

**TOWN OF RIVERHEAD  
MINUTES OF  
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

WAIVER OF NOTICE AND CONSENT  
OF SPECIAL MEETING

We, the Undersigned, being all members of the Riverhead Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, County of Suffolk, and State of New York, do hereby waive notice of the time, place, date and purpose of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, to be held at the Town Hall, Riverhead, New York at 4:00 p.m. on the 20th day of November, 2008 and do consent to the holding of such meeting for the purpose of:

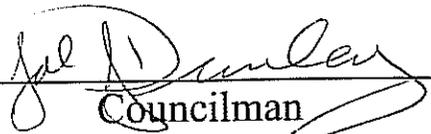
**RESOLUTIONS:**

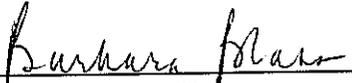
- Res. #1032 Waives the Requirement of the Posting of a Letter of Credit Pursuant to §108-133(1) of the Riverhead Town Code
- Res. #1033 Authorizes Town Clerk to Publish and Post Notice of Public Hearing Special Permit Petition Terry Girls Realty, Inc. Bed and Breakfast
- Res. #1034 Authorizes the Retention of the Law Firm of Jaspan Schlesinger LLP as Special Counsel
- Res. #1035 Authorizes Town Clerk to Publish and Post Public Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Local Law for an Amendment of Chapter 101 (Vehicles & Traffic) of the Riverhead Town Code (101-9. Installation and Maintenance.)
- Res. #1036 Authorizes the Transfer of Function of Public Safety Dispatchers from the Town of Riverhead to the County of Suffolk on June 30, 2008 and Authorizes the Supervisor to Enter into and Execute an Agreement with the County of Suffolk for the Transfer of Dispatch Functions
- Res. #1037 Resolution Authorizing Supervisor to Enter into and Execute an Agreement with Department Heads, Management and Such Other Employees Not Provided Under SCEA, PBA and SOA Contracts
- Res. #1038 Authorizes Amendment to Preliminary Budget for 2009
- Res. #1039 Authorizes Amendment to Preliminary Budget for 2009 Funding in the General Fund

Dated: November 20, 2008  
Media Notified by  
Supervisor

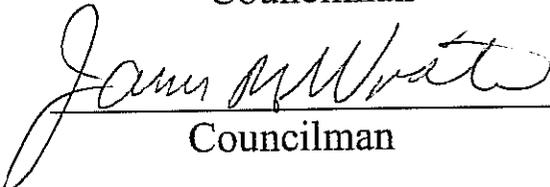
TOWN BOARD MEMBERS  
of Riverhead, New York

  
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Supervisor

  
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Councilman

  
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Councilwoman

  
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Councilman

  
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Councilman

Minutes of a Town of Riverhead special Board meeting held by the town board of the Town of Riverhead at Town Hall, Howell Avenue, Riverhead, New York on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 4:20 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Philip Cardinale,	Supervisor
Barbara Blass,	Councilwoman
James Wooten,	Councilman
John Dunleavy,	Councilman
Timothy Buckley,	Councilman

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Diane M. Wilhelm,	Town Clerk
Dawn Thomas,	Town Attorney

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Are we set? Okay, we are about to consider eight resolutions that are time sensitive and they're available and I'd like to take any comment that anybody wants to make before we consider them.

If there is no comment, we will consider them and Diane would you call them?"

Resolution #1032

Councilman Wooten: "It waives the requirement of a posting of a letter of credit pursuant to Section 108-133(1) of the Riverhead town code. So moved."

Councilwoman Blass: "And seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, yes; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Resolution #1033

Councilwoman Blass: "Authorizes the town clerk to publish and post notice of public hearing pursuant to special permit petition of Terry Girls Realty Inc. for a bed and breakfast. So moved."

Councilman Dunleavy: "And seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, yes; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Resolution #1034

Councilman Wooten: "That authorizes the retention of the law firm of Jaspan Schlesinger LLP as special counsel. So moved."

Councilwoman Blass: "And seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, no; Dunleavy, no; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Resolution #1035

Councilwoman Blass: "Authorizes the town clerk to publish and post public notice of public hearing to consider a proposed local law for an amendment of Chapter 101 Vehicles and Traffic of the Riverhead town code Section 101-9 Installation and Maintenance. So moved."

Councilman Dunleavy: "And seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, yes; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Resolution #1036

Councilman Dunleavy: "Authorize the transfer of function of public safety dispatchers from the town of Riverhead to the County of Suffolk on June 30, 2009- I'd like that amended- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

Councilman Dunleavy: "-- 2009, and authorizes the supervisor to enter into and execute an agreement with the county of Suffolk for the transfer of dispatch functions. So moved."

Councilman Buckley: "Second."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten."

Councilman Wooten: "I thought long and hard about this. I know most of these dispatchers. I realize that there's a lot of our departments that do more with less and they've gone from 14 to nine members in the last year or so.

Talking with our financial person, there's about 15,000 taxpayers in the town of Riverhead. Public safety dispatchers cost between 50 and \$60 a person-- a taxpayer to keep that benefit here.

I think the price on the safety and well being of our citizens, two seconds can make a big difference when it comes to dispatching a call and two minutes is a long time when you're having a heart attack.

I realize there's a function that the county is supposed to be providing but playing chicken with these people's lives as taxpayers in this town, I cannot support this.

So I vote no."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Buckley."

Councilman Buckley: "If this was an emotional decision, it's a no brainer. But we have to put emotion aside and we have to think of what's best for everybody of the town, financially, operationally.

This instance of the public safety dispatchers is the poster child of what's wrong with government as far as duplicative services is involved. If we need to do something for the taxpayers, if we need to do something, if we're serious about reducing the size of government, we have to make tough choices.

This is the 1036 resolution that we've passed, that we've looked at and this is by far the hardest one. But I have to look

out for what's in the best interest of everybody in all aspects.

And I vote yes."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Dunleavy."

Councilman Dunleavy: "I'd like to have said- this is a very hard decision. The supervisor wanted to do this January 1<sup>st</sup>. And I don't think that was appropriate. I think that we should negotiate with the County of Suffolk to see if the County of Suffolk will give us any money.

I persuaded the rest of the town board and the supervisor to hold off until June 30<sup>th</sup> so it will give us time to negotiate and do it- if we have to do a transition, we'll have everything in mind.

If the county says they'll pay us for our dispatchers, that gives us six months to negotiate with the County of Suffolk.

So I really don't want to lose any dispatchers but I'm thinking, again, it's a hard decision, the taxpayers and the negotiation with the county, so I have to vote yes."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Blass."

Councilwoman Blass: "No matter how you cut this one, it hurts. Firstly I really want to acknowledge that each of you has been a loyal, hard working, effective employee who has contributed significantly to our community and for that we are all deeply indebted to you.

By making the transfer effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, the town, our community, you and your families, will have some time to plan and adjust to the circumstances.

You have our word that we will continue to use any and all contacts, political, personal, or otherwise and any other strategy to be your advocates with the county of Suffolk.

It is really with a heavy heart that I must vote to support this resolution."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Cardinale."

Supervisor Cardinale: "I would like to endorse the remarks of

my- Mr. Buckley and Councilwoman Blass and indicate that we will do whatever we can to make the transformation- the transformation into the county as painless as possible and I will continue to speak with the county representatives about allowing us to contract for the function with them.

This debate was necessary once we found out that the county taxes covered these services and I didn't know where it was going to go when I proposed it in the tentative budget but it went where it went and I think appropriately in view of Mr. Buckley's remarks about the duplicative services at various levels of government.

So I vote yes, and pledge my support for further discussion with the county and the hope that they will know how serious we are by this vote and take a more moderate position as to how to allow them to give us some consideration for the tax dollars we're paying to them.

Thank you."

Unidentified: "Forty two million dollars for a (inaudible) and (inaudible)."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you."

Diane Wilhelm: "The resolution is adopted."

Resolution #1037

Councilman Buckley: "Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into and execute an agreement with department heads, management and such other employees not provided under SCEA, PBA and SOA contracts. So moved."

Councilman Wooten: "Seconded."

(Inaudible comments)

Supervisor Cardinale: "It was seconded? We have a- moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, no; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, no; Blass, no; Cardinale."

Supervisor Cardinale: "What are we voting on?"

Diane Wilhelm: "1037."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Let me just look at this one. 1037."

Diane Wilhelm: "It's the CSEA and SOA contract."

Councilman Wooten: "It's for non-contract employees and (inaudible)."

Councilman Dunleavy: "I thought this was on the-- "

Diane Wilhelm: "1037."

Supervisor Cardinale: "We better make sure what we're voting on. Let me take a look-- "

Councilman Dunleavy: "Wait, hold on a minute."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. This-- to summarize the resolution, it authorizes the supervisor to enter into and execute an agreement with the department heads, management and other employees not under the union contracts in regard to the lag payroll issue.

So could we re-set the vote, please?"

Diane Wilhelm: "Sure."

The Vote: "Wooten, no; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, no; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

#### Resolution #1038

Councilman Wooten: "This authorizes an amendment to the preliminary budget for 2009. So moved.

This covers the last resolution."

(Inaudible discussion)

Diane Wilhelm: "That's the original one, the one that came in and (inaudible)."

Supervisor Cardinale: "This is unnecessary, yeah. I don't know why I gave you that, that's duplicative.

Bill, the next resolution, 1038, which is the last listed, is a- is an addition of salaries for the purposes we've discussed. What's this last one, the 42?"

Bill Rothaar: "That's the dollar amount."

Councilman Wooten: "That funds the increase you just- "

Councilwoman Blass: "No, but then what happens- what is this one?"

Diane Wilhelm: (Inaudible)

Bill Rothaar: (Inaudible)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Oh, okay, that you will need only 40- your calculation is- his calculation is in order to accommodate the- he needs 42 not 52. Is that correct? So it's a substitution. The one that was previously 52 that we agreed on, is now down to 42 upon recalculation. Okay?"

Councilwoman Blass: "May I ask does that 42 include raises for elected officials?"

Bill Rothaar: "1.9- "

Councilwoman Blass: "It includes a 1.9 raise for elected officials. Okay."

Supervisor Cardinale: "And 1.9 for management."

Bill Rothaar: "All nine (inaudible)."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you."

Diane Wilhelm: "Are we voting?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

The Vote: "Wooten."

Councilman Wooten: "Was his moved and seconded? Yes."

Supervisor Cardinale: "We should move it. Would somebody move it, seconded, make sure we have that on record."

Councilman Wooten: "I think I moved it. I don't think it was seconded.

Authorizes amendment to preliminary budget for 2009. So moved."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Second, please."

Councilwoman Blass: "Okay. Seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, no; Blass."

Councilwoman Blass: "I have a really hard time authorizing raises for myself in light of what we just did. I just really have a hard time doing that.

My vote is no."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Resolution #1039

Councilwoman Blass: "Authorizes amendment to preliminary budget for 2009 funding in the general fund. So moved."

Councilman Dunleavy: "And seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy."

Councilman Dunleavy: "This is for payment to the PSD's until June 30<sup>th</sup>. We're not raising the tax rate. We're going to take it out of fund balance because we have money in the fund balance to do that and I just hope that when June comes and we negotiate with the county, we can add them back into the regular budget again.

So I vote yes for this."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Diane Wilhelm: "And then we have one tabled."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Can you pull up the tabled resolution?"

Diane Wilhelm: "Okay, 1012 to untable."

Councilman Buckley: "I make a motion to untable Resolution 1012. So moved."

Councilman Wooten: "And seconded."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten, yes; Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, yes; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes, to untable. The resolution is untabled."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Now we've got to consider the resolution."

Councilman Wooten: "This is the one that was on last week but the numbers didn't match up."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Right. This is the one we're correcting the numbers to make them add up in regard to authorizing the release of developer money for Deep Hole Road. Can we move that for a vote?"

Councilman Buckley: "Authorizes release of developer money on Deep Hole Road. So moved."

Councilman Wooten: "I'll second."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Moved and seconded. Vote please."

The Vote: "Wooten."

Councilman Wooten: "Yes, to the amended numbers."

The Vote (Cont'd.): "Buckley, yes; Dunleavy, yes; Blass, yes; Cardinale, yes. The resolution is adopted."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. That concludes the resolutions of the special meeting and concludes the meeting. Thank you."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Does anyone want to talk?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah, we generally do not take comment, but I'd be glad to take comment if anyone wants to make comment."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, I asked if anybody-- "

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, that's surprising because I asked did anybody want to speak and nobody came up."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Oh, please come up. Yeah, please come up and speak. Okay, all right."

Well, the intention-- and the way we generally run the meeting is you get to speak on all the resolutions before we consider them and then you get to comment afterwards on anything you want to comment on. So if you'd like to comment on anything, we'll take any comment you want to make. Please."

Councilman Buckley: "You've got to go over--"

Supervisor Cardinale: "You've got to go over here. Thank you. Go ahead, please."

Tim Hubbard: "Tim Hubbard, from Riverhead."

First of all, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to address the board regarding the fated public safety dispatchers of the town of Riverhead.

Although I applaud the fact that you are concerned with saving us residents money from the 2009 budget, I think that your efforts are being focused in the wrong direction.

My understanding is that we pay the county of Suffolk monies for dispatching services as part of the police services contract that was set up many years ago.

Times have changed tremendously over the years and I personally fear the town will suffer a huge loss in the safety and the well being of its residents if the dispatcher duties are forwarded to Suffolk County.

The PSD's are the backbone of the police and ambulance response- I'm sorry. The PSD's are the backbone of the police and ambulance response times for this town. Although I'm sure the Suffolk County police department does the best that it can in the area of public safety, they're understaffed and this is evident as emergency calls are sometimes placed on hold due to the amount of volume on the lines.

Let us actively pursue retrieving the monies from the county to reimburse the town for the services performed locally.

I feel extremely comfortable in stating that in my 27 years associated with the Riverhead town police department, I have never seen or heard of a 911 phone call being placed on hold for the next available dispatcher.

As a resident of this town, I've also required the services of 911 in my civilian life. Recently I needed the Riverhead town volunteer ambulance several times as my elderly mother became ill. I called 911 each time and was met with a professional and courteous dispatcher that expedited a police officer and ambulance personnel to my residence to assist with my mother's needs.

This was not done simply because I'm a member of the Riverhead police department. This is the same treatment that's provided to every resident of this town in their time of need.

I can't imagine how I would have felt if my call was answered with a recording stating please hold for the next available dispatcher.

The PSD's provide an invaluable service to this town. They're knowledgeable of the streets and developments and this alone saves precious time in the response of emergency personnel.

To say that they will be placed on a preferred list with Suffolk County is like saying the check is in the mail.

Three current board members here today have intimate knowledge of the operations of the police department. I know for a fact that

each one of you at one time or another had a PSD provide you with information on an emergency call that may not be attainable if the dispatching is done by Suffolk County.

The dispatchers deserve to be treated better than that. I can only imagine how they must feel about this situation.

Please re-evaluate your position on the removal of the monies from the 2009 budget for the public safety dispatchers and keep the residents of the town of Riverhead accustomed to the level of public safety that we demand and we deserve.

Thank you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. Yes."

Richard Oliver: "How are you doing? You mentioned that you have money now- "

Diane Wilhelm: "Can I have your name?"

Richard Oliver: "Richard Oliver. To carry them to June. Correct? And you're going to negotiate with the county, yes?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

Richard Oliver: "You're going to negotiate with the county to I guess pay the salaries to continue working here."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Well, we're negotiating- yeah, for them to give us the money that it costs us for our dispatchers. Yes."

Richard Oliver: "That's- again, that's a little gray area. In other words- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah. Let me address that. If you look at- first of all, the monies that are paid for this function are paid in the county tax, all right. Were they paid separately, we would stop payment of them and let them sue us for it. We can't do that.

However, we have in this resolution resolved that the town appoint Tim Buckley, Lt. David Lessard, Keith Lewin, President of the Riverhead Ambulance Corps., and Meg Ferris, personnel director to a transition committee.

The purpose of that committee is among other things to make the six month transition smoother and to avoid the transition if we can by negotiating with the county to pay money, as you just said, in other words, contract with us.

The problem is that a negotiation has to be two ways. They have to listen and respond. So far they have not negotiated. We say it costs us 900,000 for this function, which we've already paid for, which is 4% of our budget.

They say we understand we have to provide the function but we will not give you the alternative of contracting with you to continue to provide the function and give you that revenue back.

If they did that we would be delighted, every person on this board would be delighted and we are hopeful but not expectant that that would occur. But we will— part of Tim's job on the committee and our is to see if there's any life in that.

So far we haven't been able to force a negotiation on that issue and if anybody can help us do that— I talked today to Nick LaMort (phonetic), the head of the CSEA and asked him to talk with Levy as well in our behalf. He did and without notable success he reported back. But that doesn't mean we're going to stop trying."

Councilman Dunleavy: "And legislator Romaine is going to help us with the county and see what he can do on his end with the legislature. So that's what we're trying to do. We gave ourselves a little more leeway, six months, so we can start negotiating. Two months is not long enough so we're going to hope that we can do the best for our PSD's, for the town, and for our police department."

Richard Oliver: "It sounds more like six months is a transition period, is more to get your ducks in a row because you know it's inevitable. That's just the way it's coming across."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah, there's two other things we have to do during that period. We want to make sure that the dispatch—the radio ambulance issue is resolved and there's some computer issues that we want to resolve between our police department and the county. That's one function.

But the other— but we're certainly not going— and I might add that this is on June 30<sup>th</sup>, not on or before. We would do— we won't— we'll use that time for those purposes, to work through the computer

issues and the radio issues but also to see if we can get some offer from the county to supplement our monies for this function we've already paid for."

Richard Oliver: "I'm not concerned with how the transition goes, we're concerned that it's happening at all."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Richard Oliver: "I mean it's a good explanation but I do not want this to happen- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "I understand. This resolution sets really 'til June 30<sup>th</sup>, if this- if we don't have any more success on June 30<sup>th</sup> than we have right now, this transfer of function will occur."

Richard Oliver: "Okay."

Supervisor Cardinale: "But it will occur with giving six months notice to the employees, it will occur with all of the computer and the radio dispatch issues resolved, not just in discussion.

But there is also the possibility and straight out that if we got an offer from the county to contract, that they would pay us for these- to contract for their obligation to provide these services, we would grab it. There is no question about that. But we just haven't received that offer."

Richard Oliver: "Okay. Well, again, it doesn't sound like it's coming but I'm going to give you a fresh perspective on this. Because I live- I've worked for the Riverhead police department 14 years. I live in Suffolk County. I've had the cause to call them four times, one 911, and three times just for police response.

You have no idea the colossal state that you're making in getting rid of your personal, your own personal dispatchers. Ninety percent of the people who call Riverhead police, from working in the radio room and the front desk, that call in here, either know one of the dispatchers or know one of the cops coming to the house.

It's not just answering the phone, getting who, what, when, where and why, punching into the computer, and sending it down to (inaudible) so it gets thrown into a line with everybody else.

You're talking to a dispatcher who knows probably the street and house and the color of the siding on the house that they're sending you to, knows the person and the prior history in the house.

Now the county has computers to access some of that information. But I'm telling you right now, living in the county, you have no idea what you've just done to yourself and what you've done to this town. And the first person up there that calls 911 and has to wait 18 minutes like I did when my wife was doubled over in pain and needed immediate surgery, the first time that happens here in Riverhead and you guys get sued, it's going to come back and bit you.

Because you guys know from working in this town, I'm talking to you two down there and Mr. Dunleavy, when 911 comes in here, before that thing even goes in the computer, there's an ambulance rolling and there's a copy going there. And the county does not like that. Okay?

On their-- on the worst day, emergency 911 or emergency domestic or emergency violence situation, I will put our response times up there against anybody's, anywhere in New York State and that comes right from the dispatcher, you can't say that with Suffolk County, and I know.

I've waited three hours to report a criminal mischief to my car. I waited four hours to report a criminal mischief to my mailbox. Again, I waited 18 minutes for a police officer to get there and another seven minutes after that for the ambulance. I almost took her to the hospital myself.

That's not going to happen, all right, if you guys keep the dispatchers. I'm telling you right now, you're worried about saving money? Wait until you get hit with a lawsuit."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, first of all, the lawsuit would be against the county who would be providing the service if they provide it poorly."

Richard Oliver: "Not if they were backtracking and find out you guys (inaudible)."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Secondly, the entire county other than the east end towns and the police district are served by this, so I believe that if they are as bad as you are saying, there's a public

policy issue which should be brought to light.

Thirdly, the- in Wading River, is it the ambulance, Tim? The ambulance corps is, in fact, dispatched by the county. So some of our citizens are at risk then, if you're right, some of our citizens are at risk now and this is good that we focus attention on this if you're right.

Thirdly- fourthly, there's no- if I had statistics other than anecdotes, I would love to be able to use them. I don't, from either the county or the state, the county or the town.

Fifthly, Mr. Buckley, who will be on the committee, has- with Ann Marie Prudenti, our town attorney, looked at the county system and in some- and the way that they can zero in on the spot that is- that they are dispatching the police to and has indicated that the system is, if anything, a more state of the art system than what we use in Riverhead.

So I- we are trying to make a decision based on facts but those are the facts we're getting and if they're wrong, we would like to know about it and that's another function of this period of six months. To make sure they're right."

Richard Oliver: "I work in Wading River. I can't remember the last time an ambulance- they're pretty good out there. But I can't remember the last time an ambulance beat me to a call.

The EMT's, all right, that are paid EMT's, paid paramedics that they've got there, same thing. Because it goes- as soon as they get the call- in the county what happens is they get the call, it is my understanding talking- knowing the county dispatchers, they get the call, they punch it into Suffolk County (inaudible). Suffolk County dispatches the ambulance. The dispatchers here get the call, the first- while one person's calling (inaudible), the other person is already sending us which is why we get there two, three, four, five minutes ahead of everybody else.

It's just--, and, again, if it comes down, and this is not an anecdote, this is you know from a cop who works in Wading River and deals with Suffolk County (inaudible). Nothing against Wading River. Their response time I'm sure is good, all right, but it can always be better if you cut out the middleman and that two, three, or four minutes, all right, that they're waiting for an ambulance, if you need advanced life support, if you need ALS, all right, a cop

with an AAD and an O2 bag, I'm sorry, is not going to cut it.

I'm just telling you. And it takes away from, again, everything I was saying before about having the personal response time and the personal dispatchers who know this town better than Suffolk County."

Supervisor Cardinale: "But isn't the distinction between the individual who is dispatching and the individual who is responding seems to be blending here.

The people who are responding are the same people, the police officers, the ambulance or the fire people. That's who is responding. And they know the community, they serve the community."

Richard Oliver: "Sure."

Supervisor Cardinale: "The dispatch function where you get a call and you get to those responders is the only thing we're talking about here and I would think that it is critical for the responder to know the community and the geography. It is nice for the dispatcher to know it but if they have the equipment that has been described to this board, they should be able to access it to know exactly where they need to respond to.

They have maps that light up. They have all sorts of state of the art equipment according to Mr. Buckley and Ann Marie Prudenti who viewed it.

But I am anxious to find out. We have six months to find out anything we can find out to make sure we're making a wise decision.

As far as the jobs, I want to make this point again. There are nine people involved here and we feel very strongly that, sympathetic towards them, but we don't need to be sympathetic.

The law of the state of New York assures when an entity such as a town conveys or transfers a function to an entity such as the county, who has already been paid incidentally to perform it, that these nine people, once this occurs whether on June 30<sup>th</sup>, will be the first nine people hired by the county for this function.

It's a separate list. It's a priority list. It's required by law. We will continue to work with Mr. Levy to try to make special arrangements for these people but we can't negotiate with ourselves

if he isn't responsive.

But they will be given the first nine jobs the county gives out in the dispatching function after this June 30<sup>th</sup> date and if we— if they elected to— if they see openings there that are available and wish us to do this earlier in their interest, we would be very happy to do it at any time it is most beneficial for them and I am still going to speak to Mr. LaMort who is head of the union, the CSEA union, and ask him to get me— help me to get an offer for contracting— for a contract service from the county.

There's nothing the matter with the county contracting with the locals to do this function. We generally— there's a very good argument to have that done."

Councilman Dunleavy: "I just want to add one thing. This six months that I suggested gives us a period to evaluate the response times by the county. We can go there and sit— we have no statistics and no one keeps any records, so you have to go there and sit and see how long it takes— "

Richard Oliver: "How long has this been going on?"

Councilman Dunleavy: "-- for somebody to respond. We can evaluate— this may not be any good for us in six months. But this gives us six months to do the evaluation and not make a fast decision and saying— two months from now saying, oh, we might have made a mistake.

We want to evaluate it. We want to make sure we're doing the right thing for the town, for the taxpayers, and for the police department."

Richard Oliver: "Don't you think maybe all that and the setting up their jobs, you know, once they got terminated could have been the priority ahead of time instead of, you know, waiting until, you know, the axe has already fallen, now let's work on it.

I mean, I know it's politics and everything else in duplicative government which I don't buy, Tim, I'm sorry.

I mean you're talking about getting statistics now. You've already terminated them. You've already— "

Councilman Dunleavy: "Well, we didn't. It's June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We've given them six months."

Richard Oliver: "Okay."

(Inaudible comments)

Councilman Wooten: "Meeting adjourned."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. The- thank you very much for your comment. Yes."

Lorraine Miller: "Lorraine Miller. I'd like to know how long the county has been charging for the 911 calls. How many years?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "It's been part of the tax base for more than 10 years."

Lorraine Miller: "And you've been in office for the past six years and you wait 'til now to start asking for the money back?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "We have only become aware of it now and immediately upon becoming aware of it, it was my obligation to make it a public issue."

Lorraine Miller: "You only became aware of it- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "The public issue was debated and four people out of this board have decided we can't pay twice for the same service."

Lorraine Miller: "How did it come to light just out of the clear blue- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "It came to light by the review of the 01 budget for the county which we don't necessarily review but happened to have occasion to review in an unrelated manner, and we saw that we were paying for this service.

And we said what are we paying for there and paying dispatchers as well for and that discussion began at least eight, ten months ago and it's been discussed by the board, it's been discussed in public as we looked at these issues.

And I've had Ann Marie Prudenti, Tim Buckley, and others review this for the board and there is a policy decision being made here

and that's basically what it says.

That we're authorized to transfer the function as of a certain date. And the knowledge that we have to continue for more than six months in paying for the service twice is unfair to the taxpayers of the town, particularly since these people are assured by law that they're the next nine people being hired by the county in this function."

Lorraine Miller: "And you'll get that in writing?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "I have it in writing. It's section 70 subdivision 2 of the civil service- "

Lorraine Miller: "And they're going to guarantee that all these dispatchers are going to go to Suffolk County?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "It is absolutely guaranteed by New York State Law section 70.2- "

Lorraine Miller: "I'm not talking New York State law. I'm talking about the county of Suffolk."

Councilwoman Blass: "If they're hiring. They're the ones."

Councilman Dunleavy: "If they're hiring."

Lorraine Miller: "It has to be a definite. You're just saying it's a definite, but it's not a definite."

Supervisor Cardinale: "It is a definite. They can't hire anybody but these nine people."

Councilman Wooten: "It is a definite. They can't hire anybody but that list first."

Councilman Dunleavy: "They go on a preferred list, a four year list. So within the four years if they hire- "

Lorraine Miller: "So if they got hired, they're going to come live with you, John, because they can't afford to stay here? I mean as you say, all right, two of the dispatchers, they can retire, they have enough years in to retire. They retire, who's going to take their place? The only people that can take their place is another PSD or a police officer. Who's going to pay that overtime?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "The- you're talking about during the next six months?"

Lorraine Miller: "Yes, sir."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, I would hope that because the board was thoughtful and considerate enough to give the six month leeway, we- if we- we expect people to do their job when they come to their job and- "

Lorraine Miller: "I'm not saying they don't, but if they retire, you can't stop anybody from retiring."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Fine. If they retire, they have every right to retire. That means that we're only affecting seven people, not nine and that's- "

Lorraine Miller: "Yeah. But you're also affecting the- everything else that you're saying that you're trying to save money on. And if you're trying to save money and getting a double- because you're paying it to the county. It doesn't come to your taxes, it comes through your cell phone, it comes to your land line phones, the \$.50 a line that you charge."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Any person- any person that retires has a right to retire from their employment and they don't have to tell us. They just simply notify us they're retiring. And we have to pay them benefits that they're due."

Councilman Wooten: "It's not funded through E-991 either, Lorraine, it's not. The- "

Lorraine Miller: "It's on my phone bill. Is it on yours?"

Councilman Wooten: "The E-991- the E-911 money doesn't fund that 01 fund. That pays for what the town gets between 40 and \$80,000 a year, it pays for the laptop computers in the police cars, it's for communication with the county system. That's what the E-911 money pays for. It doesn't pay for salaries."

Lorraine Miller: "You don't think you get more than 40,000 a year from- "

Councilman Wooten: "We get from between 40 and 90. It depends. It's whether they play."

Supervisor Cardinale: "But this dispatch function is funded by our county tax under the county 01 fund."

Lorraine Miller: "Okay. So, like, now you're saying you don't have anything concrete as far as these PSD's being hired by the county. There is nothing in writing?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "There is-- we had sat-- this board sat with the Civil Service-- principal analyst of the Civil Service at the last work session and we went over with him the section of law and he assured us and-- that the law is what it says.

That the moment we transfer the function which could be-- was to have been January 1<sup>st</sup> and now is June 30<sup>th</sup>, the moment that happens that we transfer the function, the list is created with these names in seniority order and those people are the only people the Sheriff dispatch office or the police dispatch office of Suffolk County can hire from until that list is exhausted.

So the first job is offered to the first person on the list. All right?"

Lorraine Miller: "Okay, I understand that concept of what you're talking."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Rule of one for four years, rule of one for four years. By law. I don't need to negotiate with Levy about that. He's got to do it because he and I are both bound by the law of New York State, like all of us.

So we don't need to negotiate with him. So we-- they're fully protected, they're on the list, they're the first nine people to get hired."

Lorraine Miller: "So what's to prevent the county-- all right, you said the other night that the Sheriff's department had three PSD's open-- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Right."

Lorraine Miller: "-- openings. Our PSD's aren't on this preferred list as we speak so they could turn around and hire three people and before June 30<sup>th</sup> they can have-- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Let me point this out to you. Once

the- there are numerous vacant positions in the dispatching function, sheriff and police. There are at least three we are advised by the same gentleman that have been signed off by Levy for hire in the sheriff's office."

Councilman Buckley: "Phil, this is- I got off the phone with Chief Sharkey (phonetic) of the sheriff's department a couple hours ago who indicated they're filling those three slots shortly, before January 1<sup>st</sup>."

Lorraine Miller: "Sure. I'm sure."

Councilman Buckley: "Before January 1<sup>st</sup>."

(Inaudible comment)

Councilman Buckley: "But you would not have been eligible for it no matter what because they're filling them within the next few days."

Supervisor Cardinale: "All right. Now, if- would you please indicate what you did."

Councilman Buckley: "We did speak with the union representative yesterday and that was the decision that we had to make. If this was going to happen, are we going to have it happen on January 1<sup>st</sup> whereupon January 1<sup>st</sup> everyone would be placed on a preferred list. Or make it happen on June 30<sup>th</sup> where you would not be placed on a preferred list until June 30<sup>th</sup>. That was a decision- "

Lorraine Miller: "There are positions that are available in the county that just came out in the newspaper today- "

Councilman Buckley: "Which ones?"

Lorraine Miller: "-- they said the legislature overrode (inaudible)."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah."

Lorraine Miller: "We're not eligible for that either."

Councilman Buckley: "Do you want to speak up, Matt?"

Councilman Wooten: "Well we could amend it to make it January 1<sup>st</sup>."

Councilman Dunleavy: "We can amend it to make it January 1<sup>st</sup> and then you'll be eligible to be hired by the county January 1<sup>st</sup>."

Councilman Buckley: "But I don't want you to think— there was reasoning behind this and we took this into consideration and it was. It was— are we going to do it on January 1<sup>st</sup>, are we going to do it on June 1<sup>st</sup>. There were tradeoffs on both ends."

Councilman Dunleavy: "If everybody wants to amend this, we will amend it. We want to help everybody. So what helps, we will do."

Councilman Wooten: "Now I didn't vote in favor of the transfer for a lot of reasons, most of it public safety, and I know how well you dispatch.

But I did agree to the second resolution for the addition of the funds to pay for six months. That give us time to make sure that it goes seamless, if it goes at all. But I felt for the employees, January 1 you're going to get additional vacation time, sick time, personal time, comp hours, whatever you can save for six months which will help in case we can't sustain you after that date or you don't get picked up right away by the county of a preferred list in July.

So at least you would have some sort of nest egg as you would say to help ease whatever pain there may be.

As hard as it was for me to vote yes to that— to holding those funds over, I still didn't want the transfer go through. But it was the best compromise this time so it didn't happen January 1<sup>st</sup>."

Councilman Buckley: "And to buy us time to negotiate with the county. And I'm not even looking for a check from the county. I'll look at the county just to agree not to charge us for these funds that we provide ourselves. That would be fine.

I'm not looking for them— if we're looking for a check from them, I'm not necessarily looking for a check. Just stop charging us for something that we provide ourselves."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

Candy Ulmet: "So from January 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup>, you want us to be strung along yet again, after being strung along for the last two months. Is that what you're saying?"

Councilman Wooten: "I wouldn't string along."

Candy Ulmet: "By the way, thank you, Jim, for your vote."

Councilman Wooten: "You're welcome. I think you should (inaudible)."

Candy Ulmet: "You don't expect us, all of us to go looking for another job and if we do, let's just say five of us find another job in two weeks, please, what is that going to do for the residents of Riverhead tax dollars when you're going to have to put five police officers in there at twice the salary?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "We are- it's not good but we are willing to do that to accommodate the humane considerations of the dispatchers. If you prefer we not do it, please let me know."

Candy Ulmet: "No. You have to do what you have to do and we're going to have to do what we're going to have to do."

Supervisor Cardinale: "This is an accommodation to make the transition more easy for the employee. So, yeah, it may well cost- we've budgeted- did you see the budget that we passed- a 625,000 for the first six months. That's what we have budgeted out of the savings of this town to make this transition as less difficult for the employees."

Now I don't want to get blamed by you for doing this by stringing you along. If you prefer that we simply do it January 1<sup>st</sup>, that would be fine."

Candy Ulmet: "No, I don't. But it just seems like we're going to be- we're going to work another six months for this, not knowing whether we're going to have a job in June?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "We understand that you would seek other jobs in the interval. We understand that you want to be on the priority list."

Candy Ulmet: "What does that do for the taxpayers?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "They'll- that's why we budgeted \$100,000 in overtime for the first six months and that's why we weren't- that's why two of us felt strongly that we should make the move as quickly as possible in the interests of the taxpayer.

But the general nature was let's do- at least make the transition at some expense to the taxpayer, somewhat more expensive because overall we're going to be taking out about \$900,000 from the budget on an annual basis.

So if we spend another \$50,000 in overtime in the six months, it's a gesture to the employees for their service.

So I can't imagine why you would think that that would not be a positive thing that this board has done.

If you get a job offer tomorrow, you're going to take it, I know that."

Candy Ulmet: "You're right."

Supervisor Cardinale: "And I would, too. I want to make it clear that this decision today, although we will look- we will negotiate with the county who won't talk to us about either giving us money or not taxing us in the first place for this and working out other things.

The truth is that this is a policy decision, four out of five members of the board felt that we cannot ask the taxpayers to pay twice for the same service.

So I think what you need to do is take it as that and get- use these six months as best possible for your uses.

If you could get a job tomorrow, I would take it if I were you."

(Inaudible comment)

Candy Ulmet: "Yeah. Are you going to pay me for the last 15 years I've been paying twice?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "What I am going to do when you leave, we have \$110,000 funded for your benefits as you leave. That's part of that 650,000."

Candy Ulmet: "I didn't ask that question. My question is I've been paying twice- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah. And so has everybody else in this town and the only- and the first supervisor and the first board to take a look at it and to try and stop it is this board."

Candy Ulmet: "That's not true because for three years we've been hearing rumor that we will lose our jobs."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's this board."

Candy Ulmet: "Three years."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, I will tell you that it has been less than- about a year since this board started reviewing this issue and seeing that we were paying twice. I think, John, you brought it to our attention when you were looking at the 01 budget."

Candy Ulmet: "But doesn't that 01 budget include three secretaries in the record room and the chief's secretary?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "No."

Candy Ulmet: "That's how I read it."

Supervisor Cardinale: "We are certainly looking at- what the 01 budget says is that the county is supposed to be paying for the payroll and personnel function of the police departments in the county including ours and that's the next move, is to take a look at how- and that's why Mr. Buckley is correct."

That if they would just pull these things out and give us an offset for what they're taking out in taxes, we'd be back to the system that we prefer. Which is that we provide those services.

But if they won't take it out and they're insisting upon charging us, we certainly cannot fail to take advantage of the services that we've had the taxpayer pay at the county level."

Candy Ulmet: "I have to tell you. You know what's mind boggling is the money that's been spent on the landfill."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That is mind boggling but that's also another issue."

Candy Ulmet: "It's mind boggling and- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "And that's the State of New York."

Candy Ulmet: "-- the money that's spent to keep a family out of their home in Jamesport. It probably would have covered all nine of us."

Supervisor Cardinale: "If you knew the true facts on that matter which we're not allowed to speak of, you would not feel that way. Yes, Matt."

Matt Hattoff: "Matt Hattoff. Jim, I appreciate your support, thank you, Mr. Wooten.

Your transition committee- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

Matt Hattoff: "-- is that what you call them? I don't see any name in there where I feel that they're going to look after or try to assist the dispatchers. I would hope that we would try and get somebody in there that would- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Would you like to be on it?"

Matt Hattoff: "I would consider it."

Supervisor Cardinale: "I would like you to be on it, and so would the board, I think."

Matt Hattoff: "The other thing- then why wasn't I asked? Why do I have to come here and ask?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "I don't know. Because it's a time constraint, we have to pass this by today. And it's 5:00. Maybe that's it."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Anyway if you would like to suggest (inaudible)."

Matt Hattoff: "What I would also like is that maybe we sit down with civil service and we try to establish a preferred list

knowing that there is a possible end to their employment with the town where we can get it done early. Should something open up, they could transfer over to the county and not lose their jobs."

Councilwoman Blass: "I asked that question, we did."

Councilman Wooten: "We asked that question."

Supervisor Cardinale: "The preferred list, according to the principal analyst who spoke to us is created the moment the function is transferred. So if you are prepared to transfer the function, you've got a preferred list tomorrow and we're prepared to cooperate."

You want to do it tomorrow, you want to do it January 1<sup>st</sup>, you want to do it February 1<sup>st</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, whatever day you want. But the preferred list doesn't get created under the law until the transfer of the function.

So you can't- we're trying to give you enough time to prepare for the transfer of the function and we asked you that question yesterday because if you miss jobs between January and July that- as far as we know the law works. Maybe you prefer to do this more quickly so that those jobs would be available."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Like the county is going to hire within the next month. Am I correct, Tim?"

Councilman Buckley: "Yes."

Councilman Dunleavy: "If we want to hire three of our dispatchers, we would have to transfer the dispatching over to the county within a week so they can get on that preferred list and they'll be- the three of them will at least be hired next month."

Matt Hattoff: "But there's no doubt that the county is in a hurry to get this done because they already have who they want for those three jobs. I'm sure of that and that's why there's a big push with the county."

This additional six months, it does sound like I believe it was Mr. Oliver said was that this is more so you can get all your- yes, all your ducks in a row and eliminate these jobs.

And I just- I would hope that we could negotiate with the

county, the union with the town, to put these people back into the budget and put this issue to bed."

Supervisor Cardinale: "I would be glad to do that. I said I talked to LaMort today about that. He's had as much success as I've had. If you can have more, I'd be glad for you to talk to Mr. Levy.

We- LaMort has actually spoken, the president of your union has spoken to Levy at my request, and Levy has not been responsive. But that doesn't mean that he won't be responsive and I'm hopeful that he'll change his tune.

And I would work very, very avidly with you and Nick and anybody else to do whatever we can to get the function kept here without having to pay twice for it. That's the only thing I'm trying- that this board is trying to avoid.

So, my door is open if you want to tell me how we're going to do this. I told LaMort when he was here last time I need his help, he was kind enough to respond by trying and he reported today that he was not successful in his initial effort."

Matt Hattoff: "All right. Well, we will definitely chat within the next couple of weeks."

Supervisor Cardinale: "I would like that sincerely."

Matt Hattoff: "I- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "How about tomorrow? I'll be there and tomorrow morning I'd be glad to sit down with you. Whatever we can do to help we will and I think we can do something if we get enough pressure on the county.

They can't collect for something, not provide the service and go merrily along without the town of Riverhead on behalf of its taxpayer protesting."

Matt Hattoff: "I totally understand that but I don't think we should try and bully the county at the expense of the employees that we represent, that I represent-- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "The county is bullying us."

Matt Hattoff: "-- into paying."

Supervisor Cardinale: "The county is bullying us. They're collecting money and they're saying you want the service, come and get it. So we're matching their bluff. We're saying, okay, we want it."

And incidentally the law requires you to hire our people. You don't hire anybody until you hire our people. That's what the law says. And that's what we're demanding.

If we can get anything more out of them, even less out of them, but some other- they won't offer anything else other than that at this moment. If we could get something out of them, as Tim says, we will not collect for this function, fine, good, we'll keep it.

We will send you a check even if it's not reflective of the entire amount but it's substantial. Fine. But right now we're having a discussion with the wall because they're not responding.

They're saying we're not happy that you have finally figured out that you're getting suckered and we're not going to cooperate with you because we want to believe that you'll chicken out and walk away from this.

Well, Levy isn't walking away from his claim against the state for the cops and the town of Riverhead apparently is not walking away from this either."

Matt Hattoff: "And how come- doesn't- has it come to mind that why haven't any of the east end towns jumped on this bandwagon?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "No. But there is a meeting at which it will be a topic on December 17<sup>th</sup> with east end supervisor and village mayor association.

I am frankly- I think part of it is that not everybody- we didn't know and I don't think they knew until the publicity hit this issue, that they're getting charged for this in the county budget."

Matt Hattoff: "No, they know but they- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "They know now."

Matt Hattoff: "They keep the taxpayer at- they're worried about the taxpayer and not necessarily the tax bill and that really

is said, Phil. You know it goes back to putting Riverhead first and I don't think you are."

Supervisor Cardinale: "But worrying about the tax bill is worrying about the taxpayer and if there's a definition of malpractice, it's paying twice for the same service and asking the taxpayer to fund it twice.

Yes."

Dana Griffiths: "Dana Griffiths. I just want to make sure I'm understanding this correctly. Numerous times you've said that you've tried to contact the county, you've tried to communicate well with them and they're not responding.

And these are the same people that you want to put in charge of dispatching police and ambulance to residents of your town."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's correct. Yeah. And the reason is because they have obligations under the law.

When I said they're not responding, they're not making any-cutting any deal with the town of Riverhead other than what the law entitles the town of Riverhead to.

And what it entitles the town of Riverhead to is that the dispatch function be run according to state standards."

Dana Griffiths: "All right. You keep quoting that, it's all well and good."

Supervisor Cardinale: "It has to be run."

Dana Griffiths: "What I'm trying to understand is numerous times you said that they don't communicate on this basis, contract basis, money basis, Levy won't communicate and these are the same people that you want to ensure the safety of your family, your family and your family."

Supervisor Cardinale: "They're not negotiating."

Dana Griffiths: "Myself as a police officer on the streets knowing that my dispatchers have my back because I'll tell you right now, the county, I've dealt with them, it's not about response time. It's about getting the dispatch response time.

You can't get that. You can't make that up. These guys are on the phone, they get people there when they need them. The county, they don't. And there's no statistics that you're going to be able to look up and you're going to be able to fix that."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, it's true."

Dana Griffiths: "You've got nine jobs, it's not nine jobs. It's the police department, it's the town, it's numerous times that anybody in this town hall has called for service, anything you want, you get. You're not going to get that anymore. That service won't be provided through those dispatchers."

The county doesn't provide services that we provide that these dispatchers go above and beyond to help anybody in this town, no matter who they are."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well I expect the county to help everybody that calls. I expect them pursuant to state law to pick up the phone within 10 seconds because if they don't they're going to have problems with state audits."

Every dispatch phone has to be picked up within 10 seconds, that phone, and after they pick it up they have an obligation to dispatch the call. Then when the police officer gets it, he has an obligation to get to the scene or the ambulance. And I expect that to happen."

When I say the county isn't cooperating, I'm saying that the county is non-negotiating. Their saying you're going to get what you're entitled to now that you've asked for it. The dispatch function and you're going to get the dispatch function and you're going to get a priority list that we're not going to hire any other dispatcher except your people for the first nine people hired after the transfer takes place."

We're not going to give you anything more than what the law requires us to give you. It would be nice if they give us more, but if I'm Levy, maybe I'd take the same position. I'm going to give you what the law entitles you to."

Dana Griffiths: "I do live in the town of Riverhead. I haven't really had to dial 911 and, Jim, I'm very proud of you for actually considering the safety of your residents. Because if we go county, they're not going to be safe."

And our police officers may not be safe as well because they don't know the situation and they don't have the familiarity with the town and the people and the unsafe conditions in certain areas or not in certain areas or in my instance I've been off the road for three years and the dispatchers know that.

I'm finally back on the road, they know if I'm in Wading River, they're going to have to give me a cross street because they want me to get there as quick as possible for the people of Riverhead.

You're not going to get that and, Jim, I thank you for voting yes and being strong for your police department and your town. Everybody else, I'm very disappointed."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. Yes, any other comment?"

Erin Chester: "Hi. Erin Chester. Has there been any consideration about possibly subsidizing the county tax that we pay for the communications services out of Suffolk County police that we do utilize?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "When you say subsidizing, how do you mean?"

Erin Chester: "We do utilize some communications functions from Suffolk County police department now. Has there been any consideration of subsidizing, maybe lessening the amount of tax that we pay Suffolk County police department for communication services?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "No, but that's what Tim said basically when he said that one of the things that he'll investigate as a member of this committee, is whether if they're not going to give you a check back to pay for the service, contract for us to provide it, would they stop collecting whatever they're collecting. That would be sufficient as well.

I don't even know what the number is. But they're collecting now for communication service- dispatch service, and they're not providing it."

Erin Chester: "You have a list of exactly where each taxpayer's dollar is going to Suffolk County police department to say that they're overpaying for communication services?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "We're not saying we're over- we're

saying that we're not getting the— they pass a budget and they say they're taxing every member of the county including this town's residents, 32,000 of them, for a dispatch function.

They— what it costs them for the dispatch function, we don't know those numbers. But we do know that they're paying— they're charging 32,000 people a tax. And what we're saying to you is that if they said we won't charge that tax, we would pass another resolution.

If they said they would— they will charge the tax but they would hire us back, we would pass another resolution voiding this one. But they're not willing to do either of those things.

They're not willing to stop taking the tax and they're not willing to hire us back to perform the service.

So we're nowhere except where we are."

Erin Chester: "How do we know it's such a gross amount that you guys are willing to put nine people out of a job in six months? How do you know what the people are paying in county tax amounts to \$2.00 per household?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "We know that what they're paying in town tax is \$910,000 which is four and a half percent of the town budget that we're avoiding having to pay for by adding— giving the function back to the county which is supposed to be doing it in the first place."

Erin Chester: "I think considering we're going to end up losing our jobs in six months, that you should be able to provide us information on what the taxpayers of Riverhead are paying for county communications."

Supervisor Cardinale: "What they're paying for town, I can tell you, \$910,000."

Erin Chester: "Then how do you know we're paying for county communications?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "It doesn't— what I'm saying is that we are duplicating— "

Erin Chester: "Can I just explain to you what we're using in

county communications. They dispatch helicopters for searches. They dispatch helicopters for boat accidents, med-evac. You can't get a hold of anybody for a homicide detective, an arson detective, motor carrier, emergency services for the anthrax scare that we used to have. Motor carrier for large motor vehicle accidents involving big trucks. We can't get a hold of anybody by phone.

We utilize their communications center. In most cases, we don't even try the direct phone number. We utilize their communication center to get these units for us. Those are the communications functions that we are using that the taxpayers of Riverhead are paying for."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Right. And they're also paying for you and they don't have to."

Erin Chester: "Absolutely."

Supervisor Cardinale: "And they don't have to pay for those—the county has made it very clear that the jobs that are being done by the dispatchers of this town for \$910,000 annually will be done without any further charge by the county.

If there is an argument— I've always acknowledged that it's legitimate, I'm just— that if you're doing a better job and you want to pay the 910,000 as is the position of Mr. Wooten, that's certainly a reasonable position.

But the public has got to know that they're paying twice. My bet is that having now known that they're paying twice, first of all, I don't have to— four people on this board feel now that we're paying twice, it is essential that we not do that and, therefore, transfer the function, save the 910,000, not to do the function twice.

That's the only policy decision that's being made."

Erin Chester: "Why can't we provide the numbers to the public? Why can't we provide what they're paying for Riverhead town communications and what they're additionally paying for Suffolk County— "

Councilman Wooten: "It's on their tax bill."

Supervisor Cardinale: "It's on the— "

Councilman Wooten: "It's on the tax bill."

Erin Chester: "I've never seen it on my tax bill."

Councilman Wooten: "You don't have a Suffolk County tax bill? I do."

Erin Chester: "Yeah, it says Suffolk County general tax."

Councilman Wooten: "That's what the 01 fund is, general tax."

Erin Chester: "Is all of that money going to Suffolk County communications?"

Councilman Wooten: "There's a whole list what the 01 fund goes to."

Erin Chester: "Exactly."

Supervisor Cardinale: "It doesn't make a difference because the 910 is what you're saving. Whatever the county is paying, I don't care. If they're paying a million and a half, I'm happy because they're already charging me for it. It doesn't make any difference. What I know we're saving is \$910,000- "

Erin Chester: "But wouldn't that be up to the taxpayers though. If they want to keep us in the town of Riverhead, shouldn't they be the ones to really- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah. But the point is that four of the taxpayers' representatives just said they're not prepared to face the taxpayers and pay twice for that service, particularly in light of the fact that the law guarantees you're going to be the next nine people hired by the county."

Erin Chester: "Well, what the taxpayers are paying for in the county for the functions that we utilize them for, whether we use them five times a year or 5,000 times a year, those are the services that they're getting through the county. And they're getting the personal attention that we provide the town as dispatchers."

We follow every call from beginning to end. There's no holes in any calls that any of us have ever taken."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. I- "

Erin Chester: "We don't do a 2% better job than the county. We do 150% better job than the county."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's- I appreciate that and I'm sure you do a great job."

Erin Chester: "And I really hope that the retired officers that are on the board realize that and they know just from their own experiences with us. It's worth \$910,000. We're worth \$2,000,000."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Like I said, this is a hard decision. But with the economic times we're in, things have to be done and we have to look at where our taxpayers money are going. And it's something that we have to look at."

We're giving ourselves six months to look at it. At the end of six months, we may say, oh, we have to hire additional people for the police department to do all this stuff, it may not be worth doing in June 30<sup>th</sup>. But it give us time to look at it and see where we're going."

Erin Chester: "So if it turns out that the county tax is eliminated for communications over at Suffolk County police department, what's going to happen when we need dispatch from their jurisdiction to dispatch certain units out to our jurisdiction? Are we going to hire emergency services, homicide detectives, bomb squad detectives and start training people we need on the road for all these services?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "There are two budgets, one is the 01 budget, one is the 15 budget. If you use services in the 15 budget, you don't pay for them. They either provide them to you at a price or as a courtesy. Those are the specialized services."

So yeah if you don't have the specialized service and you need it, you ask the county to provide it and if they provide it without charge you're fortunate. If they charge you for it, they charge you for it."

Councilman Dunleavy: "But all the special services are in the 01 budget. They owe it to us. Anti-bias, homicide, major crime, the helicopters, they're all in the 01 budget and they have to supply that to us."

The 15 budget, it's your general patrol force, your detective

divisions, that's the Suffolk County police district pays for those. The 01 budget for the specialized, everyone in the county pays for that. So we can utilize anything in the 01 budget.

Some things we don't utilize. We don't utilize their personnel department, we don't utilize their payroll, but we do utilize investigations for hiring. We should use the medical division, too. That somebody goes out sick in our police department, instead of us investigating it, we should hire their medical division to investigate it.

So I mean these are things that are in the 01 budget that we've have to look at and see where we can get the most services for the town of Riverhead out of that budget that we pay for.

So, yes, do we pay communications? We do. Can the county tell us how much we pay? They can't because it's all lumped into the 01 and that's distributed county-wide per specialized division that's in headquarters."

Erin Chester: "So basically as it runs down the line in Suffolk County police department, it could actually turn out over some years that communication doesn't actually get any money from our taxes?"

Councilman Dunleavy: "No. They do get money from our taxes. We don't know how much they get though."

Erin Chester: "How do you know? It could be a dollar a year."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Because they're in the 01 section. The 01 section is- "

Erin Chester: (Inaudible)

Councilman Wooten: "You're not understanding. Erin, you're not understanding. It's a general tax that goes into the general county fund. Out of that general county fund, the 01 fund, are a list of services. Dispatching happens to be one of them. Is it a line by line item? No it's not. It's just a general collection- and services that they provide for that tax--."

Erin Chester: "Is it going to be actively worked on to eliminate communications from that list? So we can keep our jobs."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

Erin Chester: "Okay."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes. That's one of the things that- "

Councilman Wooten: "I'd like to get it off that list if it can come up with a number that would- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's one of the things we've already indicated we would be very happy to see happen. Yes."

Erin Chester: "What I would like to also find out, just in our communication center, is to find out if they're able to provide any kind of percentages as to what- how much communications gets from our tax dollars. I would really like to know that. If they are able to provide any kind of percentage whatsoever. It would be good for us to know and good for the taxpayers to know exactly what they're paying for and exactly what they're paying for with us."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Erin Chester: (Inaudible)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Mr. Buckley is going to be on that committee and we hope that there will be a representative from the union on the committee that maybe Mr. Hattoff would like to name."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Or he can appoint somebody."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah. Name or appoint. We would be glad to have a union rep. We are trying to use the six month period for the benefit of the employee.

Anybody else have a comment?"

Tanya Newman: "Tanya Newman. I've been a dispatcher for 10 years and (inaudible). I got the job 10 years ago because I wanted to work for Riverhead. And now you all got raises this year, didn't you, .9%, correct? You didn't, you did? Yes, you did. And now I have no job- well, you didn't but there was a resolution for you all to get raises and not to- and you hired people, didn't you?"

I sat at the table with you, Supervisor Cardinale. You said no one will be hired this year. There will be no police officers

hired. No one will get a raise."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That was my tentative budget. Yes."

Tanya Newman: "Correct. So now there's nine of us that could not have a job in six months. Correct?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's possible. Yes, and they'd also be on the- "

Tanya Newman: "And we're strung along- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, wait a minute. If you don't want to be strung- the priority list occurs when we do the transfer. Tell us when you'd like the transfer."

Tanya Newman: "I understand the priority list."

(Inaudible comment)

Tanya Newman: "Right. And nobody- we say right here with you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "My tentative budget calls for no raises for anybody, department heads, management. I've also- "

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, first of all, we're talking about a tentative budget for 09. The tentative budget for 09 calls for no raises for anyone, freeze, for any non-union personnel. Freeze on hirings and the- and raise the issue of the dispatchers, the duplicative payment for the dispatch function.

The board as of right now, they passed the resolution- the amendments that they- that the town board felt were wise. That it becomes part of the budget. But, that's right, unfortunately I'm not the only vote on this board."

Tanya Newman: "I understand."

Supervisor Cardinale: "But if I had, the board- "

Tanya Newman: "Did you get a raise?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "I have indicated-- look, don't give me this nonsense about raises. I gave back-- "

Tanya Newman: "I may not have a job."

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- to the county \$17,000 of my raise last year. I'm going to give them the \$2,000 I'm getting this year, yeah, so yeah, that's the 1.9%. So let's cut the nonsense. I didn't take a raise and gave back 17 grand to the town last year and you can tell me thank you now. And I'm giving back \$2,000 of this raise. So let's not talk about that.

Let's talk about how we can make this transition to avoid the taxpayer paying twice for the same function as less difficult as possible.

Somebody get-- if somebody-- if I get some help from your union in negotiating with the county, I would appreciate it, because I'd like nothing better than protect your jobs. But I can't pay twice for the same function, particularly since you people are going to be guaranteed a job at the level that we already paid the county. So that's what I'm asking you to help me with."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "You're on the list for four years. They have to hire you before they hire anyone else. They lose 10% of their dispatchers every year. Attrition alone is 40% of their workforce. Believe me, you'll have a job offer."

(Inaudible comment)

Matt Hattoff: "Phil, I just checked my calendar. Tomorrow I'm not around, I'm out of town. I'm telling you now so I don't have to hear later on you didn't call me."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. When do you want to see me?"

Matt Hattoff: "I will be in touch with you on Monday."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Great."

Matt Hattoff: "And we'll make an appointment."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Good. And I appreciate that. I look

forward to it and please think about who you want on this committee and think about us talking to LaMort on Monday if he's available."

Matt Hattoff: "I put a call out to Nick today. Apparently you heard from him, I hadn't."

Supervisor Cardinale: "I did."

Matt Hattoff: "I do expect to hear from him tomorrow."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah, he's traveling he said. That's probably why he couldn't get back to you."

Councilwoman Blass: "I just want to add that when we say that the county has been non-communicative or non-responsive or whatever, John and I spent probably at least a half an hour with Legislator Romaine who is working at the county level as an advocate and I pledged to you before that we were going to do everything we can and I stand by that pledge. We are still going to do everything we can."

And with respect to a temporary or the section- is it law or is it civil service law or is it New York State law?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Civil service law."

Councilwoman Blass: "It's civil service law. Is that- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "70, subdivision 2."

Councilwoman Blass: "Is that something that can be amended by what- by anything?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "By the state."

Councilwoman Blass: "By the state. Okay. There's maybe another avenue to pursue but we are going to pursue anything and everything and I believe that the lines of communication are very much open with the county of Suffolk."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Anything- "

Councilwoman Blass: "I didn't hear what you said. I'm sorry."

(Inaudible comment)

Councilwoman Blass: "We are pursuing that."

Supervisor Cardinale: "If there is any other comment, we'll take it. Otherwise I'm sure this discussion will continue for the next seven months and, hopefully, come to an acceptable conclusion for all. Yes, you have a comment?"

Eric Rudies: "Yes, Eric Rudies, PSD, one of the new guys here. I came, I was canvassed, I took this job, I was canvassed right after for the county. And I made a commitment when I was asked by Lt. Lessard that I would keep a commitment because the transition they had with dispatchers was out of control."

Supervisor Cardinale: "In other words, people weren't staying."

Eric Rudies: "Well, so my answer to him when I got the call to come back for my second interview, was that I would give 110% to this town if I got hired, right. I gave up that following week, I got a letter from Suffolk County. I gave that letter up because I made my commitment to this town, all right, which I would hope that you as a town board would have backed us nine which you're not except for one and we appreciate that."

I, like Police Officer Oliver, are under the watchful of Suffolk County E-911. I'm an assistant chief with Brentwood Fire and tell you the truth, it plainly sucks, excuse my language, but it does.

When you're on a phone and you call 911 and you've got to listen to a recording and you've got somebody there that's drowning or in a bad MVA or your house is being burglarized and you've got to listen to a recording, it stinks.

And you guys, the taxpayers of this town don't deserve it. Okay? And you'll find out firsthand when the first time you call 911 and you get that recording, what it's going to be like and you're going to say, well, that was the gamble.

You don't have two seconds on a gamble for somebody having a heart attack or your house on fire. Okay? So just keep that in mind, keep that gamble. All right, that 50-50 shot, Supervisor, keep it in mind. Okay?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Certainly, thank you. And, again, I'm open to seeing any background facts and statistics.

We did have a problem incidentally which I think you alluded to, that our dispatchers have not-- many of them we lose to other towns after a very short period of time and training. Which is part of the reason we were looking at this whole situation because we were having such difficulty retaining people.

Anyway, anybody have any other comment?"

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Any comments from anybody else? If so, please make it. If not, we'll adjourn."

Deborah Buyukdeniz: "You hired two people to be dispatchers knowing that they were going to be leaving this town. So there's two right there that you lost because you knew they were going to leave."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Certainly I didn't know it because I wouldn't have hired them."

Deborah Buyukdeniz: "Well they knew right there in their interview because it was stated right in the interview."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, the interviews are held by the police department-- police chief, and I don't think he informed us that he was hiring people that were going to leave."

Deborah Buyukdeniz: "So whoever the town board member that sat in that interview, they were aware that they were going to be leaving."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Why would we hire them?"

Deborah Buyukdeniz: "Exactly. Because you were so desperate to have somebody sitting in that radio room and not paying a police officer. That's why they were hired."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Well, that was odd. Anything else?"

Deborah Buyukdeniz: "And the other dispatchers that have

left, they moved out of state. I think- you actually lost one person to another town."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Deborah Buyukdeniz: "And everybody that's sitting here has declined to work for Suffolk County police because they wanted to work here."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, I appreciate that. I do understand from the police chief that- well, let's put it this way. I understand that he complains a lot about not having sufficient-- dispatchers have retired or resigned or quite and/or have to be replaced with overtime personnel. That's what he tells me. I don't know whether it's true or not but I know he's told me that a million times."

Councilwoman Blass: "And I also just wanted to say that this came- "

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "I hope their response time is fast because if it isn't, then we will complain."

Councilwoman Blass: "I did want to add one final comment though. We were sort of taken a little bit off guard as well inasmuch as there may have been conversations about this over the years."

I was surprised to see when we received the tentative budget that you were not included. That was a surprise to me. I can't speak for the rest of the board. But I do know that that decision while in the tentative budget had been made."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Yeah. It was also a surprise to me and that's why I wanted to go to June 30<sup>th</sup>."

(At this time, the CD ended)

Councilwoman Blass: "-- but I didn't know that that decision in the tentative budget had been made."

Councilman Dunleavy: "Yeah, it was also a surprise to me and that's why I wanted to go to June 30<sup>th</sup>.."

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Supervisor Cardinale: "Well, I appreciate the comments made. We'll certainly consider them and I hope you can help us to help you."

Unidentified: "In the budget, it was budgeted for 11 dispatchers. We have nine and we've never— I don't know if we've ever had 11. How many years have we been budgeted for 11 dispatchers and not had 11. So how much money has the town saved?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah. It's a legitimate point. You're right. Thank you."

I would like to adjourn and I'm sure the conversation will continue.

Thank you."

Meeting adjourned: 5:39 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Claire D. Mitchell".