government. And that's why we put the best of the best in this position to ensure that they get the best of services.

6 1 MR. POLITO: Thank you. 2 And it's an honor to serve. 3 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Please take a 4 moment and keep in mind our men and women in the 5 United States Armed Forces, serving here in the homeland and abroad, and our men and women in law 6 7 enforcement, all of our first responders, all of 8 our health care heroes, all of those who advocate 9 and work for our wellbeing. 10 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was 11 observed by the assemblage present.) 12 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you. 13 Please be seated. 14 Thanks, Sal. 15 Today, we welcome our residents to 16 Oyster Bay Town Hall to discuss the 2022 proposed 17 Town Budget. This constitutes our ability to 18 sustain a \$1.3 million property tax cut, approved 19 by the Town Board for the 2018 budget, by 20 implementing that plan that has continued to freeze 2.1 property taxes since, and, now, for the fourth 22 straight year. 23 So we cut property taxes for the 2018 24 budget, \$1.3 million, and then have frozen taxes --25 no tax increase since -- and we continue on that

2.1

with this budget for 2022, which freezes property taxes.

We're collectively very proud of the milestones made in returning fiscal strength to the Town of Oyster Bay, and there are so many milestones that we're very proud of, and we want you to be proud of them, too.

From a \$47 million surplus in our cumulative fund balance, meaning our ongoing operating budget, now has a \$47 million surplus.

At the end of 2016, we had a \$44 million deficit, and then the following year, a \$24 million deficit, and then we have positives.

Then we kept building and building and working our way up to a \$47 million surplus while cutting taxes, and we're exceptionally proud of that.

These successes are one of the main reasons -- not the only reason -- but one of our main reasons our bond rating has been increased to A+ and an A3 from two independent Wall Street firms, and the reason we've been fully removed from the New York State Comptroller's stress monitoring list for two years in a row now. That's the first time the Town has been removed from this list since its inception in 2013. We weren't just downgraded,

2.1

meaning less stressed, we were removed from the list altogether.

So that's a lot for our residents to be proud of, and I want to thank this Board and the elected officials of this Town and the consummate professionals who have helped us to shepherd this way out of the dark days of financial problems to a point now where we have one of the best financial outlooks of any town on Long Island and any town in this State.

So not only does the bond rating keep going up -- six bond rating increases -- four during a pandemic without raising taxes. Four notches increased during the pandemic without raising taxes. That's a big deal.

We also were given a positive outlook. There are three types of outlooks the Wall Street bond rating agencies give and ours is the best.

The positive outlook, which says you're most likely going to continue to get bond rating increases, and I'm going to give my opinion that working with this Board, we're going have a AAA bond rating. It's just a matter of time.

AAA is the best you can get. That saves an enormous amount of money when we bond, not

2.1

only for the Town, but it also saves the smaller municipalities, who, by State law, must bond through the Town.

We're also refinancing our debt at a lower interest rate. We've saved \$10 million doing that alone. So there are different times during a bond when you're allowed to refinance at specific intervals, so we go out and pay it off, and we refinance that at a much lower bond rating, less interest being paid, and that's part of the reason we've been able to save so much money.

But we'll hear more about the budget -you can tell how proud I am of this -- we'll hear
more of the details of the budget, listen to the
comments of the public as it relates to our budget,
but for now, to begin the regular Action Calendar
for this meeting, we call upon our Clerk, Rich
LaMarca, to please poll the Board.

MR. LaMARCA: Supervisor Saladino?

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I am here.

Heart and soul.

MR. LaMARCA: Councilwoman Johnson?

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Present.

MR. LaMARCA: Councilman Imbroto?

COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Here.

ON TIME COURT REPORTING 516-535-3939

	10
1	MR. LaMARCA: Councilman Hand?
2	COUNCILMAN HAND: Present.
3	MR. LaMARCA: Councilman Labriola?
4	COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: Present.
5	MR. LaMARCA: Councilwoman Maier?
6	COUNCILWOMAN MAIER: Present.
7	MR. LaMARCA: Councilwoman Walsh.
8	COUNCILWOMAN WALSH: Present.
9	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Will the Town
10	Clerk now call the hearing of the day?
11	MR. LaMARCA: Today's hearing is to
12	consider the Preliminary Budget for the Town of
13	Oyster Bay for the year 2022.
14	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I call upon
15	Mr. Rob Darienzo to please approach the podium.
16	Rob Darienzo, our Director of Finance,
17	and please, start off by identifying yourself for
18	the record.
19	MR. DARIENZO: Good morning, Supervisor
20	and Town Board members.
21	I am Rob Darienzo. I am the Director
22	of Finance for the Town of Oyster Bay.
23	We are here today to discuss the 2022
24	Preliminary Budget. It's a pretty straightforward
25	budget. The total expenses: \$311 million for

2.1

2022. That's the estimated amount. In 2021, it was also \$311 million.

Supervisor, as you already mentioned, the other most important item is the taxes. The taxes were \$233 million in 2021, they will be \$233 million in 2022; the same way they were \$233 million in 2020 and 2019 and in 2018 when we first instituted the tax cut.

So, over the past five years, that's \$6.5 million that came out of the Town's bank accounts and gone back to the residents.

The reason we're able to have an expense budget that stays at \$311 million, despite the pandemic, is because we have done such great work in terms of keeping payroll down and keeping debt service down.

Our debt service payments that are scheduled in 2022 are \$8 million less than they were in 2021. There are large swarths of debt that are coming off the books fast and furious, so because we have less debt, because we borrowed less money, naturally, we have lower payments to make in future years. So even though all of our departments are telling us that the costs of goods and services, the costs of energy, the costs of

2.1

gas, the costs of parts, the costs of everything is going up in the wake of the pandemic and the -
SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Fuel for all those garbage trucks, all of the Highway vehicles.

MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

So costs are going up everywhere, and, yet, we are able to maintain the line on spending because we've done such a great job in terms of -- because this administration does a great job of reducing the debt service.

So right now, the debt reduction and the payroll reductions are what's allowing us to be able to hold the line on taxes for our residents.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So Mr. Darienzo, that everybody who is listening here or, perhaps, watching on their computer watching these proceedings, is wondering, how.

You mentioned that there are numerous, different pieces to this puzzle of how we have reached this point, with all the costs rising and all the inflation and the cost of fuel more than doubling and so on and so forth, energy, utilities. Everyone's wondering how did you do it.

There are many pieces to this puzzle. I remember our first meeting on January 31, 2017,

2.1

and we spent the entire afternoon in my office talking about strategies, and where the Town's at, and where we need to be, and, obviously, our Town Board members, with their business acumen and vast experience, have been enormously helpful, and I greatly appreciate all of their efforts.

We've spoken about this numerous times, but to briefly lay this out for the public, there are many components of how we've saved this money so that we can have a no tax increase budget -- the fourth in a row after a tax cut -- but the two largest components are: Greatly reducing the cost of labor -- the workforce costs -- and greatly reducing the debt service.

Let's talk about debt service and the specifics of the saving.

MR. DARIENZO: The Supervisor is not kidding. He put his hand on the Bible in this very room on January 31st. When the meeting was over, he went upstairs, roughly a half an hour later, I was called in, and we spent approximately three hours together. I was bombarded with questions about the Town's finances.

At the time, we were in a very dark place, and, understandably, the new Supervisor had

2.1

lots of questions, and as we went through the various items, it became clear to the Supervisor that the best path forward would be to, in essence, shock the system.

We had gotten by -- not we'd gotten by -- the Town had borrowed north of \$100 million per year for capital borrowings on a yearly basis going back from, say, 2011 to 2016, and you asked me what was the fastest way to stem that tide, and I said we need to borrow less money. And, so, rather than just borrow less money, you said we're going to borrow no money, and we did not borrow one penny for capital purposes in 2017.

We still spent money for capital purposes. We had money that existed in existing accounts that allowed us to still buy some equipment, improve some parks. Sure, we wouldn't have done as much as, maybe, we would have liked in that one year, but we needed to shock the system. We needed to stop things where they were, and start to turn the tide, and we did.

So, in 2017, we were able to reduce capital debt by \$85 million -- the largest reduction in one year in the history of the Town -- dare I say it will never be matched because there

2.1

should never be a year again where we issue zero dollars in new money for capital purposes.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: It is important to point out, once again, you said that didn't stop us from those important projects. We found many accounts that still had money. I would liken it to pulling the cushions out of the couch and finding every last penny.

MR. DARIENZO: Yeah, in your cushions, you might find a couple of pennies. We found millions. It was on a larger scale, but, yes.

But, with that being said, borrowing for capital -- the impact that's found on the operating budget is not shown for several years. When you borrow money, you don't start paying it back until one or two years later. So the impact of the great reduction in overall debt, we're at \$165 million of debt reduction in total since you've come on board. That is now being shown starting in this 2022 budget.

Again, the payments being made next year for debt service are down \$8 million. That's from \$84 million to \$76 million. If you compare to 2017, it's down \$16 million on a yearly basis. So that's the kind of Band-Aid that can allow you to

2.1

account for expenses in other areas, where, again, the cost of everything typically rises from year to year. That's just human nature. Obviously, what a loaf of bread costs today is much more expensive, for instance, than what it was 20 years ago. A gallon of gas -- whatever you want to liken it to -- so the costs of all the goods and services that the Town needs to provide for our residents have gone up. The way for us to be able to hold the line on taxes is to find the areas where we can cut, and so debt service is chief among them.

The second is in the labor costs. In the -- from 2011 to 2016, the year before you came here, we had anywhere from 1,150 to a high of 1,250 full-time employees. There was a retirement incentive that took place -- roughly, the month you got here is when people left -- and that took us down to roughly 1,000 employees. Now, we've had retirement incentives in the past, and anytime we'd lose people, we'd just hire the same amount to come back, and, so, we never truly had a true reduction. We'd have higher priced people going out, and we'd hire just the same number of people to come back. That's why we're always at 1,150; 1,175; 1,250; but in your case, much like -- much in the same vein of

17 1 not borrowing for capital purposes in 2017, we also 2 didn't rehire at the same levels as we had in the 3 past. And now here we are five years later, and we 4 still have the same roughly 1,000 employees that we 5 had five years ago. We're doing less with more [sic]. The job is still getting done --6 7 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Doing more with 8 less. 9 MR. DARIENZO: What did I say? 10 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We're doing more 11 with less employees. 12 MR. DARIENZO: Pardon me if I'm a 13 little punchy. We brought a new puppy home over 14 the weekend. It's been lots of sleepless nights 15 these past couple of days. 16 (Whereupon, there was some laughter in 17 the assemblage present.) 18 MR. DARIENZO: We are doing more with 19 less. That's correct. We're doing more with less. 20 Yes, we're at roughly 1,000 employees 2.1 on the whole, and even with contractual raises and 22 contractual promotions, our salary level right now 23 is \$9 million lower than it was a year before you 24 came here. It is on par with what it was when you 25 walked in the door.

2.1

So maybe other administrations, other supervisors, other Town Boards, other leaders might have taken that opportunity to hire a slew of people to make the job easier for the other 1,000 people that were here, but we've held the line.

We knew it was important to keep our payroll expenses in line the same way we were keeping our debt service numbers in line. Those were the two largest expenses that this Township faces, and it's important to keep those in mind.

That's the way, again, these two areas are the two main reasons why we've been able to, first, lower taxes, and, now, hold the line on lowering those taxes for our residents. And it's the intention to keep that going for as long as possible.

We have made it through our darkest times. We've had surpluses the past five years that averaged \$18 million a year. You mentioned it in the preamble from a \$44 million deficit -- our rock bottom -- to currently a \$47 million surplus.

I'm not going to lie to this Town Board and let you think that we're going to have \$18 million surpluses every year moving forward. That is not the case, and that shouldn't be the case.

2.1

We've now, again, shocked the system.

We went from a giant deficit to a -- not a giant surplus -- we have a moderate surplus. We have a surplus that's right in line of where it should be.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: When you say where it should be, we have to mention that

New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and his staff oversees our books just like they look at the books and finances of every municipality. They've

removed us, as we've stated, from that financial
stress monitoring list two times now, but they also
speak about what a municipality of certain sizes

13 should have in reserves.

Do we have too much of a reserve according to the State Comptroller's office?

 $$\operatorname{MR.\ DARIENZO}$:$$ We certainly do not have too much of a reserve. They would certainly let us know.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And we've never been criticized for having too much in reserve?

MR. DARIENZO: No.

Well, I don't want that day to come. I wouldn't mind them saying we have too much money in reserve. We're certainly not there yet.

When we were at negative \$44 million,

2.1

our initial goal was to get to a surplus of \$30 million. I'm sure this Town Board has heard that number thrown around over the years.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Which would be approximately 10 percent of the overall operating budget.

MR. DARIENZO: Correct.

Our budget is \$311 million, but for ease of math here, let's assume a \$300 million budget, which would mean 10 percent of that would make \$30 million. So that was our initial goal to have 10 percent of our operating budget in reserve.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And, so, folks who aren't accountants and not financial people understand why, this is designed to help us get the bond rating back up step-by-step. Someone criticized, well, you didn't -- it's too little, too late.

What would you say to that in terms of the reality of the way Wall Street operates and the way they provide bond rating increases?

MR. DARIENZO: Sure.

We get ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's. They are conservative in nature at best. They are slow to lower your rating, and they

2.1

2.1

are slow to increase your rating. The rate is based on, typically, your past five years of experience. You can't have one good year and expect Standard & Poor's to jump up and down and say you're the best and say, okay, cool, you had one great year, you're AAA now.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So they look for multiyear trends --

MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: -- they look for, in our case, positive changes in the way the administration manages our budget, and they look for increasing surpluses in our operating budget.

MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

They look at all aspects. Not just the numbers, but also the stories behind the numbers.

And as you already touted, six increases since you've been here.

We had a three-step upgrade a couple of months ago from Standard & Poor's. On the phone call with the gentleman -- the analyst there -- he said we were a unicorn. We were the unicorn during the pandemic that received not one, not two, but three steps at one time.

So too little, too late?

2.1

2.2

No. We are now four notches from the top. Four notches from AAA. If we maintained our \$47 million surplus, just that baseline for the next couple of years, we'll get back to AAA, but we're going to do even better than the \$47 million surplus.

Again, we had an initial goal of \$30 million, which is roughly 10 percent of our budget. Now we're at \$47 million, which is roughly 15 percent of our budget. My recommendation is that we don't go past, say, 20 percent of our budget. So \$60 million would be the top end surplus that I would like for our Town to have.

We are at \$47 million as of the end of our audit year 2020. In 2021 -- we still have a couple of months to go -- things are looking positive though -- we should have a surplus in the \$5 million to \$10 million range, so that will take us from \$47 million to, let's say, \$52, 53 million.

The 2022 budget continues our trend of -- I want to say this right -- underestimating revenues and overestimating expenses in a conservative way.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Why is that

25 important?

2.1

2.4

MR. DARIENZO: It's important not to kid yourself when you're preparing the budget. You don't want to have pie in the sky revenue projections. You don't want to be wishing and hoping that you stay within your budget on the expense side. You want to make sure you have a cushion that if something goes wrong, or if a pandemic hits and costs skyrocket, you want to make sure you have a cushion that will allow you to stay within your budget at all times.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Or large snowstorms, or a hurricane, or besides the pandemic. It's like a checking account. You know how much is coming in because your paycheck is deposited in that checking account.

You want to understand how much you have in the account as you write your checks, correct?

MR. DARIENZO: Yes.

What you're getting into now, that's the effect of our cumulative surplus. To have \$47 million on hand will help us out if there's an unforeseen emergency like a Hurricane Sandy. When Hurricane Sandy hit, the Town didn't have any money in reserve. We had to immediately borrow

2.1

2.4

\$30 million to pay for the cleanup. We had to pay that back with interest.

As we stand today, God forbid, if we had a Hurricane Sandy tomorrow, we'd be able to pay for that cleanup with cash that we have in our banks now and not have to borrow money and not have to have the interest expense cost related with such a borrowing.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And under the same category of careful spending, the Town of Oyster Bay no longer borrows for short-term expenses -- the RANS and TANS as they're called in the industry. There's no more of that, so we're not paying interest on any of that. We don't borrow to meet our bills.

MR. DARIENZO: Correct.

When you first arrived, we had \$32 million outstanding in cash flow notes.

Again, that's just borrowing money to meet payroll.

As we stand here today, we have roughly \$200 million cash in our bank accounts. We have more cash now than we have ever had.

There were times -- I get a cash report every week, and at our worst, there was a report

25 that I received that showed we had \$9 million in 1 2 total in our bank accounts. Our bi-weekly payroll 3 is roughly \$3 million, so we were almost broke. hate to use the term "broke." It's not even fun to 4 5 think about, but we were at the bottom, and, now, we're the best we've ever been. 6 7 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: In an effort to 8 be succinct, there are certain items that I believe 9 are important to relay to our property taxpayers, 10 to the public. Just a couple of other issues I 11 wanted to speak about. 12 There are 13 funds -- individual funds 13 -- that make up the Town's operating budget. 14 People might try to criticize, well, this fund 15 isn't balanced, but that one is. 16 Of those 13 funds, how many of them are 17 entirely balanced? 18 MR. DARIENZO: They're all entirely 19 balanced. They all have surpluses. When you got 20 here, five of the 13 were running deficits. 2.1 Now, none of them are running deficits. 22 All 13 are in the black and make up that 23 \$47 million figure. 24 So, yes, in the recent past, a critic 25 might say, oh, you have a surplus of \$27 million as

2.1

of 2019, but you have three funds that are negative. That's not the case anymore.

All of our funds are in the black. Our cumulative surplus is at \$47 million. There's really -- there's no one fund that is suffering at this point.

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And there have been times when people would ask the question, but my property taxes went up, and we all know that when the Town of Oyster Bay collects property taxes through our Receiver's Office, 67 percent of that goes to the school district; some 23 percent goes to the County; there's 13 percent that goes to the Town; and the small amount left is distributed to the smaller entities -- the library fund, the fire protection fund and so forth.

The amount we have been collecting -the actual dollar amount we've collected ever since
this administration has taken over, what has that
number been?

MR. DARIENZO: When you got here, the total taxes that we collected were \$234 million per year.

In the first budget prepared under your stewardship, we lowered that to \$233 million, a

2.1

reduction of \$1.3 million. That \$233 million figure has been the same now -- this will be the fourth budget running at \$233 million.

So, yes, a critic -- there's 100,000 roughly -- sorry, Jeff, I don't know exactly how many Class 1 properties there are -- but there's roughly 100,000 Class 1 properties in the Town of Oyster Bay, and depending upon where you live, not everybody's tax bill is the same. We can't account for oh, my taxes went up, my taxes went down.

People's assessment changes due to --

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That's a very good point. We do not control the assessment system determining how much each person pays based on the value of their home. That's a Nassau County issue. The Town of Oyster Bay has no control.

My suggestion would be for people to contact the County Executive if they have issues regarding their assessment, but we collected the same amount.

In 2018, we collected \$233 million. In 2019, we collected \$233 million. In 2020, we collected \$233 million. And in 2021, we collected \$233 million.

How much will we collect, if we pass

28 this budget, in 2022? 1 2 MR. DARIENZO: \$233 million. 3 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And, therefore, 4 there is no tax increase. 5 MR. DARIENZO: There is no tax increase in the 2022 budget. That is correct. 6 7 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you. 8 Thank you very much. 9 Councilman, you apparently have a 10 question. 11 COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: Yes, and a 12 statement. 13 Actually, you covered a great deal of 14 what I wanted to be sure was on the record, and I 15 appreciate that. 16 Mr. Darienzo, I know you're considered 17 an expert in municipality finance, and I know a lot 18 of people at home and in the audience are 19 listening, and they're hearing terms like RANS and 20 TANS, and they're not sure, necessarily, what that 2.1 means, but what we're really talking about here is 22 cash flow. 23 MR. DARIENZO: Yes. 24 COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: And I think 25 that's probably one of the most significant or one

2.1

of the most important factors when the rating agencies are judging a municipality in its fiscal health, and I think as the result of the fact that we do not have a cash flow problem, whatsoever, that our rating has consistently been increased over the years during the course of this administration. And I think that's an important point to point out.

When you compare us to the municipalities like Long Beach and Glen Cove, obviously, they have these tremendous, significant fiscal stress. They have cash flow problems, their residents continually have their taxes raised, and, so, this is a very important story for the residents to hear. And I know Newsday did, in fact, cover it and gave us a pretty good headline considering how they've treated us over the years, but the residents at home -- our residents in the Town of Oyster Bay -- should know and understand how important this is.

You used the term "unicorn" before, but it's very important for them to hear and understand how we managed during this pandemic, and how we've managed with cash flow issues in the past, and now, today, that we are standing out as a shining

2.1

process.

example of conservative fiscal budgeting.

All that being said, people go home, most of them have mortgages, and they don't study their detailed tax receipts from our Receiver of Taxes, Jeff Pravato. But if they did, a lot of them would sit there and say, hey, how come my taxes are going up when the Town of Oyster Bay has not raised my taxes in all these years? They have kept the line, they've held the line, they've held them flat, they've respected my fiscal position as a taxpayer, and, so, why are their taxes going up?

I know that as an expert, in a very simple and succinct way, could you explain to them? And I know the Supervisor just touched on it, and it has to do with the fact how they're being assessed in Nassau County, but if you can explain that. Because, you know, we're sitting here telling them we did not raise your taxes, and yet they will look at that tax bill and say, why? Who's telling me the truth? Would you please get to that as succinctly as you could?

MR. DARIENZO: I wish it was a simple

Receiver Pravato is tasked with collecting taxes for the school districts, the

2.1

County and the Town, and as we all know, all of us who get our tax bill, we get a school tax bill, and then we get a general tax bill.

The general tax bill includes County taxes and the Town taxes, so one couldn't simply look at their general tax bill and point to either the County or the Town. They're both on there, and the County has various lines on various taxing jurisdictions, and the Town has various lines with various taxing jurisdictions, and then when you muddy it up with assessment changes and STAR --well, STAR is for the school, right, so that wouldn't be on there, but there are -- there's no cut and dry place where you can say the Town collected \$1,200 from me last year, the Town's collecting \$1,200 from me this year.

But the number one reason why a Town of Oyster Bay resident's taxes might be going up, compared to what they see in the past, would be due to their assessment. 1,000 percent it would not be due to what we are collecting here in the Town of Oyster Bay.

We put a summary of tax levies right after the Supervisor's introductory letter. It's probably on Page 5 or 6 of this budget. It's a

2.1

one-page document that shows our 26 taxing jurisdictions. It shows what we collected last year, it shows what we're going to collect next year, and, you can see, it was \$233 million in 2021, and it will be \$233 million in 2022.

I wish I could take a hundred thousand phone calls from every resident and explain to them each of their own individual tax situations, that's just not possible.

COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: But the number one reason is assessment, correct?

MR. DARIENZO: 100 percent, yes.

COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: You can't point the finger at anything other than that, correct?

MR. DARIENZO: You certainly can't

point the finger at the Town.

COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: And that is the County assessment is really where that comes down to with the major reassessment that has taken place over the last few years.

MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

They can't point the finger at the Town of Oyster Bay for any kind of tax increases they would have.

COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: Thank you, Rob.

2.1

SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you, Rob, for the incredible job you've been doing as the Director of Finance.

Thank you for all of the time and effort.

Our finances were one of the very -most prominent issues facing us as a Town Board.
You have worked diligently, you've shown your
strengths, and I'm not only thrilled that we're in
such a strong financial position while cutting
taxes, but the one thing we didn't mention, and as
I wrap up, I want to point out that the services of
the Town of Oyster Bay have greatly improved, the
quality of our services.

Before, when the Town had all those financial problems before this administration and this Town Board took over, there was no road paving. Now, we commit \$25 million a year to road paving projects. They're very expensive, and it's our commitment to get every road repaved.

We have committed to ensuring that our fleet is updated, purchasing of the capital equipment -- and I realize this is a capital budget discussion, and we're discussing the operating budget -- but you borrow from the capital budget

2.1

and you pay it back from the operating budget.

keeping them flat. We talked about collecting the same amount of taxes from our residents year after year after year. We explained why some residents may see their property taxes going up. We talked about just some of the ways we've reorganized and saved money, including saving \$10 million a year by reducing our workforce and moving middle management people up. The most motivated of our incredible employees, and we're so proud of our workforce, and we saved \$10 million there. And then \$9 million we're saving by reducing our debt service -- or the cost of borrowing -- the fact that we're not borrowing for the short term, but the quality of services has gone up and up and up.

Whether it's our environmental pursuits, where Oyster Bay itself -- with the stewardship of this team including Michele Johnson and our North Shore portion of our team like Vicki Walsh and Rich LaMarca -- we received a National award naming Oyster Bay Harbor the best harbor in the United States. And look at what we're doing with our clam seeding program as just one example of many, many environmental pursuits. Everyone can

2.1

go over to Theodore Roosevelt Park and see the hatchery that we built as a team as we protect the environment.

Before we got here, the Town only put 200,000 seeds of oysters and clams back into the environment. This past year, 16 million. And next year, 40 million seeds back into -- 40 million. What does that do? Each clam and oyster filters 50 gallons of water a day. Multiply that times these millions and millions of oysters. We've built a sustainable bay. We've made the environment our priority.

We've made sure that we've gotten the repaving projects, the cleanups done. We've taken down 23 zombie homes where, in the past, the Town wasn't able to take down a single one. Because of our Quality of Life Task Force that's headed by my wonderful colleague, Lou Imbroto. Tom Hand has brought all of his acumen in logistics and business sense to the Town, and the lists go on and on and on.

I'm exceptionally proud to be your Supervisor. I'm wowed by the description of the unicorn, which it really means is that it's a rare anomaly to have this much success during a

36 1 pandemic, while cutting taxes and holding the line, 2 and we've held up and kept our promises to the 3 public. 4 So, Mr. Darienzo, on behalf of this 5 Town Board, our elected officials, and all of the Town family of employees, we thank you for your 6 7 commitment to excellence, and we thank you for your 8 presentation today, but we especially appreciate 9 all you've brought to the table to work with us to 10 embrace our ideas and to get the financial 11 successes that should make every single resident of 12 the Town of Oyster Bay from every walk of life, 13 exceptionally proud, and this budget documents why. 14 Thank you, Mr. Darienzo. 15 MR. DARIENZO: No problem. 16 Thank you. 17 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: At this time, are 18 there any members of the public who would like to 19 be heard on the Town of Oyster Bay's 2022 20 Preliminary Budget? 2.1 (Whereupon, there was no response from 22 the assemblage present.) 23 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Please let the 24 record reflect that at this Town Board meeting of 25

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, which we have advertised

	37
1	as our Budget Hearing, there is no resident or no
2	person who would like to be heard or comment on our
3	Town Budget.
4	Rich, are there any mailings or
5	postings?
6	MR. LaMARCA: Supervisor, we have
7	Affidavits of Posting and Publication.
8	There is no other correspondence.
9	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: May I have a
10	motion?
11	COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Supervisor, I
12	make a motion that this hearing be adjourned until
13	this evening at 7:00 p.m.
14	COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Second the motion.
15	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: All in favor,
16	please signify by saying, "Aye."
17	ALL: "Aye."
18	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Those opposed,
19	"Nay."
20	(Whereupon, there were no "Nay"
21	responses from the Board.)
22	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: The "Ayes" have
23	it.
24	(TIME NOTED: 10:54 A.M.)
25	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you,

ON TIME COURT REPORTING 516-535-3939

```
38
1
      Mr. Darienzo, for so many reasons.
2
                   MR. DARIENZO: See you tonight.
3
                   SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I just want to
      point out that we have day and night hearings for
4
5
      our budget to make it convenient for any resident
 6
      to attend and be heard on the matters specifically
7
      concerning our 2022 Preliminary Budget.
8
                   (TIME NOTED: 10:54 A.M.)
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OYSTER BAY
ACTION CALENDAR
October 19, 2021
10:55 a.m.

JOSEPH SALADINO

RICHARD LaMARCA

SUPERVISOR

TOWN CLERK

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR JOSEPH S. SALADINO
COUNCILWOMAN MICHELE M. JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN LOUIS B. IMBROTO
COUNCILMAN THOMAS P. HAND
COUNCILMAN STEVE L. LABRIOLA
COUNCILWOMAN LAURA L. MAIER
COUNCILWOMAN VICKI WALSH

ALSO PRESENT:

RICHARD LaMARCA, TOWN CLERK
JEFFREY P. PRAVATO, RECEIVER OF TAXES

Minutes of the meeting taken by:

TRACIE A. CINQUEMANI Reporter/Notary Public

ON TIME COURT REPORTING 516-535-3939

2 1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: At this time, 2 Mr. LaMarca, would you please call our regular 3 Action Calendar? 4 MR. LaMARCA: May I have a motion to 5 adopt Resolution Nos. TF-14-21 through 607-2021? TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION NO. 6 7 TF-14-21; Resolution pertaining to Transfer of 8 Funds within various departments accounts for the 9 Year 2021. RESOLUTION NO. 578-2021; Resolution 10 11 authorizing acceptance of a donation from Joan 12 Hagner to donate a memorial plaque, to be placed on 13 an existing bench in Ellsworth W. Allen Park in 14 memory of Karin Mae Hagner. (M.D. 9/28/21 #4). 15 RESOLUTION NO. 579-2021; Resolution 16 authorizing use of Workforce Innovation and 17 Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funds for the Oyster 18 Bay-North Hempstead-Glen Cove Workforce Development 19 Board meeting expenses throughout 2021 and 2022. 20 Account No. IGA CD 6293 47900 000 CW21. (M.D. 2.1 9/28/21 #5). 22 RESOLUTION NO. 580-2021; Resolution 23 authorizing a contract agreement for the 47th 24 Program Year (2021-2022) with Nassau County and to

authorize the Supervisor, or his designee, to

25

2.1

execute said agreement. (M.D. 9/28/21 #7).

RESOLUTION NO. 581-2021; Resolution authorizing acceptance and final payment for Contract No. H19-186R, Construction of Highway Improvements to the Fairwater Avenue area, Massapequa. (M.D. 9/28/21 #13).

RESOLUTION NO. 582-021; Resolution

pertaining to on-call engineering service request

relative to civil engineering - Elm Street drainage

study phase, Locust Valley, under Contract No. PWC

07-20. Account No. HWY H 5197 20000 000 2103 008.

(M.D. 9/28/21 #14).

authorizing an agreement to employ the services of a performer to provide entertainment for GAP Program participants and for the Supervisor, or his designee, or the Commissioner of Community and Youth Services to execute said agreement. Account No. CYS A 7020 47660 000 0000. (M.D. 10/5/21 #4).

RESOLUTION NO. 584-2021; Resolution authorizing the annual "Family Fall & Halloween Festival" to be held October 23, 2021 at Marjorie R. Post Community Park, Massapequa.

Account Nos. CYS A 7020 41800 000 0000 and CYS A 7020 45100 000 0000. (M.D. 10/5/21 #5).

2.1

RESOLUTION NO. 585-2021; Resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of a memorial plaque and bench from Joe Fiordilino, to be placed in Ellsworth W. Allen Park in memory of Fran Fiordilino. (M.D. 10/5/21 #6).

RESOLUTION NO. 586-2021; Resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of a memorial plaque and bench from Karen O'Rourke to be placed in Ellsworth W. Allen Park in memory of Robert B. Cruickshank. (M.D. 10/5/21 #7).

RESOLUTION NO. 587-2021; Resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of a memorial plaque from Carolyn Kersch, to be placed on an existing bench at Philip B. Healey Beach at Florence Avenue, in memory of Diane and Anthony Muscarella. (M.D. 10/5/21 #8).

RESOLUTION NO. 588-2021; Resolution authorizing a ceremonial street dedication on Smith Street, Hicksville, in honor of United States Army Sergeant David Mattoli, to be held on October 30, 2021. (M.D. 10/5/21 #9).

RESOLUTION NO. 589-2021; Resolution authorizing a holiday toy drive in cooperation with the United States Marine Corp Toys for Tots program, to be held on December 4, 2021 (rain date

5 December 5, 2021) at John J. Burns Park. Account 1 No. PKS A 7110 47670 000 0000. (M.D. 10/5/21 #10). 2 3 RESOLUTION NO. 590-2021; Resolution 4 pertaining to the Delinquent Water Rentals for 2021 5 for the various Water Districts in the Town of Oyster Bay. (M.D. 10/5/21 #11). 6 7 RESOLUTION NO. 591-2021; Resolution 8 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 9 6 Prade Lane, Massapequa Park, performed on 10 June 23, 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau 11 for placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #12). 12 RESOLUTION NO. 592-2021; Resolution 13 14 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 15 15 Reading Lane, Bethpage, performed on June 28, 16 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau for 17 placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment 18 Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #13). RESOLUTION NO. 593-2021; Resolution 19 20 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 2.1 24 West John Street, Hicksville, performed on 22 June 17, 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau 23 for placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment 24 Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #14).

ON TIME COURT REPORTING 516-535-3939

RESOLUTION NO. 594-2021; Resolution

6 1 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 2 31 Westwood Lane, Woodbury, performed on July 17, 3 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau for 4 placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment 5 Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #15). RESOLUTION NO. 595-2021; Resolution 6 7 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 8 38 Melony Avenue, Plainview, performed on June 17, 9 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau for 10 placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment 11 Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #16). 12 RESOLUTION NO. 596-2021; Resolution 13 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 14 74 McCouns Lane, Oyster Bay, performed on June 21, 15 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau for 16 placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment 17 Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #17). 18 RESOLUTION NO. 597-2021; Resolution 19 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of 20 181 High Farms Road, Glen Head, performed on 2.1 July 27, 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau 22 for placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment 23 Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #18). 24 RESOLUTION NO. 598-2021; Resolution 25 authorizing the property cleanup assessment of

2.1

544 Old Country Road, Plainview, performed on July 28, 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau for placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #19).

authorizing the property cleanup assessment of Melrose Avenue, Massapequa, Section 53, Block C, Lot 277, performed on June 3, 2021, be referred to the County of Nassau for placement on the Nassau County Tax Assessment Rolls. (M.D. 10/5/21 #20).

RESOLUTION NO. 600-2021; Resolution pertaining to Contract No. PWC14-20, On-Call Engineering Services Relative to Surveying in connection with surveying, site design and engineering design for the relocation of existing Centre Island Fire Service Arch and for use of a sub-consultant. Account No. PKS H 7197 20000 000 1902 001. (M.D. 10/5/21 #21).

RESOLUTION NO. 601-2021; Resolution authorizing award of construction Contract No. H17-161, Highway Retrofit of Existing Streetlights to LED with Solar Power and Battery Backup located in Massapequa, New York. Account No. IGA-CD-8689-27000-552. (M.D. 10/5/21 #22).

RESOLUTION NO. 602-2021; Resolution

2.1

2.4

granting request from Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Troop 203, for Town assistance in conducting their Trunk or Treat Event to be held on October 23, 2021 (rain date October 30, 2021, for use of Municipal Parking Field 0-8 and for use of various Town equipment for the event. (M.D. 10/5/21 #24).

RESOLUTION NO. 603-2021; Resolution granting request from Rolling Thunder, Inc. NY Chapter 6, for Town assistance in conducting a PTSD Awareness event to be held October 10, 2021 and for use of Municipal Parking Field M-9 in Massapequa for the event. (M.D. 10/5/21 #27).

RESOLUTION NO. 604-2021; Resolution authorizing the Senior Men's All-Star Softball Game at John J. Burns Park on October 11, 2021 (rain date October 13, 2021), and to utilize Food and Beverage Concessionaires. Account No. TWN TA 0000 00085 472 0000. (M.D. 10/5/21 #28).

RESOLUTION NO. 605-2021; Resolution pertaining to Contract No. PWC12-20, On-Call Engineering Services relative to Environmental Science. Account No. TWN A 1989 47900 000 0000.

(M.D. 10/5/21 #29).

RESOLUTION NO. 606-2021; Resolution authorizing for a Quantity Increase for

9 1 construction of Highway & Drainage Improvements to 2 the Intervale Avenue area, Farmingdale, under 3 Contract No. H19-197 PH1. (M.D. 10/5/21 #23 & 10/12/21 #21). 4 RESOLUTION NO. 607-2021; Resolution 5 pertaining to the decision on the application of 6 7 Nassau County Industrial Development Agency, fee 8 owner, and Lunar Module Park, LLC, for a Special 9 Use Permit to allow for construction and operation 10 of television and film studios at premises located 11 at 500 Grumman Road West, Bethpage, New York. 12 Hearing held: September 14, 2021. (M.D. 9/14/21 #6). 13 14 On the motion: 15 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: So moved. 16 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Second. 17 MR. LaMARCA: Motion made by 18 Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman 19 Imbroto. 20 I don't have any slips, Supervisor, 2.1 from the residents. 22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We have one slip 23 that speaks to a Resolution. It looks like N-4, 24 but this maybe for public comment. 25 Ms. Mateen (phonetic), just a quick

10 1 question. 2 First, in terms of procedure, would you 3 like to ask a question that relates to the specific 4 Resolutions on our Town Calendar for today, or 5 would you be speaking -- ask to speak at public comment where you can speak on any issue you would 6 7 like to be hard on? 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I quess public 9 comment --SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Public comment. 10 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- it's on a 12 Hurricane Ida update. 13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay. Sure 14 thing. That will be coming up shortly. All right? 15 We appreciate your patience. AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. 16 17 Thank you. 18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So once again, is 19 there any member of the public who would like to be 20 heard on the Calendar -- the Resolutions on the 2.1 Calendar before us? 22 (Whereupon, there was no response from 23 the assemblage present.) 24 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Please let the 25 record reflect that no one has identified

	11
1	themselves as wanting to speak on any of the
2	Resolutions of today's Calendar for October 19,
3	2021.
4	Would you please proceed on the vote?
5	MR. LaMARCA: On the vote:
6	Supervisor Saladino?
7	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: "Aye."
8	MR. LaMARCA: Councilwoman Johnson?
9	COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: "Aye."
10	MR. LaMARCA: Councilman Imbroto?
11	COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: "Aye" on all.
12	MR. LaMARCA: Councilman Hand?
13	COUNCILMAN HAND: "Aye."
14	MR. LaMARCA: Councilman Labriola?
15	COUNCILMAN LABRIOLA: "Aye."
16	MR. LaMARCA: Councilwoman Maier?
17	COUNCILWOMAN MAIER: "Aye."
18	MR. LaMARCA: Councilwoman Walsh?
19	COUNCILWOMAN WALSH: "Aye."
20	MR. LaMARCA: Motion to adopt
21	Resolutions No. TF-14-21 through 607-2021 passes
22	with seven "Ayes" and zero "Nays."
23	The Calendar is complete, Supervisor.
24	(TIME NOTED: 10:57 A.M.)
25	SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you, Clerk.

ON TIME COURT REPORTING 516-535-3939

```
12
                   And may I have a motion to close the
1
2
      meeting?
3
                   COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: So moved.
                   COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Second.
 4
5
                   SUPERVISOR SALADINO: All those in
      favor, please signify by saying, "Aye."
 6
7
                   ALL: "Aye."
8
                   SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Those opposed,
 9
      "Nay."
10
                   (Whereupon, there were no "Nay"
11
      responses from the Board.)
12
                   SUPERVISOR SALADINO: The meeting is
13
      closed.
14
                   (TIME NOTED: 10:57 A.M.)
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
2.4
25
```