

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OYSTER BAY
ACTION CALENDAR
OCTOBER 24, 2017
3:07 P.M.

JOSEPH SALADINO
SUPERVISOR

JAMES ALTADONNA JR.
TOWN CLERK

P R E S E N T:

SUPERVISOR JOSEPH S. SALADINO
COUNCILMAN JOSEPH D. MUSCARELLA
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY D. MACAGNONE
COUNCILMAN LOUIS B. IMBROTO
COUNCILWOMAN REBECCA M. ALESIA
COUNCILWOMAN MICHELE M. JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN THOMAS HAND

A L S O P R E S E N T:

JAMES ALTADONNA JR., TOWN CLERK
JAMES STEFANICH, RECEIVER OF TAXES

Minutes of the meeting
taken by:

KRISTINA TRNKA
Reporter/Notary Public

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Good afternoon,
2 ladies and gentlemen.

3 Welcome to the Oyster Bay Town Board
4 meeting of Tuesday, October 23 [sic], 2017.

5 This afternoon's prayer will be led by
6 Reverend Michael T. Maffeo, pastor of Saint Edward
7 the Confessor Roman Catholic Church in Syosset.

8 The parishioners of Saint Edward the
9 Confessor parish seek to foster a community of love
10 among all people. Under Father Mike's able
11 direction, Saint Edward the Confessor Roman
12 Catholic Church serves as a focal point for many
13 parishioners in Syosset and the surrounding
14 communities, as well as the fact that it is known
15 for a very active and devoted congregation that
16 serves the Lord and the Syosset community.

17 Now, I'd like to thank Father Mike for
18 all he has done for our communities in the Town of
19 Oyster Bay, as well as his fine example and I am
20 pleased to welcome him up to the podium to lead us
21 in prayer.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, if you'd all
23 stand.

24 (Whereupon, a prayer was recited by
25 Reverend Michael T. Maffeo.)

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And our Pledge of
2 Allegiance today will be led by Laura Schultz.

3 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance
4 was recited and led by Laura Schultz.)

5 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

6 Thank you, Laura.

7 Okay. It's October 24th. Thank you.

8 For the record, October 24, 2017.

9 On this day, we take a very important
10 step in rightsizing Oyster Bay town government and,
11 quite frankly, tackling the fiscal problems that
12 have plagued this Town in the past.

13 The 2018 budget continues to deliver
14 quality services for our residents, while keeping a
15 watchful eye on government spending, quite frankly,
16 cutting back government spending mas well as
17 protecting the taxpayer's wallet with the tax cut.

18 Specifically, our budget reduces
19 discretionary spending literally by millions of
20 dollars. It implements real structural reforms.
21 It reduces debt by an additional \$50 million on top
22 of the \$85 million of debt reduction in the total
23 of 2017 and it cuts property taxes by \$1.3 million.

24 This budget holds each and every
25 department accountable for their budgets. We are

1 achieving savings of \$3 million in full-time
2 salaries when compared to 2017, due to the
3 elimination of two dozen positions, 24 less
4 positions in the Town of Oyster Bay.

5 The full-time workforce for 2018 has
6 been greatly reduced. We are now down to 999
7 employees and that's the lowest level in decades.

8 In comparison, just five years ago, the
9 workforce had 1,250 full-time employees. This
10 budget also includes real structural reforms to the
11 way in which Town budgets their workforce -- our
12 workforce expenses. Although that practice was
13 used by the prior administration to reduce fiscal
14 stress on the operating budget over the past
15 five years, the practice -- one of the practices
16 that will no longer take place is in terms of
17 amortizing our New York State retirement payments.

18 The Town of Oyster Bay, and just like
19 every municipality in the State, it is legal to
20 amortize a portion of our State -- New York State
21 retirement payments. We will no longer do that,
22 Zero. And this practice will not be a part of any
23 budgets going forward.

24 The elimination of wasteful spending
25 allows us to save taxpayers money in every corner

1 of this budget. A real budget with no gimmicks, no
2 one shots, no shell games.

3 This a budget that has no structural
4 deficit. We achieve real savings from reducing
5 contractor services and outside legal fees. We
6 have greatly lessened our reliance on electricity
7 from the grid via LED lights and our plan going
8 forward is to replace 1,250 lights a year.

9 In this budget alone that we are
10 working on currently and talking about today, we
11 reduce our electric bill by half a million dollars
12 and that becomes an ongoing savings year after
13 year, a savings that will increase as we increase
14 the number of LED bulbs.

15 We are now performing engineering
16 services in-house, not contracting out to the
17 degree the Town has in the past. Saving a
18 tremendous -- millions of dollars literally.

19 We also generate nontax and nonfee
20 revenue for our taxpayers through single stream
21 recycling. We are very proud to have gone out with
22 a bid, listened to everyone's proposals, took not
23 only the best bidder, but the highest bidder.

24 So rather than costing us money each
25 and every year, the Town of Oyster Bay will no

1 longer be spending over \$91,000 to have our
2 recyclables removed from the transfer station.

3 Now, under this great contract that you
4 all watched us be involved in and approve, the Town
5 will generate more than \$2 million in revenue over
6 the next five years through single stream
7 recycling.

8 This initiative was kicked off
9 yesterday and we are now accepting many more
10 resources, including every kind of cardboard from
11 large moving boxes to the kind of boxes that come
12 in the mail when you purchase things online to shoe
13 boxes, pizza boxes, and even cereal boxes and we
14 are getting a tremendous amount of money for our
15 taxpayers through the sale of these recyclables.

16 This Town Board will continue to do
17 everything possible to reduce government expenses,
18 which includes the removal of take-home vehicles
19 from commissioners, deputy commissioners, division
20 heads and many other employees. We know that this
21 is the right message to send to take away the take-
22 home vehicles from these employees.

23 We are also correcting the past
24 practices by aggressively reducing the Town's debt.
25 Rather than follow the historic trend of borrowing,

1 and many years, it was upwards of \$100 million a
2 year for projects, we have frozen capital borrowing
3 for the first time in memory in the Town of Oyster
4 Bay's long history.

5 We also accelerated debt service
6 payments and are on track to reduce the Town's
7 overall debt by \$85 million, or 11 percent of the
8 Town's overall debt, by the end of 2017. So we
9 have accelerated these payments, we did not borrow
10 capital money this year, and we are reducing the
11 Town's debt by \$85 million for 2017 and the debt
12 service payments in 2018 in this budget are
13 estimated to decrease the Town's total debt by an
14 additional \$50 million.

15 So if you combine the \$85 million in
16 debt reduction for 2017 and the \$50 million of debt
17 reduction for 2018, that's a 22 percent reduction
18 in the Town's total debt over that two-year period.

19 And we, the Town Board members,
20 recognize that this is an important initiative to
21 restore the fiscal integrity of the Town and to
22 increase the bond rating, bringing our Town on the
23 road back to fiscal health.

24 In a little more than eight months, we
25 have taken on the fiscal challenges of historic

1 proportions and moved the Town forward by
2 implementing spending reductions and landmark
3 reforms that together, we have laid the groundwork
4 for a very positive future in the Town. Together,
5 working with the bright minds that are our Town
6 Board members, our council members, and our staff,
7 we are quickly reducing the Town's debt, providing
8 a real budget with structural integrity and are
9 reducing taxes, all at the same time.

10 Now, let's get to one of the more
11 difficult subjects, the subject of public safety.
12 This budget continues to defund that department.
13 It is important, and it is our fiduciary
14 responsibility as elected officials, to explore and
15 seek savings for taxpayers in every corner of this
16 government. We all know that if you don't squeeze
17 the pennies out of government, you'll never save a
18 dime.

19 With that being said, this
20 administration and Town Board also honors its
21 contractual obligations. The work of our Public
22 Safety members are -- they are dedicated, it is
23 diligent work, and they've done a fine job. The
24 shared service initiatives that we are looking to
25 take advantage of was set in stone in Albany by our

1 governor and our State legislature and we must
2 receive real consideration. We owe the cost
3 benefit analysis to our taxpayers.

4 If the plan saves residents money and
5 maintains the same level of services, then that
6 plan will be brought forward to the Oyster Bay Town
7 CSEA Collective Bargaining Unit and the Nassau
8 County CSEA Collective Bargaining Unit for their
9 consideration, as per law. If our goals are not
10 met, the shared services initiative cannot move
11 forward.

12 Again, it is our responsibility and it
13 is clearly our duty to explore this and any other,
14 and quite frankly, every potential cost saving
15 opportunity to see if these measures can be
16 realized through the shared service initiatives as
17 we have taken advantage of so many other programs
18 in this budget to save money, to bring about the
19 right size of government, to cut out all waste, and
20 to bring the highest level of efficiencies, and I
21 ask everyone that we have the patience to see this
22 process move forward so we can explore the benefits
23 for our taxpayers.

24 That being said, I want to thank all of
25 my colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board for

1 their continued support, assistance, introspective
2 view, and the fact that they have all been
3 dedicated and I know that we will continue to work
4 for our taxpayers, for our residents, and to
5 continue to protect the quality services of our
6 Town.

7 Will Town Clerk James Altadonna please
8 poll the board?

9 MR. ALTADONNA: Supervisor Saladino?

10 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Present.

11 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Muscarella?

12 MR. MUSCARELLA: Here.

13 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Macagnone?

14 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Here.

15 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilwoman Alesia?

16 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Here.

17 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilwoman Johnson?

18 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Here.

19 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Imbroto?

20 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Present.

21 MR. ALTADONNA: And Councilman Hand?

22 COUNCILMAN HAND: Here.

23 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Clerk Altadonna,
24 will you please call the regular Action Calendar?

25 MR. ALTADONNA: Yes.

1 May I have a motion to adopt

2 Resolutions No. 696-A through 696-B?

3 Resolution No. 696A-2017; Resolution
4 pertaining to the decision on the Budget for the
5 Town of Oyster Bay for the Year 2018. Hearing held:
6 October 17, 2017. (M.D. 10/17/17 #6).

7 Resolution No. 696B-2017; Resolution
8 pertaining to the decision on the Budget for the
9 Town of Oyster Bay for the Year 2018 - Special
10 Districts. Hearing held: October 17, 2017.
11 (M.D. 10/17/17 #6).

12 On the motion?

13 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: So moved.

14 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Second.

15 MR. ALTADONNA: Motion made by
16 Councilman Muscarella, seconded by Councilman
17 Macagnone.

18 You have speakers.

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Yes.

20 Our first speaker will be Paul Molinari
21 from Hicksville.

22 Hi, Paul.

23 How are you this afternoon?

24 MR. MOLINARI: Good. Very well.

25 Good afternoon, Mr. Supervisor and Town

1 Board members.

2 Paul Molinari, 332 West Nicholai
3 Street, Hicksville.

4 I got to say I had to change my remarks
5 because I wasn't going to support the budget, but
6 after finding out -- I didn't see the Resolution
7 online the last time I checked late this morning.
8 And I'm reading it -- I do support the proposed
9 budget that doesn't raise taxes and the
10 administration continues to look for cost savings
11 and efficiencies in the government.

12 I am very happy that the Town Board
13 listened to everybody at the public hearing and has
14 the contingency plan in the budget to continue
15 funding Public Safety Officers here in the Town.

16 I would think, just my own practical
17 look at it, I don't think it is going to be
18 possible by December 1st. If you really want to
19 continue persuing this shared initiative, I would
20 suggest you start that in January where you can
21 then get all parties involved, sit down, and
22 negotiate the process in a more open matter.

23 So I support the budget now because you
24 have included a Public Safety contingency plan to
25 fund Public Safety.

1 Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you, Paul.

3 Our next speaker is Bob Frier.

4 Hi, Bob.

5 How are you this afternoon?

6 MR. FRIER: I'm good. Thanks.

7 How are you?

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Fine.

9 MR. FRIER: Good.

10 Bob Frier, 33 Chestnut Lane in
11 Woodbury.

12 Before I get into my questions, I want
13 to just state on the record that I think we are
14 wasting a lot of time by getting rid of Public
15 Safety. You're trying to approve a budget that
16 will not get approved because your own party's
17 County Executive has said publically that that's
18 never going to happen, that shared services.

19 So that's one thing, but secondly, the
20 union contract was collectively bargained, okay.
21 They have your word that -- I know a lot of people
22 on this Board were part of that negotiations and I
23 remember it was very stressful for everyone
24 involved. They have your word. Part of that
25 contract is no layoffs, period. Those people have

1 to stay there. That's not even counting the fact
2 that we are in a time when 50-some odd people just
3 got killed in Las Vegas, you have hate graffiti
4 being sprayed at places like temples and on schools
5 and on people's houses. You have drug deals being
6 made in our parks. We have a terrible opioid
7 epidemic. That -- that department needs to be
8 saved and to approve this budget as it is, is
9 purely, in my opinion, okay, I'm saying my opinion,
10 just an election stunt because I know it will be
11 changed in December. It has to be.

12 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Bob? I don't
13 want to interrupt you, please.

14 I had a meeting earlier with this
15 resident, grew in Farmingdale, kind of like I did,
16 a few years younger than me, maybe ten years
17 younger than me. We were talking about how Allen
18 Park, which we used to call Heisser Lane, was
19 before Public Safety. The condition of the park,
20 graffiti. You took your life in your own hands,
21 broken glass, gangs, everything.

22 With Public Safety, I agree with you.
23 It is another set of eyes out there in the street.
24 It is probably the best run department in the
25 entire Town.

1 MR. FRIER: Right.

2 And it is not like the people who work
3 in that department are making such huge salaries.
4 You know, there's a lot more salary in the
5 Supervisor's budget than -- than -- you know, in
6 fact, going up 56 percent.

7 So, let me get to my questions.

8 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I'm sorry to
9 interrupt you, sir.

10 MR. FRIER: No worries.

11 So I understand you're saying that the
12 tax levy will be reduced; however, as far as tax
13 warrants are concerned, will my tax bill for Oyster
14 Bay including Town -- including the Town part,
15 Highways, Sanitation be going up in total for my
16 bill next year? And this -- I want your question
17 to include -- will this include mandated and
18 nonmandated costs? If so, by what percentage will
19 my tax bill be going up or down?

20 You want me to go through my questions
21 and you'll answer them?

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Please.

23 MR. FRIER: Okay.

24 So changes to the proposed budget,
25 okay, I understand that you will -- so now you're

1 not including Public Safety so that's \$1.3 million,
2 if I'm correct.

3 Where are you -- you know, what are you
4 going to do to put into the revenue portion of
5 that, you know, which -- to make up for that \$1.3
6 million? What are the titles? What are the code
7 numbers? Do you have -- you know, especially when
8 it disappears, where are you making up for that
9 revenue and compared to the actuals to look back on
10 for '15 and '16? So what is your estimate in that
11 number? What was your original estimate? What is
12 your new estimate? And how did it change and
13 what's the basis for your new estimate?

14 In the interest of transparency, I know
15 you always speak about transparency being
16 paramount. In 2016, the budget for this year
17 showed, I believe it was 14 million in mortgage
18 tax. This year, I believe it showed -- for the
19 first -- until 8/31 of this year -- and this is
20 fresh from Maureen O'Connell's office, the Nassau
21 County Clerk, you had no mortgage tax revenue
22 through 8/31, and then you ended up only with --
23 and then you ended adding in 2.4 million, but you
24 were -- you were proposing -- said that you were
25 going to get 14 million, you actually got less by

1 about \$2 million dollars.

2 So where are you going to -- you know,
3 so how are you coming up with these estimates? So
4 if you can explain that, give us the exact codes,
5 where you're coming up with this revenue, exact
6 codes, and what places.

7 Also, I wanted to add in the
8 Supervisor's budget, you know, since you don't
9 really list salaries in this budget and there is no
10 real narrative, if I take the salaries of yourself,
11 Mr. Carman -- Mr. Nocella, Mr. Carman, it appears
12 like there are roughly around \$200,000 that I can't
13 figure out, so if you can explain what that -- you
14 know, do you plan on hiring someone new in the
15 Supervisor's Office? So if you can explain those
16 numbers in detail, but, particularly, also in --
17 you know, since you're talking about transparency,
18 where are you coming up with this revenue?

19 Also, as far as, if you approve this
20 budget, you're going to get sued. You're going to
21 get sued by the Union, you're going to lose, and
22 that means most likely more outside counsel. So
23 why -- why do it?

24 You're just going to change it in
25 December. I can guarantee you're not going to have

1 a new administration in Nassau County, so how do
2 you plan to get that put through? Your own
3 party -- you know, County Executive candidate says
4 it is not going to happen, so please explain.

5 Thanks.

6 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you, Bob.

7 So we had a lot of questions and a lot
8 of comments --

9 MR. FRIER: I just have to correct
10 myself, you budgeted 12, but it was actually 14.

11 Sorry.

12 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

13 So we just heard a lot of questions
14 that we are going to get answered and a lot of
15 comments, but with all due respect, the previous
16 speaker is --

17 MR. FRIER: A perennial candidate,
18 right?

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: -- is -- perhaps
20 took from his reading of the budget different than
21 reality.

22 The reality of the situation is our
23 parks will not differ in the services -- the
24 security services at our parks.

25 So that is something that absolutely is

1 guaranteed no matter what direction this goes.

2 Clearly, Public Safety has done a
3 wonderful job in watching over and providing safety
4 services in our parks. That will continue no
5 matter if this initiative is adopted in terms of
6 our agreements with the County and the workforce.

7 Either way, there will be the same
8 level of service in the parks. So perhaps the
9 previous speaker was mistaken there or didn't
10 understand the complexity of the budget. That will
11 continue. In terms of our budgeting and the
12 mortgage tax and so forth --

13 MR. FRIER: How about the collective
14 bargaining agreement --

15 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Can you let him
16 finish?

17 MR. FRIER: Sure.

18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: In terms of the
19 initiatives with this budget, there is -- there is
20 real savings and the Governor of the State of
21 New York passed a budget with the State Legislature
22 to enact a program that's our responsibility to
23 consider and you can't consider it if you don't put
24 it into the budget for discussion, for an openness
25 with listening to the public's views, informing the

1 public so there's not a fear of lack of services,
2 and the input of all.

3 So that's one of our motivations of
4 putting this in the budget. In terms of the
5 savings that was asked earlier, I'll bring our
6 Director of Finance up to further describe this,
7 but I want to point out that one of the best parts
8 about this budget is that this is a rock solid
9 budget with very, very conservative estimates on
10 revenue.

11 One only has to open the daily paper,
12 and the paper is being represented today by a
13 reporter here in this room. One only has to open
14 their paper to see municipality after municipality
15 being accused of overinflating revenues. We have
16 done just the opposite under recognizing revenues
17 and we will account for them when the check comes
18 in hand.

19 A perfect example of that is single
20 stream recycling. We stand to make some \$450,000
21 per year by selling our recyclables.

22 We have a rock solid program that is a
23 proven program to the delight of everyone, even
24 those who first came here and couldn't believe it
25 was real it was so good. And yet, to be very

1 conservative on our estimates and put forth a very
2 responsible budget, we did not record that -- those
3 revenues in this budget because we are not going to
4 account for them until the check is in our hand and
5 that repeats itself in many, many categories.

6 There is no structural deficit in this
7 budget. There's a surplus. We have a surplus
8 between \$3 and \$4 million and that can go up from
9 there as we generate more revenue through the sale
10 of vehicles. We've been starting that sale. We
11 have more vehicles, more equipment, and some
12 property to sell. Those are just some of the ways
13 we are enhancing revenue without asking the
14 property taxpayers to pay.

15 So it is a structurally sound budget
16 with -- with a surplus with no structural deficit
17 whatsoever. As a matter of fact, we are paying
18 down the ongoing deficit and we are tremendously
19 paying down the debt. We all know that debt
20 service is a component, a large component, of our
21 budget each and every year. By paying down the
22 debt, we are greatly reducing those interest
23 payments.

24 This is the responsible way to handle a
25 situation that was handed to us. The problems of

1 the past are now being solved by this Town Board,
2 who is above all, responsible to the taxpayers and
3 putting forth a very -- a very good budget that
4 tackles the problems that we've been left with.

5 Mr. Darienzo, could you help us to
6 answer some of the questions that were just asked?

7 MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely, Supervisor.

8 Good afternoon, Supervisor and Town
9 Board.

10 I'm Rob Darienzo, Director of Finance.

11 The first question -- the first
12 question the resident asked was with regards to tax
13 bills. So this budget reduces taxes by \$1.3
14 million. That is not in question.

15 The amount of dollars in taxes we
16 raised in 2017 was 234.2 million. That will be
17 reduced to 233 -- \$232.9 million in this budget.

18 Everybody's tax bill is different.
19 Again, we are raising a certain number of dollars
20 in terms of a levy. Everyone's tax bill is based
21 on their assessment, which is set by Nassau County.
22 It is based on an adjusted base proportion, which
23 is set by New York State. Those items are out of
24 our control. We can only control the amount of
25 dollars we are raising. So when you compare our

1 tax cap form that we filed with New York State last
2 year, compared to the one we are filing this year,
3 it is down \$1.3 million.

4 I can't guarantee any individual's tax
5 bill going up or going down because it is due to
6 factors outside of our control from Nassau County
7 and New York State.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: But based on the
9 factors we do control --

10 MR. DARIENZO: The only factor we do
11 control is the number of dollars that we take in
12 between the four classes.

13 Class 1 being homeowners and so on and
14 so forth -- utilities, commercial properties.

15 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And we have
16 reduced that levy in this budget?

17 MR. DARIENZO: We've reduced the levy
18 by \$1.3 million.

19 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Rob, can I ask a
20 question?

21 MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

22 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Thanks.

23 So because you were talking about the
24 County, and I think Mr. Freier had same the same
25 thing, the sum total of his tax bill, do you know

1 when the County, if the County does take on our
2 Public Safety Officers, are those spots already
3 funded in the County? Do they already have that in
4 their budget?

5 MR. DARIENZO: I've not been fully
6 involved in the preliminary talks with the County.

7 From what I have heard, there are empty
8 slots that are available, but I wouldn't be able to
9 speak complete --

10 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I know that there
11 might be empty slots, but, for example, if those
12 spots were not -- if nobody had the job this year,
13 it wasn't in their budget for this year, so the
14 taxpayers didn't pay for it for this year.

15 My question is: Are we deleting a
16 Public Safety Officer from the Town budget, moving
17 it to the County budget, but I, as a taxpayer, am
18 still paying his or her salary.

19 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Basically, you
20 are saying the same pants, just different pockets.

21 MR. FRIER: Yes.

22 MR. DARIENZO: My answer to that would
23 be this: Here at the Town of Oyster Bay, because
24 we have trimmed our budget tremendously over the
25 past couple of years, we unfund unfilled slots. I

1 don't know that Nassau County does the same thing.
2 If I had to guess, I would think they keep their
3 unfilled slots funded, but that is my speculation.

4 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: So then taxpayers
5 would be paying for people that aren't working?

6 MR. DARIENZO: Well, no, they are not
7 paying for people that aren't working because if
8 there's money in the budget for a certain line, but
9 the money's not spent, that goes towards surplus,
10 whether it be here or there.

11 So we have to keep in mind, budget
12 versus actual are two very different things. We
13 can budget for things here at the Town. If we
14 don't spend that money, that means that we will
15 improve our overall, you know, deficit or surplus
16 depending on where you stand at that time.

17 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: But we don't know
18 at this point whether it's actual realized savings
19 to the taxpayer? We know for sure it's a reduction
20 in our budget, but we don't know if --

21 MR. DARIENZO: I think that's the idea
22 of the exercise, to speak with the County and
23 discuss whether there will be a benefit to this --
24 to this program.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I can add to that

1 to answer the Councilwoman's question.

2 We do know that it cost us \$1.3 million
3 here in our budget. We also know that the County
4 has been paying a considerable amount of overtime
5 to their Public Safety Officers and therefore, they
6 have signaled to us that they need additional
7 officers.

8 So the purpose of this exercise is to
9 allow for the crunching of the numbers, if you
10 will. We currently are negotiating with the County
11 Attorney's Office, our attorneys, on the language
12 on this and then from there, it goes into the
13 County's -- the ball goes into the County's court
14 where at that point, they'll determine if there is
15 real savings.

16 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Is there a
17 reason --

18 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Excuse me.

19 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Sorry.

20 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: You just said
21 that they have a shortage of people so if they take
22 our people, what are the chances that our
23 facilities are going to be manned properly?

24 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That was would be
25 addressed in the agreement where they would be

1 mandated.

2 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I'm not
3 comfortable addressing -- voting on something that
4 we'd be guessing on, that we don't have a
5 definitive on. I think it's not fair to our
6 taxpayers to vote that way.

7 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

8 I think to address your concerns, just
9 so you understand it, we are basing our decisions
10 on the actual facts. We would be taking another
11 vote, this Board. This is just the initial process
12 to send the information to the County so they can
13 determine if there's a savings on their side.

14 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I do have
15 questions about that for the Town Attorney, but if
16 that's the case, Supervisor, why can't we just
17 leave them in the budget, leave Public Safety
18 funded in the budget and then if we do make the
19 agreement, then at that time, we can either add the
20 extra money to the surplus or we can commit to give
21 it back in next year's budget.

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: In essence, we
23 have.

24 That's where the contingency budget --
25 just like in New York State budgets, we have

1 brought language down from Albany similar to the
2 State budgets that gives a plan of two options.

3 If, in fact, we have done our job and
4 our responsibility to our taxpayers, and that's
5 really in large part what this is, to utilize the
6 potential of savings as the Governor put in place
7 and the legislature passed in the State budget, so
8 now we feel it's our responsibility to explore this
9 with Nassau County.

10 There are two votes involved. There's
11 more than two votes, but the first two votes, one
12 is to pass a budget with the two options, to now
13 put it in the County's court, if they deem that
14 there would be a real savings, that's when we go
15 back to the process of getting the workforce
16 collective bargaining units involved, the -- our
17 legislature, this Town Board as well as the
18 legislature of Nassau County and this -- and if all
19 of that falls into place and everyone is in
20 agreement, then we can take a vote, but it can't
21 happen without a second vote. So that would be the
22 actual vote. This vote sets in motion the ability
23 of all parties to look at the numbers, to determine
24 if there is savings, as per State law.

25 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: So if we left it

1 in the budget, we couldn't explore it?

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We -- if we
3 have -- the budget is set up in a way to do both.
4 It allows us to explore this and it gives us an
5 option to fully fund the department if it doesn't
6 go through, but this way, we are doing the
7 responsible thing by our taxpayers and we're -- and
8 we have the ability to follow the State law on
9 shared services and be able to have all parties
10 look at this option to see if this the best option
11 for everyone.

12 But in terms of security in the parks,
13 both options have the same level of security and I
14 don't believe we would be voting for this if we
15 weren't -- if we had any qualms voting for this one
16 that's second -- if that second vote came about, if
17 we had any qualms of a reduction of safety services
18 because of my conversations with all of you and
19 with the public, is that it is imperative that we
20 ensure safety in our parks.

21 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: And what about
22 our other Town facilities besides the parks? What
23 about like in this building?

24 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: All of us is
25 facilities.

1 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: We we'll have
2 personnel on the County payroll that will be
3 assigned to our buildings that will our security
4 guards here in the building?

5 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We can structure
6 it both ways. We certainly are going to invest in
7 cameras with the cooperation of the Board so that
8 we have cameras and, therefore, we'd have to keep
9 our base so we can still have personnel watching
10 those cameras and I believe we still would need
11 personnel at our Town Board meetings and at the
12 desk at our facilities to see the comings and
13 goings of people.

14 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Is that amount in
15 the budget, the amount that we would have to -- if
16 we're hiring a private security firm, doesn't that
17 violate the Collective Bargaining Agreement?

18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: No, I would not
19 hire a private security firm. It's against our
20 Collective Agreement and that's not an option.

21 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: So who would be
22 staffing our --

23 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We could utilize
24 current Town employees.

25 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Okay.

1 So I can wrap my head around this, we
2 are going give up a trained staff of 24 individuals
3 that know our facilities, know our system, that are
4 trained -- probably the best trained department for
5 some cameras and some people to sit there, watch
6 the cameras, and make a phone call?

7 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: My understanding
8 is that we're not giving up anything at this point,
9 we'd have to vote on that at a later date.

10 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Well, my
11 understanding is that I don't trust government
12 enough to give them the opportunity to screw 24
13 workers at a later date.

14 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I don't know that
15 I would say it the same way that Councilman
16 Macagnone said it, but I basically, I --

17 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I apologize.

18 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I agree. I don't
19 understand why we would vote on this now if we're
20 not sure we want to vote on it later. I don't know
21 why.

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Because the vote
23 sets in place a budget that gives us the options to
24 explore everything and take advantage of the
25 Governor's shared services initiative because we

1 are following the State law as per the -- the
2 current New York State budget that was passed on
3 April 1st because we owe taxpayers the opportunity,
4 the responsibility that we are exploring things in
5 a way that protects the services, protects the
6 safety in all facilities and explores another tax
7 savings.

8 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Can we go
9 another step then?

10 The County does Summer concerts and
11 movies by night. Why don't we look to get those
12 services adjoined service and keep our Public
13 Safety where our facilities are safe.

14 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I'm glad you
15 brought that up.

16 The Town of Oyster Bay as --

17 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: You're very
18 seldom glad I bring things up but get there.

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I really am.

20 When you -- when we're bringing up
21 things that help the taxpayers, part of the idea
22 here is for all of us, in a very professional way,
23 to share our ideas, listen to the public, and come
24 up with solutions.

25 The Town has a lot of financial

1 problems that, quite frankly, many of us weren't
2 here in the past so now it's our responsibility to
3 work together to solve these financial problems and
4 to leave everything on the table.

5 So we have been exploring and adopting,
6 quite frankly, the shared services initiatives and
7 with Nassau County, as per the law, because
8 everything has to run through the County, of Towns
9 and Villages, and I'm happy to report, and as most
10 of you know, that of any municipality on
11 Long Island, with the exception a refortification
12 after Hurricane Sandy in Long Beach, if you call
13 that out, Town of Oyster Bay has achieved the
14 highest savings of any municipality on our island
15 so we have been going after each and every dollar.

16 We have agreements with our Villages
17 and other municipalities, including Nassau County,
18 will be sharing salt and sand; we're sharing fuel;
19 we charge them for coming to our fuel depots, but
20 by increasing our volume, we're bringing down the
21 unit cost of those resources.

22 So, in fact, we have been and
23 everything's on the table. I think that's an
24 excellent idea that we continue to look for ways to
25 merge our services to bring about savings and I,

1 for one, continue to encourage you to work with us,
2 to keep looking for savings in every department.

3 You know, we did something really
4 remarkable this year and we're doing something
5 remarkable next year. One only has to look at
6 where the Town's finances were just one year ago.
7 We took \$85 million of debt reduction. We've
8 reduced our Town's debt by \$85 million when debt
9 service is the biggest component of our budget.

10 We had a deficit in the Town, not a
11 structural deficit, but an ongoing deficit of
12 \$27 million, and we can all be very proud that
13 working together, working professionally, utilizing
14 our experience, we reduced that deficit by
15 \$10 million this year alone.

16 MR. DARIENZO: At a minimum.

17 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: At a minimum.

18 Now, going into next year, we're
19 reducing our debt by another \$50 million and
20 reducing the deficit by -- between \$3 and \$4
21 million, at a minimum, and that we expect to go up
22 even further as we utilize all these savings and
23 new revenue initiatives.

24 We've done something remarkable and
25 this -- by passing this budget, shows that we are

1 committed to our fiduciary responsibility to bring
2 our fiscal health back in this Town. So exploring
3 this should be like everything else. We have to
4 weigh the pros and cons and that's what we're doing
5 and we're considering, in fact, what the safety
6 level will be, whether it's at the door at this
7 very building during Town Board meetings,
8 protecting our workforce from people who would do
9 us harm, protecting our parks from graffiti, from
10 vandalism, protecting the Town's property.

11 Just like every other service, whether
12 it be Music Under the Stars, as the Councilman
13 mentioned, as well as continuing to examine
14 corporate naming of our facilities as we've been
15 looking at. We heard a report on this and
16 Councilman Macagnone underscored last week, and
17 quite frankly, as we continue to bring our Town
18 back to fiscal health, we become more attractive
19 for corporate America to invest in our Town.

20 One only has to see the sign of new
21 health on the Jones Beach Theater to recognize the
22 millions of dollars that comes to a municipality or
23 what you see it Citi Field and so forth.

24 There is great opportunities for us
25 when we put our heads together, work as one unit,

1 and put our taxpayers first without compromising
2 safety and without compromising services. I'm very
3 proud that this budget does just that.

4 MR. DARIENZO: The next question that
5 was posed by the resident had to do with which
6 revenue would be increased to fund the possible
7 reappearance of the \$1.3 million for Public Safety.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Yes.

9 MR. DARIENZO: So I spoke last week
10 about conservative revenue estimates in the budget,
11 and one of those cases is now what we call the
12 Local Government Assistance Program. It's found
13 right on Page 1 of the budget. It's Account 02389.

14 Again, I've been here twenty years and
15 for the past twenty years, we've taken roughly
16 \$14.5 to \$15 million in this account like
17 clockwork.

18 In 2017, we budgeted \$13.2 million for
19 this revenue so I expect that account to generate a
20 surplus north of a million dollars.

21 In the 2018 preliminary budget that was
22 put forth last week, it shows that we budgeted
23 \$12.3 million for this purpose in 2018 so,
24 therefore, I expect this line by itself, along with
25 others in the budget, but this one by itself will

1 generate a surplus of more than \$2 million next
2 year.

3 As part of this now proposed adopted
4 budget and as the proposed contingent budget, we
5 will increase that revenue line. One thing that
6 hasn't been brought up today is that last week at
7 the budget hearing, one of our residents mentioned
8 the possible rent to be paid at DPW and the
9 resident was correct, that was an omission from the
10 budget and that's the whole purpose of having the
11 hearings, to have a residents and Town Board bring
12 things up.

13 So we are going to increase the
14 preliminary budget from last week by \$200,000 and
15 correspondingly, the revenue account I just
16 mentioned, 02389, Local Government Assistance
17 Program, will go from a budget of \$12.3 million to
18 \$12.5 million.

19 If December 1st comes along and there's
20 no agreement in place with the Unions and the
21 County and the Town Board, we will perform a
22 transfer of funds which increases Public Safety
23 back to its full levels and it will increase this
24 same account, 02389, Local Government Assistance
25 Program, from \$12.5 million to roughly \$13.8

1 million.

2 Even if all that happens and the budget
3 goes to \$13.8 million for that account, we should
4 still generate a surplus in the range of \$1 million
5 in that account alone, along with surpluses and
6 various conservative estimated revenues throughout
7 the budget.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So it's important
9 to point out, if we adopt Option 2 or if -- it's
10 not really -- it doesn't require an adoption, it
11 requires an adoption to move Public Safety, but not
12 to keep them because we have that hard deadline of
13 December 1st, which is very, very clear to all of
14 us who have read this budget -- if we keep Public
15 Safety, will there still be a tax cut in the 2018
16 budget for our residents?

17 MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

18 The tax cut, as stated last week, of
19 \$1.3 million will remain exactly the same in this
20 adopted budget whether it's the budget that it is
21 today or the contingent budget as of December 1st.

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you,
23 Mr. Darienzo.

24 MR. DARIENZO: There was one other
25 question with regards to our mortgage tax and where

1 we stand on our mortgage tax for the year.

2 So, we budgeted \$10 million for the
3 receipt of mortgage tax in 2017. That's found on
4 the second page of the budget. It's Account 03005.
5 It says State Aid. We budgeted \$10 million in 2017
6 and we budgeted \$10 million in 2018.

7 If you look at the 2016 actual column
8 right on the same page, it shows that we took in
9 \$11,997,000 in 2016, so we took in \$12 million in
10 2016, we budgeted 10 and 10 in 2017 and '18, we
11 expect that account to also generate large
12 surpluses.

13 As to the statement that we've only
14 received Zero or 2.4 million, the resident's
15 correct. We came here earlier this year -- in June
16 of this year, and in June of last year, we've
17 issued revenue anticipation notes and we issue
18 revenue anticipation notes as a cash flow borrowing
19 because certain revenues are not received in a
20 timely fashion.

21 Both our sales tax and our mortgage tax
22 is due to us from New York State through Nassau
23 County to us on a quarterly basis.

24 Today, we stand here, it's
25 October 24th, and I can tell you that, obviously,

1 the third quarter ended 24 days ago, but here we
2 are on October 24th, we've only received
3 one-quarter payment for our sales tax and
4 one-quarter payment for our mortgage tax.

5 That doesn't mean the money is not
6 going to come. That does not mean that we're not
7 going to receive funds in excess of what we
8 budgeted, it just means we haven't gotten -- we
9 haven't received it yet so, again, I expect both of
10 those lines to generate surpluses. It's really a
11 matter of the County passing along what's due to us
12 by law.

13 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: All right.

14 My problem is, do we tell KeySpan we're
15 getting the money? Do we tell --

16 MR. DARIENZO: What you do you mean?

17 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: When you're at
18 home, do you tell your mortgage company, I'm going
19 to get the money from the County, but I just don't
20 know when, then I'll pay you?

21 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We are getting
22 the money.

23 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: When are we
24 getting it?

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We're borrowing

1 the short-term borrowing to pay the bill and then
2 we're continuing to contact the County for the
3 money, and as soon as we get the money, we
4 immediately pay it off.

5 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Do we get
6 interest on that money because we're borrowing it?

7 MR. DARIENZO: Unfortunately, no, we
8 don't get interest, but here at the Town of Oyster
9 Bay, we can only control -- here at the Town of
10 Oyster Bay, we can only control what we do.

11 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Understood.

12 MR. DARIENZO: When we get our bills,
13 we pay our bills. Other money due to us does not
14 always come to us in a timely fashion.

15 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: That's what I'm
16 saying. We can't guesstimate when we're getting
17 the money. We can't -- we have --

18 MR. DARIENZO: It's past due to us by
19 law.

20 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I understand. I
21 agree with you. I understand that but, you know,
22 it -- there's too many contingencies here.

23 MR. DARIENZO: It's not a contingency.
24 We will receive the money. We just haven't
25 received it in a timely fashion. You're correct

1 that maybe there's other remedies we could take,
2 but at this time, we patiently wait for them to
3 give us what's due to us.

4 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Okay.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. DARIENZO: That's all I had on the
7 questions.

8 If there are any other questions from
9 the Board?

10 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

11 MR. FREIER: Mr. Darienzo, can I just
12 ask one question? I'm curious why you put down
13 14 and -- or 12. I'm sorry, 12, and then 14 in
14 actual?

15 MR. DARIENZO: Would you like me to
16 respond?

17 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Yeah.

18 MR. DARIENZO: Okay.

19 As mentioned last week, we've
20 conservatively estimated revenues throughout the
21 budget. It is a much better practice to assume
22 you're going to get less revenue than you're
23 actually going to receive. I don't really know how
24 else to put it.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I'd like to add

1 to that that we continue to utilize the best and
2 most responsible budgeting practices.

3 For instance, by law, State law, it is
4 legal for us to amortize a portion of our New York
5 State Pension payments.

6 We're not doing that. We feel that
7 that's overborrowing and disrespectful to our
8 taxpayers. It certainly would send the wrong
9 message to Wall Street, but this budget sends the
10 right message to Wall Street.

11 MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely.

12 We have a cumulative deficit that has
13 grown over the years that we have now reduced for
14 two years in a row.

15 The only way to continue to reduce that
16 cumulative deficit and create a cumulative surplus
17 is to create a surplus as a result of operations.

18 The way to do that is to conservatively
19 budget your revenues and conservatively budget your
20 expenses. There's -- that's the way you do things.

21 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: There's no other
22 way to pay off debt than to pay it off.

23 MR. DARIENZO: Yes.

24 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And this goes
25 back to what we said earlier, we have a fiduciary

1 responsibility to our taxpayers and we are
2 appropriately dealing with a very difficult
3 financial situation that was handed to us.

4 I'm very proud of the fact that we're
5 operating in this responsible way and really, our
6 Board members, if we have a difference of opinion,
7 it's certainly not in the way in which we're
8 operating. Everybody's in agreement. This is the
9 most responsible budget in the Town -- the Town of
10 Oyster Bay has seen in many, many years.

11 MR. DARIENZO: Just to add one more
12 detail to maybe add some further color to this
13 comment, it would be very easy for me to budget
14 each revenue line exactly how I thought it would
15 come in.

16 In this case, that would mean I would
17 need to budget a negative surplus which is
18 something that State Controllers --

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Discourage.

20 MR. DARIENZO: -- recommended we don't
21 do that when they were last here four or five years
22 ago for their audit -- because we have budgeted
23 negative surpluses in the past and they criticized
24 us for it. They told us flat out, you're better
25 off underestimating revenues to create your

1 surplus, which is what we're doing here.

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Not only is that
3 the case in this municipality, but that's the
4 theory of responsible budgeting practices in every
5 municipality as well as every private corporation
6 in America.

7 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Excuse me, Rob?

8 MR. DARIENZO: Yes, sir.

9 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Have we
10 discussed this with Moody's or any of the rating
11 boards?

12 MR. DARIENZO: Discussed what exactly,
13 sir?

14 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Budget, our
15 plans. I know have a real bad rating with them.

16 MR. DARIENZO: I have not discussed the
17 budget. The budget has not yet been adopted.

18 Moody's and Standard and Poor's, while
19 they're certainly willing to talk to us about our
20 budgets, they care more about our audits and our
21 completed results so 2016 was a good year for us.
22 2017 is going to be even better.

23 When our 2017 audit is released on time
24 next June, that's when we go back to Standard and
25 Poor's and Moody's and say, hey, we have two years

1 of giant surpluses, we went from negative 44 to
2 negative 17 or better. Our 2018 budget is more
3 than balanced. We're only going to bring good news
4 until the next time we see them.

5 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And we expect our
7 bond rating to increase significantly and quite
8 quickly now in the passage of this budget, and I
9 know that credit is also due to Councilman
10 Muscarella who has been working hard with those
11 initiatives, but this budget is a tremendous
12 budget, tremendous pride in this budget and we what
13 we're doing. We've had these discussions. You've
14 told me that in your experience, this one of the
15 very best budgets in your twenty-year history with
16 the Town of Oyster Bay.

17 MR. DARIENZO: Unquestionably.

18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So we are clearly
19 moving in the right direction and we're addressing
20 all of the initiatives responsibly and giving
21 alternatives and options to deal with situations
22 that could change and there's just no doubt.

23 I mean, every day I've opened up the
24 daily newspaper to see complaints of municipalities
25 who have grossly over estimated revenues. We've

1 underestimated.

2 We have been right on target with our
3 expenses, prepared to pay them on time, but I can't
4 state this enough, we -- this year and next year,
5 we will have reduced the Town's debt by over one
6 fifth, almost a quarter of the Town's debt gone in
7 just two years.

8 Think of the criticism that this Town
9 has received in years past and the job that we're
10 doing to bring down our debt almost a quarter of
11 our total debt in just two years and on -- and
12 bringing a surplus this year, a surplus next year,
13 and a rock solid -- our fiduciary responsibility
14 has been embraced and we have a -- two budgets in a
15 row with surpluses and we are greatly reducing down
16 our deficit.

17 To go from 27 to 17 and now down to 13
18 or lower, we're well on the way to doing away with
19 a deficit in this Town entirely and we can all be
20 extremely proud that we are fulfilling our
21 fiduciary responsibility to our residents and our
22 taxpayers.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. DARIENZO: Thank you.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Our next speaker

1 is Mr. Kevin McKenna.

2 Hi, Kevin.

3 How are you this afternoon?

4 MR. McKENNA: Little sluggish today.

5 You're going to get off easy, maybe.

6 Kevin McKenna, Syosset, New York.

7 There's so much to talk about, but so
8 little time. I'm hoping that maybe in light of
9 your statement about how you're looking for input
10 to try to come up with the best budget possible,
11 I'm hoping that maybe you'll consider that and give
12 me some more time.

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: How do you like
14 our budget so far as compared to past years
15 budgets?

16 MR. McKENNA: Well, I -- as you'll
17 hear, I have some concerns.

18 I don't want to spend a lot of time on
19 this, but the Public Safety situation,
20 Mr. Supervisor, you made a statement at the
21 beginning that it is your responsible to seek
22 savings wherever you can find it and to cut out all
23 waste.

24 I think that if you really look, you
25 can find a lot more areas to cut that out than

1 Public Safety and I'm not going to --

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Just for clarity,
3 we're not suggesting Public Safety is a waste.
4 It's a savings.

5 MR. McKENNA: What's that?

6 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We're not
7 suggesting that Public Safety is a waste. I'm not
8 sure that was your --

9 MR. McKENNA: No, not that it's a
10 waste. You've eliminated it from the budget with
11 this pie-in-the-sky plan that it's going to go to
12 Nassau County and I just want you to know, I
13 personally spoke to Mr. Martins at the last --
14 couple meet and greets ago after he got done and,
15 you know, due to corruption and everything, I was
16 dead set against considering voting for Mr. Martins
17 and I'm not sure yet who I'm voting for, but I was
18 very surprised when he told me that he is not going
19 to continue the practice of just taking employees
20 from one spot to the other as transfer.

21 He said the only way he would consider
22 taking anybody from Public Safety in the Town of
23 Oyster Bay is first, they would have to be
24 terminated from the Town, he said, and, of course,
25 there would have to be a need and he's not so sure

1 there would be a need, and they would have to
2 interview for that need like any other the
3 applicant would have to interview for the job.
4 He's ending past practices. He told me that
5 directly to my face.

6 I don't want to spend anymore time on
7 this.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Fair enough.

9 MR. McKENNA: But, you know, in light
10 of eliminating Public Safety from the budget -- I
11 was going through the budget and Public Works,
12 2017, 1.3 million in salaries. This next year,
13 you're projecting \$1.9 million in salaries.

14 Intergovernmental Affairs, I've asked
15 some people on the Board about individuals that are
16 slotted in Intergovernmental Affairs and I've
17 mentioned names and asked people on this Board --
18 they don't even know who they are.

19 Intergovernmental Affairs, last year,
20 \$628,000 in salaries. This projected year,
21 \$793,000 in salaries.

22 General Services, salaries 2017, 2.5
23 million last year. This year, 2.9 million.

24 So you're eliminating a department, but
25 I think that the Town Board really needs to take a

1 look at these other areas.

2 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: DPW, since I sit
3 on that committee, they are doing much more without
4 outside consultants, so there is a little but more
5 costs for salaries for them.

6 That's the only department I can speak
7 of. The other departments, I can't speak about.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: When you're done,
9 we'll address the positions you're bringing up.

10 MR. McKENNA: The biggest thing I
11 wanted to just get to here is, and I've sent you
12 all e-mails, is that I had an hour conversation
13 last week with the New York State Comptroller's
14 Office with the gentleman who is in charge of
15 audits, and he is the one who did the audit from
16 January 2010 through October 2011, and to be honest
17 with you, I was shocked.

18 I was shocked in light of everything
19 that's gone on that New York State has not audited
20 the Town of Oyster Bay since then. I was shocked.
21 But be that as it may --

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We have a audit
23 that we present to the State Controller's Office
24 every single year.

25 MR. McKENNA: No, no. They -- okay.

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Which they go
2 over carefully.

3 MR. McKENNA: Okay.

4 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: It is done by an
5 independent auditing company as per law.

6 MR. McKENNA: So I believe that -- I
7 believe that it's very important to learn by past
8 mistakes, and as Mr. Darienzo just said, he -- you
9 know, he quoted some of the things that New York
10 State had told the Board back then and he
11 reiterated some now.

12 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Which we've
13 corrected.

14 MR. McKENNA: On the Town website, you
15 actually have a statement about how you have gotten
16 each department in the Town to contribute to this
17 budget.

18 I want to point out the importance of
19 what New York State had told the Town back then.

20 This is their critique: The Board,
21 you're the Board, and I'm finding that the Board
22 has not been involved in lots of things that the
23 Board should be involved in, so I want to point
24 this out because if you have not been involved in
25 the things that I'm going to point out right now,

1 then it's just more of a reason that you need to
2 delay. There's no reason why this has to get
3 passed today. You know, you don't want to rush.
4 You want to get it right and -- yeah, budgets are
5 guesses, but budgets can also be based upon real
6 data.

7 You know, I worked for a major
8 corporation and, you know, when I was in the
9 situation that Mr. Saladino is in coming into the
10 Town, I would call together all my people and
11 department heads and I would ask them for the input
12 as to revenues.

13 You know, Mr. Darienzo talked about
14 being conservative about eliminating rev -- about
15 revenues not overestimating. You want to also get
16 important data from the department heads as to
17 where you can increase revenue, and the only way
18 you're going to get that is by sitting down with
19 department heads and getting that input, and I
20 don't know whether that was done or not and you
21 could talk to that if you want when I'm done.

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Sir?

23 MR. McKENNA: Let me just read this.

24 The Board should develop a long range
25 financial plan that addresses the negative impact

1 of its reoccurring operating deficits and
2 eliminates deficit fund balances, so I ask the
3 Board, has the Board sat and has the Board
4 developed that plan?

5 Number two, the Board must adopt
6 budgets that are structurally balanced.
7 Reoccurring revenue should be reasonably estimated
8 and attainable and sufficient to cover the cost of
9 reoccurring services.

10 I've heard Mr. Darienzo talk about how
11 he's done that, but my question is: Has the Board
12 been involved in that and -- I might as well bring
13 this out right now, there's a lot of people who are
14 really, really, like, taken aback as to --
15 Mr. Darienzo, with all due respect, has been
16 involved in the last three late submissions to
17 New York State as per the financial reports.

18 And I'm not blaming him, I'm saying
19 that he is forefront up here presenting this budget
20 to the Board.

21 Mr. Saladino, a month ago, you made a
22 statement that you had to appoint a new Comptroller
23 in order to develop the budget. People are
24 wondering why is the Comptroller, the new
25 Controller, I forget his name, why is he not

1 presenting the budget and how could a new
2 Controller, within three or four weeks, put
3 together this budget?

4 If anything, I would think that the
5 Comptroller, a new assignment or a new position,
6 would be a reason for him to say we need to take
7 our time, I got to get my hands around this and,
8 with all due respect to Mr. Darienzo, if I'm the
9 new Comptroller, I want to see what he's doing and
10 I can't do that in three to four weeks so I'm
11 baffled and I'd like to know if he's even here in
12 the room, just for the record.

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay. Is there
14 any other questions? You're time is up. We are
15 working --

16 MR. McKENNA: The other -- Town
17 officials should refrain from balancing the
18 operating budgets with nonreoccurring revenues.
19 The Board should ensure that all funds are included
20 in the budget adoption resolutions and that each
21 fund's total appropriation agrees with the amounts
22 included in the deficit budget document.

23 Town officials should improve the
24 methods used to project fund balances at the end of
25 the year and the Board should ensure that the

1 budget is continuously monitored and requires that
2 immediate action be taken to mitigate the negative
3 impact, so what has the Board been doing throughout
4 the year to monitor the past year's budget in order
5 to contribute to this year's budget?

6 I heard Councilwoman Alesia, at the
7 last meeting, ask a question as to who provided
8 input for the Town Board and the Town Board did not
9 provide the input. You guys are the main
10 responsible party to provide input to Mr. Darienzo
11 on the new Comptroller and it appears to me that --
12 it appears to me that you're just taking what is
13 fed to you and it's all pie-in-the-sky information
14 and you're probably missing a lot of information.

15 Just a few other things that maybe you
16 forgot -- and this could be helpful to you -- did
17 you, in the budget -- you can answer this when I'm
18 done. I'll ask you some questions. Did you
19 include in the budget \$2.5 million that you're
20 expected to get over the next year when you close
21 or if you close on Syosset Park project? Simon and
22 Castagna owe you \$2.5 million when you close on
23 that park.

24 If you did project it, could you tell
25 us where it is? If you didn't project it, could

1 you tell us why you didn't? Do you have any
2 one-shot infusions incorporated into this budget
3 from expected lawsuits that you currently have in
4 the works? Does the budget include any potential
5 future lawsuits and litigation?

6 And very important, does the budget
7 allocate any monies to complete the Farmingdale
8 project that you recently announced to the public
9 you were going to get done, admitting that you
10 don't have all the money? Did you include any
11 monies in the budget for that?

12 I'm not going ask you that.

13 And last but not least, very important,
14 the recommendations that the State gave to the Town
15 Board and Town Supervisor and finance people at the
16 time, was very critical of the IT -- the IT
17 safeguards.

18 I heard Mr. Darienzo or someone say
19 that we are late again this year because of the
20 software glitch, which was an old excuse, but be
21 that as it may, in your current budget, you have
22 allocated -- under the Comptroller's line items,
23 you have allocated \$120,000 to outsource IT
24 services. I suspect that's to Sidney Bowne and
25 Associates.

1 Has the Town considered -- to save
2 money -- have you considered training any of the
3 people in-house in order to take over IT services
4 so that your data and personal information is not
5 subject to a third party that is the subject of a
6 lot of matters? Let's leave it at that.

7 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Either that or
8 hiring one of their people directly.

9 MR. McKENNA: Well, you probably
10 already have some of them.

11 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That would be a
12 great idea.

13 MR. McKENNA: Good point. You
14 probably -- my guess is you already have some of
15 their people on your payroll because that was an
16 old practice I'm told, that Sidney Bowne would just
17 put people on the Town of Oyster Bay's payroll.

18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Mr. McKenna,
19 you're way over your time, but so we can remember
20 all of your questions, because we really want to
21 answer them, when we get off the subject of your
22 questions, we want to ensure that they are answered
23 so would you mind wrapping up so we can answer your
24 questions?

25 MR. McKENNA: Let me just wrap it up.

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

2 MR. McKENNA: I urge you to hold off
3 this vote today and I urge you to read the
4 recommendations that New York State gave you to
5 safeguard IT and the things that they said that the
6 Town Board is responsible to make sure safeguards
7 were put into IT to prevent loss of information.

8 Did the Town Board take care of that?

9 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

10 MR. McKENNA: Okay.

11 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you,
12 Mr. McKenna.

13 MR. McKENNA: Thank you very much.

14 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

15 I'm very happy that Mr. McKenna came
16 here today and spoke to us because, quite frankly,
17 it gives us the opportunity to show just how great
18 a budget this is and the hard work of our Town
19 Board and our staff, not only in these three weeks,
20 but over the course of six months.

21 We have been doing, quite frankly, all
22 of the suggestions and the recommendations of the
23 State Comptroller and much, much more and, quite
24 frankly, we have embraced, on our own and because
25 of the quality people we have on this Town Board

1 and on our staff, the kinds of initiatives that you
2 referenced, Mr. McKenna.

3 For instance, one of things you asked,
4 have we all met this one time to get together on
5 where we should go financially, department by
6 department.

7 The reality and the truth is, we meet
8 every single week. We have meetings one morning
9 each week with all the department heads, the
10 division leaders, the people responsible, our
11 Comptroller has been coming to these meetings since
12 the first week that he was hired.

13 Mr. Darienzo is at these meetings.
14 Our -- people from our personnel team, Human
15 Resources, and the list goes on and on.

16 The Department Public Works sends at
17 least four people, including the Commissioner, and
18 we work on savings. One of those savings is --
19 that we came up with out of those meetings is,
20 thanks to our Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner
21 of Community and Youth Services, we provided the
22 same amount of entertainment nights at a 45 percent
23 savings by making decisions on the talent to hire,
24 by making decisions to go out and get far more
25 sponsorships, which we Town Board members came up

1 with. They followed through and we cut the cost of
2 our Music Under the Stars by 45 percent.

3 In terms -- as was mentioned in the
4 Comptroller's report about relying on real
5 revenues, we went further than that and
6 underestimated revenues in this budget.

7 In terms of the deficit, yes, we have a
8 plan, and it's not pie in the sky and it's not
9 something to realize years from now. We are
10 currently carrying out the plan of deficit
11 reduction, as I stated earlier, a \$10 million
12 reduction in the ongoing deficit this year alone.

13 When I started as Supervisor, the
14 deficit was at \$27 million. This year, we're
15 removing \$10 million of that deficit. Next year,
16 we have scheduled between \$3 and \$4 million of
17 deficit reduction, and as Mr. Darienzo so aptly
18 presented to us, that that could go up from there
19 because we didn't recognize all of these revenues
20 by taking a much more conservative approach.

21 So these initiatives, we're on top of,
22 I'm very proud of this budget, I believe every
23 single member of the public, including all of our
24 Town Board members, are very proud of this.

25 In terms of their input, we gave -- we

1 presented opportunities to sit down with every
2 single member of this Board to go over line by line
3 of the budget and we listened to their initiatives
4 because they're quality people who clearly
5 understand Town government, understand savings, and
6 we explored and applied their suggestions.

7 We have fresh new members of my staff
8 who come from the business sector and we've
9 employed their recommendations and their
10 initiatives and then we have quite a brain trust of
11 institutional knowledge on ways to further our
12 numbers.

13 The previous speaker spoke of the
14 budgets going up for personnel. Well, I'll point
15 to the fact that the previous speaker's been here
16 in all these meetings and we've described the
17 reason for personnel changes, is because
18 responsibilities have changed and we're putting
19 people into titles that reflect their job so as to
20 adhere to Civil Service Law and New York State
21 Labor Law.

22 So when we have people doing a larger
23 job, larger responsibilities, the law states that
24 we have to move their title and we've been doing
25 just that and it's been confirmed by one of the

1 heads of Human Resources. So that's where that
2 comes in, by presenting a budget that's real. With
3 people reflective of their actual jobs, put in the
4 appropriate titles as per the law, and we're also
5 working with the mandated portions of our budget,
6 such as the increase in the health benefit costs
7 and the increases in our pension costs.

8 We don't control that, but we budget
9 for it appropriately and with a fiduciary
10 responsibility. We're exceptionally proud of this
11 budget and so should the public.

12 We're moving from a very difficult
13 situation, pulling back, far back, from bankruptcy
14 to solvency with surpluses and a pay down of our
15 debt.

16 In two years, 22 percent reduction and
17 anyone who has stated that the Town has a
18 tremendous amount of debt should be first on line
19 to commend this Board for a 22 percent reduction in
20 that debt.

21 You can't say on one hand that the Town
22 has outrageous debt without recognizing the great
23 job that this budget and 2017 -- the actions in
24 2017 and the budget for 2018 does in tremendously
25 reducing that debt.

1 So I thank you, Mr. McKenna, for
2 stepping forward because you gave us the
3 opportunity to, once again, prove to the public
4 that this is a real budget with real savings with a
5 tremendous responsibility to the taxpayers that
6 gives this Board options to decide whether or not
7 it's in the best interest of our residents to carry
8 out a plan that the Governor put forth or to decide
9 that that's not the best option for our taxpayers
10 and still gives us votes and control down the line.

11 Each and every member of this Board
12 deserves continued control because they are doing a
13 great job and we're very proud of their actions,
14 we're proud of the staff, we're proud of Finance,
15 we're proud that we've gotten so many of the
16 problems of the past under control and now we will
17 be delivering everything asked by our State
18 Controller and every other governing municipality
19 because we are on time and we are in a position now
20 with our problems corrected and this budget proves
21 it.

22 I thank you for this opportunity.

23 Are there any other speakers?

24 Yes?

25 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: I didn't get here in

1 time to fill out a form.

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That's okay.

3 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: My name's Jacqueline
4 Braunstein. I live at 16 Shadow Lane in Woodbury.

5 Congratulations to you on your budget.
6 I think it's great that we're potentially reducing
7 taxes, trying to tackle the Town's debt. I think
8 that that's all I really -- the right endeavor to
9 go forward.

10 I'd just like to suggest that given
11 that there is an election in about two and a half
12 weeks, that this vote gets postponed. I don't
13 understand why there's -- for example, Councilwoman
14 Alesia, you're not running for reelection so you're
15 not going to be here in two weeks. There's other
16 people who are --

17 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Just to clarify,
18 I have two years left on my tour. Okay.

19 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: Okay. I apologize.

20 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: That's okay,
21 unless you know something I don't. I definitely
22 intend to be here.

23 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: My point being that
24 everyone -- there's certain people who are up for
25 reelection, some -- you know, we've had a lot of

1 changes. I've -- there's a lot of troubling
2 things. You're exactly right, there's a lot of
3 troubling things in the Town of Oyster Bay, and
4 it's nice to see that there's an effort to make
5 changes there.

6 Some of the things that I've heard that
7 are changing, I don't think have been clearly
8 communicated enough to the public. I got a mailer
9 that says that there's going to be, you know,
10 decreases in my taxes, that there's all sorts of
11 other things, but it didn't explain that
12 potentially, the Department of Public Safety gets
13 transferred to the County, that may or may not
14 happen.

15 I felt like I was sitting there doing a
16 lot of mental gymnastics trying to figure out, is
17 the 1.2 million coming out of my taxes, is it not,
18 it depends if we have another vote later.

19 There -- it just seems like there's a
20 lot in that the people of the Town, the residents,
21 should really almost get to have a little bit of a
22 referendum here.

23 We've been advertised to, some people
24 feel inappropriately, about the changes and/or a
25 lot of money was spent going into some of the

1 mailers that came to our homes and then I'm told at
2 1.3 million.

3 I feel like those mailers probably
4 cost -- approaching half a million when you start
5 color printing and mailing them to everyone in
6 Town. \$1.3 million doesn't even feel like that
7 much in terms of a tax cut when I look at what I
8 think some of the other expenses are, hearing
9 people talk about salaries which, again, I
10 understand it's -- I trust my Board to know what
11 the departments need to talk to the commissioners.

12 If that happened, that's great. I just
13 feel like the residents deserve to vote in a couple
14 of weeks, and then if it's all the same people
15 here, awesome, let's pass this budget, but
16 otherwise --

17 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: The budget --

18 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Even if some
19 members are voted out, we won't -- the guard won't
20 change until January.

21 After January, this budget --

22 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: So --

23 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: The budget has to
24 be passed by November 20th.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Yeah, by law.

1 By, law so we don't have a choice in
2 terms of that, but if I may point something out
3 that --

4 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: I feel like maybe
5 you'd have a better sense of how people feel given
6 that there's no one here, that -- the only way
7 you're going to know how people feel is have a vote
8 in a few weeks, especially as it relates to all the
9 changes. A lot of things changed six to eight
10 months ago, for the better.

11 We started to hold people accountable,
12 wonderful. Let's see how people feel about that
13 change before passing a budget. It's two or three
14 weeks.

15 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: What are you
16 proposing, that we redo the whole budget and ask
17 the new people coming in --

18 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: Well, do like I say.
19 I just think that you would have --

20 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: That is not
21 going happen.

22 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: -- a better sense of
23 how people. I -- the people I talk to are still
24 concerned and they feel like -- you know, people
25 who complained about the mailings were then told,

1 oh, well, that was a lie, that was a section of the
2 budget that the Town doesn't -- the Board doesn't
3 control. All these other things so then, like, if
4 I'm upset about that, which I am, how do I feel
5 confident that that's not -- that's being addressed
6 in this?

7 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay. Let's give
8 you a chance.

9 Any other particular questions? I'll
10 give you a chance to get some of those answered.

11 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: I came here today.
12 I've started to pay a lot closer attention once,
13 you know, all news came out when everyone -- when
14 all these people got arrested, you know, last year.
15 I started following the local politics a lot more
16 closely than I had.

17 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

18 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: A young person with
19 young children, and I came here today to say, I
20 just think that with an election coming up, with
21 some of these mailers, a lot of it just doesn't
22 feel good to me.

23 I've e-mailed. I didn't get a response
24 and so here I am to say, I think you should see how
25 the elections goes and then vote or -- I don't know

1 what, that you can talk to each other and see.

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

3 Well, we'll get some of your questions
4 answered right now.

5 Okay?

6 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: Thank you.

7 I appreciate it.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Yeah, you're very
9 welcome, and thank you for coming forward.

10 The process of how the budget operates
11 is mandated by both State Law and the Constitution
12 of the Town of Oyster Bay. It mandates that we
13 present a budget by a certain date and it mandates
14 that we pass a budget no later than a certain date.

15 What most people you talk to would
16 agree that by passing a budget before Election Day,
17 you are committing to a document by which you will
18 be following -- follow through on your financials.

19 If you didn't pass a budget before
20 Election Day, we might be criticized by some who
21 would say, oh, you're going to present a budget and
22 then make all kinds of changes after Election Day.

23 So, in essence, by passing a budget
24 before Election Day, you give more reassurances to
25 the public that you stand by your position, these

1 are the cuts that you're actually going to follow
2 through with, and not present something for,
3 perhaps a political purpose, only to change it
4 after Election Day so, in fact, we give you more
5 reassurance by passing a budget.

6 To do everything by referendum, my
7 experience, and I have 27 years in government, some
8 people have more, my experience has been that if
9 you ask -- you put ten people in a room and you ask
10 them, how would you like to carry this out, you get
11 ten different answers, so one of our Founding
12 Fathers initiatives in creating the United States
13 Constitution and the process of democracy is to
14 have people represent the public in representing
15 what the majority of the public wants.

16 Not always easy to do, so I go to -- we
17 all go to visit seniors at a variety of functions.
18 I was at one today with some of our Town Board
19 members. There was one last week and many, many
20 times and I always asked the question, how many
21 people are on the Internet and perhaps visit the
22 Town of Oyster Bay because we're talking about
23 transparency and we're listening to what their
24 wishes are, and one thing I find with senior
25 citizens, you can be in a room of 125 people and

1 five people put their hand up.

2 So in that case, it's very difficult to
3 respect their wishes to be kept in -- informed in
4 government without sending information to them in
5 some fashion. We have been continuing to ask
6 people to send in their information and their
7 e-mail address and when people contact us in the
8 office, we'll ask them for an e-mail address
9 because, obviously, it's a more efficient way of
10 sending them information via e-mail and that's what
11 we're transitioning toward, but we have to respect
12 all segments of the population.

13 And this may be something that we do
14 print in-house. We've read all kinds of comments
15 far from the truth, on the Internet especially, I
16 only wish that people on the Internet would be more
17 responsible and be more truthful, but we see all
18 too many times, consultants hired, million dollars
19 for this.

20 Mailings are printed in-house with --
21 without a consultant, okay.

22 So that's one of the things we'll look
23 at for next year is perhaps reducing color or
24 dealing with the color issue and also negotiating
25 with General Services on the cost of one ink versus

1 a different ink to see if there's cost savings
2 there and we truly are looking at everything,
3 especially the biggest components of the budget,
4 and when one of the biggest components of the
5 budget is debt service, we realize that it is most
6 responsible to reduce the debt in the Town.

7 As you reduce the debt, you reduce the
8 interest that you're paying over the course of time
9 so that when you present a budget that gets rid of
10 almost a quarter of the Town's total debt in just
11 two years, that's a big deal.

12 There are also people out there which
13 would have you believe the Town has something
14 like -- \$900 million of debt was one of the
15 shenanigans I heard some people mention.

16 The reality is as per State Law, other
17 municipalities must bond through the Town, but the
18 Town taxpayer, as part of their Town taxes, is not
19 responsible for paying back that debt. That would
20 be to the Water District or the Fire District who
21 bonds through the Town, but pays it back
22 separately, on their own.

23 So the Town, you and I, the people that
24 pay our property taxes to the Town, we're not
25 paying for that debt. The Town's debt is a lower

1 number, still very high, so by -- when we got here,
2 we realized -- and I'm here since -- first day
3 was -- first full day was February 1st. Tom Hand
4 came after me. Lou Imbroto came later. Some of
5 the council members are recent, and I'm -- quite
6 frankly, I don't think in the past, they played as
7 large a role.

8 Now, we're changing their role because
9 we respect their input tremendously and we respect
10 the input of the public as well. So when I explain
11 this to you, it's in an effort to get all of the
12 public to understand. You go to your -- the
13 portions of the body that are bleeding the most and
14 reducing the debt was a very responsible way to go
15 as well as reducing the deficit.

16 People will talk about a deficit.
17 There is no structural deficit in that -- in this
18 budget, and what that means -- and you may have a
19 financial background and I'm, kind of, explaining
20 this broadly for the public, not specifically to
21 you, but the Town had owed more so the amount of
22 this deficit was looming year to year to year.

23 When I came into office, it was what
24 they call a negative 27 million. We owed 27
25 million when you just started the process. We

1 were -- made all our bills in a balanced budget and
2 took an additional \$10 million and moved that down
3 to negative 10 million, and then in this budget,
4 we're going to bring it down negative 4 million.

5 So we're quickly getting rid of the
6 deficit, we're quickly paring down the total debt
7 to the Town, and we're providing very balanced
8 budgets.

9 As I mentioned earlier, when you go to
10 open the daily paper, you'll see criticisms of all
11 of these other municipalities that are budgeting
12 for way more revenue than they're actually going to
13 see. We didn't do that. We did the opposite.

14 We made this very, very responsible so
15 when you put all these things together, it is a
16 rock solid budget. If we were to have a referendum
17 on everything we -- we're trying to decide to do,
18 quite frankly, I don't think we'd get government
19 done on time.

20 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: I'm not suggesting a
21 referendum point by point.

22 My point being the Election feels like,
23 on some level, given how much advertising there's
24 been done on this new budget, an opportunity for
25 the public to -- you know, you get a better sense

1 and just to follow up on what you -- how you
2 address it, which I understand --

3 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

4 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: -- is the optics of it
5 if you get it the other way around, and I get that,
6 except that we spent the first hour of this meeting
7 it seems like -- is the \$1.2 million coming out of
8 the budget because Public Safety is going or is it
9 not? If it's not, then it goes to the contingency.

10 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Fair enough.

11 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: Then what if something
12 happens and the contingency gets eaten up?

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And what
14 happens --

15 MS. BRAUNSTEIN: Then the money's not
16 there, so to me, that doesn't feel the same as
17 committing to a budget.

18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

19 So let's go from feelings to facts and
20 let's get your questions answered because it's
21 important to us that every resident fully
22 understands and feels very comfortable of what
23 we're doing and what our different contingencies
24 are that we've budgeted for so if Mr. Darienzo
25 would come up again.

1 Let's talk to both Ms. Braunstein and
2 also the general public because there may be other
3 people who have the same feelings and that's
4 very -- and I can easily believe why that would be
5 the case. Absolutely.

6 So we have budgeted for a -- we have
7 very conservatively budgeted our revenue. Some
8 things we didn't even include that we know we'll be
9 getting. Case in point, the money that we have
10 already contracted for to sell our recyclables.

11 We're looking at approximately
12 \$435,760?

13 MR. DARIENZO: Correct. But \$350,000
14 of that was a reduced expense.

15 Roughly, \$100,000 is in unbudgeted
16 revenue.

17 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

18 MR. DARIENZO: That is a drop in the
19 bucket compared to the other conservative revenues
20 in this budget.

21 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Let's talk about
22 some of the biggest ones so our public fully
23 understands of how conservative, how responsible
24 this budget actually is.

25 So we're in on the ready for anything

1 that could happen to ensure that taxes don't go up
2 because there's lots of cushions, if you will,
3 built into the budget in many different ways to
4 assure this is not a budget that could go right
5 awry.

6 MR. DARIENZO: Yeah, and the first
7 thing is, once we adopt this budget, whether this
8 budget is adopted as it is or the contingent budget
9 comes in place, there is no change in the taxes.

10 The taxes are going down \$1,310,000 for
11 the Town -- you know, the 20 or so Town taxing
12 districts. Nothing is going to change that, so
13 let's make that very clear.

14 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Let's explain
15 this to someone who perhaps is watching on Live
16 Stream who may not be a CPA.

17 How could it be possible that if you
18 have an increase, you have to pay \$1.3 million more
19 because now, as of December 1st, let's say we're in
20 a situation where our Public Safety does not
21 change.

22 Remember, it takes an additional vote
23 beyond this afternoon's budget vote in order to
24 enact that. Quite frankly, it takes a number of
25 votes, but on the Town side, it's a workforce

1 bargaining agreement vote and it's an additional
2 vote that further empowers our Town Board members.

3 Let's say the -- we are going forward
4 and we will continue to have the Public Safety
5 budget exactly how it is. Tell us how it's
6 possible to not see a change in that \$1.3 million
7 reduction in taxes.

8 MR. DARIENZO: While taxes are the
9 largest revenue that we collect in any given year,
10 it's not the only revenue we collect in a given
11 year. There are many, many other revenue accounts
12 across the various funds in the Town. Earlier in
13 this meeting, we talked about our Local Government
14 Assistance Program. We budgeted --

15 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: If you'll back
16 up. Just explain it to the public exactly what
17 that is.

18 MR. DARIENZO: The Local Government
19 Assistance Program is the Town's portion of the
20 sales tax that's collected all throughout the year
21 for anything you buy in a store that charges tax.

22 We get quarterly payments -- it's
23 collected by the State, the State passes it down to
24 the Counties, and the Counties pass them down to
25 the various Towns within their own County.

1 For us here at the Town, historically
2 we receive between \$14.5 and \$15 million per year
3 in quarterly installments. The budget for 2018, as
4 of this moment, is \$12.3 million. It's going to
5 become \$12.5 million when we increase the \$200,000
6 for the rent of DPW and it could go as high as
7 \$13.8 million if, in fact, the contingent budget
8 goes into place on December 1st.

9 Whether it's 12.3, 12.5, or 13.8,
10 that's all well below the 14.5 to 15 million
11 dollars that we can very conservatively expect to
12 receive next year.

13 So, in any event, that account is going
14 to generate a surplus. If it's -- if the
15 contingent budget goes into place and it's
16 \$13.8 million budgeted for that line, that just
17 means we'll get less surplus in that line.

18 Again, mortgage tax I mentioned
19 earlier, we budgeted \$10 million. We got 12
20 million last year. If we can get a similar amount
21 in 2018, that line alone will generate \$2 million.

22 Again, Mr. McKenna mentioned earlier,
23 was the \$2.5 million as the final payment for our
24 DPW complex put in the budget? The answer is no.

25 I'm not so sure that we're going to

1 vacate by September of this year as negotiations
2 are ongoing, that's why I didn't include the
3 expense in the first place.

4 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We are going to
5 put it in the budget when it materializes.

6 MR. DARIENZO: We're not going to put
7 in the budget at all. We're going to get that
8 money -- if, in fact, we close in September of this
9 year and we start paying rent, that \$2.5 million
10 will just be additional surplus, so the \$3 to \$4
11 million I mentioned earlier rises to \$5.5 to \$6.5.
12 It is just extra surplus. It wasn't budgeted for.
13 It speaks to the conservative nature of all the
14 revenues in our budget.

15 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

16 So, once again, we are showing the
17 public that we have taken a very, very conservative
18 approach to our budgeting, perhaps the most
19 conservative approach, and by conservative, that
20 we're not talking about a political leaning,
21 obviously, it is a responsible approach by greatly
22 reducing our estimates on revenue which gives us
23 the cushion to assure a larger and larger surplus.

24 MR. DARIENZO: Absolutely, and the --
25 you know, the estimated figure of a \$10 million

1 surplus in 2017 and the estimated figure of a \$3 or
2 \$4 or \$5 million surplus 2018, to me, that's the --
3 that's also conservative and it's also the bare
4 minimum. I expect it to come in better than that
5 but, you know, I mentioned it last week.

6 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We could end up
7 reducing our deficit by far more than we're
8 announcing in this budget.

9 MR. DARIENZO: I expect that we will,
10 but I don't want to -- again, I don't want to over
11 promise and under deliver. I want just the
12 opposite.

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Just the
14 opposite, which is very responsible.

15 Well, thank you very, very much.

16 MR. DARIENZO: No problem.

17 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: If there are no
18 more speakers.

19 MR. ALTADONNA: I just have a question
20 on the mortgage tax for Mr. Darienzo.

21 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Let's address
22 this after we're done with this process because
23 we're going to get our vote right now.

24 MR. ALTADONNA: I'd like to address
25 before the vote.

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Well, I'm --

2 MR. ALTADONNA: I'll fill out a form if
3 I have to.

4 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: You going to
5 speak for five minutes.

6 MR. ALTADONNA: I'm sorry?

7 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Just ask the
8 question.

9 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Go ahead. Go
10 ahead, Jim. Ask the question.

11 MR. ALTADONNA: You stated on the
12 mortgage tax that you've collected approximately
13 2 million year to date or --

14 MR. DARIENZO: Mortgage tax --

15 MR. ALTADONNA: From the County.

16 MR. DARIENZO: Mortgage tax from the
17 County, it comes in four installments and -- just
18 quickly, it goes 20 percent, 20 percent, 40
19 percent, 20 percent. We got \$2.4 million for our
20 first 20 percent installment.

21 If every 20 percent came that way, we'd
22 collect \$12.5 million which would be a \$2.5 million
23 surplus in 2017 alone.

24 MR. ALTADONNA: Got it.

25 Now, are we floating anticipatory notes

1 because we're not getting this revenue?

2 MR. DARIENZO: That is exactly correct,
3 and we've been doing for the past several years.

4 MR. ALTADONNA: How much are those fees
5 and interest?

6 MR. DARIENZO: We issued RANs in June
7 of this year in the amount of \$15 million for this
8 purpose for the combination of a failure to receive
9 sales and mortgage tax in a timely fashion.

10 I can't say -- I don't have memorized
11 how much the interest is on that note, but I can
12 certainly get it for you. I would imagine it's in
13 the range of 1 to \$200,000 over the course of the
14 seven months that we're borrowing it for. We pay
15 it back in February of 2018.

16 MR. ALTADONNA: Thank you very much.

17 MR. DARIENZO: No problem.

18 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay.

19 So if there are no other speakers, may
20 I have -- is there any correspondence?

21 MR. ALTADONNA: This is for the Resos.
22 There's no correspondence.

23 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Okay. So is --
24 may I have a motion, please.

25 MR. ALTADONNA: We have the motion and

1 we have the second.

2 The motion was made by Councilman
3 Muscarella and seconded by Councilman Macagnone.

4 Now, we have a vote.

5 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Would the Town
6 Clerk, James Altadonna, please call the vote?

7 MR. ALTADONNA: Supervisor Saladino?

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: "Aye."

9 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Muscarella?

10 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: "Aye."

11 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Macagnone?

12 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I can't be proud
13 of any budget that is based on getting rid of 24
14 workers, especially after last year when we asked
15 our work force to work with us, that we'd protect
16 their positions and we keep them safe as long as
17 they produce for us, and they have been.

18 To the rest of the workers, be careful.
19 As Pastor Martin Niemoller said, first they came
20 for the socialists, but I didn't care, I wasn't a
21 socialist. Because they'll be coming for you next.

22 I proudly vote no on this budget.

23 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilwoman Alesia?

24 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I concur with
25 Councilman Macagnone and vote no.

1 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilwoman Johnson?

2 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Well, I've
3 certainly grappled with this and I support the
4 Supervisor and his administration and they've been
5 doing a fabulous job.

6 The changes that have taken place under
7 Supervisor Saladino's leadership, the dramatic
8 reduction in our deficit is something I think we
9 can all be truly proud of.

10 I do take my fiduciary duty very
11 seriously; however, this issue of Public Safety is
12 something I just can't get past, so with that being
13 said, I mean, I agree with the shared services
14 initiatives on many fronts. I think sharing salt
15 and sand and asphalt, those are all great things,
16 but we're talking about people, and I don't want
17 them to have to wait until after December to have
18 an answer, so I vote no.

19 But, I have a question.

20 Isn't that a no on just the budget or
21 do we have the other --

22 MR. MUSCARELLA: On the whole thing.
23 You're voting on the budget.

24 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: -- resolution
25 before us?

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: It's an "Aye" or
2 a "Nay" for the entire budget that cuts taxes.

3 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: 696A and B?

4 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That provides for
5 debt reduction.

6 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: This is just on
7 696?

8 MR. MUSCARELLA: No. B is for the --

9 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: I understand
10 that.

11 We're just voting on 696A?

12 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Yes.

13 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: I vote no.

14 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Imbroto?

15 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: I just want to be
16 clear on something here.

17 Voting for this budget is not the
18 mechanism that eliminates Public Safety.

19 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: It's the start.

20 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Additional action
21 is required to be taken --

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Everyone, please.

23 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: -- by you, by me,
24 by the people on this Board.

25 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: It's the start.

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Let's allow the
2 Councilman to speak.

3 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: Well, I'm going to
4 go on record and say that I am not going to support
5 that but at this point, I do support a budget that
6 cuts taxes, that cuts spending, and cuts debt and
7 nobody can eliminate Public Safety, nobody can
8 eliminate any of those positions expect for us, and
9 it's clear from counting the votes here that nobody
10 wants to do that.

11 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: But then,
12 Councilman, why can't it be in the budget --

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Let's allow the
14 Councilman to --

15 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: -- until we
16 decide not --

17 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: It is in the
18 budget.

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Let's allow the
20 Councilman to vote, please.

21 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: The budget right
22 now reads that if we don't do anything by
23 December 1st, it's funded, so it's funded.

24 MR. FREIER: No, it doesn't.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: It's

1 automatically.

2 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: So your vote.

3 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: How do you vote,
4 Councilman?

5 COUNCILMAN IMBROTO: I vote "Aye."

6 I vote for a budget that cuts our
7 property taxes, that cuts our debt, and cuts our
8 spending.

9 I vote "Aye."

10 MR. ALTADONNA: Councilman Hand?

11 COUNCILMAN HAND: This is going to be a
12 longer response than just an "Aye."

13 The last time taxes were reduced were
14 1996, over two decades ago. In a \$300 million
15 budget, it's difficult to agree with all aspects
16 and line items, but in its entirety, it is a
17 savings for the taxpayers while we continue to pay
18 down our debt.

19 I support the Collective Bargaining
20 Agreement, and we will reinstate the funding for
21 Public Safety if we cannot find a mutually
22 acceptable agreement between all parties, including
23 the Unions.

24 We, the Town Board, are obligated to
25 the taxpayer to seek reductions in costs while

1 providing the services our residents are accustomed
2 to and deserve.

3 I am on public record regarding the
4 benefits of Public Safety and it remaining in the
5 Town of Oyster Bay.

6 That being said, I want to ensure the
7 dialogue continues and the Board will be voting on
8 this in the near future. Today's vote approves the
9 budget and does not spell the demise of Public
10 Safety. It is based on the aforementioned that I
11 cast my vote in the affirmative for this budget.

12 MR. MUSCARELLA: Okay.

13 Jim, you want to --

14 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Give us the
15 results of the vote, Mr. Town Clerk, please,
16 Altadonna.

17 Yes? Would you kindly --

18 MR. ALTADONNA: On the vote.

19 The vote passes with four "Ayes" and
20 three "Nays," Supervisor.

21 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Thank you.

22 Yes?

23 Well, actually, we just have to take
24 care of the Resolution on the Water District.

25 Was that B?

1 MR. ALTADONNA: I have nothing.

2 MR. MUSCARELLA: That was called.

3 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That was called.

4 MR. ALTADONNA: The Special District
5 was called.

6 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I'd like to
7 propose a Walk-on, 697-217, the Resolution to keep
8 the Town of Oyster Bay Public Safety as a front
9 line security for our facilities.

10 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Is that your
11 motion?

12 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: That's my
13 motion.

14 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I'll second that
15 motion.

16 MR. ALTADONNA: Okay, Supervisor.

17 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I'd like to ask
18 for an opinion from our Town Attorney on this
19 motion, please.

20 MR. NOCELLA: The motion's been made
21 and seconded and properly so.

22 It would require that something be in
23 writing. I assume that --

24 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: We have it
25 writing.

1 MR. NOCELLA: May I take a look?

2 MR. ALTADONNA: Yes, sir.

3 MR. NOCELLA: I understand the intent
4 of the Resolution.

5 What I would propose to the Board is
6 that we take a recess to allow my office the
7 opportunity to draft something that more
8 specifically addresses the purpose of the Walk-On
9 Resolution.

10 The Walk-On Resolution 697-2017 is a
11 Resolution to keep the Town of Oyster Bay Public
12 Safety as front line security for our facilities;
13 in other words, to restore the funding into the
14 budget.

15 As worded, it's largely a sense of the
16 legislature Resolution, as we would refer to it.
17 To actually give it the force and effect, I think
18 it requires a little more detail.

19 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I believe in
20 just keeping it simple.

21 MR. NOCELLA: Sure.

22 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: To be honest
23 with you.

24 MR. NOCELLA: I understand that.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Well, the

1 stenographer has asked for a break anyway so why
2 don't we take a ten-minute recess for our
3 stenographer and then we will revisit this right
4 after that recess.

5 MR. NOCELLA: And in that time,
6 Supervisor, I'll be drafting a Resolution that, I
7 think, covers what the intent of this is with a
8 greater degree of specificity.

9 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: I think, again,
10 the Councilman brought the Resolution so he would
11 have to be conferred with --

12 MR. NOCELLA: Certainly.

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: -- to determine
14 whether or not he wants that.

15 MR. NOCELLA: Absolutely, and I'll keep
16 in mind, Councilman, that you want to keep it
17 simple, but I want to make sure that it's
18 effective.

19 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Understood.

20 Thank you. I appreciate that.

21 MR. NOCELLA: Sure.

22 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We'll take a
23 ten-minute recess.

24 (Whereupon, a brief recess began at
25 4:16 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m. and the

1 proceedings resumed as follows:)

2 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Ladies and
3 gentlemen, we have received a document from one of
4 the Board members and in an effort to ensure that
5 this is done procedurally legally, I'm going to ask
6 our Town Attorney to come forward and address this
7 motion.

8 MR. NOCELLA: Members of the Town
9 Board, I've looked at the proposed Resolution.

10 To properly give it effect requires
11 that there be a Resolution with an amended budget
12 which can be done, and my office is prepared to
13 prepare that in working with Mr. Darienzo and we
14 could have that available.

15 The Resolution is drafted; however, is
16 not something that can be given force and effect
17 and there's no way to, by simply adding some
18 verbiage, to do so at this time.

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So I'm going to
20 direct you to amend the budget as per the
21 recommendations of my colleagues who I have
22 tremendous respect for and I'm also going to ask
23 you to check with them --

24 MR. NOCELLA: Absolutely.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: -- to ensure that

1 the amended budget and motion meets their
2 requirements as per their recommendation to this
3 Board.

4 MR. NOCELLA: Absolutely.

5 And that is to restore Public Safety as
6 I understand the direction.

7 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: To ensure that
8 we keep them as front line factors --

9 MR. NOCELLA: As a Town department.

10 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: -- at our
11 facility, yes.

12 MR. NOCELLA: Good. Understood.

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So then you will
14 draft an amendment, you will show it to Councilman
15 Macagnone to assure that it meets the intention
16 that he wanted to bring before the Board and we
17 will vote on this at the next meeting?

18 MR. NOCELLA: That's right.

19 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: May I have a
20 motion?

21 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: We have a motion
22 on the table for this.

23 I'm not prepared to withdraw my motion
24 as of yet. We have the budget. We should have a
25 contingency budget in place, supposedly, according

1 to the document I received at 2:10 today, that we
2 have it in place. I don't know what the holdup is,
3 why we can't do this. I understand what you're
4 saying, but we should have this in place already.
5 We know what -- we had it on Thursday. Hang on. I
6 have it right here.

7 On Thursday, I got this amended budget
8 with Public Safety restored.

9 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: That's correct.
10 That was the last version I had seen
11 until 2:00 today as well.

12 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: So I don't
13 understand what the holdup is, Mr. Town Attorney.

14 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Well, we voted
15 on a budget already.

16 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Okay. All
17 right.

18 My motion is -- I'm not going to withdraw
19 my motion.

20 MR. NOCELLA: No, I understand that
21 you're not going to withdraw the motion, but as
22 Councilman Muscarella just observed, we did vote on
23 the budget, so now the next step is to have a
24 Resolution that will amend the budget.

25 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: And then,

1 obviously --

2 MR. NOCELLA: That was an alternative
3 version of the budget.

4 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: However,
5 Mr. Nocella, as the parliamentarian, there is a
6 motion on the floor for a Resolution.

7 I understand that it may not conform
8 with what you feel is exactly the right
9 parliamentary language, but it's here, Councilman
10 Macagnone made a motion for it.

11 Are we being told that we have to
12 withdraw it?

13 MR. NOCELLA: I'm not saying you have
14 to withdraw it, but it doesn't have any force and
15 effect. It simply states that Public Safety should
16 be maintained as the front line of defense in our
17 facilities.

18 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: That seems like a
19 pretty forceful and effective statement to me.

20 MR. NOCELLA: It's a forceful and
21 effective statement in terms of its intent. It's
22 not forceful and effective in terms of the law and
23 in terms of the budget, which requires that you set
24 out the dollar amount and placed within a budget
25 Resolution the amount of money to be restored and

1 then vote on the department itself be included in
2 the budget.

3 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Aren't all those
4 things already included in the contingency budget?

5 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: In the 2:10
6 budget, 2:10 today budget.

7 MR. NOCELLA: But only as a
8 contingency.

9 Your point, I thought, was -- I mean,
10 if that were adequate, I don't think you would even
11 be making the motion that you are.

12 What you want is to make it restored
13 fully, not as a contingency.

14 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: That's correct.

15 MR. NOCELLA: And what I'm proposing is
16 that that being done by having an amended budget
17 that can be voted upon, properly amended budget
18 having passed the budget today.

19 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Basically, what
20 I was trying to say was in the event that an
21 agreement is not reached, I want to just cancel out
22 right now. The agreement is not reached. That's
23 what I want to vote on right now.

24 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: I would agree
25 with the Councilman.

1 I mean, if we've heard from multiple
2 Board members that they have no intention on voting
3 ever to do away with Public Safety, so then what's
4 the point of having the alternative?

5 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Well, the legal
6 advice we're getting is that we must adhere to the
7 procedure of the law.

8 I fully respect the wishes of my
9 colleagues and that's why I am directing you to
10 amend the budget for a proper vote.

11 We've taken a vote, we've passed this
12 budget. Now, I am directing you to recognize the
13 feelings of my colleagues and amend a budget so we
14 may take a proper and lawful vote that recognizes
15 their wishes and the wishes of everyone on the
16 Board and take a public vote that is advertised
17 appropriately and adheres to all of the aspects of
18 the law.

19 MR. NOCELLA: That will be done.

20 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: This is not the
21 right thing, Mr. Supervisor.

22 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I happen to
23 agree with the Councilwoman.

24 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Well, I can
25 only --

1 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: We have a
2 contingency.

3 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: We can only go by
4 the advice of counsel and the advice of counsel is
5 clear cut on this.

6 The wishes of the Board members must be
7 adhered to and they must be -- of all Board members
8 and they must be adhered to in a way that follows
9 the letter of the law.

10 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: So are we going
11 to have a vote on my motion and people can vote it
12 down if they so feel?

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That wouldn't --
14 it hasn't been advertised and it hasn't been
15 presented as a --

16 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: We do Walk-On
17 Resolutions all the time.

18 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Walk-ons are
19 seldom advertised.

20 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: There's no need
21 to raise voices today. We're all acting as
22 collegial and professionally as possible.

23 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Councilman, why
24 I agree in principle with you, as I stated after we
25 took our break, this is a very poorly written

1 Resolution, no offense to you.

2 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: None taken.

3 I'm a carpenter.

4 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: But I just hope
5 that it gets written properly to ensure that what
6 you want, Councilwoman wants, I would like to see
7 done is done properly.

8 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Councilwoman, can
9 we take a vote to reverse the approval of the
10 budget and reinstate the old budget?

11 COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: I don't know.

12 MR. NOCELLA: At this juncture, it's --
13 again, that's not before you, but if you give me
14 the chance to draft the amended budget that
15 restores Public Safety as a Town -- as a Town
16 department, you'll have that properly before you,
17 but simply to vote on that with -- there's no
18 resolution, no, it's --

19 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: My difficulty
20 is -- frankly, Joe, and I'm sorry to be taking this
21 out on you, but as of Thursday afternoon, I was
22 sent an e-mail telling me that we had a budget with
23 Public Safety in it. That was an e-mail that we
24 all received and, therefore, between Thursday and
25 today, I wrote an e-mail back saying thank you very

1 much, I appreciate that you heard me and that you
2 heard my colleagues. It is very meaningful that we
3 had open dialogue and it wasn't until I read
4 Mr. Phillips article in Newsday yesterday that I
5 found out that Public Safety had been removed.

6 So I feel that we could have had an
7 alternative budget prepared. We could have had a
8 proper Resolution drafted, except that we were kept
9 in the dark. At least -- I can't speak for anybody
10 else, I was kept in the dark until I read it in
11 Newsday yesterday.

12 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: But in all due
13 respect, Mr. Phillips did not put all the quotes
14 that he was given from all members of the Board.
15 He's received lots of information and, quite
16 frankly, it would be inappropriate to govern
17 through our newspaper. So the voice of every
18 member is respected and important.

19 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Mr. Nocella --

20 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: If I may just
21 finish.

22 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I apologize.

23 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So the voice of
24 everyone will be listened to. The wishes of
25 everyone will be embraced. No one will be

1 silenced. No one's voice will be kept out, and
2 quite frankly, we're proving it by your wishes
3 about Public Safety are very clear.

4 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: But, Supervisor,
5 you said this to me on Thursday in an e-mail and
6 somehow between Thursday and today at 2:00, that
7 promise changed.

8 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Your views of how
9 you would like this budget to be carried out are
10 crystal clear to everyone in the public.

11 You -- through your vote and through
12 every statement you've made prior to your vote and
13 now, so no one is on the fence in terms of your --
14 of anyone's intention on this Board. It's very,
15 very clear.

16 No one has been silenced. Everyone has
17 been heard. Members of the public have been heard
18 and we've taken a vote, we've passed a budget and
19 now, rather than stick our heels in, we -- I've
20 asked the Town Attorney and the staff to amend the
21 budget to take a vote as you've asked so that we
22 can properly advertise it and go through the proper
23 legal process as is appropriate to follow through.

24 So there's no question about what your
25 feelings are on this issue. There's no question

1 that we're adhering to the law, and there's no
2 question that we're embracing every aspect of
3 public disclosure on this process.

4 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I like to amend
5 my motion to say that we're not going to be in
6 agreement with the County on consolidating Public
7 Safety or moving Public Safety over to them.

8 MR. NOCELLA: I realize that is
9 somewhat more specific. It's not -- hear me out,
10 please, Councilman.

11 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Certainly, sir.

12 MR. NOCELLA: What I would plead with
13 you not to do.

14 I mean, you're going to get a
15 Resolution with the proposed amended budget that's
16 going to restore the Town Department of Public
17 Safety.

18 I'll get it to you as quickly as I
19 possibly can and you'll see it and it will all be
20 spelled out and the clear restoration of Public
21 Safety will be there, so that they'll be no doubt
22 whatsoever in your mind.

23 The sense of the legislature, as I call
24 it, in this case, the sense of the Town Board
25 Resolution, which is the problem with what you

1 drafted, the common analogy that is often used or
2 actually, it's one that I've used many, many times,
3 it's as if the Town Board said this Town Board
4 favors statehood, independent statehood for Long
5 Island. It has no force and effect and most people
6 would regard it as an improper resolution.

7 You've made your statement loud and
8 clear. I think everybody knows you want Public
9 Safety restored. The Supervisor's directed me, and
10 you're going to get, a proposed amended budget
11 that's going to restore it, so to try and take some
12 action now --

13 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That has all the
14 clout of law.

15 MR. NOCELLA: I'm sorry?

16 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: That has all the
17 clout of the law --

18 MR. NOCELLA: Oh, definitely.
19 Absolutely, yeah.

20 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: -- Resolution to
21 confer an opinion on a particular issue.

22 MR. NOCELLA: Correct.

23 So I would urge you not to try to put
24 something forward today that simply expresses the
25 strength of your opinion.

1 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Mr. Nocella, I
2 am going to say that I've always trusted your
3 opinion and I'm going to go with it right now.

4 MR. NOCELLA: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. FREIER: Special meeting again,
6 right?

7 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: So the Councilman
8 has withdrawn his Resolution. The -- in an effort
9 to respect the voice of every single member of this
10 Town Board, the Town Attorney has been asked to
11 draw up a new Resolution that meets the bounds of
12 law and we will decide on a date, if not at the
13 next Board meeting, we will properly advertise and
14 it will be done at a public hearing publicly and in
15 compliance with every aspect of the law.

16 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: I'd like to make
17 a motion that it's done on the November 28th, so
18 it's a night meeting so most of the public can
19 attend.

20 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Can I have a
21 second on that motion?

22 COUNCILWOMAN ALESIA: Second.

23 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: All in favor,
24 signify by saying aye.

25 ALL: "Aye."

1 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: All against,
2 signify by saying "Nay."

3 (No verbal response given.)

4 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: The "Ayes" have
5 it.

6 Thank you very much, ladies and
7 gentleman.

8 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Supervisor, I
9 make a motion to close the meeting.

10 COUNCILMAN MACAGNONE: Second.

11 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: All in favor,
12 signify by saying "Aye."

13 ALL: "Aye."

14 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: Nay?

15 (No verbal response given.)

16 SUPERVISOR SALADINO: The "Ayes" have
17 it.

18 Thank you.

19 (TIME NOTED: 5:37 P.M.)

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