

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, on June 27, 2019 9:00 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
- Gloria Knorr
- Frank Kirby
- Susan Weber
- Caitlyn Perry

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Okay, this now public comment.
2 This is not a public hearing but public comment. If
3 anyone has anything at all.

4 MR. KIRBY: Frank Kirby. I told people that I was
5 going to be here tonight, so I at least wanted to make
6 sure I showed up here.

7 I'm wondering why this is right here facing this
8 way blocking the people out and blocking the camera out.
9 I'm not sure I like that. I don't know about everybody
10 else.

11 What I have heard makes me sick. I don't play the
12 political game, folks. I don't know how you sit here and
13 do this. You complain and complain and nothing ever gets
14 changed and you vote them back in again. Me and a bunch
15 of people were here back in February about the
16 Burns/Whitney roads.

17 MR. MAGGUILLI: Excuse me, sir, please direct your
18 comments to the Town Board.

19 MR. KIRBY: I am talking to the public.

20 MR. MAGGUILLI: This is for public comment to the
21 Town Board.

22 MR. KIRBY: This just said public comment. It
23 doesn't say to the Town Board.

24 MR. MAGGUILLI: This is a Town Board meeting.

25 MR. KIRBY: Exactly, a public Town Board meeting.

1 MR. MAGGUILLI: Sir, I'm only going to say it one
2 more time.

3 MR. KIRBY: You don't own the meeting, sir. You
4 don't own the Town and you don't own the meeting, sir.

5 MR. MAGGUILLI: Unfortunately, it's part of my job
6 to keep order at Town meetings, sir.

7 Officer?

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Susan, does that have something
9 to do with the campaign? This is not a political
10 meeting. This is a Town Board meeting.

11 MS. WEBER: Yeah, it does but actually it's really
12 for Mr. Carey and for you. I can speak to you outside.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We got your email.

14 MS. WEBER: Oh, did you?

15 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes. We understand it. It is
16 okay.

17 MS. WEBER: The reason why I wanted to make the
18 announcement is some candidates might not have seen it.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I received mine.

20 MS. WEBER: I wanted to make sure that everyone -

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I believe Mr. Carey received
22 his.

23 MR. CAREY: I did.

24 MS. WEBER: Good.

25 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you.

1 MR. MAGGUILLI: Gloria, did you want to come up?

2 MS. KNORR: Yes.

3 MR. MAGGUILLI: Gloria, the three minute rule
4 applies. I'm sorry.

5 MS. KNORR: please tell me at 30 seconds.

6 MR. MAGGUILLI: As I told the gentleman, I need to
7 keep order here.

8 MS. KNORR: That is your job and we elected you.
9 We are here to talk to. It's hard because I have
10 nothing written except that I was in the first
11 graduating class of Shaker High School. So many of your
12 Officers are from Shaker, but I'm so happy that there
13 is one from Schenectady.

14 I chose my children to go to Schenectady City
15 Schools. Why is that? That was for the cultural
16 diversity.

17 I do want you to know - remember when I came the
18 first public hearing - we are not reinventing the wheel
19 with this tell Comprehensive Plan. We work very hard and
20 2005 and all those meetings that we went to. I want you
21 to know why I came last time for the gay pride month of
22 June.

23 One other thing I want to say - I keep looking at
24 meetings about social justice. I do want to know that
25 Tim's godparents wanted to buy a house in Colonie. All

1 the sudden, the house was sold. A Caucasian couple came
2 and the house was available. So, I wanted Schenectady
3 and cultural diversity. I'm glad I have all of this.

4 I will read it, but now I have a property lawyer.
5 All the trees on those 13 acres are not good trees. They
6 are not Maples or Ash. They are not good. It was an
7 asparagus patch and a cornfield. In the back of my
8 house, if the farm doesn't so quickly, I can sell a lots
9 - those beautiful pine trees to me - then, if I need
10 money to survive - - my daughter thinks I need an
11 assisted living arrangement. If I do have a universal
12 designed house, those beautiful pine trees are going to
13 have to go. I checked with my neighbor. She bought the
14 house because she likes the trees, but they may have to
15 go.

16 For me, people and programs come first - our water.
17 We've got to do something with our whole country about
18 trees. Colonie cannot save the climate.

19 Now, I have a property lawyer. If I have to - I
20 think it's a new person coming who will have to pay for
21 a lawyer to fight for what he wants. Thank you.

22 MR. MAGGUILLI: Thank you, Gloria.

23 MS. PERRY: Caitlyn Perry; C-A-I-T-L-Y-N
24 P-E-R-R-Y. I'm a resident of Latham. I'm a lifelong
25 resident of the Town of Colonie. I'm here on behalf of

1 my neighborhood Gale and Glennon.

2 The reason why I'm here is because of our roadways.
3 Our roads are a disaster. I had spoken with Thomas
4 Romano on March 20. I reached out to him via email. He
5 told me to talk to you. I sent an email to all of you
6 and I have gotten a couple of responses.

7 Mrs. Mahan, you had Thomas J Breslin reached out to
8 me. We had tried setting up times to meet and
9 unfortunately last week he was supposed to call and
10 there was a personal reason that he had to cancel. So,
11 now I am here.

12 The reason why I am here is because I understand
13 that the 2019 paving program is done. It has been done.
14 What I want to do and what my goal to do for my
15 neighborhood is to get us on the 2020 plan. The reason
16 being is because it's unsafe. The reason being is
17 because another winter, especially with the winters and
18 how they have been from -20 to 20 degrees and even
19 higher, the roads aren't going to last. It is a problem
20 throughout Colonie, but I'm here to focus on my
21 neighborhood and the safety of my child and my friends
22 in my other neighbors.

23 We have a lot of young children in the neighborhood
24 to which have already sprained their wrists because of
25 bike riding on the road because it's falling apart.

1 Then, we have older people - senior citizens who
2 are walking daily on the road, but they constantly have
3 to be dodging these sections.

4 So, now I'm here because I would really like an
5 answer on how I can ensure that our neighborhood is
6 going to be on the 2020 paving program.

7 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Tom Romano did speak to us
8 regarding Glennon as well as - - I know Tom Breslin,
9 maybe you didn't meet when you were going to meet, but
10 I know prior to that he also - he's a member of my
11 staff and does ride around you look around. The Highway
12 Department strategically takes out the streets based on
13 - they have a numerical rating that they use. I
14 actually was on your road as well. Not to diminish the
15 condition of your road - there are roads - they haven't
16 been paved in years. We've been paving since 2009 to
17 try to catch up. It is a long process.

18 As Tom Romano explained to me and others, based on
19 the condition of the road, there are maybe three
20 different ways that they can do them. One would last
21 about 15 years, one would be 12 and the other way would
22 be five. So, strategically to get through, they really
23 have to balance all that out throughout the entire 57
24 square miles of the Town. We have paved a pretty good
25 number. We put about 2 1/2 million a year in. Our goal -

1 if the funding allows - to add a little bit more to that
2 budget, if we can. It's all based on what we can pay
3 back. What I can show you is - I know there are three
4 people that looked at your street. I know was Tom
5 Romano, Tom Breslin and myself.

6 MR. CAREY: I did too, by the way.

7 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Okay, and Chris.

8 MR. CAREY: I took a ride to there with Tom.

9 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We do try to accommodate as
10 many people as we can. We can try to get that on and
11 take a look at that for 2020. It is on our radar. It's
12 on the list that you have requested and see - - I can't
13 sit here and promise because the budget isn't passed
14 until November. I can tell you that it is on the radar
15 and on the list. We have visited it. It is certainly
16 one that, again, is at the top of the list. We can keep
17 you posted on that.

18 MS. PERRY: I appreciate that.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You'll follow the budget. You
20 will know how much is in there, but it's not like we
21 haven't been paving. We've been paving since 2009.
22 Prior to that, a lot of the street hadn't been paved in
23 a long time. This is 10 years later and that all adds
24 to it. We're going as fast as we can and as the budget
25 allows. We will keep doing that.

1 I'm going to ask you, too, to keep us in check so
2 you can periodically give us a call and you can call me
3 directly. I go out and check on the streets as well the
4 commissioner or Tom. As you say, Chris does too. I know
5 some of the other Board Members do when they have time.
6 Everybody is looking and everybody is looking forward to
7 trying to get done as many as we can. Keep in contact
8 with us.

9 MR. CAREY: I think Tom talked about trying to get
10 the crew in their in the meantime just to try to sort
11 of hold you guys over. What they do and a lot of those
12 cases is they can go in and grind down the bad section
13 of street. We have our own paver. We have a huge roller
14 that we just bought. It's a big roller and he talked
15 about getting the crew in their and at least doing some
16 sectional work to hold you guys over until hopefully we
17 can get you on the list.

18 MS. PERRY: And he had done some. He had filled
19 the larger chunks of the road that have come apart at
20 the Gale/Glennon intersection. However, it hasn't even
21 been paved down. It hasn't been evened out at all. It
22 was kind of just like dumped asphalt.

23 MR. CAREY: I can talk to him again, but him and I
24 took a day and your neighborhood was one of our stops
25 and we drove around and we looked at probably six or

1 seven or eight streets.

2 MS. WHALEN: When was the last time your road was
3 paved?

4 MS. PERRY: That's what I was just going to bring
5 up. When I had asked Mr. Romano, he said he hadn't had
6 records prior to 1998. When I have spoken with the
7 neighborhood - people who are almost lifelong residents
8 said it was either '91 or '92. So, we are very easily
9 coming up on 30 years.

10 MR. CAREY: You're right. The road is in terrible
11 shape.

12 MS. PERRY: Another note of mine - my parents are
13 also in the Town of Colonie. They are on Green
14 Meadows/Cloverfield and their road was not nearly as
15 disastrous as mine and theirs was repaved two years
16 ago. When I asked my parents why the Town chose them,
17 they said it was strictly because it had reached the 25
18 year mark.

19 I know that they are obviously a little bit more
20 higher end of the neighborhood, but I want to make sure
21 that were not forgotten either.

22 MR. CAREY: We don't pave by incomes or housing.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: No, but I think that part of it
24 may be the degree of work that needs to be done -
25 whether it needs to be milled all the way down - the

1 whole entire road or if there is say, three different
2 levels.

3 MS. WHALEN: What has been rated, do you know?

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It's probably a six.

5 MS. PERRY: He said it was on the lower end of the
6 six.

7 MS. WHALEN: I think you're probably going to be
8 on the list -

9 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That is our goal.

10 MS. WHALEN: It sounds like you're overdue.

11 MS. PERRY: Very much. Like I said, we can't last
12 another winter.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: There are a lot of streets that
14 are overdue. Unfortunately, a lot of paving didn't get
15 done. We are trying to catch up with something that was
16 there.

17 You said, it's been since 2009 and we've had a
18 consistent paving plan. We have no intentions of
19 stopping. It needs to be done.

20 There is a Resolution in here tonight for jobs that
21 are not as intensive. We've got an extra \$250,000 that
22 we can get some things done, which will help with next
23 year's list because we will have some time with those.
24 That's one thing that were voting on tonight. As I said,
25 the second thing is that we are trying really hard to

1 work with a capital plan to be able to dedicate a little
2 bit more money. They need to be done. It's very costly.
3 So, trying to balance the taxes with what we can do with
4 the money that we get and also these are long term
5 borrowings so you have to be able to balance that debt
6 service. We don't want to get into any financial
7 trouble. It took a long time to get out of it. We don't
8 to go back into it. There's a lot that goes into it.

9 We appreciate you coming in. Like I said, keep in
10 touch and like I said we had three or four people that
11 look to your street. I don't think we can forget.

12 MS. PERRY: Good. Thank you.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Anyone else?

14 (There was no response.)

15 Okay, we will close public comments and will finish
16 up the resolutions.

17 (Whereas the above entitled proceeding was
18 concluded at 9:13 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.

NANCY L. STRANG

Dated _____