

TOWN BOARD

COUNTY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF COLONIE

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled matter by NANCY L. STRANG, a Shorthand Reporter, on July 11, 2019 7:38 p.m. at Memorial Town Hall 534 Loudon Road, Newtonville, New York 12128

BOARD MEMBERS:

- PAULA A. MAHAN, SUPERVISOR
- LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR
- PAUL ROSANO
- DAVID GREEN
- CHRISTOPHER CAREY
- MELISSA JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN
- JENNIFER WHALEN

ALSO PRESENT:

- Michael C. Magguilli, Esq. Town Attorney
- Julie Gansle, Town Clerk
- Matthew Sissman

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Does anyone have any public  
2 comment?

3 MR. SISSMAN: Madame Supervisor, Mr. Town  
4 Attorney, Madam Clerk, distinguished Board Members,  
5 Town residents in attendance and all of you watching at  
6 home, my name is Matthew D. Sissman and I reside at 147  
7 Forts Ferry Road in Latham, New York. I resided at this  
8 address off and on for the last 46 years. I am a 1981  
9 graduate of Shaker High School.

10 I rise today in support of the Town of Colonie's  
11 public safety professionals.

12 At the last meeting of the Town Board, a  
13 constituent arose with a complaint regarding overtime  
14 hours in the Town's Police Department. I am here to push  
15 back against any proposed cuts to public safety funding  
16 and to offer an important personal perspective regarding  
17 that complaint.

18 Six years ago on June 19 of 2013 I was involved of  
19 a very bad automobile accident. At that time, the  
20 skills, know-how and professionalism of the Town's  
21 public safety personnel save my life. The Boght Shaker  
22 Road Loudonville in Latham Fire Departments, as well is  
23 the Town's Police Department altogether aided in my  
24 recovery and survival. In a matter of minutes following  
25 my accident, these professionals were all on the scene

1 of the accident working cooperatively and  
2 collaboratively on my case. A tree had collapsed atop my  
3 automobile following the crash and all who were there  
4 recognized that this circumstance was beyond their  
5 expertise, tools and abilities.

6 Davies Tree Service was immediately summoned to the  
7 scene and was there in a matter of minutes. They were  
8 able, as a first step, to remove the tree from the top  
9 of my vehicle.

10 I used to work in a rural part of the state and I  
11 have no doubt that a such an accident were to have  
12 occurred there, I would not have survived. There would  
13 not have been the swift response, nor the immediate  
14 access to outside assistance to make my swift, safe  
15 extrication possible.

16 Indeed, I was informed that my safe extraction at  
17 the accident scene was one of the most intricate in the  
18 history of the Town's public safety services. The  
19 excellent work at that time of the fire, EMT and Police  
20 services word due to the leadership of Chiefs Peter  
21 Berry and Stephen Heider, as well as the Chiefs of the  
22 firehouses.

23 Chief Heider has since retired and the department  
24 is now led by Chief Jonathan M. Teal and still does  
25 yeoman's work.

1           We also know now that Chief Barry has announced his  
2 retirement and I trust that the fire and EMT services  
3 will continue to be ably led by the next Chief.

4           I rise today to caution all of you against looking  
5 for economies within the public safety budget. Our Town  
6 public safety services are the best in the region and it  
7 is because we give them the tools in the training that  
8 they require to respond to whatever emergency situations  
9 occur. Any cuts to this area of the budget will be made  
10 at the risk of the safety and security to all of us in  
11 the Town. Take it from a citizen whose life was saved by  
12 these great people, the next life saved may be yours or  
13 loved ones.

14           I thank you all for your time and attention.

15           SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you very much, Matt.  
16 Safety is our top priority. I know there are only a few  
17 guys here tonight, but you can pass that on an  
18 appreciation that Matt just described? We greatly  
19 appreciate it. Thank you.

20           Anyone else?

21           (There was no response.)

22           Okay, go on to the regular Resolutions.

23           (Where's the above and how proceeding was concluded  
24 at 7:42 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

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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.

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NANCY L. STRANG

Dated \_\_\_\_\_