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, May 8, 2019
13	Commencing At: 10:52 a.m.
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16	
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18	
19	GUY J. RENZI & ASSOCIATES, INC.
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25	www.renziassociates.com No. 320787

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1 HELD BEFORE:
 2
 3 MELANIE WALTER, Chairwoman
 4 TED LIGHT
 5 WILLIAM CLOSE
 6 ALAN AVERY
 7 FRANCIS BLEE
 8 ADRIAN MAPP
 9 DOMINICK DIROCCO
10
11 A L S O P R E S E N T:
12
13 PATRICIA PARKIN MCNAMARA, Executive Secretary
14 ADAM MASEF, DAG
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1
                    I N D E X
 2 ITEM
                                                 PAGE
3 Opening Remarks
 4
        By:
             Ms. Walter
                                                 4
5 Washington Township Fire District #1
                                                 4
6 Little Egg Harbor Township
                                                 31
 7 Hudson County Improvement Authority
                                                 37
 8 Adjournment
                                                 44
 9
10
11
12
                   EXHIBITS
13
14 ID
                      DESCRIPTION
                                                 PAGE
15
16
               (NO EXHIBITS WERE MARKED.)
17
18
19
                  R E Q U E S T S
20
21
            (NO FORMAL REQUESTS WERE MADE.)
22
23
24
25
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MS. WALTER: Good morning.
1
 2 meeting was open upstairs and in compliance with
  the Open Public Meetings Act to address ethics
  agenda matters. We're now moving on to
  consideration of applications here in this
  session.
 6
 7
                First up is the Washington Township
8 Fire District One seeking findings regarding a
  $590,000 proposed project financing.
10
                MR. WINITSKY:
                               Good morning.
11 Winitsky from Parker McCay, bond counsel to the
12 fire district. To my right is Ed Etschman who is
13 the administrator for the district.
                                        And to his
14 right is Richard Sumek who is the assistant fire
  chief.
15
                The fire chief would have been here,
16
17
  but unfortunately had a cardiac incident and was
18
  just released from the hospital today.
  apologies for his not being in attendance today,
19
  but the assistant chief is here to answer
20
21
  questions.
22
                (At which time those wishing to
23
  testify were sworn in.)
24
                MR. WINITSKY: As the director had
25 mentioned, the fire district is here today
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```
seeking positive findings pursuant to 40A:5A-6 to
1
 2 enter into a lease purchase financing in the
  amount of $590,000 for the lease purchase of new
  fire apparatus for the fire district.
 4
 5
                The purchase of the fire apparatus
6 was approved by referendum in February of 2018 by
7
  a vote of 508 in favor to 306 opposed which was a
8 good turn out. As people know, typically you
9 don't get a lot of folks voting, but a lot of
  people came out in Washington Township, which we
10
11 appreciated.
                The referendum itself authorized
12
13 obligations in the amount not to exceed $700,000.
14 With that authorization, the fire district
15 proceeded to procure a purchase of a new piece of
16 fire apparatus to replace a 2006 Spartan ERV, not
17
  very, very old, but the fire district had had
  many, many, and continuing problems, with respect
18
  to its working and it continues to cost the fire
19
20 district lots and lots of money, which is
21
  surprising for a piece of apparatus like that.
22
                Nevertheless, it's not worth
23 keeping.
            And this is to replace that particular
  apparatus that, when this is delivered, that
25 apparatus will be sold in accordance with
```

```
1 applicable law. So that's why we're doing this.
 2 You think why a 2006 piece of apparatus?
 3
  why.
 4
               So with respect to replacing that
5
  piece of apparatus, the fire district, through
6 the Houston Galveston Area Council sought
7 proposals from different manufacturers which
8 yielded a very, very positive price from Spartan
9 in the amount of $587,298, which is significantly
10 low, the authorization provided by the
11 referendum.
12
               With that in mind, they accepted
13 that procurement bid, then proceeded to seek a
14 financing mechanism. And this case, it was
15 determined that a lease purchase would be the
16 most economical way to finance over the term of
17 five years. The fire district thereafter sought
  proposals for the lease purchasing financing
18
19 companies.
20
               Got three different proposals, and
  went with Capital Municipal Finance for same.
22 The rate on that lease would be 2.96 percent
23 which is roughly $128,000 a year annually to the
24 fire district which is less than a penny per
25 hundred thousand dollars of assessed value in the
```

```
town which is about four dollars per house in
1
 2 Washington Township.
 3
               As the board is aware, the
  procedures by which the fire district is entering
5
  into the lease was not done specifically in
6 accordance with applicable law. Notably, the
  fire district was required, and is required, to
8 appear before this board to obtain positive
  findings prior to entering into the lease.
10
                The fire district did not in fact do
11
  that.
         That was not an intentional act. Rather,
12 I think in the minds of the fire district, the
13 rate was such that it was saving the district a
14 whole lot of money and the chief got a little
15 overexcited, which was obviously not the right
16
  thing to do. It was procedurally the incorrect
17
  thing to do.
18
               Moreover, the fire district
19 acknowledges that this process and failure to
20 procedurally get approval has happened before
21 with the fire district. Notably, about two years
22 ago.
        So this is sort of another bad act, again,
23 not intentional, not in any way meant to get in
24
  the way of the otherwise applicable procedural
25 requirements.
```

```
Rather, I think there was an
1
 2 overexcitement to capture a very positive rate,
  which is what in fact the fire district did.
  Nevertheless, the fire district did in fact
4
  apply, understands that this board's positive
  findings are required and that's why we're here
6
7
  today.
8
                In light of sort of prior acts and
  in light of the fact that the fire district did
  not specifically follow procedure, sort of as a
10
11 gesture of good faith and sort of
12 self-regulation, the fire district would be more
13 than willing to have a state monitor, or similar
14 person, come in and ensure that the fire
15 district, for a period of 12 months or so, is
  doing everything the right way because we
17
  understand there are concerns from the board,
  from the Division of Local Government Services
18
  about how they're doing some things.
19
20
                So we want to sort of get ahead of
21
  that and we offer that to this board as sort of a
22
  self-regulation and a better path forward so you
23
  feel good about what we're doing and how we're
24
  doing it. Not that that is related specifically
  to this application, but as an offer of
25
```

```
self-regulatory ability for us.
1
 2
                So with that, we're here to answer
 3
  any questions that you may have and hopefully
  work through this.
 4
 5
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. I'm going
  to open it to the rest of the board. I may jump
6
7
  in with some questions a bit later.
                           You indicated that it
8
                MR. MAPP:
  wasn't intentional. Yet, you also indicated that
  after the referendum, you proceeded to contract
10
11 or set the process in motion to basically to do
  this transaction. And so what concerns me is
12
13
  that you also said that the rate was too good,
14 pretty much to pass up, my own words.
15
                MR. WINITSKY:
                               Mm-mm.
16
                MR. MAPP:
                           And so I'm having a bit
17
  of a difficulty accepting the fact that this was
  not intentional when the act was driven by the
  rate, knowing full well that you needed to come
19
20 before the board for positive findings. So I'm
  having a bit of a challenge with that and how
21
22
  that was done by the district.
23
                MR. WINITSKY: Yeah.
                                      I mean, a part
24
  of this, and I will say, unfortunately, our firm
  was not aware of the lease purchase.
25
```

```
certainly would have guided the district.
1
 2
                MR. MAPP:
                           I'm sure.
 3
                MR. WINITSKY: Appropriately.
  to throw my own client under the bus.
4
                                          Rather,
5
  that's our job, is to explain what the procedural
  requirements are, and ultimately, I think Ed was
6
7
  brought on as administrator.
8
                MR. MAPP: Did you say this happened
 9
  before?
10
                MR. WINITSKY: I was advised that
11 this has happened before. We were not counsel to
12 the district at that point, but it is my
13 understanding, from our discussions with the
14 director and others, that this is not the first
15
  time that this sort of procedural hiccup has
16 occurred.
17
                But to answer your question, I don't
  think there was a lot of thought about the
18
19 procedural necessities other than at some point
20 you need to go to the board, which is why they
  submitted an application in the first place.
21
22 don't think there was a thought necessarily.
                           At some point before, not
23
                MR. MAPP:
24 after.
25
                               Again, without
                MR. WINITSKY:
```

```
1 knowing the inner workings of the chief and
  otherwise, they recognize that they did need to
  go to the board which is why there's an
  application here before you today.
                                       I think the
 5
  process by which that was supposed to happen was
  not, it wasn't fully considered.
6
 7
               MR. MAPP:
                           Okay.
                                  Thank you.
8
                MR. CLOSE:
                            To follow on Mr. Mapp's
 9
             I mean, it gives the appearance of
  comments.
  asking forgiveness, not permission here, which
10
11 I'm personally not a big fan of for applicants.
12
  So I understand your comments, but I want to
13
  offer that.
14
                I agree with Mr. Mapp's question and
15
  comments as well. You talked about, in your
16
  opening remarks there, that there are numerous
17
  problems with the 2006 vehicle. Because it's
18
  relatively young for a piece of equipment in a
               How many hours on the truck?
19 department.
20
               MR. SUMEK:
                            Right now there's about
21
  2700 hours on the truck which is kind of par for
22
  the vehicle. With the expense of the third turbo
23
  charger, the second head and a major transmission
24
  overhaul, we're cresting $200,000 in the vehicle.
25
               MR. CLOSE: How much are you doing
```

```
1 in annual maintenance costs on the vehicle?
 2 have 2700 with work hours on the vehicle?
 3
               MR. SUMEK: Yes. We do -- there's a
  six month check up and a one year full
4
  preventative maintenance program in place for the
6 vehicles. We have five other Spartan ERV
  vehicles just like that. Just so happens that
8 was made in Ocala, Florida from the E1
9 Corporation.
10
               And traditionally, across the board,
11 that line had issues. It's been corrected under
12 the warranties as far as we could go. We have
13 bumper to bumper for five years and then
14 everything else is out of pocket. Once our
15 numbers crested 200,000, it was time to
16 reevaluate the vehicle.
17
               MS. WALTER: Mr. Close, if I may
18 jump in. I know you're fire administrator. Is
19
  there any fire commissioner here who voted on the
  application?
20
21
               MR. ETSCHMAN:
                               I'm sorry.
                                           I'm a
  fire commissioner, not administrator.
22
23
               MR. WINITSKY:
                               My error.
24
               MS. WALTER: Please go ahead.
25
               MR. CLOSE: How does that compare to
```

```
the other vehicles in the departmental fleet?
1
 2
               MR. SUMEK:
                            The other vehicles that
 3
  we have are very similar to that engine for
  in-service with little or no problems.
4
  preventative maintenance program sustains them.
  We haven't had turbo issues, head gasket issues,
6
  replacing of the heads, which is extraordinary in
  the transmissions.
9
                They're all front line run pieces to
  this day and they do run 15, sometimes 18 years
10
11 before we consider replacing for technology.
12 This one is just a problem.
                                This truck is
13 definitely a problem.
14
               MR. CLOSE:
                          So annually, just again,
  to separate out from your annual maintenance cost
16 for this vehicle versus the other, how much are
17 you spending annually? You had five years bumper
  to bumper, so you would have done 2011, '12,
18
19 depending on when it was delivered. So you've
20 had six or seven years of history of maintenance
21
  costs. What's your maintenance cost on the
22 wehicle?
23
               MR. SUMEK:
                            Specifically on that
24 vehicle, shortly after the warranty expired was
  the transmission issue. That was tagged for
25
```

```
about $22,000.
1
 2
                MR. CLOSE:
                            Okay.
 3
                MR.
                    SUMEK:
                            At the same time it came
  back online, the turbo went. That was $12,000.
4
5
  The following year we encountered a head gasket
  problem which they replaced that and that was
7
  probably around 8,000. Shortly after that, they
  told us the head had to be replaced.
9
                We replaced the head for another 10
  to 12,000 estimating and then they said the block
10
11 had to be saved. We fought with Detroit Motors
12
  to try to get the motor replaced under their
13
  warranty because we've never had an issue with
14 this type of motor before.
15
                And performance, all the rest of
16
  them, they were perfect. They would run forever.
17 And we just fought and fought and fought and
  we've been putting a Band Aid on this vehicle.
  We moved it from first out to the second out
20
  piece just for that reason, so we could keep the
21
  hours and the mileage down on it to sustain it
22
  through service, so that's how it builds up to
23
  that approximately 200,000.
24
                MR. CLOSE:
                           What's the estimated
25
  trade in value or sale value you've identified
```

```
for this piece of equipment once the new one is
 2 delivered?
 3
                MR. SUMEK:
                            The answer I had from
  the broker, when we were talking about
4
  publicizing this, is engines are a dime a dozen.
  We'd be looking between 30 and 60,000. He said,
7
  if I could get 45, it would be a lot of money.
8
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Okay.
 9
                MR. SUMEK: If I could elaborate on
  that, sir?
10
11
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Sure.
12
                MR. SUMEK: We had another vehicle
  that was a 2000 and we had to hold it for two
13
14 years prior to getting a bite on it and we had to
15 release it for $28,000, the highest bid.
16
                MR. CLOSE: You talked about the
  timing here. The chief led in his enthusiasm for
17
18
  the savings.
               Is that accurate?
                                    Characterization
19
  of your comments.
20
                MR. WINITSKY: I mean, essentially,
21 yes.
22
                MR. CLOSE:
                            I certainly can
23 appreciate that. The timing issue concerns me
24 because when you go to do a vehicle, how soon do
25 you start looking to replace the vehicle?
```

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do you start the process?
1
 2
               MR. ETSCHMAN: We start the process
 3
  the year prior to putting a referendum out, okay,
  and we have committees that work on those things
  and we put the referendum to the voters in 2018?
                MR. WINITSKY:
6
                               Yes.
 7
                MR. ETSCHMAN: And we had a maximum
  amount of 700,000. It was approved at that time.
  Then, at that point, the committee really started
  to get, if we could say, to the nitty-gritty, the
10
11 nuts and bolts of the whole project. And that
12 finally came to pass and that takes many, many
13 months to put that together, to put essentially,
14 a package together that manufacturers can look at
15 and say, well, this is what I think this will
16
  cost, and we did that through three
17
  manufacturers. And all of the amounts given back
18
  to us were in excess of $600,000.
19
                MR. WINITSKY: Yeah.
20
               MR. ETSCHMAN: I know the chief has
  the exact numbers and the manufacturers.
  since we were a member of the Houston Galveston
22
  group, we went to them and they, you know,
23
  Spartan can do this for you and we got an offer
  through Spartan, through the Houston Galveston
25
```

```
group of 587,000, okay. And that frankly, just
1
  appeared probably in February of this year.
 3
               MR. SUMEK:
                            Yes.
 4
               MR. ETSCHMAN: When that final
  number came out. And the issue that came up is
5
  that, well, we're going to have a three
6
  and-a-half percent price increase on March 15th
8 of this year. So it became -- the chief felt
  that the three and-a-half percent was a
10 significant savings for the taxpayers if we could
11 enter into a contract with Spartan before March
12 15th.
13
               And in fact, that was done on March
14 8th, I believe? And then when that was done, the
15 financing came into play, and Chief Sumek got
16 several quotes on financing and he can enumerate
17 who they came from and the amounts, but they
18 were, I think, a maximum was three and-a-half
19 percent, but they did get one that was under
20 three percent.
21
               But again, it was -- it was time
22 stamped.
            It was, you know, they could hold that
23 rate for, what, 30 days and this is now in April.
24 So we did attempt, and I think we were late
  getting the application in for the April meeting
```

```
of the board which is why we're here now, yes.
1
 2
                MR. CLOSE: So I appreciate that
 3
  accounting of what transpired in the process.
                                                   МУ
  point with the question was, you started that 12
 5
  to 18 months in advance of being here before this
  board.
 6
 7
                MR. ETSCHMAN:
                               Correct.
8
                MR. CLOSE: So there was plenty of
  time to, in my estimation, work through that.
  worked with Houston Galveston, so I know about
10
11 the process. I know about their timeline.
12 know what they will do, what they won't do in
13
  terms of extending that price.
14
                So as I said, I would have hoped to
  have seen you here before that despite the
16
  chief's efforts. The rest of your application, I
  think, I won't speak for my colleagues. I think
17
  everyone probably would agree, had you come here,
18
  it's a solid application.
19
20
                What is troublesome is the manner in
  which you went about it, particularly given what
22
  we all know about availability, process, Houston
23
  Galveston, National Co-ops and what has to
  follow, so I can appreciate what you said.
25
  appreciate the other things, but the ability to
```

```
1 get here was present, in my estimation, before,
 2 not come after.
                   It's my own observation,
  Director.
 4
               MR. ETSCHMAN:
                               Sir, you're
5
  absolutely, right, but the only comment I will
6 make to that is, the only ability, and we had the
  ability to come before the board in March and
8 April before now because we did not have final
9 figures to present to the board until late
10 February. So, yes, we did have the ability to
11 appear in March and again in April and that's on
12
  us.
13
                MR. WINITSKY:
                               Yeah.
14
               MR. LIGHT:
                          You also could have
  called the director and the director could have
16
  scheduled an emergency meeting if we had to.
17 We've done things like that in the past.
18
               MS. WALTER: Starters work as well
19 when there's a pressing issue. Our goal is to
20
  get the deal done and get it done right when we
21
       You make it impossible for us to do that
  when we don't find out until after the fact.
22
23
               MR. DIROCCO: To me, it's a fairness
24 issue. I'm asking you, what are we supposed to
  say to other towns, counties, authorities that
25
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```
1 are in the room today, they're going to be in the
 2 room next month when we meet, they're following
 3 the law, they're following the statute. It's
  difficult. They have to change their schedules
4
  to get here, they have to get their applications
  lined up.
6
7
                You guys can do what you want to do,
  come in after the fact and say, just approve for
       What are we supposed to say to the other
  us.
10 | local government entities that do it the right
11 way and are put out? And now -- and you get to
12 skirt the law. To me, it's very troublesome.
                                                  Ιt
13 sets a bad precedent.
14
                I'm asking you. What should we tell
  those other local governmental entities?
16
       So when you come and say, why do we have to
17
  comply with the law, what are we supposed to tell
18
  them?
19
                MR. WINITSKY:
                               I mean, certainly,
20 it's an example of what not to do, and the fire
21 district recognizes that. And in no way is
22 anybody attempting to intentionally violate the
23 law to make this board look less than
24 authoritative certainly or to, you know, put a
  bad precedent in place to say if you do this, it
```

```
1 doesn't matter, Local Finance Board is going to
 2 go on and rubber stamp it. To your point
  earlier, ask for forgiveness rather than
  permission. That is not the precedent that
 4
  should be set.
 5
                MR. DIROCCO: That's my issue.
6
 7
               MR. WINITSKY: Recognizing that is
8 the wrong position to be in, both as a board
 9 member and as an applicant, right, at the end of
10 the day. With that in mind, which is why I
11 offered up front was to say, we recognize this is
12 not how it is supposed to be done and to prevent
13 that. And to give you some degree of regulatory
14 authority and control is to say, this is a bad
15 actor, right?
16
               And as a result of that, there's
17 going to be some oversight that we wouldn't ask
18
  of any other applicant, right? And maybe that,
19 in and of itself, serves as some precedent to
20
  say, if you don't do it right, there's going to
21 be a degree of oversight that otherwise would not
22 apply to you, right?
23
               You're not a town or a fire
24 district, or otherwise, that would be under
25 supervision for any reason, right? But in this
```

```
instance, we recognize that and we recognize
1
  there are consequences to that and we're offering
 3
  up, as sort of a self-regulatory mechanism, for
  which you now have a degree of authority and
 5
  control that you otherwise would not have had.
                Albeit, not forever, but enough of a
6
7
  time such that this board feels that, okay, they
8 recognize what they have done. We recognize
  there's going to be some oversight here and that
10
  this is not going to happen again.
11
                MS. WALTER: Let me speak a little
12 more generally.
                    I think this is getting down
  linto a discussion about procedure and ticks and
14
  ties. And what's important, I think what's
15
  important for you to understand as well because
16
  this happened again for the second time.
17
  an issue in 2016.
18
                It's very easy for procedure to get
19 pushed aside as irrelevant. I think we need to
20
  think about why the Local Finance Board exists in
21
  New Jersey and the impact that has on the market
22
  and on your credit ratings, and the credit
23
  ratings of all the municipalities that we deal
24
  with every day.
25
                New Jersey's Local Finance Board is
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```
1 a successor entity to the Municipal Finance
  Commission which was established back during the
  Great Depression because municipalities were
  going bankrupt. They were going bankrupt in New
  Jersey and they were going bankrupt around the
  country. This board exists to provide oversight
6
  on your budgets and on your financings because we
  set a standard.
9
               No other states have something quite
10 like what we have here and that gives us some
11 additional credit in the market place.
                                           It gives
12 us stability as a state and it gives us something
13
  that we can hang our hat on when we go into court
14 and can say, when your town is in trouble, when
15 your district gets into trouble, this was
16 reviewed. It was monitored.
17
               We have a uniform system that works.
18 So it's not about your application, it's not
  about whether the boxes were checked to get in
20 here on time. It's about the system of our
  government in New Jersey and the fact that this
21
22
  oversight and this stability protects us all.
  Every one here today is a part of that system and
23
24 is participating in that oversight for that
25
  reason.
```

```
So when we talk about needing you to
1
 2
  come in, this is the second time this has
  happened. It's not about Washington
  specifically. It's about the state of New Jersey
4
  and our reputation. And I want you to understand
  that. And I appreciate you coming to us and
6
  saying we made a mistake. I want to make sure
  that we're in a position to where your budget is
  sound, where your finances are sound, when we can
10
  credibly go out to the market and say, they're
11 okay to move forward.
12
                So you asking to have oversight is
13 something that we appreciate.
                                  There are
14 provisions for directed oversight under our
15 Authorities Law that we do not generally use
16
  because you're coming in by consent and
17 essentially asking us to step in, we can provide
18
  education, we can provide technical assistance
  and we may provide some heightened budget
19
20 monitoring to make sure there are no other
21 discrepancies.
22
               You suggesting that is comforting to
23 me because it shows there is a recognition on
24 your part that is not a single or minutiae type
  of issue, so thank you for that, but I do want to
25
```

```
make very clear for the record, and for everyone
 2 here today, that there is a reason this board is
         And having everyone be a part of this
  system and comply with the system is incredibly
4
 5
  important to preserving the dignity of our state
  financials regulatory environment.
6
7
                MR. BLEE:
                           Just one more point to,
8 again, something you just brought up. Going back
  two years ago, you were in a somewhat similar
10
  situation.
              And if I'm remembering correctly, and
11 again, not this attorney, let me be very, very
12
  clear.
13
                But at that point, I thought whoever
14
  the representative of Washington Township, there
15 was either a consultant or an attorney and maybe
  both, but seemed to have a very, very, lack of a
17
  better word, poor understanding of the
18
  regulations and the process at that time.
19
                And I think going back two years
20
  lago, you weren't getting the best advice you
21
  needed to present a proper application, so maybe
22 different players, but here we are again.
                                              So I
23 would respectfully, I like the idea of some type
  of supervision or more interaction that maybe it
  would include making sure the division is
```

```
1 linvolved because we said 12 months.
 2
               What about if you don't get another
 3
  fire truck for 24 months, then what? That maybe
  some type of provision that next time there's a
4
  process that Local Finance Board be included way
6 in advance to make sure the process is completed,
7
  you know, in the proper manner.
8
               MR. ETSCHMAN: Sure.
                                      That's fine
  with us.
10
               MR. SUMEK: Sir, I was part of that
11 ordeal.
           It's a transition of administrations our
12 fire department went through. Ed was a prior
13 member of the board for 30 years. We were lucky
14 to get him back last year. This is why the
15 direction I tried to steer from the 2016 episode
  that I had to present.
16
17
                It's a part of a local solicitor
18 where we have now retained bond counsel which is
19 a great breath of fresh air to me. And with Ed's
20 support, this is where we want to go. We want to
21 do it out in advance. I wasn't aware of the
22 mergency meeting. I took notes on that. I'm
23 here to learn. I want to do it right, but thanks
24 for Ed and getting professional support now, I
  think we can move forward.
25
```

```
I don't live too far
1
                MR. BLEE:
 2
  laway. I've been by the facilities many, many
  times and I think everything you do is first
  class.
 4
 5
                MR.
                   SUMEK:
                           Thank you.
                MR. BLEE:
                           It's like the process is
6
7
  getting a little bit of a black eye, so I would
  like to see us all work together moving forward
  to make sure it doesn't happen again.
10
                MR. WINITSKY:
                               Without speaking for
  the chief, I think the fire district is more than
11
12 willing for that degree of oversight so this
13 doesn't happen again. And not only for us, but
14
  that sets that precedent that the director, and
15 everybody else is looking for, is to say there
16 are consequences and there are procedures to be
17 followed if and to the extent that this happens.
18 And if we're the test case for that to get it
19 right, so be it.
20
                MR. AVERY:
                            Am I correct then the
21
  chronological order that the last truck you
  bought you didn't do right as well? Are you zero
23
  for two or one and two?
24
                MS. WALTER:
                             The error was in 2016.
  There was another purchase in 2017 and now we're
25
```

```
back to doing it correctly.
1
 2
                MR. WINITSKY: We've gone the wrong
 3
  way.
 4
                MR. AVERY: We learn from our
5
  mistakes.
6
                MR.
                    WINITSKY:
                               Trying.
                            With all of that in
 7
                MS. WALTER:
8 mind, because the deal itself is fundamentally
  sound, I would not, as we said, have a concern
10 with the underlying proposal. The problem is
11 that we can't give positive findings on something
12
  that basically our findings are irrelevant on.
13
                So the board cannot, in my view,
14 issue positive findings on a fait accompli. To
15 that end, I think we have to effectively take no
16 findings which would be accomplished rather than
17 making negative findings.
18
                           Isn't that what we've
                MR. AVERY:
19 done in the past, is to make no finding by making
20
  a motion for positive findings that fails to
21
  pass?
22
                MS. WALTER:
                             Right.
23
                MR. AVERY: I would make that
24
  motion.
                           Second.
25
                MR. BLEE:
```

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```
This motion is for?
1
                MR. MAPP:
 2
                MS. MCNAMARA: Positive findings.
 3
  Miss Walter?
 4
                MS. WALTER:
                             No.
 5
                MR. WINITSKY: The motion was for
  positive findings to which there will be a, if I
6
  understand, a no vote so that there are no
  findings. I'm trying to procedurally --
9
                MS. WALTER: Correct.
10
                MR. WINITSKY: Okay. I understand.
11
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Mr. Mapp?
12
                MR. MAPP: No.
13
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
14
                MR. DIROCCO: No.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
15
16
                MR. CLOSE: Question, Director.
17
  Would that also include the -- by voting, are we
  including with the, relative to the findings, the
18
19 insertion of oversight or future trainings?
20
                MS. WALTER: We will do a separate
21
  vote on that.
22
                MR. CLOSE: Then my vote on this is
23 also no.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
                MR. AVERY: No.
25
```

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```
Mr. Blee?
1
                MS. MCNAMARA:
 2
                MR. BLEE:
                           No.
 3
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
 4
                MR. LIGHT:
                            No.
 5
                MS.
                    WALTER:
                             To that end, we'd like
6
  to have a motion on the table to have Washington
  bring in, Washington Township Fire District
8 Number One bring in a division approved financial
  regulatory oversight officer to assist for a
  period of 12 months.
10
11
                And then to require division
12 participation in your next financing application
13 to ensure that there are appropriate controls in
14 place and therefore the long term health of the
  fire district are able to avoid this issue in the
  future.
16
17
                MR. MAPP:
                           Move.
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Second.
18
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
20
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
21
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
22
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
23
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
24
                MR. DIROCCO:
                              Yes.
25
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
```

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```
1
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
 2
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Mr. Avery?
 3
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
 4
 5
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
 6
 7
                MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
8
                MR. WINITSKY: Thank you very much.
 9
                MS. WALTER: Next application is
10 Little Egg Harbor Township appearing on the Rose
11 Creek Dredging Project seeking a proposed waiver
12 of down payment. As you come up, please
13 introduce yourselves. And anyone who is not
14 counsel, please be sworn in.
15
                MR. FEARON: Good morning. I'm Jim
16 Fearon from Gluck Walrath Law Firm. We're bond
17 counsel to the township.
18
                MR. HAINES: Rodney Haines.
                                             I'm the
19 CFO for the township.
20
                MR. WORTH: Jason Worth T and M
21 Associates.
               I'm the township engineer.
22
                MS. STEVENS: Lisa Stevens, township
23
  committeewoman.
24
                (At which time those wishing to
25
  testify were sworn in.)
```

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```
MR. FEARON: Good morning.
1
                                            The
 2
  township is here to seek a waiver of a $225,000
  down payment in connection with a 4.5 million
  dollar bond ordinance to finance a lagoon
  dredging project in the Mystic Island section of
  Little Egg Harbor Township.
6
7
                This is substantially identical to a
8 similar project for Osborn Island for which this
  board approved a similar down payment waiver of
10 request last year. The Mystic Island
11 neighborhood is connected to the Great Bay by a
12 network of navigable lagoons providing boating
13 access from the predominantly residential
14 properties to the open sea.
15
               Over the years, portions of these
16 lagoons have accumulated silt to the point where
17 navigation is often blocked either totally or
  under certain tidal conditions.
18
                                    As with Osborn
  Island, the township received the request from
19
  residents and determined to undertake the
20
21
  necessary dredging on the condition that
22
  100 percent of the cost be specially assessed on
23
  the approximately 527 benefited properties.
24
                The township estimates that the per
25
  lot assessments would range from approximately
```

```
$1473 to approximately $875 over the 10 year
 2 assessment period. The township requests a
  waiver of down payment so that consistent with
  the approach that all costs be borne by the
4
  benefited properties, the township's capital
  improvement fund may need not be charged so that
6
  funds in that fund can be used for other township
  general improvements. We're happy to answer any
  questions you have.
10
               MS. WALTER:
                             First would you please
11 explain the structure of the special assessment,
12 who will be assessed and the distinction between
  that and the impact of the down payment on the
13
14 rest of the community?
                             I'll start with the
15
               MR. FEARON:
16 assessment structure.
                        We treated each property
17
  abutting the lagoons as equally benefited from
18
  the project, and so each of the 527 parcels, of
  which all but maybe two of them are -- well,
19
20 maybe four of them are relatively small
  residential parcels would bear in equal share of
21
22
  the assessment.
23
               We then asked our financial advisor
24
  to prepare a financial model. We determined that
  a level principal payment regime over 10 years
```

```
would be appropriate, and that's why the amount
  of the assessment declines over time from
  approximately $1500 to approximately $875 because
  the interest charge is being reduced as time goes
 5
  on.
                That is the story in terms of how
6
7
  the assessments were computed. The issue of the
  $225,000 down payment is largely a matter of
  other uses for the capital improvement fund and
10
  the political decision that the township
11 committee has made that the benefited
12 properties, which are at the very southern part
13
  of the township and are fundamentally differently
14 located, than most of the inland sections of the
15
  township, should bear the full cost of the
16 improvement. And if there's any other feedback
17 from others here, I'm happy to hear it also.
18
               MR. HAINES:
                            I totally agree with
19 your assessment of the description of what
20 properties are benefiting from the project.
                                                Wе
  have a large section of the township that is
21
  Pinelands Community that is not directly
23 benefited by the water. That is why we took the
24
  route of an assessment.
25
               MR. BLEE:
                           How was that received by
```

```
the residents?
1
 2
                MR. HAINES: Well, this being the
 3
  second project. We were here a year ago with
        This one, the vote came through --
 4
  one.
 5
                                   There was 527
                MR. WORTH: Yeah.
  asked. 324 respondents.
6
                             220 in the positive and
7
  104 in the negative.
8
                MR. HAINES:
                             So pretty much two to
  one of what responded.
10
                           Yeah. Well, that's kind
                MR. BLEE:
11
  of common sense. That's why would you want to
12 live on a lagoon that's land locked which then
13
  decreases the property values.
14
                MR. WORTH:
                           Correct.
15
                MR. BLEE: One other quick question,
  too. Dredge spills, what's the deal?
16
17
                MR. WORTH:
                            Those will be contained
18
  within a temporary area at the end of one street
19
  and they'll be trucked away to some sort of
20 facility. That will be up to -- some will go to
21
  the township's Public Works yards as approved by
  DEP for future reusing, and some will go to a
23
  facility selected by the contractor, DEP approved
24 again.
25
                MR. BLEE:
                           Do you have to set aside
```

```
funds for, obviously, the roads will get pretty
 2 beat up with that. Have you anticipated that?
 3
               MR. WORTH:
                            We have in our contract,
  and through the Osborn Island project, we
5
  actually noted that the roadways there, the main
  street had been paved about eight years before,
6
  held up really well and the road we're going to
8 use this time similarly was paved about
  three years ago.
10
               We expect it to hold up, but that's
11 in the contract as well. There will be a certain
  portion repayed, and if it's beat up, it will be
13
  up to the contractor to repair.
14
               MR. BLEE: Very good.
15
               MS. WALTER: Quick procedural
  question for you guys. How many votes do you
17
  have out of the governing body and do you have
  sufficient -- some of the documentation we had
18
  only showed three out of five and two thirds for
19
  the bond ordinance.
20
21
               MR. FEARON:
                             That may have been if
22
  the introduction. I believe we have a five
23 member governing body.
24
               MR. HAINES: They have a five member
25
  governing body. They know that we need to have
```

```
the vote that would be needed for adoption.
1
 2
                MS. WALTER:
                             You understand you
 3
  wouldn't be able to proceed without that vote.
 4
                MR. HAINES:
                             Correct.
 5
                MR. AVERY: I would make a motion to
  support the application as presented.
6
7
                MR. BLEE:
                           Second.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
8
 9
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
10
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
11
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
12
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
13
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
15
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
17
                MR. AVERY:
                            Yes.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
19
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
20
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
21
                MR. LIGHT:
                            Yes.
22
                MR. FEARON:
                             Thank you very much.
23
                MS. WALTER: Our final applicant for
24
  the morning is Hudson County Improvement
  Authority appearing on a pooled note program.
```

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```
1 Please introduce yourself, and everyone who is
 2 not counsel, please be sworn in before you
 3 testify.
 4
                MR. MCMANIMON: Ed McManimon from
5
  McManimon, Scotland and Baumann.
                                     We're bond
6 counsel to the Hudson County Improvement
7 Authority.
8
                             Kurt Cherry, executive
                MR. CHERRY:
  director and chief financial officer for the
10 Hudson County Improvement Authority.
11
                MR. HANLEY: Mike Hanley, NW
12 Financial.
13
                MS. ZUCCA: Tammy Zucca, City of
14 Union City.
15
                MR. CAPIZZI: Jason Capizzi, Winne,
16 Bante, Basralian and Kahn, bond counsel to the
17 Township of Weehawken.
18
                MR. BARSA: Richard Barsa, finance
19 director, Township of Weehawken.
20
                MR. WINITSKY: Jeff Winitsky, bond
21
  counsel to the city of Union City
22
                MS. MAUER: Donna Mauer, CFO City of
23 Bayonne.
24
                MR. CANTALUPO: John Cantalupo, bond
25
  counsel.
```

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```
(At which time those wishing to
1
 2
  testify were sworn in.)
 3
               MR. MCMANIMON:
                                Thank you.
                                            I know
  the board is familiar with the program that the
4
  Hudson County Improvement Authority and Hudson
  County have to provide for guarantees of the
  difficult credits in the county with regard to
  their note issues. This is a particular amount
  of $44,440,000.
10
                It is a continuation of a program
11
  that has been before you before. As is evident
12 from the introductions that involves Weehawken,
13
  Union City and Bayonne. We have a representative
14 from each of the towns. We have their bond
15 counsels to the extent you have any questions.
16 The Weehawken financing is $6,605,000.
17
                It involves three different
18
  components. One of the components is a rollover
19
  of part of the program from before. Prior to
20
  this rollover they issued bonds. I know this
21
  board always asks whether any of these notes get
22
  converted to bonds.
23
               Weehawken sold $6,537,000 in bonds
24 in 2018. 371,000 of that is the first time
  borrowing so they didn't include that, in that
```

```
1 bond issue, so they keep that note outstanding.
 2 There's new money in the amount of $4,809,000 to
  acquire some property and finance a cash flow
            They're both taxable and tax exempt
4
  deficit.
  which can be explained by Jason if necessary.
  And there's a rollover of $1,425,000.
6
 7
                There's technically a $3,000 pay
8 down from last year because it was a tax
  anticipation note that actually comes through in
10
  the budget year and this being rolled over as a
11 taxable tax anticipation note as part of this
12 financing.
               Union City is issuing $6,288,000 of
13
14
  tax exempt rollovers for prior financings that
15 have been before the board. There's a $256,000
  pay down as required under the Local Bond Law.
17
  Bayonne has the lion's share of this of
               846,000 is a rollover of a note from
18
  31,347,000.
               There was a $981,000 pay down.
19
  previously.
20
                There is a $3,475,000 new money
  piece, first time issued for various capital
22
  improvements. And there's 27,026,000 which is a
23
  taxable rollover of the emergency appropriation
24
  that is done for the Bayonne Hospital, the
  medical center and the dissolution of the Bayonne
25
```

```
1 Redevelopment Agency that both of which had to be
  done for a variety of tax reasons as taxable and
  they remain taxable in the context of this
  financing.
 4
 5
                There's a paydown of $371,000.
  indicated, there are representatives from each of
6
  these towns if you have any specific concerns
8 about any of the matters, but this is a
  continuation of a very successful program that
10 both the county and the Improvement Authority and
11 the towns who are here feel very positive about.
12
                Just one other point.
                                       I know it's
13 been raised in previous matters why the county
14 quarantee is for notes rather than bonds.
15 because these towns have access to the Qualified
16
  Bond Act in bonds but they don't with notes, so
17
  the quarantee, which the county feels comfortable
  doing for notes, provides access to the market
18
  for them where they have other means of access to
19
20
  the market when they do bonds.
21
               MS. WALTER: So a couple questions
22
  to that end.
               What's the current credit rating of
23
  each municipality in this cycle three?
24
                MR. HANLEY: Weehawken is BAAA3.
25
  Bayonne is A3. Union is BAAA2.
```

```
1
               MS. WALTER: Last time you were
 2 here, I believe I asked for current totals in the
  program. I don't recall receiving them.
  be misremembering. So I'm asking again, if you
  sent it before, send it again. If not, if you
  could get that in to me. So we have a couple
6
  clarifications. What's the property purchase
  that's anticipated?
9
               MR. CAPIZZI: For the project
10 itself?
               MR. BARSA: This is for affordable
11
12 housing.
13
                                The 4,809,000 new
               MR. MCMANIMON:
14 money?
15
               MR. CAPIZZI: 1.809.
               MR. BARSA: Is for affordable
16
17 housing.
18
               MS. WALTER: I wanted to double
19 check, so we may be hearing some different things
20 between the budget's submission and here.
                                              The
21 tax anticipation note, our understanding, through
22
  the budget process, was that that was not
23 rolling, but it sounds as though here it is.
                                                 Ιf
24 you can give us some clarification as to the
  status of that amount.
25
```

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```
MR. CAPIZZI: The tax anticipation
1
 2 note is issued for the year 2018, 2019, so it's
  new money for that period to mature before
  October 31 of 2019.
 4
 5
               MS. WALTER: Okay.
6
               MR. MCMANIMON:
                                That's the only note
7
  that's rolled for a year because it has to come
  through this year.
9
               MS. WALTER: Just confusion on the
  characterization initially. So Union City, it
10
11 appears that it's all rollover projects.
12
  there any new money as part of this package?
13
               MS. ZUCCA: No, it's all rolled.
14
               MS. WALTER: Does anyone else have
  any particular questions?
16
               MR. BLEE:
                          Motion to approve.
17
               MR. MAPP:
                           Second.
               MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
18
19
               MS. WALTER: Yes.
20
               MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
21
               MR. MAPP: Yes.
               MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
22
23
               MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
24
                               Mr. Close?
               MS. MCNAMARA:
25
               MR. CLOSE: Yes. And I want to say
```

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```
well represented by professionals here. It would
1
2 be nice to see some of the elected officials from
  the entities when you're having a $44 million
4
  issue before the board.
 5
                MR. MCMANIMON:
                                Okay.
6
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
 7
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
8
 9
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
10
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
11
                MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
12
                MR. MCMANIMON: Thank you very much.
13
                MS. WALTER: Motion to adjourn?
14
                MR. BLEE: Motion.
15
                MR. DIROCCO:
                              Second.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: All in favor?
17
                BOARD MEMBERS:
                                Aye.
18
                (Hearing Concluded at 11:38 a.m.)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

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## 1 CERTIFICATE 2 3 I, LAUREN ETIER, a Certified Court Reporter, License No. XI 02211, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, that the foregoing is 6 a true and accurate transcript of the testimony as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth. 10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a 11 relative nor employee nor attorney nor council of 12 any of the parties to this action, and that I am 13 heither a relative nor employee of such attorney 14 or council, and that I am not financially interested in the action. 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 Lauren M. Etier 22 Notary Public of the State of New Jersey 23 24 My Commission Expires June 30, 2020 25 Dated: May 30, 2019

	adontion 27:1	E.E 16 01 04	35:23
A	adoption 37:1 ADRIAN 2:8	5:5,16,21,24	
a.m1:13 44:18		5:25 6:2,5	approximately 14:23 32:23
<b>A3</b> 41:25	advance 18:5	<b>appear</b> 7:8	
ability9:1	26:6,21	19:11	32:25 33:1
18:25 19:6,7	advice 25:20	appearance	34:3,3
19:10	advised 10:10	11:9	April 17:23,25
<b>able</b> 30:15	advisor 33:23	appeared 17:2	19:8,11
37:3	Affairs 1:2,9	appearing	area 6:6 35:18
absolutely	affordable	31:10 37:25	<b>aside</b> 22:19
19:5	42:11,16	appears 43:11	35:25
abutting 33:17	Agency 41:1	applicable 6:1	asked 33:23
accepted 6:12	agenda 4:4	7:6,24	35:6 42:2
accepting 9:17	<b>ago</b> 7:22 25:9	applicant 21:9	asking 11:10
access 32:13	25:20 35:3	21:18 37:23	19:24 20:14
41:15,18,19	36:9	applicants	24:12,17
accompli 28:14	agree 11:14	11:11	42:4
accomplished	18:18 34:18	application	asks 39:21
28:16	<b>ahead</b> 8:20	8:25 10:21	assessed 6:25
accounting	12:24 <b>Aid</b> 14:18	11:4 12:20 17:25 18:16	32:22 33:12
18:3	air 26:19	18:19 23:18	assessment
accumulated	<b>ALAN</b> 2:6	25:21 30:12	33:2,11,16 33:22 34:2
32:16	Albeit 22:6		
accurate 15:18		31:9 37:6	34:19,24
45:6	<b>amount</b> 5:3,13 6:9 16:8	applications 4:5 20:5	assessments 32:25 34:7
acknowledges	34:1 39:8		assist 30:9
7:19	40:2 42:25	apply 8:5 21:22	assistance
acquire 40:3	amounts 16:17	appreciate	24:18
act 4:3 7:11	17:17	15:23 18:2	assistant 4:14
7:22 9:18	and-a-half	18:24,25	4:20
41:16	17:7,9,18	24:6,13	Associates
action 45:12	annual 12:1	appreciated	1:19 31:21
45:15	13:15	5:11	attempt 17:24
actor 21:15	<b>annually</b> 6:23	approach 33:4	attempting
acts 8:8	13:14,17	appropriate	20:22
ADAM 2:14	answer 4:20	30:13 34:1	attendance
additional	9:2 10:17	Appropriately	4:19
23:11	15:3 33:8	10:3	attorney 25:11
address 4:3	anticipated	appropriation	25:15 45:11
adjourn 44:13	36:2 42:8	40:23	45:13
Adjournment	anticipation	approval 7:20	authoritative
3:8	40:9,11	approve 20:8	20:24
administra	42:21 43:1	43:16	authorities
26:11	anybody 20:22	approved 5:6	19:25 24:15
administrator	apologies 4:19	16:8 30:8	authority 3:7
4:13 10:7	apparatus 5:4	32:9 35:21	21:14 22:4
12:18,22	apparacas 3.1		
	=	-	-

37:25 38:7	41:25	board's 8:5	42:15 43:1
38:10 39:5	<b>bear</b> 33:21	boating 32:12	capture 8:2
41:10	34:15	<b>body</b> 36:17,23	cardiac 4:17
authorization	<b>beat</b> 36:2,12	36:25	<b>case</b> 6:14
5:14 6:10	<b>believe</b> 17:14	<b>bolts</b> 16:11	27:18
authorized	36:22 42:2	bond 4:11	<b>cash</b> 40:3
5:12	benefited	26:18 31:16	center 1:21
availability	32:23 33:5	32:4 36:20	40:25
18:22	33:17 34:11	38:5,16,20	certain 32:18
Avery 2:6	34:23	38:24 39:14	36:11
27:20 28:4	benefiting	40:1,16	certainly 10:1
28:18,23	34:20	41:16	15:22 20:19
29:24,25	<b>best</b> 25:20	<b>bonds</b> 39:20,22	20:24
31:2,3 37:5	better 8:22	39:23 41:14	Certified 1:20
37:16,17	25:17	41:16,20	45:3
44:6,7	<b>bid</b> 6:13 15:15	<b>borne</b> 33:4	<b>CERTIFY</b> 45:10
<b>avoid</b> 30:15	<b>big</b> 11:11	borrowing	<b>CFO</b> 31:19
<b>aware</b> 7:3 9:25	<b>bit</b> 9:7,16,21	39:25	38:22
26:21	27:7	<b>bought</b> 27:22	Chairwoman 2:3
<b>Aye</b> 44:17	<b>bite</b> 15:14	<b>boxes</b> 23:19	challenge 9:21
	<b>black</b> 27:7	<b>breath</b> 26:19	change 20:4
В	<b>Blee</b> 2:7 25:7	<b>bring</b> 30:7,8	characteri
<b>B</b> 3:12	27:1,6 28:25	<b>Broad</b> 1:10	15:18 43:10
<b>BAAA2</b> 41:25	30:1,2 31:4	broker 15:4	charge 34:4
<b>BAAA3</b> 41:24	31:5 34:25	brought 10:7	charged 33:6
back 14:4	35:10,15,25	25:8	charger 11:23
16:17 23:2	36:14 37:7	<b>budget</b> 24:8,19	<b>check</b> 12:4
25:8,19	37:18,19	40:10 42:22	42:19
26:14 28:1	43:16 44:8,9	<b>budget's</b> 42:20	<b>checked</b> 23:19
<b>bad</b> 7:22 20:13	44:14	budgets 23:7	<b>Cherry</b> 38:8,8
20:25 21:14	<b>block</b> 14:10	<b>builds</b> 14:22	<b>chief</b> 4:15,16
Band 14:18	blocked 32:17	<b>bumper</b> 12:13	4:20 7:14
bankrupt 23:4	<b>board</b> 1:5 7:3	12:13 13:17	11:1 15:17
23:4,5	7:8 8:17,21	13:18	16:20 17:8
<b>Bante</b> 38:16	9:6,20 10:20	<b>bus</b> 10:4	17:15 27:11
Barsa 38:18,18	11:3 12:10		38:9
42:11,16	18:1,6 19:7	<u> </u>	<b>chief's</b> 18:16
basically 9:11	19:9 20:23	C45:1,1	chronological
28:12	21:1,8 22:7	called 19:15	27:21
Basralian	22:20,25	Cantalupo	<b>city</b> 38:13,14
38:16	23:6 25:2	38:24,24	38:21,21,22
Baumann 38:5	26:5,13	capital 6:21	39:13 40:13
Bay 32:11	28:13 32:9	33:5 34:9	43:10
Bayonne 38:23	39:4,21	40:21	clarification
39:13 40:17	40:15 44:4	Capizzi 38:15	42:24
40:24,25	44:17	38:15 42:9	clarificat

42:7	1:9 33:14	contract 9:10	<b>credit</b> 22:22
<b>class</b> 27:4	34:22	17:11 36:3	22:22 23:11
<b>clear</b> 25:1,12	companies 6:19	36:11	41:22
client 10:4	<b>compare</b> 12:25	contractor	credits 39:7
<b>Close</b> 2:5 11:8	completed 26:6	35:23 36:13	Creek 31:11
11:25 12:17	compliance 4:2	control 21:14	<b>CREST</b> 1:21
12:25 13:14	comply 20:17	22:5	crested 12:15
14:2,24 15:8	25:4	controls 30:13	cresting 11:24
15:11,16,22	components	converted	current 41:22
18:2,8 29:15	39:18,18	39:22	42:2
29:16,22	computed 34:7	CORPORATE 1:21	<b>cycle</b> 41:23
30:18,25	concern 28:9	Corporation	
31:1 37:14	concerns 8:17	12:9	D
37:15 43:24	9:12 15:23	correct 18:7	<b>D</b> 3:1
43:25	41:7	27:20 29:9	<b>DAG</b> 2:14
Co-ops 18:23	Concluded	35:14 37:4	date1:12 45:8
colleagues	44:18	corrected	<b>Dated</b> 45:25
18:17	condition	12:11	day 13:10
come 8:14 9:19	32:21	correctly	21:10 22:24
18:18 19:2,7	conditions	25:10 28:1	days 17:23
20:8,16 24:2	32:18	<b>cost</b> 5:19	<b>deal</b> 19:20
31:12 43:7	confusion 43:9	13:15,21	22:23 28:8
comes 40:9	connected	16:16 32:22	35:16
comfortable	32:11	34:15	decision 34:10
41:17	connection	costs 12:1	declines 34:2
comforting	32:3	13:21 33:4	decreases
24:22	consent 24:16	council 6:6	35:13
coming 24:6,16	consequences	45:11,14	deficit 40:4
Commencing	22:2 27:16	counsel 4:11	definitely
1:13	consider 13:11	10:11 26:18	13:13
comment 19:5	consideration	31:14,17	<b>degree</b> 21:13 21:21 22:4
comments 11:9	4:5	38:2,6,16,21	27:12
11:12,15	considered	38:25	delivered 5:24
15:19	11:6	counsels 39:15	13:19 15:2
Commission	consistent	counties 19:25	<b>DEP</b> 35:22,23
23:2 45:24	33:3	country 23:6	department 1:2
commissioner	consultant	county 3:7	1:9 11:19
12:19,22	25:15	37:24 38:6	26:12
<b>committee</b> 16:9	contained	38:10 39:5,6	departmental
34:11	35:17	39:7 41:10	13:1
committees	context 41:3	41:13,17	depending
committeew	39:10 41:9	couple 41:21 42:6	13:19
		court 1:20	Depression
31:23 <b>common</b> 35:11	continues 5:19	23:13 45:3	23:3
community 1:2	5:18	credibly 24:10	description
	3.10	Crearpry 74.10	accer iperon
	1	ı	ı

2.14 24.10	6.5 17 04	00.15	
3:14 34:19	6:5,17,24	28:15	estimated
despite 18:15	7:4,7,10,12	efforts 18:16	14:24
determined	7:13,18,21	<b>Egg</b> 3:6 31:10	estimates
6:15 32:20	8:3,4,9,12	32:6	32:24
33:24	8:15 9:22	<b>eight</b> 36:6	estimating
Detroit 14:11	10:1,12	either 25:15	14:10
different 6:7	20:21 21:24	32:17	estimation
6:20 25:22	23:15 27:11	elaborate 15:9	18:9 19:1
39:17 42:19	30:7,15	elected 44:2	ethics 4:3
differently	division 8:18	emergency	<b>ETIER</b> 45:3
34:13	25:25 30:8	19:16 26:22	Etschman 4:12
difficult 20:4	30:11	40:23	12:21 16:2,7
39:7	documentation	employee 45:11	16:20 17:4
difficulty	36:18	45:13	18:7 19:4
9:17	doing 6:1 8:16	encountered	26:8
dignity 25:5	8:19,23,24	14:5	everybody
<b>dime</b> 15:5	11:25 28:1	engine 13:3	27:15
directed 24:14	41:18	engineer 31:21	evident 39:11
direction	dollar 32:4	engines 15:5	<b>exact</b> 16:21
26:15	dollars 6:25	ensure 8:14	<b>example</b> 20:20
directly 34:22	7:1	30:13	<b>exceed</b> 5:13
director 4:24	DOMINICK 2:9	enter 5:2	excess 16:18
10:14 19:3	<b>Donna</b> 38:22	17:11	executive 2:13
19:15,15	<b>double</b> 42:18	entering 7:4,9	38:8
27:14 29:16	<b>dozen</b> 15:5	enthusiasm	<b>exempt</b> 40:4,14
38:9,19	<b>Dredge</b> 35:16	15:17	<b>EXHIBITS</b> 3:16
DiRocco 2:9	dredging 31:11	entities 20:10	exists 22:20
19:23 21:6	32:5,21	20:15 44:3	23:6
29:13,14	driven 9:18	entity 23:1	expect 36:10
30:23,24	E	enumerate	expense 11:22
37:12,13		17:16	expired 13:24
43:22,23	E2:11,11 3:1	environment	Expires 45:24
44:15	3:12,19,19	25:6	explain 10:5
discrepancies	45:1,1	episode 26:15	33:11
24:21	<b>E1</b> 12:8	<b>equal</b> 33:21	explained 40:5
discussion	earlier 21:3	equally 33:17	extending
22:13	easy 22:18	equipment	18:13
discussions	economical	11:18 15:1	<b>extent</b> 27:17
10:13	6:16	error 12:23	39:15
dissolution	Ed 4:12 10:6	27:24	extraordinary
40:25	26:12,24	<b>ERV</b> 5:16 12:6	13:7
distinction	38:4	essentially	<b>eye</b> 27:7
33:12	Ed's 26:19	15:20 16:13	F
district 3:5	education	24:17	
4:8,12,13,25	24:18	established	F45:1
5:4,14,17,20	effectively	23:2	facilities
	I	<u> </u>	I

27:2	25:6	11:8 18:24	getting 15:14
facility 35:20	financing 4:9	followed 27:17	17:25 22:12
35:23	5:2 6:14,18	following 14:5	25:20 26:24
<b>fact</b> 7:10 8:3	17:15,16	20:2,3	27:7
8:4,9 9:17	30:12 39:16	foregoing 45:5	<b>give</b> 21:13
17:13 19:22	40:12 41:4	forever 14:16	28:11 42:24
20:8 23:21	financings	22:6	<b>given</b> 16:17
<b>fails</b> 28:20	23:7 40:14	forgiveness	18:21
failure 7:19	<b>find</b> 19:22	11:10 21:3	gives 11:9
fairness 19:23	finding 28:19	<b>FORMAL</b> 3:21	23:10,11,12
<b>fait</b> 28:14	findings 4:8	<b>forth</b> 45:9	<b>Gluck</b> 31:16
<b>faith</b> 8:11	5:1 7:9 8:6	forward8:22	<b>go</b> 10:20 11:3
familiar 39:4	9:20 28:11	24:11 26:25	12:12,24
<b>fan</b> 11:11	28:12,14,16	27:8	15:24 21:2
<b>far</b> 12:12 27:1	28:17,20	<b>fought</b> 14:11	23:13 24:10
favor 5:7	29:2,6,8,18	14:17,17,17	26:20 35:20
44:16	<b>fine</b> 26:8	<b>four</b> 7:1 33:20	35:22
<b>Fearon</b> 31:15	<b>fire</b> 3:5 4:8	FRANCIS 2:7	<b>goal</b> 19:19
31:16 32:1	4:12,14,16	frankly17:1	goes 34:4
33:15 36:21	4:25 5:4,4,5	<b>FREE</b> 1:24	<b>going</b> 9:5 17:6
37:22	5:14,16,17	<b>fresh</b> 26:19	20:1 21:1,17
February 5:6	5:19 6:5,17	<b>front</b> 13:9	21:20 22:9
17:2 19:10	6:24 7:4,7	21:11	22:10 23:4,4
feedback 34:16	7:10,12,18	<b>full</b> 9:19 12:4	23:5 25:8,19
<b>feel</b> 8:23	7:21 8:3,4,9	34:15	36:7
41:11	8:12,14	<b>fully</b> 11:6	<b>GOLDEN</b> 1:21
<b>feels</b> 22:7	12:18,19,22	<b>fund</b> 33:6,7	good 4:1,10
41:17	20:20 21:23	34:9	5:8 8:11,23
<b>felt</b> 17:8	26:3,12	fundamentally	9:13 31:15
figures 19:9	27:11 30:7	28:8 34:13	32:1 36:14
<b>final</b> 17:4	30:15	<b>funds</b> 33:7	governing
19:8 37:23	<b>firm</b> 9:24	36:1	36:17,23,25
<b>finally</b> 16:12	31:16	<b>FURTHER</b> 45:10	government
finance 1:5	first 4:7	<b>future</b> 29:19	8:18 20:10
6:16,21 21:1	10:14,21	30:16 35:22	23:21
22:20,25	14:19 27:3		governmental
23:1 26:5	33:10 39:24	G	20:15
32:4 38:18	40:21	Galveston 6:6	great 23:3
40:3	<b>five</b> 6:17 12:6	16:22,25	26:19 32:11
finances 24:9	12:13 13:17	18:10,23	<b>group</b> 16:23
financial 30:8	36:19,22,24	gasket 13:6	17:1
33:23,24	<b>fleet</b> 13:1	14:5	guarantee
38:9,12	Florida 12:8	general 33:8	41:14,17
financially	<b>flow</b> 40:3	generally	guarantees
45:14	<b>folks</b> 5:9	22:12 24:15	39:6
financials	<b>follow</b> 8:10	gesture 8:11	<b>guided</b> 10:1

guys 20:7	hopefully 9:3	increase 17:7	   <b>issues</b> 12:11
36:16	hospital 4:18	incredibly	13:6,6 39:8
30.10	40:24	25:4	issuing 40:13
H	hours 11:19,21	indicated 9:8	ITEM 3:2
H 3:12	12:2 14:21	9:9 41:6	IIEM 3.2
Haines 31:18	house 7:1	initially	
31:18 34:18	housing 42:12	43:10	<b>J</b> 1:19
35:2,8 36:24	42:17	inland 34:14	Jason 31:20
37:4		inner 11:1	38:15 40:5
hang 23:13	Houston 6:6	_	<b>Jeff</b> 4:10
Hanley 38:11	16:22,25	insertion	38:20
38:11 41:24	18:10,22	29:19	Jersey 1:1,11
happen 11:5	Hudson 3:7	instance 22:1	1:23 22:21
22:10 27:9	37:24 38:6	intentional	23:5,21 24:4
27:13	38:10 39:5,5	7:11,23 9:9	
	hundred 6:25	9:18	45:5,23
happened 7:20	I	intentionally	Jersey's 22:25 Jim 31:15
10:8,11		20:22	
22:16 24:3	ID 3:14	interaction	<b>job</b> 10:5
happens 12:7	idea 25:23	25:24	John 38:24
27:17	identical 32:7	interest 34:4	jump 9:6 12:18
happy 33:8	identified	interested	<b>June</b> 45:24
34:17	14:25	45:15	K
Harbor 3:6	impact 22:21	introduce	-
31:10 32:6	33:13	31:13 38:1	<b>Kahn</b> 38:16
<b>hat</b> 23:13	important	introduction	keep14:20
head 11:23	22:14,15	36:22	40:1
13:6 14:5,8	25:5	introductions	keeping 5:23
14:9	impossible	39:12	kind 11:21
<b>heads</b> 13:7	19:21	involved 26:1	35:10
<b>health</b> 30:14	improvement	involves 39:12	know 5:8 12:18
<b>hear</b> 34:17	3:7 33:6	39:17	16:20,23
hearing 42:19	34:9,16	irrelevant	17:22 18:10
44:18	37:24 38:6	22:19 28:12	18:11,12,22
heightened	38:10 39:5	<b>Island</b> 32:5,8	20:24 26:7
24:19	41:10	32:10,19	36:25 39:3
<b>held</b> 2:1 36:7	improvements	36:4	39:20 41:12
<b>Help</b> 20:15	33:8 40:22	<b>issue</b> 13:25	knowing 9:19
hereinbefore	in-service	14:13 15:23	11:1
45:8	13:4	17:5 19:19	<b>Kurt</b> 38:8
hiccup 10:15	incident 4:17	19:24 21:6	
highest 15:15	include 25:25	22:17 24:25	<u>L</u>
<b>HIGHWAY</b> 1:22	29:17 39:25	28:14 30:15	L2:11
history 13:20	included 26:5	34:7 40:1	<b>lack</b> 25:16
hold 15:13	including	44:4	<b>lagoon</b> 32:4
17:22 36:10	29:18	<b>issued</b> 39:20	35:12
hoped 18:14	incorrect 7:16	40:21 43:2	lagoons 32:12
_			

20.16.22.18		16.8	
32:16 33:17	20:23	maximum 16:7	mistake 24:7
land 35:12	looking 15:6	17:18	mistakes 28:5
large 34:21	15:25 27:15	McCay 4:11	Mm-mm 9:15
largely 34:8	lot 5:9,9 7:14	McManimon 38:4	model 33:24
<b>late</b> 17:24	10:18 15:7	38:4,5 39:3	money 5:20
19:9	32:25	42:13 43:6	7:14 15:7
<b>LAUREN</b> 45:3	<b>lots</b> 5:20,20	44:5,12	40:2,20
<b>law</b> 6:1 7:6	low 6:10	<b>MCNAMARA</b> 2:13	42:14 43:3
20:3,12,17	<b>lucky</b> 26:13	29:2,11,13	43:12
20:23 24:15		29:15,24	monitor 8:13
31:16 40:16	<u>M</u>	30:1,3,19,21	monitored
<b>learn</b> 26:23	<b>M</b> 31:20	30:23,25	23:16
28:4	<b>main</b> 36:5	31:2,4,6	monitoring
<b>lease</b> 5:2,3	maintenance	37:8,10,12	24:20
6:15,18,22	12:1,5 13:5	37:14,16,18	month 12:4
7:5,9 9:25	13:15,20,21	37:20 43:18	20:2
<b>led</b> 15:17	<b>major</b> 11:23	43:20,22,24	months 8:15
<b>level</b> 33:25	making 25:25	44:6,8,10,16	16:13 18:5
License 45:4	28:17,19	mean 9:23 11:9	26:1,3 30:10
light 2:4 8:8	manner 18:20	15:20 20:19	morning 4:1,10
8:9 19:14	26:7	means 41:19	31:15 32:1
30:3,4 31:6	manufacturers	<b>meant</b> 7:23	37:24
31:7 37:20	6:7 16:14,17	mechanism 6:14	motion 9:11
37:21 44:10	16:21	22:3	28:20,24
44:11	Mapp 2:8 9:8	medical 40:25	29:1,5 30:6
line 12:11	9:16 10:2,8	meet 20:2	37:5 43:16
13:9	10:23 11:7	meeting 4:2	44:13,14
<b>lined</b> 20:6	29:1,11,12	17:25 19:16	motor 14:12,14
lion's 40:17	30:17,21,22	26:22	Motors 14:11
<b>Lisa</b> 31:22	37:10,11	Meetings 4:3	move 24:11
little 3:6	43:17,20,21	MELANIE 2:3	26:25 30:17
7:14 13:4	Mapp's11:8,14	member 16:22	moved 14:19
22:11 27:7	March 17:7,11	21:9 26:13	moving 4:4
31:10 32:6	17:13 19:7	36:23,24	27:8
<b>live</b> 27:1	19:11	<b>MEMBERS</b> 44:17	Municipal 6:21
35:12	<b>MARKED</b> 3:16	mentioned 4:25	23:1
local 1:5 8:18	market 22:21	Mike 38:11	municipali
20:10,15	23:11 24:10	mileage 14:21	22:23 23:3
21:1 22:20	41:18,20	million 32:3	municipality
22:25 26:5	<b>MASEF</b> 2:14	44:3	41:23
26:17 40:16	matter 21:1	mind 6:12	Mystic 32:5,10
located 34:14	34:8	21:10 28:8	
Location 1:9	$\mathtt{matters}\ 4:4$	minds 7:12	N
<b>locked</b> 35:12	41:8,13	minutiae 24:24	<b>N</b> 2:11 3:1
long 30:14	mature 43:3	misremembe	National 18:23
look 16:14	Mauer 38:22,22	42:4	navigable

32:12	number 17:5	36:4	pay 40:7,16,19
			1
navigation	30:8	outstanding	paydown 41:5
32:17	numbers 12:15	40:1	payment 31:12
necessarily	16:21	overexcited	32:3,9 33:3
10:22	numerous 11:16	7:15	33:13,25
necessary	nuts 16:11	overexcite	34:8
32:21 40:5	<b>NW</b> 38:11	8:2	<b>penny</b> 6:24
necessities		overhaul 11:24	<b>people</b> 5:8,10
10:19	0	oversight	percent 6:22
need 10:20	02:11	21:17,21	17:7,9,19,20
11:2 22:19	obligations	22:9 23:6,22	32:22
33:6 36:25	5:13	23:24 24:12	perfect 14:16
needed 9:19	observation	24:14 27:12	performance
25:21 37:1	19:2	29:19 30:9	14:15
needing 24:1	obtain 7:8		period8:15
negative 28:17	obviously 7:15	P	30:10 33:2
35:7	36:1	<b>P</b> 2:11	43:3
neighborhood	Ocala 12:8	package 16:14	permission
32:11	occurred 10:16	43:12	11:10 21:4
neither 45:10	October 43:4	<b>PAGE</b> 3:2,14	person 8:14
45:13	<b>offer</b> 8:21,25	par 11:21	personally
network 32:12	11:13 16:24	parcels 33:18	11:11
never 14:13	offered 21:11	33:21	<b>piece</b> 5:15,21
Nevertheless	offering 22:2	Parker 4:11	6:2,5 11:18
5:22 8:4	officer 30:9	<b>PARKIN</b> 2:13	14:20 15:1
new 1:1,11,23	38:9	part 9:23	40:21
5:3,15 15:1	officials 44:2	23:23 24:24	pieces 13:9
22:21,25	<b>okay</b> 11:7 14:2	25:3 26:10	Pinelands
23:4,21 24:4	15:8 16:3	26:17 34:12	34:22
40:2,20	17:1 22:7	39:19 40:11	<b>place</b> 10:21
42:13 43:3	24:11 29:10	43:12	12:5 20:25
43:12 45:5	43:5 44:5	participating	23:11 30:14
45:23	<b>old</b> 5:17	23:24	45:8
nice 44:2	once 12:14	participation	<b>play</b> 17:15
nitty-gritty	15:1	30:12	players 25:22
16:10	online 14:4	particular	please 12:24
<b>Notably</b> 7:6,21	open 4:2,3 9:6	5:23 39:8	31:12,14
Notary 45:4,23	32:14	43:15	33:10 38:1,2
note 37:25	opening 3:3	particularly	plenty 18:8
39:8 40:1,9	11:16	18:21	pocket 12:14
40:11,18	opposed 5:7	parties 45:12	point 10:12,19
42:21 43:2,6	ordeal 26:11	pass 9:14	10:23 16:9
noted 36:5	order 27:21	16:12 28:21	18:4 21:2
notes 26:22	ordinance 32:4	path 8:22	25:7,13
39:21 41:14	36:20	PATRICIA 2:13	32:16 41:12
	Osborn 32:8,18	paved 36:6,8	political
41:16,18	JDDCIII JZ • 0 , 10	<b>Pavca</b> 30.0,0	POTTCICAT
	I	ı	ı

noolod 27:25	nmoblems F:10	proposal 28:10	36:15
pooled 37:25 poor 25:17	problems 5:18 11:17 13:4		quite 23:9
<del>-</del>		proposals 6:7	-
portion 36:12	procedural	6:18,20	quotes 17:16
portions 32:15	7:24 10:5,15	<pre>proposed 4:9 31:11</pre>	R
position 21:8	10:19 36:15	_	R 2:11 3:19
24:8	procedurally	protects 23:22	45:1
positive 5:1	7:16,20 29:8	provide 23:6	raised 41:13
6:8 7:8 8:2	procedure 8:10	24:17,18,19	range 32:25
8:5 9:20	22:13,18	39:6	rate 6:22 7:13
28:11,14,20	procedures 7:4	provided 6:10	
29:2,6 35:6	27:16	provides 41:18	8:2 9:13,19
41:11	proceed 37:3	providing	17:23
precedent	proceeded 5:15	32:12	rating 41:22
20:13,25	6:13 9:10	provision 26:4	ratings 22:22
21:4,19	process 7:19	provisions	22:23
27:14	9:11 11:5	24:14	<b>really</b> 16:9
predominantly	16:1,2 18:3	Public 4:3	36:7
32:13	18:11,22	35:21 45:4	reason 14:20
prepare 33:24	25:18 26:5,6	45:23	21:25 23:25
present 19:1,9	27:6 42:22	publicizing	25:2
25:21 26:16	procure 5:15	15:5	reasons 41:2
presented 37:6	procurement	purchase 5:2,3	recall 42:3
preserving	6:13	5:5,15 6:15	received 32:19
25:5	professional	9:25 27:25	34:25
pressing 19:19	26:24	42:7	receiving 42:3
pretty 9:14	professionals	purchasing	recognition
35:8 36:1	44:1	6:18	24:23
prevent 21:12	program 12:5	pursuant 5:1	recognize 11:2
preventative	13:5 37:25	pushed 22:19	21:11 22:1,1
12:5 13:5	39:4,10,19	put 16:5,13,13	22:8,8
previous 41:13	41:9 42:3	20:11,24	recognizes 20:21
previously	project 4:9	putting 14:18	Recognizing
40:19	16:11 31:11	16:3	21:7
price 6:8 17:7	32:5,8 33:18	Q	record 25:1
18:13	34:20 35:3	Qualified	Redevelopment
principal 33:25	36:4 42:9	41:15	41:1
	projects 43:11	question 10:17	reduced 34:4
prior 7:9 8:8	proper 25:21	11:14 18:4	reevaluate
15:14 16:3	26:7	29:16 35:15	12:16
26:12 39:19	properties	36:16	referendum 5:6
40:14	32:14,23	questions 4:21	5:12 6:11
<pre>probably 14:7   17:2 18:18</pre>	33:5 34:12	9:3,7 33:9	9:10 16:3,5
	34:20	39:15 41:21	regard 39:7
problem 13:12	property 33:16 35:13 40:3	43:15	regarding 4:8
13:13 14:6		quick 35:15	regime 33:25
28:10	42:7	darcy 20.12	1 catme 22.72
	<u> </u>	I	<u> </u>

magulations	32:13 33:21	<del></del>	<b>~~</b> +~ 20·12
regulations 25:18	residents	S	sets 20:13 27:14
	32:20 35:1	<b>s</b> 2:11,11 3:12	seven 13:20
regulatory		3:19,19	
21:13 25:6	respect 5:18 6:4	<b>sale</b> 14:25	<b>share</b> 33:21
30:9		<b>saved</b> 14:11	40:17
related 8:24	respectfully	saving 7:13	<b>shortly</b> 13:24
relative 29:18	25:23	savings 15:18	14:7
45:11,13	responded 35:9	17:10	<b>showed</b> 36:19
relatively	respondents	saying 24:7	shows 24:23
11:18 33:20	35:6	scheduled	significant
release 15:15	rest 9:6 14:15	19:16	17:10
released 4:18	18:16 33:14	schedules 20:4	significantly
remain 41:3	result 21:16	Scotland 38:5	6:9
remarks 3:3	retained 26:18	<b>sea</b> 32:14	silt 32:16
11:16	reusing 35:22	<b>second</b> 11:23	similar 8:13
remembering	reviewed 23:16	14:19 22:16	13:3 25:9
25:10	Richard 4:14	24:2 28:25	32:8,9
<b>RENZI</b> 1:19	38:18	30:18 35:3	similarly 36:8
repair 36:13	right 4:12,14	37:7 43:17	single 24:24
repaved 36:12	7:15 8:16	44:15	sir15:10 19:4
replace 5:16	11:20 19:5	Secretary 2:13	26:10
5:23 15:25	19:20 20:10	section 32:5	situation
replaced 14:6	21:9,15,18	34:21	25:10
14:8,9,12	21:20,22,25	sections 34:14	six12:4 13:20
replacing 6:4	26:23 27:19	<b>see</b> 27:8 44:2	<b>skirt</b> 20:12 <b>small</b> 33:20
13:7,11 Reporter 45:4	27:22 28:22 road 36:7	<b>seek</b> 6:13 32:2	sold 5:25
REPORTERS 1:20	roads 36:1	seeking 4:8	39:23
representa	roadways 36:5	5:1 31:11	solicitor
25:14 39:13	Rodney 31:18	seen 18:15	26:17
representa	rolled 40:10	selected 35:23	solid 18:19
41:6	43:7,13	self-regul	somewhat 25:9
represented	rolling 42:23	8:12,22	soon 15:24
44:1	rollover 39:18	self-regul	sorry 12:21
reputation	39:20 40:6	9:1 22:3	sort 7:22 8:8
24:5	40:18,23	send 42:5	8:10,11,20
request 32:10	43:11	sense 35:11	8:21 10:15
32:19	rollovers	sent 42:5	22:3 35:19
requests 3:21	40:14	separate 13:15	<b>sought</b> 6:6,17
33:2	room 20:1,2	29:20	sound 24:9,9
require 30:11	Rose 31:10	serves 21:19	28:9
required 7:7,7	roughly 6:23	service 14:22 Services 8:18	sounds 42:23
8:6 40:16	route 34:24	services 8:18	South 1:10
requirements	rubber 21:2	session 4.6 set 9:11 21:5	southern 34:12
7:25 10:6	run 13:9,10	23:8 35:25	Spartan 5:16
residential	14:16	45:8	6:8 12:6
		40.0	

16:24,25	substantially	<b>talk</b> 24:1	17:24 18:17
17:11	32:7	<b>talked</b> 11:15	18:17 22:12
<b>speak</b> 18:17	successful	15:16	22:14,19,20
22:11	41:9	talking 15:4	25:19 26:25
speaking 27:10	successor 23:1	<b>Tammy</b> 38:13	27:3,11
special 33:11	sufficient	tax 40:4,8,11	28:15
specially	36:18	40:14 41:2	<b>third</b> 11:22
32:22	suggesting	42:21 43:1	<b>thirds</b> 36:19
specific 41:7	24:22	taxable 40:4	<b>thought</b> 10:18
specifically	<b>SUITE</b> 1:22	40:11,23	10:22 25:13
7:5 8:10,24	Sumek 4:14	41:2,3	thousand 6:25
13:23 24:4	11:20 12:3	taxpayers	<b>three</b> 6:20
spending 13:17	13:2,23 14:3	17:10	16:16 17:6,9
<b>spills</b> 35:16	15:3,9,12	technical	17:18,20
stability	17:3,15	24:18	36:9,19
23:12,22	26:10 27:5	technically	39:17 41:23
<b>stamp</b> 21:2	supervision	40:7	throw 10:4
<b>stamped</b> 17:22	21:25 25:24	technology	ticks 22:13
standard 23:8	support 26:20	13:11	<b>tidal</b> 32:18
<b>start</b> 15:25	26:24 37:6	<b>TED</b> 2:4	ties 22:14
16:1,2 33:15	supposed 11:5	<b>TEL</b> 1:24	time 4:22
started 16:9	19:24 20:9	<b>tell</b> 20:14,17	10:15 12:15
18:4	20:17 21:12	temporary	14:3 16:8
Starters 19:18	<b>sure</b> 10:2	35:18	17:21 18:9
<b>state</b> 1:1,22	15:11 24:7	term 6:16	22:7,16
8:13 23:12	24:20 25:25	30:14	23:20 24:2
24:4 25:5	26:6,8 27:9	terms 18:13	25:18 26:4
45:5,23	surprising	34:6	31:24 34:2,4
states 23:9	5:21	test 27:18	36:8 39:1,24
status 42:25	sustain 14:21	testify 4:23	40:21 42:1
statute 20:3	sustains 13:5	31:25 38:3	45:8
<b>steer</b> 26:15	sworn 4:23	39:2	timeline 18:11
stenograph	31:14,25	testimony 45:6	times 27:3
45:7	38:2 39:2	thank 9:5 11:7	timing 15:17
step 24:17	<b>system</b> 23:17	24:25 27:5	15:23
<b>Stevens</b> 31:22	23:20,23	31:8 37:22	today 4:18,19
31:22	25:4,4	39:3 44:12	4:25 8:7
story 34:6	T	thanks 26:23	11:4 20:1
street 1:10	T2:11 3:12,19	thing 7:16,17	23:23 25:2
35:18 36:6	31:20 45:1,1	things 8:19	told14:8
structure 33:11,16	table 30:6	16:4 18:25 19:17 42:19	TOLL 1:24
submission	tagged 13:25	think 6:2 7:12	totally 32:17 34:18
42:20	take 28:15	8:1 10:6,18	totals 42:2
submitted	taken 45:7	10:22 11:4	totals 42.2
10:21	takes 16:12	16:15 17:18	23:14
10.71	101100 10 112	TO.TO T1.TO	
	•		•

towns 19:25	29:8	various 40:21	35:11 43:25
39:14 41:7	turbo 11:22	vehicle 11:17	wanted 42:18
41:11,15	13:6 14:4	11:22,24	warranties
township 3:5,6	turn 5:8	12:1,2,16	12:12
4:7 5:10 7:2	two 7:21 15:13	13:16,22,24	warranty 13:24
25:14 30:7	25:9,19	14:18 15:12	14:13
31:10,17,19	27:23,23	15:24,25	Washington 3:5
31:21,22	33:19 35:8	vehicles 12:6	4:7 5:10 7:2
32:2,6,19,24	36:19	12:7 13:1,2	24:3 25:14
33:2,7 34:10	type 14:14	versus 13:16	30:6,7
34:13,15,21	24:24 25:23	VIDEOGRAPHERS	wasn't 9:9
	26:4		
38:17,19	-	1:20	11:6 26:21
township's	typically 5:8	view 28:13	water 34:23
33:5 35:21	U	violate 20:22	way 6:16 7:23
trade 14:25	<u>u</u> 3:19	vote 5:7 29:7	7:24 8:16
traditionally		29:21,22	20:11,21
12:10	ultimately 10:6	35:4 37:1,3	26:5 28:3
trainings		voted 12:19	we're 4:4 6:1
29:19	underlying	voters 16:5	8:6,23,23
transaction	28:10	votes 36:16	9:2 11:24
9:12	understand	voting 5:9	17:6 18:1
transcript	8:17 11:12	29:17	22:2 24:8
45:6	22:15 24:5		27:18,25
transition	29:7,10 37:2	<u> </u>	31:16 33:8
26:11	understanding	waiver 31:11	36:7 38:5
transmission	10:13 25:17	32:2,9 33:3	we've 14:13,18
11:23 13:25	42:21	Walrath 31:16	19:17 28:2
transmissions	understands	Walter 2:3 3:4	28:18
13:8	8:5	4:1 9:5	Wednesday 1:12
transpired	undertake	12:17,24	Weehawken
18:3	32:20	19:18 22:11	38:17,19
treated 33:16	unfortunately	27:24 28:7	39:12,16,23
Trenton 1:11	4:17 9:24	28:22 29:3,4	41:24
1:23	uniform 23:17	29:9,20 30:5	went 6:21 14:4
<b>tried</b> 26:15	Union 38:14,21	30:19,20	16:23 18:21
trouble 23:14	39:13 40:13	31:9 33:10	26:12
23:15	41:25 43:10	36:15 37:2,8	weren't 25:20
troublesome	upstairs 4:2	37:9,23	WILLIAM 2:5
18:20 20:12	use 24:15 36:8	41:21 42:1	willing 8:13
truck 11:19,21	uses 34:9	42:18 43:5,9	27:12
13:12 26:3		43:14,18,19	Winitsky 4:10
27:21		44:13	4:11,24 9:15
<b>trucked</b> 35:19	<b>value</b> 6:25	<b>want</b> 8:20	9:23 10:3,10
<b>true</b> 45:6	14:25,25	11:12 20:7	10:25 12:23
try14:12	<b>values</b> 35:13	24:5,7,25	15:20 16:6
trying 28:6	variety 41:2	26:20,20,23	16:19 19:13

20:19 21:7	15:14 25:9	<b>2011</b> 13:18	<b>40A:5A-6</b> 5:1
27:10 28:2,6	25:19 26:13	<b>2016</b> 22:17	<b>410</b> 1:22
29:5,10 31:8	32:15 33:25	26:15 27:24	<b>44</b> 3:8 44:3
38:20,20	36:6,9	<b>2017</b> 27:25	44,440,000
Winne 38:15	yielded 6:8	<b>2018</b> 5:6 16:5	39:9
wishing 4:22	young 11:18	39:24 43:2	<b>45</b> 15:7,8
31:24 39:1		<b>2019</b> 1:12 43:2	
word 25:17	Z	43:4 45:25	5
words 9:14	<b>zero</b> 27:22	<b>2020</b> 45:24	<b>508</b> 5 : 7
work 9:4 12:2	<b>Zucca</b> 38:13,13	22,00014:1	<b>527</b> 32:23
16:4 18:9	43:13	<b>220</b> 35:6	33:18 35:5
19:18 27:8		<b>225,000</b> 32:2	<b>587,000</b> 17:1
worked 18:10	0	34:8	<b>587,298</b> 6:9
working 5:19	<b>02211</b> 45:4	<b>2277</b> 1:22	<b>590,000</b> 4:9
workings 11:1	<b>08625</b> 1:11	<b>24</b> 26:3	5:3
works 23:17	<b>08690</b> 1:23	<b>256,000</b> 40:15	
35:21		27,026,000	6
worth 5:22	1	40:22	6,288,000
31:20,20	<b>1</b> 3:5	<b>2700</b> 11:21	40:13
35:5,14,17	<b>1,425,000</b> 40:6	12:2	6,537,000
36:3	<b>1.809</b> 42:15	<b>28,000</b> 15:15	39:23
wouldn't 21:17	<b>10</b> 14:9 33:1		6,605,000
37:3	33:25	3	39:16
wrong 21:8	<b>10:52</b> 1:13	<b>3,000</b> 40:7	<b>60,000</b> 15:6
28:2	<b>100</b> 32:22	3,475,000	<b>600,000</b> 16:18
www.renzia	<b>101</b> 1:10	40:20	<b>609</b> 1:24
1:25	<b>104</b> 35:7	<b>30</b> 15:6 17:23	
	<b>11:38</b> 44:18	26:13 45:24	7
X	<b>12</b> 8:15 13:18	45:25	<b>700,000</b> 5:13
<b>x</b> 1:3,6 3:1,12	18:4 26:1	<b>306</b> 5 : 7	16:8
<b>XI</b> 45:4	30:10	<b>31</b> 3:6 43:4	8
	<b>12,000</b> 14:4,10	31,347,000	
Y	<b>128,000</b> 6:23	40:18	81:12
<b>yards</b> 35:21	<b>1473</b> 33:1	<b>320787</b> 1:25	8,00014:7
<b>Yeah</b> 9:23	<b>15</b> 13:10	<b>324</b> 35:6	8001:24
16:19 19:13	<b>1500</b> 34:3	<b>33</b> 1:22	<b>846,000</b> 40:18
35:5,10	<b>15th</b> 17:7,12	<b>368-7652</b> 1:24	<b>875</b> 33:1 34:3
<b>year</b> 6:23 12:4	<b>18</b> 13:10 18:5	<b>37</b> 3:7	8th 17:14
14:5 16:3		<b>371,000</b> 39:24	9
17:2,8 26:14	2	41:5	-
32:10 33:1	<b>2.96</b> 6:22		981,00040:19
35:3 40:8,10	200,00011:24	4	<b>989-9199</b> 1:24
43:2,7,8	12:15 14:23	<b>4</b> 3:4,5	
<b>years</b> 6:17	2000 15:13	<b>4,809,000</b> 40:2	
7:21 12:13	<b>2006</b> 5:16 6:2	42:13	
13:10,17,20	11:17	<b>4.5</b> 32:3	

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