

Town Board Meeting – October 18, 2023

Item

Page #

<p><u>PUBLIC HEARINGS:</u></p> <p>1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD, TOGETHER WITH THE BUDGETS OF ALL SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 2024.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><u>RESOLUTIONS:</u></p> <p>2. A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLETION OF REVIEW OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD, TOGETHER WITH THE BUDGETS OF ALL SPECIAL DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 2024.</p>	<p>10</p>

**TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
October 18, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

JENNIFER DESENA	- Town Supervisor
ROBERT J. TROIANO	- District 1 Councilman
PETER J. ZUCKERMAN	- District 2 Councilman
DENNIS J. WALSH	- District 3 Councilman
VERONICA A. LURVEY	- District 4 Councilwoman
DAVID A. ADHAMI	- District 5 Councilman
MARIANN DALIMONTE	- District 6 Councilwoman

ALSO PRESENT

MARGARET MALITO	- Chief Deputy Town Clerk
RAGINI SRIVASTAVA	- Town Clerk
JOHN CHIARA, ESQ.	- Town Attorney

SUPERVISOR DESENA: If we could stand and start with the Pledge of Allegiance.
(WHEREUPON, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

SUPERVISOR DESENA: And if we could remain standing for one moment and keep in our minds and our hearts all those in harm's way around the world, especially in Israel.

(WHEREUPON, a moment of silence was observed.)

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: If I can just add to that, and in Gaza.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Good evening, everyone, Town of North Hempstead, special Town Board meeting, October 18th, 2023.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Aye -- present.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, so good evening, and welcome to the 2024 tentative budget public hearing. Today, members of the public will be given the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the 2024 tentative budget I submitted on September 29th, 2023. Yesterday morning, we held a public work session regarding this budget offering members of the Town Board the opportunity to ask questions and offer their perspective on the tentative budget. Many questions were asked and answered by my budget team and our department heads, and I thank them for their patience through the multi-hour ordeal. Following the public hearing tonight, the Town Board will vote on a tentative budget and any amendments that are offered, completing the review of the tentative budget which will then become the preliminary budget. Another public hearing will follow which will take place on November 2nd with a vote later that night so that we can pass the budget before Election Day as is customary in our town. I'm proud to have submitted a 2024 tentative budget that will deliver a double digit tax cut for our residents when they need it most given the continued rise of inflation which has made things like gas for our cars

and food for our families cost more than ever before. I believe that in tough times, it's government's job to do all we can to relieve the financial burden on residents, and I'm proud that my budget does this in a fiscally responsible manner that will maintain all programs and services and thus set the town up for success for years to come. Once again, this year, my administration was forced to construct a budget without a key member of the budget team as the town is once again without a full-time comptroller. I do want to thank the members of the budget team this year, including Director of Finance and Acting Comptroller, Paul Wood; Director of Governmental Research, Steve Pollack; and my Deputy Supervisor, Joe Scalero, for all their hard work to deliver a budget under the given circumstances. I also want to thank our department heads for their commendable managerial skills and their efforts to meet my goals during the budget process. I'll now turn this over to my Director of Governmental Research, Steve Pollack. Do I need to open the hearing first?

MR. CHIARA: Yes, open the hearing.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, okay. So Madam Clerk, if you could read the --

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Yes.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: -- Item?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Item number 1. A public hearing on the tentative budget of the Town of North Hempstead, together with the budgets of all special improvement districts for the year 2024.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, Mr. Pollack, would you proceed?

MR. POLLACK: Can you guys hear me? Good?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Yes, and by the way, I'm sorry, I didn't finish. This will be a brief overview, and then we will open this up for questions.

MR. POLLACK: Steven Pollack, Director of Governmental Research. I work in the Supervisor's office. The town's 2024 tentative budget stays well below the tax gap and has no planned layoffs. The overall headcount change from the 2023 adopted budget is 1.21 across the major funds which include the general fund, TOV and TOSD. The tentative budget appropriates fund balance while remaining in compliance with the town's fund balance policy. The tentative budget includes a 10 percent decrease in tax for the general fund. General fund revenues are increasing by 1.3 million highlighted by an increase in sales tax and a decrease in mortgage tax based on recent trend data. Interest earnings in 2022 and 2023, year to date, have performed very well due to recent Federal Reserve activity which has created additional revenues that we can now budget for the 2024 tentative budget. That is a total increase across multiple account codes in the general fund of \$1.1 million. The 2024 budget represent the fifth year of the five year phase-in plan uses the 2022 audited financials and metrics to calculate the admin charge revenue for the general fund. The 2024 budget represents an 804,000 increase from the same revenue account from the prior year. Harbor Links revenue is anticipated to grow, 214 from the prior year. Parks and Recreation revenue continues to rebound from the pandemic as the Parks Department has estimated growth from the adopted 2023 budget by \$100,000. Expenses in the general fund are increasing by 2.6 million from the prior year budget. Out of the 18 divisions and departments, 13 of them are increasing from the prior year. To highlight some of the larger increases, the Parks Department and Harbor Links are increasing a total of 878,000. Additional funding was included in the budget for social work and nursing and

PI taxi program which totals 162,000 and approximately 89,000 in other than full-time expense funding for the Department of Public Safety. While 13 departments are increasing, five are decreasing from the prior year. Those include solid waste management, Receiver of Taxes, environmental facilities, Town Clerk and indebtedness. Moving on to the town outside village fund, similar to the general fund, there's a 10 percent tax levy decrease from the prior year budget. Revenues in the TOV are growing 577,000 compared to the prior year budget. Highlights of the revenues include additional revenue in the parking enforcement account code, similar to parks revenue. This is also recovering from the pandemic. Financial aid provided by the state to the Highway Department for various grant programs including the CHIPS program is scheduled to increase in fiscal year '24 from the 1.3 million in 2023 to 1.491 million in 2024. Similar to the general fund, interest earned is also increasing in the TOV fund which helps to offset some of the decreasing revenues such as miscellaneous permits which are the road opening permits that the Highway Department issues, sale of equipment and court fines. Expenses in the TOV fund are decreasing by 2.9 million overall compared to the adopted 2023 budget. The TOV is broken out into two sub funds which is the B fund and TOV -- highway fund which I'll quickly touch on the B fund departments. Public Safety, Town Clerk, Planning, BZA and Buildings are all increasing from the prior year. The Highway Department budget is decreasing 4.1 million which the majority of the changes have to do with the one-time appropriations from the 2023 budget and not being included in the 2024 tentative budget. Looking at the total number of parcels that in class 1 and 2 in the general fund and the tax levy being proposed as part of the 2024 tentative budget, on average, each of those parcels pay 282.13 which is a decrease from last year's average of 310.56 which equals \$28. For the TOV fund, similar situation this year with the tentative 2024 budget. Class 1 and 2 total parcels, on average, pay \$582.77 which is a decrease of approximately \$61.98 from the prior year budget. Those are my highlights, and I'll kick it back to the Board.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you, Mr. Pollack. Okay, do we have any cards submitted?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Yes, we do have cards. We just wanted to say, you know, we all know that this is a special budget -- special meeting, so we would just request that we would be taking comments which is related to the tentative budget, 2024. The first name we have is Mr. Pete Gaffney. Please keep your comments three minutes.

MR. GAFFNEY: The name's Pete Gaffney, I reside in Westbury, Carle Place School District. Thanks for responding to my notes that I just sent. I just received something at 6:41 tonight, so thank you for that, but I -- there's some things I want to point out that I just highlighted from here. We talked about the community -- community benefit fund for the third track. It was \$4 million, not 3.8 million. The vacuum truck was not signed off as far as one of the community benefit funds, so that's \$500,000 for that. That's number one. The other thing that you have that's not shown here at all is the sidewalk on Atlantic Avenue. They agreed to pay for that so that's \$72,000. In addition to that, there was rental for Fuschillo Park that directly should go to Fuschillo Park. Approximately, it was \$150,000. There was two lease agreements. The first one I know for a fact was \$75,000, the second one, I believe, was the same amount. If not, it's \$50,000. That's one thing. I'm going to write comments further on this stuff so this will be submitted but I just wanted to get this stuff on the record, what I'm saying; okay? The overall district positions wide -- for townwide, are going to be 1.21. I really want you to reconsider what you're doing with parking and public safety; okay? I mean, we did a FOIL request on leaf blowers, this is something that the Board told them to do in Carle Place in 2022. We had two

violations, that was it; okay? The parking tickets. There are people that are parking on the sidewalk that don't get anything. The only kind of parking tickets that we end up getting is the ones for when they park on the north and the south. We have parking restrictions all over the town. Nobody is doing it. I've done Cherry Lane, I've also done -- also, I'm going to say Maple Avenue, but the whole business district. It's not being done. You need to put them in. Besides, one guy resigned, and one guy, one part-timer, I think, or one parking attendant also left. So you need to bring them in, plus you need to bring in two more.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Well, if there are vacancies, those are in the budget.

MR. GAFFNEY: Okay, that's fine. So we need at least two more. You're not covering Carle Place and the unincorporated village of Westbury. The other thing is, with regards to -- I understand about the human resources, so that's fine, but the actual park, satellite park care; okay? There is community benefit funds for those parks, so why has that been increased to \$1.8 million; okay? That happens to be -- now, I looked at the one that's online, so it's page 16, two of 29, but what I will do is, I will further comment this, but this needs to be reevaluated. The solid waste management, it's the second largest of your pie chart that's in the outside of Department of Parks. That doesn't make sense to me; okay? You have nothing in there for Department of Technology, and then the other thing is the mortgage tax, and the last thing I'm going to tell you is the business and tourism; okay? You got to do a better job. It's not getting out about North Hempstead. I get every Long Island publication. Very rarely do I see anything from the Town of North Hempstead. Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you for your feedback.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Can I? Mr. Gaffney?

MR. GAFFNEY: Yes?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: So I just -- I don't know if you watched yesterday, the work session?

MR. GAFFNEY: Yes, I did.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Okay, so I do agree with you on the code inspector, adding one. So I asked yesterday. Currently, we have four, and the night before the person that the supervisor -- the senior code enforcement that left months ago, he just got approval to post that job, so he's going to be posting it. But I do agree with you, for 240,000 residents, we don't have enough, and it's a quality of life issue. I do know that the Commissioner asked for three additional, and he got --he didn't get anything in the budget. So I just want to, you know, I do agree with you. I just wanted to let you know.

MR. GAFFNEY: One thing that wasn't shown in my response, it somehow dropped off, maybe you can look at it, is the Building Department. We all know it's been understaffed, it's been attacked for years. How many plumbing inspectors --

SUPERVISOR DESENA: You know what? You're not on the microphone, anymore.

MR. GAFFNEY: Okay.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Stuart Kroll?

MR. KROLL: A couple of brief comments and questions. I saw, first of all, that the proposed budget for the animal shelter is basically \$900,000, which is pretty much what the actual adopted budget was for 2023. You know, we were fortunate enough, and I appreciate the fact that we passed a voucher program, I don't -- we've got to have the money in the budget. I mean, it's going to cost close to \$100,000, you know, over the period of the year, over 2024, in order to actually, to effectuate this. I don't see anything in there at the moment for that. I mean, we have money in there now. As soon as we get, you know, somebody, as soon as that woman is replaced, you know, at the shelter, the Lisa, you know, there's got to be money in there for that. Also, if somebody, hypothetically, which may happen, donates a building or donates money for a building. Now I don't know if this would go in the capital plan or it goes in the budget. There obviously need to be money in there to maintain the building, you know, which is going to cost a significant amount, and again, every other municipality on Long Island has somehow found the money in the capital plan somewhere to do it. I don't see any reason why we can't. Babylon found \$12 million to build an animal shelter. You know, how they did it, I don't know, but they did it. Just a couple of quick things on there. I saw out of the \$900,000, 684,000 is going to personnel. There's a line item for 134,000 for professional services. I'm guessing that's for veterinary care? You know, I don't know if anybody has any answers for that, but I'd like to know what that is. I mean, I don't see any -- first of all, there needs to be promotional money in there for the dogs. I mean, you want to get animals adopted, you need to advertise, you need to promote them. I mean, so where's the money for that? The only -- I don't even see any money in there for food. I don't see any line item for that. I see a \$16,000 line item for supplies and materials. That can't be for food because I spend more than that feeding strays myself. So where's the money for food being listed there? I mean, that should be a significant -- there are a decent amount of dogs there, that's got to be a reasonable expense. So I'd like to know, you know, where that money is. I mean, somebody here must have a breakdown and have some answers.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: You know, we can look into the breakdown. I do -- I'm sure the food is included in the budget, you know. As to some of the other things you've mentioned, you know, we don't -- it's not customary, you know, to put the money in the budget for something that we haven't agreed to yet, so --and as far as the voucher program goes, this tentative budget was submitted before --

MR. KROLL: Before that was approved?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: -- before our last Board meeting. So you know, when the RFP goes out, you know, we can look into that for next year, but you know, we wouldn't want to put money in the budget for something that hasn't been approved.

MR. KROLL: So that would go into the second -- if I understand this correctly, there are three phases to it, basically, and that would go into the second or the third phase since the voucher program has now been approved.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Well, no, not the voucher --an RFP has --

MR. KROLL: Right, the RFP --

SUPERVISOR DESENA: --to send it out, but we have to see what comes back, you know, we have to see what we get and see what the costs are, and at that point, the Board will consider it.

MR. KROLL: Okay, there's also, again, there's also \$30,000 in there for consulting and professional services. I would just like to know what that is.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Mr. Pollack, are you able to answer that?

MR. POLLACK: Sure.

MR. KROLL: Steve, maybe you could tell me where the food item -- the line item is that -- what's that -- what is that under?

MR. POLLACK: How are you?

MR. KROLL: Good.

MR. POLLACK: So the Commissioner is also here if I don't have any of the answers, but food is included in the operating expense. In addition, they do have a relationship with a nonprofit that does donate a lot of food to the animal shelter. The 134,000 that you see in professional services does include the mobile clinic and also the trapper program. I believe, and Shawn Brown or Commissioner Brown can correct me if I'm wrong. I believe the professional services and the consulting and professional services also includes veterinary care when that's required.

MR. KROLL: Okay, fair enough.

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: So I would like to answer one of the comments that you made. So we did pass the voucher program after we did approve the release of the RFP for the voucher program after this budget was produced, but I think that we need to look into putting some money into the voucher program for next year, otherwise, we're going to end up being in the same situation --

MR. KROLL: Yeah, I mean --

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: -- that we were in last time --

MR. KROLL: Right.

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: -- where we approved a voucher program, and then there was no funding for it. So that's --

MR. KROLL: Right, I mean, the whole thing --

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: -- that's my --

MR. KROLL: Right, I mean, unless the funding is there for 2024, the whole thing is a sham.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Well we, you know, we, as a Board can consider that, you know, very -- throughout the year we make, we move money from different accounts. It happens almost every meeting where we make a supplemental, you know, budget move. So to put the money in the budget before we know what it will cost and whether there even is a viable voucher program would be a little -- -

MR. KROLL: I don't see why there wouldn't be, I mean, it's fairly straightforward, I mean --

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Right, but you know, I'm not -- for us to ask the taxpayers to pay for something that we haven't even received yet, and we haven't approved as a Board yet, is, you know, not very responsible.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: So you can in a budget, you can put money in there and

just putting money in a budget doesn't mean you have to spend it.

MR. KROLL: Spend it, right.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: So you can put money in the budget to show a commitment towards a program. So I agree with you, when I saw the 134,000, and that was one of my questions I actually forgot to ask. Steve or Commissioner Brown, am I correct in saying that that 134,000 does not include the voucher program where these residents come every single month to our meeting and advocate for this program, it does not include one dollar toward that voucher program in 2024; correct? Commissioner Brown or Steve?

MR. POLLACK: I understand that the tentative 2024 budget keeps funding stable from the prior year with the existing programs.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Okay, so it does not include a dollar towards the voucher program. Okay.

MR. KROLL: I mean, it's just -- you know what? There are going to be vets once Lisa is -- somebody is replaced, the voucher program, there's funding for it now, the year's going to end, you know, before we know it, and you know, the vets are going to respond to this. So there's really no reason, I mean, this really should be a done deal, and there really should be money. At least some of the money should be in there now I think.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Well, at our last meeting, there was a resolution to move \$15,000 into a line for that. So we did.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: For this year, yeah.

MR. KROLL: Right, but that's going to cover it basically until the end of the year. So we need to go forward. There needs to be money in there.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Right.

MR. KROLL: You know, I mean, I don't think anybody wants to go through this whole thing again, you know.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Right. Well, usually you put out the RFP first, and that way we know that we're protecting the taxpayer dollars because we wait for competitive bids to come in. That's the way we operate.

MR. KROLL: All right, let's see what happens.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, thank you.

MR. KROLL: Thank you.

COURT REPORTER: Sir, can I have your name?

MR. KROLL: Stuart Kroll, K-R-O-L-L.

COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Nina Gordon?

MS. GORDON: Hi. I'm really kind of shocked to see so few people here, and I was at the last Town Board meeting, and I heard that there was a private, I didn't realize it was a public work session. I was told that you can't attend it, so I didn't even try to watch it. I'm sorry that I

didn't. So that's part one of what I want to say. I think that the few attendees here tonight speak to the lack of publicity. I don't want to say lack of transparency, that phrase is overused, but I think the town could have done a better job in making the public aware of this hearing, an ad in the Great Neck News, the Port Washington Times, whatever, because this affects all of us and it's important, so that's kind of an aside. As far as the animals and the funding or lack of funding for that, it's shameful that we have stood here month after month for a year and fought for the crumb of \$15,000 to issue an RFP, which, I checked the town website today, it's not up there yet. So today's October 18th, with any luck, if that RFP gets out next week, you might get a response by November, and maybe this program will function for two weeks. Maybe, if we're lucky. We have to do better. We have to do something for 2024. Everything is going up, costs for everything is going up. Not one penny more for animals, and guess what? The number of animals are going up also because the services that we've been providing are not sufficient. So there are more and more animals being born in the streets, and we have to do something. There's -- there seems to be funding for all manner of things, and it just seems inhumane to keep turning a blind eye to it and not doing anything for -- and part of it is education. Just as I said, you know, educate -- half the town doesn't even know that there's a TNR program that exists, and I know somewhere on the town website there's a flyer that tells you about feral cats. I brought it to Councilwomen Lurvey and Dalimonte the first time we met, and they both said, oh, where did you get this? Because you people don't advertise it. So we need to do better. I'm begging you, please do better for the animals in 2024. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, can I please have your name?

MS. GORDON: Nina Gordon.

COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Are there any other cards?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: No, we don't have additional cards on this .

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Would anyone else like to comment?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, then I move to close the public hearing.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, do we -- are we going to call the next Item? Mr. Chiara, was there anything else we need to move on that one? On number 1? Okay, so would you please call the next Item?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Item number 2. A resolution certifying completion of review of the tentative budget and setting a date for a public hearing on the preliminary budget of the Town of North Hempstead, together with the budgets of all special districts for the year 2024.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, I offer the resolution and move for its adoption.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: The Supervisor said at the beginning of this meeting that at yesterday's work session many questions were asked and many questions were answered. That is true. But it is not the complete story. The administration was unwilling, and in some cases, unable to answer questions about the impact of an agreement reached in the last few days with the CSEA, the impact of that agreement on the budget that I'm being asked to vote to certify tonight. This contract may represent a material change to the budget that was created several weeks earlier. The union represents nearly 85 percent of our workforce, and the money paid to them, the hardworking members of the union, represents a significant percentage of the budget, but the administration wouldn't tell us what's in the agreement, and its effect on the budget. In fact, the administration hasn't even told us that an agreement was reached with the union. The only way we know that, the only way we know that an agreement was reached at all was because an e-mail, sent by the union president to his membership, was shared with some of us. This is -- this, from an administration that stakes its claim to transparency. I fail to see where that attribute is being recognized by this process. Still, I am being asked to certify the completion of the review of the budgets submitted by the Supervisor when parts of that budget remain hidden to me. I cannot, in good conscience, vote yes. I vote no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: I am voting tonight to certify but not approve the Supervisor's tentative budgets. This is an administrative step tonight that we're doing. I'm making a clear distinction so that everyone understands that myself and the councilmembers up here retain the ability to make the necessary adjustments as are pertinent. This reservation to make amendments in the future is very important because there are aspects of this budget that fall short of acceptability. In the work session, we identified significant issues that are necessitating further review. However, this is an administrative step, and although it is -- this is an administrative step, it is crucial to address our concerns with the budget before it is finalized. As such, I'm voting to certify but not approve. I vote aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Yes.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: So my review, and yesterday's work session, identified significant problems with this budget which I feel necessitate closer scrutiny and revisions. I raised some of these concerns yesterday during the work session including slashes in quality of life services including a \$2 million cut in paving allocation; a \$1 million cut in tree planting and maintenance allocation; a \$1 million cut in sidewalk work; and a \$250,000 cut in beautification funds. In addition, as Councilman Troiano pointed out, there's great uncertainty over the costs under a new union contract representing, I believe, 84 percent of the town's workforce that may come before the Town Board in the near future. On top of that, there is a lack of an agreement for the management of Harbor Links golf course, a significant revenue source, and finally, there's my concern about the effect of a 10 percent tax cut on the town's bond rating and on future years. All budgets reflect priorities and involve difficult decisions to balance community needs and impact on taxpayers. At this point, in this case, there is such a lack of information that I cannot say that I have completed my review. I vote no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: So yesterday, we had our work session, and I had many, many questions. If anyone watches the tape they will see. I think I asked the most questions out of anybody. So I wanted to submit amendments to the budget, but I felt like I couldn't submit the amendments to the budget because I did not know our -- we have, I think you said 84 percent, of our workforce is getting a new contract, and I don't know, and I asked a question that I wanted to know, in the general fund, if the expense, it's \$91.8 million for the general fund and for the TOV it is 41.8 million, and I asked if that money was in the budget for the new contract that our workers deserve. So I didn't submit any amendments because I felt like I needed to know the amendments first, how this budget was going to be affected by the union contract. So I do have plenty of amendments, and like Councilwoman Lurvey said, I have many roads, I have many, many roads in Port Washington that need to get paved, and by cutting \$2 million out, we need to, like, in my opinion, I feel we need to add that in. Cutting my oyster program needs to be added in. Trees, the Parks Department asked for \$100,000 to maintain, for arborists and for trees for our parks, needs to be added in. We need another code inspector, it needs to be added in. There's so many things, and we don't have an agreement with Harbor Links right now, and we need to know, is it going to be one outing? Is it going to be two outings? So there's a lot of things that -- I need money for flood mitigation in my district. The last storm we had, it was -- we had to move our ambulance service away from their headquarters because their road was getting flooded. Climate change is real, and we need to do something about flood mitigation in probably in the entire Town of North Hempstead. So I'm going to -- I'm voting yes, but I'm voting yes to move the process along. But please understand, I have many amendments that I will be submitting between now and November 2nd when we vote on the budget. So I just want everyone to understand that there are serious issues with this budget because certain things need to be added back in. The voucher program, you know, obviously, my oyster program. I don't want to have it for two years, and then all of a sudden stop, you know. Manhasset Bay water quality is an issue. So I'm voting yes, but I just wanted to explain to the residents I represent why

I have reservations.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I just want to make it clear to the public that this is part of the process is that there will be amendments. This is what we did last year as well, and so, you know, we did hear some things yesterday from the Board members. I expect amendments. I would love to get them before seven p.m. the night before the budget hearing, but there will be amendments just as we did last year. I just want to repeat a couple of things that Mr. Pollack said. There were no cuts in this budget. We heard from our Highway Superintendent yesterday. He got what he asked for, and as for questions about the -- our union workers, currently, we --there is not a -- there is not a contract. This is something that is in progress. So we will be moving forward. This tentative budget was submitted before. So thank you all for coming tonight. I vote aye, and I look forward to continuing the process, and I move to adjourn.

Supervisor DeSena offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, which resolution was declared adopted after a poll of the members of this Board:

RESOLUTION NO. 541- 2023

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLETION OF REVIEW OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD, TOGETHER WITH THE BUDGETS OF ALL SPECIAL DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 2024.

WHEREAS, the various departments and Special Improvement Districts of the Town of North Hempstead (the "Town") have submitted tentative estimates of their budgets (the "Tentative Budget") for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 ("Fiscal Year 2024") to the Supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead (the "Supervisor"); and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2023, the Supervisor duly filed the Tentative Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, with the Town Clerk of the Town of North Hempstead (the "Clerk"); and

WHEREAS, the Clerk duly presented the Tentative Budget to the Town Board at a meeting held on October 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget has been considered, discussed and reviewed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board certifies that pursuant to Town Law §106, it has completed review of the Tentative Budget of the Town for Fiscal Year 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED that the same, with any and all amendments approved by the Town Board, shall be filed as the Preliminary Budget in the Office of the Town Clerk, who shall prepare sufficient copies thereof as soon as possible for those members of the public who may wish to acquire the Preliminary Budget; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Board shall hold a public hearing upon the Preliminary Budget, including Town of North Hempstead and the Special Improvement Districts budgets on the 2nd day of November, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. to hear all interested persons concerning the Preliminary Budget; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall publish notice of the budget hearing in Newsday, a newspaper published in the Town of North Hempstead and having a general circulation in this Town; and be it further

RESOLVED that the notice shall be in the following form:

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD TOGETHER WITH THE BUDGETS FOR ALL SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, together with the preliminary budgets of all Special Improvement Districts (the "Preliminary Budgets") for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, have been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk at Town Hall, Manhasset, New York, where they are available during regular business hours for inspection by any interested person; and

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of North Hempstead will meet and review the Preliminary Budgets, and hold a public hearing thereon in the Town Board Room located at Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York, at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd of November, 2023, and at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the Preliminary Budgets, or for or against any item therein contained; and

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Town Law §108, that the following are the proposed yearly salaries of the Elected Officers of this Town:

Supervisor - \$133,000.00;

Town Clerk - \$105,000.00;

Councilmembers - \$49,000.00;

Receiver of Taxes - \$115,000.00; and

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the Preliminary Budget are available at Town Hall, 200 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:45 P.M.

Dated: Manhasset, New York

October 18, 2023

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF
THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
RAGINI SRIVASTAVA
TOWN CLERK**

; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall cause a copy of such notice to be posted on the signboard of the Town not less than ten (10) days before the date designated for

such hearing.

Dated: Manhasset, New York

October 18, 2023

The vote on the foregoing resolution was recorded as follows:

Ayes: Councilperson Adhami, Councilperson Dalimonte, Councilperson Walsh,
Councilperson Zuckerman, Supervisor DeSena.

Nays: Councilperson Lurvey, Councilperson Troiano.

cc: Town Attorney Comptroller

NEWSDAY AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK
200 PLANDOME ROAD
MANHASSET, NY 11030-2326

STATE OF NEW YORK)

Legal Notice No.

0021818967

:SS.:

COUNTY OF ERIE)

The undersigned, being duly sworn, says that such person is a duly authorized custodian of records of Newsday LLC, the publisher of Newsday, a daily newspaper published in Melville, County of Suffolk, State of New York, and circulated in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens Counties, and that the Legal Notice of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the following editions/counties of said newspaper on the following dates:

Saturday

October 21, 2023

Nassau

By: _____

Ciara Woodin

Print Name: _____

Authorized Designee of Newsday LLC, Publisher of Newsday

SWORN to before me this
23 Day of October, 2023.

Notary Public

Sarah Perez
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01PE0006459
Qualified in Erie County
Commission Expires 04/27/2027

Ad Content

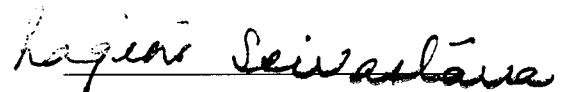
Legal Notice # 2318967
NOTICE OF HEARING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD TOGETHER WITH THE BUDGETS FOR ALL SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 2024.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, together with the preliminary budgets of all Special Improvement Districts (the "Preliminary Budgets") for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, have been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk at Town Hall, Manhasset, New York, where they are available during regular business hours for inspection by any interested person and
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of North Hempstead will meet and review the Preliminary Budgets, and hold a public hearing thereon in the Town Board Room located at Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York, at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd of November, 2023, and at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the Preliminary Budgets, or for or against any item therein contained; and
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Town Law §108, that the following are the proposed yearly salaries of the Elected Officers of this Town:
Supervisor - \$133,000.00;
Town Clerk - \$105,000.00;
Councilmembers - \$49,800.00;
Receiver of Taxes - \$115,000.00; and
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the Preliminary Budget are available at Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:45 P.M.
Dated: Manhasset, New York
October 28, 2023
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
RAGNI SRIVASTAVA
TOWN CLERK

NEWSDAY PROOF

Ad Number: 0021818967

Advertiser: TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?
COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?
COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?
COUNCILMAN WALSH: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?
COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?
COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?
COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?
SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Good night, everyone.
(WHEREUPON, the meeting was concluded at 7:45 p.m.)


Town Clerk

NEWSDAY AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK
200 PLANDOME ROAD
MANHASSET, NY 11030-2326

STATE OF NEW YORK)

Legal Notice No.

0021816344

:SS.:

COUNTY OF ERIE)

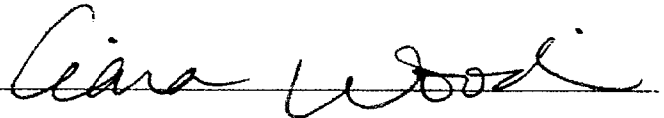
The undersigned, being duly sworn, says that such person is a duly authorized custodian of records of Newsday LLC, the publisher of Newsday, a daily newspaper published in Melville, County of Suffolk, State of New York, and circulated in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens Counties, and that the Legal Notice of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the following editions/counties of said newspaper on the following dates:

Friday

October 06, 2023

Nassau

By: _____



Print Name: _____

Ciara Woodin

Authorized Designee of Newsday LLC, Publisher of Newsday

SWORN to before me this
06 Day of October, 2023.

Notary Public

Tyshawn Harrison
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01HA0005298
Qualified in Erie County
Commission Expires 04/07/2027

Ad Content

Legal Notice # 21816344

NOTICE OF

SPECIAL MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of North Hempstead will be held on October 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Board Room located at Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York, to conduct a public hearing on the tentative budget of the Town of North Hempstead, as well as the budgets for all special improvement districts for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and to consider any other business that may come before the Board.

Dated: Manhasset, New York

October 3, 2023

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN
BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
NORTH HEMPSTEAD
RAGINI SRIVASTAVA
TOWN CLERK**

NEWSDAY PROOF

Ad Number: 0021816344

Advertiser: TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK

NEWSDAY AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK
200 PLANDOME ROAD
MANHASSET, NY 11030-2326

STATE OF NEW YORK)

Legal Notice No.

0021816348

:SS.:

COUNTY OF ERIE)

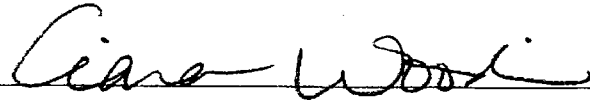
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Friday

October 06, 2023

Nassau

By: _____



Ciara Woodin

Print Name: _____

Authorized Designee of Newsday LLC, Publisher of Newsday

SWORN to before me this
06 Day of October, 2023.

Notary Public

Tyshawn Harrison
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01HA0005298
Qualified in Erie County
Commission Expires 04/07/2027

Ad Content

Legal Notice # 21816348
NOTICE OF HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing on the tentative budgets for the Town of North Hempstead General Fund, Part Town Fund, Commissioner and Town-Operated Special Improvement Districts for the year 2024 will be held before the Town Board on October 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Board Room located at Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York.
Dated: Manhasset, New York
October 3, 2023
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN
BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
NORTH HEMPSTEAD
RAGINI SRIVASTAVA
TOWN CLERK

NEWSDAY PROOF

Ad Number: 0021816348

Advertiser: TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK