1	TOWN BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY
2	TOWN OF COLONIE
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5	by NANCY L. STRANG, a Shorthand Reporter commencing on September 26, 2019 at 6:05 p.m. at Memorial Town Hall, 534 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York
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8	BOARD MEMBERS:
9	PAULA MAHAN, SUPERVISOR LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR
10	DAVID GREEN MELISSA JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN
11	PAUL ROSANO JENNIFER WHALEN
12	CHRISTOPHER CAREY
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14	ALSO PRESENT:
15	Michael C. Magguilli, Esq, Town Attorney Julie Gansle, Town Clerk
16	Christopher Kelsey, Acting Comptroller John Cunningham, Commissioner, DPW
17	Com camingnam, commissioner, sin
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MR. MAGGUILLI: We will start with personnel. First on our list is creating a new position of Senior Public Works Operation Technician and Ryan Buff is being provisionally promoted to the slot; \$79,984 a year starting September 30. Even though it's a new position, it is budget neutral because Ryan is essentially doing the job and working out of title, as it were.

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Resolution 405B is a appointing Mary Ellen

Ives as a Clerk to the Town Justices. It's a Grade 8

position; \$36,490. She is replacing Paige Trance. This

is an exempt position.

Resolution 405C is permanently promoting Don Lelude, Jr. to Senior Building Inspector, Grade 17.

This is really a civil service Resolution. He has obtained his permanent status.

Finally, Drew Clow got his class B license and so now he qualifies to be promoted to the Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker position, Grade 8; \$19.38 an hour.

What we have next is our first public hearing of the evening and that's for the vehicle and traffic code change reducing the speed limit to the minimum allowable 30 miles per hour on Boght Road in both directions from Elm Street to St. Agnes Highway.

MR. GREEN: We are adjourning that one, right?

1 MS. GANSLE: Yes. 2 Why are we adjourning it? MR. GREEN: MR. MAGGUILLI: We had to adjourn it because at 3 4 the last meeting Jan was out from a car accident on 5 Friday and so it didn't make the Spotlight in time for the notice. 7 MR. GREEN: When we notice these things, I know 8 in the past we have had a Vehicle and Traffic Committee, 9 right? 10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Highway Safety Committee. 11 MR. GREEN: Then, sometimes it gets even referred to an engineer. So, do this particular one have 12 those items attached to it? Do we have any analysis or 13 reports that came back from anyone? 14 15 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: They did have an engineer. 16 I'm not sure if they just referred it to the Highway 17 Safety Committee. I can't remember because we just got 18 over the other one with the crosswalk. They were looking 19 at that portion of the road - the engineers - they said 20 it could go higher. 21 Then, we talked to some members of the Police 22 Department and some of them live there and others that 23 kind of talked about it all together. The rationale 2.4 for lowering it is that section used to be just farms

and now it's all residential. There are a lot more

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kids biking, walking and people crossing.

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MR. GREEN: It's 40 now. Was it the engineers that recommended it?

SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It was the engineers who said well, it could be 45 and nobody wants it to be 45.

Dunsbach Ferry and some of those streets are all 30.

Looking at it from the recommendation from the Police Officers who were there all the time — we do radar there. We try to do traffic and things so that people will slow down. All of that came to the consensus that we talked to that said they agreed it should be lowered. There are homes everywhere there.

MR. GREEN: I heard you say crosswalk. There was something published about a crosswalk.

SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That's another thing.

Highway Safety looked at that and it was one of those things where a crosswalk was at Latham Ridge and da Vinci and this is a different location. Latham Ridge School is over there. The actual entrance to Latham Ridge goes from — it crosses Michelangelo down below and goes into Mercer and the school is there. Up the hill, where da Vinci is and behind da Vinci — again, there's lots of homes. There are new homes back there on Balboa. There was a crosswalk there for probably at least 40

1 years. It's been there a long time. The crosswalk went 2 into where their access is for a second access or 3 emergency access because they paved it in a goes in 4 there and that's where there is a big field. 5 MR. MAGGUILLI: The other end of it is right in the middle of the road. 7 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The way they had it from 40 8 years ago was in the middle-of-the-road. 9 MR. GREEN: Based upon an argument, it's gone 10 now, right? 11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: They paved over it. So, we 12 went up there and talked to several neighbors and talked 13 to Rob Donnelly, the Lieutenant for Traffic Safety. What happens is there is an actual path that goes down in the 14 15 front of the school. So, they cross and they walked down 16 there or they cross over and they go down to the 17 playground or Shaker football practice is there and 18 lacrosse practice is there. They also play soccer there. 19 It is used all the time. 20 MR. GREEN: Are we putting back exactly what was there before? 21 22 MR. MAGGUILLI: We are making it better. 23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We're going to take it away

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from where it was in the middle of the road and put it

so that it's from the end of the road and it is safer.

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Like Rob had said, you should put more signs. It's not 1 2 like you stop. It's not that kind of thing. Jack and I talked about it because we thought 3 4 it was like a firm thing to put it there. Rob said the 5 Board can do whatever we want. Like we say, it has been there for 40 years. 7 They are really missing it and I thought it was going to be back there. 9 So, Ryan Buff and Jack were there today 10 looking at some of the site and a better way to put 11 it. So, they came up with that. They are ready to go. 12 We just didn't want to move forward until you guys had a chance to see it. 13 14 MS. WHALEN: That's not on here, though. 15 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: No, we don't need a 16 Resolution. 17 MR. MAGGUILLI: This is essentially informational. 18 19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: But this one was already 20 there. 21 MS. WHALEN: Are we putting it back, or is this 22 one different? 23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It's only a few feet. 2.4 MR. MAGGUILLI: We can put in a crosswalk that 25 ends in the middle of the road.

SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I don't know. If we need a Resolution, then we need a Resolution. They are ready to go.

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The plan was after it was paved, when they did the striping in the middle, the crosswalk would be painted. It has just moved over here. It's basically - when they paved the road, they had to stripe it and they're just putting it back in a better location.

MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: If I could, have a question and a comment.

The question is: This is my neighborhood and I live there. A lot of people have come up to me, as well.

I am in a neighborhood group on Facebook and they're all asking about it. So, a lot of them are still asking me about the crosswalk that used to be at the base of Michelangelo Street going into Mercer near the school. When you take the same Google satellite look when there was one there — and a lot of people use that and want to cross over with their dogs when they're walking and going to the streets and everything over there. I don't know if I can bring that up. The reason I bring it up is because when the kids are walking across the street to school, they would also cross down there too.

1	MR. ROSANO: Can we put the onus on the parents
2	to make them walk up to da Vinci and cross?
3	SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That's a pretty big hill.
4	It's a long walk.
5	MR. MAGGUILLI: My legal recommendation is
6	let's keep this simple.
7	MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: The crosswalk was there
8	and I'm being asked about it, so I would like to know
9	what I should say.
10	MR. CUNNINGHAM: We will take a look at it
11	tomorrow and unless there's a problem, we will install
12	that crosswalk at the same time that we do the other
13	one.
14	SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We're talking again about
15	signage. It's not a sign that says you must stop. It
16	signage to caution that there is a school there. There
17	were some signs before, but when they paved they took
18	them out. It's more of something that they are used to
19	and is a convenience.
20	MS. MURPHY: It's a safety feature.
21	MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: Yes, because it's right
22	by the elementary school.
23	SUPERVISOR MAHAN: They can just walk across.
24	They've got to look both ways.
25	MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: That was just my

question.

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My comment was back to the actual Resolution that my parents live off of Boght Road and they were one of the first houses in those new developments and there are a lot of new developments there now. All of those families pretty much have children and they are not empty-nesters and they are all out on their bikes. They are walking down the road on the shoulders that are not very big. So, 40, in my opinion, was too high.

SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The other thing is that it is an enforcement issue because from 40, they're doing 49 and 50. The enforcement is difficult. If it's 30 and they're doing 45, it's easier to enforce the law.

Talking to Lieutenants and Sergeants that know the area well -

MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: I mean, I didn't feel comfortable running on the side of the road when I lived there and with my dog, especially. The shoulders are tight and people would just go 55 easily because it was a 40.

SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Any other questions or comments on this Resolution about Boght?

(There was no response.)

MR. GREEN: Crosswalks are just paint. So, it's not going to be a great cost to the Town.

1 MR. MAGGUILLI: Resolution 407 is the public 2 hearing for Nantucket Street - to have an inground pool 3 and deck placed at 15 Nantucket Street in the Shelter Cove planned development district. This was heard and 4 5 reviewed by the Planning Board made a favorable recommendation on June 27, 2019. 7 Last time when we tabled the public MR. GREEN: hearing for doing that new PDD Resolution, you were not sure at the time whether or not -9 10 MR. MAGGUILLI: Right, we did not have it and 11 so we are not going to be able to put that in until the 12 Planning Board meets on the Albany County Planning Board's schedule. The next hearing is October 17. So, 13 the earliest we can get that Resolution back on is on 14 15 our October 24 meeting. 16 MR. GREEN: What would happen if we acted on it 17 and that wasn't done? 18 MR. MAGGUILLI: The way 203-9M of the General 19 Municipal Law reads is that you cannot vote on the 2.0 matter until -It would have been Joe LaCivita's 21 MS. WHALEN: 22 fault. 23 MR. MAGGUILLI: We could have conducted the 2.4 public hearing and just adjourned the vote. 25 MR. GREEN: If we didn't catch that and we

1 voted, it would've just been annulled. 2 MR. MAGGUILLI: It would have been subject to a 3 successful challenge in court. 4 MR. GREEN: Is there a time. In which you can 5 challenge that Resolution? MR. MAGGUILLI: That's an Article 78. So, it is 7 four months. Resolution 408 is authorizing payments out of our insurance reserve fund on two cases. The first is 9 10 Jacqueline Harnett. This is a \$1,548.65 claim. 11 One of our Pure Waters employees was in Miss 12 Harnett's basement checking on some work they had done to the sewer lines. They had left - whoever the 13 employee was left water running in the sink 14 15 unattended. Nobody went down in the basement for quite a while and there was extensive flooding. 16 17 We had Jack. Paradise go in and investigate. 18 He recommended that we settle the case, as well. He 19 negotiated the amount to a \$1,548.65 figure. 20 MR. GREEN: That's lower than some of the water reimbursements that we do. 21 22 MR. MAGGUILLI: Next is Michael Cram. His truck 23 was damaged. There was a defective broken manhole in the 2.4 road that was on our list to repair. Apparently, it had 25 been on the list for some time and we just didn't get to

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1	it in time before Mr. Cram drove over it. It snapped in
2	half, flipped up and damaged his truck to the tune of
3	\$687.00.
4	Next we have Resolution 409. This is our
5	excess automobile insurance coverage -
6	MS. WHALEN: Ask a question about that? Was
7	that guy speeding? Like, do you have any mitigating
8	defenses or something like that?
9	MR. MAGGUILLI: Nothing that we could probably
10	prove in court.
11	MS. WHALEN: Was it like a big pothole?
12	MR. MAGGUILLI: No, it was a manhole cover.
13	MS. WHALEN: Was it sticking up in the air?
14	MR. MAGGUILLI: No, it came off.
15	MS. WHALEN: I typically try to go around those
16	when I see them.
17	MR. MAGGUILLI: Me too.
18	Next we have a proposal from Arthur J.
19	Gallagher. This is for our excess automobile coverage.
20	The premium for the period of August 15, 2019 to
21	August 15, 2020 is \$82,302 which is down from last
22	year which was \$92,447.
23	I have even better news.
24	Resolution 410 is our primary coverage. This
25	is for the same time period. This is the base

automobile policy. The premium is \$263,780.00. This is down from last year of \$276,857.00. Based on our annual audit, due to the reduction in fleet size, we are also getting a \$30,000 refund. Not an experienced refund because the number of accidents actually went up. We don't have as many vehicles as we once had. We lost four Caprices in the Police Department. They were totaled.

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MS. WHALEN: Did we replace them?

MR. MAGGUILLI: We are trying. Were having difficulty. The insurance company has been great. When they total out a car, naturally you have to give them your title. We don't get the title for the vehicles until - the dealer usually holds it. We don't get title immediately or until we request it, once they are fully paid. In this case, the dealership is out of Syracuse and they have not helped us at all. They claim they don't have the certificates of title and can't find them.

MR. GREEN: They are \$10. Order a new one.

MR. MAGGUILLI: The insurance company has been great because they've paid the claims. Normally, they won't do that until you hand them your title. Because we are usually pretty good about it, they waived that.

Tim McPherson in my office has been having a

1	hell of a time with this dealership because I finally
2	told him look, tell these guys to come up with it in
3	two weeks or we're not going to do business with them
4	in the future.
5	MR. GREEN: Wouldn't it be easier for us to
6	just go online and get it from DMV? Our titles are all
7	through DMV, just like any other vehicle.
8	MR. MAGGUILLI: I don't think so.
9	MR. WHALEN: Do we actually get title from
10	them?
11	MR. MAGGUILLI: Tim has tried everything.
12	MS. WHALEN: Did we actually get the title
13	signed over to us when we bought the car?
14	MR. MAGGUILLI: No.
15	MR. GREEN: Wouldn't the title be the same?
16	MR. MAGGUILLI: We get a letter. What we get in
17	our situation is a letter. Anyway, that's just an aside
18	anyway. It's taken care of.
19	Resolution 411 is reimbursement of estimated
20	water usage. George Martin and sons at 6 Douglas Lane;
21	\$3,150.00.
22	Christian Canavalli at 28 Hawthorne Court;
23	\$3,875.
24	Next we have public hearings for our annual
25	Fire Protection District contracts. This public

1 hearing is scheduled for October 24 at 7:00. It is for 2 SW Pitts, Fuller and Shaker Road and Maplewood. These 3 contracts are very important because they set the basis for the fire districts' 2020 tax levy. There 4 5 really is not a lot that we do with these because the way the law is written, the fire districts pretty much 6 7 have sole discretion in these matters. MR. KELSEY: Just so the Board knows: All the districts did come in at 2% or less. That's what we 9 10 asked them to do. So, the three large districts were 11 right at 2% percent in Maplewood was one and change. 12 MR. MAGGUILLI: There are some budget modifications listed on Schedule A. 13 These are all budget neutral, isn't that 14 15 right Mr. Kelsey? 16 MR. KELSEY: Yes, that is correct. 17 MR. MAGGUILLI: Did we change the exhibits? 18 MR. KELSEY: I did change the exhibit. 19 MR. MAGGUILLI: It did not make it in mine. 20 As long as there will be a change in Exhibit A - because right now it looks like it shows for 21 22 Police Detectives and the administration at \$200 net 23 increase, but that should be budget neutral like all 2.4 the others.

Resolution 411 is our annual salt contract

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with North Colonie Central School District. They don't have a place to store their salt so we order extra and the school district pays us at cost. This year it is \$54.89 per ton.

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Resolution 415 is authorizing a contract amendment with Weston Sampson and this is for the splash pad at the Town Park. There was additional construction inspections required as well as additional equipment that was installed. The net effect was \$3,140 to the Town. The total expense was \$19,258.50. Again, we only owe \$3,140.00.

MS. MURPHY: What was all that about? That just got put in last year. How can it be all that much?

MR. KELSEY: That's for when we were building. It took us year to negotiate it.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: The engineer came back which was Neil. Matt and I worked on it and we discovered the most of these charges can be related back to either the vendor because he didn't provide the right materials or the contractor that missed it. So, the contractor stepped in to pay their portion. Matt agrees that that is a fair amount.

MS. MURPHY: That make sense. Thank you.

MR. MAGGUILLI: Next we have a problem with zombie property at 165 Exchange Street. We have been

dealing with a gentleman that claims to be the owner, but he is not. He was recently released from state prison and claims that he has an ownership interest, but does not show up in any title search anywhere. The woman that does own it is gone. She can't be found. After our Police Department expended quite a bit of effort trying to find her. So, what were doing is exercising our rights under our Building Code Section 62.29. This is essentially the first step in getting the property demolished, which is our goal. We have given this guy, even though he is not the owner, an order that's if he really wants to improve this place and fix it up, he has to clean it up first before will even accept a building permit application. I don't think he's aware that you have to have the owner's signature on the building permit application. Be that as it may -

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SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We went in and cleaned all the shrubbery. The problem is it was a fire hazard. It was sandwiched in between two homes and it was very close. We asked him to clean out the inside of the garage and he did a little bit, but then he boarded it up so we couldn't see what was in it. We don't know if there is still stuff in it or out or whatever.

MS. WHALEN: Is he a squatter, or a tenant of the owner?

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: No, his girlfriend owns the 2 property. 3 MR. MAGGUILLI: It's just a garage out there. MS. WHALEN: So, the girlfriend owns the 4 5 property? MR. MAGGUILLI: He claims that it is his 7 girlfriend's. We can't find her. We have already gone in and cleaned it up once. The cost was \$12,000. It is fully reimbursed by 9 10 the County. We expect to be fully reimbursed by the 11 County, again. 12 So, you're going to evict him? MS. WHALEN: SUPERVISOR MAHAN: He doesn't live in it. 13 MR. MAGGUILLI: We have to give the owner due 14 15 process. Even though we can't find her, we will send 16 notice to her last known address. It gives her the right 17 to request a public hearing before the Planning Board as 18 to why this property should not be demolished. Once the 19 Planning Board makes its findings, they report to the 2.0 Town Board and then we do an order to get it demolished 21 or not demolish it. We have used this a number of times 22 and it works very well. 23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We have never seen her. 2.4 MS. WHALEN: Does it go to the land bank? Are 25 they paying the taxes?

1	MR. MAGGUILLI: The County will own it.
2	MS. WHALEN: Isn't there an abandoned property
3	bank?
4	MR. MAGGUILLI: This is a zombie property.
5	MS. WHALEN: Are the taxes paid?
6	MR. MAGGUILLI: Three out of the last four
7	years have not been paid. I think the County is giving
8	this woman for years because they are not sure whether
9	it is residential or commercial.
10	MS. WHALEN: Can we look at the checks to see
11	who wrote the check and where she lives?
12	MR. MAGGUILLI: I don't know, Jennifer. I don't
13	know what the County does.
14	MS. WHALEN: What about school taxes, no?
15	MR. GREEN: If it's in Colonie, it's all going
16	to the same place.
17	MR. MAGGUILLI: It's probably going to be
18	foreclosed for back taxes anyway.
19	SUPERVISOR MAHAN: There is no house on the
20	lot.
21	MR. MAGGUILLI: It's just a garage, but it is a
22	fire hazard. When we could see inside, it was just full
23	of junk.
24	SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We've been working on this
25	for a long time; back and forth.

MR. MAGGUILLI: This is the kind of guy that sees this place as his pot of gold. He gets out of prison and he has this property and is gonna fix it up and is going to be set for life. Then, he never does anything.

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Next, we have a Resolution at the request of all the owners on North Schermerhorn Road, to rename their property to Waterfront Road.

It turns out what was happening - it is a 911 problem, as well. It is a safety issue. This is a practical one because for some reason someone who lives at 5 North Schermerhorn Road - the post office turns that to 5 N. Schermerhorn Road. So, delivery people are going around looking for 5 N. Schermerhorn Road, etcerea. That's how it shows up on our EMS records. So, all the neighbors got together and made this request. They picked Waterford Road because they told us the nearest road with such a name is 166 miles away in some county in Connecticut.

MS. WHALEN: Is this on the waterfront?

MR. MAGGUILLI: I'm not sure. It is by the river.

In your packets we have a leave of absence for Carolyn Jones, due to family illness. Because of the nature of the family illness, I guess her husband,

1 I believe it is, is in hospice and so they don't know 2 how long it will be exactly - but whatever time she 3 needs. MS. WHALEN: Should we put like, her title in 4 5 here? MR. MAGGUILLI: We don't have to. She works at 7 the library. If you want to put it in, we could. Then, in your packets, there is the Resolution calling for the public hearing on the 9 10 preliminary budget for November 7. The preliminary 11 budget will be distributed tonight, pursuant to state 12 law. I jumped the gun a little bit on the public 13 hearing. So, we're going to put the notice for the public hearing for November 7, which it is in your 14 15 current packet. We're just not going to put it on the 16 agenda formally until the October 10 meeting. 17 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You guys haven't even had a 18 chance to see it. 19 MS. WHALEN: So, we are adjourning the 20 Resolution? 21 MR. MAGGUILLI: Not adjourning it, we are 22 holding it. 23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: After you've had it for at 2.4 least a couple weeks -25 MR. MAGGUILLI: If we could, I need to go into Executive Session to discuss two lawsuits that were recently filed against the Town. One is by Steve Herrick in the County of Albany against our Department of Justice and Mary.

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The second is a small claim for \$750.69 filed by a retired New York state Ttrooper, John Neely.

For the Executive Session, I would request that Mary be allowed to stay, as well. She is the object of affection of the lawsuit.

MS. WHALEN: Can I ask a question? It's just related kind of to the zombie property garage that is full of junk.

How did we follow up with that resident, Mr. Daigel's complaint about the barn and the foundation?

MR. MAGGUILLI: I went to see him the following Friday - the next day. I met with him and took pictures and I told him that it would really be better if we had the Building Department come. They are more familiar with foundation and code issues that I am.

Joe Mahan, III and Wayne Spenziero and I met with him again the following Tuesday which was the next day that he was available and I am waiting on a report from Wayne and Joe. We are first waiting to see what's in the report so we have something concrete to talk to him about.

1	MR. GREEN: I will make a motion to go into
2	Executive Session to discuss those two potential
3	lawsuits.
4	MS. MURPHY: Second.
5	SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We need Julie and we need
6	Nancy.
7	MS. GANSLE: All in favor?
8	(Ayes were recited.)
9	Any opposed?
10	(There were none opposed.)
11	MS. WHALEN: Can we also talk about the Fort's
12	Ferry - that water issue that I keep getting emails
13	about.
14	MR. MAGGUILLI: I don't think that's proper. We
15	could, but I think we would be safer talking about that
16	in an open meeting. After the Executive Session, we can
17	discuss it.
18	MS. WHALEN: Can we talk about it later to see
19	what the follow-up is?
20	MR. MAGGUILLI: We have to be careful when we
21	go into Executive Session, that's all.
22	(Whereas the above entitled proceeding was
23	concluded at 6:23 p.m.)
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## CERTIFICATION I, NANCY L. STRANG, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, hereby CERTIFY that the record taken by me at the time and place noted in the heading hereof is a true and accurate transcript of same, to the best of my ability and belief. Dated:\_\_\_\_\_ NANCY L. STRANG LEGAL TRANSCRIPTION 2420 TROY SCHENECTADY RD. NISKAYUNA, NY 12309