

STATE OF NEW YORK 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 commencing at 6:10 PM on July 9, 2020 at Memorial Town Hall, 534 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York

BOARD MEMBERS:

- PAULA A. MAHAN, SUPERVISOR
- LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR
- MELISSA JEFFERS VONDOLLEN
- DANIELLE FUTIA
- DAVID GREEN
- RICHARD FIELD
- JILL PENN

ALSO PRESENT:

- MICHAEL C. MAGGUILLI, ESQ., TOWN ATTORNEY
- JULIE GANSLE, TOWN CLERK
- MATTHEW SISSMAN

1 MR. SISSMAN: My name is Matt Sussman and  
2 I live at 147 Forts Ferry Road in Latham. Madam  
3 Supervisor, Town Board Members, Madam Clerk,  
4 Mr. Town Attorney, attendees, fellow citizens  
5 and those watching at home, my name is Matthew  
6 D. Sissman and I reside at 147 Forts Ferry Road  
7 in Latham. I am a graduate of Shaker High  
8 School.

9 I rise today in support and advocacy of  
10 our Town's public safety personnel in general  
11 and specifically in support of Cplonie's, the  
12 Colonie Police Department. I was prepared to  
13 deliver these remarks at the last meeting of  
14 the Colonie Town Board, but the meetings had  
15 yet to be open to the public. I have told the  
16 story before, but it is a debt that I can  
17 never hope to completely repay. The previous  
18 meeting of the Colonie Town Board was held on  
19 June 18th which is one day before the seventh  
20 anniversary of my car accident. I've spoken of  
21 this before, but it especially merits  
22 repeating given what we have all witnessed  
23 this late spring and early summer.

24 The public safety workers of our Town  
25 together on that day seven years ago saved my

1 life after I was involved in a horrific  
2 accident. They showed why they are the best of  
3 the best and apart from celebrating their  
4 achievements every chance we get, there's not  
5 enough that we can do to compensate them.

6 We are now traveling through historic and  
7 difficult times. We have seen over the last  
8 three months tremendous public disturbances,  
9 brazen acts of criminal vandalism that have  
10 torched private property and torn down public  
11 property. These acts have apparently gone  
12 unchallenged and unpunished. These acts have  
13 allegedly been triggered by a public criminal  
14 act by an officer of the Minneapolis Police  
15 Department which cost a man his life. As my  
16 story shows, all police officers are not like  
17 the officer in question. And yet, in the wake  
18 of this incident there have been calls all  
19 over the country to defund the Police and to  
20 eliminate Police Departments. In several  
21 localities around the country, this has gone  
22 beyond talk and actual actions toward those  
23 ends have been taken. This is shortsighted,  
24 ill-informed and must not be allowed to happen  
25 in a great Town like Colonie. No one need

1        imagine with the Town of Colonie would look  
2        like if we defunded and/or eliminated the  
3        Colonie Police Department. The spectacles are  
4        unfolding from America's cities on our  
5        televisions or the coming attractions.

6                Notwithstanding the economic disruptions  
7        caused by the Covid 19 virus, the Town of  
8        Colonie has a wonderful economy in the region.  
9        One of the reasons that it does enjoy this  
10       economy is that we enjoy the ordered liberty  
11       made possible by our professional Police  
12       Department seeing to it that the laws are  
13       professionally and equitably enforced. We need  
14       them to continue doing their job and any  
15       suggestion to realize the economy and their  
16       budget, cut in their budget or the budgets of  
17       the other departments of public safety must be  
18       more strenuously resisted. All our lives  
19       depend on it.

20               I rise to deliver this message not  
21       because I am aware of any effort to suggest  
22       cuts from any public safety department budget,  
23       but to do so as a preventative measure because  
24       I still feel indebted and always will to our  
25       public safety personnel.

1 I thank you all for your time and  
2 attention. As they say in the business, I  
3 yield back the rest of my time.

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you very much,  
5 Matthew for being here tonight and sharing your  
6 experience. We are truly very proud of our  
7 Police Department, as well. We will continue to  
8 work together with them and our community to  
9 put forth our best efforts as we always try to  
10 do. We do appreciate your words and we  
11 definitely agree with them. I'm sure everyone  
12 else up here is also very proud of the  
13 department. So, thank you for being here to  
14 share it again.

15 Any other public comment?

16 (There was no response.)

17 Okay, we'll go on to the Resolutions.

18 (Where's the above entitled proceeding  
19 was concluded at 6:15 PM)

CERTIFICATION

I, NANCY L. STRANG, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, hereby CERTIFIES 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.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Nancy L. Strang  
Legal Transcription  
2420 Troy Schenectady Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

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