

Town Board Meeting – November 6, 2023

Item

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<p><u>TABELED ITEMS:</u></p> <p>1. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGETS OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD GENERAL FUND AND TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>2. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGETS OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICTS OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024.</p>	<p>3</p>

**TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

November 6, 2023 8:00 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

JENNIFER DESENA	- Town Supervisor
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

PROCEEDINGS

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Let's get started. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Madam Clerk, would you please call the roll.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Good evening. Town of North Hempstead special Town Board meeting on November 6, 2023. Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: (No response given).

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Present.

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. I move to untable item one.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: He's not here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: At the last meeting, Councilman Troiano told you -- told this Board that he was unable for this date and time. He also emailed this Board on Friday, November 3rd, too, also indicating that he was unable for this date and time. I believe it is imperative that all councilmembers be present for this hearing. As a result, I abstain.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Everybody has the option to come or not come. I'm here. I have things to do on a Monday night, you know. I have health issues at home, but I'm here. I vote yes.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: I made my position clear at the prior meeting. I do not believe we should be voting on a budget without Councilman Troiano at a meeting that was scheduled when he cannot be here. I abstain.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: You know, I stated at the prior meeting that I take my public service job very seriously, and I would move my schedule around, and I also hoped that Councilman Troiano would or that my colleagues recognize that we do have a forum of the Board here, and we can move forward. I vote, Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: I did state at the last meeting in front of everyone that I would vote no on this unless we were all here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor Desena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: So in response to Councilman Troiano's email, I reminded him that this Board voted to allow attending by Zoom, so Councilman Troiano, I hoped, would take this seriously and would try to give his residents a few minutes of today. I asked that this be scheduled at 8:00 P.M. because there are no -- there is no election going on today, so I had hoped that his Board of Election position would not be a conflict. What we do here, voting on the Town Board, is probably the most important thing we do as Board members. We're all here. We all made adjustments because it has been the tradition of this Town for, I believe, ten years, that we vote on a budget before Election Day, so that the residents know how -- where we stand on the budget. I feel that the best way to represent your residents is to let them know how you feel about the budget and be transparent. This has been important to this Board; indeed, last year, we voted on the budget the night before Election Day, even though none of us were on the ballot, so it surprises me that this Board does not believe it important to let our residents know where we stand on the budget before Election Day. I don't know what has changed. You've all been on the Board for many years, and you thought it was important then, but something has changed now. I am disappointed that my colleagues won't vote and will not let the residents know where they stand on this budget. I'm worried about with what might come next? What is being hidden until after Election Day that people don't know about that might affect they're money, so I am very disappointed that we all came here and that some of us refuse to do our duty and vote on the budget. I vote, Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I vote to untable item number two.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: As previously indicated, I abstain.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: I'll just vote, Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?

COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: For the same reason as I gave for item one, I abstain.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: No.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor Desena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye. Okay, I move to adjourn.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Zuckerman?

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Abstain.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Lurvey?

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COUNCILWOMAN LURVEY: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: I just want to state that I'm very saddened that politics won over transparency and doing the right thing for the Town and the people of the Town. This would of taken 15 minutes out of everybody's day; 20 minutes tops, it seems like. I mean, we're only here for eight minutes right now. I vote, Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor Desena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I also want to --

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Wait, how did you just vote? I didn't hear your vote.

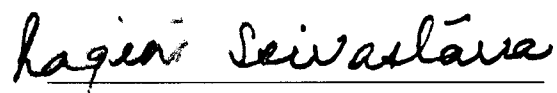
COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: We're adjourning.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Oh, okay. Lo seinto.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: All right. I vote, Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 8:26 P.M.)



Town Clerk