

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF COLONIE

PUBLIC COMMENT

THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above
entitled matter by NANCY L. STRANG, a
Shorthand Reporter commencing at 8:15 PM on
August 13, 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

SHARON LABELLA

SUSAN SOMMERS

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PETER VANKAMPEN

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

3 MS. LABELLA: My name is Sharon LaBella;
4 L-A-B-E-L-L-A. I reside at 65 Fiddlers Lane
5 for the past few months.

6 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I'm sorry what was
7 the street name?

8 MS. LABELLA: Fiddlers. Since moving
9 here, I have learned over the last few months
10 that Fiddlers Lane is not such a quiet and
11 peaceful road that I thought it was. In fact,
12 it's an extremely busy road from early
13 morning to late night. Speeding cars start at
14 6 AM in the morning for their morning commute
15 with large commercial vehicles starting at
16 7:00 AM.

17 So, I was curious to see if my neighbors
18 were concerned as well. I reached out to them.
19 19 out of 43 residents responded saying they
20 were extremely upset about the traffic. Some
21 have even complained to the Town regarding the
22 number of speeding cars and commercial
23 vehicles. Some members told me that discussing
24 it with the Town is just a waste of your time,
25 but I don't believe that to be true. I believe

1 that the residents' cry for help will not go
2 unanswered. I believe that all of our Town
3 Board Members serve because they do care.

4 While I'm very concerned with the
5 speeding cars, I'm even more concerned with
6 the amount of heavy commercial traffic. I have
7 printed out some pictures that I can give to
8 you tonight. They represent a small sample of
9 dump trucks, cement trucks, box trucks as well
10 as 18-wheelers the travel Fiddlers Lane every
11 day, all day. From inside my house I can feel
12 the trucks roaring and even feel my house
13 shaking. Unfortunately, I cannot sit outside
14 my house for 12 hours a day snapping photos to
15 give you additional proof.

16 I can assure you that Fiddlers Lane is in
17 dire need of your help. Fiddlers Lane was not
18 designed to hold the weight of these trucks or
19 accommodate the number of heavy vehicles that
20 travel this road on a daily basis.

21 It is my understanding that there is a
22 traffic study that will be performed in
23 conjunction with the approval of the proposed
24 Galleria project and we ask that Fiddlers Lane
25 be included with that traffic study. When

1 Fiddlers Lane was originally built, it was a
2 quiet residential community. Unfortunately, it
3 has become loud, disruptive and downright
4 dangerous. Children and adults who walk, bike
5 and jog on Fiddlers Lane every day are in
6 constant danger of being hit or possibly even
7 worse.

8 I understand that police officers cannot
9 be everywhere all the time to address speeding
10 issues, but the Town needs to take action as
11 Fiddlers Lane residents are very, very
12 concerned.

13 We kindly ask that you consider the
14 following: 1. Prohibit vehicle traffic over
15 four tons. 2. Lower the speed limit to 25. 3.
16 Install flashing light or signs showing the
17 speed limit that cars are traveling to reduce
18 the speeding. 4. Make the north end of
19 Fiddlers Lane a school zone.

20 We are asking for your help. Something
21 really needs to be done and this cannot wait.

22 I thank you very much for listening to me
23 and taking the time tonight and I look forward
24 to your feedback. Thank you, very much.

25 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Our Deputy Chief is

1 here tonight. He is taking some notes.

2 Of the four items you mentioned, I can
3 tell you that as a Town, 30 miles an hour is
4 the lowest that we can have as a speed limit.
5 They can have 25 miles in the Village. That's
6 why we see in the Village of Colonie and
7 possibly the Village of Menands, but the Town
8 Highways are different than the Villages.

9 MS. LABELLA: There is a school facility
10 that is on the north and of Fiddlers Lane,
11 essentially making it a school zone. I would
12 ask that we please consider that.

13 I have some pictures for everybody.

14 Thank you very much for your help.

15 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you.

16 MS. SOMMERS: Good evening, Town Board
17 Members, Supervisor Mahan. My name is Susan
18 Sommers and I also live on Fiddlers Lane for
19 many years, probably 15 or more and I love
20 living here.

21 It has gotten so much worse over the
22 years. I'm very scared for anybody trying to
23 walk on Fiddlers. It's extremely dangerous.

24 I have snapped some pictures which I can
25 share.

1 I have talked to a lot more neighbors and
 2 everybody does seem to be really frustrated.
 3 It's just gotten so much worse than it used to
 4 be. It used to be fine. With the increase in
 5 development, it's just got to be very, very
 6 dangerous. Nobody goes 30. They are all going
 7 over 30. That's a huge problem. Even if you
 8 say well, you can't do 25 for whatever reason
 9 because it's not a village, no one is going
 10 30. They start at -- even tonight, I walked
 11 because I live at the beginning of Fiddlers
 12 and I can just walk. Even for that small bit,
 13 I had to stand back because it was so
 14 dangerous because the cars were going so
 15 quickly. It's definitely an issue and there is
 16 a lot more truck traffic now than there ever
 17 used to be. I'm sure some of them are going to
 18 the new senior center. There's a lot more
 19 development. Something does need to be done
 20 because it is very, very dangerous. Thank you.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you.

22 Anyone else?

23 MR. VANKAMPEN: Good evening,
 24 Supervisor, Board. I'm glad you guys will
 25 take the time to listen to us.

1 I used to live on Fiddlers Lane my name
2 is Peter VanKampen; V-A-N-K-A-M-P-E-N. I lived
3 in the middle of fiddlers Lane. I have lived
4 there since the late 60's until the early
5 90's. I loved it so much that I came back about
6 five years ago. so, I've seen a lot of changes
7 on fiddlers.

8 When I first was growing up here, there
9 were no lights on either end. eventually the
10 lights came in there as traffic picked up on
11 Route 9 and 155, you can see a lot of things
12 going on there. Traffic has picked up. I
13 understand this. I'm a professional engineer,
14 myself, of transportation. I understand
15 traffic growth. We have just seen a
16 significant increase on Fiddlers Lane. Traffic
17 has always been an issue on Fiddlers. Growing
18 up, my parents wouldn't let me ride my bike on
19 the road because it was too dangerous. I think
20 the lanes on the road themselves are 10 feet
21 each and the shoulders only about 2 feet. If
22 you look at New York State Highway Design
23 Manual for local roads, roads that are over
24 400 vehicles a day which Fiddlers Lane is -
25 when school is in session and when we're not

1 in Covid, we definitely have 400 cars within
2 the first hour of the morning. For that, you
3 should have a four-foot shoulder on it. When I
4 grew up here, I went to Shaker Junior and I
5 went to Shaker High School. I even took some
6 classes at Siena. I walked Fiddlers a lot.
7 During the winter time, it's 10 times worse.

8 Another issue happening right now is that
9 there seems to be a surface drainage problem
10 on Fiddlers that has not been addressed,
11 especially appear by Siena. It's always
12 standing water out there all the time, making
13 the road even narrower.

14 Also, there seems to be some subsurface
15 drainage issues on the road. It's mostly on
16 the side of the road. There's a lot of
17 potholes on that side, so the water needs to
18 be trained properly. This road was not
19 designed for this level of traffic. The school
20 bus weighs a minimum of 10 tons. That's a
21 pretty heavy load on this road. There are
22 potholes that are already out there - - and
23 the houses are shaking, literally. A lot of
24 this has to do with the water not draining
25 properly. It's going to come back and bite us

1 because it's actually going to exacerbate the
2 water main problems that were having out
3 there.

4 How many water main breaks have we had in
5 the last five years? Basically, when you do a
6 traffic study, you cannot do it this year.
7 Traffic is not what it normally is. You're not
8 going to see the actual results. When we do
9 get to this thing, make sure you get the
10 vehicle types and classes, how many axles they
11 have and the speeds on this thing and get a
12 traffic count as well. You need all that data
13 to make sure that the road is designed
14 properly and safely for those people who are
15 living on it - the people who are riding on it
16 and the people who are walking along the road.
17 There are a lot of people were walking their
18 dogs on this road. It's dangerous with a
19 two-foot shoulder.

20 That's all I have to say. Thank you, very
21 much for your time.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you.

23 Anyone else?

24 (There was no response.)

25 We will close the public comment.

1 (Whereas the above entitled proceeding
2 was concluded at 8:20 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 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: _____

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