

Around LI

RIVERHEAD

Town board sessions resume after halt

The Riverhead Town Board resumed executive sessions after temporarily halting them pending legal advice on what can be discussed outside those meetings.

Riverhead Supervisor Laura Jens-Smith said the town attorney advised that items on Thursday's executive session agenda could be discussed in private.

The board at its Feb. 7 meeting suspended executive sessions after council members were upset that Councilwoman Jodi Giglio discussed the potential hiring of a town employee — which Giglio later said was a new superintendent for the town's water district — outside of a previous closed-door meeting.

Riverhead does not currently have any regulations in its town code on executive sessions, but, according to Jens-Smith, Town Attorney Robert Kozakiewicz is drafting a policy. Jens-Smith said most board members have been approached, and the policy is likely to be presented to the board soon.

"We feel comfortable going into executive session today, and we expect that we'll get a policy from him by our next meeting," Jens-Smith said.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA

MANORHAVEN

ZBA might vote on mixed-use project

The Village of Manorhaven's zoning appeals board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and possibly vote on granting variances to a proposed mixed-use development that residents have opposed for months.

Port Washington-based businessman Peter Dejana wants to build a three-story, 25,770-square-foot, mixed-use building at 22 Sagamore Hill Dr. in Manhasset Isles. Plans call for 16 two-bedroom apartment units and 1,300 square feet of retail space.

The village has collected about 160 pages of public comments about the Dejana project in recent months. Residents, including the village's former deputy mayor,



DANIEL GOODRICH

Seal of approval

EAST ISLIP.

James and Anthony Prudenti, both 8, admire a seal sunbathing at the Town of Islip's East Islip Marina on Sunday. The seal was in good health and had simply stopped to catch some rays, according to the Riverhead Foundation, which was alerted to its presence on the beach by Islip park rangers.

have expressed opposition, saying the mixed-use building would alter Manorhaven's skyline, overcrowd Manorhaven with new residents, and add parking pressures in the village.

"I just don't think this is good for Manhasset Isles," said Port Washington resident Gina Vulcano. "It'll be too much traffic and we'll be overpopulated."

The meeting will be at Village Hall on Manorhaven Boulevard in Port Washington.

— CHRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

SMITHTOWN TOWN

Hopes of progress on CSEA union contract

Negotiators for Smithtown and the union that represents most town employees will meet in coming weeks for contract talks that have been stalled for more than a year, Town Supervisor Edward Wehrheim said.

A "fruitful" meeting last Monday has inspired new hope for talks that had been headed toward nonbinding arbitration, he said.

Wehrheim said earlier this month the two sides had gotten stuck over worker pay. "We have tried to give options relative to salary, but when we

bring up our offer, their response is that it's a deal-breaker," he said, declining to give specifics about negotiating positions.

CSEA represents 450 blue collar and clerical town workers. The union's contract expired in 2017.

The last CSEA contract, signed in 2016 under former town supervisor Patrick Vecchio, included salary increases of 1.4 percent for 2016 and 1.5 percent for 2017. It increased longevity pay and raised the number of employee personal days from four to five.

Smithtown CSEA unit president Christopher Downer did not respond to a request for comment.

The town council on Thursday authorized approval of a three-year agreement with the smaller Smithtown Administrators Guild, which represents about 30 department heads and administrators.

Wehrheim said that agreement provided for yearly 2 percent raises each January, along with cost-of-living adjustments each July.

— NICHOLAS SPANGLER

NASSAU COUNTY

Comptroller gives an account of first year

Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman gave a

progress report on his first year in office, including the launch of seven audits into Nassau County departments and finances.

Schnirman spoke Friday to 200 auditors in Melville at the conference for the Institute of Internal Auditors on Long Island.

As comptroller, Schnirman said he discovered a \$69 million deficit in Nassau County's rainy day fund at the end of 2017. Schnirman said the county has a \$122.4 million operating deficit and a structural deficit of \$42 million.

Schnirman, a Democrat elected in 2017, touted creating an online "open checkbook" to track the county's \$1 billion in outside contracts and allow residents to look up county spending on departments and vendors.

The comptroller's office has completed six audits inherited by former comptroller George Maragos. The comptroller's office identified \$16.5 million in missing, wasted or inefficiently spent funds, including \$7.6 million missing PILOT payments from the Town of Hempstead IDA.

Schnirman has also launched audits into nepotism throughout county departments and towns, the Nassau County assessment review, the Hempstead animal shelter, the Nas-

sau Bridge Authority, and Friends of Nassau Parks.

— JOHN ASBURY

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

Federal workers get extra time on taxes

Brookhaven is giving federal employees who live in the town more time to pay their property taxes.

The town board Thursday voted 7-0 to waive penalties and late-payment fees for federal workers who were furloughed or were designated as non-pay employees during the 35-day government shutdown that ended late last month. Those workers were given an additional three months to pay their property taxes without penalty.

Hempstead and Southold towns also have approved extensions, and Nassau and Suffolk counties authorized 90-day extensions for payments of county property taxes.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo last month directed state tax agencies to grant furloughed employees an additional 90 days to pay income taxes. About 15,000 federal workers live on Long Island, officials have said.

— CARL MACGOWAN