

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 8:34 PM on  
September 24, 2020 at Memorial Town Hall,  
534 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York

BOARD MEMBERS:

PAULA A. MAHAN, SUPERVISOR

LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

MELISSA JEFFERS

DANIELLE FUTIA

RICHARD FIELD

JILL PENN

DAVID GREEN

ALSO PRESENT:

MICHAEL C. MAGGUILLI, ESQ., TOWN ATTORNEY

JULIE GANSLE, TOWN CLERK

JONATHAN TEALE, CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

JANET LABELLA  
MARK RICHARDSON

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Does anyone have  
2 anything for public comment?

3 MS. LABELLA: Good evening. My name is  
4 Janet LaBella. That's L-A-B-E-L-L-A, and I  
5 reside at 65 Fiddlers Lane.

6 MR. RICHARDSON: My name is Mark  
7 Richardson, also 65 Fiddlers Lane.

8 MS. LABELLA: On August 13th I spoke at  
9 a Board meeting about Fiddlers Lane and the  
10 extremely busy road that it is from early  
11 morning until late at night.

12 Just to recap some of the discussion:  
13 Speeding cars start at 6 AM for their morning  
14 commute and a large commercial vehicle parade  
15 starts about 7:00 AM. We still are genuinely  
16 concerned with the speeders and the amount of  
17 heavy commercial traffic that travels Fiddlers  
18 Lane daily.

19 I have printed out, once again, some  
20 pictures of trucks that travel Fiddlers Lane  
21 all day, every day. As you know, Fiddlers  
22 Lane, a residential area, was not designed to  
23 hold the weight of these trucks, or  
24 accommodate the number of heavy vehicles that  
25 travel this road daily.

1           We understand that the police officers  
2 cannot be everywhere all the time to address  
3 the speeding issues, but the Town needs to  
4 address Fiddlers Lane residents' concerns.  
5 Children and adults who walk and jog on  
6 Fiddlers Lane every day are in constant danger  
7 of being injured, or even worse.

8           Now, I understand that there is a traffic  
9 study that is currently being performed on  
10 Homestead Drive and we again ask that Fiddlers  
11 Lane have a traffic study performed, as well.  
12 Again, we kindly ask that you consider the  
13 following: first, prohibiting vehicle traffic  
14 over four tons and installing flashing lights  
15 or signs that show the speed that cars are  
16 traveling to help reduce speeding. We are  
17 again asking for your help.

18           I don't know, but I am asking: Has the  
19 Board discussed any of our concerns and is  
20 there any action that the Board has considered  
21 or planned to take since we have addressed  
22 this concern last month? Thank you, very much  
23 for taking the time to listen to me. I am  
24 looking for your feedback.

25           MR. GREEN: Chief, I know we are working

1 on Homestead this week. We have the counters  
2 up. It is 30 mile per hour there because  
3 that's the lowest for the Town. What is the  
4 weight?

5 MR. TEALE: There was an issue with  
6 overweight trucks coming through - cutting  
7 through Fiddlers Lane. We had a traffic  
8 safety unit that went up and stopped several  
9 of the vehicles and put them on notice that  
10 they are overweight and they're not permitted  
11 to use that road. The trucks were allowable,  
12 but they were still overweight.

13 MR. GREEN: What is the allowable  
14 weight?

15 MR. TEALE: I don't know it off the top  
16 of my head.

17 MS. LABELLA: You can see there are  
18 16-wheelers looking out my window every  
19 morning and every afternoon and into the  
20 evening.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Do we have an actual  
22 sign for a weight limit, or we don't?

23 MS. LABELLA: There's no sign posted on  
24 either end of Fiddlers Lane - not that we are  
25 aware of. I travel it every day.

1 MR. TEALE: I thought there was.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Can you check with  
3 Lieutenant Donnelly?

4 MR. TEALE: They've been up there for  
5 the last couple of weeks stopping cars and  
6 trucks.

7 The Highway Department owns a traffic  
8 counter they give us speeds and numbers. That  
9 would certainly be a good location to at least  
10 get a read on the amount of traffic. We will  
11 continue our efforts.

12 MS. LABELLA: And I appreciate you doing  
13 that. You can't be everywhere all the time  
14 and I get that. It's just terrible.

15 MR. MAGGUILLI: Can we get your email or  
16 phone number?

17 MS. LABELLA: I can give that to you.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: If you could follow  
19 up on that sign for us?

20 MR. TEALE: We can put up our sign also.  
21 We can actually catch plate numbers also.

22 MR. GREEN: That's a great area to put  
23 there. Students that are driving to school  
24 probably speed a lot.

25 MR. TEALE: There's definitely more

1 traffic now because of the schools.

2 MR. GREEN: Janet, have you noticed that  
3 since schools been back, that it is worse in  
4 the last two weeks?

5 MS. LABELLA: There are more cars and I  
6 think it's more kids speeding because of  
7 school. I do believe that. They don't go 30.  
8 On the turn or the bend where I am, they're  
9 doing 50.

10 MR. RICHARDSON: If I may, I would just  
11 like to thank the Chief and his crew because  
12 we have definitely seen them out there. They  
13 have been stopping people. That certainly  
14 helps, but my concern more than anything is  
15 the heavy vehicle traffic. If you have ever  
16 changed a tire on the side of the highway and  
17 had a semi go by, you can imagine what it's  
18 like to have a semi literally go by on such a  
19 narrow road. It really is disconcerting and  
20 disruptive, not to mention there is  
21 significant potholes that have formed on the  
22 lower side of that band. I don't know if it's  
23 traffic related or just weather related, but  
24 when those trucks go by - empty landscape  
25 trailers and box trucks, it's loud and very

1 disruptive.

2 To me, I think the biggest issue is that  
3 we weren't aware that there was a weight  
4 limit, so that's actually new news to us. If  
5 that could be posted, that would be super  
6 helpful.

7 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We will follow-up  
8 with Lieutenant Donnelly.

9 MR. GREEN: Those DOT tickets are  
10 expensive tickets. If those folks get a  
11 couple of tickets, the business owners aren't  
12 going to be very happy.

13 MR. RICHARDSON: We can imagine that  
14 would be something that they would not want.

15 MS. LABELLA: We are exposed to it on  
16 the front and the side and the backyard. So,  
17 we get the entire property exposed. We are  
18 right on the corner. The house shakes all  
19 day.

20 MR. RICHARDSON: Just one final  
21 question. This is more procedural. Is this  
22 the right forum to take this up, or should we  
23 be at the Planning Board?

24 MR. GREEN: No, you are in the right  
25 place.



1           SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We have a Highway  
2           Safety Committee along with our Traffic  
3           Safety Division that is part of the Police  
4           Department. They are looking into these  
5           things. Some things we can't change. And  
6           there's nothing we can do about it. We can't  
7           lower it from 35 to 30. We are not a village.  
8           The shoulder there is very, very challenging.  
9           It encourages people to go into the  
10          developments like Comely and in areas there  
11          to do walking and running.

12          The truck issue - that something that  
13          possibly we can improve upon, if there are  
14          real heavy trucks going through.

15          MR. TEALE: We have stopped several  
16          trucks.

17          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We can do signage and  
18          as the Chief is saying and traffic counts and  
19          the board that shows you how fast you're  
20          going. We will try everything we can.

21          MS. LABELLA: And cement trucks, as  
22          well.

23          MR. FIELD: Maybe we can purchase those  
24          signs.

25          MS. LABELLA: That would be great. We

1 have 19 people on our street who were  
2 concerned about it and I raised that last  
3 month. They want to have signs, as well. I  
4 have a list of all the people who have signed  
5 the petition.

6 MR. FIELD: Signs that say children and  
7 kids and pets - go slow.

8 MS. LABELLA: Yes.

9 MR. RICHARDSON: And those visual  
10 reminders absolutely help.

11 MS. LABELLA: More on the street, the  
12 better.

13 MR. GREEN: Do you get a lot of  
14 accidents in the wintertime because you are  
15 on the bend?

16 MR. RICHARDSON: We have not spent a  
17 winter there yet. We just moved in.

18 MS. LABELLA: We just moved in. We  
19 thought we were moving into a nice  
20 residential community.

21 MR. GREEN: It is a nice residential  
22 community.

23 MS. LABELLA: It's a beautiful place and  
24 we love it.

25 MR. RICHARDSON: We just didn't expect

1 the tractor trailers.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It is a through  
3 street.

4 MS. LABELLA: For every tractor-trailer.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes and you're going  
6 right into 155, Watervliet Shaker with all  
7 the schools. So, you're right in the center  
8 of all of that.

9 MR. RICHARDSON: Again, vehicular  
10 traffic is one thing, but I think the  
11 commercial traffic is at an entirely  
12 different level of disruption.

13 I appreciate that the Board has taken the  
14 time and effort and the Chief and his team for  
15 those efforts. We will look for continued  
16 improvement.

17 If you need anything, you have Janet's  
18 information and I'm happy to give mine, as  
19 well.

20 MR. GREEN: Maybe we should be hiring a  
21 private investigator.

22 MS. LABELLA: If I could, I would sit  
23 out there all day. The list goes on and on.

24 There was an IPA truck the other day and  
25 it couldn't run fast enough.

1 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

2 MS. LABELLA: Thank you.

3 MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you, we  
4 appreciate it.

5 MR. GREEN: Mike, if we see any tickets  
6 in our office, we probably should take a very  
7 strict approach on those overweight vehicles.

8

9 (Whereas the above entitled proceeding  
10 was concluded at 8:44 PM)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
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