STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF ORANGE
TOWN OF MONROE INFORMATIONAL SESSION

IN THE MATTER
OF
TOWN OF PALM TREE

Monroe Theatre
34 Millpond Parkway
Monroe, New York
October 18, 2017
7:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

MICHAEL McGINN, Moderator
Town of Monroe Councilman

ROCKLAND & ORANGE REPORTING
2 Congers Road
New City, New York 10956
(845) 634-4200
APPEARANCES:

JAMES PURCELL, Mayor  
Village of Monroe

STEPHEN WELLE, Mayor  
Village of Harriman

COLLEEN FARRELL,  
Deputy Mayor Village of Harriman

EMILY CONVERS,  
United Monroe

JOHN ALLEGRO,  
United Monroe

BILL COCHRAN, CPA  
RBT CPAs, LLP

TONY CARDONE, Acting Supervisor  
Town of Monroe

ELSIE RODRIGUEZ,  
Monroe Woodbury CSD Superintendent

PATRICK CAHILL,  
Monroe Woodbury CSD

JOEL PETLIN,  
Kiryas Joel SD Superintendent

DONALD FEERICK, ESQ.  
Special Counsel to Monroe
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(Whereupon the pledge of allegiance was recited.)

MR. McGINN: Welcome to the Town of Monroe Arts and Civic Center.

I'm just going to go through some quick safety evacuation information. There are exits here and here in the -- in the -- on the front of the auditorium. And in the back there is also exits that will lead to a fire stairwell that will take you out to street level. Same here and here. Do not take the elevator if there is evacuation due to a fire. All right?

Again, welcome to the public information session regarding the formation of the Town of -- referendum regarding the Town of Palm Tree. Sessions are broadcast on Channel 22, broadcast live tonight and it will also be rebroadcast and it will be posted on the Town website.

All right, I would like to introduce the guests here on the dais. From the Town of Monroe I have -- we have Councilman Rick Colon and Acting Supervisor Tony Cardone.
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And not present is Supervisor Harley Doles
and Councilman Gerry McQuade --

MR. CARDONE: McQuade is here.

MR. McGINN: Sorry, Gerry, didn't see
you there. From the Village of Monroe I have
Mayor James Purcell and Irene is not here.
And is anyone else from the --

MS. CONVERS: Debbie Behringer.

MR. McGINN: Debbie Behringer. Welcome,
Debbie. From the Village of Harriman I have
Mayor Steve Welle and Deputy Mayor Colleen
Farrell. I also have Trustees Bruce
Chichester and Sandy Daly. Welcome.

From the school districts I have
superintendent from Monroe Woodbury School
District, Elsie Rodriguez and Patrick Cahill,
welcome. And from Kiryas Joel School
District I have Superintendent Joel Petlin,
welcome. Professionals, I have the
accounting firm, Bill Cochran, Linda Hannigan
and Mike Turturro. I have our town attorney,
Donald Feerick. And from United Monroe, I
have Chairwoman Emily Convers and John
Allegro. Welcome to our panel.
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Okay we'll go through the guidelines. Presenters will be given 12 to 15 minutes with the exception of the accountants. Written questions that were previously submitted will be read first and directed to the appropriate representative. Similar questions will be grouped together in order to prevent repetition and conserve time. All questions submitted are available for public review at Town Hall. Verbal questions will be taken from the sign up sheet. Each person will have three minutes and must be a resident of the Town of Monroe. Please state your name and address. Those that have submitted written questions or asked questions verbally at the first session will not be allowed to do the same at the next meeting until all questions have been submitted are answered by those that haven't gotten a chance yet.

Questions will be directed to the Moderator and not to the Panelists and Respondents reserve the right to respectfully decline to answer questions. If this is the
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case the Moderator will move to the next person on the list.

For the Stenographer, please state your name, address, speak clearly, only one person speaking at a time, obviously, in order for her to obtain an accurate transcription.

Some ground rules of conduct. There will be no signs, no shouting out and no interrupting presenters and speakers. I have directed the videographer to film any person who becomes obstructive and I'll will use the video as evidentiary material for a criminal compliant. The Village of Monroe Police are on standby in the event that because necessary to remove or arrest anyone that interferes with these proceedings. Hopefully that is not the case, but forewarned is to be forearmed.

That being said, I would like to ask the accountant from RBT to come up and do their presentation. Bill Cochran.


Again, we are RBT CPAs. We did a
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presentation last week and covered a lot of material. Today we are probably not -- we are not going to get in as detailed as we did last week, all that can be found on YouTube and the whole presentation will be on YouTube.

But what we did find out in this last week was there seemed to be some confusion on some of the numbers and unbalances and how things, you know, worked out the way that they did. And if we weren't clear last week, that's the goal tonight. The goal tonight is to make sure we are all on the same page about what we estimate the impact to the Town of Monroe because of the new town being formed.

So with that I would like to go over the rate increase that we had last week and I'll just -- there we go -- the rate increase to the Town about $151.10, and the one to the Village of $145.66. That's the number you saw last week, right? That's the number you saw last week. What we didn't -- what we were not clear on was, that was your loss of
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property tax revenue.

Why is that important? In this last week we've gotten e-mails, phone calls and, you know, questions about, what about this? What about that? Remember in my presentation last week we said, can't do what ifs, there is too many what ifs that could happen. And I really wanted to stay away from estimates because estimates can go anyway in any form depending on whatever circumstances there are. So that is pretty much a solid number because how did we come up with that? Well, you talked to the tax assessor and they say, here is all your property, here is all the assessed values in the Town of Monroe, including what is in the Village of Monroe. Here it all is. Now I can put my finger on it and say, okay, out of that area -- which will be the Village, that is Village of KJ -- as well as the other acreage that is going to be taken over, give me the assessed values of those. Right? Know that number. She can give you a map. She can give you the listing. You take the two and take the
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difference. This is what the rate was before, this is going to be the rate after. That is where that came from. You had less assessed values. The bottom line is the Village is going away and this new town is going to be created that the Town of Monroe no longer receives property tax revenue. That's the bottom line.

So then if you look at, okay, what other revenues are in there? Like I discussed last week. You can look at the big three, right, property taxes, mortgage taxes and sales taxes. I mentioned last week on the mortgage tax, what the tax assessor told us was that the most mortgage tax received in 2016 was from the Village of Kiryas Joel, more mortgage tax came from that area than the rest of the Town. So what happens when the Village of Kiryas Joel goes away? Those mortgage taxes are no longer there. Now, that's still an estimate. Why is that still an estimate? What is going to happen next year? What is going to happen 10 years from now? It's the economy. But what we could do
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is say, okay, this is the number we could use reasonably. That number was not in there. That number was not in there. And you're going to see the next slide where it is.

Sales tax, information came after last week that made us question a few things. We reached out to other officials and the Town Board and they said, you know, we want to be -- we should show the public we want to be more conservative. Instead of us saying -- sorry, about that -- instead of us saying, this is the best we could come up with they wanted to say, you know, we want it to be in a more -- range. Here is the -- could be the low end, this could be the high end.

This next slide, total loss in revenues/expenses. What I said last week was, as of now what we have identified is about $169,000.00 worth of savings and expenses. Could be more. It probably will be more. So last week this is the first time the public had a chance to digest some of the information that is out there, the information that could affect how property
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Taxes would change. So now the Board, the public, have a long road ahead of them to negotiate these, you know, things that are going to help keep that tax rate steady. But that's a high end, that includes your mortgage tax loss, your real estate tax loss and some other revenues.

For instance, let's just take Dial-A-Bus. Dial-A-Bus has a certain route, they go down this route, right? They say, okay, pick this person up, pick that person up, whatever. But they also get federal funds per rider, right? So the federal government says, here, for you doing these riders here, we are going to give you this money. A lot of those riders are not in the Town of Monroe so we said, okay, they would lose that federal revenue. That's where some of those other revenues are coming from, but your big ones are property taxes and mortgage taxes.

Now, the term I want to use tonight is, this could be what could happen. I'm not going to say this is what is going to happen,
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it could happen. Is your rate could be for the Town $210.00 increase. For the Village it could be $205.00 increase, right? But, again, it's estimates. And your officials and the Town Board and the conversations we had since last week, they want to be very conservative so that is where we sit for a high estimate and that's where we sit for a low estimate. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, Bill.

Okay, the next presenters will be United Monroe.

MR. ALLEGRO: Hi, I'm John Allegro. I live at 288 Seven Springs Mountain Road. I just wanted to take couple of minutes to tell you about why I got involved in this negotiation to settle a lawsuit -- or lawsuits between Preserve Hudson Valley, which I'm also a board member of, and the Village of Kiryas Joel. And why I felt as though the agreement to settle these lawsuits are good, good for the town. And why we felt as though -- or I felt as though the proposed separation of Kiryas Joel with the new
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reduced acreage of just 56 six acres more than 164 that was given -- or granted to Kiryas Joel from the Monroe -- previous Monroe Town Board, why I believe this is what I would call an endorsable situation.

I know -- I know that perpetual war with the growing Kiryas Joel bloc is unsustainable. I know -- and this is a guaranteed certain fact -- that within X amount of years the population of Kiryas Joel will increase by X thousands amount of people. And I know that the KJ population, the voting population, will out number that of the rest of the Town of Monroe within three years. And I know that this means that the Monroe Town Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Planning Board will all be chosen by that bloc vote as soon as that population -- that voting population increases.

I know that ceding control of 13,000 acres of Monroe to a community which aspires to live in an urban setting is unsustainable and harmful to our community,
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the rest of Monroe, and our aspirations to
live in a suburban and rural environment.
And it's also bad for our neighboring
communities. I also know that a policy of
appeasement by granting annexations and suing
for the benefit of private petitioners such
as exhibited by the prior Town Board of
Doles, McQuade and Burke is amoral and
intolerable for the rest of us in Monroe.

I also know that securing the quality of
education offered by the Monroe Woodbury
School District and to prevent another East
Ramapo war situation is of ultimate
importance to the families of our region,
both present and future, and that was not
guaranteed in the Harley Doles annexation of
164 acres to KJ.

And, finally, I know that the best way
to reach peace with our neighbors in KJ and
to stop the fighting is to facilitate an
amicable divorce in a way that would
minimally impact our aspirations to live in
the suburban and rural setting of Monroe.

And listening to the prior presentation
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I also know that I have quite a bit of faith in the current Acting Supervisor and board members McGinn and Colon, and the potential incoming board of a new supervisor, I know that they will act in a fiscally responsible fashion to minimize whatever financial impact this separation, if passed, will have on our property taxes. Thank you.

MS. CONVERS: I am Emily Convers, Chairwoman of United Monroe and one of the founders and directors of Preserve Hudson Valley, the nonprofit who has been in litigation over the Kiryas Joel annexation for several years. I appreciate the opportunity to answer questions in order to share the facts of this historic separation agreement. I would like to remind the people here and those watching at home that all of the elected Village and Town leaders on this dais have expressed their support for KJ separation. The entire boards of the Villages of Monroe, Harriman and Kiryas Joel have publicly stated their support for the separation. The county legislature voted
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eighteen to three in favor of allowing you to vote on separation. The majority of the Town Board of Monroe, Councilmen Cardone, McGinn and Colon, have all spoken in favor of this vote taking place on November 7th for separation. The school board unanimously voted to redraw the school district boundaries to match the new borders of Monroe so that the 164 acres, which the Town Board of Monroe in 2015 gave to KJ, along with the negotiated 56 acres, will now be part of the Kiryas Joel School District. The Monroe Woodbury School Board did so after painstaking financial research on projections.

The only negotiations which took place are outlined in the separation agreement, which has been made public and can be read on the United Monroe website at unitedmonroe.org, no other negotiations or agreements were made.

It was the grassroots organization, United Monroe, and the nonprofit organization, Preserve Hudson Valley, and
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their leaders who have lead the way over the past five years in galvanizing citizens to vote, to litigate and to take swift action when the 507 acre annexation was forged in 2013 by Kiryas Joel. It was the leadership and volunteer citizens of United Monroe who have represented the people of this community as evidenced by the over 6,000 voters who have come out in the last three election. I wouldn't sitting up here today if it weren't for these facts.

This is not about politics. United Monroe is nonpartisan. Our leaders, members, and supporters come from all political affiliations. This is about the issues. This is about fairness. This is about equal representation and promoting good government and fighting bad government. It always has been.

The last informational session held last week left some people confused and, quite frankly, left me a bit frustrated. There is a very small group of people affiliated with our controversial Town Supervisor who gave
I would like to make a few definitive statements to ensure that there are no doubts as to the facts. If the people of the Town of Monroe vote yes on KJ separation on November 7th and the boundaries change there will be no bloc vote outside of Kiryas Joel. There are approximately 200 Hasidic voters outside of KJ and Monroe. Woodbury has had Hasidic neighborhoods consisting of families living in single-family homes for years. Since Woodbury is not zoned for high density housing this has not been an issue. Monroe will be no different. We will have single-family neighborhoods with Hasidic families. It would take thousands of homes to be purchased in order for a new bloc vote to form in Monroe, this would take years. In the meantime a Monroe controlled Town Board can look at long-term goals and solutions to issues down the road.

KJ filed a legal petition to separate
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from Monroe in September of 2016. In this petition they wished to take 382 acres of Monroe land with them. That would mean 382 acres of high density housing and 382 acres of land, which we receive tax revenue from would be gone. Leaders of United Monroe and Preserve Hudson Valley, who are currently in litigation with KJ on the 164 acre annexation, asked to sit at the table to negotiate since we have the unique legal leverage and the leverage of having thousands of supporters in Monroe, who have voted for United Monroe candidates in the past four years, no other leaders asked to sit at the table to do this. These meetings were private, but not secret. I was having weekly conversations with Chris McKenna of the Times Herald Record, who is reporting on these meetings. We successfully negotiated an agreement lowering the acreage to 56 from the original 382. In addition to the reduction in acreage to be moved to KJ, we insisted that this separation agreement would not be valid if the schools did not change the
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district boundaries. Protecting the Monroe Woodbury School District was built into this negotiations. Also added to the agreement is the provision that KJ will not approve or encourage annexations of land from Monroe or Blooming Grove into the new Town of Palm Tree for 10 years.

Should the people of Monroe vote in favor of this historic separation, Preserve Hudson Valley will drop the appeal on the 164 annexation and Kiryas Joel agrees to drop their lawsuit vying for the 507 acres. In addition, a stipulation of settlement, a legal document has been drafted to hand to the Appellate Court Judges with the aforementioned terms clearly defined so that the Appellate Judges can accept these terms as a legally binding court ordered settlement of litigation.

Anyone who asks why a grassroots organization negotiated the settlement now has their answer. It's because we have the leverage to do so. If other parties attempted to do what we did -- and they could
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have tried -- they would not have had the
unique ability to settle ongoing litigation
while at the same time having the respect and
trust of thousands of voters in Monroe to
education and activate the electorate to make
the separation a reality.

And, lastly, if we do not separation now
we will not have the voters in Monroe to win
future Town Board elections, as John Allegro
just outlined. The Kiryas Joel community is
growing faster than any other community in
Orange County and so is their voting power.
Now is the time. Now we have the leverage.
Now we have the opportunity. We will not
have it in two years, four years, or any time
after that.

This separation does not mean that
Kiryas Joel or the new Town of Palm Tree will
be viewed as a perfect place. All of the
concerns that people raise about the
environment, the Ramapo River, the social
welfare issues, the open meetings violations,
educational issues, the housing practices,
water, sewer, all of these concerns will
Proceedings remain, but that's not what this night is about and that's not what this separation is about. Having political freedom and the ability to place qualified people to our Town Board unencumbered by special interest influence will help in this capacity. Any individual or group who sees fit to take action on any injustices is just as free to do so after separation as they were prior. Again, we must not conflate the issue of internal KJ issues with this separation.

I want to thank the interested and engaged citizens who are here tonight and who are watching at home. It's because of you that we have come this far and have been able to sit at the table with the leaders of Kiryas Joel. This is not something I would have expected to happen and I am thrilled that we reached such an excellent and peaceful solution to the clash of aspirations so clearly evident and years of disfunction and hostility.

Again, I look forward to answering your questions. And I thank my fellow leaders
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John Allegro and Mike Egan for your selfless work, passion and determination through this negotiation process. It has been my pleasure to work alongside you. And thank you Councilman McGinn for moderating this important and historical forum. And thanks to my fellow panel members for being here this evening.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. The school districts are not going to be presenting so -- but they will be here for questions, which, of course, will be directed to me and I will direct it to the appropriate person from each district.

So we are going to go into the written questions that were submitted. We have five written questions. I'm going to go through them now and have the appropriate person field them.

First question is from Vicki McLaughlin and Louis Becker -- Louise Becker, I'm sorry -- will Palm Tree have its own post office? I can't answer that question. I'm sure they could petition the U.S. Postal
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Service to form a separate zip code and open their own post office. But at this time I can't tell you if that's going to happen or not. They don't have to as their own town from what I understand, but it's certainly an option if they decide to do so.

The next four questions are from Greg Tucker. First question I'm going to direct to Bill Cochran, the accountant. The accountant listed the fund balance at $4,749,613.00, what portion of this must be given to the new Town of Palm Tree if and when they are approved?

MR. COCHRAN: We do not have that answer because there is negotiations that have to happen and all the changes throughout the years, that's something that we did not look into.

MR. McGINN: Next question -- I'm going to -- actually I'm going to send this to Tony Cardone -- shouldn't the fund balance calculation include -- this is question two, shouldn't the fund balance calculation include the dispersal of funds to the new
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Town of Palm Tree as part of the effect of this proposal?

MR. CARDONE: Repeat that just so I understand it?

MR. McGINN: Shouldn't the fund balance calculation include the dispersal of funds to the new Town of Palm Tree as part of the effect of this proposal?

MR. CARNEY: Turn the button on, Tony.

MR. CARDONE: I don't know how to answer that because I'm not privy to the law. I don't know if the accountants would know that.

MS. HANNIGAN: We wouldn't be able to respond.

MR. CARDONE: That's a negotiated aspect of the agreement and we intend to negotiate with KJ on many aspects of the fund balance. And that is something that we will do with KJ and we won't negotiate in public, that's been our mantra since we started.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. Question number three, can groups not affiliated with the Kiryas Joel PE government still create new
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villages? The agreement does not impact any
group or individual who is not a signatory,
for example, the KJ Alliance organization.
It's my understanding by State Law and -- you
know, Mr. Feerick, he did not negotiate the
agreement with Preserve Hudson Valley and the
Village, but, you know, 500 people can always
band together in a geographic area and form a
village. Am I correct, Mr. Feerick?

MR. FEERICK: Correct --

MR. ALLEGRO: Can I answer that --

MR. McGINN: I'll field it to you in a
second. That's a technical aspect of the
law, it's kind of similar to a question asked
last week. I'll give it to United Monroe.

MR. ALLEGRO: As part of our
negotiations and agreement the Village of
Kiryas Joel and the subsequent board of the
Town of Palm Tree -- should it come into
effect -- agreed and are held to in the
agreement to not encourage or facilitate the
formation of any villages.

MS. CONVERS: In addition to that, once
Palm Tree were to come to be the areas of
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Monroe that unincorporated, and if they were any concerns of citizens outside of Palm Tree in Monroe, that a group of people would try to form another Village within the boundaries of Monroe to incorporate land into a Village, to prevent that from happening one of the existing villages in the Town of Monroe could expand their boundaries and annex unincorporated land into, for example, the Village of Monroe.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. The next question is for United Monroe and this is the last question from Mr. Tucker.

It's question number four. During the informational meeting on October 11th Mr. Egan made a statement that the effect of the school budget would -- sorry, this is actually to Monroe Woodbury School District, sorry about that. During the informational meeting on October 11th Mr. Egan made a statement that the effect on the school budget would reverse, (become positive), over the next several years, but did not give any details to explain. How would this happen?
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Superintendent Rodriguez?

MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'll turn it over to Mr. Cahill.

MR. CAHILL: So what I would like to do is actually just sort of read a few bullet points from a presentation that we did on August 23rd regarding our study. We commissioned a group --

(Inaudible.)

MR. CAHILL: -- from BOCES to analyze the finance impact on the district both in the short and long-term. So initially the easy part is to estimate the impact on the tax system, tax revenue. That was about $880,000.00 the immediate impact of shifting 200 twenty acres from our district to Kiryas Joel Union Free School District. The other piece of this is what costs are associated with that. And when we looked at that the net loss, if we were to shift the boundaries as of a point in time, say right now, was about $343,000.00 annually and that's the short-term impact. When we looked at the longer term impact though, if that segment
builds out the way and develops the way we think it will -- and we are talking the population increase, we estimated somewhere around 13,000 residents with high density housing and thousands of students, maybe as many as 6,800 students, who we are obligated to provide services for even if they attend nonpublic schools, as a public school district we are obligated to provide transportation and certain related services for special education students. There is textbooks that we have to provide -- we are obligated to provide. So there is a whole range of services as a public school district we are obligated to provide to nonpublic students. So we considered those costs and how those would increase overtime. Essentially the take away was, although we will have to live with a loss, kind of a -- I would say a small loss, 343,000, over time although the tax base would grow, those costs associated with that -- the growth of that area would increase at a greater rate, a faster rate. And if we weren't to alter the
boundaries we are estimating that those costs would exceed the loss in revenue by about 1.97 million annually.

So the take away was it makes sense for our district financially -- I'll leave the other considerations to the group -- but on a financial basis to change the boundaries because in the long run those costs are going to exceed any losses in revenue, even with a full build out and larger tax base the costs are going to be greater in the long run --

MS. RODRIGUEZ: In the long run.

MR. CAHILL: Defined as three to five years, it's hard to say, that area would build out gradually over time. We made some assumptions, we didn't -- in terms of our study we didn't consider how the real estate market or local economy would be impacted. We just considered the scope within our area, the services that we provide, the costs associated with those services, the impact on the tax base, that sort of thing.

We also looked into how we would be affected by state aid and our studies on the
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website -- it's a fairly complicated and involved study -- but we took all those factors into consideration in making the final conclusion that it made sense financially to change the boundaries.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, Mr. Cahill.

Okay, that's it for the presubmitted written questions. I'll go to the sign up list and in keeping with what I stated earlier.

MR. McQUADE: You have my questions as well, Mike.

MR. McGINN: Gerry, those questions were asked verbally at the last meeting by yourself so I didn't include them in this session because they were previously asked at the last meeting.

MR. McQUADE: Well, it was written questions --

MR. McGINN: I know, but they were -- you said them verbally so that's why they weren't in.

MR. McQUADE: You can ask my questions, they could answer. The difference is last
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time I just gave a verbal presentation, no one answered my questions, that's the difference, Michael.

M. McGINN: You can ask them again this evening if you want.

Okay, the first speaker -- first speaker is going to be Carol Scully. Again, this is in keeping with those that asked questions or spoke at the last meeting will go at the end after those that haven't had a chance to do so.

M. SCULLY: I'm Carol Scully, 205 Berry Road.

I'm in favor of the new Town of Palm Tree and I thank you, United Monroe, for stepping up and getting us to this point where we can take a welcome pause and catch our -- and catch our breaths. Thank you, Tony, Mike and Rick for keeping our Town Board meetings to a minimum of disruption and for all the hard work regarding the dog shelter, our Comprehensive Plan and holding people accountable in our town business.

Getting back to the separation, Town of
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Monroe, what specifically do you have in place or are planning to put in place with the new Town of Palm Tree to ensure that during and after the 10 year period all parties will be represented and our new Comprehensive Plan will be protected?

MR. McGINN: All right, I'll field --

MS. SCULLY: I have another question, just one more.

MR. McGINN: Okay, let me answer the first question you asked there. As far as the -- as far as the new Town of Palm Tree adhering to the 10 year stipulation, that is a legal agreement that will be enforced by the courts, I would assume --

(Inaudible.)

MR. McGINN: Regarding the comp plan, that's a separate issue that the Town -- is separate and distinct from this entire proceeding. And we -- you know, we have been proceeding along on that regardless of how this was going to shake out.

MS. SCULLY: I know that. I guess my concern is that 10 years goes by very quickly
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and I'm hoping that KJ and Monroe work together so that at the end of that 10 years we are not in the same spot.

MR. McGINN: Well, certainly we hope -- or listen, we want to have good relations with all the municipalities that border us. And we would hope that that would be the same relationship that we would have with Kiryas Joel like we do with the Town of Woodbury and the villages within the Town. So, again, comp plans are visited -- should be revisited every five years it's recommended. So that would be something that five years down the road the next Town Board will look at, or the Town Board at that time will look at and see what needs to be adjusted.

MS. SCULLY: Well, the other question is for KJ, but they are not here. But I'll ask it anyway. For KJ or Town of Palm Tree I heard you say many times that you want to live in piece and harmony, what are your plans over the next 10 years and beyond to ensure that this will occur? What assurances do we have that we will -- you will work with
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the Town of Monroe and that we will be protected in our interests?

MR. McGINN: All right, there is nobody representing the Village of Kiryas Joel here, but that will be reflected in the record that's been taken. Thank you.

The next person is Matt Green.

MR. GREEN: Hello, thank you. Matt Green, Town of Monroe. I support a yes vote for the proposal to establish a separate Town of Palm Tree though not without trepidation. While I believe it be to the best option at this time I also believe that given exponential population growth in 15 to 20 years buildings on the scale of something like Co-Op City may well be standing in Palm Tree, on the heels of renewing the Catskill water pipeline, etc. I hope I'm wrong. Someone could play this tape in 20 years and hopefully I'll be wrong. The potential effects of the shared infrastructure of roads, traffic, water and other services could be staggering.

Two questions I have. One, regarding
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the school district, does the school district anticipate any new expenses related to the Hasidic students whose homes would lay outside the boundaries of Palm Tree.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: No -- any new --

MR. GREEN: In other words, for people that might be in KJ now, but find themselves in unincorporated Monroe, would that lead to any additional expenses?

MS. RODRIGUEZ: No. Because if they have been living in our school district we've already allocated the funds for that so there wouldn't be any new expenditures.

MR. GREEN: Secondly, regarding the playground and complex off Larkin Drive, which is currently exclusively for the use of KJ Village residents, since the playground LAYS within the Town of Monroe on land not part of the annexation, is the establishment of the separate Town of Monroe how does that affect what municipality controls that property and decides who gets to use that park and playground? Thank you.

MR. McGINN: I'll answer that question.
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That land is owned by the municipality of Kiryas Joel. And they are -- you know -- that is their property.

Mr. Feerick, correct me if I'm wrong, but municipalities can purchase property outside their borders? That's what they did when they formed that park, so that park would still fall within the Town of Monroe, but would still be their park.

MR. GREEN: Well, just as a follow-up --

MR. McGINN: So that's basically it.

I'll allow one follow-up. Go ahead.

MR. GREEN: Sorry, thank you. Since KJ will be going away and a new entity of Palm Tree will be forming --

MS. CONVERS: It doesn't go away.

MR. GREEN: Well, the Town of Palm Tree is forming and since that park was a KJ park, are there any legal implications for the Town of Palm Tree replacing KJ and still owning that property?

MR. McGINN: I mean, we will look at it, but I don't believe so.

MR. GREEN: Thank you.
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MR. McGINN: Okay, the next person is Veronica Connolly. Please hold up your hand.

MS. CONNOLLY: Hi, Veronica Connolly, Frederick Drive, Village of Monroe. Just I want to thank the entire panel for hosting this forum. And I would like to give a special thanks to United Monroe and Preserve Hudson Valley for doing what no other leaders in the region did. You sat down at the table and negotiated an amazing agreement. I read it and it's very comprehensive and an excellent comprise for the separation.

I have two questions for you United Monroe and Preserve Hudson Valley. My first one is, how do you respond to the people who are spreading the rumors that another bloc vote will be popping up anyway? That's one question.

And my other question I think would be more directed to the Town Board. With some of the implications of a tax increase would you guys consider doing positive revenue IMAs with the potential Palm Tree, such the highway contract? If -- everybody knows Mr.
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Doles was able to, you know, give the infamous sweetheart deal that really was actually a negative impact to us as a community because our highway department was taxed so egregiously during very high winters and a lot of snow removal was required, plus they gave, you know, street paving. So would you be able to give us some tax positive revenue in IMAs with Village of Kiryas Joel?

MR. McGINN: Okay, the first question I believe was previously answered by Ms. Converse when she presented and made her opening statement.

To answer your second question with the IMAs with the Town of Palm Tree if it is created, listen, we will look at anything, anything that is mutually beneficial to both municipalities that -- you know, something that might bring in revenue for the Town, of course the Town Board is going to look at that and give it a very serious study and consideration. You know, we have entered into IMAs already. We will certainly do it again if we see there is a cost savings.
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benefit. And we will just have to wait and see how that shakes out over the next year or so as they work towards the operational end of forming their town and assuming it's approved and then we will look at this then. But, of course, in any agreement, any IMA, anything we entered into would have to be -- would have to be something that would be a revenue positive -- a revenue positive thing for the Town, specially in light of what we have seen during the presentation.

MR. McQUADE: Mike, I have an answer. I can answer --

MR. ALLEGRO: May I --

MR. McGINN: I answered it, Gerry. I took care of it.

MR. McQUADE: You don't have the facts, no, you didn't.

MR. ALLEGRO: May I answer?

MR. McGINN: Mr. Mayor, did you want to respond?

MR. PURCELL: No.

MR. ALLEGRO: I just wanted to add --

MR. McGINN: I already answered the
question on that, it's fine. All right? Let's move on to the next person. Christina Kiesel?

MS. KIESEL: Christina Kiesel, Orchard Hill Road, the Town of Monroe. I would like to thank Mike Egan, John Allegro and Emily Converse for their tireless efforts on behalf of Monroe residents.

I hope my question is not a little redundant. It's -- I didn't realize the accounting firm was going to be here again tonight. At last week's session and also this evening we heard from the accounting firm hired by the Town of Monroe. They estimated an average increase in homeowner property taxes at approximately $12.50 cents per month. After this evening there is a higher estimate of potential -- I guess $16.60 per month. Are there any budget items or municipal services that might offset or mitigate this potential increase?

MR. McGINN: We kind of addressed this last week and I'll kind of give you the answer again. It is basically there will be
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a new board coming in January 1st. We are
going to look at every potential cost
savings, you know, revenue increases,
anything that we can to obviously balance the
budget. We are going to make sure that we
protect our fund balance. We are very
concerned about, you know, our bond rating,
our credit rating. So there will be a full
review when the new board comes in on
January 1st and we start looking at all our
departments and where we can save money and
enter into IMAs and things like that that
will -- that will benefit the taxpayers.
Very serious about going forward and making
sure that we do this.

Okay, next question is -- or next person
is Simon Fridlich. Simon?

MR. FRIDLICH: Good evening, Simon
Fridlich, 105 Cromwell Hill Road. I have a
simple question.

As a result of all of this you are
talking about rezoning Monroe. Is my land on
Cromwell Hill going to be changed from one
acre to three acres?
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MR. McGINN: Mr. Fridlich, that is a question for a Town Board meeting. And there's been a lot of Comprehensive Plan meetings that have gone on over the last year and a half and you could address those, but if you want to talk to me afterwards I'll be happy to talk to you about that.

MR. FRIDLICH: And I just want to relate one thing that happened when I was recording in KJ at the meeting of the legislature. I happen to speak fluent Yiddish so I talked to some of them outside and I asked them what they thought about the Town of Palm Tree. They burst out laughing and they said, we don't care what you call our town. We are going to be all over anyway. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. Rosemary Knapp? Rosemary, hold up your hand, please.


I think my questions have been answered in the presentation that both Emily and John gave, but I would like to ask them anyway. So, first of all, I would like to thank you
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very much for this historic deal between Monroe and Kiryas Joel. My questions are how is it that you came to the table to negotiate this deal and what do you believe would happen to our town if you hadn't?

MR. McGINN: I'll direct that to United Monroe.

MS. CONVERS: Well, thank you for your support. Back -- well, what brought us to the table? We have been fighting annexations for the last several years and litigating and rowing and raising money and all of this activism led to have Kiryas Joel filing a petition to separate in September of 2016. And when they did so we expressed an interest in having a conversation about it because we thought separation in itself was a great idea. As, you know, a result of all the battling over Town Board seats and the hostility and the difficulty with board members we asked to sit at the table. And we -- it -- we weren't just invited in. Really we had to have a lot of conversations. I know Mike Egan had a number of conversations
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with Chairman at the Legislature and -- I'd also like to mention that it wasn't a quorum of the legislature that we sat down with. We sat down with just a few legislators that represented the areas in question, Myrna Kemnitz was there, Katie Bonelli was there, Michael Amo, and Kiryas Joel leadership and ourselves. And, again, as I mentioned earlier, I feel that it was all of the activism that lead to us having the leverage to be at that table and negotiate and we were -- all the parties were willing.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. Debbie Behringer -- I'm sorry, Debbie, hold on a second. Mike Goldstein?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: I would like to know if all 18 of the Orange County legislators who voted to have this be put on our ballot in November received campaign contributions for their reelection committee as our governor received when he passed something for the local Village? I know that can't be asked -- answered -- there is nobody to answer it.

I know for a fact at last week's meeting
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a citizen asked if there was any financial remuneration to members of the Board of UM. It was resoundingly said, no. However, the fact that you are going to have the Appellate Court stop deciding what's going to happen on this case could potentially save you thousands of dollars in legal fees that you would have to pay. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Folks, no comments from the crowd, please.

MS. CONVERS: Is that a question?

MR. McGINN: No comments --

MS. CONVERS: Can I address that?

MR. McGINN: Emily.

MS. CONVERS: Thank you. I think it's quite a stretch to suggest that no longer paying a legal bill equates to me having money in my pocket.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: You misunderstood the question then. My question is --

MR. McGINN: Mr. Goldstein, there is no back and forth. You ask the question, I give it to the respondent, they give the answer --

MS. CONVERS: I understood the question
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perfectly. You are suggesting that by virtue of the fact that the negotiation and the settlement agreement means an end to the lawsuits, that therefore, the officers of the organizations to which I'm Chairwoman and the Director, are somehow benefitting from that. That's what you are suggesting. Is that correct? You can nod --

MR. McGINN: Ms. Convers, there is no back and forth, all right? He asked, you answer --

MS. CONVERS: That's the --

(Everyone is speaking at once.)

MS. CONVERS: -- and I would like to say that I think that it's a -- it's a -- it's an unfair assessment. And I think it's -- it's an unfair allegation. And I didn't want to dignify the last person who said it last week with a response because I think insinuating that volunteers who have been working on behalf of the community for five years are in anyway benefiting financially when we clearly have not is -- it shows -- it shows a mean-spiritedness.
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MR. McGINN: Okay, next question. Debbie Behringer, please raise your hand.

MS. BEHRINGER: I would like to thank Emily, John and Mike Egan for their countless hours working towards a solution to this ongoing and life affecting issue, there is a new hope.

This is a question for United Monroe. If you didn't negotiate separation how would that impact the Town of Monroe with regards to the 164 acres which Supervisor Doles and his friends on the Board gave to KJ?

MR. McGINN: I believe that was kind of already asked and answered so I'm going to pass on that, please.

Do you have another question?

MS. BEHRINGER: Nope, that's it.


MR. KARL: I feel like I'm on the Phil Donahue show here. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

The first question I have is in reference to the Orange County sewer
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district. How will this new town affect the sewer district as a whole? Is all of this property within the Orange County sewer district? What is the capacity of the effluent pipes leaving the Village of Kiryas Joel? Are they near or at capacity? Who will fund replacement with larger sewer mains in the future? Will it be the rate payers, property owners within the Orange County sewer district? Who will be responsible for the expansion of the treatment plant if and when it's required? If Kiryas Joel and the proposed town consume the remaining allotment why should the rate payers of the Orange County sewer district be on the hook for this? Why not remove them from the district and let them build their own sewer plant?

That's question number one.

MR. McGINN: Okay, there is no one here from the county to answer some of those questions. What falls within Orange County sewer district number one, I believe the 56 acres does fall within there, that is east of Seven Springs Road. The rest of it I
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can't -- you know, what falls within it, within the Village, outside the Village. I can't answer that question.

Your next question?

MR. KARL: Well, the question was sent to the legislators, I have yet to hear from anybody. Why has the Town been decided on and not a city?

MR. McGINN: Again, the Town is not -- or the Village of Kiryas Joel does not have a representative here and I can't answer that question for you.

MR. KARL: Will this town be a religious entity? Will it be diversified? How will it protect an outsider who may qualify for Section 8 housing from being able to having same housing opportunities?

MR. McGINN: Again, your question is noted for the record, but there is no one here to answer that from the Village.

MR. KARL: How will Orange County sales tax monies be distributed with the new town? Will they be entitled to share in the current funding that is in place?
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MR. McGINN: That would be maybe a question for the accountants. Can you answer that? How you -- I guess it goes to the heart of how the county decides how the sales tax revenue is split up.

MR. COCHRAN: It would be included.

MR. McGINN: It would be?

MR. COCHRAN: Yep.

MR. McGINN: So they would be entitled to a share of the sales tax.

MR. KARL: How will fire protection be handled in this proposed town? Will they contract with the Village of Kiryas Joel? Does the Village fire department meet all standards of National Fire Protection Association? Is all equipment tested annually and is it documented? This is a public safety issue and should at the forefront and transparent for anyone who wants to FOIL the records.

I understand there is a study that was done -- a rather scathing study on the Kiryas Joel Fire Department recently. It’s a concern for mutual aid fire departments from
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the surrounding areas that have to go in there.

MR. McGINN: Okay, like I said your question is noted for the record.

MR. KARL: What would be the financial impact to the Monroe Library?

MR. McGINN: That I can't answer. I mean, I believe that the Village is not part of the library's taxing district, if I'm correct. I don't know if that is going to change with the creation of the new town. I'm sure it's something we can look into, something we have to look at going down the road.

MR. KARL: Well, this property is coming out of the Town, I assume they are getting tax money towards the library, correct?

MR. McGINN: Again, I can't answer that question.

MR. KARL: What is the financial impact to Monroe Fire District?

MR. McGINN: All right, this is your -- the last question, we are over time with you. But the -- someone from the district would
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have to answer that question. I'm -- I don't have that answer.

MR. KARL: All right, can I have one more question?

MR. McGINN: You are at four minutes so if you want to submit it, or talk to me after --

MR. KARL: A lot of my questions weren't answered.

MR. McGINN: I know because it's -- the people or the Village isn't here to answer, that's why. You know, I did my best to answer the ones I could.

MR. KARL: I'm kind of concerned because, you know, if I want to make a decision when I go in the voting booth we need the answers, we need the information.

MS. CONVERS: No, you don't, a lot of the answers are the same --

MR. McGINN: Excuse me --

MR. KARL: It was the same thing last week.

MR. McGINN: All right, John, once again the important questions regarding -- and not
that these questions you are asking aren't important -- but the questions that we focused on here were the financial impacts to the taxpayers. Regarding the fire district and the operations of the new town and how they intend to carry that out, I'm sure the district -- you are a fireman -- I'm sure you can ask one of the commissioners. I'm sure they have done an assessment on what the potential impacts are and they can you tell what that's going to be. I didn't -- they didn't make that information known to us at the same time. They are a separate taxing entity from the Town so that hasn't been provided to us.

MR. KARL: That's correct. They are a separate taxing entity from the Town. Maybe they should have had a seat at the table with you folks. Thank you.

MR. ALLEGRO: All the more reason to vote.

MS. CONVERS: That's why we separate --

MR. McGINN: Members of the Board, I'm the moderators, please, I'll respond to the
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audience.

MR. AMMONS: Good evening. My name is Tom Ammons, 190 Cromwell Hill Road. I would first like to start by thanking the terrific triumphant triumvirate of Emily, John and Mike, just total admiration for the three of you and all you have done for the Town.

Tonight I would like to frame my comments first, I have a question. Using a favorite phrase from my tax professor at college. And the phrase is, you have a firm grasp on the obvious and just the facts, man, just the facts.

So factoid number one, it's obvious that even if every loving couple in Monroe began to procreate like rabbits we would never exceed the tsunami of new voters added each year to the voting bloc of Kiryas Joel. That's fact one.

Fact two, it's obvious that the annual incremental tax increase of $150.00 is de minimus or immaterial when compared to the precipitous decline in property value. For example, if a $280,000.00 home declined only
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10 percent, that's 28,000. When divided by that $150.00 it would take 186 years to makeup for the lost property value. So I think it's important to put the incremental tax effect in context. It's also obvious that the crown educational jewel of Orange County, the Monroe Woodbury School District, would be dismantled program by program until it became -- and I call it an echo chamber of ignorance -- I don't know what would be left. For these reasons and many more reasons the ability to manage our future is imperative. Please vote yes on November 7th so we can determine our own destiny.

Now, a question that I thought of tonight, a very obvious one, will the Town of Monroe have access to the flow of water from the aqueduct? I've lived in Monroe for many years with a well, and it would be exiting for me to access city water. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Regarding access to the aqueduct, or the water from the aqueduct that is -- that is a question that would be best probably directed to the Village of Kiryas
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Joel right now since they are the ones that are building that pipeline. And I know that the city set some kind of -- some strict standards on reselling the water from one municipality to another that comes out of the reservoirs. So that would be something that would have to be a legal question to be explored down the road.

Okay, the next person signed in script so I'm sorry if I get your name wrong. It looks like it says Alvin Alley.

MR. McGINN: Alice -- sorry, Alice.

MS. ALLEY: You can call me Alvin --

MR. McGINN: That's what it looks like.

Sorry, I know you are not Alvin Alley.

MS. ALLEY: Hi, my name is Alice Alley. I live in the Town of Monroe. Is it okay to say I've been a volunteer with United Monroe for -- can I say that?

MR. McGINN: Sure.

MR. COLON: You just said it.

MR. McGINN: It's on the record, go ahead.

MS. ALLEY: I've been a volunteer with
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United Monroe and I want to say unequivocally that I've never benefited financially from my volunteerism.

Another thing I would address -- and it's been asked so this redundant -- it's regarding the auditing firm and their presentation. A few people questioned about the -- maybe entering into IMAs and reducing expenses. And -- but I'm confident that the incoming board will act in a fiscally responsible manner by reducing expenses and generating new revenue. And I know that is been asked and you answered that you would look into things. Is there anything specifically that the Town is looking at right now, or even the Village is looking at right now by reducing expenses or generating revenue? That's my only question.

MR. McGINN: Again, just -- it was already asked, but I'll tell you again that we will -- with the new year we will be looking at the entire town operations and looking at ways for cost savings and ways to make these more efficient and streamline and
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save taxpayer money. Thank you.

Okay, last of the new speakers, Laura Fernandez. Laura, hold up your hand there, please.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Laura Fernandez, Makan Road, Monroe, New York.

First, I want to than UM and Preserve Hudson Valley for your volunteer work, your activism and for sitting down to negotiate this deal. This question might have already been answered in the beginning.

If people vote against separation how long before there are more registered voters in KJ than outside of KJ?

MR. McGINN: I think that's kind of speculative so I really can't say what that number is, how long that would take, you know, it's -- you know, do you have any numbers?

MR. ALLEGRO: I've had the data on that and within -- by 2021 the voting population of Kiryas Joel will be greater than 50 percent of the entire town -- greater than 50 percent -- more than half.
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MR. McGINN: Okay, there is your answer.

Okay, I'm going to go to the top of the list of people that asked questions last week or submitted written questions.

Tom Lapolla? Tom, are you still here?

MR. LAPOLLA: Yeah, I'll have to come down. I'll come down. I like my Fitbit, I'm up to 10,000 steps today.

MR. McGINN: Okay.

MR. LAPOLLA: I like to be by the panel anyway.

Good evening, all. First off, please stop referring to this process as a --

MR. CARNEY: Excuse me, Mr. Lapolla, you have to raise that mic. Stand up or take the microphone out of the stand and speak into it. Thank you.

MR. LAPOLLA: Better? Stop referring to this process as a peace treaty. We are not in battle with KJ. The men and woman in Afghanistan and Iraq, they are at war, at home, the Satmar are our neighbors.

As I stated publicly before, this political agreement maybe a good thing for
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our town in the short-term, but no one knows for sure the long-term financial impact to Monroe. And with the current demographics shared from the other side of the Quickway to the other no one knows exactly how this will impact the future policies of Monroe either. After hearing the response to one of my questions last week -- I believe it is disingenuous to keep telling the public there is still a 10 year moratorium on future annexation.

I would also like to expand on one of my other questions from last week. And I have no question, just commentary. Twice the KJ school district was found unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court, only to be ignored by the State both times. I believe the voting public should be fully aware of this as a prominent local civil rights attorney has promised to take this to court. In fact, our own county legislators have expressed the same concerns. If it's possible -- and I'm not looking for answer or reply either -- even if the new
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town passes a federal court could put an
injunction on this new town before it even
comes to fruition. It's a what if. Seeing
that the same constitutional concerns here as
the school district this may make for an
interesting journey.

Now, right, wrong, or indifferent United
Monroe negotiated this political agreement,
but attempting to convince the public that
the responsibility on deciding the future tax
consequences for our town lies with us at the
voting booth is kind of absurd. Everyone who
is paying attention is fully aware that the
KJ voting bloc will easily decide this
referendum in favor of the new town, you just
helped put it on the ballot. If we
acknowledge this then United Monroe will have
a major impact on future tax increases,
albeit indirectly and without any
accountability to us, the taxpayers.

Now, regarding my first question last
week, it was not at all inflammatory as one
panel member suggested. When you place
yourself in the place of public trust, as
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you've all done here tonight, you should
expect the scrutiny of that public. Again,
it's not inflammatory, sir, just seeking
information for myself as well as my fellow
citizens before we cast our votes come
Election Day. Thank you and good night.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, Mr. Lapolla.

MR. ALLEGRO: I would like to respond to
one of those statements --

MR. McGINN: He didn't ask a question so
I'm moving onto --

MR. ALLEGRO: Well, I would like to
correct the record. This is not a political
agreement, this is an agreement to several
lawsuits and people are --

MR. McGINN: John, I understand what you
are saying but you already made that
statement. I'll move on to the next person.

Lorraine Loening? Lorraine?

MS. LOENING: Do I need to come down?

MR. McGINN: No, it's up there.

MS. LOENING: Lorraine Loening, Village
of Monroe. I worked for Village of Monroe.
I have been a little disappointed with the
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informational sessions. I was really hoping for more pluses and minuses so that we can make an informed discussion. I have yet to makeup my mind and I have to tell you this isn't really hasn't helped a whole lot. Besides a modest tax increase I haven't really heard a lot of negatives.

I mean, how about job loses, is that a negative?

Your accountant said probably will be more savings found. And Mr. Allegro even said the new board would minimize financial impact. I think if there is even a possibility of job cuts that should be part of the equation that voting for Palm Tree you could possibly be voting for job elimination, possibly. And maybe that's not a negative to some people. But I think it should be discussed in a responsible way that it's out there.

And other negatives, I really have -- I live in the Village of Monroe. Could my Mayor tell me how he thinks this might negatively impact the Village, or other
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impacts to the Town, or to the school?

And I guess my last comment -- question

is to United Monroe. I'm not affiliated with

anybody, I'm kind of a lone wolf in this
town. I wear that badge proudly. But they

are very confident that this is the right

thing to do, the only thing to do and anyone

who disagrees is sort of ridiculed and it's

kind of distasteful. But my question is, in

any sort of divorce nobody's happy with all

the terms and it seems to me everybody here

is happy with all the terms. Is there

anything that you wish was in the agreement,
or geez, Louise, you wish it wasn't in the

agreement, or holy smokes there is a loophole

someone will drive a dump truck through? Is

there anything that is worrying to you?

Because, you know, I can't imagine -- I mean,
everyone I know gets divorced someone is

unhappy about something, they fight over the
damn stamp collection. So what is the stamp

collection? What are you guys worried about?

Is it possible you are wrong on this? Is it
even in the realm of possibility?
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And I don't want to bringing up a hard history here, but I recall a lot of confidence about the Monroe movie theatre not being able to show first run movies and that was not ultimately true. I sat through a lot of first run movies in this very theater. So I'm just wondering if is there is any chance that -- any trepidation at all, from any of you. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: You want to -- so the -- your first question about the Town and job cuts or people losing their jobs, kind of -- like it's been asked and answered. And I'm going to say, again, we wouldn't come out and say that right away because that would be a real -- I mean, imagine you're a town worker and we said we are going to start firing people? We don't know if we are going to have to do that yet, or if we are going to raise taxes. We will look at everything when the new board comes in and determine what the best course of action is, all right? That's just the way you have to do it. And I think trying to rush to do that before Election Day
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would be, quite frankly reckless. But, I mean, listen, everything will be on the table, every department is going to be on the table, everything on the table. And I stated that -- I stated that at the first meeting and I'll state that again. We will look at everything. We'll preserve our bond rating, our credit rating. We are not going to blow through the fund balance. So we are you know, making the fiscally hard decisions that need to be made to ensure that tax implications, increases are minimal and that we streamline town operation to the best of your ability. And if there is maybe job losses in there, that is a potential thing that could happen. But I can't tell what you those numbers are, or whatever at this time.

I'll ask Mayor Purcell to respond to the next question.

MR. PURCELL: Really the only impact that the Town of Palm Tree created to the Village of Monroe is a loss of $30,000.00 of mortgage tax. That's it everything, else will stay the same as is.
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MR. McGINN: Okay, the next question and I guess -- I'm going to kind of paraphrase it and send it to United Monroe. And that was basically things you wish you could have done more or whatever, how you think it will turn out? And I'll send that to you to answer.

MR. ALLEGRO: Well, the agreement is the agreement. We have a legally binding agreement, a contract, in which Kiryas Joel states that they will not abet or approve any annexations for 10 yeas and that's 10 years after the formation of the Town. The formation of the Town is set to take effect in 2020 if it's passed, that would make it 12 years. This agreement will be taken to the Supreme Court after Election Day if it's voted in as a referendum. And we will ask the court to make it a binding settlement of stipulation. So should anything happen that we're not confident of in the agreement we will have recourse in the courts, just as anybody else would.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. Christine Tucker, next question?
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MS. TUCKER: Christine Tucker, East Crossman, Monroe. I've heard the question asked, but it's never made clear -- there's never been a clear answer. What incentive does the new Town of Palm have to negotiate a financial agreement after and if the new town is approved? After you agree to purchase a car and sign the contract it's not the time to negotiate the sale price, that comes beforehand. Mr. Egan had stated that there would be no more lawsuits and that was one incentive, but that would be addressed after and if the separation is approved so that insensitive disappears. So what other incentive do you believe KJ has to give us a financial agreement?

MR. McGINN: There are -- there are other processes down the road with this that the Town could -- the Town -- the Town Board -- future Town Board could implement to slow down the process, delay the process. If we found that the agreement that we reached with the Village -- the Town of Palm Tree is not acceptable, that's one thing. And that's
not to say that there wouldn't be discussions and negotiations before Election Day. If that's what -- you know -- if that what your concern is --

MS. TUCKER: I know what you are talking about.

MR. McGINN: All right, so hopefully that car will be negotiated before, okay?

MS. TUCKER: I have one more question.

MR. McGINN: Sure, go ahead.

MS. TUCKER: The formation of all religious towns violates the constitution. United Monroe and other parties were upset regarding the Village and response -- and expect the following government procedures being followed properly. A town has far more power, why is it the establishment clause is no longer a problem?

MR. McGINN: I'm going to answer that question, but not because it really pertains to the Town of Monroe, those are all legal questions way above my pay grade. But I believe at the county's sessions there were attorneys that opined prone against that
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argument, so that is left best in the purview of the greater legal minds that are out there.

MS. TUCKER: Thank you. Can I have one more?

MR. McGINN: You are still in your time, sure.

MS. TUCKER: After all the questions on the sign up sheet have been asked would you consider opening the room to questions from the residents?

MR. McGINN: I think that's what we are doing right now so --

MS. TUCKER: I'm saying some people didn't sign up, just in case --

MR. McGINN: If someone wants to jump on the sheet now they are welcome to.

MS. TUCKER: I just wanted to give everyone the opportunity --

MR. McGINN: Yeah, absolutely, if someone just jumped on, no prohibition against doing so.

Okay, next person is Ed Kapalko. Ed, he is coming with the mic.
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MR. KAPALKO: Am I good?

MR. McGINN: Yes, sir.

MR. KAPALKO: First question may seem strange, but has the new settlement agreement been signed by United Monroe and Kiryas Joel?

MR. McGINN: I'll direct that to UM.

MR. ALLEGRO: Yes, it has, United Monroe, Preserve Hudson Valley and Kiryas Joel.

MR. KAPALKO: Then I would suggest you post that because everything I find on-line does not have any signature on it. Okay?

MR. ALLEGRO: Thank you for your suggestion.

MR. KAPALKO: Next question, wasn't in the final agreement, but the Village Manager of Kiryas Joel was asking for services and infrastructure improvements for areas that were outside the 56 acres. Does anybody have anything to say about that, or can say anything about that?

MR. McGINN: I can tell you that from our -- you know, from the Board there has been no direct request made so I'm not -- not
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aware of any.

MR. KAPALKO: Well, if there were infrastructure improvements for one area they would be charged back to the homeowners of that area?

MR. McGINN: Are you talking about new construction because generally --

MR. KAPALKO: No, not new construction, existing, putting in sidewalks, streetlights, et cetera.

MR. McGINN: I mean, as far as I know there has been no request made and it would be however --

MR. KAPALKO: I just have another comment. It's unfortunate that Preserve Hudson Valley, United Monroe could not use their leverage with Kiryas Joel to get them to attend this meeting and respond to citizens's questions and concerns. This is just another example of Kiryas Joel disregarding transparency and open meeting laws. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, sir.

Ward Brower?
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MR. BROWER: Thank you. After the new Town of Palm Tree is formed will there be Town of Monroe board elections within 90 days? Because if you do not do that you will have a board in effect that has been elected by the previous bloc vote. So I'm saying, would there be a time frame on that? Once the official formation of Palm Tree and it's separate within 90 days will there be new Town Board elections free from the influence of that bloc vote?

MR. McGINN: I'll answer that. No. We will follow the normal election cycle.

MR. BROWER: So we are -- so in effect, we are going to have a board that is still controlled by the bloc vote even they -- the bloc vote is separate from a --

(Inaudible.)

MR. McGINN: I don't understand what you are saying, sir.

MR. BROWER: I'm saying you have a Town Board election every four years, now you form a new town, which allegedly removes most of the bloc vote, but you have residual effect
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of Town Board being in place by that bloc vote. So now you have -- they get the best of both world's, they get the new town and they get to control the old town. Should be 90 days should have a new board voted by the nonblock vote if that's the purpose of this agreement.

MR. McGINN: What is the next question?

MR. BROWER: Okay, don't want to answer that, that's fine.

Okay, the last time one of the members of UM stated -- or implied anyway -- that shortfall would be made up by new construction and referred to like residential growth. I don't think that person realizes that new residential construction is never -- or rarely ever thought of as a positive thing. The cost for infrastructure always far exceeds the tax dollars generated by the residential needs. So I'm asking for some other solution to offset the loss, the tax loss, when we form a new town to separate. We need some -- maybe you ought to talk to Peter Martin or someone like that. Thank
Proceedings

you.

MR. McGINN: Kathy Troiano?

MS. TROIANO: Thank you. I mostly have comments, which shouldn't surprise anyone.

For years snow removal in KJ highway was provided free, more than 10 years ago the KJ highway contract was created where the Town made money. United Monroe described this as a sweetheart deal. Last year the Town Board voted down the contract. How exactly did KJ's bloc vote help their residents at the direct expense of everyone else? Until now. Now their bloc vote has gotten them a town.

How can United Monroe support an agreement with KJ for fair reasonable housing when that housing at KJ is the type of high density housing, which they claim will destroy the environment?

Again, the Village of KJ government and the county is not present. A question, why not?

How do Councilmen Cardone, McGinn and Colon plan on negotiating anything regarding the fund balance of 4.7 million dollars?
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Once Palm Tree passes -- and we all know it will, please, let's not pretend -- what leverages does Monroe have?

The KJ Alliance will, of course, have the right to annex, they are not signatory to the agreement. As the KJ Alliance bloc grows Monroe Woodbury will need to transport hundreds and soon thousands of children over the next 10 years to private schools. Does Monroe Woodbury School District have figures for 10 years down the line on what this will cost?

Taxes will rise and services will be cut. What services are on the chopping block?

Thank you.

MR. McGINN: You are welcome.

Councilman Gerry McQuade?

MR. McQUADE: I just going to make some comments. I had written comments that weren't answered this week. I know some were spoken about last week, but they were not answered then either so the 14 or 15 questions will go unanswered.
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Where is the county? Where is Steve Neuhaus?

Where is KJ? The Board -- not the school District -- because their rep is here. Why are they not here? This benefits them greatly and they are not here again.

They took a lot of criticism from UM when they had a meeting in a snowstorm so where is the criticism now when they are not here? This is a problem --

SPEAKER: That's not true --

MR. McQUADE: Don't call out --

MR. McGINN: Ms. Kemnitz, please, there is no calling out, sorry. If you would like to speak you are welcome to --

MR. McQUADE: Give me back 20 seconds --

MR. McGINN: I'll put it back on the clock, I'll give you 25.

MR. McQUADE: Thank you. This is a sham in my opinion. I know there are people up there giving good efforts so I'm not criticizing them. But without the county and without KJ it's not working. At least the school district did show up this week, I
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commend them for that.

Most questions have not been answered.

I'd say about maybe a third of them haven't.

I don't think they will ever been answered,

ever, until after the election and they

wouldn't be answered even then. This is

guaranteed. The loophole someone is talking

about, the first two years before 2020 KJ, I

guess, could form new stuff because they are

not bound by it because they are not a new
town yet, that wasn't even looked at.

Preserve Hudson Valley lawsuit was not

paid for by the Town of Monroe taxpayers.
The taxpayers of Monroe do not care about

their legal bills, that's their problem. Why
do we have to pay taxes extra and KJ gets

everything they want and we pay for it? This
deal is unethical to the taxpayers of Monroe.

The school district lines can be changed
regardless of annexation or new town borders.

They are not required to be town border
friendly. We could have done this school
district thing at any time.

I do say that we need a settlement. My
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thing is 50 years at $2,000,000.00 a year for the Town of Monroe and whatever the school district can bargain for I think they should bargain for before November 7th.

Also, UM, 13 out of 15 local Town and Village officials outside of KJ have been basically endorsed and elected with UM. Why does UM have a problem if two Town Board Members, Mr. Goldstein and myself, don't agree with them? You have a party, it sounds like fascism when you don't let anyone disagree with you without spearing them.

Money was never -- this is the laughing thing -- KJ officials are laughing their heads off. Money was never mentioned even mentioned in the negotiations for the county UM and Preserve Monroe, never even brought up. After Election Day we will have no leverage to negotiate for any money at all. Why should the taxpayers or the good people of Monroe -- as UM always says -- over here have to pay for KJ's new town? KJ should pay the bill, not us.

The other thing is, when you are going
to say that they are an unconstitutional theocracy and then you give them their own town, I don't understand that.

John Allegro brought up tonight certain things. I think UM is raising the white flag over the Town of Monroe so Preserve Monroe and Hudson -- Preserve Hudson Valley can save money on lawsuits that they assured us that they would win. They also lost the two lawsuits against the movie theatre that they assured everyone they would win. Is this the group we want negotiating for us? They can't even win a lawsuit. And what we have here is millions of dollars every year.

Here is the difference real quick. Annexation, not perfect, I grant you that, but Town of Monroe keeps millions of dollars a year and it keeps KJ somewhat happy. Palm Tree, Town of Monroe loses millions of dollars a year and we not only have 220 more acres instead of 164, we have 1,220 acres of new town --

MR. McGINN: All right time is up --

MR. McQUADE: -- that is not fair.
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MR. McGINN: All right, time. Thank you.

Mike Egan?

MR. EGAN: Mike Egan, Town of Monroe.

As you've just seen, you know, this man was put on the Town Board by KJ to pass the annexations. And this is what we are trying to get rid of, folks, right here, so that's a perfect example. I mean, in that little spiel of hate you heard, you know, numerous lies, five, six -- I can't even keep up with them.

The claim was made that in the next two years before the Town is formed KJ could annex. If you took the time -- which I know he is a busy man, he doesn't have the time -- to read the agreement, or had listened to any of us saying they are prohibited from doing that for those two years. We heard a claim about the Alliance annexing -- but that's more nonsense. The Alliance doesn't have a town, they don't have a village. What are they going to annex into? It's disgraceful that our elected and appointed officials feel
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they have a right to get up here and lie, it's terrible.

Okay, I want --

(Inaudible.)

MR. EGAN: -- Tom Ammons in saying I'll gladly pay a modest tax increase to get rid of people like these people --

(Inaudible.)

MR. EGAN: -- and to get out from under the bloc vote of Kiryas Joel, have a future in this town where we can put people on who will stop the spread of high density housing. Who will worry about the quality of life --

MR. McGINN: Folks, please, come on. People were respectful when you spoke, be respectful when they speak.

MR. EGAN: -- worry about our quality of life and when that annexation ban comes off in what would be 12 years and KJ or anyone else approaches and requests an annexation they can say no, unlike our Town Board in 2015 that said yes.

Okay, I have a few questions for the RBT folks. Your report says that the scope is to
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determine the estimated impact of the
formation of the Town of Palm Tree using
unaudited 2016 annual update amounts. In
other words, financial reports for the year
of 2016. However, the 164 acres given to the
Village of Kiryas Joel by the Town Board in
2015 actually did not become part of that
Village until 2017 when the annexation was
finalized. As a result of the 2016 AUD used
would not have included any already incurred
negative tax impacts of that transfer of land
out of the unincorporated Town of Monroe and
into the Village of Kiryas Joel. And then if
so some of the impacts that are being
attributed to Palm Tree are actually
resulting from the 164 acre annexation. For
instance, some rise to the questions that I
have, I don't know the answers, I'm looking
for answers.

Real property tax levies, the 164 acres
that would transfer by annexation from the
Town of Monroe to Kiryas Joel in 2017 went --
had their tax rate reduced by about
30 percent from 10.78 dollars per thousand to
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$7.44 -- seven cents (sic) per thousand, the Village rate. I want to know whether you took that into account and if so where? Because I don't see it. Sales tax --

MR. McGINN: Do you want --

MR. EGAN: I'll ask the questions and then he can answer. Sales tax --

MR. McGINN: Wait one second, Mike. Just one second. Do you want to answer these one by one --

MS. HANNIGAN: I would say yes.

MR. McGINN: Okay, let's go one by one, so whoever wants to field that from RBT?

MS. HANNIGAN: With regard to looking at the 2017 taxes --

THE COURT REPORTER: You have to talk into the mic.

MR. McGINN: You have to talk into --

MR. CARNEY: You're going to have to talk right into that microphone.

MR. McGINN: If you would like, take it off the stand and --

MS HANNIGAN: Is that better? Is that better?
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MR. EGAN: Yes.

MS HANNIGAN: Okay, so with regard to the 2017 taxes we did not look at the '17 taxes. We looked at the impact of the creation of the Town of Palm Tree as pertains to the 2016 AUD, that was it. That was the scope of what we looked at. So to compare it to changes in 2017, that was not within our scope.

MR. EGAN: Right, but how many acres did you transfer from unincorporated Monroe into -- out of the Town and into the Town of Palm Tree?

MS. HANNIGAN: We looked at -- we were given the acreage from the tax assessor and we used what was considered the Town of Palm Tree.

MR EGAN: Right, but you -- do you know that there was an annexation of 164 acres --

MS. HANNIGAN: Right --

MR. McGINN: Hey, Mike, I just have to ask you, I don't want back and forth just hit the next question, you know --

MR. EGAN: We are talking past each
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Mike, you know. We could do it that, what you are suggesting, but nobody would learn anything.

MR. McGINN: Well, I'm just saying I think she answered it, so why --

MR. EGAN: She didn't answer it. So the 164 acres that transferred from Town of Monroe to Kiryas Joel in 2017, right? Had a tax --

MS. HANNIGAN: We did not look, that's what I'm saying. We did not look at any transactions from 2017. We took -- the scope of our work was to look at what would happen on the 2016 financial information when and if the Town of Palm Tree was created. That is what is our scope.

MR. McGINN: The next question, Mike, please? You are going back and forth here, just ask the next question.

MR. EGAN: You can foreclose the questions, but you are not getting to the answer. So here is my question, how did you account for the fact that the Town of Monroe, right, lost revenues as a result of the 164
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acres annexation and exclude those from your calculation of the impact of Palm Tree?

MS. HANNIGAN: We looked at them in total, we did not segregate the two.

MR EGAN: So I think you're saying you didn't exclude the impact of the 164.

MS. HANNIGAN: We did not exclude it. We looked at the -- the creation of the Town of Palm Tree in its entirety.

MR EGAN: Okay, so I think that based on your answers and maybe, you know, subsequently some more could be done to prove it, I think you overestimated the impact. I think that if Palm Tree was not done the annexation impacts, right, would occur and --

MS. HANNIGAN: We looked at --

MR. EGAN: -- you included some of those as part of our Town of Palm Tree.

MR. McGINN: All right, ma'am, answer the question and then we will move on.

MS. HANNIGAN: We looked at the Town of Palm Tree in its entirety. We did not look at transactions that occurred in 2017. You may feel we should have, but that isn't what
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we did, that wasn't within our scope.

MR. McGINN: Okay, thank you. Is there anyone else before we close out the panel that would like to speak -- or people?

Okay, the gentleman waving his hat in that row and work it down to the other gentleman there.

MR. BESCHNER: John Beschner (phonetic), Village of Monroe. Earlier we talked about the increase of $150.00 for the Town and the increase of $149.00 for the Village, but nothing was said about the Town -- the school tax. What is going to be the amount of increase?

MR. McGINN: I'm going to send that over, but that was addressed at the last meeting. But if the school district would like to answer that, that be would great.

MR. CAHILL: So we estimated that the tax impact annexation on a typical home with $275.00 -- $275,000.00 market value would be about $21.00 annually. And we, again, used that the net value the 343,000, the net impact to the school district, you know, the
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full revenue loss, less any costs associated with students that live in the annexation territory. So $21.00 annually was the estimate on $275,000.00 home.

MR. BESCHNER: All right, thank you.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: And I would just like to add one thing is that we have all this information, all of this documentation is on the website so I would encourage you to go on there and you can see this all. You can actually see the executive summary of the report that we received. If you have any questions and if anyone here has any questions regarding this after tonight, please feel free to send us an e-mail. We have a board meeting on the 25th and will answer any questions that we received from this moment on. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Deter Bicycle from Harriman and Monroe -- I'm sorry -- from Harriman. I would like to say I've stayed awake for the whole proceeding and it was very informative. I thank everybody for being here. One thing more thing I would like to say is the Yankees
MR. McGINN: Thank you for that update. Listen, if you already spoke we are just taking people -- this is like the last round here. So jumping to the next row, we have Ms. Kemnitz -- Legislator Kemnitz, I'm sorry.

MS. KEMNITZ: Yeah, thank you, that was one of the corrections I would like to make --

(Inaudible.)

MS. KEMNITZ: Yeah, I just wanted you all to know that I was here last time and I'm here today. And I wanted to thank you all for having the forum so that we can have an expression.

You asked a question -- I forgot who it was -- did those of us who voted in order for you to have a vote in Monroe to give you the vote, which the Democratic and the right way to do things in the United States -- we did not receive a penny for that vote. That's the major thing I wanted to come across here. We decided that you deserve a vote. You live here. I live here. It's the Democratic way.
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Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you. Pass to that gentleman at the end there, please. Go ahead, please.

MR. MANSON: Thank you. Jeff Manson, Oreco Terrace, that's O-R-E-C-O. Two questions, if I may?

The first is, since both of the school boards of both schools district have agreed that they would change the boundaries if the Town of Palm Tree is formed, I was just wondering if the superintendents could possibly address what they anticipate the transition process would be like of those acres from school district to school district?

MR. McGINN: Okay, do you want to go first or --

MR. PETLIN: Let me just see what I can do, I'll jump in front of Monroe Woodbury and give them the chance after. The provision -- the agreement that Monroe Woodbury and Kiryas Joel came up with gave us a lead in time so we'd be able to deal with some of those
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issues. So the agreement is -- the Board resolution for both the Monroe Woodbury School District and the KJ school district said that the boundary change for the school districts would occur the July 1st prior to the establishment of -- I'm sorry -- following the establishment of the Town of Palm Tree. That would give us enough time because the tax collection period really begins from the July 1st fiscal year. So in order for us to be able to make the change we needed to make and give the Orange County Office of Real Property Services time to make the changes because it's different school billing, we have a different tax rate than Monroe Woodbury, we obviously provide different services, so we be able to notify the affected families, we have an agreement within our resolutions to send any students who are living in those areas at the time of the transfer to the Town of Palm Tree that are currently attending the Monroe Woodbury School District to continue at the MW School District by us, KJ, paying tuition to the
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Monroe Woodbury School District similar to the way Monroe Woodbury sends tuition to Kiryas Joel for students that live in the Monroe Woodbury School District that they send for special education to our school district. So that lead in time gives us an opportunity --

(Inaudible.)

MR. PETLIN: -- to determine the right bus passes and the right tax bills to go out.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, Superintendent Petlin. Superintendent Rodriguez?

MS. RODRIGUEZ: I wanted to add that we had committees formed approximately three years ago, so these have been ongoing conversations so we are prepared if and when this were to occur to do as Mr. Petlin shared with you.

One of the pieces we were concerned about, or one of the things that we were concerned about was that if we had students who were living in that area that now would be part of the new the Town of Palm Tree, we wanted to ensure that those students would be
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able to continue to attend Monroe Woodbury Schools and that was agreed upon. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: And I believe the gentleman in the green shirt right here.

MR. ZCERWINISKI: Jason Zcerwinski, Z-C-E-R-W-I-N-S-K-I. I'm a recent Monroe Woodbury graduate. My question is for you, Ms. Rodriguez. You guys have been throwing around $350,000.00 like it's nothing, it's a $350,000.00 loss. A few years ago when I was still in high school you guys cut one of the activity bus runs and that did not go over so well. More recently you guys tried to cut the ice hockey team and, again, that did not go over so well. So I am interested in knowing A, is this $350,000.00 loss, you know, oh, my God loss, or is it just, you know, a nary loss?

And I would also like to know are you going -- what the next service is you are going to try and cut to makeup for the $350,000.00, or are you going to look for tax increase somewhere down the line?

MS. RODRIGUEZ: So can I answer that?
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MR. McGINN: Yes, absolutely.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: I think any loss for the school district is a concern for us. You mentioned several other items we cut. So every year we go through a budget process and look at things that we feel we can reduce or increase. So I'm not sure what your question is about the $350,000.00, it's a big loss to the district. We mentioned here that the taxpayers would have to have an increase in their taxes so it's burden for everyone, but it's a decision that we made probably after three years of work. Having someone -- we reached out to Quest Star 3 and they helped us make that decision. So every year we do look at our expenses and look at ways to save money and so it's not going to be any different this year.

But just to your first comment about that the 350,000, it is a big deal for us and our taxpayers and we understand that. Do you want to -- that's a good idea.

One of the things we have been working with with Assemblyman Skoufis is if, in fact,
this town were to be created we would be --
we have been asking for additional state aid.
And one of the possible benefits is we could
potentially get an additional 30 percent to
our state aid for capital projects. That
would be really a very good thing for the
Monroe Woodbury School District. It would
allow us to have greater capital projects and
so that's a benefit for us.

Did you want to add anything?

MR. CAHILL: I would just say that the
form of aid that Ms. Rodriguez is speaking
about, it's called building aid. It's aid
that is available for capital projects, we
have a lot of capital needs. And what we are
doing is attempting to tweak the State aid
formula so that aid that is typically used
for districts that consolidate or merge would
be available to us based on this alteration
of our boundary. And we suggested that there
be a threshold so it would make any district
that is impacted in a material way eligible
for this. So it's something we are pursuing,
but it would be very beneficial to our
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district, especially with some of the
facilities work that we have ahead of us.

MR. McGINN: Okay, thank you very much.

All right, anyone that has not spoken?

Last call? Come to your right -- my left.

MS. WALDMAN: Hello, Nadia Waldman,
Village of Monroe. I have a question, I
guess for the Village of KJ. Come
December 31st you gave us Harley Doles and
Gerry McQuade and I would like you guys to
take them back so --

MR. McQUADE: That's a personal attack, Mike.

MR. McGINN: Excuse me, listen, that's
not a question that is valid here.

Anyone else have any valid questions
that you would like to ask?

MR. McQUADE: You are a dummy.

MR. McGINN: All right, be civil
everyone.

Any other questions? Okay, being no
further questions from the audience, Mayor
Welle, would you like to --

MR. WELLE: All I want to say is that
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the Village of Harriman Board of Trustees,
they continue to support the formation of the
Town of Palm Tree with separation from the
Town of Monroe and the Monroe Woodbury School
District in accordance with the conditions
that have been previously presented. This is
the Board has come out with this several
times and the Board is still in favor of
this. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, Mayor Welle.

Mayor Purcell?

MR. PURCELL: I can answer one of John
Karl's questions.

John, there is no meters on KJ's
effluent flow and when it comes to Orange
County sewer district --

(Inaudible.)

MR. PURCELL: -- myself, Mayor Welle a
group of Monroe Woodbury have actually looked
quite into the change of how the district is
run. And I think Myrna was at one of the
meetings, we are concerned, as everybody is,
about the sewer district and future impacts
as everybody knows --
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(Inaudible.)

MR. PURCELL: We are looking forward to working with the county. We had some commitment from legislators already about creating a governing body of Orange County sewer district one so there is more fair use how the sewer district costs are going to be. Because we all realize as elected officials that it's not fair to the Village of Monroe or Village of Harriman that's built out pretty much and if these increases come, why should we as the taxpayer and ratepayer have to pay that? So the county is actually on board with us having these discussions moving forward, to let everybody know that. So don't think that it's not being addressed, it is being addressed. So it's one thing at a time.

I would like to thank everybody here from the public, the community. I would like to thank everybody's input. I would like to thank the Town of Monroe who laid out a few dollars to have this informal meeting and use the facility. Everybody's questions might
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not have been answered, but if they weren't answered by the parties to be, don't sell yourself short. Reach out to those that weren't here. Don't use it as an excuse because they weren't here, we are elected officials, reach out to whoever it is. Because at the end of the day you want to make informed decisions on knowledge that is provided. Just because someone might not be here doesn't mean it's a no or not informed answer. So you got to take it upon yourselves as residents to do your due diligence. It's a unique time for Monroe. I think everybody looks at Democracy as it is, we are here talking about it --

(Inaudible.)

MR. PURCELL: -- at the end of the day we come informed, whether this was fulfilling for everybody or not, but at least it's a step in the right direction.

Again, I would like to thank the Town Board for taking the time out to at least provide information for the public and thank everybody here again. Thank you.
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MR. McGINN: Thank you, Mayor Purcell.

Monroe Woodbury School District, would you like to make a closing statement or --

MS. RODRIGUEZ: I want to again reiterate that if you have any questions please e-mail me and we will answer the questions at the next board meeting. Additionally, the questions that we answered tonight will be on website and we encourage people who have questions to please reach out to us and we will answer the questions.

Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you, Superintendent Rodriguez.

Superintendent Petlin, do you have any closing statements?

MR. PETLIN: No, thank you.

MR. McGINN: United Monroe?

MR. ALLEGRO: I just wanted to say that the agreement is posted on the United Monroe website. If you haven't read it, please read it. Again, it was an agreement to settle a lawsuit that would put us in a position to endorse the separation of KJ from Monroe. It
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was a reduction in acreage from 382 down to
the 164 plus 56 acres. And it's your
decision, the citizens of Monroe, to vote yes
or no on it. Thank you.

MR. McGINN: Thank you.

Okay, that being said, I would like to
thank the members of the panel for your input
and being here this evening. The Village of
Monroe Police Department, members of the
audience, RBT, thank you all for coming.

See you on Election Day.
THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED to be a true and correct transcription of the original Stenographic minutes to the best of my ability.

Yvette Arnold