1	STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2	DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
3	x
4	IN RE:
5	Local Finance Board :
6	x
7	
8	
9	Location: Department of Community Affairs
10	101 South Broad Street
11	Trenton, New Jersey 08625
12	Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018
13	Commencing At: 11:01 a.m.
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18	
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2	4
1 HELD BEFORE:	1 MS. WALTER: So good morning,
2	2 everyone. This meeting was first open to the
3 MELANIE WALTER, Chairwoman	3 public in a separate ethics session upstairs.
4 DOMINICK DIROCCO	4 We'll move right into the financial agenda here.
5 TED LIGHT	5 If any members of the public wish to be heard on
6 WILLIAM CLOSE	6 an application, please raise your hand when that
7 ALAN AVERY	7 application comes up so we know to call you up to
8 FRANCIS BLEE	8 be heard.
9 IDIDA RODRIGUEZ	9 First matter the board is going to
10	10 consider is not on the agenda. I'd like to
11 ALSO PRESENT:	11 introduce a resolution regarding someone we're
12	12 losing who has been with the board for a very
13 CAMERYN HINTON, DAG	13 long time. That would be Emma Salay who's been
14 PATRICIA PARKIN MCNAMARA, Executive Secretary	14 the Board Secretary since been with the board
15 EMMA SALAY, Deputy Executive Secretary	15 since 1980.
16	16 I'd like to read into the record a
17	17 draft resolution for the board to consider.
18	18 Whereas, Emma Salay has served as an employee of
19	19 the state of New Jersey for over 38 years. And
20	20 during that time has rendered both excellent and
21	21 valuable services to the state of New Jersey and
22	22 its citizens.
23	23 Whereas, Emma has specifically
24	24 provided dedicated public service to the Division
25	25 of Local Government Services since her July 28,
2	-
3	5
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And whereas, Emma, artist of agenda 2 and rescuer of resolution has steadily guided

3 bond counsels, financial advisors and wayward

4 board members, and this Local Finance Board

desires to recognize her outstanding service to

state government and dedication to assisting

local government units and the citizens and

taxpayers of New Jersey.

And shucks, this whole thing would

10 have been a little easier if we'd only saved the

11 draft we were working on last year when she first

12 said she was going to retire. And whereas, the

13 Local Finance Board wishes to extend its

14 appreciation, and that of the citizens of New

15 Jersey, to Emma Salay for the excellent and

16 valuable service she has provided during her

17 service as an employee of the state of New

18 Jersev.

19 And whereas, the Local Finance Board

20 further wishes to extend its best wishes for a

21 long, happy, healthy productive retirement. Now

22 therefore, be it resolved that the members of the

23 Local Finance Board and this New Jersey

24 Department of Community Affairs hereby honor Emma

25 for her service to this board and the citizens of

MR. ROGUT: Good morning. I'm Steve

Rogut from Rogut McCarthy. We're bond counsel to

Montville Fire District Number Three. With me is

Anthony Speciale. He's chairman of the Board of

Fire Commissioners.

6 (At which those time those wishing

7 to testify were sworn in.)

8 MR. ROGUT: Montville Fire District

9 Number Three is seeking the Local Finance Board's

approval of a 902,707 dollar fire truck lease

purchase transaction. The fire district will be

applying \$550,000 in capital reserve funds, so

only 352,707 is being financed. The lease

purchase transaction was approved at the February

17, 2018 annual fire district election by a vote

16 of 16 to three.

17 The fire district is being procured

18 under a national cooperative purchasing agreement

19 with the Houston Galveston Area Council in Texas.

20 The lease financing procurement was done through

21 competitive bids, and packages were sent to 30

22 banks and leasing companies and seven bids were

23 received for both three and five year terms.

24 The commissioner selected the low

25 bid for the five year term provided by TD

7

1 the state of New Jersey.

2 Be it further resolved that the

3 Local Finance Board hereby extends its best

wishes to Emma Salay for many years of happiness

and success in all endeavors she undertakes in

retirement. Be it further resolved that this

resolution shall take effect immediately. 8 (Applause.)

9 MS. WALTER: Would someone like to

10 make a motion?

12

11 MR. BLEE: So moved.

MR. AVERY: Second.

13 MR. LIGHT: Let's do it unanimously.

14 MS. WALTER: So a unanimous motion?

15 MR. LIGHT: A unanimous motion and a unanimous second.

16

17 MS. MCNAMARA: All aye?

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. WALTER: Now onto our regularly

21 scheduled entertainment. First up is the

Montville Township Fire District. As you come

up, would you please introduce yourself for the

24 record, and anyone who is not an attorney, please

25 be sworn.

1 Equipment Finance through the Morris County

9

Improvement Authority Lease Program at an

interest rate of 3.4056 percent. The annual

lease payments of \$77,909.30 equate to a tax

impact of \$31.63 per year to the average

6 homeowner.

However, the fire district does not

intend to raise taxes for the lease payments.

9 Rather, the district plans to offset the lease

payments by reducing the amount it raises as a

capital reserve for fire apparatus during the 11

12 lease term. Does the board have any questions?

13 MS. WALTER: Initially, I'd like to

14 note, I was very impressed with the number of

15 responses that you had on the finance

application. You had eight banks respond? 16

17 MR. ROGUT: Seven. One didn't quite 18 conform.

19 MS. WALTER: Give us a little bit

about what your process was. It's better than

21 what we see a lot of the time, so I'm very

22 impressed by that.

23 MR. ROGUT: Thank you.

24 MS. WALTER: Going beyond that, just

25 a couple questions. Not a lot of red flags here.

10 12 1 One of the things we wanted to ask about, and 1 MR. BLEE: Yes. 2 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light? 2 this is something we're going to be raising with all the fire districts that we see. You guys 3 MR. LIGHT: Yes. haven't done your public notice yet. MR. ROGUT: Thank you very much. 5 MR. ROGUT: We actually did. 5 MS. WALTER: Next up is Millstone 6 MS. WALTER: When did you do it? 6 Township Fire District Number One. This is a 7 MR. ROGUT: On Saturday, the 6th. 7 proposed project financing as well, correct? 8 8 MS. WALTER: Okay. So we don't have MR. YOUSSOUF: Correct. 9 9 MS. WALTER: Please introduce a copy of that. 10 MR. ROGUT: I have one. yourselves, and all counsel will need to be 11 MS. WALTER: That's something that 11 sworn. 12 12 we're going to be reiterating throughout this MR. YOUSSOUF: I'm Joseph Youssouf, 13 attorney for the board. meeting. We had a lot of time to notice the 13 14 application, and our Local Finance notice said MR. MCMANIMON: Ed McManimon, bond last year that those need to be done before the 15 counsel to the fire district. board hears the application. 16 MR. YOUSSOUF: And I have three 16 17 MR. ROGUT: No, no, we did it. commissioners with me. Larry Cier to my left, 17 18 MS. WALTER: Thank you. So you're 18 the board's treasurer, two commissioners. Former 19 batting a thousand today. Current debt, how much 19 chief, former commissioner, do everything for the fire district. Marie Reed, commissioner and Ed debt does the fire district have outstanding? 20 20 Reed, in charge of the Truck Committee and former 21 MR. ROGUT: None. 22 MS. WALTER: And can you talk a 22 chief and president. 23 23 little bit about what the amount is that's been (At which time those wishing to 24 testify were sworn in.) used from capital improvement? 25 25 MR. ROGUT: 550,000. MR. MCMANIMON: From past history, I 11 13 1 MS. WALTER: What does that leave in generally defer on these to Joe, who is the 2 the fund? expert at all of these things. I just wanted to MR. ROGUT: That brings the fund to, 3 make one personal comment. I think you should 4 for new capital truck, almost oh, maybe \$10,000. fix your resolution because in addition to 5 MR. ROGUT: And are you looking to wayward members, she's guided wayward bond 6 address that in your next budget? attorneys as well. 7 MR. ROGUT: Yeah. Every year more And I personally want to thank Emma 8 money goes into that fund. It gets replenished. because, at least from the standpoint of our 9 MS. WALTER: Does anybody else have 9 firm, and I'm sure from others, she's been a any questions on this one? 10 phenomenal resource pre your meetings and setting MR. DIROCCO: Make a motion to things up for us, and it's been very, very 11 12 helpful for a very long time because I've approve. MS. WALTER: Second? 13 actually been around longer than you, Emma. I 13 14 MR. LIGHT: Second. 14 very much appreciate it. 15 15 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter? MS. SALAY: Thank you. MS. WALTER: Yes. 16 MR. YOUSSOUF: To also add to that 16 17 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco? 17 list of people, I agree with Ed's comment, 18 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. wayward general attorneys which seem to be 18 19 19 probably the majority of the attorneys, but we'll MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close? 20 MR. CLOSE: Yes. save that comment for another meeting. Madam 21 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery? 21 Chair, Members of the Board, we are at Millstone 22 22 replacing two fire apparatus of advanced age and MR. AVERY: Yes. 23 23 good use with one new modern piece of equipment. MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez? 24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 24 It is an expensive undertaking when 25 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee? 25 a fire district purchases fire apparatus these

- 1 days. In talking to former Commissioner Reed,
- 2 one of the last trucks we purchased was \$385,000.
- As you can see, this particular truck is
- substantially more expensive. The three years
- were devoted to analysis of the competing
- equipment available, trying to find the equipment
- that most satisfies the need of this district.
- 8 Millstone is a growing community, 9 urban community, and since the last two trucks
- were purchased, the fire company itself has 10
- evolved that we are now a mixed department with
- 10 paid firefighters and a dedicated staff of
- volunteers that we're very happy and thankful to
- 14
- 15 Long story short in that analysis,
- 16 it costs us a lot more money to do what we used
- to do because of equipment cost increases,
- training requirements and the cost of personnel,
- but you can have the best personnel and the best
- equipment in the world without those dedicated
- 21 volunteers and highly trained professional
- firefighters you accomplish nothing. Lives are
- lost, property is destroyed. Financial integrity
- of the district I think is unparalleled.
- 25 Looking at the budget for the year

- 1 seamless and it's a wise investment of time and
- money to do this. So we're happy to answer any
- 3 questions that you may have about this
- application. And the commissioners are here to
- answer those questions with me.
- MS. WALTER: So do the trucks that
- 7 you're replacing, is there anything you're going
- to need a secondary vehicle to address that offer
- safety features or anything like that, or is this
- 10 all in one?
- 11 MR. YOUSSOUF: This truck is
- basically an all in one. It's a heavy rescue 12
- 13 pumper combination truck which is, admittedly, is
- 14 the one of the reasons it's so expensive, but
- 15 we're replacing -- light duty rescue, Ed? 16
 - MR. REED: Light duty rescue.
- 17 MR. YOUSSOUF: And a pumper that are
- 18 outdated. FDA standards which is a concern for
- 19 us for our firefighters protection.
- 20 MS. WALTER: Who do you do mutual
- 21 aid with in your area?
- 22 MR. YOUSSOUF: Mutual aid is we find
- 23 it necessary to respond with everybody. Ed, do
- you want to describe our mutual aid? 24
- 25 MR. REED: We have association for

15

- the fire chiefs which incorporates companies from
- Monmouth, Middlesex, Ocean and Mercer Counties
 - and some of Burlington. At the western end of
 - Monmouth County, we've pretty much got them all
 - around us and we have a very active joint
 - association.
 - MS. WALTER: So same question for
 - the last applicant. We noted that the -- one
 - more before I get there, we're wondering what the
 - 10 issuance costs were coming from?
 - 11 MR. MCMANIMON: I advised the next
 - 12 fire district that Tony Solimine filled in a
 - number and that number I advised was just too
 - high for the size of this transaction. And for
 - 15 this transaction as well as the Hopewell one that
 - 16 will follow, the fee will we 7500, not the 12
 - 17 that is the one that was represented for this one
 - 18 or the 8500 that was in this one.
 - 19 MS. WALTER: That makes sense. And
 - 20 we hadn't received the fire public notice.
 - 21 MR. YOUSSOUF: Our understanding was
 - 22 that we would do the public notice once the award
 - 23 has been made. We haven't formally made any
 - 24 award pending the outcome of the board's action.
 - 25 MS. WALTER: The 2017 Local Finance

- 1 2018, which was just passed this last February,
- the tax rate on the budget posed for 2018 was
- 3 0.0986, less than 10 cents a hundred. Because of
- 4 the sound financial planning by the district, we
- are satisfied that we can acquire this equipment, pay the financing without inflicting on the
- taxpayers any additional tax increase.
- 8 And looking to do the financing, the
- board solicited financing quotes from PNC Bank,
- 10 US Bank and TD Bank, and the deviation in
- interest rate offers is PNC was offering a 4.55
- 12 percent interest. US Bank was 3.65 percent
- 13 interest and TD Bank was 3.38 percent interest,
- so we want to go with TD Bank because, obviously,
- 15 it's the best interest rate.
- 16 We get the best bank for the buck
- 17 and we can acquire equipment. Just as the preceding fire district, we have chosen to
- utilize the services of the HGAC, and for those
- members of the board who know me from years I've
- appeared before you, we've gone with HGAC in a
- number of fire districts.
- 23 Once the program was vetted by the
- state and approved, we found that the cost
- savings are significant. The acquisition is

18 20 1 MR. CLOSE: Second. 1 Notice indicated the board wouldn't consider the 2 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter? 2 these applications if a notice wasn't done prior 3 3 to submission. MS. WALTER: Yes. 4 MR. YOUSSOUF: We'll submit it. 4 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco? 5 MS. WALTER: Just for future 5 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 6 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close? 6 reference, we're not going to be putting these on 7 7 the agenda if we haven't got the notices. We had MR. CLOSE: Yes. 8 a bunch of these today. I wanted to reiterate MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery? 9 MR. AVERY: Yes. 9 these today. MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez? 10 MR. YOUSSOUF: Thank you. 10 11 MS. WALTER: And I would move to 11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 12 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee? approve, but with the condition that the public 12 13 MR. BLEE: Yes. 13 notice be submitted. 14 14 MR. YOUSSOUF: Absolutely. MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light? 15 MR. BLEE: Second. 15 MR. LIGHT: Yes. 16 MR. CLOSE: You talked about the 16 MR. YOUSSOUF: Thank you. 17 MS. WALTER: Next up is Hopewell savings earlier. What are the savings that you 17 18 Township Fire District Number One, a proposed 18 expect on this by using the HGAC? 19 MR. YOUSSOUF: With the HGAC, we project financing. As you come up, those that are non counsel, please be sworn and introduce estimated it was \$47,000, I believe on the 20 20 yourself for the record. acquisition of the --21 22 22 MR. CLOSE: Based on? (At which time those wishing to 23 23 MR. YOUSSOUF: Based on if we had testify were sworn in.) gone out to bid with competitive trucks and if we 24 MR. MCMANIMON: Thank you. For the 25 record, Ed McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, bond purchased it from Pierce directly without the 19 21 1 HGAC discount which is built in. HGAC works as a 1 counsel. I have, to my right, the purchasing 2 national clearinghouse for major fire apparatus, agent for the fire district, Sarah Ocicki and 3 and consequently, for prices of variable 3 Lieutenant JD Moore. The chief had planned to 4 negotiating with the manufacturers is come here, but he was called away for a fire substantially below which we can, as an 5 emergency last night that's extended in here. individual fire district, can do, so I think the This is an application for the 6 number is around 47,000, if I remember correctly. authority to issue bonds in the amount of \$520,000 to purchase two different things, a Does that sound right? 9 MR. REED: I think so. tanker truck and a marine rescue vehicle which is 10 MR. CLOSE: So that's based with a boat, along the Delaware River which they comparison of Pierce -- what they're selling them service. The referendum passed in February of 11 12 for out in the market place? this year. MR. YOUSSOUF: Yes. 13 It was 117 voted yes and 69 voted 13 MR. REED: We started with seven 14 no. The number of voters is about 14,000, and as 14 15 manufacturers, and we got it down, come down to usual, you have fewer people come out for these. As you know, there's a change in the law that 16 the final and the last two were within one and-a-half percent of each other. requires a fire district to send out absentee 17 ballots to everybody that voted in the prior 18 MR. LIGHT: Pierce. Who was the 19 Presidential Election. 19 other one? 20 MR. REED: Asimla (ph). 20 So in the future, I'm assuming there 21 will be a larger number of people voting on these 21 MR. CLOSE: All the terms were kinds of elections, even though generally, 22 complied with? 23 there's maybe half a dozen that submit absentee MR. YOUSSOUF: Yes, sir. 24 ballots, but there will be more. The costs, the 24 MR. LIGHT: I'll move the 25 referendum went out for \$610,000. The actual, 25 application.

1 through the bidding process, has reduced that cost to \$520,000.

3 I know this board has generally 4 asked fire districts whether they put cash into the transaction, and I think they can advise you that there is another capital project that's a result of replacing an underground tank and a

sprinkler system at the firehouse for which they

have provided about five or \$600,000 of savings

that they're going to use for that instead of

going out for another referendum.

12 And as a result, they didn't take 13 some of that money that's been built up to this and then have insufficient money for that, so I think, economically, it's been a good decision

for them to make. They, like the other fire

districts, have presented to you, use the HGAC by

collaborative for the same reasons that Mr.

Yousouf just described for Millstone because they

do the bidding and they do the procurement, and

it's obvious that this came in at much lower than

they thought as a result of that process.

23 So our office, because there's not a 24 financial advisor here, the office solicited bids

for the financing from Peapack and Gladstone, TD

They do loans, so this is a loan

that's evidenced in the form of a bond, and

3 that's the prior financing that this fire

district was also a bond to Northfield, so they

were happy that Northfield gave them the rate

that they did, but that's the reason they wanted

to do a bank loan right around the corner. 8 MS. WALTER: Question I had, you

said there was another capital project. Is there

10 going to be any debt associated with that?

MS. OCICKI: There should not be.

12 We plan to use restricted funds to cover the

13 entire project.

11

14 MR. MCMANIMON: Want to explain the 15 project better than I did?

16 MS. OCICKI: There's a sprinkler

tank and an underground pressurized tank and it 17

18 needs to be replaced, along with several of the

sprinkler lines within the firehouse, so we need

20 to remove and reinstall a new sprinkler system

21 for that firehouse.

22 MS. WALTER: You were talking about

23 marine. I was wondering what other -- you have

24 currently. 25

MS. OCICKI: Currently we have two

25

23

1 and Northfield Bank. Northfield Bank is the

local bank that has provided the financing for

them before. TD was not interested, and Peapack

and Gladstone said they would put in a proposal

if it was being negotiated rather than bid, and

if they could have a compository arrangement

which was not going to be provided to the people

who were going to bid for that. 8

14

18

the district.

9 This fire district, in addition to serving Hopewell Township, they have shared services agreements with both Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough, and they can answer any questions, but it's a very active group within

15 MS. WALTER: So you kind of touched on this, if you could elaborate why you went through a bond process instead of a lease purchase with the bank?

19 MR. MCMANIMON: Well, I'll explain that. The Northfield Bank, which is a local bank, had provided the best rate. It's right in the middle of the rates that is close to the low

rate that Joe Yousouf just indicated from his 24 procurement. I don't know what Steve Rogut did

25 with the Montville one, but they don't do leases.

boats. Do you want to --

2 MR. MOORE: We have one that we're

looking to replace, which was a fishing boat

type. And about 2010, I believe we had purchased

another smaller boat, and through our mutual aid

and shared services agreements, with the river

right here, we respond in Bucks County and

Trenton and Hunterdon Counties throughout, so

with the purchase of an additional boat would

10 help us out with what we currently have.

11 MS. WALTER: How does this differ from the other type of equipment that you had 12

13 before that you already have to use right now?

14 MR. MOORE: The boat we're looking to replace is a V Hull fishing type boat. In

2010, we purchased a flat bottom boat because

17 especially in the summertime, the river gets

really low and we can't even take out the V

19 bottom boat because of the rocks, so getting this

20 different type of boat would definitely help us 21 out.

22 MR. CLOSE: Proceeds are used from

23 the sale of this boat, you're planning to sell 24 that boat, the one you're replacing?

25 MR. MOORE: Yes. We put it on Gov

1 Deals. 2 MR. CLOSE: And you use that 3 towards? 4 MS. OCICKI: I don't anticipate we 5 would get a lot for it. It's a 1989, but whatever we do get would go towards that. 6 7 MR. CLOSE: And you're replacing? 8 MS. OCICKI: The 1989 low boat or 9 the tanker. 10 MR. CLOSE: The tanker? 11 MS. OCICKI: That's a 1990 Peterbilt 12 tanker. 13 MR. CLOSE: And proceeds from that 14 will be used for? 15 MR. MCMANIMON: Either for this or 16 that other project. 17 MR. CLOSE: You're submitting that 18 towards one of these two projects? 19 MR. MCMANIMON: Yes. 20 MR. LIGHT: I was going to ask, how 21 many fire districts are there in Mercer County? 22 MR. MCMANIMON: There's nine in 23 Hamilton. I think that's still an issue. 24 MR. LIGHT: This covers district

1 MR. LIGHT: You're the largest one I 2 guess? 3 MR. MOORE: It is. 4 MS. WALTER: Related to that, in making the application, represented that the shared services agreement with Pennington was 6 7 still in effect but that Pennington wouldn't be contributing for payment. Could you address 9 that? 10 MS. OCICKI: We have shared service agreements for fire protection and fire inspection services. In addition, we pay a portion of their budgets because they're so much smaller, yet their area is so much smaller. Yet, their volunteers respond in our township, so we 15 cover a portion of their budget. They have never 16 covered any portion of our budget. 17 18 MR. MOORE: To my knowledge. 19 MS. OCICKI: The shared service 20 agreements are mainly for fire and emergency 21 responses inspection. 22 MR. MCMANIMON: One last point 23 because I know you're going to raise it. They also, like the other districts, we're waiting for the findings here before they published the

27

does district number one cover?

2 MS. OCICKI: All of Hopewell

3 Township.

4 MR. MCMANIMON: There's only one

fire district, Hopewell Township. When you said

Mercer County, did you mean Hopewell? Hopewell

number one. Let me rephrase it. What territory

has one fire district. Each of the boroughs,

Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough as well.

9 MR. LIGHT: The smaller boroughs --

or do they have fire?

MS. OCICKI: All of them. 11

12 MR. LIGHT: All of them do?

13 MS. OCICKI: Yes. Hopewell Township

14 has two donut hole boroughs. We all have our own

15 fire district. There's two within the township.

16 MR. LIGHT: And the smaller ones

have their own district also? 17

18 MS. OCICKI: Mm-mm.

19 MR. MCMANIMON: As I spoke to them

20 outside today, they do coordinate the equipment

that's needed which has always been a concern

22 with this board when everybody buys them as

23 duplicates. That's not the case in the Hopewell

24 Borough, Pennington Borough and Hopewell

25 Township.

notification, so they haven't done that, but they

will based on what you've indicated previously.

29

3 MS. WALTER: And going forward bear

in mind --4

5 MR. MCMANIMON: Right.

6 MS. OCICKI: Yes.

7 MS. WALTER: And you had represented

the last application just to reiterate for the

record here that the issuance cost will be lower

10 than submitted.

12

11 MR. MCMANIMON: Correct.

MS. WALTER: I have a couple

13 questions on this one. The marine unit for

permit process. We had asked about that. The

initial response -- committee volunteer members

16 who, I guess, reviewed things and we were looking

17 for more information about that.

18 MS. OCICKI: So we had several

19 volunteer members. I think four or five

20 volunteers and one was our career fire district

21 employees and they met to create the

specifications for the boat that they needed to 22

perform, basically what they needed to perform in

this river. And once they had that, we reached

out to several different vendors. I had two

32 30 1 it in there. 1 quotes come back in, and so we've chose the lowest one to go with for that. 2 MR. CLOSE: The pumper tanker, how 3 MS. WALTER: There wasn't anything 3 many work hours are on the unit? 4 4 on the state contract available? MR. MOORE: Currently? 5 MS. OCICKI: I checked on that 5 MR. CLOSE: Mm-mm. 6 6 particular boat or another boat that was like MR. MOORE: Ours start at 3,223. that. I couldn't find anything on the HGAC or in 7 MR. CLOSE: What year is that again? 8 MS. OCICKI: That was a 1990. Mercer County Co-op. 9 9 MR. CLOSE: The savings on there, MS. WALTER: And you represented that there would be no impact on taxes from this you projected \$18,000 savings on this equipment 10 purchase. It is a fairly sizable purchase. Can 11 by using the HGAC? 12 MS. OCICKI: At least. I mean, we you talk about the debt structure, how it's going 13 to work out that there's no tax impact? 13 originally anticipated that the project would 14 MS. OCICKI: I think there was a tax cost \$600,000, and after going through meeting with vendors and finding the right truck for 15 impact. MS. WALTER: There would be no them, they've brought it down to the lowest that 16 they found. increase in the tax rate. 17 17 18 MS. OCICKI: We have other debt 18 MR. CLOSE: And they're in 19 service that is -- that we're ending, so we're 19 compliance with the local finance notice on this, 20 all aspects of it? done paying several other pieces of capital 21 MR. MCMANIMON: Yes, other than the 21 projects. 22 MS. WALTER: You're expecting that 22 notification. 23 to off set? 23 MR. CLOSE: Other than the MS. OCICKI: Mm-mm. 24 24 notification? 25 25 MS. WALTER: And what's the useful MR. MCMANIMON: Correct. 31 33 1 life of the new marina? We don't see as many of 1 MS. WALTER: Motion to approve? these. 2 MR. LIGHT: I'll move the 3 MS. OCICKI: The last one lasted 30 3 application. 4 years. I think this one is more rugged, so I MR. BLEE: Second. anticipate that they'll be able to better use it 5 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter? for emergency rescue. 6 MS. WALTER: Yes. 6 7 MS. WALTER: One last question for 7 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco? 8 8 me. I note that there is a -- I know you said MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 9 there's going to be an adjustment to the issuance 9 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close? 10 cost. It's going to be a separate line item. 10 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 11 There's a miscellaneous expense documented of 11 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery? over \$3,000. I'm wondering what that accounts 12 MR. AVERY: Yes. 12 13 for. 13 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez? 14 MR. MCMANIMON: I don't know if 14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. there's a fee that Northfield Bank will charge 15 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee? 16 MR. BLEE: Yes. for the lawyers that we have to pay. We just put that in so it's a number. That isn't nothing --17 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light? 18 although that I think they can take care of their MR. LIGHT: Yes. 19 own stuff, but I don't know the answer to that. 19 MR. MCMANIMON: Thank you. 20 MS. WALTER: A financing fee? 20 MR. MOORE: Thank you very much, and 21 MR. MCMANIMON: Yes. There's not a 21 congratulations. 22 MS. SALAY: Thanks. 22 financing fee. They may have their lawyer who 23 MS. WALTER: Next up is the Evesham you generally pay the bank's lawyer when you do 24 financings, but we're not volunteering to do 24 Township Fire District Number One, the proposed that, but to the extent we have to, I referenced project financing. As you come up, please

1 introduce yourselves and all non counsel will

need to be sworn.

3 MR. WINITSKY: Good morning. My 4 name is Jeff Winitsky. I'm an attorney with

Parker McCay, bond counsel to the Evesham

Township Fire District Number One. To my right

is Paul Thomas, who is the business manager for

the fire district. To his right is Scott

Freedman who is the captain of the fire

district,, and to his right, Michelle Mitchell

who is the assistant business administrator to

12 the fire district.

13 (At which time those wishing to 14 testify were sworn in.)

15 MR. WINITSKY: Thank you. So the commissioners of Evesham Township Fire District 16

Number One are here to seek positive findings

pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6 to issue up to

\$750,000 of bond anticipation notes for the

purpose of financing a portion of the costs of

21 the acquisition of a new rescue vehicle for the

22 fire district.

23 By way of background, the fire

24 district had an election in February of 2017

seeking approval to issue bonds or notes to

1 dollars of bonds or notes, the fire district

determined to use \$250,000 out of its 2018 budget

to pay for a portion of the project, and is

likewise going to use an additional \$250,000 out

of its 2019 budget to pay for a portion of the

cost of the project.

So the notes would be issued solely

for the purpose of financing the cost of the

vehicle not otherwise budgeted for the fire

10 district's budget, so in this case, \$750,000. So

the new rescue vehicle will be placed in service

at the fire district's Main Street station with

the current vehicle which is a 2001 Seagrave

moved to another station which will replace a

15 1994 Ford C8000.

That vehicle will be auctioned off, 16

and any proceeds that are generated from the fire 17

18 district will be used to offset debt service on

the notes which we think is the prudent way to do

it. For purpose of procuring the vehicle, the 20

21 fire district utilizes Houston Galveston Area

22 Cooperative Council Purchasing Program as is

23 permitted by applicable law.

24 In that regard, the fire district

25 has solicited and received a price quote from the

37

35

1 finance a larger capital improvement program that

included the acquisition of the fire apparatus

that we're here today to finance as well as

renovations and improvements to three of the fire

district's firehouses, the acquisition of various

equipment and some other capital improvements for

all of their equipment.

8 The vote was overwhelmingly approved

by a vote of 275 to 19 recognizing that's a low

10 number for the amount of people who are in

Evesham Township. Nevertheless, that's a big

12 number for a fire district, or we would like to

think so, in a positive vote for sure.

14 The fire district's determined to 15 undertake the larger capital improvement program,

as well as the acquisition of the vehicle, as a

result of its annual review of its long term

capital and operational needs which identified

the need to replace a 22 year old rescue vehicle,

20 replace all of its automatic electronic

defibrillators, replace generators, make

22 improvements to its firehouses and the like.

And for that purpose, in an effort

24 to be fiscally responsible, notwithstanding the

fact that the referendum allowed for 1.2 million

1 Cooperative of a Pierce velocity tandem axle, I

want to make sure I get this right, rescue

vehicle, in the amount of \$925,585 of which the

notes would be utilized to finance only a portion

5 of that cost.

14

22

The fire district looked at the 6

Houston Galveston Cooperative in comparison to

competitive bidding and also using the state

contract and found that that method would be the

most cost efficient, so we looked at all options

and we figured, on a price basis, that would be

the best way to go. They had buying power and it 12

13 was most beneficial for the fire district.

As I noted before, the notes are

15 being issued to pay for that balance of the cost

otherwise budgeted for. And the fire district

17 expects to issue notes for a period of five years

making even principal pay downs of \$150,000 in 18

19 each year. The reason we're doing notes as

opposed to bonds, a 750,000 bond doesn't have a

21 big audience or market.

Likewise, with respect to utilizing

23 a lease, we looked at what prices would be in the

24 market place for a five year lease or a seven

year lease. We believe on a short term basis we

1 can issue notes, as we typically do, for

2 financing this. We think it's the most cost

3 effective way of doing it.

4 Likewise, the fire district has some 5 general obligation bonds which are maturing in

6 the next year, so really, this slots into when

7 that issue will finally mature so there's

8 virtually no -- there will be no increase to

taxes except in 2019. Thereafter, net taxes will

10 go down because debt service on this will be

1 lower than the bonds would have been. So we've

2 got representatives of the fire district to

13 answer any questions you have about the vehicle,

4 about our larger capital program or the notes

15 themselves if you have any.

MS. WALTER: Just a couple things. You're saying that 2019 you expect there will be a tax impact in the application?

MR. WINITSKY: I'm sorry. It's a 20 net zero. My apologies. If I said it increased,

21 my apologies. It actually goes down thereafter.

MR. THOMAS: We had a program for a

number of years. We just come off, in 2012. We

4 bought five ambulances, financed them the same

25 way. We just paid off the last \$750,000 of that

1 incurred in the gym floors. We had to replace

2 the rubberized floors in the gym. That was the

3 biggest expense. The other items that we've been

4 involved in is we've had, at all three stations,

5 we have, they call them underground waste storage

6 tanks for the floor drains in the apparatus bay.

They drain into this tank. The

8 water and oil is separated and we had some issues

9 with that. One at the Main Street was actually

10 being discharged to a stream. We had to connect

1 that to the sanitary sewer and we also had to

12 repair or replace the alarm system. So if the

13 tank gets full, it alerts a light goes off saying

14 it's got to be emptied. Were there any

15 additional items?

MS. MITCHELL: We replaced the phone

17 system.

18 MR. THOMAS: The phone system, and

19 we also bought the AEDs. We had to replace all

20 of our AEDs. They were out of service date and

21 they were failing, so we replaced like 35 or 36

22 of those.

39

MS. MITCHELL: The other large item

24 would be replacing the two generators, which

25 we're still in the process of procuring those.

1 this year, so the idea, just like a car payment,

2 next year, we would pick up the 150,000 from the

3 ambulances that we paid off and just continue so

4 there would be a zero impact on the tax rate.

5 MS. WALTER: Do you plan on 6 incurring any additional costs of issuance as

7 you're moving forward with the --

8 MR. WINITSKY: Other than minimal

9 fees associated with rolling the notes, usually

10 the first year is where you've got the balance of

11 them thereafter, and we looked at that in terms

12 of overall costs versus doing a lease all in

13 versus rolling notes over a period of years, and

14 we still believe that it's more cost effective.

MS. WALTER: It's a little higher

16 than we usually see on these applications.

o than we usually see on these applications.

MR. WINITSKY: Yeah. There's also a

18 line item in there, and I think the last

19 application, there was a miscellaneous line item

0 that likely will not exist. It is sort of just a

21 catch all.

25

MS. WALTER: Can you talk a little

23 bit about the specific station improvements that

24 are being made?

MR. THOMAS: Most of the expense was

MS. WALTER: Specifically repairs to

41

2 the historic firehouse, is that a preservation

3 requirement?

4 MR. THOMAS: Yes. We have a

5 historic firehouse. It was built in 1898. It

6 was moved to the back of our fire station in

7 1998. The back of it is exposed to an area that

8 is very wet and covered with trees. Wood

9 clabbards, and the wood clabbards has

10 deteriorated.

11 Initially, we were planning to

12 replace the clabbards. When some of the

13 clabbards were removed, we found out there's some

14 structural deterioration as well, some sill

15 places deteriorated. What we were anticipating

16 doing is hiring an architect to do an evaluation

17 of all of our facilities and look at that and

18 see, there may be some more extensive repairs

19 that may be required.

20 MR. CLOSE: Is that cost included in

21 this number?

MR. THOMAS: The architects will be

23 funded through next year's budget, so as I said,

24 we realize that the problem is a little bit

25 bigger than we first thought, and so we're having

1 an architect evaluate all of our facilities and make recommendations.

3 MR. CLOSE: So that process is 4 already under way?

5 MR. THOMAS: We're drafting the RFP 6 for the architects.

MR. CLOSE: Okay.

8 MS. WALTER: So that does raise some 9 concerns just about new debt that's going to be 10 coming down the road. Do you have any idea of

the scope of that project?

7

12 MR. THOMAS: No. Because what we 13 were anticipating, as the solicitor pointed out, we have some debt service that's coming off within the next year, so all of the facilities are over 20 years old and they are in need of

upgrading and refurbishment, so we anticipate hopefully that the cost will be no more than what

our current debt service is. Once that retires,

there will be no change presumably in the tax

21 rate. Did I answer your question?

22 MR. WINITSKY: Is your question 23 whether there will we indebtedness issued to fund those capital projects?

25 MS. WALTER: I'm wondering how in 1 repairs this year?

MR. THOMAS: Most of the repairs in the floor need to be done, the storage, the water

storage tanks needed to be done, the generators

need to be done, the phone systems needed to be

done now because they are not working when one

station that was an old Berlin system. The parts

were no longer available. They're not supported,

so we're replacing the phone system.

10 The biggest project, dollar wise, that we're not persuing aggressively is the

historic fire station. As I said, once we got

into it a little bit, saw that there was more

work that needed to be done. And initially, we

were looking at doing it -- our former assistant

chief was a carpenter and he and a couple of

volunteers were going to try to do the siding. 17

18 They determined that it's beyond 19 their scope of capacity, so that's why we're

20 going to a have an architect evaluate it further.

21 MS. WALTER: A lot of that is going

22 to be paid out of your budget as you go?

23 MR. THOMAS: The architectural

24 services will be paid out of the budget, and as I

25 said, once we get a handle on what other repairs

45

1 or improvements may be needed, then we'll

determine what's the best way to fund those,

whether it's through budget appropriations or

maybe going out for a new capital improvement

5 authorization.

MR. CLOSE: Are all the estimates on 6 7 the attachment that you submitted, are all those

estimates based on quotes that you already 8

9 obtained for the generators, the electronic sign?

10 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, the generators, I

11 believe, are state contract. We've already

contracted using state contract for the telephone 12

13 system.

14 MR. CLOSE: Okay.

15 MR. THOMAS: We've got competitive bids on the underground storage tank. That work 16

17 has been completed, so all that work is pretty

well under way. 18

19 MR. CLOSE: So you had quotes or 20 state contract for all the items listed here?

21 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

22 MR. CLOSE: The electronic sign as

23 well?

24 MR. THOMAS: That we haven't pursued

25 yet.

43

1 the adjustment and then debt coming off, that's

going to impact this project, how much capacity

3 are you expecting to open up when that retires? 4 MR. THOMAS: Right now, as of

5 January 31st, we had \$2,915,000 of outstanding 6

debt. Last night's board meeting we just retired 6,665,000 of principal, so we will be retiring

all that money within the next couple of years. 8

The anticipated repairs, we do need, we know that the roof on the Main Street station, it's a flat

11 roof, will need some work.

12 We know that the air conditioning and HVAC system may need some work. We just don't have a dollar value for that, so that's

part of the reason why we're having an architect come in and do an evaluation and put a dollar

figure on some of those items and we'll be able

to determine, after we have reasonable estimates, how to finance and how to pursue those.

20 But as I said, we do know that our 21 debt over the next couple of years is going to be

reduced so we'll be able to accommodate any new 23 costs within the current debt structure.

MS. WALTER: Looking at this, what's 24

25 the logic for you guys in making this set of

1 MR. CLOSE: It seems light.

MS. MITCHELL: There is an existing

sign there and it's a replacement of making it

4 electronic, so it is, I think they're going to do

5 some of the work in-house, the electric and build

6 the base.

2

MR. CLOSE: For the actual sign

8 itself, even though it's a state contract,

9 depending on the size, it seems like a light

10 number. I would think 50,000.

11 MS. MITCHELL: Oh, no, we've gotten

12 quotes of 17, 18, but in 2017, that's what they

13 thought.

16

MR. CLOSE: So you're doing a one

15 sided, two sided board?

MS. MITCHELL: Two sided.

17 MR. CLOSE: Size?

MS. MITCHELL: I don't have the

19 specifics on the size because we're still

20 looking. That may determine based on the current

21 size they wanted was higher than what we had

22 budgeted, so they might need to scale it back.

23 MR. CLOSE: I'll be curious to see

24 when you come back what that flushed out at. It

25 seems light. Are you going to rent that out to

1 would abstain or recuse myself if any of this

2 work has to come before the commission.

3 MR. THOMAS: As far as I know,

4 nothing would come before the Pinelands

5 commission. The underground storage tank has

6 been taken care of. It was not new work. It was

7 repairs to the existing facility. One station,

8 which is in Pinelands is down in Kettle Run, and

9 what we did is we capped the four that were taken

10 out of that tank pretty much out of service.

11 MR. AVERY: I'm not so concerned

12 about that. I'm more concerned about the

13 historic work.

MR. THOMAS: That's not in the

15 Pinelands.

MR. AVERY: That will make you all

17 crazy.

24

MR. WINITSKY: I would also say that

19 we're not here seeking any permission from this

20 board relative to any of those. Rather, it's

21 just the truck.

MR. CLOSE: Just the truck.

23 MR. WINITSKY: Right.

MR. THOMAS: The historic

25 preservation, we've talked towards preservation.

49

47

1 generate funding out it's electronic as opposed

2 to the manual board that I presume you know have?

3 MR. THOMAS: We'll work with the

4 township and the recreation department,

5 advertising township activities.

6 MR. CLOSE: So it's going to be

7 limited to non profit activities. It won't be

8 used to generate revenue to off set costs?
9 MR. THOMAS: At this time, we have

10 no plans for that.

11 MR. AVERY: I have a question. Any

12 of the work on the fire stations, particularly

13 the historic station, within the Pinelands area,

14 that will require a Pinelands submission

15 approval?

MR. THOMAS: That's not in the

17 Pinelands area. It's in the Marlton area, and

18 that's not in Pinelands and it's an existing

19 structure that was moved and approved in 1998 to

20 its present location.

21 MR. AVERY: The reason I ask is I'm

22 also on the Pinelands Commission and you would

23 much rather have me participate there than here,

24 if you know what I mean. You caught me off

25 guard, the amount of work on the stations and I

1 MR. AVERY: As long as it's not in

2 the Pinelands.

3 MS. WALTER: To that end, I'll make

4 a motion to approve.

5 MR. AVERY: Second.

6 MR. LIGHT: I just have one comment.

7 I'm not even sure I know what a velocity tandem

8 axle rescue vehicle is, but I'll vote in favor of

9 it.

10

MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?

11 MS. WALTER: Yes.

12 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?

13 MR. DIROCCO: Yes.

14 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?

15 MR. CLOSE: Yes.

MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?

17 MR. AVERY: Yes.

18 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?

21 MR. BLEE: Yes.

22 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?

23 MR. LIGHT: Yes.

MR. WINITSKY: Thank you very much.

25 MS. WALTER: Next up is the City of

50 | 52

1 North Wildwood appearing on a proposed refunding

- 2 bond ordinance. As you come up, please introduce
- 3 yourself for the record, and anyone who is not an
- 4 attorney, please be sworn.
- 5 MR. BURKEY: Todd Burkey, CFO.
- 6 MS. TRACEY: Sherry Tracey from
- 7 Phoenix Advisors, financial advisor.
- 8 MR. MCMANIMON: Ed McManimon,
- 9 McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, bond counsel to
- 10 the city.
- 11 (At which time those wishing to
- 12 testify were sworn in.)
- MR. MCMANIMON: First of all, we had
- 14 a fairly extensive discussion with the director
- 15 and the staff yesterday on this. It's a
- 16 \$9,500,000 proposed refunding to basically
- 17 refinance several prior USDA loans that go out
- 18 for between 30 and 40 years. And a couple months
- 19 ago, North Wildwood had a bond sale of
- 20 \$15,900,000, 12 year maturity and they got 2.68
- 21 percent interest.
- The chief financial officer asked
- 23 Sherri Tracey from Phoenix to review the prior
- 24 USDA loans to determine whether they could be
- 25 financed at a savings because they're generally

- We don't know until we get into the
- 2 market. The PV savings is 200 and some thousand
- 3 because of timing. Savings are later. We were
- 4 asked, as a result of the call yesterday because
- 5 the 2011 issue, which may or may not work and
- 6 which is a large amount of the savings, what
- 7 would happen if we took out that one and didn't
- would happen if we took out that one and didn't
- 8 do that one and it comes out to about \$330,000 of
- 9 actual savings and about another 150 of PV
- 10 savings.
- And again, the real savings are a
- 12 net of costs, so I think the chief financial
- 13 officer felt that if we could save money, we
- 14 meaning the city, they should do it. I'll let
- 15 Todd explain, there is a more significant reason,
- 16 not a more significant reason, but an equally
- 17 reason of managing.
- 18 These all occur on different dates
- 19 because they actually pay some of the annual
- 20 principal and interest and they're payable on the
- 21 19th of the month, not the first or the 15th, so
- 22 there's several payment dates that have to be
- 23 coordinated, not a big deal because it can all be
- 24 computerized, but he would like to minimize the
- 25 times when they make payments to have them all

51 53

- 1 callable at any time and some of their rates were
- 2 very competitive at the time going back to 2001
- 3 and '04 and '05 and '10, but they have rates of
- 4 4.5 percent and 4.0 percent and 3.75 percent.
- 5 A couple questions that came up in
- 6 the discussion had to do with USDA loans were so 7 good, why do you do them and then why do you
- 8 refund them. And the other is, the savings on
- 9 these as proposed, is over \$700,000, but most of
- 0 them occur in the last two or three years.
- They're small savings, four, \$5,000,
- 12 some others and then the large amount because
- 13 we're shortening the maturity of the bond issue,
- 14 the savings occur later and it doesn't make
- 15 sense, for this current board of people who have
- 16 served the city, to do this and save the money
- 17 later so far out beyond their terms.
- 18 And this isn't coming from an
- 19 underwriter. It's coming from, I'm not trying to
- 20 turn a deal, and the view was you're either going
- 21 to pay this money to somebody else, you're going
- 22 to keep it yourself even if in the early years
- 23 it's a small amount, so what is proposed here is
- 24 to refinance six outstanding USDA loans. The
- 25 actual savings are over \$700,000 as projected.

- 1 come in a bond issue than pay semi annual
- 2 interest and the principal, so I think that's
- 3 part of this.
- I would ask him to direct that and
- 5 then we'll answer the questions, perhaps the same
- 6 that came up in the call yesterday.
 - MR. BURKEY: Yeah. I mean, from an
- 8 administrative point of view, having one payment
- 9 or two payments instead of as many as I have now,
- 10 that's going to be a savings also. The way we
- 11 looked at it and present it to counsel, I mean,
- 12 whether it's in future tax years or not, a
- 13 savings is a savings. If you can save the
- 14 taxpayers money, even if it's in the future,
- 15 that's still in the city's best interest. And
- 16 that's why we propose this.
 - MS. TRACEY: If I may also, just to
- 18 follow up on what Todd said and what Ed
- 19 mentioned, the two analysis we proposed to the
- 20 city and that we showed, one had savings level
- 21 for each series each year, and we did not shorten
- 22 any of the maturities. And that total was about
- 23 385,000 because all we're doing is reducing the
- 24 amount each year.
- Then we looked at the scenario which

1 is included in the application, in which we

- shortened two of the loans. One by two years and
- one by one year, which is really what's producing
- the bulk of the savings in the back. To do that,
- obviously, you have to take that debt and put it

somewhere. 6

So it's in the earlier years of 7

- those loans which means some of those years
- independently might be negative. But overall in
- the budget year for the city, it's still a
- positive savings when you look across all six

12

13 And again, that was done because 14 710,000 was more attractive to the governing body

- than 385,000 even if that was in future years and
- wasn't going to be realized until 2050, but that
- was their decision, to do it that way. There was
- certainly, you know, we have the ability to look
 - at this and to just do them level each year.

20 Again, doesn't produce the total

21 overall gross savings that the schedule in the

- application does, but that still would produce
- 23 positive savings for these loans.
- 24 MS. WALTER: I need to make a few
- points on the record on this one. 2000 series

1 application, in the executive summary twice, we

- noted we wouldn't proceed unless we were at three
- 3 percent. Sometimes it happens where the timing,
- as the market is moving every day, that as we
- start the process, we're over three percent and

we may drop below. 6

If we were to receive the board's

- approval today, we may not be able to sell these
- at three percent for a month or a week or six
- 10 months. That's a possibility, but our request is
- 11 only to move forward if we can reach three
- percent present value savings on the aggregate. 12
- We're not asking for the 2.2. 13

14 MS. WALTER: On the aggregate, but

- 15 also, I would not feel comfortable with
- proceeding on the 2011 series unless there was at
- least a positive savings there with three percent 17
- 18 aggregate and not moving on that series unless
- 19 there was savings represented.

20 MS. TRACEY: Yes. That's in the

- 21 application, too. We mentioned that also. We
- 22 feel the same way. We wouldn't include that.
- 23 The city does have a 2014 series that is at a
- lower interest rate, and we did not include that
- at all because that one does not produce positive

55

- 1 through the 2005 series were between seven and
- nine percent savings. They're noticeable. The
- issuance, those are relatively small series. I
- think that's part of why you want them for the
- 5 later ones.

Starting with the 2010 and 2011, 6

- 7 both of those, which are the largest, the two
- largest by a large magnitude, almost 10 times as
- 9 much of the remaining principal, are both under
- three percent savings. The 2.10 series and
- 2.8 percent and the 2011 hasn't actually produced
- any net savings. It has a negative .3 net
- 13 savings, so you're losing money on that one.

14 While it does, on the back end of the deal, present total dollar savings, the

- \$125,000 issuance cost bring the entire savings
- on this deal down to 210,000 to 2.2 percent which
- is what we raised with you yesterday. 18

19 MR. MCMANIMON: The costs are net.

- In other words, the savings are net of the cost.
- 21 MS. WALTER: Right. So the net
- 22 present value savings is 2.2 on the deal which is 23 below the three percent threshold.
- MS. TRACEY: Where the current
- 25 market is. However, we did mention in the

savings and it's probably not going to for a very

57

- long time based on the rate where it is. So we
- 3 would also, as their advisor, not recommend
- moving forward with a deal that was actually
- going to increase the debt service.

6 MS. WALTER: On the call yesterday

- there seemed to be confusion on that point, so I
- 8 would make that a condition on the application. 9 MS. TRACEY: That was only our

10 request from the beginning.

- 11 MS. WALTER: Anyone else have any
- questions on this one? So based upon the 12 conditions that the three percent as represented
- in the application would be required across the
- 15 board, but also there would have to be positive
- savings represented in that 2011 A Series, I 17 would move to approve the application.
- 18 MR. CLOSE: I'll second with those 19 conditions.
- 20 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
- 21 MS. WALTER: Yes.
- 22 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
- 23 MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
- 24 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
- 25 MR. CLOSE: Yes.

7

1 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?

- 2 MR. AVERY: Yes.
- 3 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
- 4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
- 5 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
- 6 MR. LIGHT: Yes.
- 7 MR. MCMANIMON: Thank you very much.
- 8 MS. WALTER: Pennsville Township
- 9 from Salem County appearing on a proposed
- 10 refunding bond ordinance for tax appeals.
- 11 (At which time Mr. Light left the
- 12 hearing.)
- 13 MS. EDWARDS: Good morning. I think
- 14 we'll start by introducing. We'll go down the
- 15 table.
- MR. RAY: My name is Walter Ray.
- 17 I'm the solicitor for the township of Pennsville.
- 18 Good morning.
- 19 MR. BEINFIELD: Bob Beinfield with
- 20 Hawkins, Delafield and Wood. We're bond counsel
- 21 to the township.
- 22 MS. EDWARDS: Jennifer Edwards with
- 23 Acacia Financial Group, financial advisor to the
- 24 township.
- MR. MCDADE: Robert McDade. I'm the

- 1 4.5 million for the tax years 2014 through 2018.
- 2 The township will be utilizing 415,000 of their
- 3 reserve for tax appeals to partially pay for the
- 4 settlement, and the balance will be issued in tax
- 5 appeal refunding notes for a one year period.
- 6 Upon maturity of the note, the
 - township intends to budget a \$500,000 principal
- 8 payment upon maturity to further down size before
- 9 they issue permanent bonds and is requesting
- 10 bonds for a 14 year period upon maturity of that
- 11 note. The bonds could be potentially down sized
- 12 further next year as we're awaiting to see what
- 13 the county credit is going to look like on the
- 14 over paid taxes to the county.
- We won't know that until about mid
- 16 2019 when the county strikes its budget we
- 17 receive that tax information so that's another
- 18 reason why we'd like to keep it in notes for one
- 19 year so that we can assess that and see if we can
- 20 further downsize the bond issue once it's
- 21 complete in 2019.
- 22 Under this current plan as it
- 23 stands, the tax impact is just under four cents
- 24 to the average home and that's about 59 dollars
- 25 to the resident. As you may be aware, the

- 1 mayor of Pennsville.
- 2 MS. PROCACCI: Marie Procacci. I'm
- 3 the tax assessor.
- 4 MR. WILLADSEN: John Willadsen.
- 5 I'm the CFO for the township of Pennsville.
- 6 MR. LUDWIGSEN: Henry Ludwigsen with
- 7 Bowman and Company, auditor for the township.
- 8 (At which time those wishing to
- 9 testify were sworn in.)
- MS. WALTER: Before we start on this
- 11 one, I wanted to note that Pennsville came in to
- 12 meet with us about a month ago to go through this
- 13 because it was a fairly extraordinary single tax
- 14 appeal and they wanted to see what options were
- 15 available, and we appreciated that interaction in
- 16 helping us to understand this issue and to
- 17 prepare for this meeting.
- MS. EDWARDS: Good morning.
- 19 Pursuant to 40A2-51 and 2-55, the township of
- 20 Pennsville is requesting approval of a refunding
- 21 bond ordnance for not to exceed 4,000,250
- 22 aggregate amount of notes and bonds. This is to
- 23 fund the recently settled tax appeals for the
- 24 Dupont Chemours property.
- The settlement totals about

- 1 township has been dealing with many appeals over
- 2 recent years and also declining rateables as a
- 3 result.
- 4 So not only is this an additional
- 5 impact, but the residents have already had
- 6 numerous impacts to the current tax rate as well
- 7 as a school referendum that was approved several
- 8 years ago that also increased the tax rate by
- 9 just about 20 cents to the resident.
- So while we're dealing with all of
- 11 this, in addition, this tax appeal settlement has
- 12 an effect going forward on the rateable base such
- 13 that not only does this appeal have an impact,
- 14 but the existing obligations of the town and the
- 15 current budget will also see increases going
- 16 forward due to the declining rateable situation.
- 17 So that being said, we have many
- 18 members here to answer questions on the history
- 19 of the tax appeals and the settlement. However
- 20 you'd like to proceed.
- 21 MS. WALTER: Could you talk a little
- 22 bit about the history of reserves?
- MR. WILLADESEN: Well, going back as
- 24 far as 2015 we had a tax appeal with Atlantic
- 25 City Electric which required us to pay back

1 700,000 in taxes. At that time, we were able to

2 utilize some fund balance to pay 300,000 in cash

and then we struck a deal with Atlantic City

Electric to pay them back 40,000 a year over the

5 next 10 years.

6 That is part of our budget as it 7 presently sits. Going forward from there, we've

had some significant tax appeals that we dealt

with through our municipal budget to the tune of

a cash payment of 212,000 and other numerous 10

smaller appeals which resulted in credits going

forward for the taxpayers. 12

13 We were able to achieve those things 14 by protecting our tax position by increasing the

amount of our reserve for uncollected taxes, so

that we didn't run ourselves in a jam. I would

like to offer that during this time frame, one of

my goals, not in this particular time frame, one

of my goals upon coming to one for the township

20 years ago, we had a tax anticipation note

that, during this time frame in the last two

years, we were able to eliminate having to pay

23 for that tax note and budget for that.

So through aggressive management of

our fund balance and the way we perceive

all of these things through our budget and not

4 funding or permission. This particular situation

3 have to come before you folks for additional

1 their facilities.

So over the years, when I started,

3 Dupont paid about 30 percent of our total tax

burden. Now, they pay about 11. Of course it

will go down after this agreement is done. We

have historically negotiated with Dupont. That's

why, again, we've never had to come before you.

We knew that the appeals would be costly to

pursue as well as costly in potential

10 settlements.

11 We also recognized the nature of the

appeal being both large and technical that it 12

13 could drag on for many years, and so the township

made a very concerted effort to move this appeal

15 forward. This is not something we wanted to see

language for 20 years and then be before you with

three and four times the refunding amount. 17

18 So we did make very concerted

19 efforts to, number one, push this appeal forward,

20 and two number two, as you can see on our

21 supplemental information, we also cleared most of

22 our docket from tax appeals because we

23 acknowledge both the size of Atlantic City

24 Electric and Dupont.

25 So you'll see that we have six

63

1 anticipating our revenues, we were able to fund

1 remaining tax support appeals and all of them are

only for maybe two years. So again, that was a

65

very concerted effort on the municipality's part

to get our liabilities and risks cleared.

5 MS. WALTER: To what extent are you going to be making a pay down on this obligation

before you move into permanent financing?

8 MR. WILLADSEN: We're anticipating

paying 500,000 in our next budget year. Could

possibly be more, but we need to wait to see

11 where we're going to stand with the credit that

12 we may receive from the county.

13 MS. WALTER: Any other questions?

14 MR. CLOSE: How much do you set 15 aside annually for the reserve for the tax

appeals? 16

17 MR. WILLADSEN: Well, over the last

couple of years, Bill, it's been at least 18

19 200,000.

22

20 MR. CLOSE: Do you anticipate

21 raising that given what's been discussed here?

MR. WILLADSEN: I'm sorry?

23 MR. CLOSE: Do you anticipate

24 increasing that amount particularly in review of

the credit you're projecting from the county

with Dupont Chemours has left us with no other

MS. WALTER: You're still pulling some amount of reserves to make a down payment on

9 this application as well?

10 MR. WILLADESEN: That is correct.

11 We were able to, in our last two budget years we 12 were able to scoop off, if you will, or reserve

13 415,000 of our fund balance to pay for this

14 appeal.

choice.

6 7

15 MS. WALTER: Can you talk a little bit about the long term relationship of Dupont?

17 MR. WILLADSEN: Can you talk about

18 that?

19 MS. PROCACCI: Yeah, sure. Thank

20 you. Again, Marie Procacci, tax assessor. The

21 Dupont Chemours Works is about 300 acre of

22 parcel. It's a very large chemical plant,

23 hundreds of buildings, very storied property.

24 Over the past 20 years that I've been in

25 Pennsville, they've been decommissioning most of

applying any of that to moving forward? 2 MR. WILLADSEN: That's the

3 anticipation, yes. The anticipation is to apply 4 that credit towards the --

5 MR. CLOSE: How much are tax appeals 6 annually in the township?

7 MS. PROCACCI: So we have had, actually we've had a tremendous increase in our 9 county tax board appeals, and again, that's in your supplemental information. You'll see that

our appeals have gone up over the last 10, I'm 12

sorry, eight years.

13 And in particular, we had a 14 reevaluation in 2010, and despite attempting to delay the reevaluation, the deputy mayor and I attempted to delay that because our opinion, and it turns out to be a fact, the market was not 18 stable enough to really bear the weight of the reevaluation, so you'll see our appeals have

20 never declined post reval as they're expected to 21 do.

22 And now, in 2018, we had about 230 appeals, which is a record high for us. We lost about five and-a-half million dollars just at the county tax board and refunded close to 222,000 in 1 by BANs and taking a look at -- John has been

aggressive in paying them down sooner rather than

later, so we'll probably throttle back on paying

down BANs so we can level out the debt service

between this new issue for the tax appeal as well

as the existing BANs. 6

7 MR. WILLADSEN: We're actually looking at issuing permanent debt for our BANs

this time next year to help alleviate the

pressure, from what has been our aggressive

process, in paying down those notes to try to

merge these two together in some fashion so that

13 it does level things out for the taxpayer.

MS. EDWARDS: And the plan is to

15 issue them at the same time, the general

obligation and the tax appeal bonds, and actually

in Exhibit B, there's a sample of what that debt 17

18 would look like as a combined effort to pull that

19 debt out long.

14

20 MS. WALTER: Okay. If there are no 21 further questions.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'm going to move

23 this because I think you've been very proactive

with your reserves. Sounds like you've had a

tough time. You know, speaking just across, it

67 69

1 credit. Of course, county tax board appeals are

done as credits, but it's still not money you

receive. So whether you pay it out or you credit 3

it, so we've had these losses. 5

We had a big tax rate increase as a 6 result of a school board referendum, so there's

been a lot of things that have brought people out

to my office. The other one is the onerous flood 9 insurance that many of our residents have been

10 hit with, so there's been a lot of attention from

residents towards their assessment. And

unfortunately, the appeals are not defensible. 12

13 MR. CLOSE: Okay.

14 MS. WALTER: Sounds like from meeting with you, we saw that you made an effort to build reserves for the last several years,

17 about five percent of your budget?

18 MR. WILLADSEN: Mm-mm.

19 MS. WALTER: And there is some big

one time shocks. The only other question I have 21 is what is your strategy to absorb this going

22 forward?

23 MR. LUDWIGSEN: As far as budgetary 24 impacts, there's taking a look at the existing

debt service which primarily has been paid down

1 seems like you've been hit by all sides with

these tax appeals, and listening and even

looking, you're doing proactive things, you know,

trying to get there, the permanent financing, so

5 I'm going to move this.

MR. CLOSE: I'll second it. I 6

generally don't. I'm not a fan of the tax

appeals using this process for the tax appeals.

I think young Mr. Beinfield would attest to our

conversations on this aspect. But given the

proactive nature of what I think you've done to

try to address the situation, and given your 12

13 circumstances, I agree, it's warranted and I

14 would second it.

15 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?

MS. WALTER: Yes. 16

17 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?

18 MR. DIROCCO: Yes.

19 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?

20 MR. CLOSE: Yes.

21 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?

22 MR. AVERY: Yes.

23 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

25 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?

- 1 MR. BLEE: Yes.
- 2 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.
- 3 MS. WALTER: The next couple matters
- 4 out of Newark are deferred, so Rahway City,
- 5 please come up on the dissolution of the Parking
- 6 Authority. Good afternoon. As you come up,
- 7 please introduce yourself for the record and all
- 8 non counsel will need to be sworn.
- 9 MR. DRAIKIWICZ: John Draikiwicz
- 10 from Gibbons, bond counsel to the city on this
- 11 transaction.
- MR. ENRIGHT: Dennis Enright from NW
- 13 Financial, financial advisor.
- 14 MR. GIACOBBE: Raymond Giacobbe,
- 15 mayor of the City of Rahway.
- MS. ROUNTREE: Cherron Rountree,
- 17 business administrator for the city.
- 18 MR. LERCH: Dieter Lerch, auditor
- 19 for the city of Rahway.
- 20 MR. RUGGIERO: Frank Ruggiero, chief
- 21 financial officer.
- 22 MR. MINCHELLO: David Minchello,
- 23 city attorney.

1

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- 24 (At which time those wishing to
- 25 testify were sworn in.)

- 1 mayor say a few words as to the thought process
- 2 behind the dissolution.
- 3 MR. GIACOBBE: Hello, everybody.
- 4 How are you doing? We are before you today for
- 5 the dissolution of the Parking Authority. And
- 6 you may ask me, Mayor, why do you want to do such
- 7 a thing? We feel, as a city, it creates a
- 8 financial benefit by eliminating duplicate
- 9 services of our government.
- Financial and legal services, Public
- 11 Works services, police and ticketing services,
- 12 software administrative overhead. It allows us
- 13 to run a more lenient, efficient government and a
- 4 more lenient and efficient parking utility. It
- 15 will also help us better coordinate with the city
- 16 redevelopment and the economic development
- 17 efforts.
- Over the past 10 years, we've built
- 19 approximately 1500 units in our downtown area,
- 20 which is approximately 10 percent of our
- 21 population. Through the increase of density
- 22 we've come across some parking issues and
- 23 increase city control to respond to residents
- 24 concerns. We feel that taking over the Parking
- 25 Authority as a utility, we feel will help us

71

- MR. DRAIKIWICZ: I'll start. The
- 2 City of Rahway seeks your approval of the
- 3 dissolution of the Parking Authority of the city
- 4 of Rahway pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-20. In
- 5 order to dissolve the authority, two elements
- 6 need to be satisfied. First, adequate provision
- 7 for the payment for all creditors, and second,
- 8 adequate provision for the assumption of
- 9 services.

With respect to the payment of

- 1 creditors, the city has introduced the
- 12 dissolution ordinance as well as the bond
- 13 ordinance. The city has expressly assumed
- 14 payment of creditors in the dissolution
- 15 ordinance, and the city plans to issue debt to
- 16 appease the authority's outstanding debt of 3.7
- 17 million dollars.
- With respect to the assumption of
- 19 services, the city will establish a parking
- 20 utility within the Department of Administration
- 21 to run the day to day operations of the utility,
- 22 and it is anticipated that the parking utility
- 23 will be self-liquidating. In connection with the
- 24 general thought as to the dissolution of the
- 25 authority, I think at this time I would have the

- 1 increase the city control and respond over
- 2 residents concerns.
- I always say that, you know, we get
- 4 blamed for the parking, so we mine as well have

73

- 5 some control over it, and this step will lead us
- 6 in the right direction. I thank you for hearing
- 7 our application, and I'm opening it up to my team
- 8 now for any other questions.
- 9 MS. WALTER: Can you talk a little
- 10 bit about the capital assets and net depreciation
- 11 as you carry everything over?
- 12 MR. ENRIGHT: Say it again. I'm
- 13 sorry.

- MS. WALTER: The capital assets of
- 15 the existing authority and the impact of
- 16 depreciation, where they are in current value.
 - MR. ENRIGHT: The assets of the
- 18 authority are one garage and seven parking lots.
- 19 The parking lots, you know, are, I believe, fully
- 20 depreciate the assets. The garage is being
- 21 depreciated over a 30 year period. I don't know
- 22 its current value.
- 23 MR. RUGGIERO: The cost value of the
- 24 parking garage of the lots is \$11,515,000.
- 25 Through December 31st 2017, the authority has

depreciated \$3,474,000 thereof.

MS. WALTER: So the outstanding 2

3 debts, about four and-a-half million, 4.7

4 million.

5 MR. RUGGIERO: The outstanding debt

is 3.7 million dollars. The net asset that we 6

had to carry on the books is eight million

dollars, 8,000,004, so we really had a net asset

9 of about 4.3 million dollars.

10 MS. WALTER: Can you give us an

overview of the current finances of the

authority? 12

MR. RUGGIERO: In addition to the 13

14 3.4 million dollars of net assets, the authority

also has a robust fund balance. We have a total

fund balance of 4.4 million dollars, 4,339,000.

The operating budget of the authority is just

slightly below two million dollars, so we have a

surplus of almost two years worth of the

20 operating budget.

21 In addition to that, the authority

22 has been very conservative in the realization of

its revenue. It did receive prepaid leases from

24 New Jersey Transit as well as a private

developer. New Jersey Transit provided about

1 do the maturity. But right now it's estimated to

be about \$470,000, and that money has been

3 reserved as well too, so that payment will be

4 made.

5 MS. WALTER: You're going to have to

count on that on the municipal side. 6

MR. RUGGIERO: No.

8 MS. WALTER: The assumption of

9 services, how is staffing going to be handled?

10 What's going on with that transition?

11 MS. ROUNTREE: The utility will be

out of the Department of Administration. There 12

will be a superintendent of the utility. They 13

will work in conjunction with our Public Works

Department and all of our equipment for the 15

maintenance of the locks and the deck. 16

17 And the parking enforcement aspect

18 will be out of our police departments, so they

19 will hire civilian and parking enforcement

20 officers for that aspect.

MS. WALTER: Class two?

22 MS. ROUNTREE: I'm sorry?

23 MS. WALTER: How are you hiring

civilians? Like a class two arrangement or class

25 three?

21

75

1 MS. ROUNTREE: Non sworn officers? 2 MS. RODRIGUEZ: How many employees

77

do you have at the authority?

MS. ROUNTREE: There are 12, one 4

5 just left. Normally there are 12 employees.

There are six part-time employees and six

full-time employees.

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: How many will be

9 coming over?

10

MS. ROUNTREE: All of the employees 11 will have the opportunity to fill the positions

that open up. We anticipate hiring additional

13 parking enforcement officers given the

redevelopment efforts we have had in downtown. 14

15 We believe that there's some

opportunity for additional revenue on the parking

enforcement side, so a number of those employees 17

have dual roles as parking enforcement officers 18

19 and maintenance offices, but we will -- all of

the current employees will have the opportunity

21 to interview for the positions that we have open.

Just to mention, our finance office will handle 22

23 the financial aspects of the new utility which

24 will save us money and personnel.

25 MR. CLOSE: So the savings that the

million dollars.

3 And what we've been doing, the

authority actually has been amortizing and 4

1 three million dollars. Private developer, one

realizing that over the life of the lease, so we're actually carrying on the books still to

this day unearned revenue of an additional

2,462,000, so almost two and-a-half million which

9 is really, you know, just unencumbered funds

10 thereof.

11 MS. WALTER: There weren't any fees

paid to New Jersey Transit in 2016 and 2017. 12 13 MR. RUGGIERO: The way that operates

14 is the New Jersey Transit actually is entitled to 200 parking spots, and from the fees collected

thereof, the authority's permitted to retain

\$80,000 for expenses and also 15 percent for 18 future capital purposes.

19 And what will happen is, they'll

actually just started at least, to my, in the 21 last two years, they start using that facility.

The way the agreement reads, after a three year

period, we'll do a mature on that. Whatever is

due of them, they'll be paid after. 24 25 We have one year on that and we'll

- 1 mayor talked about initially by taking this over,
- 2 running leaner in terms of operations, it doesn't
- 3 sound like you're doing that from a personnel
- 4 stand point from your description just now. It
- 5 sounds like this will be more on the professional
- 6 contract side. Is that fair to say?
 - MR. GIACOBBE: Yes, absolutely.
- 8 MR. CLOSE: So your savings is
- 9 predominantly, Mayor, in the professional
- 10 services?

7

- 11 MR. GIACOBBE: Yes.
- MR. CLOSE: The employees, you're
- 13 going to retain, there's not going to be any
- 14 savings on that end?
- MR. GIACOBBE: We feel with the
- 16 enforcement, with more efficient enforcement,
- 17 that will bring in additional revenue also, so
- 18 we'll offset the cost, if not earn more with the
- 19 other parking officers that are hired.
- MS. ROUNTREE: Part-time.
- 21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: As a former
- 22 commissioner, I'm always for enforcement. You
- 23 can't cover everything. You know, I know a place
- 24 where if I had enforcement, I would sit there all
- 25 day long. So I get it. I see it here.

- 1 initially, so some reserve money is going to be
- 2 utilized to pay debt down when the bonds are
- 3 issued.

11

- 4 MR. CLOSE: Okay.
- 5 MS. WALTER: So really, the simple
- 6 question for us is has adequate provision been
- 7 made and will the assumption of services have
- 8 been complete. It sounds like, from my end, that
- 9 standard has been met. So I wanted to see if
- 10 anyone else has questions.
 - MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'll move it.
- MR. BLEE: Second.
- 13 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
- MS. WALTER: Yes.
- 15 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
- MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
- 17 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
- MR. CLOSE: Yes.
- 19 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
- MR. AVERY: Yes.
- 21 MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
- MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
- 23 MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
- MR. BLEE: Yes.
- 25 MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Thank you very

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- MR. CLOSE: Based on your
- 2 description, you're going to have them to do dual
- 3 role, not just at the facility, but throughout
- 4 the community?

1

- 5 MS. ROUNTREE: Throughout the
- 6 downtown of our city and at the parking deck.
- 7 The parking enforcement offices are generally
- 8 part-time employees. They're not full-time
- 9 employees, so we do anticipate having a reduction
- 10 in the number of full-time.
- MR. CLOSE: And the savings from the
- 12 professional services you're going to apply to
- 13 the debt paydown?
- 14 MR. GIACOBBE: Yes.
- MR. CLOSE: You're going to use the
- 16 savings and the debt in the professional
- 17 services, you're going to use that toward the pay
- 18 down of the debt? Is that anticipated?
- MR. ENRIGHT: It rolls down to the
- 20 bottom line, so effectively it does that, but the
- 21 authority is a money making operation, so it's
- 22 not purely that. They would have surplus as
- 23 well.
- MR. DRAIKIWICZ: There's also some
- 25 reserves that would be used to pay down the debt

- 1 much.
- 2 MR. GIACOBBE: Thank you.
- 3 MS. WALTER: Last is City of Camden.

- 4 Amendments to the public private contract.
- 5 MR. SCERBO: Good afternoon,
- 6 Director. My name is Ryan Scerbo. I'm with the
- 7 law firm of Decotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole and
- 8 Giblin. We're bond counsel to the City of
- 9 Camden. And with me today, I'll allow them to
- 0 introduce themselves as we go down the line.
- 11 MR. HOPKINS: I'm Jim Hopkins. I'm
- 12 consulting engineer for the city.
- MR. KEATING: Pat Keating. I'm the
- 14 director of finance.
- MR. WALKER: Keith Walker, Public
- 16 Works.
- 17 (At which time wishing to testify
- 18 were sworn in.)
- MR. SCERBO: So as you may recall,
- 20 actually, we were before this board and received
- 21 approval from the board back in January of 2016
- 22 for a private water operator contract for sewer
- 23 and water pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:26-19 and
- 24 58:27-19 with American Water. They are the
- 25 operator for the City of Camden.

1 We procured them through a lengthy process coming off a 20 year contract with a 3 prior operator. In the process of putting together that contract, we utilized the best available information we had at the time. After about a year and-a-half of operation, a variety of issues arose including changes in law, administrative issues that we had to clean up. system wide issues that were observed by the new operator and reported to the city. 10

11 These items, we feel very strongly 12 that the life and death of these contracts really exists around the communication and expectation between the contracting parties. If that lifeline of communication isn't kept open and honest between the parties, expectations start to move away from reality and then relationships 18 that acrimonious develops.

19 And unfortunately, these contracts are for very lengthy periods of time and bad relationship can be a death now for a situation like this. So we've maintained very clear and open communications with American Water, since 24 the inception of the contract as they raise

25 issues with us, that's part of why Jim is here

provided, one item that was addressed was the cleaning of our sewer system.

3 We anticipated and wanted a very 4 quick clean out of our sewer system. The city does, from time to time, experience flooding conditions in certain aspects and parts of the city, so it was very important to us, given the redevelopment effort going on in Camden, that we provide high quality services. The operator was

10 able to determine that the cycle we requested, 11 entire clean out of the system in a three year period was not achievable based on the cash that 12 13 we had portioned for the process.

14 If you recall, this contract 15 structure is paying the operator a set fee to provide certain services and withholding, by the city, of cash in a reserve fund for the city's 17 18 determination as to what services get provided 19 beyond those basic services. One of those 20 services under control of the city is the clean 21 out of the sewer system. 22

We fund it, we portion the funds 23 annually for that purpose and we can verify the 24 contractor's completion of those services. When

the contractor came to us with the condition of

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with us.

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2 Jim has helped spearhead for the 3 city, double checking, verifying, determining the accuracy of the information. And then the city and American Water meet on a regular basis, something this board actually demanded occur in your approval of the prior contract. And through those communications and meetings we've helped 9 flush out and identify those issues.

The parties sat down then in 2017, late in 2017, they actually asked me to come back into the process and we began to negotiate an amendment to the contract which has been submitted to this board for approval. The amendment contains a number of clean up issues, administrative issues. We faced a change in the law with the Water Quality Accountability Act and some of the requirements that are imposed upon water purveyors in the state of New Jersey.

20 So those were not in the original 21 scope of services for American, but we have done that now in the amendment and we also talked about honestly conditions within the city system. This is an important point. Although most of the amendments do not effect scope of services being

1 the system, he identified that greater passes and greater number of passes were necessary in order 3 to clean that system out, so we had to rethink

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Three years is not industry practice just, so everyone is aware. However, a five year cycle is industry practice and this is what this 8 amendment refers to. That is the one important

scope, change in this contract.

the cycle of the system.

10 MS. WALTER: It does seem that some 11 of the aspects of the contract involved flooding reduction. I was wondering what's the need for 12 13 that and where does that portion of the project 14 come in?

15 MR. KEATING: Well, the storm management. First you have to understand, the city is a combined system so we have a combined 18 sewer sanitary system in most of the city 19 sections and some of the new redevelopment sections we do a separation, but in your low 21 lying areas, the tide gates and the combined

22 system, the treatment is down at the CC MUA. 23 So our system dumps the entire

24 product into the plant, but at the end of the day, when we get those heavy rains, we have a 86 | 88

- 1 back up on the streets, we've identified mostly
- 2 as a back up. The drain system does seem to work
- 3 as opposed to the flooding but it does clog up in
- 4 both the inability of the CC MUA to take all the
- 5 capacity at one time and coming back up through
- 6 the storm drains.
- We have processes in place now in
- 8 the past two years through American Water
- 9 services, who we have a contract with, and the
- 10 way we manage our pumping stations, we have found
- 11 that is great relief. But we also have the high
- 12 tides and of course, you know, what you have is
- 13 your CSOs which is combined sewer overflows.
- 14 At that point in time, when you have
- 15 those overflows, it's supposed to go out into the
- 16 water. If the tide is up, the tide gate is
- 17 closed so you have to -- timing is everything and
- 18 how fast the rain is coming and to what capacity
- 19 is more of a determinant of that. So certain
- 20 areas of the city where you know you have low
- 21 lying areas, some of the other folks talk about
- 22 the flooding and we do address that.
- 23 That is paid for, as Ryan said, from
- 24 a reserve that the base fees of six million
- 25 something off the top of my head. They also set

- 1 group is --
- 2 MR. HOPKINS: New Jersey Water
- 3 Works.
- 4 MR. SCERBO: New Jersey Water Works,
- 5 so we don't know if we'll be awarded anything,
- 6 but in connection with some of our redevelopment
- 7 and in the area of Cooper's Ferry offices,
- 8 there's been a noticeable reduction of flooding
- 9 that was occurring prior under the other
- 10 operating contract we have.
- 11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Who was your prior
- 12 operator?
- 13 MR. SCERBO: So one thing I would
- 14 like to say is we don't want to say anything
- 15 disparaging, for a lot of reasons, but United
- 16 Water --
- MS. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I wanted to
- 18 know. Suez now.
- 19 MR. SCERBO: There's an ongoing
- 20 litigation at the moment.
- 21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: For some strange
- 22 reason, I always thought American was also
- 23 down -- their headquarters are down --
- MR. SCERBO: That's right. They
- 25 have a lot of holdings in and around the city of

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- 1 up a reserve and a maintenance and in identifying
- 2 what we did in basically the first year of the
- 3 contract, at the end of the last contract, and
- 4 Ryan was correct, we had a 20 year contract, but
- 5 that contract did not go the full 20 years.
- 6 MR. SCERBO: That's right.
- 7 MR. KEATING: The 20th year would be
- 8 next year. Due to some litigation and such, that
- 9 contract ended 15 years and then another so we're
- 10 in the third year of this contract now. And the
- 11 initial concept of what was going on was what we
- 12 looked at in the first year.
- And now going through the second
- 14 year, we have some good numbers showing what we
- 15 really needed and the real condition of the
- 16 system, especially in the storm water we have the
- 17 proposals is out there to do dredging. We have
- 18 proposals to clean outfalls.
- 19 MS. WALTER: You're not seeing
- 20 flooding yet, but you're trying to head off the
- 21 problem.
- MR. SCERBO: Looking at a reduction
- 23 in flooding actually. The city is so proud of
- 24 the results in some areas, that we have submitted
- 25 an application for an award consideration by the

1 Camden. When we reprocured, one thing to note is

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- 2 that Suez did not submit a proposal to be our
- 3 operator when we reprocured, so I think it's all
- 4 for the best at this point.
- 5 American is doing a fairly good job
- 6 and the city is comfortable with it. One thing
- 7 you should also know that Pat has a lot of
- 8 experience. He was the director of Public Works
- 9 at the time we did the first contract and now he
- 10 is the CFO and Keith has taken over as the
- 11 director of Public Works.
- 12 MR. KEATING: New Jersey American
- 13 does service a portion of the city.
- MR. SCERBO: As a utility.
 - MR. KEATING: As the New Jersey
- 16 American utility. This is the American Water
- 17 services.

- MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'm fully aware. I
- 19 sit on the Water Commission, so that's why I'm
- 20 asking the questions.
- 21 MS. WALTER: I had a concern about
- 22 just the cost impact of this. I know you're
- 23 undertaking a rate study across the city, and it
- 24 looks like the amendments to the reserves funds
- 25 here could really go up. It could cause an

increase to about 12 and-a-half million dollars.

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So I want to get an idea of how you're anticipating this item will be handled and what the structural changes before the rate study and how much of a rate impact are you going to 6 see going forward.

MR. KEATING: Well, the rate study, as you know, we are actively engaged in trying to 9 study that. Currently, we've been able to set up, at least in the water fund, have enough 10 reserve and the fund balance, sewer side, I don't have the EFS to give you the exact numbers yet, 13 but we're working on that as well.

14 We do believe that with the development, we have a whole lot of new 15 customers, so a whole lot of the development that we addressed that we're trying to make sure those areas are secured, the water fund area and the 19 river load area is additional flooding.

20 Choke points, we know the choke 21 points, but we do anticipate that we're going to

have new revenues coming in for new customers because we're talking about what used to be

vacant land and parking lots and storm water is

another issue. I won't get too deep into the

numbers again with American and we are basically

at the full expenditure of the 5.1 million

3 dollars. Until this gets completed, what we've

done is we've ratcheted back in certain areas,

particularly like the sewer clean because that's

a controllable expense to clean the sewers.

The emergency repair work to the systems and the plant are items that we really

can't -- we gotta address. The weather has

presented a lot of impact factors in this year

with sink holes, so that's been a larger expense

than anticipated, so you kind of do a little bit

of rob Peter to pay Paul and why we left these

14 numbers as variable.

15 So we're managing those numbers to stay as closely as we can to the budget and 16

recognizing that what we're doing is we are

18 delaying long term maintenance replacement items

19 that need to be done some time in the life of

20 this contract.

21

MR. SCERBO: Just if I could, just

22 for the record for future years of the contract,

23 as approved by the board in its original

24 structure, the maintenance repair and replacement

25 fund, the utility fund, those are all funds

91 93

1 rate study, but those areas where they were just nonproductive lands contributing to this.

We're not going to have customers, so in order to maintain the system, we also look like we're going have to revenues to generate in addition to maybe having to raise the rates.

MS. WALTER: And one other thing just to note. Some of this, we had asked you to do a public hearing --

10 MR. SCERBO: Correct.

MS. WALTER: -- borderline whether 11 these were substantial, and we appreciate you do 12 doing it. I know that delayed a little bit for you guys. We are nine months into the contract 15 year, so how are you handling any retro payment that you do? 16

MR. HOPKINS: The contract has the 18 maintenance repair and replacement accounts and also the utility allocations and then city reserve numbers against that. So the current contract has roughly 5.1 million dollars which are variable cost factors. In the previous year,

23 we exceeded that by \$500,000. 24 This year, we are, because it has

25 not been approved, we've been managing those

controlled by the city that have no control by

the operator.

3 And in addition to that, they are

direct pass through costs. There are no mark ups

on some of these items, so every year we

anticipate those figures will change for us, so

we'll decide as a city whether or not we will do

capital work in this area or we will clean out

that area of the system.

10 The operator will be directed to do it and paid for the work of course, but without

any kind of increase or mark up on their

contract. Their contract will only ever change

based on CPI increase annually, or if we increase

or decrease the scope of their work, but those

are the only changes where we might see a future

17 amendment to the contract and we don't anticipate

18 that right now.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: And the emergencies, 19 20 you have no control over that.

21 MR. SCERBO: Nothing, yeah.

22 MS. WALTER: The Camden monitor had

23 a couple points he submitted. I just wanted to

24 let you know he was very helpful to us in

evaluating this application. He noted, as you

1 had noted, the last two years have given you a

2 much better idea of what you anticipate going

3 forward.

4 That is informative as to why this 5 was happening, and he does recommend the board

move forward with this. However, he raised kind 6

of concerns that you raised so I want to make

sure that you guys are aware that there are kind

of repercussions moving forward with the

increased costs, and it seems like you're making 10

efforts to mitigate that.

12 MR. SCERBO: We do also point out

13 that we have an initial term in this contract,

the 10 year term, but it has a five year

extension. That window on that extension has to

be worked out between the fifth and sixth year of

this contract. It may be the next time that you

18 see us

19 If we like how things are

progressing with American, we may opt for the

additional five year. The requirement of this

board in the original approval was that we could

only do that if we come back and seek your

approval, which we intend to do.

25 MR. HOPKINS: If I could just expand 1 move forward with this, just one thing. In the

previous version of the contract we put in place

a condition requiring costs of contracting

administrator. You would expect that to carry

5 over in the contract.

6 MR. SCERBO: Absolutely.

MR. AVERY: I have a couple of

questions. Is the whole city of Camden on a

9 combined sewer system?

10 MR. KEATING: No. The Fairview

section is one of the newer sections, southern

end is separate. And then in the area along the

13 waterfront where we did new development, as the

14 new development goes in, we're doing separation. 15 MR. AVERY: So the new development

is being piped separate from the storm water. 16

17 MR. KEATING: Yeah.

18 MR. AVERY: And the discharge point

19 for the combined sewer, is the Delaware, I take

20

21

25

7

MR. KEATING: We have the Delaware

97

22 River, Newton Creek and Cooper River.

23 MR. AVERY: And what size storm

24 event over capacitates the combined system?

MR. HOPKINS: It's really based on

95

the intensity.

2 MR. AVERY: So is a quarter inch, an

3 inch or two inches.

4 MR. SCERBO: Over a certain window

5 of time.

MR. HOPKINS: It's like maybe two 6

7 inches of rain an hour or better can cause us a

8 problem.

9 MR. AVERY: Normally on a lesser

10 rain event you're taking the storm water and --

11 MR. SCERBO: The regulators

12 allowing --

13 MR. AVERY: And going to the CC MUA

14 treatment plant.

15 MR. KEATING: Yes.

MR. AVERY: Is there any plans to do 16

17 the whole -- to correct the whole system and

bring Camden into the 21st Century? 18

19 MR. KEATING: If you can find us a

20 billion dollars or so, we'll be more than happy.

21 We're doing it piece by piece.

22 MR. AVERY: I appreciate that

23 because some of the applications that have come

here, there's no effort at all to separate storm 24

25 water.

on the maintenance number. We put together a

projection with the maintenance repair expenses

are based upon the knowledge from the past 3

contract and we broke that out with American's people working together into basically 20 some

6 categories.

contract.

24

7 As a result of what we've done over

the last two years, we've expanded that into 40 9 categories so we can monitor it a little more

closely and be able to project that.

As we went through those things, we 11 12 found several areas which the effort needed to be

increased. We increased those efforts by a

14 little bit over almost two million dollars, but

as a result of that, we also went back and looked

16 at other areas where we had made assumptions and

17 fine tuned those and reduced those numbers

18 accordingly. 19 So the net impact across the board

20 as we went to a budget of basically 5.1 combined with the reserves to a combined budget of six

million that we're looking at as a more reasonable number to try to move forward in this

25 MS. WALTER: Thank you. Before we

	98	100
		100
1	MR. SCERBO: One of the things with	1 MS. WALTER: All in favor?
2	the combined systems is that it will never get	BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
3	easy regulatorily. It's always going to get more	BOARD MEMBERS: Aye. (Hearing Concluded at 12:48 p.m.) 4 5
4	and more difficult, and the intent from the	4
5	agencies is to force you to make that decision	
6	and some point it will become less costly to	6
7	separate than it will be to continue to combine.	7
8	MR. AVERY: At some point I'm going	8
9	to stop voting to approve.	9
10	MR. CLOSE: I would agree with you.	10
11	Again, because of the high cost we recognize	11
12	that, but some effort even slowly to do that is	12
13	encouraging to see that.	13
14	MR. AVERY: Because some of the	14
15	redevelopment in Camden is substantial,	15
16	substantial resources and I'm glad you're using	16
17	that.	17
18	MS. RODRIGUEZ: When American comes	18
19	in and buys water systems, they come in with the	19
20	whole plant. 35 percent right off the top.	20
21	MR. SCERBO: They become a utility	21
22	and all their customers become funding their	22
23	efforts.	23
24	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Exactly. They come	24
25	in with wonderful ideas, but you know the	25
	99	101
1	residents are still going to pay for it.	1 CERTIFICATE
2	MR. SCERBO: Absolutely.	2
3	MS. WALTER: Can we get a motion to	3 I, LAUREN ETIER, a Certified Court
4	approve setting forth the condition with the	4 Reporter, License No. XI 02211, and Notary Public
5	contact administrator.	5 of the State of New Jersey, that the foregoing is
6	MR. DIROCCO: I'll make a motion to	6 a true and accurate transcript of the testimony
7	approve.	7 as taken stenographically by and before me at the
8	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Second.	8 time, place and on the date hereinbefore set
9	MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?	9 forth.
10	MS. WALTER: Yes.	10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a
11	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?	11 relative nor employee nor attorney nor council of
12	MR. DIROCCO: Yes.	12 any of the parties to this action, and that I am
13	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?	13 neither a relative nor employee of such attorney
14	MR. CLOSE: Yes.	14 or council, and that I am not financially
15	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?	15 interested in the action.
16	MR. AVERY: Yes.	16
17	MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?	17
18	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.	18
19	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?	19
20	MR. BLEE: Yes.	20
21	MR. SCERBO: Thank you very much for	21
~ ~	• • •	Allege W Street
22	your time.	22 Lauren M. Etier
23	your time. MS. WALTER: Motion to adjourn?	Notary Public of the State of New Jersey
	your time.	

	active 17:5	advertising	allocations
a.m1:13	23:13	47:5	91:19
ability 54:18	actively 90:8	advise 22:5	allow 81:9
able 31:5	activities	advised 17:11	allowed 35:25
43:17,22	47:5,7	17:13	allowing 97:12
56:8 62:1,13	actual 21:25	advisor 22:24	allows 72:12
62:22 63:1	46:7 51:25	50:7 57:3	ambulances
63:11,12	52:9	58:23 70:13	38:24 39:3
84:10 90:9	add 13:16	advisors 6:3	amendment
95:10	addition 13:4	50:7	83:13,15,22
absentee 21:17	23:9 28:12	AEDs 40:19,20	85:8 93:17
21:23	61:11 74:13	Affairs 1:2,9	amendments
absolutely	74:21 91:6	5:17 6:24	81:4 83:25
18:14 78:7	93:3	afternoon 70:6	89:24
96:6 99:2	additional	81:5	American 81:24
absorb 67:21	15:7 25:9	age 13:22	82:23 83:5
abstain 48:1	36:4 39:6	agencies 98:5	83:21 86:8
Acacia 58:23	40:15 61:4	agenda 4:4,10	88:22 89:5
accommodate	63:3 75:7	6:1 18:7	89:12,16,16
43:22	77:12,16	agent 21:2	92:1 94:20
accomplish	78:17 90:19	aggregate	98:18
14:22	94:21	56:12,14,18	American's
Accountabi	address 11:6	59:22	95:4
83:17	16:8 28:8	aggressive	amortizing
accounts 31:12	69:12 86:22	62:24 68:2	75:4
91:18	92:9	68:10	amount 9:10
accuracy 83:4	addressed 84:1	aggressively	10:23 21:7
accurate 101:6	90:17	44:11	35:10 37:3
achievable	adequate 71:6	ago 50:19	47:25 51:12
84:12	71:8 80:6	59:12 61:8	51:23 52:6
achieve 62:13	adjourn 99:23	62:20	53:24 59:22
acknowledge	Adjournment	agree 13:17	62:15 63:8
64:23	3:15	69:13 98:10	64:17 65:24
acquire 15:5	adjustment	agreement 8:18 28:6 64:5	analysis 14:5
15:17	31:9 43:1		14:15 53:19
acquisition	Administra 71:20 76:12	75:22	and-a-half 19:17 66:24
15:25 18:21	administra	agreements 23:11 25:6	74:3 75:8
34:21 35:2,5	53:8 72:12	28:11,20	82:6 90:1
35:16	82:8 83:16		annual 8:15
acre 63:21	administrator	aid 16:21,22 16:24 25:5	9:3 35:17
acrimonious	34:11 70:17	air 43:12	52:19 53:1
82:18	96:4 99:5	ALAN 2:7	annually 65:15
Act 83:17	admittedly	alarm 40:12	66:6 84:23
action 17:24	16:13	alerts 40:13	93:14
101:12,15	advanced 13:22	alleviate 68:9	answer 16:2,5
	~~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

23:12 31:19	appease 71:16	47:19 61:7	assets 73:10
38:13 42:21	Applause 7:8	91:25 92:23	73:14,17,20
53:5 61:18	7:19	approximately	74:14
Anthony 8:4	applicable	72:19,20	assistance 5:4
anticipate	36:23	architect	assistant 5:2
26:4 31:5	applicant 17:8	41:16 42:1	34:11 44:15
42:17 65:20	application	43:15 44:20	assisting 6:6
65:23 77:12	4:6,7 9:16	architects	associated
79:9 90:21	10:14,16	41:22 42:6	24:10 39:9
93:6,17 94:2	16:4 19:25	architectural	ASSOCIATES
anticipated	21:6 28:5	44:23	1:19
32:13 43:9	29:8 33:3	area 8:19	association
71:22 79:18	38:18 39:19	16:21 28:14	16:25 17:6
84:3 92:12	54:1,22 56:1	36:21 41:7	assumed 71:13
anticipating	56:21 57:8	47:13,17,17	assuming 21:20
41:15 42:13	57:14,17	72:19 88:7	assumption
63:1 65:8	63:9 73:7	90:18,19	71:8,18 76:8
90:3	87:25 93:25	93:8,9 96:12	80:7
anticipation	applications	areas 85:21	assumptions
34:19 62:20	18:2 39:16	86:20,21	95:16
66:3,3	97:23	87:24 90:18	Atlantic 61:24
anybody 11:9	apply 66:3	91:1 92:4	62:3 64:23
apologies	79:12	95:12,16	attachment
38:20,21	applying 8:12	arose 82:7	45:7
apparatus 9:11	66:1	arrangement	attempted
13:22,25	appreciate	23:6 76:24	66:16
19:2 35:2	13:14 91:12	artist6:1	attempting
40:6	97:22	aside 65:15	66:14
appeal 59:14	appreciated	Asimla 19:20	attention
60:5 61:11	59:15	asked 22:4	67:10
61:13,24	appreciation	29:14 50:22	attest 69:9
63:14 64:12	6:14	52:4 83:11	attorney 7:24
64:14,19	appropriat	91:8	12:13 34:4
68:5,16	45:3	asking 56:13	50:4 70:23
appeals 58:10	approval 8:10	89:20	101:11,13
59:23 60:3	34:25 47:15	aspect 69:10	attorneys 13:6
61:1,19 62:8	56:8 59:20	76:17,20	13:18,19
62:11 64:8	71:2 81:21	aspects 32:20	attractive
64:22 65:1	83:7,14	77:23 84:6	54:14
65:16 66:5,9	94:22,24	85:11	auctioned
66:11,19,23	approve 11:12	assess 60:19	36:16
67:1,12 69:2	18:12 33:1	assessment	audience 37:21
69:8,8	49:4 57:17	67:11	auditor 59:7
appeared 15:21	98:9 99:4,7	assessor 59:3	70:18
appearing 50:1	approved 8:14	63:20	authorities
58:9	15:24 35:8	asset 74:6,8	5:12
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	l		
authority 9:2	B 3:17 68:17	83:5	biggest 40:3
21:7 70:6	back 30:1 41:6	batting 10:19	44:10
71:3,5,25	41:7 46:22	Baumann 20:25	Bill 65:18
72:5,25	46:24 51:2	50:9	billion 97:20
73:15,18,25	54:4 55:14	bay 40:6	bit 9:19 10:23
74:12,14,17	61:23,25	bear 29:3	39:23 41:24
74:21 75:4	62:4 68:3	66:18	44:13 61:22
77:3 79:21	81:21 83:11	began 83:12	63:16 73:10
authority's	86:1,2,5	beginning	91:13 92:12
71:16 75:16	92:4 94:23	57:10	95:14
authorization	95:15	Beinfield	blamed 73:4
45:5	background	58:19,19	Blee 2:8 7:11
automatic	34:23	69:9	11:25 12:1
35:20	bad 82:20	believe 18:20	18:15 20:12
available 14:6	balance 37:15	25:4 37:25	20:13 33:4
30:4 44:8	39:10 60:4	39:14 45:11	33:15,16
59:15 82:5	62:2,25	73:19 77:15	49:20,21
average 9:5	63:13 74:15	90:14	69:25 70:1
60:24	74:16 90:11	beloved 5:24	80:12,23,24
Avery 2:7 7:12	ballots 21:18	beneficial	99:19,20
11:21,22	21:24	37:13	board 1:5 4:9
20:8,9 33:11	bank 15:9,10	benefit 72:8	4:12,14,14
33:12 47:11	15:10,12,13	Berlin 44:7	4:17 5:6,14
47:21 48:11	15:14,16	best 6:20 7:3	6:4,4,13,19
48:16 49:1,5	23:1,1,2,18	14:19,19	6:23,25 7:3
49:16,17	23:20,21	15:15,16	7:18 8:4
58:1,2 69:21	24:7 31:15	23:21 37:12	9:12 10:16
69:22 80:19	bank's 31:23	45:2 53:15	12:13 13:21
80:20 96:7	banks 8:22	82:4 89:4	15:9,20 18:1
96:15,18,23	9:16	better 9:20	22:3 27:22
97:2,9,13,16	BANs 68:1,4,6	24:15 31:5	43:6 46:15
97:22 98:8	68:8	72:15 94:2	47:2 48:20
98:14 99:15	base 46:6	97:7	51:15 57:15
99:16	61:12 86:24	beyond 9:24	66:9,25 67:1
awaiting 60:12	based 18:22,23	44:18 51:17	67:6 81:20
award 17:22,24	19:10 29:2	84:19	81:21 83:6
87:25	45:8 46:20	bid 8:25 18:24	83:14 92:23
awarded 88:5	57:2,12 79:1	23:5,8	94:5,22
aware 60:25	84:12 93:14	bidding 22:1	95:19 100:2
85:6 89:18	95:3 96:25	22:20 37:8	board's 5:9
94:8	basic 84:19	bids 8:21,22	8:9 12:18
axle 37:1 49:8	basically	22:24 45:16	17:24 56:7
aye 7:17,18	16:12 29:23	big 35:11	boat 21:10
100:2	50:16 87:2	37:21 52:23	25:3,5,9,14
	92:1 95:5,20	67:5,19	25:15,16,19
В	basis 37:11,25	bigger 41:25	25:20,23,24

26:8 29:22	Bucks 25:7	57:6	CC 85:22 86:4
30:6,6	budget 5:3	callable 51:1	97:13
boats 25:1	11:6 14:25	called 21:4	CENTER 1:21
Bob 58:19	15:2 28:16	Camden 3:14	cents 15:3
body 54:14	28:17 36:2,5	81:3,9,25	60:23 61:9
bond 6:3 8:2	36:10 41:23	84:8 89:1	Century 97:18
12:14 13:5	44:22,24	93:22 96:8	certain 84:6
20:25 23:17	45:3 54:10	97:18 98:15	84:16 86:19
24:2,4 34:5	60:7,16	CAMERYN 2:13	92:4 97:4
34:19 37:20	61:15 62:6,9	capacitates	certainly
50:2,9,19	62:23 63:2	96:24	54:18
51:13 53:1	63:11 65:9	capacities 5:2	Certified 1:20
58:10,20	67:17 74:17	capacity 43:2	101:3
59:21 60:20	74:20 92:16	44:19 86:5	CERTIFY 101:10
70:10 71:12	95:20,21	86:18	CFO 50:5 59:5
81:8	budgetary	capital 8:12	89:10
bonds 21:7	67:23	9:11 10:24	Chair 13:21
34:25 36:1	budgeted 36:9	11:4 22:6	chairman 8:4
37:20 38:5	37:16 46:22	24:9 30:20	Chairwoman 2:3
38:11 59:22	budgets 28:13	35:1,6,15,18	change 21:16
60:9,10,11	build 46:5	38:14 42:24	42:20 83:16
68:16 80:2	67:16	45:4 73:10	85:9 93:6,13
books 74:7	buildings	73:14 75:18	changes 82:7
75:6	63:23	93:8	90:4 93:16
borderline			
91:11	built 19:1 22:13 41:5	capped 48:9	charge 12:21 31:15
		captain 34:9	
Borough 23:11	72:18	car 39:1	checked 30:5
23:12 27:8,8	bulk 54:4	care 31:18	checking 83:3
27:24,24	bunch 18:8	48:6	chemical 63:22
boroughs 27:7	burden 64:4	career 29:20	Chemours 59:24
27:9,14	bureau 5:4	carpenter	63:5,21
bottom 25:16	Burkey 50:5,5	44:16	Cherron 70:16
25:19 79:20	53:7	carry 73:11	chief 12:19,22
bought 38:24	Burlington	74:7 96:4	21:3 44:16
40:19	17:3	carrying 75:6	50:22 52:12
Bowman 59:7	business 34:7	case 27:23	70:20
Brian 5:23	34:11 70:17	36:10	chiefs 17:1
bring 55:16	buying 37:12	cash 22:4 62:2	choice 63:6
78:17 97:18	buys 27:22	62:10 84:12	choke 90:20,20
brings 11:3	98:19	84:17	chose 30:1
Broad 1:10	C	catch 39:21	chosen 5:19
broke 95:4	C101:1,1	categories	15:18
Brooke 5:24	C8000 36:15	95:6,9	Cier 12:17
brought 32:16	call 4:7 40:5	caught 47:24	circumstances
67:7	52:4 53:6	cause 89:25	69:13
buck 15:16	34.4 33.0	97:7	citizens 4:22
	1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6:7,14,25	close 2:6	19:15 20:19	6:24 14:8,9
city 3:9,11,12	11:19,20	21:4,15 30:1	79:4
3:13,14	18:16,22	33:25 38:23	companies 8:22
49:25 50:10	19:10,21	43:16 46:24	17:1
51:16 52:14	20:1,6,7	48:2,4 50:2	company 14:10
53:20 54:10	23:22 25:22	53:1 63:3	59:7
56:23 61:25	26:2,7,10,13	64:7 70:5,6	comparison
62:3 64:23	26:17 32:2,5	72:22 83:11	19:11 37:7
70:4,10,15	32:7,9,18,23	85:14 94:23	competing 14:5
70:17,19,23	33:9,10	97:23 98:19	competitive
71:2,3,11,13	41:20 42:3,7	98:24	8:21 18:24
71:15,19	45:6,14,19	comes 4:7 52:8	37:8 45:15
72:7,15,23	45:22 46:1,7	98:18	51:2
73:1 79:6	46:14,17,23	comfortable	complete 60:21
81:3,8,12,25	47:6 48:22	56:15 89:6	80:8
82:10 83:3,4	49:14,15	coming 17:10	completed
83:23 84:4,7	57:18,24,25	42:10,14	45:17 92:3
84:17,20	65:14,20,23	43:1 51:18	completion
85:17,18	66:5,25	51:19 62:19	84:24
86:20 87:23	67:13 69:6	77:9 82:2	compliance
88:25 89:6	69:19,20	86:5,18	32:19
89:13,23	77:25 78:8	90:22	complied 19:22
91:19 93:1,7	78:12 79:1	Commencing	compository
96:8	79:11,15	1:13	23:6
city's 53:15	80:4,17,18	comment 13:3	computerized
84:17	98:10 99:13	13:17,20	52:24
civilian 76:19	99:14,25	49:6	concept 87:11
civilians	closed 86:17	commission	concern 16:18
76:24	closely 92:16	47:22 48:2,5	27:21 89:21
clabbards 41:9	95:10	89:19 101:24	concerned
41:9,12,13	Co-op 30:8	commissioner	48:11,12
class 76:21,24	Cole 81:7	8:24 12:19	concerning 5:9
76:24	collaborative	12:20 14:1	concerns 42:9
clean 82:8	22:18	78:22	72:24 73:2
83:15 84:4	collected	commissioners	94:7
84:11,20	75:15	5:16 8:5	concerted
85:3 87:18	combination	12:17,18	64:14,18
92:5,6 93:8	16:13	16:4 34:16	65:3
cleaning 84:2	combine 98:7	committee	Concluded
clear 82:22	combined 68:18	12:21 29:15	100:3
cleared 64:21	85:17,17,21	communication	condition
65:4	86:13 95:20	82:13,15	18:12 57:8
clearinghouse	95:21 96:9	communicat	84:25 87:15
19:2	96:19,24	82:23 83:8	96:3 99:4
clerk 5:1	98:2	community 1:2	conditioning
clog 86:3	come 7:22	1:9 5:17	43:12

]		
conditions	82:14 96:3	costly 64:8,9	covers 26:24
57:13,19	contractor	98:6	CPI 93:14
83:23 84:6	84:25	costs 14:16	crazy 48:17
conform 9:18	contractor's	17:10 21:24	create 29:21
confusion 57:7	84:24	34:20 39:6	creates 72:7
congratula	contracts	39:12 43:23	credit 60:13
33:21	82:12,19	47:8 52:12	65:11,25
conjunction	contributing	55:19 93:4	66:4 67:1,3
76:14	28:8 91:2	94:10 96:3	creditors 71:7
connect 40:10	control 72:23	council 8:19	71:11,14
connection	73:1,5 84:20	36:22 101:11	credits 62:11
71:23 88:6	93:1,20	101:14	67:2
consequently	controllable	counsel 8:2	Creek 96:22
19:3	92:6	12:10,15	CREST 1:21
conservative	controlled	20:20 21:1	CSOs 86:13
74:22	93:1	34:1,5 50:9	curious 46:23
consider 4:10	conversations	53:11 58:20	current 10:19
4:17 18:1	69:10	70:8,10 81:8	36:13 42:19
consideration	Cooper 96:22	counsels 6:3	43:23 46:20
87:25	Cooper's 88:7	count 76:6	51:15 55:24
consulting	cooperative	counties 5:12	60:22 61:6
81:12	8:18 36:22	17:2 25:8	61:15 73:16
contact 99:5	37:1,7	county 9:1	73:22 74:11
contains 83:15	coordinate	17:4 25:7	77:20 91:20
continue 39:3	27:20 72:15	26:21 27:6	currently
98:7	coordinated	30:8 58:9	24:24,25
contract 30:4	52:23	60:13,14,16	25:10 32:4
37:9 45:11	copy 10:9	65:12,25	90:9
45:12,20	corner 24:7	66:9,25 67:1	customers
46:8 78:6	CORPORATE 1:21	couple 9:25	90:16,22
81:4,22 82:2	correct 12:7,8	29:12 38:16	91:3 98:22
82:4,24 83:7	29:11 32:25	43:8,21	cycle 84:10
83:13 84:14	63:10 87:4	44:16 50:18	85:4,7
85:9,11 86:9	91:10 97:17	51:5 65:18	
87:3,3,4,5,9	correctly 19:7	70:3 93:23	D
87:10 88:10	cost 14:17,18	96:7	D 3:1
89:9 91:14	15:24 22:2	course 64:4	DAG 2:13
91:17,21	29:9 31:10	67:1 86:12	date 1:12
92:20,22	32:14 36:6,8	93:11	40:20 101:8
93:13,13,17	37:5,10,15	Court 1:20	Dated 101:25
94:13,17	38:2 39:14	101:3	dates 52:18,22
95:4,24 96:2	41:20 42:18	cover 24:12	daughters 5:23
96:5	55:16,20	27:1 28:16	David 70:22
contracted	73:23 78:18	78:23	day 56:4 71:21
45:12	89:22 91:22	covered 28:17	71:21 75:7
contracting	98:11	41:8	78:25 85:25

days 5: 22 14:1 35: 21 definitely 43:18 discharge 96: 18 52: 23 55: 15 25: 20 43: 18 45: 2 40: 10 40: 10 57: 4 62: 3 58: 20 84: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20 40: 10 40: 20
deal 51:20 definitely determine 96:18 52:23 55:15 25:20 43:18 45:2 40:10 57:4 62:3 58:20 84:10 discount 19:1 dealing 61:1 58:20 84:10 discount 19:1 dealing 61:1 96:19,21 determined discussed 61:10 96:19,21 determining discussion deal 42:2 delayed 91:13 determining discussion death 82:12,21 delaying 92:18 developer disparaging debt 10:19,20 density 72:21 developer 88:15 30:18 36:18 density 72:21 development 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolution 68:17,19 76:12,15 develops 82:18 district 3:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 devote5:20 8:17 9:7,9 debts 74:3 December 73:25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 30:2 depreciate
S5:17,22
57:4 62:3 58:20 84:10 discount 19:2 61:10 96:19,21 35:14 36:2 65:21 Deals 26:1 delay 66:15,16 44:18 discussion death 82:12,21 delayed 91:13 determining 50:14 51:6 debt 10:19,20 demanded 83:6 developer 88:15 24:10 30:12 density 72:21 developer 70:5 71:3,13 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 discolution 68:17,19 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 68:17,19 departments 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 79:16,18,25 depreciate 3:7,8 7:22 debts 74:3 depreciated 10:20 12:6 December 73:25 depreciated 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 49:4 26:24 27:1,
dealing 61:1 Delaware 21:10 determined discussed 61:10 96:19,21 44:18 65:21 deals 26:1 delay 66:15,16 determining 50:14 51:6 dealt 62:8 delaying 92:18 determining 83:3 discussion debt 10:19,20 demanded 83:6 developer 88:15 24:10 30:12 density 72:21 developen 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:5 68:17,19 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 68:17,19 76:18 devoiation 3:7,8 7:22 74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 decide 93:7 depreciated 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 deputy 2:15 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 deput
61:10
Deals 26:1 delay 66:15,16 44:18 discussion dealt 62:8 delayed 91:13 determining 50:14 51:6 death 82:12,21 delaying 92:18 determining 50:14 51:6 debt 10:19,20 demanded 83:6 developer 88:15 24:10 30:12 density 72:21 development 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 42:9 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 71:14,24 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 develops 82:18 dissolve 71:5 68:17,19 departments deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 departments 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 73:20 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 decide 93:7 depreciated 5:18 19:6 20:18 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 49:4 42:4 42:4 42:17 98:5 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 decl
dealt 62:8 delayed 91:13 determining 50:14 51:6 death 82:12,21 delaying 92:18 developer 88:15 24:10 30:12 Dennis 70:12 development 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 42:14:11 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:5 68:17,19 departments 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 departments 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 30:2 depreciated Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 30:21 74:1 depreciated 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 30ecide 93:7 depreciated 3:10,16 difficult 98:4 12:2,17 23:4 30eck 76:16 deputy 2:15 5:5 66:15 3:4 26:24 27:1, 30eck 76:16 described 3:4 27:7,15,17 30eck 76:16 depreciation 3:4 26:
death 82:12,21 delaying 92:18 83:3 disparaging debt 10:19,20 demanded 83:6 developer 88:15 24:10 30:12 density 72:21 development 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 76:18 devote5:20 8:3,8,11,15 74:5 79:13 76:18 devote5:20 8:17 9:7,9 debts 74:3 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 decide 93:7 depreciated different 21:8 15:10 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 13:25 14:7 deck 76:16 73:10,16 25:18 19:6 20:18 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, declined 66:20 described directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:6,8,10
debt 10:19,20 demanded 83:6 developer 88:15 24:10 30:12 30:18 36:18 density 72:21 development 70:5 71:3,13 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 1:9 5:17 90:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:9 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 develops 82:18 district 3:5 68:17,19 76:18 3:7,8 7:22 71:15,16 76:18 4epartments 3:7,8 7:22 80:2 depending 46:9 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 4ebts 74:3 December 73:25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 73:20 depreciated 13:25 14:7 14:24 15:4 decide 93:7 depreciated 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 deck 76:16 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 described directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 describ
24:10 30:12 Dennis 70:12 74:25 75:1 dissolution 30:18 36:18 density 72:21 development 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 71:14,24 42:14,19 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:5 54:5 57:5 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 76:18 devote 5:20 8:3,8,11,15 74:5 79:13 76:18 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 depreciated 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 6:24:19 director 5:3
30:18 36:18 density 72:21 development 70:5 71:3,1 38:10 42:9 department 1:2 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 71:14,24 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:5 67:25 68:4,8 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 68:17,19 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 differ 25:11 discolute 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciated 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declining 61:2 6:219 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,13 61:16 description director 5:3 34:6,8,10,13
38:10 42:9 department 1:2 72:16 90:15 71:14,24 42:14,19 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:8 54:5 57:5 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 departments 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 71:15,16 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 79:16,18,25 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 decide 93:7 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 73:10,16 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 direct 53:4 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:6,8,10,1
42:14,19 1:9 5:17 90:16 96:13 72:2,5 43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:9 54:5 57:5 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 76:18 devote 5:20 8:3,8,11,15 71:15,16 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 74:5 79:13 depreciate Dieter 70:18 10:20 12:6 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 25:18 19:6 20:18 54:17 98:5 deputy 2:15 direct 53:4 23:14 24:4 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe16:24 direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declined 66:20 declining 61:2 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
43:1,6,21,23 6:24 14:11 96:14,15 dissolve 71:8 54:5 57:5 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 departments 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 71:15,16 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 depreciation 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 25:218 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 5:5 66:15 23:4 23:14 24:4 79:6 describe 16:24 direct 53:4 23:14 24:4 declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
54:5 57:5 47:4 71:20 develops 82:18 district 3:5 67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 76:18 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 33:10,16 25:218 19:6 20:18 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 26:24 27:1, deck 76:16 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 29:20 33:24 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:16,22,24
67:25 68:4,8 76:12,15 deviation 3:7,8 7:22 68:17,19 76:18 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 71:15,16 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 deck 76:16 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
68:17,19 departments 15:10 8:3,8,11,15 71:15,16 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:16,22,24
71:15,16 76:18 devote 5:20 8:17 9:7,9 74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
74:5 79:13 depending 46:9 devoted 14:5 10:20 12:6 79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
79:16,18,25 depreciate Dieter 70:18 12:15,20 80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
80:2 73:20 differ 25:11 13:25 14:7 debts 74:3 depreciated different 21:8 14:24 15:4 December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23:4 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
debts 74:3 December 73:25 decide 93:7 decision 22:15 54:17 98:5 deck 76:16depreciated 73:21 74:1 depreciation 73:10,16 deputy 2:15 deputy 2:15 described declining 61:2 61:16depreciated 73:21 74:1 depreciation 73:10,16 depreciation 32:18 difficult 98:4 direct 53:4 93:4 directed 93:10 directly 18:2514:24 15:4 15:18 17:12 19:6 20:18 21:2,17 23:4 direct 53:4 26:24 27:1, 27:7,15,17 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,13 34:16,22,24
December 73:25 73:21 74:1 25:20 29:25 15:18 17:12 decide 93:7 depreciation 52:18 19:6 20:18 decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23: 54:17 98:5 deputy 2:15 direct 53:4 23:14 24:4 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:6,8,10,1
decide 93:7 decision 22:15depreciation 73:10,1652:18 difficult 98:419:6 20:18 21:2,17 23: direct 53:454:17 98:5 deck 76:165:5 66:15 79:693:4 describe 16:2426:24 27:1, 26:24 27:1, direction 73:6declined 66:20 declining 61:2 61:16described 22:19 descriptiondirectly 18:25 director 5:334:6,8,10,1 34:16,22,24
decision 22:15 73:10,16 difficult 98:4 21:2,17 23:4 54:17 98:5 deputy 2:15 direct 53:4 23:14 24:4 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 declining 61:2 22:19 director 5:3 34:16,22,24
54:17 98:5 deputy 2:15 direct 53:4 23:14 24:4 deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
deck 76:16 5:5 66:15 93:4 26:24 27:1, 79:6 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 27:7,15,17 declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
79:6 declined 66:20 declining 61:2 61:16 describe 16:24 directed 93:10 direction 73:6 directly 18:25 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,13 director 5:3
declined 66:20 described direction 73:6 29:20 33:24 declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
declining 61:2 22:19 directly 18:25 34:6,8,10,1 61:16 description director 5:3 34:6,8,10,1
61:16 description director 5:3 34:16,22,24
decommissi 3:18 78:4 50:14 81:6 35:12 36:1
63:25 79:2 81:14 89:8 36:18,21,24
Decotiis 81:7 desires 6:5 89:11 37:6,13,16
decrease 93:15 despite 66:14 directors 5:18 38:4,12
dedicated 4:24 destroyed DiRocco 2:4 district's
14:12,20 14:23 11:11,17,18 35:5,14
dedication 6:6 deteriorated 20:4,5 33:7 36:10,12
deep 90:25 41:10,15 33:8 49:12 districts 5:1
defensible deterioration 49:13 57:22 10:3 15:22
67:12 41:14 57:23 69:17 22:4,17
defer 13:1 determinant 69:18 80:15 26:21 28:24
deferred 70:4 86:19 80:16 99:6 Division 4:24
defibrilla determination 99:11,12 5:18

	İ		İ
docket 64:22	79:2	64:14 65:3	employees
documented	due 61:16	67:15 68:18	29:21 77:2,5
31:11	75:24 87:8	84:8 95:12	77:6,7,10,17
dogs 5:24	dumps 85:23	97:24 98:12	77:20 78:12
doing 37:19	duplicate 72:8	efforts 64:19	79:8,9
38:3 39:12	duplicates	72:17 77:14	emptied 40:14
41:16 44:15	27:23	94:11 95:13	encouraging
46:14 53:23	Dupont 59:24	98:23	98:13
69:3 72:4	63:5,16,21	EFS 90:12	endeavors 7:5
75:3 78:3	64:3,6,24	eight 5:16	ended 87:9
89:5 91:13	dutifully 5:15	9:16 66:12	energy 5:20
92:17 96:14	duty 16:15,16	74:7	enforcement
97:21		either 26:15	76:17,19
dollar 8:10	E	51:20	77:13,17,18
43:14,16	E 2:11,11 3:1	elaborate	78:16,16,22
44:10 55:15	3:17,21,21	23:16	78:24 79:7
dollars 36:1	101:1,1	election 8:15	engaged 90:8
60:24 66:24	earlier 18:17	21:19 34:24	engineer 81:12
71:17 74:6,8	54:7	elections	Enright 70:12
74:9,14,16	early 51:22	21:22	70:12 73:12
74:18 75:1,2	earn 78:18	electric 46:5	73:17 79:19
90:1 91:21	easier 6:10	61:25 62:4	entertainment
92:3 95:14	easy 98:3	64:24	7:21
97:20	economic 72:16	electronic	entire 24:13
DOMINICK 2:4	economically	35:20 45:9	55:16 84:11
donut 27:14	22:15	45:22 46:4	85:23
double 83:3	Ed 12:14,20	47:1	entities 5:11
downs 37:18	16:15,23	elements 71:5	entitled 75:14
downsize 60:20	20:25 50:8	eliminate	equally 52:16
downtown 72:19	53:18	62:22	equate 9:4
77:14 79:6	Ed's13:17	eliminating	equipment 9:1
dozen 21:23	Edwards 58:13	72:8	13:23 14:6,6
draft 4:17	58:22,22	Ellie 5:25	14:17,20
6:11	59:18 68:14	emergencies	15:5,17
drafting 42:5	70:2	93:19	25:12 27:20
drag 64:13	effect 7:7	emergency 21:5	32:10 35:6,7
Draikiwicz	28:7 61:12	28:20 31:6	76:15
70:9,9 71:1	83:25	92:7	especially
79:24 80:25	effective 38:3	Emma 2:15 4:13	25:17 87:16
drain 40:7	39:14	4:18,23 5:7	establish
86:2	effectively	5:15 6:1,15	71:19
drains 40:6	79:20	6:24 7:4	estimated
86:6	efficient	13:7,13	18:20 76:1
dredging 87:17	37:10 72:13	employee 4:18	estimates
drop 56:6	72:14 78:16	6:17 101:11	43:18 45:6,8
dual 77:18	effort 35:23	101:13	ethics 4:3
	l		

	 	l	
ETIER 101:3	expects 37:17	fair 78:6	financed 8:13
evaluate 42:1	expenditure	fairly 30:11	38:24 50:25
44:20	92:2	50:14 59:13	finances 74:11
evaluating	expense 31:11	89:5	financial 4:4
93:25	39:25 40:3	Fairview 96:10	5:4 6:3
evaluation	92:6,11	fan 69:7	14:23 15:4
41:16 43:16	expenses 75:17	far 48:3 51:17	22:24 50:7
event 96:24	95:2	61:24 67:23	50:22 52:12
97:10	expensive	fashion 68:12	58:23,23
everybody	13:24 14:4	fast 86:18	70:13,13,21
16:23 21:18	16:14	favor 49:8	72:8,10
27:22 72:3	experience	100:1	77:23
Evesham 3:8	84:5 89:8	FDA 16:18	financially
33:23 34:5	expert 13:2	features 16:9	101:14
34:16 35:11	expertise 5:8	February 8:14	financing 8:20
evidenced 24:2	Expires 101:24	15:1 21:11	12:7 15:6,8
evolved 14:11	explain 23:19	34:24	15:9 20:19
exact 90:12	24:14 52:15	fee 17:16	22:25 23:2
Exactly 98:24	exposed 41:7	31:15,20,22	24:3 31:20
examiner 5:3	expressly	84:15	31:22 33:25
exceed 59:21	71:13	feel 56:15,22	34:20 36:8
exceeded 91:23	extend 6:13,20	72:7,24,25	38:2 65:7
excellent 4:20	extended 21:5	78:15 82:11	69:4
6:15	extends 7:3	fees 39:9	financings
executive 2:14	extension	75:11,15	31:24
2:15 5:5	94:15,15	86:24	find 14:6
56:1	extensive	felt 52:13	16:22 30:7
Exhibit 68:17	41:18 50:14	Ferry 88:7	97:19
EXHIBITS 3:19	extent 31:25	fewer 21:15	finding 32:15
exist 39:20	65:5	fifth 94:16	findings 28:25
existing 46:2	extraordinary	figure 43:17	34:17
47:18 48:7	59:13	figured 37:11	fine 95:17
61:14 67:24		figures 93:6	fire 3:5,6,7,8
68:6 73:15	F	fill 77:11	5:12 7:22
exists 82:13	F 101:1	filled 17:12	8:3,5,8,10
expand 94:25	faced 83:16	final 19:16	8:11,15,17
expanded 95:8	facilities	finally 38:7	9:7,11 10:3
expect 18:18	41:17 42:1	finance1:5	10:20 12:6
38:17 96:4	42:15 64:1	5:6,14 6:4	12:15,20
expectation	facility 48:7	6:13,19,23	13:22,25,25
82:13	75:21 79:3	7:3 8:9 9:1	14:10 15:18
expectations	fact 35:25	9:15 10:14	15:22 17:1
82:16	66:17	17:25 32:19	17:12,20
expected 66:20	factors 91:22	35:1,3 37:4	19:2,6 20:18
expecting	92:10	43:19 77:22	21:2,4,17
30:22 43:3	failing 40:21	81:14	22:4,16 23:9
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	_	_	
24:3 26:21	86:22 87:20	FREE 1:24	31:23 50:25
27:5,7,10,15	87:23 88:8	Freedman 34:9	69:7 79:7
28:11,11,20	90:19	full 40:13	generate 47:1
29:20 33:24	floor 40:6	87:5 92:2	47:8 91:5
34:6,8,9,12	44:3	full-time 77:7	generated
34:16,22,23	floors 40:1,2	79:8,10	36:17
35:2,4,12,14	flush 83:9	fully 73:19	generators
36:1,9,12,17	flushed 46:24	89:18	35:21 40:24
36:21,24	folks 63:3	fund 11:2,3,8	44:4 45:9,10
37:6,13,16	86:21	42:23 45:2	getting 25:19
38:4,12 41:6	follow 17:16	59:23 62:2	Giacobbe 70:14
44:12 47:12	53:18	62:25 63:1	70:14 72:3
firefighters	force 98:5	63:13 74:15	78:7,11,15
14:12,22	Ford 36:15	74:16 84:17	79:14 81:2
16:19	foregoing	84:22 90:10	Gibbons 70:10
firehouse 22:8	101:5	90:11,18	Giblin 81:8
24:19,21	form 24:2	92:25,25	give 9:19
41:2,5	FORMAL 3:23	funded 41:23	74:10 90:12
firehouses	formally 17:23	funding 47:1	given 65:21
35:5,22	former 12:18	63:4 98:22	69:10,12
firm 13:9 81:7	12:19,21	funds 8:12	77:13 84:7
first 4:2,9	14:1 44:15	24:12 75:9	94:1
6:11 7:21	78:21	84:22 89:24	glad 98:16
39:10 41:25	forth 99:4	92:25	Gladstone
50:13 52:21	101:9	further 6:20	22:25 23:4
71:6 85:16	forward 29:3	7:2,6 44:20	go 15:14 26:6
87:2,12 89:9	39:7 56:11	60:8,12,20	30:2 37:12
fiscal 5:9	57:4 61:12	68:21 101:10	38:10 44:22
fiscally 35:24	61:16 62:7	future 18:5	50:17 58:14
fishing 25:3	62:12 64:15	21:20 53:12	59:12 64:5
25:15	64:19 66:1	53:14 54:15	81:10 86:15
Fitzpatrick	67:22 90:6	75:18 92:22	87:5 89:25
81:7	94:3,6,9	93:16	goals 62:18,19
five 8:23,25	95:23 96:1		goes 11:8
22:9 29:19	found 15:24	G	38:21 40:13
37:17,24	32:17 37:9	Galveston 8:19	96:14
38:24 66:24	41:13 86:10	36:21 37:7	going 4:9 6:12
67:17 85:6	95:12	garage 73:18	9:24 10:2,12
94:14,21	four 29:19	73:20,24	16:7 18:6
fix13:4	48:9 51:11	gate 86:16	22:10,11
flags 9:25	60:23 64:17	gates 85:21	23:7,8 24:10
flat 25:16	74:3	general 13:18	26:20 28:23
43:10	frame 62:17,18	38:5 68:15	29:3 30:12
flood 67:8	62:21	71:24	31:9,10
flooding 84:5	FRANCIS 2:8	generally 13:1	32:14 36:4
85:11 86:3	Frank 70:20	21:22 22:3	42:9 43:2,21
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	1	1	ī
44:17,20,21	guidance 5:8	helpful 13:12	81:11 88:2
45:4 46:4,25	guided 6:2	93:24	91:17 94:25
47:6 51:2,20	13:5	helping 59:16	96:25 97:6
51:21 53:10	GUY 1:19	Henry 59:6	hour 97:7
54:16 57:1,5	guys 10:3	hereinbefore	hours 32:3
60:13 61:12	43:25 91:14	101:8	Houston 8:19
61:15,23	94:8	HGAC 15:19,21	36:21 37:7
62:7,11 65:6	gym 40:1,2	18:18,19	Hull 25:15
65:11 67:21		19:1,1 22:17	hundred 15:3
68:22 69:5	H	30:7 32:11	hundreds 63:23
76:5,9,10	H 3:17	high 17:14	Hunterdon 25:8
78:13,13	half 21:23	66:23 84:9	husband 5:23
79:2,12,15	Hamilton 26:23	86:11 98:11	HVAC 43:13
79:17 80:1	hand 4:6	higher 39:15	114110 13 1 1 3
84:8 87:11	handle 44:25	46:21	I
87:13 90:5,6	77:22	highly 14:21	ID 3:18
90:21 91:3,5	handled 76:9	HINTON 2:13	idea 39:1
94:2 97:13	90:3	hire 76:19	42:10 90:2
98:3,8 99:1	handling 91:15	hired 78:19	94:2
GOLDEN 1:21	happen 52:7	hiring 41:16	ideas 98:25
good 4:1 8:1	75:19	76:23 77:12	identified
13:23 22:15	happening 94:5	historic 41:2	35:18 85:1
34:3 51:7	happens 56:3	41:5 44:12	86:1
58:13,18	happiness 7:4	47:13 48:13	identify 83:9
59:18 70:6	happy 6:21	48:24	identifying
81:5 87:14	14:13 16:2	historically	87:1
89:5	24:5 97:20	64:6	IDIDA 2:9
gotta 92:9	Hawkins 58:20	history 12:25	immediately
gotten 46:11	head 86:25	61:18,22	7:7
Gov 25:25	87:20	hit 67:10 69:1	impact 9:5
governing	headquarters	holdings 88:25	30:10,13,15
54:14	88:23	hole 27:14	38:18 39:4
government	healthy 6:21	holes 92:11	43:2 60:23
4:25 5:10,18	heard 4:5,8	home 60:24	61:5,13
6:6,7 72:9	hearing 58:12	homeowner 9:6	73:15 89:22
72:13	73:6 91:9	honest 82:16	90:5 92:10
governors 5:16	100:3	honestly 83:23	95:19
great 86:11	hears 10:16	honor 6:24	impacts 61:6
greater 85:1,2	heavy 16:12	hopefully	67:24
gross 54:21	85:25	42:18	important
group 23:13	HELD 2:1	Hopewell 3:7	83:24 84:7
58:23 88:1	Hello 72:3	17:15 20:17	85:8
growing 14:8	help 25:10,20	23:10,11	imposed 83:18
guard 47:25	68:9 72:15	27:2,5,6,6,8	impressed 9:14
guess 28:2	72:25	27:13,23,24	9:22
29:16	helped 83:2,8	Hopkins 81:11	improvement
27.10			<u></u>

9:2 10:24	inflicting	investment	74:24,25
35:1,15 45:4	15:6	16:1	75:12,14
improvements	information	involved 40:4	83:19 88:2,4
35:4,6,22	29:17 60:17	85:11	89:12,15
39:23 45:1	64:21 66:10	issuance 17:10	101:5,23
in-house 46:5	82:5 83:4	29:9 31:9	Jim 81:11
inability 86:4	informative	39:6 55:3,16	82:25 83:2
inception	94:4	issue 21:7	job 89:5
82:24	initial 29:15	26:23 34:18	Joe 13:1 23:23
inch 97:2,3	87:11 94:13	34:25 37:17	John 59:4 68:1
inches 97:3,7	initially 9:13	38:1,7 51:13	70:9
include 5:2	41:11 44:14	52:5 53:1	joint 17:5
56:22,24	78:1 80:1	59:16 60:9	Joseph 12:12
included 35:2	inspection	60:20 68:5	July 4:25
41:20 54:1	28:12,21	68:15 71:15	June 101:24
including 5:11	insufficient	90:25	
5:21 82:7	22:14	issued 36:7	K
incorporates	insurance 67:9	37:15 42:23	Keating 81:13
17:1	integrity	60:4 80:3	81:13 85:15
increase 15:7	14:23	issues 40:8	87:7 89:12
30:17 38:8	intend 9:8	72:22 82:7,8	89:15 90:7
57:5 66:8	94:24	82:9,25 83:9	96:10,17,21
67:5 72:21	intends 60:7	83:15,16	97:15,19
72:23 73:1	intensity 97:1	issuing 68:8	keep 51:22
90:1 93:12	intent 98:4	item 3:2 31:10	60:18
93:14,14	interaction	39:18,19	Keith 81:15
increased	59:15	40:23 84:1	89:10
38:20 61:8	interest 9:3	90:3	kept 82:15
94:10 95:13	15:11,12,13	items 40:3,15	Kettle 48:8
95:13	15:13,15	43:17 45:20	kind 23:15
increases	50:21 52:20	82:11 92:8	92:12 93:12
14:17 61:15	53:2,15	92:18 93:5	94:6,8
increasing	56:24	Izzy 5:24	kinds 21:22
62:14 65:24	interested		knew 64:8
incurred 40:1	23:3 101:15	J	know 4:7 15:20
incurring 39:6	interview	J 1:19	21:16 22:3
indebtedness	77:21	jam 62:16	23:24 28:23
42:23	introduce 4:11	January 43:5	31:8,14,19
independently	7:23 12:9	81:21	43:9,12,20
54:9	20:20 34:1	JD 21:3	47:2,24 48:3
indicated 18:1	50:2 70:7	Jeff 34:4	49:7 52:1
23:23 29:2	81:10	Jennifer 58:22	54:18 60:15
individual	introduced	Jersey 1:1,11	68:25 69:3
19:6	71:11	1:23 4:19,21	73:3,19,21
industry 85:5	introducing	5:10 6:8,15	75:9 78:23
85:7	58:14	6:18,23 7:1	78:23 86:12

88:18 89:7	lengthy 82:1	41:24 44:13	looks 89:24
89:22 90:8	82:20	61:21 63:15	losing 4:12
90:20 91:13	lenient 72:13	73:9 91:13	55:13
93:24 98:25	72:14	92:12 95:9	losses 67:4
knowledge	Lerch 70:18,18	95:14	lost 14:23
28:18 95:3	lesser 97:9	Lives 14:22	66:23
	Let's 7:13	load 90:19	lot 9:21,25
L	level 53:20	loan 24:1,7	10:13 14:16
L 2:11	54:19 68:4	loans 24:1	26:5 44:21
land 90:24	68:13	50:17,24	67:7,10
lands 91:2	liabilities	51:6,24 54:2	88:15,25
language 64:16	65:4	54:8,12,23	89:7 90:15
large 40:23	License 101:4	local 1:5 4:25	90:16 92:10
51:12 52:6	Lieutenant	5:6,10,14,18	lots 73:18,19
55:8 63:22	21:3	6:4,7,13,19	73:24 90:24
64:12	life 31:1 75:5	6:23 7:3 8:9	low 8:24 23:22
larger 21:21	82:12 92:19	10:14 17:25	25:18 26:8
35:1,15	lifeline 82:15	23:2,20	35:9 85:20
38:14 92:11	light 2:5 7:13	32:19	86:20
largest 28:1	7:15 11:14	location 1:9	lower 22:21
55:7,8	12:2,3 16:15	47:20	29:9 38:11
Larry 12:17	16:16 19:18	locks 76:16	56:24
lasted 31:3	19:24 20:14	logic 43:25	lowest 30:2
late 83:11	20:15 26:20	long 4:13 6:21	32:16
LAUREN 101:3	26:24 27:9	13:12 14:15	Ludwigsen 59:6
law 21:16	27:12,16	35:17 49:1	59:6 67:23
36:23 81:7	28:1 33:2,17	57:2 63:16	lying 85:21
82:7 83:17	33:18 40:13	68:19 78:25	86:21
lawyer 31:22	46:1,9,25	92:18	
31:23	49:6,22,23	longer 13:13	M
lawyers 31:16	58:5,6,11	44:8	Madam 13:20
lead 73:5	likewise 36:4	look 41:17	magnitude 55:8
leaner 78:2	37:22 38:4	54:11,18	Main 36:12
lease 8:10,13	limited 47:7	60:13 67:24	40:9 43:10
8:20 9:2,4,8	line 31:10	68:1,18 91:4	maintain 91:4
9:9,12 23:17	39:18,19	looked 37:6,10	maintained
37:23,24,25	79:20 81:10	37:23 39:11	82:22
39:12 75:5	lines 24:19	53:11,25	maintenance
leases 23:25	list 13:17	87:12 95:15	76:16 77:19
74:23	listed 45:20	looking 11:5	87:1 91:18
leasing 8:22	listening 69:2	14:25 15:8	92:18,24
leave 11:1	litigation	25:3,14	95:1,2
left 12:17	87:8 88:20	29:16 43:24	major 19:2
58:11 63:5	little 6:10	44:15 46:20	majority 13:19
77:5 92:13	9:19 10:23	68:8 69:3	making 28:5
legal 72:10	39:15,22	87:22 95:22	37:18 43:25
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

46:3 65:6	24:14 26:15	15:20 29:15	modern 13:23
79:21 94:10	26:19,22	29:19 61:18	moment 88:20
manage 86:10	27:4,19	100:2	money 11:8
management	28:22 29:5	mention 55:25	14:16 16:2
62:24 85:16	29:11 31:14	77:22	22:13,14
manager 34:7	31:21 32:21	mentioned	43:8 51:16
managing 52:17	32:25 33:19	53:19 56:21	51:21 52:13
91:25 92:15	50:8,8,9,13	Mercer 17:2	53:14 55:13
manual 47:2	55:19 58:7	26:21 27:6	67:2 76:2
manufacturers	MCNAMARA 2:14	30:8	77:24 79:21
19:4,15	7:17 11:15	merge 68:12	80:1
Marie 12:20	11:17,19,21	met 29:21 80:9	monitor 93:22
59:2 63:20	11:23,25	method 37:9	95:9
marina 31:1	12:2 20:2,4	Michelle 34:10	Monmouth 17:2
marine 21:9	20:6,8,10,12	mid 60:15	17:4
24:23 29:13	20:14 33:5,7	middle 23:22	month 52:21
mark 93:4,12	33:9,11,13	Middlesex 17:2	56:9 59:12
•			
MARKED 3:19	33:15,17	million 35:25	monthly 5:13 months 50:18
market 19:12	49:10,12,14	60:1 66:24	
37:21,24	49:16,18,20	71:17 74:3,4	56:10 91:14
52:2 55:25	49:22 57:20	74:6,7,9,14	Montville 3:5
56:4 66:17	57:22,24	74:16,18	7:22 8:3,8
Marlton 47:17	58:1,3,5	75:1,2,8	23:25
matter 4:9	69:15,17,19	86:24 90:1	Moore 21:3
matters 70:3	69:21,23,25	91:21 92:2	25:2,14,25
mature 38:7	80:13,15,17	95:14,22	28:3,18 32:4
75:23	80:19,21,23	Millstone 3:6	32:6 33:20
maturing 38:5	99:9,11,13	12:5 13:21	morning 4:1
maturities	99:15,17,19	14:8 22:19	8:1 34:3
53:22	mean 27:6	Minchello	58:13,18
maturity 50:20	32:12 47:24	70:22,22	59:18
51:13 60:6,8	53:7,11	mind 29:4	Morris 9:1
60:10 76:1	meaning 52:14	mine 73:4	motion 7:10,14
Max 5:24	means 54:8	minimal 39:8	7:15 11:11
mayor 59:1	meet 59:12	minimize 52:24	33:1 49:4
66:15 70:15	83:5	miscellaneous	99:3,6,23
72:1,6 78:1	meeting 4:2	31:11 39:19	move 4:4 18:11
78:9	10:13 13:20	Mitchell 34:10	19:24 33:2
McCarthy 8:2	32:14 43:6	40:16,23	56:11 57:17
McCay 34:5	59:17 67:15	46:2,11,16	64:14 65:7
McDade 58:25	meetings 5:13	46:18	68:22 69:5
58:25	13:10 83:8	mitigate 94:11	
McManimon	MELANIE 2:3	mixed 14:11	94:6 95:23
12:14,14,25	members 4:5	Mm-mm 27:18	96:1
17:11 20:24	6:4,22 7:18	30:24 32:5	moved 7:11
20:25 23:19	13:5,21	67:18	36:14 41:6
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

47:19 99:24	55:12	55:2 91:14	17:13 19:7
moving 39:7	negotiate	non 20:20 34:1	20:18 21:14
56:4,18 57:4	83:12	47:7 70:8	21:21 26:25
66:1 94:9	negotiated	77:1	27:1 31:17
MUA 85:22 86:4	23:5 64:6	nonproductive	33:24 34:6
97:13	negotiating	91:2	34:17 35:10
municipal 5:3	19:4	Normally 77:5	35:12 38:23
62:9 76:6	neither 101:10	97:9	41:21 46:10
municipali	101:13	North 3:9 50:1	64:19,20
5:11	net 38:9,20	50:19	77:17 79:10
municipali	52:12 55:12	Northfield	83:15 85:2
65:3	55:12,19,20	23:1,1,20	95:1,23
mutual 16:20	55:21 73:10	24:4,5 31:15	numbers 87:14
16:22,24	74:6,8,14	Notary 101:4	90:12 91:20
25:5	95:19	101:23	92:1,14,15
	never 28:16	note 9:14 31:8	95:17
N	64:7 66:20	59:11 60:6	numerous 61:6
N2:11 3:1	98:2	60:11 62:20	62:10
N.J.S.A34:18	Nevertheless	62:23 89:1	NW 70:12
71:4 81:23	35:11	91:8	
name 34:4	new1:1,11,23	noted 17:8	O
58:16 81:6	4:19,21 5:10	37:14 56:2	02:11
national 8:18	6:8,14,17,23	93:25 94:1	obligation
19:2	7:1 11:4	notes 34:19,25	38:5 65:6
nature 64:11	13:23 24:20	36:1,7,19	68:16
69:11	31:1 34:21	37:4,14,17	obligations
necessary	36:11 42:9	37:19 38:1	61:14
16:23 85:2	43:22 45:4	38:14 39:9	observed 82:9
need 10:15	48:6 68:5	39:13 59:22	obtained 45:9
12:10 14:7	74:24,25	60:5,18	obvious 22:21
16:8 24:19	75:12,14	68:11	obviously
34:2 35:19	77:23 82:9	notice 10:4,13	15:14 54:5
42:16 43:9	83:19 85:19	10:14 17:20	occur 51:10,14
43:11,13	88:2,4 89:12	17:22 18:1,2	52:18 83:6
44:3,5 46:22	89:15 90:15	18:13 32:19	occurring 88:9
54:24 65:10	90:22,22	noticeable	Ocean 17:2
70:8 71:6	96:13,14,15	55:2 88:8	Ocicki 21:2
85:12 92:19	101:5,23	notices 18:7	24:11,16,25
needed 27:21	Newark 3:11,12	notification	26:4,8,11
29:22,23	70:4	29:1 32:22	27:2,11,13
44:4,5,14	newer 96:11	32:24	27:18 28:10
45:1 87:15	Newton 96:22	notwithsta	28:19 29:6
95:12	Nicolette 5:23	35:24	29:18 30:5
needs 24:18	night 21:5	number 8:3,9	30:14,18,24
35:18	night's 43:6	9:14 12:6	31:3 32:8,12
negative 54:9	nine 26:22	15:22 17:13	October 1:12

101:25	operations	PAGE 3:2,18	Pat 81:13 89:7
offer 16:8	71:21 78:2	paid 14:12	PATRICIA 2:14
62:17	operator 81:22	38:25 39:3	Paul 34:7
offering 15:11	81:25 82:3	44:22,24	92:13
offers 15:11	82:10 84:9	60:14 64:3	pay 15:6 28:12
office 22:23	84:15 88:12	67:25 75:12	31:16,23
22:24 67:8	89:3 93:2,10	75:24 86:23	36:3,5 37:15
77:22	opinion 66:16	93:11	37:18 51:21
officer 50:22	opportunity	parcel 63:22	52:19 53:1
52:13 70:21	77:11,16,20	Parker 34:5	60:3 61:25
officers 76:20	opposed 37:20	PARKIN 2:14	62:2,4,22
77:1,13,18	47:1 86:3	parking 70:5	63:13 64:4
78:19	opt 94:20	71:3,19,22	65:6 67:3
offices 77:19	_		79:17,25
	options 37:10 59:14	72:5,14,22	80:2 92:13
79:7 88:7		72:24 73:4	
offset 9:9	order 71:5	73:18,19,24	99:1
36:18 78:18	85:2 91:4	75:15 76:17	payable 52:20
oh 11:4 46:11	ordinance 50:2		paydown 79:13
oil 40:8	58:10 71:12	77:16,18	paying 30:20
Okay 10:8 42:7	71:13,15	78:19 79:6,7	65:9 68:2,3
45:14 67:13	ordnance 59:21	90:24	68:11 84:15
68:20 80:4	original 83:20	part 43:15	payment 28:8
88:17	92:23 94:22	53:3 55:4	39:1 52:22
old 35:19	originally	62:6 65:3	53:8 60:8
42:16 44:7	32:13	82:25	62:10 63:8
once 15:23	outcome 17:24	part-time 77:6	
17:22 29:24	outdated 16:18	78:20 79:8	76:3 91:15
42:19 44:12	outfalls 87:18	<pre>partially 60:3</pre>	payments 9:4,8
44:25 60:20	outside 27:20	participate	9:10 52:25
onerous 67:8	outstanding	47:23	53:9
ones 27:16	6:5 10:20	particular	Peapack 22:25
55:5	43:5 51:24	14:3 30:6	23:3
ongoing 88:19	71:16 74:2,5	62:18 63:4	pending 17:24
open 4:2 43:3	overall 39:12	66:13	Pennington
77:12,21	54:9,21	particularly	23:12 27:8
82:15,23	overflows	47:12 65:24	27:24 28:6,7
opening 3:3	86:13,15	92:5	Pennsville
73:7	overhead 72:12	parties 82:14	3:10 58:8,17
operates 75:13	overview 74:11	82:16 83:10	59:1,5,11,20
operating	overwhelmi	101:12	63:25
74:17,20	35:8	parts 44:7	people 13:17
88:10		84:6	21:15,21
operation	P	pass 93:4	23:7 35:10
79:21 82:6	P 2:11	passed 15:1	51:15 67:7
operational	p.m100:3	21:11	95:5
35:18	packages 8:21	passes 85:1,2	perceive 62:25

	<u> </u>		
percent 9:3	pieces 30:20	pool 5:22	Presidential
15:12,12,13	Pierce 18:25	population	21:19
19:17 50:21	19:11,18	72:21	pressure 68:10
51:4,4,4	37:1	portion 28:13	pressurized
55:2,10,11	Pinelands	28:16,17	24:17
55:17,23	47:13,14,17	34:20 36:3,5	presumably
56:3,5,9,12	47:18,22	37:4 84:22	42:20
56:17 57:13	48:4,8,15	85:13 89:13	presume 47:2
64:3 67:17	49:2	portioned	pretty17:4
72:20 75:17	piped 96:16	84:13	45:17 48:10
98:20	place 19:12	posed 15:2	previous 91:22
<pre>perform 29:23</pre>	37:24 78:23	position 62:14	96:2
29:23	86:7 96:2	positions	previously
period 37:17	101:8	77:11,21	29:2
39:13 60:5	placed 36:11	positive 34:17	price 36:25
60:10 73:21	places 41:15	35:13 54:11	37:11
75:23 84:12	plan 24:12	54:23 56:17	prices 19:3
periods 82:20	39:5 60:22	56:25 57:15	37:23
permanent 60:9	68:14	possibility	primarily
65:7 68:8	planned 21:3	56:10	67:25
69:4	planning 15:4	possibly 65:10	principal
permission	25:23 41:11	post 66:20	37:18 43:7
48:19 63:4	plans 9:9	<pre>potential 64:9</pre>	52:20 53:2
permit 29:14	47:10 71:15	potentially	55:9 60:7
permitted	97:16	60:11	prior 18:2
36:23 75:16	plant 63:22	power 37:12	21:18 24:3
personal 13:3	85:24 92:8	practice 85:5	50:17,23
personally	97:14 98:20	85:7	82:3 83:7
13:7	please 4:6	pre 13:10	88:9,11
personnel	7:23,24 12:9	preceding	private 74:24
14:18,19	20:20 33:25	15:18	75:1 81:4,22
77:24 78:3	50:2,4 70:5	predominantly	proactive
persuing 44:11	70:7	78:9	68:23 69:3
Peter 92:13	PNC 15:9,11	prepaid 74:23	69:11
Peterbilt	point 28:22	<pre>prepare 59:17</pre>	probably 13:19
26:11	53:8 57:7	present 47:20	57:1 68:3
ph 19:20	78:4 83:24	53:11 55:15	problem 41:24
phenomenal	86:14 89:4	55:22 56:12	87:21 97:8
13:10	94:12 96:18	presented	Procacci 59:2
Phoenix 50:7	98:6,8	22:17 92:10	59:2 63:19
50:23	pointed 42:13	presently 62:7	63:20 66:7
phone 40:16,18	points 54:25	preservation	proceed 56:2
44:5,9	90:20,21	41:2 48:25	61:20
pick 39:2	93:23	48:25	proceeding
piece 13:23	police 72:11	president	56:16
97:21,21	76:18	12:22	proceeds 25:22
	l	l	

	I		
26:13 36:17	projection	pumping 86:10	9:25 11:10
process 9:20	95:2	purchase 8:11	16:3,5 23:13
22:1,22	projects 26:18	8:14 21:8	29:13 38:13
23:17 29:14	30:21 42:24	23:18 25:9	51:5 53:5
40:25 42:3	property 14:23	30:11,11	57:12 61:18
56:5 68:11	59:24 63:23	purchased 14:2	65:13 68:21
69:8 72:1	proposal 23:4	14:10 18:25	73:8 80:10
82:2,3 83:12	89:2	25:4,16	89:20 96:8
84:13	proposals	purchases	quick 84:4
processes 86:7	87:17,18	13:25	quite 9:17
procured 8:17	propose 53:16	purchasing	quote 36:25
82:1	proposed 12:7	8:18 21:1	quotes 15:9
procurement	20:18 33:24	36:22	30:1 45:8,19
8:20 22:20	50:1,16 51:9	purely 79:22	46:12
23:24	51:23 53:19	purpose 34:20	
procuring	58:9	35:23 36:8	R
36:20 40:25	protecting	36:20 84:23	R2:11 3:21
produce 54:20	62:14	purposes 75:18	101:1
54:22 56:25	protection	pursuant 34:18	Rahway 3:13
produced 55:11	16:19 28:11	59:19 71:4	70:4,15,19
producing 54:3	proud 87:23	81:23	71:2,4
product 85:24	provide 84:9	pursue 43:19	rain 86:18
productive	84:16	64:9	97:7,10
6:21	provided 4:24	pursued 45:24	rains 85:25
professional	5:8 6:16	pursuits 5:21	raise 4:6 9:8
14:21 78:5,9	8:25 22:9	purveyors	28:23 42:8
79:12,16	23:2,7,21	83:19	82:24 91:6
profit 47:7	74:25 84:1	push 64:19	raised 55:18
program 9:2	84:18	put 22:4 23:4	94:6,7
15:23 35:1	provision 71:6	25:25 31:16	raises 9:10
35:15 36:22	71:8 80:6	43:16 54:5	raising 10:2
38:14,22	prudent 36:19	95:1 96:2	65:21
progressing	public 4:3,5	putting 18:6	ratcheted 92:4
94:20	4:24 5:20	82:3	rate 9:3 15:2
project 12:7	10:4 17:20	PV 52:2,9	15:11,15
20:19 22:6	17:22 18:12		23:21,23
24:9,13,15	72:10 76:14	Q	24:5 30:17
26:16 32:13	81:4,15 89:8	quality 83:17	39:4 42:21
33:25 36:3,6	89:11 91:9	84:9	56:24 57:2
42:11 43:2	101:4,23	quarter 97:2	61:6,8 67:5
44:10 85:13	published	question 17:7	89:23 90:4,5
95:10	28:25	24:8 31:7	90:7 91:1
projected	pull 68:18	42:21,22	rateable 61:12
32:10 51:25	pulling 63:7	47:11 67:20	61:16
projecting	pumper 16:13	80:6	rateables 61:2
65:25	16:17 32:2	questions 9:12	rates 23:22
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	1	 	 I .
51:1,3 91:6	94:5	refurbishment	repercussions
Ray 58:16,16	recommenda	42:17	94:9
Raymond 70:14	42:2	regard 36:24	rephrase 26:25
reach 56:11	record 4:16	regarding 4:11	replace 25:3
reached 29:24	7:24 20:21	regular 83:5	25:15 35:19
read 4:16	20:25 29:9	regularly 7:20	35:20,21
reads 75:22	50:3 54:25	regulations	36:14 40:1
real 52:11	66:23 70:7	5:4	40:12,19
87:15	92:22	regulatorily	41:12
reality82:17	recreation	98:3	replaced 24:18
realization	47:4	regulators	40:16,21
74:22	recuse 48:1	97:11	replacement
realize 41:24	red 9:25	reinstall	46:3 91:18
realized 54:16	redevelopment	24:20	92:18,24
realizing 75:5	72:16 77:14	reiterate 18:8	replacing
really 25:18	84:8 85:19	29:8	13:22 16:7
38:6 54:3	88:6 98:15	reiterating	16:15 22:7
66:18 74:8	reduced 22:1	10:12	25:24 26:7
75:9 80:5	43:22 95:17	Related 28:4	40:24 44:9
82:12 87:15	reducing 9:10	relationship	replenished
89:25 92:8	53:23	63:16 82:21	11:8
96:25	reduction 79:9	relationships	reported 82:10
reason 24:6	85:12 87:22	82:17	Reporter 101:4
37:19 43:15	88:8	relative 48:20	REPORTERS 1:20
47:21 52:15	Reed 12:20,21	101:11,13	representa
52:16,17	14:1 16:16	relatively	38:12
60:18 88:22	16:25 19:9	55:3	represented
reasonable	19:14,20	relief 86:11	17:17 28:5
43:18 95:23	reevaluation	remaining 55:9	29:7 30:9
reasons 16:14	66:14,15,19	65:1	56:19 57:13
22:18 88:15	reference 18:6	Remarks 3:3	57:16
recall 81:19	referenced	remember 19:7	reprocured
84:14	31:25	remove 24:20	89:1,3
receive 56:7	referendum	removed 41:13	request 56:10
60:17 65:12	21:11,25	rendered 4:20	57:10
67:3 74:23	22:11 35:25	renovations	requested
received 8:23	61:7 67:6	35:4	84:10
17:20 36:25	refers 85:8	rent 46:25	requesting
81:20	refinance	RENZI 1:19	59:20 60:9
recognize 6:5	50:17 51:24	repair 40:12	REQUESTS 3:23
98:11	refund 51:8	91:18 92:7	require 47:14
recognized	refunded 66:25	92:24 95:2	required 41:19
64:11	refunding 50:1	repairs 41:1	57:14 61:25
recognizing	50:16 58:10	41:18 43:9	requirement
35:9 92:17	59:20 60:5	44:1,2,25	41:3 94:21
recommend 57:3	64:17	48:7	requirements
	l		l

14:18 83:18	5:9	29:24 90:19	75:13 76:7
requires 21:17	responsible	96:22,22	run 48:8 62:16
requiring 96:3	35:24	road 42:10	71:21 72:13
rescue 16:12	restricted	rob 92:13	running 78:2
16:15,16	24:12	Robert 58:25	Ryan 81:6
21:9 31:6	result 22:7,12	robust 74:15	86:23 87:4
34:21 35:19	22:22 35:17	rocks 25:19	
36:11 37:2	52:4 61:3	Rodriguez 2:9	S
49:8	67:6 95:7,15	11:23,24	s 2:11,11 3:17
rescuer 6:2	resulted 62:11	20:10,11	3:21,21
reserve 8:12	results 87:24	33:13,14	safety 16:9
9:11 60:3	retain 75:16	49:18,19	Salay 2:15
62:15 63:12	78:13	58:3,4 68:22	4:13,18 5:7
65:15 80:1	rethink 85:3	69:23,24	5:15 6:15
84:17 86:24	retire 5:19	77:2,8 78:21	7:4 13:15
87:1 90:11	6:12	80:11,21,22	33:22
91:20	retired 43:6	88:11,17,21	sale 25:23
reserved 76:3	retirement	89:18 93:19	50:19
reserves 61:22	6:21 7:6	98:18,24	Salem 58:9
63:8 67:16	retires 42:19	99:8,17,18	sample 68:17
68:24 79:25	43:3	99:24	sanitary 40:11
89:24 95:21	retiring 43:7	Rogut 8:1,2,2	85:18
resident 60:25	retro 91:15	8:8 9:17,23	Sarah 21:2
61:9	reval 66:20	10:5,7,10,17	sat 83:10
residents 61:5	revenue 47:8	10:21,25	satisfied 15:5
67:9,11	74:23 75:7	11:3,5,7	71:6
72:23 73:2	77:16 78:17	12:4 23:24	satisfies 14:7
99:1	revenues 63:1	role 79:3	Saturday 10:7
resolution	90:22 91:5	roles 77:18	save 13:20
4:11,17 6:2	review 35:17	rolling 39:9	51:16 52:13
7:7 13:4	50:23 65:24	39:13	53:13 77:24
resolved 6:22	reviewed 29:16	rolls 79:19	saved 6:10
7:2,6	RFP 42:5	roof 43:10,11	savings 15:25
resource 13:10	right 4:4 19:8	roughly 91:21	18:17,17
resources	21:1 23:21	Rountree 70:16	22:9 32:9,10
98:16	24:7 25:7,13	70:16 76:11	50:25 51:8
respect 37:22	29:5 32:15	76:22 77:1,4	51:11,14,25
71:10,18	34:6,8,10	77:10 78:20	52:2,3,6,9
respond 9:16	37:2 43:4	79:5	52:10,11
16:23 25:7	48:23 55:21	ROUTE 1:22	53:10,13,13
28:15 72:23	73:6 76:1	rubberized	53:20 54:4
73:1	87:6 88:24	40:2	54:11,21,23
response 29:15	93:18 98:20	rugged 31:4	55:2,10,12
responses 9:15	risks 65:4	Ruggiero 70:20	55:13,15,16
28:21	river 21:10	70:20 73:23	55:20,22
responsibi	25:6,17	74:5,13	56:12,17,19
-			

			1 490 122
57:1,16	section 96:11	served 4:18	sewer 40:11
77:25 78:8	sections 85:19	5:16 51:16	81:22 84:2,4
78:14 79:11	85:20 96:11	service 4:24	84:21 85:18
79:16	secured 90:18	5:20 6:5,16	86:13 90:11
saw 44:13	see 9:21 10:3	6:17,25	92:5 96:9,19
67:15	14:3 31:1	21:11 28:10	sewers 92:6
saying 38:17	39:16 41:18	28:19 30:19	shared 23:10
40:13	46:23 59:14	36:11,18	25:6 28:6,10
scale 46:22	60:12,19	38:10 40:20	28:19
scenario 53:25	61:15 64:15	42:14,19	Sherri 50:23
Scerbo 81:5,6	64:20,25	48:10 57:5	Sherry 50:6
81:19 87:6	65:10 66:10	67:25 68:4	shocks 67:20
87:22 88:4	66:19 78:25	89:13	short 14:15
88:13,19,24	80:9 90:6	services 4:21	37:25
89:14 91:10	93:16 94:18	4:25 5:19	shorten 53:21
92:21 93:21	98:13	15:19 23:11	shortened 54:2
94:12 96:6	seeing 87:19	25:6 28:6,12	shortening
97:4,11 98:1	seek 34:17	44:24 71:9	51:13
98:21 99:2	94:23	71:19 72:9	showed 53:20
99:21	seeking 8:9	72:10,11,11	showing 87:14
schedule 54:21	34:25 48:19	76:9 78:10	shucks 6:9
scheduled 7:21	seeks 71:2	79:12,17	side 76:6
school 61:7	selected 8:24	80:7 83:21	77:17 78:6
67:6	self-liqui	83:25 84:9	90:11
scoop 63:12	71:23	84:16,18,19	sided 46:15,15
scope 42:11	sell 25:23	84:20,24	46:16
44:19 83:21	56:8	86:9 89:17	sides 69:1
83:25 85:9	selling 19:11	serving 23:10	siding 44:17
93:15	semi 53:1	session 4:3	sign 45:9,22
Scotland 20:25	send 21:17	set 30:23	46:3,7
50:9	senior 5:1	43:25 47:8	significant
	sense 17:19	65:14 84:15	15:25 52:15
Scott 34:8	51:15	86:25 90:9	52:16 62:8
Seagrave 36:13 seamless 16:1	sent 8:21		
seamress 16.1 second 7:12,16		101:8	sill 41:14 simple 80:5
1	separate 4:3 31:10 96:12	setting 13:10 99:4	_
11:13,14			single 59:13
18:15 20:1	96:16 97:24	settled 59:23	sink 92:11
33:4 49:5 57:18 69:6	98:7	settlement	sir 19:23
69:14 71:7	separated 40:8	59:25 60:4	sit 78:24
	separation 85:20 96:14	61:11,19	89:19
80:12 87:13	series 53:21	settlements 64:10	sits 62:7 sitting 5:22
99:8,25			situation
secondary 16:8	54:25 55:1,3	seven 8:22 9:17 19:14	61:16 63:4
secretary 2:14 2:15 4:14	55:10 56:16	37:24 55:1	69:12 82:21
5:5	56:18,23 57:16		six 51:24
3.3	37.10	73:18	SIX 31 · 24
	1	1	1

54:11 56:9	29:22	stenograph	substantial
64:25 77:6,6	specifics	101:7	91:12 98:15
86:24 95:21	46:19	step 73:5	98:16
sixth 94:16	spending 5:22	Steve 8:1	substantially
sizable 30:11	spoke 27:19	23:24	14:4 19:5
size 17:14	spots 75:15	stop 98:9	success 7:5
46:9,17,19	sprinkler 22:8	storage 40:5	Suez 88:18
46:21 60:8	24:16,19,20	44:3,4 45:16	89:2
64:23 96:23	stable 66:18	48:5	SUITE 1:22
sized 60:11	staff 14:12	storied 63:23	summary 56:1
slightly 74:18	50:15	storm 85:15	summer 5:21
slots 38:6	staffing 76:9	86:6 87:16	summertime
slowly 98:12	stand 65:11	90:24 96:16	25:17
small 51:11,23	78:4	96:23 97:10	superinten
55:3	standard 80:9	97:24	76:13
smaller 25:5	standards	story 14:15	supplemental
27:9,16	16:18	strange 88:21	64:21 66:10
28:14,14	standpoint	strategy 67:21	support 65:1
62:11	13:8	stream 40:10	supported 44:8
software 72:12	stands 60:23	Street 1:10	supposed 86:15
solely 36:7	start 5:1 32:6	36:12 40:9	sure 13:9
solicited 15:9	56:5 58:14	43:10	35:13 37:2
22:24 36:25	59:10 71:1	streets 86:1	49:7 63:19
solicitor	75:21 82:16	strikes 60:16	90:17 94:8
42:13 58:17	started 19:14	strongly 82:11	surplus 74:19
Solimine 17:12	64:2 75:20	struck 62:3	79:22
somebody 51:21	Starting 55:6	structural	sworn 7:25 8:7
sooner 68:2	state1:1 4:19	41:14 90:4	12:11,24
sorry 38:19	4:21 6:6,17	structure	20:20,23
65:22 66:12	7:1 15:24	30:12 43:23	34:2,14 50:4
73:13 76:22	30:4 37:8	47:19 84:15	50:12 59:9
sort 39:20	45:11,12,20	92:24	70:8,25 77:1
sound 15:4	46:8 83:19	study 89:23	81:18
19:8 78:3	101:5,23	90:4,7,9	system 22:8
sounds 67:14	station 36:12	91:1	24:20 40:12
68:24 78:5	36:14 39:23	stuff 31:19	40:17,18
80:8	41:6 43:10	submission	43:13 44:7,9
South 1:10 southern 96:11	44:7,12	18:3 47:14 submit 18:4	45:13 82:9
	47:13 48:7 stations 40:4	21:23 89:2	83:23 84:2,4 84:11,21
speaking 68:25 spearhead 83:2	47:12,25	submitted	85:1,3,4,17
Speciale 8:4	86:10	18:13 29:10	85:18,22,23
specific 39:23	stay 92:16	45:7 83:14	86:2 87:16
specifically	stay 92.16 steadily 6:2	87:24 93:23	91:4 93:9
4:23 41:1	steadily 0.2	submitting	96:9,24
specificat	5:1	26:17	97:17
DPCCITICAC		20.1	
L	-	-	-

	1	•	1
systems 44:5	64:3,22 65:1	49:24 58:7	88:22
92:8 98:2,19	65:15 66:5,9	63:19 70:2	thousand 10:19
	66:25 67:1,5	73:6 80:25	52:2
T	68:5,16 69:2	81:2 95:25	three 8:3,9,16
T 2:11 3:17,21	69:7,8	99:21	8:23 12:16
101:1,1	taxes 9:8	thankful 14:13	14:4 35:4
table 58:15	30:10 38:9,9	Thanks 33:22	40:4 51:10
take 7:7 22:12	60:14 62:1	thereof 74:1	55:10,23
25:18 31:18	62:15	75:10,16	•
54:5 86:4		•	56:2,5,9,11
96:19	taxpayer 68:13	thing 6:9 72:7	56:17 57:13
	taxpayers 6:8	88:13 89:1,6	64:17 75:1
taken 48:6,9	15:7 53:14	91:7 96:1	75:22 76:25
89:10 101:7	62:12	things 10:1	84:11 85:5
talk 10:22	TD 8:25 15:10	13:2,11 21:8	threshold
30:12 39:22	15:13,14	29:16 38:16	55:23
61:21 63:15	22:25 23:3	62:13 63:2	throttle 68:3
63:17 73:9	team 73:7	67:7 68:13	ticketing
86:21	technical	69:3 94:19	72:11
talked 18:16	64:12	95:11 98:1	tide 85:21
48:25 78:1	TED 2:5	think 13:3	86:16,16
83:22	TEL 1:24	14:24 19:6,9	tides 86:12
talking 14:1	telephone	22:5,15	time 4:13,20
24:22 90:23	45:12	26:23 29:19	5:20,22 8:6
tandem 37:1	term 8:25 9:12	30:14 31:4	9:21 10:13
49:7	35:17 37:25	31:18 35:13	12:23 13:12
tank 22:7	63:16 92:18	36:19 38:2	16:1 20:22
24:17,17	94:13,14	39:18 46:4	34:13 47:9
40:7,13	terms 8:23	46:10 52:12	50:11 51:1,2
45:16 48:5	19:21 39:11	53:2 55:4	57:2 58:11
48:10	51:17 78:2	58:13 68:23	59:8 62:1,17
tanker 21:9	territory	69:9,11	62:18,21
26:9,10,12	26:25	71:25 89:3	67:20 68:9
32:2	testify8:7	third 87:10	68:15,25
tanks 40:6	12:24 20:23	Thomas 34:7	70:24 71:25
44:4	34:14 50:12	38:22 39:25	
tax 9:4 15:2,7			81:17 82:5
30:13,14,17	59:9 70:25	40:18 41:4	82:20 84:5,5
· ·	81:17	41:22 42:5	86:5,14 89:9
38:18 39:4	testimony	42:12 43:4	92:19 94:17
42:20 53:12	101:6	44:2,23	97:5 99:22
58:10 59:3	Texas 8:19	45:10,15,21	101:8
59:13,23	thank 9:23	45:24 47:3,9	times 52:25
60:1,3,4,17	10:18 12:4	47:16 48:3	55:8 64:17
60:23 61:6,8	13:7,15	48:14,24	timing 52:3
61:11,19,24	18:10 20:16	thought 22:22	56:3 86:17
62:8,14,20	20:24 33:19	41:25 46:13	today 10:19
62:23 63:20	33:20 34:15	71:24 72:1	18:8,9 27:20
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	l		l
35:3 56:8	traveling 5:21	76:21,24	upstairs 4:3
72:4 81:9	treasurer	86:8 94:1	urban 14:9
Todd 50:5	12:18	95:8,14 97:3	USDA 50:17,24
52:15 53:18	treatment	97:6	51:6,24
TOLL 1:24	85:22 97:14	type 25:4,12	use 13:23
Tony 17:12	trees 41:8	25:15,20	22:10,17
top 86:25	tremendous	typically 38:1	24:12 25:13
98:20	66:8		26:2 31:5
total 53:22	Trenton 1:11	Ŭ	36:2,4 79:15
54:20 55:15	1:23 25:8	u 3:21	79:17
64:3 74:15	truck 8:10	unanimous 7:14	useful 30:25
totals 59:25	11:4 12:21	7:15,16	usual 21:15
touched 23:15	14:3 16:11	unanimously	usually 39:9
tough 68:25	16:13 21:9	7:13	39:16
town 61:14	32:15 48:21	uncollected	utility 71:20
township 3:5,6	48:22	62:15	71:21,22
3:7,8,10	trucks 14:2,9	underground	72:14,25
7:22 12:6	16:6 18:24	22:7 24:17	76:11,13
20:18 23:10	true 101:6	40:5 45:16	77:23 89:14
27:3,5,13,15	try 44:17	48:5	89:16 91:19
27:25 28:15	68:11 69:12	understand	92:25 98:21
33:24 34:6	95:23	59:16 85:16	utilize 15:19
34:16 35:11	trying 14:6	understanding	62:2
47:4,5 58:8	51:19 69:4	17:21	utilized 37:4
58:17,21,24	87:20 90:8	undertake	80:2 82:4
59:5,7,19	90:17	35:15	utilizes 36:21
60:2,7 61:1	tune 62:9	undertakes 7:5	utilizing
62:19 64:13	tuned 95:17	undertaking	37:22 60:2
66:6	turn 51:20	13:24 89:23	
Tracey 50:6,6	turns 66:17	underwriter	<u>v</u>
50:23 53:17	twice 56:1	51:19	V25:15,18
55:24 56:20	two 12:18	unearned 75:7	vacant 90:24
57:9	13:22 14:9	unencumbered	valuable 4:21
trained 14:21	19:16 21:8	75:9	6:16
training 14:18	24:25 26:18	unfortunately	value 43:14
transaction	27:14,15	67:12 82:19	55:22 56:12
8:11,14	29:25 40:24	unit 29:13	73:16,22,23
17:14,15	46:15,16	32:3	variable 19:3
22:5 70:11	51:10 53:9	United 88:15	91:22 92:14
transcript	53:19 54:2,2	units 6:7	variety 82:6
101:6	55:7 62:21	72:19	various 35:5
Transit 74:24	63:11 64:20	unparalleled	vehicle 16:8
74:25 75:12	64:20 65:2	14:24	21:9 34:21
75:14	68:12 71:5	upgrading	35:16,19
transition	74:18,19	42:17	36:9,11,13
76:10	75:8,21	ups 93:4	36:16,20
	<u> </u>	l	I

37:3 38:13	17:19,25	64:15 80:9	28:24 30:19
49:8	18:5,11 20:2	84:3 88:17	30:19 31:24
velocity 37:1	20:3,17	93:23	35:3 37:19
49:7	23:15 24:8	warranted	40:25 41:25
vendors 29:25	24:22 25:11	69:13	42:5 43:15
32:15	28:4 29:3,7	wasn't 18:2	44:9,11,19
verify 84:23	29:12 30:3,9	30:3 54:16	46:19 48:19
verifying 83:3	30:16,22,25	waste 40:5	51:13 53:23
version 96:2	31:7,20 33:1	water 40:8	56:5,13
versus 39:12	33:5,6,23	44:3 81:22	58:20 60:12
39:13	38:16 39:5	81:23,24	61:10 65:8
vetted 15:23	39:15,22	82:23 83:5	65:11 68:7
VIDEOGRAPHERS	41:1 42:8,25	83:17,19	75:6 81:8
1:20	43:24 44:21	86:8,16	87:9 90:13
view 51:20	49:3,10,11	87:16 88:2,4	90:17,21,23
53:8	49:25 54:24	88:16 89:16	91:3,5 92:15
<pre>virtually 38:8</pre>	55:21 56:14	89:19 90:10	92:17 95:22
volunteer	57:6,11,20	90:18,24	96:14 97:21
29:15,19	57:21 58:8	96:16 97:10	we've 15:21
volunteering	58:16 59:10	97:25 98:19	17:4 30:1
31:24	61:21 63:7	waterfront	38:11 40:3,4
volunteers	63:15 65:5	96:13	45:11,15
14:13,21	65:13 67:14	way 34:23	46:11 48:25
28:15 29:20	67:19 68:20	36:19 37:12	62:7 64:7
44:17	69:15,16	38:3,25 42:4	66:8 67:4
vote 8:15 35:8	70:3 73:9,14	45:2,18	72:18,22
35:9,13 49:8	74:2,10	53:10 54:17	75:3 82:22
voted 21:13,13	75:11 76:5,8	56:22 62:25	83:8 86:1
21:18	76:21,23	75:13,22	90:9 91:25
voters 21:14	80:5,13,14	86:10	92:3,4 95:7
voting 21:21	81:3 85:10	wayward 6:3	95:8
98:9	87:19 89:21	13:5,5,18	weather 92:9
W	91:7,11	we'll 4:4	Wednesday 1:12
	93:22 95:25	13:19 18:4	week 56:9
wait 65:10	99:3,9,10,23	43:17,22	weight 66:18
waiting 28:24	100:1	45:1 47:3	went 5:2 21:25
Walker 81:15 81:15	want 13:7	53:5 58:14	23:16 95:11
Walter 2:3 3:4	15:14 16:24	58:14 68:3	95:15,20
4:1 7:9,14	24:14 25:1	75:23,25	weren't 75:11
7:20 9:13,19	37:2 55:4	78:18 88:5 93:7 97:20	western 17:3
9:24 10:6,8	72:6 88:14		wet 41:8
10:11,18,22	90:2 94:7 wanted 10:1	we're 4:11 8:2 10:2,12	wide 82:9 Wildwood 3:9
11:1,9,13,15	13:2 18:8	14:13 16:2	50:1,19
11:16 12:5,9	24:6 46:21	16:15 17:9	WILLADESEN
16:6,20 17:7	59:11,14	18:6 25:2,14	61:23 63:10
10.0,20 1,.,	J J J · 1 1 , 1 4	10.0 23.2,14	01.72 03.10
L	1	1	1

Willadsen 59:4	working 6:11	94:21	05 51:3
59:4 63:17	44:6 90:13	year's 41:23	08625 1:11
65:8,17,22	95:5	years 4:19 5:8	08690 1:23
66:2 67:18	works 19:1	7:4 14:4	
68:7	63:21 72:11	15:20 31:4	1
WILLIAM 2:6	76:14 81:16	37:17 38:23	1 3:6,7,8
window 94:15	88:3,4 89:8	39:13 42:16	1,000 5:10
97:4	89:11	43:8,21	1.2 35:25
Winitsky 34:3	world 14:20	50:18 51:10	10 1:12 14:12
34:4,15	worth 74:19	51:22 53:12	15:3 51:3
38:19 39:8	wouldn't 18:1	54:2,7,8,15	55:8 62:5
39:17 42:22	28:7 56:2,22	60:1 61:2,8	66:11 72:18
48:18,23	www.renzia	62:5,20,22	72:20 94:14
49:24	1:25	63:11,24	10,00011:4
wise 16:1		64:2,13,16	100 3:15
44:10	X	65:2,18	101 1:10
wish 4:5	x 1:3,6 3:1,17	66:12 67:16	11 64:4
wishes 6:13,20	XI 101:4	72:18 74:19	11,515,000
6:20 7:4		75:21 85:5	73:24
wishing 8:6		86:8 87:5,9	11:01 1:13
12:23 20:22	yeah 11:7	92:22 94:1	117 21:13
34:13 50:11	39:17 45:10	95:8	12 3:6 17:16
59:8 70:24	53:7 63:19	yesterday	50:20 77:4,5
81:17	93:21 96:17	50:15 52:4	90:1
withholding	year 6:11 8:23	53:6 55:18	12:48 100:3
84:16	8:25 9:5	57:6	125,000 55:16
wonderful	10:15 11:7	young 69:9	14 5:16 60:10
98:25	14:25 21:12	Yousouf 22:19	14,000 21:14
wondering 17:9	32:7 35:19	23:23	15 5:17 75:17
24:23 31:12	37:19,24,25	Youssouf 12:8	87:9
42:25 85:12	38:6 39:1,2	12:12,12,16	15,900,000
wood 41:8,9	39:10 42:15	13:16 16:11	50:20
58:20	44:1 50:20	16:17,22	150 52:9
words 55:20	53:21,24	17:21 18:4	150,000 37:18
72:1	54:3,10,19	18:10,14,19	39:2
work 30:13	60:5,10,12	18:23 19:13	1500 72:19
32:3 43:11	60:19 62:4	19:23 20:16	15th 52:21
43:13 44:14	65:9 68:9		16 8:16
45:16,17	73:21 75:22	Z	17 8:15 46:12
46:5 47:3,12	75:25 82:2,6	zero 38:20	18 46:12
47:25 48:2,6	84:11 85:6	39:4	18,000 32:10
48:13 52:5	87:2,4,7,8		1898 41:5
76:14 86:2	87:10,12,14	0	19 35:9
92:7 93:8,11	91:15,22,24	0.098615:3	1980 4:15 5:1
93:15	92:10 93:5	02211 101:4	1989 26:5,8
worked 94:16	94:14,14,16	04 51:3	1990 26:11
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

32:8	38:17 60:16	4	32:14
1994 36:15	60:21		609)989-9199
1998 41:7	2020 101:24	43:4	1:24
47:19	2050 54:16	4,000,250	610,000 21:25
19th 52:21	20th 87:7	59:21	69 21:13
17011 52 • 21	21 5:8,11	4,339,000	6th 10:7
2	210,000 55:17	74:16	0011 10 - 7
2-55 59:19	212,000 62:10	4.051:4	7
2,462,000 75:8	21st 97:18	4.3 74:9	7 3 : 5
2,915,000 43:5	22 35:19	4.4 74:16	70 3:11,12,13
2.10 55:10	222,000 66:25	4.5 51:4 60:1	700,000 51:9
2.2 55:17,22	2277 1:22	4.55 15:11	51:25 62:1
56:13	230 66:22	4.7 74:3	710,000 54:14
2.68 50:20	25 101:25	40 50:18 95:8	750,000 34:19
2.8 55:11	250,000 36:2,4	40,00062:4	36:10 37:20
20 3:7 42:16	252 5:13	40A:5A-2071:4	38:25
61:9 62:20	275 35:9	40A:5A-6 34:18	7500 17:16
63:24 64:16	28 4 : 25	40A2-51 59:19	77,909.309:4
82:2 87:4,5		4101:22	
95:5	3	415,000 60:2 63:13	8
200 52:2 75:15	3 3:5 55:12	47,000 18:20	8,000,004 74:8
200,00065:19	3,000 31:12	19:7	80,000 75:17
2000 54:25	3,223 32:6		800)368-7652
2001 36:13	3,474,000 74:1	470,000 76:2	1:24
51:2	3.38 15:13	5	81 3:14
2005 55:1	3.4 74:14	5,000 51:11	8500 17:18
2010 25:4,16	3.4056 9:3	5.1 91:21 92:2	
55:6 66:14	3.65 15:12	95:20	9
2011 52:5 55:6	3.7 71:16 74:6	50 3:9	9,500,000
55:11 56:16	3.75 51:4	50,000 46:10	50:16
57:16	30 8:21 31:3	500 5:12	902,7078:10
2012 38:23	50:18 64:3	500,000 60:7	925,585 37:3
2014 56:23	73:21 101:24	65:9 91:23	
60:1	300 63:21	520,000 21:8	
2015 61:24	300,000 62:2	22:2	
2016 75:12	31.63 9:5	550,000 8:12	
81:21	31st 43:5	10:25	
2017 17:25	73:25	565 5 : 11	
34:24 46:12	33 1:22 3:8	58 3:10	
73:25 75:12	330,000 52:8	58:26-19 81:23	
83:10,11	35 40:21 98:20	58:27-19 81:24	
2018 1:12 8:15	352,707 8:13	59 60:24	
15:1,2 36:2	36 40:21		
60:1 66:22	38 4:19	6	
101:25	385,00014:2	6,665,000 43:7	
2019 36:5 38:9	53:23 54:15	600,000 22:9	

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