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TOWN BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF COLONIE

A PUBLIC HEARING AND SUBSEQUENT VOTE IN RELATION TO
THE BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF COLONIE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020

THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled matter
by NANCY L. STRANG, a Shorthand Reporter commencing on
November 7, 2019 at 7:35 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

ALSO PRESENT:

- Michael C. Magguilli, Esq, Town Attorney
- Julie Gansle, Town Clerk
- P. Christopher Kelsey, Acting Comptroller
- Rick Field
- Jerry Russell

1 MS. GANSLE: This public hearing is being held
2 by order of the Town Board to hear all persons in
3 relation to the budget of the Town of Colonie for the
4 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020.

5 Notice of the public hearing has been
6 published in the official Town newspaper which is the
7 Spotlight and also in the Times Union. In addition,
8 the notice has been posted on the Town Clerk's
9 bulletin Board. I have an affidavit for each.

10 The Town Board will now hear all persons
11 interested in this matter.

12 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We're going to run through
13 the budget and as you can see on the screen, you will be
14 able to follow along with us and if you have any
15 questions, we will have time after to answer any
16 questions that you might have.

17 This is the 2020 proposed budget.

18 As you can see on the screen, this is a
19 description of the budget process.

20 In May 2019 the budget worksheets were issued
21 to all departments. The departments were advised to
22 submit budgets that are cost-effective while
23 maintaining a high quality of services.

24 June through October 2019, the budget review
25 committee worked with the department heads to review

1 all budget requests. The Committee consisted of
2 representatives from the Comptroller's, DPW which is
3 the Department of Public Works, Information Systems,
4 Police, Civil Service and the Supervisor's office.

5 We eliminated approximately \$685,000 in
6 requests.

7 September 26, 2019 a tentative budget was
8 filed with the Town Clerk.

9 November 7, 2019 a preliminary budget public
10 hearing, which is tonight.

11 On November 20, 2019 is the deadline for us
12 to adopt the budget.

13 Year-round our Budget Committee monitors
14 actual activity versus the budget and makes
15 recommended budget modifications.

16 MR. KELSEY: This is just a summary of the last
17 eight years of budgets. You can see the 2020 budget is
18 at the bottom.

19 Approximately \$99.4 million which is a \$3.8
20 million increase and a 4% change year over year. That
21 increase is primarily from contractual salary
22 increases and health insurance.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The general fund consists of
24 all of our administrative departments; Historian, Pruyn
25 House, Parks and Recreation, Community Services, Senior

1 Resources, our Police, EMS, Emergency Management,
2 Building and Fire Services and Justice and our Planning
3 and Department of Public Works and Engineering.

4 Other funds in special districts include
5 Highway, Library, Latham Water District and Pure
6 Waters District.

7 There are two on the bottom - Latham Water
8 District and Pure Waters District and they are
9 considered special districts. They have their own
10 source of revenue derived from water and usage
11 charges.

12 A lot of the Resolutions that you have heard
13 tonight from Crystal, who presented the three public
14 hearings, are all part of the Pure Waters District.
15 So, any of the usage fees - anything that involves
16 Pure Waters - those fees and costs go to that
17 particular department. They are not in the general
18 fund for us to use.

19 The same thing with the Latham Water
20 District.

21 MR. KELSEY: One of the other funds is the
22 William K. Sanford Library. The preliminary budget for
23 2020 is approximately \$3.1 million. It is funded solely
24 by the Town's property tax rate and is included in the
25 estimated 3.99 per thousand rate that we are proposing

1 for 2020. Of that 3.99 rate, about 47 1/2 cents goes
2 directly to fund the library. So, for an average
3 homeowner in the Town for 2020, you are contributing
4 \$67.44 towards the operation of the library. That is
5 somewhat up in 2020. Again, similar to the overall Town
6 budget, payroll benefits and now the debt service
7 related to the almost \$3 million renovations that have
8 been going into the library at this point.

9 To break out in more detail of where the
10 funding actually goes for the \$99 million budget,
11 \$42.1 million is payroll.

12 Again, we have seven unions in the Town. That
13 was negotiated over a four-year contract and most of
14 the employees are receiving either a 2% or 2 1/2%
15 rate increase after taking pay freezes in 2017 and
16 2018.

17 Capital items in the budget were reduce the
18 share to conserve on spending. Operations is \$19.3
19 million. That \$400,000 increase is primarily in
20 contractual items related to the operation of the
21 Water Department and the Sewer Department. Of the
22 sewer, we have a large component of that that we paid
23 to the Albany County Sewer District and that is where
24 a lot of the funding for the Sewer Department is going
25 towards this year.

1 The debt service a \$700,000 - approximately
2 two-thirds of that relates to the highway, sewer and
3 water improvements that are being done throughout the
4 Town in about \$66,000 this year relates to the library
5 renovations.

6 Benefits is about \$1 million increase or
7 \$25.8 million this year. That increase is \$900,000 of
8 health insurance, premium increases and then the
9 payroll taxes associated with the wage increases.

10 This kind of highlights the salaries again
11 and talking about the raises and when the wage freezes
12 were in that the union contracts over that four-year
13 period equates to about 1 1/4% for the employees per
14 year.

15 Since 2010, the Town is been able to
16 eliminate 57 full-time positions due to attrition and
17 retirement.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: These are some of our major
19 budget challenges. Maintaining a current level of high
20 quality services while minimizing the impact on the
21 taxpayers.

22 An uncertain economy - we know how things are
23 right now. We don't know if things will change with
24 the economy. We hope not. We have to keep that in
25 mind.

1 The continued strain on major revenue sources
2 and unfunded mandates -- as Chris said earlier, the
3 increase in health insurance premium contributions.

4 MR. KELSEY: Again, the main summary of the
5 budget again - the main thing to take away from this is
6 the increase over 2019 for an average house is 8 1/2
7 cents per thousand. That translates to approximately \$11
8 for the year.

9 In 2019 the median taxable value home in the
10 Town paid about \$597. In 2020 we are proposing about
11 \$609 for a \$11.70 increase or less than \$.98 per
12 month. On a Town that has a \$99 million budget, that's
13 a pretty good increase in my opinion.

14 The assessed value growth in 2019 of \$71
15 million translated to a 1% savings in the rate. So,
16 the assessed value growth does have a benefit to the
17 taxpayers.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: If you take a look at the
19 pie chart, what we get is 10%.

20 The special districts - that is again Pure
21 Waters and Latham Water District and fire districts,
22 as well.

23 We have 12 volunteer fire departments in
24 Town. So, that's 10%.

25 Albany County gets 14% and the school

1 district gets 66%. So, as you can see, the school
2 district portion of what comes in goes directly to the
3 school district and that's where your parents and the
4 residents pay their taxes to - either South Colonie or
5 North Colonie School District.

6 Again, Albany County is a separate tax. We
7 don't get that money. We basically have to cover all
8 of our general fund operations - everything that we
9 do; salaries were 10%. You can see that that's just a
10 small portion of the whole pie. We only get a small
11 portion.

12 MR. KELSEY: We have so many revenue sources
13 that it is easier to show it in a pie chart to see where
14 the Town's revenues come from. Approximately 25% come
15 from the property tax levies that we're talking about
16 tonight. Approximately 12% come from what's called the
17 ad valorem taxes on the special districts. Sales tax
18 makes up 26%.

19 So, all you guys when you're done here, go to
20 the mall and go shopping.

21 We've got fees for services which is again
22 water, building permits, EMS - - that is 26%.

23 Our other fines and licenses from the
24 Building Department and the Justice Court is about
25 22%. We are able to generate 5% on our properties

1 through rental and things like that - interest
2 earnings and then we get about 4% from federal and
3 state aid. Again, not a very big number that comes
4 from the state.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: So, the 2020 budget
6 represents our best efforts to maintain an excellent
7 quality of services for our residences and businesses,
8 govern cost effectively and efficiently while
9 identifying new cost savings programs.

10 This year we engaged in a hydroelectric
11 project which is going to bring us additional revenue
12 as well as help our environment. Also, we just entered
13 into a program of converting 4,000 streetlights in the
14 Town to LED streetlighting which is also all the way
15 around. We continue to work to strengthen our
16 financial position and that includes being able to
17 maintain all of our costs, not have any deficits and
18 to continue to build a reserve fund.

19 There is a New York State tax levy. We are
20 within that this year again. So, basically when you
21 look at your taxes - when your parents review their
22 tax bills, now you be able to tell them were all this
23 money goes.

24 As Chris said earlier, the increase is about
25 8 1/2 cents per thousand. That's 2%. What that means

1 is the average household will be about \$11 for the
2 year. That's enough to cover what we need to cover.

3 That's pretty much it. I don't know if you
4 guys have any questions. Certainly, if you ever want
5 to look at our budget, it is a line item budget so you
6 can take a look at it in whatever item you're looking
7 for - what's included in certain departments, what the
8 salaries are, what our costs are - with all of our
9 revenue and cost expenses are there. If you want to
10 review that it any time, you certainly can. Of course,
11 as always, we are always open if anyone wants to come
12 in and take a look at things to go over the finances.
13 Our door has always been open for that as well.

14 Are there any questions?

15 MR. FIELD: Rick Field. I just wonder where the
16 fines - where they go from the police force, for
17 example, for speeding fines in that pie circle. Where
18 does that go?

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: They go to the Justice
20 Department. We don't get to keep all of the money.

21 MR. KELSEY: Basically the fees that are
22 generated through the Justice Court - the Police
23 Department refers all the fees to the Justice Court.
24 They deal with all the Court. The state actually takes
25 about 60% of everything that is generated to the Court.

1 The Court actually generates roughly - - I think last
2 year they generated about \$800,000-\$900,000 and that
3 pretty much goes to fund the operation of the Justice
4 Court.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: In your cities, they are
6 funded by the Office of Court Administration. They get
7 money for their Courts through that office. We are a
8 Town so we have to cover it ourselves. We wish it was
9 the same for everybody because that would make things a
10 lot easier. Just so you kids understand, these fines
11 that go to the Justice Department - that's not supposed
12 to be a place where you make money. Everything has to be
13 justified. It's not really a place where you're looking
14 to keep generating revenue. It's a different type of a
15 fee - the fines are.

16 Does that answer your question, Rick?

17 MR. FIELD: Yeah.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Anyone else?

19 Jennifer?

20 MS. WHALEN: Can you talk more about sales tax
21 revenue and mortgage tax? I know you had made several
22 remarks regarding our budget. Can you compare it to last
23 year versus the anticipated projected mortgage tax and
24 sales tax revenues for next year.

25 MR. KELSEY: Right now what we have budgeted

1 for 2020 is exactly what we have collected in 2019. I go
2 back and I have done a 10 to 11 year history of our
3 sales tax collection and we average about two percent
4 growth a year. There are years where we had generated
5 five percent as we did in 2018 and there are years when
6 we had a two-thirds of a percent increase, which was in
7 2017.

8 MS. WHALEN: I know last year we were talking
9 about this budget - - it feels like yesterday, actually.
10 I remember between hearings there was some good news on
11 the sales tax.

12 MR. KELSEY: Yes and sales tax has continued to
13 grow which is why we have felt a little more confident
14 in budgeting - it's exactly what we are collecting where
15 in prior years we have left a slight cushion just in
16 case of a recession. We have heard out there that there
17 is a recession coming. So, what we have done this year
18 is not budget any growth in the sales tax. So, we are
19 not budgeting that 2% average growth. We are basically
20 collecting what we have received dollar for dollar. That
21 way, we're trying to be conservative - taking that
22 approach, a slightly different approach and hoping that
23 is benefiting the taxpayers that way.

24 As far as mortgage tax goes, we only receive
25 that check twice a year. That's in July and January.

1 We have received the July check and that was about on
2 average about 50% of what we budget. So, we are
3 expecting to meet budget at \$2.6 million for 2019. We
4 have not budgeted anymore for 2020. Again, it seems to
5 have stabilized.

6 MR. ROSANO: Chris, I want to go over the
7 Justice Court budget just briefly.

8 In 2018 the actual budget was \$697,500. In
9 2020 we are up to \$907,920. So, we had almost a
10 \$200,000 increase in a little over two years. How has
11 that been offset? Did we make up the difference
12 somewhere? I am not understanding.

13 MR. KELSEY: Basically what ultimately happens
14 is what you are looking at is direct operating costs of
15 each department. On top of that there is approximately -
16 benefit costs of approximately 55% on every payroll
17 dollar goes to fund benefits which is later in the
18 budget. So, the Justice Court fees have always gone to
19 offset the direct operating costs plus their benefits.
20 As their revenues have been coming down and expenses are
21 going up, the other revenue sources within the Town
22 general funds, sales tax, property tax and things like
23 mortgage tax - those fill all those holes.

24 That's similar to EMS. EMS has direct
25 operating costs of of roughly \$4 million. They've got

1 their benefit costs and they've got the fees that come
2 in that don't completely offset. So, the other revenue
3 sources fill in the holes.

4 So, to answer your question, the Town is
5 kicking more towards the Justice Court that it used
6 two because of the increase costs and the fees that
7 are coming down.

8 Why it is up to hundred thousand dollars is
9 because 2 1/2% raises and 2019 in 2020, as well as
10 there is a position of Law Clerk that the Justice
11 Court had requested. It was funded as a part-time
12 position in 2019 and then we were able to make it a
13 full-time position in 2020

14 MS. WHALEN: And they are all union?

15 MR. KELSEY: All these employees are union
16 workers, other than the justices and the manager of the
17 department.

18 MS. WHALEN: And they are also getting the
19 increase that the laborers are getting under the union
20 contracts?

21 MR. KELSEY: Yes. The only point is that the
22 only raises this year are the special boards, the Town
23 Board and the Town Supervisor.

24 MR. ROSANO: Chris, I guess my question is what
25 were hearing on the news is they're talking about bail

1 reform coming possibly in January. How much damage in
2 overtime and payroll is that going to do to us if that
3 goes through the way that they have it structured now? I
4 know that's a crystal ball question.

5 MR. KELSEY: I cannot answer that question.

6 MR. ROSANO: But it's going to affect us.

7 MR. MAGGUILLI: It's going to be a disaster.

8 MR. KELSEY: The Police Department in the
9 Justice Court, yes. At this point, we don't know.

10 MR. ROSANO: So, in essence, that itself - that
11 just itself will put us over the tax cap next year. In
12 my correct on that?

13 MR. KELSEY: I can give you estimates on that.

14 MR. ROSANO: Comptrollers don't do that.

15 MR. KELSEY: Accountants look backwards, they
16 don't look forward.

17 MR. ROSANO: That's why am asking that
18 question. Okay, thank you.

19 MR. MAGGUILLI: I can tell you the effect in my
20 office. We are the prosecutors of all vehicle and
21 traffic offenses in the Town of Colonie up to vehicle
22 and traffic Law misdemeanors. We enforce all Town Code
23 violations. We are subject to the new criminal justice
24 reform that was passed by the State of New York and not
25 a thought was given as to how we are supposed to fund

1 our response to this new law. We are required under this
2 new statute, which will go into effect January 1, to
3 provide all discovery within 15 days from the date a
4 ticket is issued.

5 Right now we estimate just the new discovery
6 requirements alone would justify two new paralegals so
7 we can be in compliance with the law and virtually not
8 have to dismiss every case that is filed against us.
9 This is an unfunded mandate with a U and the M. How we
10 are going to deal with it - we are struggling with it
11 every day.

12 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It's a question that came up
13 at a recent Municipal Leaders Meeting. The Mayors and
14 Supervisors in the whole capital region in mostly Albany
15 County -- they're all struggling with the same
16 questions. This is going to change things quite a bit.
17 It is going to have quite an impact on our Police
18 Department and our Justice Department and the Attorney's
19 office.

20 Again, everyone is struggling with this to
21 really get some direction as to how we get through
22 this. Most likely, it's going to end up staying as an
23 unfunded mandate.

24 Did that answer all your questions, Paul?

25 MR. ROSANO: Yes.

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Getting back to the sales
2 tax what Chris was saying - it's important to watch the
3 trends over a good five-year period because it
4 fluctuates. As the economy fluctuates, the sales tax
5 fluctuate. We try to get as close to an average that we
6 feel comfortable with rather than getting a spike and
7 then putting that on the budget and saying we can have
8 that. We might not have that same amount next year. So,
9 we're very cautious with it, but we are pleased with how
10 it's been coming in. We do have to maintain a
11 conservative approach when we are looking at that.

12 There is talk of a possible recession. If you
13 talk to financial people, they are saying another year
14 or two - if it's going to happen. It may not be as bad
15 as the one was in 2008 which was extremely tough to
16 deal with. Let's pray we don't have that again. These
17 are all things that we really have to take a look back
18 and then project as we move forward as to what is a
19 safe number to be at. That seems to keep us on track
20 the best possible way that we can.

21 We talked about cutting items out of the
22 budget request. That's because the department heads
23 first come in and they come in with their budget
24 needs. Just like everything else, we are all asked to
25 prioritize. If we need to fill in for some places

1 that's not getting enough revenue, that's where that
2 comes in, as well. Department heads will take a look
3 at the requests to see if they could possibly put this
4 particular item for this particular project - can we
5 move it out a few years and that way it gives us time
6 to be able to manage that, as well.

7 It's a very collaborative process. It's a
8 very long process and something that has to be
9 modified continually.

10 We do get the reports - the monthly reports
11 so we can take a look at the budget and what is being
12 spent. We talk about budget modifications.

13 If you look at Resolutions to make a budget
14 modification, that means we may need something here
15 and there may be a little extra here. So, we move that
16 over through the budget modification. It is budget
17 neutral and you can take a look and see what it is
18 right in the Resolution.

19 As I say, it's a very user-friendly and easy
20 to understand. We are always here if anybody has any
21 further questions.

22 MR. KELSEY: One other piece of business that I
23 forgot to mention earlier: In the proposed budget that
24 the Board is going to act on this evening - it is
25 slightly less than the tentative budget and the

1 preliminary budget in the area of Pure Waters. Our
2 Superintendent reviewed his revenue estimates with the
3 Budget Committees revenue estimates. He felt that we
4 were a little aggressive in one area and requested a
5 \$25,000 reduction in the outside fees. He was generous
6 enough to give us a piece of capital equipment out of
7 the budget to offset that directly, so the overall
8 budget is \$25,000 less then it was when it was presented
9 to the Board as a tentative budget and the public as
10 preliminary. That needs to be put on the record.

11 MS. WHALEN: Could you repeat again what the
12 average median household increase will be estimated at?

13 MR. KELSEY: That's \$11.70.

14 MS. WHALEN: So, what is the median - the
15 average?

16 MR. KELSEY: It's a taxable value of the
17 \$142,000 and equates to about a market value of roughly
18 \$225,000 to \$230,000 according to Ron Monfils, our
19 Assessor.

20 MS. WHALEN: So, what would it be if it was
21 like \$600,000, let's say.

22 MR. KELSEY: You would have to take the
23 \$600,000 assessed value times our equalization rate of
24 62.5 and multiply that times the 8 1/2 cents. I'm not
25 that fast with numbers. I do everything with a

1 calculator to make sure that I am right.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You're not multiplying times
3 100%.

4 MS. WHALEN: But roughly what would that be?
5 You must've run a number.

6 MR. KELSEY: No, I haven't. You've got your
7 phone there, Jennifer. That's a calculator. Do 600,000
8 time. 625 and divide that by 1,000 and multiply it
9 times .085.

10 MS. WHALEN: That's \$31. Could it go over the
11 tax cap, if the projected revenue -

12 MR. KELSEY: No. The tax cap is not a raised
13 cap. The tax cap is a levy cap. We can raise no more
14 than this year 3% of what we raised the prior year. So,
15 any assessed value growth only reduces the impact to the
16 rate pair which is why the rate pair is paying 2% and
17 not a 3% because we had \$71 million in assessed value
18 growth which reduces the rate to the taxpayer. So, it
19 does not go over the tax cap and cannot go over the tax
20 cap and that's just the way it is this year.

21 MS. WHALEN: So, even if the projected revenues
22 are less -

23 MR. KELSEY: The tax levy is the tax levy. What
24 we will do after this budget is adopted, we send it to
25 the county and they approve it as part of our annual

1 warrant. They can form their taxes and that's what we
2 are able to collect. They put out the tax bills and we
3 can collect no more than that, unless there is a court
4 ordered adjustment. So, no, we can only collect that and
5 it is not over the cap and will not be over the cap this
6 year.

7 MS. WHALEN: I just have another question. So,
8 the raises that we are giving pursuant to the contract -
9 the labor union contracts are one thing. To those folks
10 who are not covered by those contracts, how many people
11 are getting raises and what would you estimate of this
12 increase their raises comprise of this increase.

13 MR. KELSEY: This is a similar question that
14 you asked last year. It's roughly about 50 people and
15 equates to about \$100,000. That's the management group,
16 the employees in the Comptroller's office, the employees
17 in the Human Resources office, the employees in the
18 Attorney's office and the employees in the Supervisor's
19 office. Those are the only four offices in the Town that
20 are not covered by the union. Everyone else is a union
21 employee, other than the managers.

22 MS. WHALEN: What about the golf course? The
23 golf pro is covered by a union contract?

24 MR. KELSEY: They are all union employees.

25 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: He is also a manager. He is

1 a golf pro, but he is a manager of that department.

2 MS. WHALEN: Of what department? The Parks and
3 rec department?

4 MR. KELSEY: No, the golf course.

5 MS. WHALEN: The golf course department?

6 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes, the golf course is part
7 of Parks and Rec.

8 MS. WHALEN: Is that typical in municipalities?
9 Are they full-time employees all year long?

10 MR. KELSEY: As far as we are aware of, yes.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: At municipal courses, yes.
12 The reason that we look at the median is because that's
13 where most of the houses fall in the entire Town. You
14 will have a smaller portion that is less so we estimate
15 \$11 a month. Then, you will have a smaller portion that
16 will be higher than most. So, the median is the majority
17 of the people. That's the range of those houses. It
18 gives us a good point to start from. For the median
19 price for houses it's about \$.98 a month. It's not \$98.
20 It's \$.98.

21 Any other questions?

22 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: I've a question. This
23 is only my second rodeo at the budget, so can you just
24 define the \$71 million of assessed value growth - just
25 what that encompasses - just so I can get an idea. I

1 don't remember the figures honestly.

2 MR. KELSEY: Our assessed value - and I don't
3 have it in front of me - is in the billions. That number
4 is provided to us by the Town Assessor. He would be a
5 better person to ask as to what encompasses that growth.

6 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: Thank you, Chris.

7 MR. RUSSELL: Hi, I'm Jerry Russell and my
8 question is: Based on the budget distribution, who gets
9 more; North Colonie or South Colonie School District.
10 That's for the school district distribution for the
11 money?

12 MR. KELSEY: Our Town budget has nothing to do
13 with the school districts. That's the School Board and
14 they are their own independent governments. So, this
15 doesn't actually address any funding of the schools.

16 MS. WHALEN: That's an excellent question,
17 though.

18 MR. RUSSELL: So, 66% is even between the two
19 schools?

20 MR. KELSEY: You would have to look at those
21 two school budgets. I don't know them off-hand.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The actual rate - they are
23 pretty close.

24 MS. WHALEN: Are you asking because you saw
25 that pie chart?

1 MR. KELSEY: For every dollar of property tax
2 that your parents pay, \$.66 on the dollar goes to the
3 school. Hence, \$.14 goes to the county, \$.10 comes to
4 the Town and \$.10 goes to to the districts. That's what
5 we're kind of highlighting there. The rates for the two
6 schools - I believe North Colonie is \$27 per thousand
7 and I think South Colonie is at \$26 a thousand. I think
8 they are pennies of that. I think their budgets are
9 pretty close.

10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Your school district has a
11 School Board. Each school district has a School Board
12 and those School Boards are independent of the Town.
13 They propose their own rates based on their budgets.

14 MR. KELSEY: Actually, your parents vote on
15 that in May of every year to set the school budget for
16 the following year.

17 MR. RUSSELL: So, you guys don't give any money
18 to athletics or anything like that?

19 MR. KELSEY: No, we don't fund any of that
20 stuff for the schools. Indirectly, if they use our
21 facilities, we don't typically charge the schools. So,
22 they are both treated equitably in that case. But we
23 don't do any direct funding to the schools.

24 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I don't know if the cities
25 do.

1 MR. KELSEY: The cities do because those are
2 incorporated in the cities.

3 MR. RUSSELL: Okay, thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You're welcome. Good
5 question.

6 MS. WHALEN: Good question. Way to go for
7 coming up and asking it.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Any other questions?

9 (There was no response.)

10 Thank you to all the department heads and
11 some of you are here tonight. We know it's a difficult
12 process to go through and we appreciate all the time
13 and effort that you put into the budgets and
14 prioritize so that we can do this budget every year.
15 So, thank you very much.

16 We will close his public hearing. We can vote
17 tonight on this if no one else has any questions. We
18 haven't received any questions over the past month and
19 a half. If you guys want to vote tonight, we can.

20 MS. GANSLE: So, we have a Resolution adopting
21 the proposed 2020 annual budget.

22 MR. GREEN: So moved.

23 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Supervisor votes aye. Clerk,
25 call the roll.

1 MS. GANSLE: Councilman Rosano?

2 MR. ROSANO: Aye.

3 MS. GANSLE: Whalen?

4 MS. WHALEN: No.

5 MS. GANSLE: VonDollen?

6 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: Aye.

7 MS. GANSLE: Murphy?

8 MS. MURPHY: Aye.

9 MS. GANSLE: Green?

10 MR. GREEN: Aye.

11 MS. GANSLE: Carey?

12 MR. CAREY: Aye.

13 MS. GANSLE: The ayes have it, Madam

14 Supervisor.

15 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The Resolution is adopted.

16 I'm not quite sure, but did you have another
17 question, Jennifer?

18 MS. WHALEN: No, I don't. It's just pretty much
19 the same thing as last year. I just don't really believe
20 that upper management that aren't part of the union
21 should be entitled when we have to raise taxes for the
22 same reasons as the laborers.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: What I can say is that when
24 we look at the budget and we look at the increases or no
25 increases, whatever it may be, as costs go up for

1 everybody, and you look at it across the entire staff in
2 their costs increase as well. So, that's the way we've
3 always looked at it.

4 MS. WHALEN: No, I know. I remember this from
5 last year. I still believe that sometimes you have to do
6 more with less and I haven't changed my mind on that.

7 I looked very carefully at the budget. Every
8 department made a lot of effort to actually decrease
9 supplies in the numbers actually went down. I am
10 accepting of the union contracts, but in the years
11 leading up - I just don't really think we should be
12 giving raises to basically political appointees and
13 raising taxes on the residents.

14 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Just so you understand -

15 MS. WHALEN: I'm sorry, but I was an appointee
16 and I didn't get raises. I still went to work as a
17 public servant and I loved my job.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You are certainly entitled
19 to your opinion.

20 When we talk about development - I guess it
21 is subjective, but the reality is and what you have to
22 understand is for every 1% of a Town our size we only
23 get about \$240,000. That means when you look across
24 all the homes that cover 57 miles, all the businesses
25 - \$240,000. So, when you look, it's not like the

1 growth and development - - sometimes people hear the
2 number of the total assessed value increasing and they
3 think that we get all of that money. That's not the
4 way it works. The formula for the tax cap - that's
5 what we get: \$240,000 and the tax cap started with
6 getting probably close to \$140,000 or \$150,000. It's a
7 very very minimal amount of money. That's what we get
8 when you look at any new development or whatever. Yes,
9 it does help to keep the taxes low.

10 The other side of that is that anything
11 beyond that formula that is in excess of that - that
12 goes back to the residents in their taxes and that's
13 what helps to keep their tax rate low. That's how that
14 works. I just was wondering if we didn't answer all
15 your questions, that's all.

16 (Whereas the above entitled proceeding was
17 concluded at 8:03 p.m)

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
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NISKAYUNA, NY 12309