

TOWN BOARD

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 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  
LEGAL TRANSCRIPTION  
2420 TROY SCHENECTADY RD.  
NISKAYUNA, NY 12309