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TOWN BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY
TOWN OF COLONIE

PUBLIC COMMENT

THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled matter
by NANCY L. STRANG, a Shorthand Reporter commencing on
October 24, 2019 at 7:23 p.m. at Memorial Town Hall,
534 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

- Michael C. Magguilli, Esq, Town Attorney
- Julie Gansle, Town Clerk
- Caitlyn Berry
- John Cunningham, Commissioner, DPW
- Melissa Pennick

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That's it for public
2 hearings. Does anyone have any public comment?

3 MS. BERRY: Caitlyn Berry, I'm a resident of
4 the Gail/Glennon neighborhood. You guys saw me this past
5 summer. So, I am back as promised to discuss our roads.

6 I would like to know, now that we are in the
7 cold months that we are going to be coming up on
8 winter and our roads are going to be hit by the plows
9 again. I want to know what strategy may be in place to
10 aid us through that so that we are not dealing with
11 the canyon that we had on Glennon and the damage that
12 we have from the plows plus stress in the winter
13 weather.

14 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The paving portion is on for
15 the next session that starts in the spring.

16 As far as the roads themselves, we have
17 typical winter maintenance on all of our roads. It
18 depends on the weather.

19 Again, as you say, the plows and things like
20 that - - our staff does regular winter maintenance.

21 Jack, if you want to expand on that?

22 Jack is our Department of Public Works
23 Commissioner.

24 MS. WHALEN: Can you refresh my recollection on
25 this canyon. I can't remember.

1 MS. BERRY: On the Glennon part of the
2 neighborhood - the entire road is destroyed in the sense
3 of I'm bumping down the road every day to the point
4 where my child now says boom every single time for
5 hitting a bump. There was a plow that came down by my
6 neighbors house and just took out a huge patch of
7 pavement that did get patched up. We obviously are
8 appreciative of that, but that doesn't stop the fact
9 that the entire road is going to be nothing soon.

10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I know that I've driven in
11 that area - Glennon and Gail.

12 MR. CUNNINGHAM: We had looked at this year
13 this year just because of the magnitude and the problems
14 with the roads that we are doing with the Burns/Whitney
15 area, we decided we would triage this this year and look
16 at it again next year. As far as potholes go, I
17 apologize, but there are potholes everywhere. Winter is
18 just bad on the roads appear. So, we do the best we can.
19 It's a real challenge particularly in the February/March
20 period. When the roads start to freeze and thaw a lot,
21 they pop apart. So, we have 311 miles of road in the
22 Town of Colonie that we maintain. So, trying to keep up
23 with all of them when they all break out once is a
24 challenge. But we do the best we can. We have a phone
25 line and you can always call in. We keep a running list

1 of people who are calling about potholes. It usually
2 takes about a week, but we are there. Keep calling us. I
3 know that Glennon Road is going to be looked at again as
4 we put our list together for next year's paving program.

5 MS. WHALEN: Jack, have a question. Do the plow
6 folks - the folks that are driving our plow trucks - do
7 they get a list of maybe the roads that are in more
8 disrepair than say the others so they are more gentle? I
9 know that plowing isn't like a gentle thing, but is
10 there any kind of memo that these folks could get?

11 MR. CUNNINGHAM: These guys work on the roads
12 all year long. So, they know the roads that are
13 challenged. They usually put the same guys out on the
14 same routes as much as possible so that they are
15 familiar with the route. They are pretty aware of it.
16 Again, with the plow and heavy snow, it's hard to be
17 gentle and particularly if you have something like loose
18 pavement. It just comes out and salt gets in it. We have
19 had a few storms and it starts to really deteriorate the
20 roads. It's really tough.

21 MS. BERRY: I understand that. I do want to
22 remind everybody I spoke with - maybe it was you and one
23 of your aides as well - we had looked back as many
24 records as we could as well as neighborhood recollection
25 in fact the older neighbors say that this hasn't been

1 paved in 20 years and 20 years is supposed to be your
2 limit.

3 MS. WHALEN: You're the expert, but I have had
4 primers on roads and I think the average town or
5 municipality it's more like 28 years, isn't it?

6 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Well, the life of the road
7 depends upon the traffic. So, in a smaller neighborhood,
8 a road can last 25 years without a problem. A road like
9 Dellatour Road, you generally get 10 or 12 years out of
10 that because the traffic. It depends upon the last
11 process that was done on the road, the traffic volumes,
12 the weather and there are a lot of factors that weigh
13 into how long the road is going to last.

14 MS. BERRY: Has your department never looked
15 into - - I understand salt has a factor on it as well.
16 Has there been any research into sand potentially being
17 used? I know they use in Vermont on their roads-

18 MR. CUNNINGHAM: We do use sand, particularly
19 when we have a lot of snow, we mix the sand with the
20 salt. The problem with the sand as we have an extensive
21 stormwater system and we put a lot of sand on the
22 ground, that gets in the stormwater system which is a
23 violation of DEC rules. Were not supposed to be clogging
24 that up. So, that's one of the reasons we use salt over
25 sand. We do use sand as part of a road maintenance, but

1 that's not the primary one to keep the roads clean. If
2 we can get the roads black in the winter, that's a good
3 thing because it avoids accidents. So, that's the goal.

4 MS. BERRY: Thank you.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Just so you understand, this
6 is our 10th or 11th year?

7 MR. CUNNINGHAM: This is our 10th.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We're going to start our
9 11th year. We've been on that paving cycle every season
10 and were doing just as much as we can in that season.
11 Just to put it in perspective, practically the whole
12 Town - the roads were bad. They just hadn't done some of
13 them in 20 years and some 30 years. This is an ongoing
14 process and we certainly anticipate that by the time
15 they are all done, that cycle has to start again because
16 that's what was lacking in the past and that's what made
17 that big gap. It just didn't get done the way it should
18 have. The money wasn't used for paving. That's why when
19 we put this in place, it started off as the five-year
20 paving plan and then we saw how many roads - - our
21 highway people every year go through and rate everything
22 and then it became another five years and now it's 10
23 years, but it's basically just ongoing. We put in around
24 \$2.5 million dollars through our capital projects plan.
25 Then, our Highway Department has their own work that

1 they do with repairs and minor paving and things like
2 that. This year, after the whole season goes through, if
3 there's anything left, for some reason that will going
4 to paving - additional paving. This year we had I think
5 \$250,000 extra and that did about five roads.

6 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Five roads, yes. Probably
7 about a mile of road.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: So, anything that we have
9 that we can add to it, we will. The best thing for you
10 to do, as Jack says - there are potholes and then there
11 are potholes that it's just tough to drive over. Call
12 us. That's the best way for us to get there the fastest.

13 We did purchase a hot box which now - - when
14 you put the cool pavement in, you get another freezing
15 or whatever and it pops out. We are having better luck
16 with the hot box. The hot pavement going in lasts
17 longer.

18 MR. CUNNINGHAM: And if you approve them, we're
19 going to get another one next year. I put in a plug now
20 for that.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We're trying to do
22 everything as fast as we can. We are limited also with
23 the season. Once the asphalt companies close, then we
24 have to wait until they open back up again. That's
25 usually the end of April?

1 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: And in May we start.

3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: May until the end of November,
4 if we can.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: And will keep going as long
6 as they stay open. So, it's ongoing. Call us.

7 MS. BERRY: I will for the potholes. I just
8 want to remind everybody that it's also the entire road.
9 There are massive cracks in the road.

10 MS. WHALEN: It's on next year, right, for this
11 road?

12 MR. CUNNINGHAM: It's on the list. We always
13 have to triage that list because we get so many request.
14 But yes, we're looking at it every year.

15 MS. WHALEN: I mean, I could get bumped if
16 there is a huge emergency.

17 MS. BERRY: That's why I'm here. To make sure
18 that it doesn't.

19 MS. WHALEN: Do we check on the stuff
20 underneath the ground to make sure that's all - -

21 MR. CUNNINGHAM: That's Burns/Whitney. They
22 don't have that same issue.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: When you came to talk about
24 at the last time, I don't remember when it was but you
25 were kind enough to be patient and to understand that we

1 have to wait until this coming spring. We appreciate
2 that. It went right on the list and we should be doing
3 that. So, we will move forward with it. Unless there is
4 some underlying circumstance that something happens
5 somewhere else - - it is on the list and I think one of
6 my staff, Tom Breslin, came over and took a look at it
7 as well. There was one point time where he and I or you
8 and I went and took a look as well. We know the area
9 well.

10 MS. BERRY: I appreciate it.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: And we appreciate your
12 patience.

13 Thanks, Jack.

14 Anybody else?

15 MS. PENNICK: Good evening. My name is Melissa
16 Pennick. I live on Hillside Avenue. It's actually the
17 Village of Colonie. We are on the border with the Town
18 of Colonie.

19 Recently my neighbors and I found out that
20 the Rossetti property bought land behind Capital
21 Church on Vly Road which I think is actually the Town
22 of Colonie. I don't know if it's rumored or not but
23 Rossetti properties wants to have access into the
24 development, whatever they are making through Hillside
25 Avenue which is currently a dead-end street.

1 MR. CAREY: I think that's in the Village of
2 Colonie.

3 MS. PENNICK: That's in the Village?

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: They have their own Planning
5 Board in the Village and Zoning Board and all of that.
6 You would want to talk to them.

7 MS. PENNICK: Okay, thank you very much.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Okay, thank you.

9 Anybody else?

10 (There was no response.)

11 Will close public comment.

12 (Where is the above entitled proceeding was
13 concluded at 7:30 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.

Dated: _____

NANCY L. STRANG
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