```
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
1
 2
          DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
 3
4
  IN RE:
       Local Finance Board :
5
 6
 7
8
 9
   Location: Department of Community Affairs
10
              101 South Broad Street
11
              Trenton, New Jersey 08625
12
   Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2019
13
   Commencing At: 10:51 a.m.
14
15
16
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18
19
            GUY J. RENZI & ASSOCIATES, INC.
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25
         www.renziassociates.com No. 320788
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```
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 IDIDA RODRIGUEZ
11
12 A L S O P R E S E N T:
13
14 PATRICIA PARKIN MCNAMARA, Executive Secretary
15 ADAM MASEF, DAG
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

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```
MS. WALTER: Good morning.
1
                                            Thanks
2
  everybody. We opened the meeting to public
  session upstairs, so we're going to move right
  into the consideration of applications at this
  point. First matter up is South Brunswick
 6 Township Fire District Number One appearing on a
  proposed project financing. As you come up,
  please introduce yourselves and please be sworn
 9
  in.
10
                            My name is Chris Perez.
               MR. PEREZ:
11 I'm the district fire administrator.
12
               MR. BRASLOW: Richard Braslow
13
  representing the fire district.
14
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
16
               MR. BRASLOW:
                            Good morning.
                                             This is
17
  a proposed lease purchase financing for purchase
18
  of a fire truck by the fire district.
  February 16, 2019, the fire district secured
19
20 voter approval for the purchase of a truck for an
21 amount not exceeding $750,000. The proposed
22
  purchase is from E1 for 726,473 through the Co-Op
23 Program.
24
               A number of bid packages, 12 in
25
  total, were sent out for financing. We received
```

```
five bids. The low bid was 2.83 percent from
  U.S. Bank Corp. The bids went as high as 3.80.
  The proposed financing would be with U.S. Bank
  Corp at 2.83 percent which would be an annual
  payment of 115,869.57.
 6
                The fire district currently owns a
  2004 E1 pumper which it will dispose of in
  accordance with statute once the new truck comes
  in.
      And in terms of the impact on the tax rate,
10
  the fire district is retiring debt of $123,000
11 and replacing that debt with $115,000 payment, so
12
  we would submit that there's no impact on the tax
13
         Those are the particulars.
                                      Happy to
14
  answer any questions that might exist.
15
                             I'll just start right
               MS. WALTER:
16
          This has been an ongoing back and forth
  there.
17
  we've had with a couple of fire districts.
18
  to clarify, for the purposes of this and future
  applications. We understand that you're saying
19
20
  lit has a net neutral budget impact, but it still
21
  costs a certain number of cents on your budget.
22
               What is that impact? And that's
23
  what we ask for in the application, and that's
  what we're looking for when we follow up.
  come up with multiple fire districts in the last
```

```
few months, so I raise it with you particularly
  because you're the first one to come up and say
  it this month.
 4
                              I appreciate that.
               MR. BRASLOW:
                                                  ΜV
5
  goal is to submit the application with all the
  information, and I will certainly make sure in
  future applications that is directed head on.
                                                  Ιf
  you look at page 19 of our application, we
  initially had that the impact would be an
10 increase of .0113 on the tax rate, but after
  discussing it with Mr. Perez and his indicating
12
  what the retired debt was, it does look like a
13 negative impact. So more information or?
14
               MS. WALTER: So the question is, if
  you had zero taxes before you bought the truck
  and then you buy this truck, how many cents does
17 it add? What does it cost the average household?
18
               MR. BRASLOW:
                            Oh, I see.
                                          Let me go
19
  because I think that was specifically asked.
20
  average tax is 136. And by adding this, I know
  you went back and forth with the auditor.
22
  going to have to defer to Mr. Perez.
23
               MR.
                   PEREZ: It would go up to 157, I
24
  believe.
            $20.
25
               MR. BRASLOW: If in fact the debt
```

```
wasn't being retired.
1
2
               MR. PEREZ:
                          I'm sorry. I didn't
 3
  understand the question.
 4
               MS. WALTER:
                            No problem.
                                          That's
5
  really what we're looking for is what this truck
  by itself costs as a percentage the dollar value
  on your budget on each household. Thank you so
8 much for clarifying.
 9
               MR. BRASLOW: Like I said, I'll make
10 sure that's addressed directly in future
11 applications now that I understand what you're
12
  saying.
13
               MS. WALTER: Perfect. So it looks
14 like you had a pretty decent turn out, and about
15 73 percent approval on the project. Now you
16
  received five quotes for financing on 12 bid
17
  packages. In the last couple of months, we've
18
  seen an uptake in the number of responses, so
  glad to see that. Could you talk a little bit
19
20
  about your process? That would be great.
21
               MR. BRASLOW:
                             Absolutely. I have a
22
  standard bid package that I've been utilizing for
23
  quite a long time. I notice in the market, and I
  know I've appeared before you in the past and
  indicated that we were desperate. At times we
```

```
There are a number of new
  were getting one bid.
  vendors that seemed to express an interest.
 2
 3
               And the interesting thing is in
  terms of, I have a master list, which I'd be
4
  happy to share with you if you ever wish and I
  automatically send to these vendors,
  interestingly enough, through a notice with the
8 newspaper for the bids.
 9
                I basically have received no contact
10 from vendors. So other than getting the repeat
11 and then whatever service they utilize to pick up
12
  on the fact that we're accepting bids, but it is
13
  a much more active market place.
14 interesting that some of the vendors that were
15 always submitting bids have kind of tailed off
16 and they were replaced by some new activity.
  I do find the rates are somewhat reasonable,
17
18
  which is a good thing, but that's the process we
19
  engage in.
20
               MS. WALTER:
                             That's great.
                                            We have
  your audit and we have your budget has been
22
  approved already, so the process there, so thanks
23 for getting it in and done. That's always good.
24 And it looks like you did your proof of
  publication in advance as required. Again, thank
```

```
you.
1
2
                That is something we addressed
  previously with a lot of the fire districts, and
  we're seeing that done correctly. I want to
  acknowledge for the record we appreciate that.
  You're the first one up, so you're hearing all
  the general comments today, but some of them are
  very favorable, so good work.
 9
                What specifically, I quess your
10
  interest in this truck as compared to the ones
  you were looking at and what other models did you
12
  consider?
                MR. PEREZ:
13
                            So we considered Pierce
14 Manufacturing and we considered Spartan.
                                             And we
15 have a history with E1, so we've had good service
  history and good reliability history with them,
17
  so that's why we chose -- in the end that's why
18
  we chose them and the prices were all in range.
19
                MR. BRASLOW:
                            And the application
20
  also indicates in the narrative, there were
21
  issues of what the impact would be on the ISO
22
  rating, what the size of the vehicle would be in
23
  terms of the dynamics to the fire district and
  response, so there were a number of
  considerations by that nature.
```

```
And by comparison to the other
1
2
  trucks, this truck also had features that were
  not able to be obtained on the other trucks,
  particularly, and through state contact, the
  vehicle just wasn't available.
 6
                MS. WALTER: Going through Houston
7
  Galveston, what was the advantage of going
  through that?
 9
                MR. BRASLOW:
                             If I can jump in on
10
  that, again, in the narrative, comparing bidding,
11
  comparing what, unfortunately, looking at the
12
  state contract and not having it available, the
13
  district felt that by using the Co-Op, the cost
14
  savings were 36,323 based on a comparison of the
15
  numbers through the different processes. So for
16
  that reason, the district decided the Co-Op would
  be in its best interest.
17
18
                MS. WALTER: About five percent
19
  savings?
20
                MR. PEREZ:
                           Yeah.
21
                    WALTER: Any other questions?
22
                   AVERY:
                MR.
                           Move the approval.
                           Second.
23
                MR.
                   BLEE:
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
25
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
```

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```
1
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Mr. Mapp?
 2
                MR. MAPP: Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
 3
 4
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
 5
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
 6
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
                                  I appreciate Mr.
  Braslow's thoroughness always when he comes
  before us with the applications. I wish all the
  districts were utilizing a similar approach and
  philosophy to what he brings to the table.
11
                MR. BRASLOW:
                              Thank you.
12
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Mr. Avery?
13
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
15
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
17
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
19
                MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
20
                MR. BRASLOW:
                              Thank you.
21
                MR. PEREZ:
                            Thank you.
22
                MS.
                    WALTER:
                             Next application is
23
  Jackson Township Fire District Number Two, also
  appearing on a proposed project financing. Come
  up, please introduce yourselves and be sworn in.
```

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```
My name is Scott Rauch.
1
               MR. RAUCH:
  I'm the fire official and district administrator.
2
 3
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
4
 5
               MR. BRASLOW: And Richard Braslow
  representing the applicant. May I say in this
 6
  case, I will answer your question head on when we
  get there because we did provide a response to
  staff and I'll get to that as I go through the
10
  presentation. This, again, is a proposed lease
  purchase financing of a fire truck.
12
               On September 29, 2018, the fire
13
  district had a special election seeking approval
14
  to spend on an excess of $900,000 for the
  purchase. Again, this will be through the
15
16 Houston Galveston Cooperative Purchasing Program.
17
  The E1, again, would be the manufacturer.
18
  proposed purchase price is 861990.
19
                In this case, again, the district
20
  secured financing bids. We sent out 14 bid
21
  packages. We received four bids. The low bid
22
  again was U.S. Bank Corp. It would be at an
23
  linterest rate of 2.9056. The annual payment
  would be 86,683.93 over a seven year period.
25
               Now, in this case, the fire district
```

```
is utilizing $320,000 of its own capital funds
  and the district has a fire truck it will be
  replacing. That fire truck, when this truck
  comes in, will be sold in accordance with
  statute. In terms of the debt, and the question
  that you asked previously, there is a debt being
 6
  paid off of 73,250.
7
8
                And if that debt was not retired,
  the impact on the tax rate would be a .0043
10
  increase, but that debt is being retired.
11 our position is with the retirement of the debt
12
  and so forth, there is no impact on the tax rate.
13
                             What's the cost to the
                MS. WALTER:
14 averaged assessed home if the debt is not
15 retiring in the .0043, what does that cost the
16 average household?
17
                MR. BRASLOW: If you'll bear with
       I know Scott spoke to the auditor and we'll
18
19
  see if it's in the -- I'm not sure I can answer
20
  that right now. Can you take a stab? I know you
21
  spoke to him.
22
                MR. RAUCH:
                            No, I can't.
23
                MS. WALTER: Do you know the value
24
  of the averaged assessed household?
25
                MR. BRASLOW: We have the average
```

```
assessed value of a home in this district is
  327,707 and the tax rate is .097. If I knew you
  were going to go there, I would have certainly
  had the answer, but I cannot give you the answer
  at this time.
5
               MS. WALTER:
                             The current tax is
 6
7
  about 318?
8
                                        That's the
               MR. BRASLOW:
                            Correct.
  average fire tax on the house.
10
               MS. WALTER: Now, you're replacing a
11
  1997 vehicle. Are you planning to sell it, or
12
  what's the process or position that you're using?
13
               MR. BRASLOW:
                            We're going to sell it
14 in accordance with statute. There's some
15 significant repair and maintenance issues, which
16 is why the new truck is being purchased.
                                             So in
  accordance with 40A1136, it will be disposed of
17
18
  either by going on website deal or possibly we
19
  have interest from other public entities, we
20
  might be able to sell it that way, but that truck
  will be disposed of in that manner once the new
22
  truck comes in.
23
               MS. WALTER:
                            You have the space for
  both this vehicle and the 2006. I know you said
  you're moving things into reserve?
```

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```
1
               MR. RAUCH:
                          Yeah.
 2
               MR. BRASLOW:
                             Just to tell you, you
  might recall the District One and Two did exist
  and District One and Two merged. We did the
  merger, I think, two years ago, so there are two
  firehouse locations that the district operates
  from and there's plenty of space and significant
  personnel.
 9
               MS. WALTER:
                             I note that you have
  about 807, $808,000 in outstanding debt.
10
  were talking about some of that retiring.
12
  the life span of the remaining debt? When do you
13
  anticipate the rest of that falling off?
14
               MR. BRASLOW: I'm looking. I think
  the schedules were attached, but we have the one
16
  outstanding debt which was for, again, a fire
17
  truck and this is the one, the least payment will
18
  be in 2026.
               It's on page 16 of the schedule.
19
               MS. WALTER:
                             Okay.
20
               MR. BRASLOW:
                            And then page 17 has
  the only other debt outstanding, 17 and 18 with
22
  the schedule and the retirement, so the one debt
  expires in 2026 and the other debt also in 2026.
23
  I also will tell you this particular district is
  also in terms of capital projects because of the
```

```
significant expansion and development of the
  district, looking at the construction of a fire
 3
  house.
 4
               We certainly have the possibility
5
  and will be provided to us at no cost, which we
  have our fingers crossed. But if not, this is a
7
  very, very fast growing part of Jackson Township.
 8
               MS. WALTER: Any other questions?
 9
               MR. CLOSE: The 2006 Spartan that
  you're placing into reserve, you put 108,000 road
11 miles.
         That's great. How many man hour work
12
  hours are on the equipment? That's always more
13
  important to me than the number of road miles.
14
               MR. RAUCH:
                           That truck is used by
  our career staff during the week day process and
16
  they cover an area of, well, the old district,
17
  they cover with 60 square miles, so they spent a
18
  lot of traveling to inspections and preplanning
19
  and normal every day calls. I don't honestly
  know the hours.
20
21
                            Mr. Braslow, when you
               MR. CLOSE:
22
  come, I always like to see the number of work
23 hours on the truck, not just the road miles.
  Those don't really, from my perspective, tell me
  the condition or the use of the truck.
```

```
trucks become very popular, so they're taken out
  more frequently and others are kind of the pain
  on the district, not used as much.
 4
                MR. RAUCH: I understand.
 5
                MR. CLOSE: And they replace them.
  The replacement is not always necessary based on
 6
7
  the work hours.
8
                MR. BRASLOW:
                             I'll make sure, for
  future applications, that issue is able to be
10
  addressed.
             Absolutely.
                MR. AVERY: Move the resolution.
11
12
                MR. BLEE: Second.
13
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
14
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
15
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
16
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
17
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Mr. Close?
18
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
20
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
21
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Miss Rodriquez?
22
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
23
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
24
                MR. BLEE:
                           Mr. Yes.
25
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
```

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```
1
                MR. LIGHT: Yes.
 2
                MR. BRASLOW:
                             Thank you.
 3
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thanks so much.
  up is Buena Vista Fire District Number Three also
4
5
  on a proposed project financing. Please
  introduce yourselves and please be sworn in.
 6
7
                MS. SYKES: Brenda Sykes, the
  secretary of Buena Vista Township, Board of
8
  Commissioners.
10
                          Gene Sykes, Newtonville
                MR. SYKES:
11
  Fire District.
                MR. SYKES: President of the fire
12
13
  company. Commissioner Herb Sykes, Senior.
14
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
16
                MR. BRASLOW: Richard Braslow
17
  representing the applicant. The fire district,
18
  on February 17, 2018, secured voter approval to
  purchase a fire truck and engage in a lease
19
20 purchase financing. The amount approved by the
  voters was not exceeding $750,000.
22
                The proposed purchase was based on
23 competitive bidding. Four bid packages were
24 provided for vendors. One bid was received.
25 That bid price is 682,316.75. In terms of the
```

```
financing, we sent out 14 bid packages.
  received three bids. TD Equipment Finance was
  the low bid. And the proposed financing would be
  over a 10 year period at an interest rate of
  2.93 percent resulting in an annual payment of
  79,702.85.
 6
7
                The district will be replacing a
  1964 pumper fire truck. This truck was taken out
8
  of service. It has cracks in the structure of
10
  the truck. We're either going to junk it or sell
11 it for parts. Because in terms of it being sold
  as a truck, it's just not a safe vehicle.
12
13
  cannot be used.
14
                In terms of the impact, there was
  some confusion in terms of the assessed value of
16
  the home and I spoke to the auditor and we agreed
17
  that the averaged assessed value of the home in
  this district is $150,000. And because of the
18
19
  new fire truck purchased the average fire tax
20
  will increase by $82.
21
               MS. WALTER:
                             That's a pretty
22
  significant tax impact.
23
               MR. BRASLOW:
                              It is.
                                      I can only say
24
  that I've been here before with this district.
  They don't buy trucks that often, but they do
```

```
have an area to service. And the difficulty
  here, to be blunt, is the fact that the other
  truck was in such bad condition, it had to be
  retired and it has to be replaced so in order to
  provide fire protection.
                MR. BLEE: Richard, how long has
 6
7
  that truck been out of service?
 8
                MR. SYKES:
                           About a year.
 9
                MR. BLEE: I would just like to
10
  commend the fire district for keeping a '64 truck
11
  on the road until just a year ago.
12
                MR. CLOSE: Absolutely.
13
                MR. BLEE: You just went to here in
14
  my eyes because most fire districts, '98, maybe
15
   '88, if you got a '64 --
16
                MR. CLOSE:
                           No question.
17
                MR. BLEE:
                           I'm your biggest fan.
18
                MR. CLOSE: You need to be applauded
19
  for that, absolutely.
20
                MR. SYKES: We try to keep it
21
  together.
22
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                They have a lot of
23
  ground to cover, too.
24
                MS. WALTER: How many miles did you
25
  have on that truck?
```

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```
MR. SYKES: Too many.
1
 2
                MR. CLOSE: That's true.
 3
                MS. WALTER: You got a pretty good
  rate on that. We appreciate that you went ahead
4
  and updated the website. We reached out about
  that during the application process, so thank
  you, everything looks good. We know it can be
  hard to get everything up.
 9
                MR. BRASLOW: We got your message
  and it was done promptly.
11
                MR. BLEE: Motion to approve.
12
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Second.
13
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
14
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
15
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
16
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
17
                              Mr. Avery?
                MS. MCNAMARA:
18
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
20
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                               Yes.
21
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
22
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
23
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
24
                MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
25
                MR. BRASLOW: Thank you very much.
```

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```
1
               MR. SYKES: Thank you.
 2
               MS. WALTER:
                            Next application is
  Tuckerton Borough in Ocean County appearing on a
  proposed CAP waiver, surplus. Please introduce
  yourselves, and if non counsel can please be
  sworn in.
 6
               MR. LOESCH: Garrett Loesch.
                                              I'm
  the CFO for the Borough of Tuckerton.
 9
               MR. LOGAN:
                          Brian Logan, auditor
  from Suplee, Clooney and Company, borough
11 auditor.
12
                (At which time those wishing to
13 testify were sworn in.)
14
               MR. LOGAN:
                           We're applying for a CAP
  waiver under the provision in the statute that
16 allows for said. We're making the request
17
  because of the deficit that we have in the water
18 and sewer utility. The cause has been determined
19 and since corrected, for the record, stormwater
20 infiltration into the sanitary sewer system.
21
                In order to balance the utility
  budget, we utilize the deficit, general budget
23 and the revenue side. Over in the current fund
  section what we did was we put that appropriation
  inside the CAP up to the maximum that we could
```

```
put because we're maxed out at the CAP.
1
 2
                So we're asking to put the
  difference, the $61,000 difference outside the
  CAP in provision with the statute. The impact on
  the tax rate is 1.6 cents. On the average
  household of 215,000, that's about $34 in
7
  taxation.
 8
                MS. WALTER: A couple of questions.
  Have you had a rate change in the water sewer
10
  utility in the last few years?
11
                MR. LOESCH: We had a rate change
12
  that was approved for this year.
                                    The second half
13
  of the year, we will be increasing and fully
14
  reserve that next year.
15
                MS. WALTER: What was the change?
16
                MR. LOESCH: I believe it amounted
17
  to $52.
           I mean, the exact dollar amount, the
18
  change came to for the six months we're going to
  generate and realize $63,996.34. For the full 12
19
20
  months next year, 127,992.
21
                MS. WALTER:
                             That should close the
22
  gap?
23
                MR. LOESCH:
                             The gap itself was
24
  truly generated. 300,000 of it was in an
25
  emergency appropriation for the last year and
```

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```
then the overage charge by the Ocean County
  Utility Authority this year. We've since stopped
  the infiltration and cured the problem and I
  think we're going to be just fine. We've been
  monitoring our usage to the county on a monthly
  basis.
 6
               MS. WALTER:
                            Are all residents in
8
  the community served by the utility at this
  point?
10
               MR. LOESCH:
                             It's virtually
11
  100 percent. I want to say it's closer to
12
  96 percent. There are a few in the outskirts
13
  that are not.
                 It's a small borough.
14
               MS. WALTER: I'm always concerned we
  see a rate issue being covered by the budget so I
  wanted to confirm that with you.
17
               MR. LOESCH: I don't want to say
18
  it's 100 percent because it's not.
                                       There are
19
  some that are not. It's virtually all.
20
               MS. WALTER: And do you have a
  capital plan in place for the next five years?
22
               MR. LOESCH:
                            Capital plan for?
23
               MS. WALTER:
                            Capital improvements?
24
               MR. LOESCH:
                            For the water sewer?
25
               MS. WALTER: Mm-mm.
```

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```
MR. LOESCH: Well, we do. We're in
1
2
  the process of major infrastructure repairs down
  along the waterfront and we have been doing that
  utilizing EIT funding and that's been successful
  and it's also been a part of our success in
  eliminating infiltration. They were on antique
 6
7
  pipes.
8
                MR. LOGAN:
                            I would just add that
  their 2019 budget includes a three year capital
  plan and capital budget plan which is their wish
11 list for what they want to do in order of
12
  priority.
13
                             And how did this
                MS. WALTER:
14
  disturb your planning, having an emergency issue
15
  this year?
16
                MR. LOGAN:
                            Well, they expect that
17
  the emergency is going to go away, so for the
18
  future budget, that's a gap that won't have to be
  filled, so we won't have to utilize this
19
20
  appropriation mechanism next year.
21
                MR. LOESCH: And with the rate
22
  increase, we feel will offset any debt service
23
  increase.
24
                MS. WALTER: You should be back on
25
  track?
```

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```
MR. LOESCH: We'll be right on
1
 2
  track.
 3
                MR. CLOSE: Did you do a rate study
  that evaluated your needs and future needs with
4
5
  the projected future capital improvements to make
  sure that moving forward it's going to be
  consistent with what you need to pay off your
  debt and keep your operation utility fully
  funded.
10
                MR. LOESCH:
                             I think it became, if I
11
  may, I think it became a little bit more of the
12
  reverse side. We had a situation without
13
  borrowing and doing capital improvements, it was
14
  going to create infiltration that was just sky
15
  rocketing annual costs.
16
                And I think by doing our proper
17
  infrastructure repairs, over a long period of
18
  time, it's going to reduce some of those costs.
19
  Debt service itself, we had retirement, didn't
20
  we?
21
                MR. LOGAN:
                            We got some retirement
22
  although they did not do a formal rate study,
23
  they did evaluate the impact that they would have
  on the rate payers for this year.
                                      They didn't
  want to hit them too hard, so what they did was
```

```
they raised rates what they thought were
 2
  appropriate under the circumstances.
 3
                And going forward, a rate study
  would be something that they would start doing
4
5
  based upon what their capital plan and is and
  what their debt service is.
 6
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Sure.
                                   I'm always
8
  concerned because if you use a rate study, you
  have some idea, and so does the public, over the
10
  next several years what they anticipate
11 forecasting exactly right. And I always
12
  understand the need of entities to lessen the
13 impact upon the user, the customer.
                So often times it's less than what
14
15 it probably should be which ultimately creates a
  problem down the line, so I'm just cautioning and
17
  I always think it's good to forecast and build
18
  that anticipated future needs so you have proper
19
  funning moving forward, so I would certainly
20
  encourage that.
21
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I encourage the rate
22
  study too because of that. It gives you an idea
23
  of forecasting, especially when you're doing
  capital improvement you're going to be increasing
  the rates and then you let them know, one shot.
```

```
You let them know right from the start, this year
  is going to be two percent, one percent, whatever
  for the next five years and you get that out of
  the way. It makes a lot of sense.
 4
 5
                MR. LOGAN:
                           We're just a little bit
 6
  taken aback this year with the infiltration
7
  problem.
            When we got the sewage treatment plan,
  we were surprised with how high it went.
 9
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: This is for future.
10
                MR. LOGAN:
                            Absolutely.
11
                MR. AVERY:
                            I think the borough is
12
  on the right track to do the infrastructure
13
  improvements that reduces the infiltration
14 because the treatment cost has to be the
15 significant cost to the borough. So if you're
16 not treating rainwater or groundwater anymore,
17
  you're much better off and that will offset some
18
  of the ongoing costs to the rate payers because
19
  they will only be treating wastewater, not
20
  rainwater.
21
                MR. CLOSE:
                           You said your emergency
22
  resulted from an I and I problem and you
23
  corrected that?
24
                MR. LOESCH: Yeah, we have done the
  correction on the infiltrations, yes.
```

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```
MR. AVERY: I would move the
1
 2
   resolution.
 3
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I'll second.
 4
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
 5
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
 6
 7
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
 8
 9
                MR. CLOSE: Yep.
10
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
                MR. AVERY:
11
                           Yes.
12
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
13
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
15
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
17
                MR. LIGHT: Yes.
18
                MR. LOESCH:
                             Thank you.
19
                MR. LOGAN: Thank you.
20
                MS. WALTER: Next applicant is
  Paterson City appearing on a proposed issuance of
22
  bonds under the QBA Program. Please introduce
23
  yourselves for the record and please be sworn in.
24
                MR. CANTALUPO: Hi, Director.
25
  Cantalupo from Archer and Greiner, bond counsel
```

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```
to the City of Paterson.
1
2
                MS. CHERONE: Marge Cherone, CFO for
 3
  the City of Paterson.
 4
                MR. GROSSMAN: Neil Grossman,
5
  financial advisor.
 6
                (At which time those wishing to
7
  testify were sworn in.)
8
                MR. CANTALUPO: Good morning,
  Director.
             John Cantalupo from Archer and
10
  Greiner. We're bond counsel to the City of
11 Paterson. Today we're here on an application for
12
  the city to issue $2,095,278 in municipal
13
  qualified bonds and notes through the Municipal
14
  Qualified Bond Act.
15
                This project is for ongoing combined
  sewer improvements in the town that they're under
17
  water with the EPA to have their sewer system
18
             One of the issues that had come up
  separated.
19
  with the project is that when they were digging
20
  down in to separate the sewers, the main
21
  electrical vault for PSE and G that operates the
22
  entire downtown can't be moved and the sewer was
23
  right next to it, so they had to divert it
24
  around.
25
                It's an additional part of the
```

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```
project that was unknown at the time. This is an
  existing and ongoing project. We're requesting
  that the bonds be issued through the Municipal
  Qualified Bond Act and for you to endorse your
  consent on the bond ordinance under the MQBA.
                This will be $4.30 on the averaged
 6
7
  assessed home in Paterson throughout the life of
  the project, so we just wanted to come down and
  present our application and answer any questions
10
  that you may have.
11
               MS. WALTER:
                            First, how much revenue
12
  space do you still have for the QBA?
13
               MR. CANTALUPO:
                                They have
14
  approximately about 18 million. Like, right now,
15
  they have 14,000,542 for this current year.
  year it's 12,000,596, but they have a total of
  32985 in qualified bond revenues.
17
18
               MS. WALTER: So there's still have
19
  ample coverage?
20
               MR. CANTALUPO: Yeah. They still
  have plenty of coverage, correct.
22
               MS. WALTER: Was the PSE and G site
23
  the specific issue that drove this project cost?
24
               MS. CHERONE:
                              Yes.
25
               MR. CANTALUPO: Yes. And that
```

```
vault, the PSE and G electric vault cannot be
  moved and they've been working on it a number of
  years to find a solution to it, but this is the
  only really solution they have at the time that
 5
  the engineers can figure out.
 6
                That can't be moved and obviously
7
  you can't have a storm sewer line next to an
  electrical outlet that does everything for the
  whole downtown of Paterson.
10
               MS. WALTER: What's the total
11
  project cost to date?
12
               MS. CHERONE: For this particular
13
  portion?
14
               MS. WALTER:
                            For the whole.
15
               MS. CHERONE:
                            Right now, we're up
  to, I think this brings the total ordinance to --
17
  the original ordinance, I have that.
18
               MR. CANTALUPO:
                                It's up 35 million
19
  because it's a variety of projects.
                                        It's not
20
  just this project. There's a variety of projects
  being undertaken in connection with this.
22
  because the CSO is a large problem throughout the
23
  city, there are multiple projects that are being
  undertaken. This is one portion of the CSO
25
  overall project, which I believe is, like
```

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```
195 million dollar project or something like
 2
  that.
 3
                MS. CHERONE: Right. This is phase
  three though.
4
 5
                MS. WALTER: Is this under an ACO?
                MR. CANTALUPO:
                                Yes.
 6
 7
                MS. CHERONE: Yes, of course.
 8
                MS. WALTER: So at this point what
  percentage completed are you on that benchmark?
10
                MS. CHERONE: So this should take,
11
  this particular part phase three, to the
12
  completion.
13
                MS. WALTER: And off of the total
14 ACO, how far --
15
                MS. CHERONE: There's still a long
16 way to go. Well over -- I would say well over 35
17
  million. That's going to be merged into the
18
  sewer utility moving forward, so.
19
                             That's going to be
                MS. WALTER:
20
  July 1st?
21
                MS. CHERONE: July 1st. So any new
22 issues we'll be coming before the board to --
23 they'll no longer be qualified bond ordinances.
24
                MR. CANTALUPO: They may be
25
  qualified bond ordinances, but we'll have them
```

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```
paid for under the sewer utility as opposed to
 2
  general revenues.
 3
                MS. WALTER: I was wondering what
  the rating --
4
 5
                MR. CANTALUPO: We'll still be
  coming back the for the rating, yeah.
 6
                                          That's the
7
  reason why we go to qualified bond.
 8
                MS. CHERONE: The payment of them.
 9
                MR. CANTALUPO: The payment will be
  coming from the sewer utility. And I believe
10
11
  they've structured everything so it will be
12
  self-liquidating.
13
                MS. CHERONE: Yes, it will be.
14
                MS. WALTER: Any other questions?
15
                MR. AVERY: Let me understand that
  the city is actually going through the process to
17
  make improvements to separate stormwater from
18
  wastewater, not fixing a combined sewer system?
19
                MS. CHERONE: Correct, for many
20
  years.
21
                MR. AVERY: I commend the city for
22
  taking that project.
23
                MS. CHERONE:
                              Thank you.
24
                MR. LIGHT: I move the application
25
  be approved.
```

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```
MR. BLEE: Second.
1
 2
               MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
 3
               MS. WALTER: Yes.
 4
               MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
 5
                           Yes.
               MR. MAPP:
               MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
 6
 7
               MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
 8
               MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
 9
               MS. AVERY: Yes.
10
               MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Miss Rodriquez?
11
               MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
12
               MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
13
               MR. LIGHT: Yes.
14
               MS. WALTER: Next application is
  Point Pleasant Borough appearing requesting a
  Nonconforming Maturity Schedule approval. Please
17
  introduce yourselves, and noncounsel please be
18
  sworn in.
19
               MR. MAYER: Good morning. I'm Bill
  mayor with DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole and
21
  Giblin, pleased to be here today as bond counsel
22
  to the Borough of Point Pleasant. To my right is
23 Anthony Inverso with Phoenix Advisors, financial
  advisor to the borough. To his right is Himanshu
  Shah, the CFO to the borough. And to the far
```

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```
right is Frank Pannucci, the administrator of the
 2
  borough.
 3
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
4
 5
                MR. MAYER: As was announced, we're
  here today requesting a Nonconforming Maturity
 6
  Schedule for 10,660,000 of the borough's bonds.
8 | I want to thank the director and the executive
  secretary for taking some time to discuss this
  with us previously, a little complicated. Maybe
10
11 not, somewhat, when you boil it down, but Anthony
12
  is going to present the application.
13
                MR. INVERSO: Good morning.
14 mentioned, the borough is looking to finance
15 about 10.6 million dollars. They have notes
16
  coming due in the middle of July and have been
17
  reviewing options to finance those notes.
18
  desire to take advantage of the very favorable
19 market conditions that we have right now and
20
  convert those notes into bonds.
21
                Additionally, the borough has
22
  roughly three and-a-half million dollar community
  disaster loans that they've been working with
23
  FEMA on getting a portion of that reduced over
  the last couple of years, but now from a letter
```

```
that was provided towards the end of last year,
  FEMA indicated that loan will have to start the
  repayment starting next year.
 4
                Will be repaid over a five year
5
           We provide a lot of schedules showing
  period.
  the outstanding debt service, what the
  outstanding debt service will look like with the
  addition of that community disaster loan.
  indicated in those schedules, the borough's debt
10
  service is going to increase over the next couple
11
  of years due to existing payments as well as
12
  community disaster loan.
13
                The borough's reviewed several
14
  options for financing these bonds, or these
15
  notes, which would include issuing bonds for the
16
  full useful life of the projects being financed
17
  which is 17 years on the general capital side,
18
  16 years on the water sewer utility side or doing
19
  something shorter to pay it off faster over say a
20 12 year period.
21
                And then also an option that's
22
  available to them is to keep the notes in notes,
23
  roll them for the next couple of years, make pay
  downs and then ultimately put them into bonds.
  The problem with that schedule is it would
```

```
stretch the payments out much farther along than
1
 2
  they desire.
 3
                So what we're here in front of you
  today is to discuss this nonconforming schedule.
 5
  I will note that the nonconforming schedule
  reduces the repayment period from the allowable
  17 years on a general capital, 16 years on the
  sewer side to 12 years.
 9
                So the borough is looking to pay
  this debt back faster, but looking for some
10
11 relief in the principal repayment structure
12
  between 2020 and 2024, the years that coincide
13
  with the repayment of that community disaster
14 loan.
15
                So we've worked -- Bill mentioned
  worked with the director and staff in discussing
17
  options and we've come up with an alternative
18
  nonconforming schedule based on the questions and
  comments from the director and we're here to
19
20
  discuss that and looking for approval of that
21
  schedule which phases in principal over the next
22
  five years and then repays it on the balance of
23
  the seven years for a total of 12 years.
24
                And together that will reduce the
  impact of the debt service, reduce the tax impact
```

```
over the next couple of years. However, it will
  still increase debts. We're not looking for a
  total deferral of debt service not paying
  anything. We acknowledge that debt service will
  increase over the next couple of years.
  will be a tax impact, but we're looking to soften
7
  that impact on residents.
8
               MS. WALTER:
                            Let me speak a little
  bit about our experience with this particular
            Point Pleasant wasn't alone in this
10
  project.
11 issue. We've discovered there's a little more
  than 20 New Jersey towns that have been affected.
12
13 After Sandy, FEMA issued these disaster relief
14 loans with the expectation that they would --
15
  towns would be eligible for forgiveness.
16
               That's how it's been explained to us
17
  by more than one town. They were anticipating
18
  partial or full forgiveness on those loans.
19
  forgiveness has now been given to some
20
  communities, but there are more than 20 towns
21
  that have not received the loan forgiveness they
22
  anticipated. It appears this broke out in
23 background research and to distinction between
  towns experience and operating deficit following
25
  Sandy.
```

```
1
                Towns that went into an operating
2
  deficit appeared to have received loan
  forgiveness. Those that did not, did not, so
  it's been represented to us again that there was
  an expectation that it would be and that put them
  in a rough situation now where they have a five
 6
  year period to pay back.
                            And some towns can get
  partial forgiveness, but not the forgiveness that
  was originally anticipated.
10
               From my perspective, and staff's
11
  perspective as well, we determined that this was
12
  a slightly different situation because of that
13
  anticipated forgiveness and the fact that after
14
  the storm, there weren't a lot of options other
15
  than the Sandy disaster relief loans, so we
  didn't want to overly burden the community.
17
               But we also thought it was important
18
  to have principal payments up front at least in
19
  part. Originally presented was a schedule that
20
  would not have provided principal payments for
21
  the several years. So we required five years of
22
  reduced principal payments to phase in the debt
23
  service while that loan repayment is in place
  after that five years drops off -- the rest of
  the debt obligation.
```

```
MS. RODRIGUEZ: That was our
1
2
  understanding, too, when we were going through
  this, that whole process that towns that came in
  front of us.
5
                MS. WALTER: I think that was the
 6
  general expectation.
7
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, that was.
 8
                MS. WALTER: We're trying to help
  accommodate a situation that was not particularly
10
  easily foreseen. Anyone else have questions for
11
  the applicant?
12
                MR. AVERY: Move the resolution.
13
                MR. BLEE: Second.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
15
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
17
                MR. MAPP: Yes.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
19
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
20
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
21
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
22
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
25
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
```

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```
1
               MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Mr. Light?
 2
               MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
 3
               MR. MAYER:
                            Thank you.
 4
               MS. WALTER:
                             Next applicant is the
5
  Newark City Board of Education appearing on a
  proposed amendment to a lease agreement.
                                            Please
  introduce yourselves and non counsel please be
  sworn in.
 9
               MS. WILSON: Good morning. My name
  is Valerie Wilson, and I'm the school business
10
  administrator for the Newark School District.
12
               MR. D'JAMOOS: Good morning.
13
  counsel, Alexander D'Jamoos, associate deputy
14
  general counsel, Newark Public Schools.
15
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
17
               MR. D'JAMOOS: Good morning.
18
  you again for having us in. I circulated a small
  presentation booklet that includes two approvals
20
  that are required for this application. One of
21
  them is the resolution passed by the board on May
22
         The board meeting was -- we don't have a
23 board meeting in April and we were able to get
  the board to pass the resolution May 28th which
  was after the submission deadline for this.
```

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```
The second one is the commissioner
1
 2
  of education's authorization for us to enter into
         That is Exhibit B in the booklet that was
  provided to you. But I want to introduce Miss
  Wilson who is our school business administrator.
  She and I have been working on this project.
  This is the third time we're appearing before you
  within the last two years.
 9
                Just by way of background, this is a
10
  third amendment to the lease that we have entered
  into as of April 2017. We relocated in December
12
  of 2017 into a new central office space.
13
  Originally we took 97,000 square feet of the
14
  building, occupied three floors and we had an
15
  option to expand within the first year at the
16
  same terms and conditions as the original lease
17
  if we felt the need to grow within that space.
18
               We were before you in December to
19
  propose a three floor expansion. At the time we
20
  weren't certain whether or not the sixth floor
  would be necessary for our operation. So with
22
  that, I'll turn to Miss Wilson to provide the
23
  rest of the justification.
24
               MS. WILSON: Thanks, Counsel.
  morning all. As I indicated in our previous
```

```
visits that we would be back. Since we spoke
  last, the district has returned to local control.
  We are in a transition period. We have a newly
  appointed superintendent as of July 1st of last
 5
  year.
                I can't believe it's been a year
 6
7
  already. And we are moving forward with our
  plans for expansion within the building that we
  are occupying. Superintendent Leon is very
10
  laggressively approaching increasing enrollment in
11 the district. I am happy to report that we've
12
  had an enrollment increase of a thousand students
  year over year for the '18, '19 through '19, '20.
13
14
               We are looking to secure spaces in
15
  schools where we currently have staff.
                                           Two of
  those schools are Harold Wilson and Newark
16
17
  Vocational. So for the first time in my tenure
18
  in the district which is about 23 years, we will
19
  be in a space where all staff for the central
20
  office will be consolidated into a single
21
  building.
22
               Our building is located in the midst
23
  of the growing downtown area of Newark.
                                            It's
  primed quite well to afford us the opportunity to
  provide access to our families, to provide access
```

```
to staff and of course we are retaining our lower
1
  level science curriculum area in the building
  providing and we've just completed our first year
  where we've provided science instruction to both
  middle and high schools, 48 students at a time.
 6
               We've been able to do three hour
  slots twice a day, high school, middle school.
  High school has come in and spent the entire day
  in six labs that we have that provided access to
10
  scientific instruction along with experts in the
  scientific field, so things are looking bright
12
  for the Newark Public Schools.
13
               We recently reported to the state
14
  board on our transition status. We will move out
  of transition in January 2020. All things looked
15
  primed and ready for us, so we're here and I will
17
  tell you that I will probably come back before
18
  you again because my intent is to not for our
19
  lease, but my intent is actually to create a
20
  capital plan for the district, a multi year
21
  capital plan.
22
               Within that plan, I would expect
23
  that we would want to purchase this building, so
  it becomes an asset for the district.
25
               MS. WALTER: So that's one of my
```

```
first questions. You mentioned that you're
  consolidating spaces and you've put a lot of
  spaces into this building, or you're just
  generally recommending using spaces elsewhere?
 5
               MS. WILSON: We're using spaces in
  schools within the district.
 6
               MS. WALTER: So adding more
8
  occupancy into this building, what's being
  consolidated? Are you vacating other buildings?
10
               MS. WILSON: Yes, we are.
11
  Facilities is currently located in Harold Wilson.
  That is a school that we want to bring back
12
13
  on-line. We have early childhood staff located
14
  out at Gladys, Homer and Jones. There's some
15 facilities, some 60. And security is also
16 located at Harold Wilson which is probably
17
  another 40 to 50 people.
18
                In addition, Superintendent Leon has
19
  announced new departments that he is creating for
20
  the purpose of providing services to our
21
  students, gifted and talented, some of those
  other kinds of areas.
22
23
               MS. WALTER:
                            Will offices be run out
24
  of this building as well?
25
               MS. WILSON: Yes, they will.
```

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```
1
               MS. WALTER:
                            Now, do you have an
2
  estimate at this point of what you believe the
  cost of acquisition will be at? I think you
  mentioned the last time you appeared some
  preliminary talks on that topic?
               MS. WILSON:
                            We have not broached
 6
7
  that, but my negotiations will include the
  expenses we incurred in this lease as a way to
  offset some of the costs when it comes at full
  market value. We have two options in our current
10
11 lease. I think it's fifth year.
12
               MR. D'JAMOOS: Fifth and 12.
13
               MS. WILSON: Fifth year and 12th
14
  year.
15
               MR. D'JAMOOS: So the original lease
  that we signed in April 2017 had an option to
17
  purchase at the 12th year. We, in the second
  amendment, which was executed in December of
18
19
  2018, added a fifth year option to purchase and
20
  that's what our targets are. Based on the terms
  of this agreement, it would be fair market value
22
  determination at that time, so I have no way to
23
  know what that is with any accuracy at this
24
  point.
25
               MS. WALTER: Do you have any idea of
```

```
the plan of the building to date, to make sure
  you're not taking on a building that needs a lot
  of work?
 3
 4
                MR. D'JAMOOS: Well, currently,
5
  there is, where the tenant of the building, the
  maintenance is the obligation of the landlord and
  they have contracted out with CBRE for the
  maintenance and management of the building.
 9
                MS. WILSON: The building was
  constructed in 1957. We are having extensive
10
11
  duct work being done. The building will be
12
  turned over to us in a turn key operation,
13 furniture, systems, everything, brand new chiller
14 was put in place in order to support both our
15
  data center and capacity.
16
                Many of you will remember the
17
  weather fee escrow that the district suffered
18
  where people were trapped, could not get in.
19
  Mayor Baraka is in fact promoting a plan where
  people will be able to stay in public buildings,
20
21 so we're also making accommodations for that.
22
  Our entire sixth floor will provide for public
23 access.
24
                It will have a permanent board room
  to afford our board the opportunity to have its
```

```
meetings, a room that can be converted into a
  press area and also provide opportunities for us
  to actually bring individuals in for large
  meetings. As you know, we're the largest
  district in the state. We have some 6500
 5
  employees and some 34,000 students.
 6
7
                MR. D'JAMOOS:
                               I wanted to add
8
  another point. This building is actually
  adjacent to the historic Prudential tower so it's
10
  on Broad Street and Bank Street is what separates
11
  the financial tower and us. This actually used
12
  to be part of the Prudential complex and remains
13
  and continues to have an operating agreement with
14
  the Prudential complex.
15
                MS. WALTER: Is that how you're
16 handling parking?
17
                MR. D'JAMOOS: It's actually not for
18
           It's for HVAC and power and other kind
  parking.
  of utilities that are fed through the Prudential
20
  building so there's this 50 year operating
  agreement for several of those services. One of
21
22
  the things --
23
                MS. WALTER:
                             Would that carry over
24
  if the building was acquired?
25
                MR. D'JAMOOS: Yes, it would.
                                                Ιt
```

```
actually gives a great stability because of the
  resources that they have structured in order to
  provide services to their complex and minimize
  any sort of interruption of services.
                                          This was a
  very unique opportunity for us to move into.
               Because of the size of the building
 6
  it's something that's appropriate for us to fully
  occupy and own.
                    It was nearly all vacant at the
  time that we moved in and gave us the opportunity
  to slowly kind of grow into the building and
10
  hopefully eventually acquire it.
12
               As to the maintenance and
13
  operations, I wanted to make that point that it
14
  remains under lease, I think, probably for
15
  another 40 years under this operations agreement
  with Prudential.
16
17
               MS. WALTER:
                             When you're looking
  forward at that 50 year option or that 12 year
18
19
  option, are you anticipating, through this
20
  arrangement now moving that date up, or is that
21
  still the horizon, your acquisition? And if so,
22
  what are the terms projected in that agreement?
23
               MS. WILSON: I would say that we're
  probably going to be on track to begin really
  seriously looking at it in the fifth year option.
```

```
The capital program that I'm hoping to put in
  place is going to take some significant financing
  because our buildings are I have Lafayette Street
  school that was actually built 12 years before
  Lincoln became President and it is the oldest
  building in the state, so our average age of our
7
  buildings are 92 years old.
 8
                The SDA has been a willing partner
  with providing maintenance and upkeep, but not
10
  sufficient to keep our buildings in good repair,
11
  so I am anticipating putting together a plan that
12
  will not build new schools, but it will actually
13
  reinforce the schools we currently have, bring
14
  them to an appropriate level and that's going to
15
  be a significant investment.
16
                And it's going to, of course, take
17
  some time to get through both the public
18
  relations piece of it as well as the planning
19
  stage and ultimately get vendor approval.
20
                MS. WALTER: Are you planning to
  wrap this purchase with that larger project?
22
                MS. WILSON:
                             Yes, I would.
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I just have a
24
           Of course, Miss Wilson, you never cease
25
  to amaze me. I told you from the first time you
```

```
came here, you would be growing into that entire
 2
  building and I see that that's happening.
 3
                MS. WILSON: We'd like to invite you
 4
  for a visit.
 5
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: I think it's awesome
  to have a space where the community can come to,
 6
  parents can come to, a central office.
                                            And what
8 I see is that you're centralizing everything, so
 9 I have to commend you on that. And congratulate
  Superintendent Leon because I know he is really
10
11 aggressively pushing curriculums and a host of
12
  things very positive that are happening.
13
  have to commend you.
14
                MS. WILSON:
                             Thank you.
15
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I think the idea of
  a strategic capital plan is important and so I
17
  wish you the best on that.
18
                MS. WILSON:
                             Thank you.
19
                MR. LIGHT: I'll make a motion to
20
  approve the application.
21
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'll second.
22
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
23
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
25
                MR. MAPP: Yes.
```

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MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
1
 2
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
 3
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
 4
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
 5
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
 6
 7
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
 8
 9
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
10
                MR. LIGHT:
                            Yes.
11
                MS.
                    WILSON:
                             Thank you.
12
                MS. WALTER:
                             Next application was
13
  the Brick Township MUA, but that is deferred at
14
  the applicant's request. Next one up would be
15
  Totowa Borough and Passaic on a proposed RAB
16
  bonds. Please introduce yourselves and non
17
  counsel please be sworn in.
18
                                Thank you.
                MR. MCMANIMON:
                                             Εd
19 McManimon from McManimon, Scotland and Baumann,
20 bond counsel to Totowa. I'll let the others
21 introduce themselves. Alaina Patzke, who is an
22
  associate in my office and she has worked
23
  extensively on this with Joe Baumann and she
                    I promised her she wouldn't have
  wanted to come.
  to say anything, so if you have any questions
```

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directed to her, I'm going to put her on the
2
  spot.
 3
                MS. NASH:
                           Lisa Nash, I'm the CFO
  for the Borough of Totowa.
4
 5
                MR. HANLEY: Mike Hanley, NW
  Financial.
 6
                MR. COGAN: William Cogan with the
8
  developer.
 9
                MS. RUE: Patty Rue, attorney to the
10
  developer.
11
                (At which time those wishing to
12
  testify were sworn in.)
13
                MR. MCMANIMON:
                                This is a financing
14
  done under the redevelopment law for
  Redevelopment Area Bond which requires approval
15
16
  of this board. It's a small portion of a very
17
  large project that Mr. Cogan can speak about to
18
  the extent that you would like to do that.
19 a $300,000 financing.
20
                The purpose of which is to demolish
21 and rebuild a very old abandoned building which
  was originally on the site of this development
23 which has been deeded over to the borough for the
  borough to have a better use for that that's
  compatible with the new development that is going
25
```

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```
on otherwise land that was not developed and it's
  a project itself has been through a financial
  analysis by NW with Mike Hanley who is here to
  discuss the overall financial dynamics of this
  125,000 square feet development.
 6
                There is a large portion of it
  already committed to for someone to come into
  that with a larger commitment to follow that and
  then find other parties to it. The benefit of
10
  this financing is that by utilizing bonds issued
  by the borough, under the Redevelopment Area Bond
12
  Financing Law, even for this small amount, it
13
  creates an ability to negotiate the payment in
14
  lieu of tax under the long term tax exemption law
15
  without regard to the formulas for the time
16
  sequences, so the ability goes beyond just the
17
  $300,000 piece.
18
                It goes beyond the ability to
19
  benefit the entire borough in connection with the
20
  long term tax exemption law and the PILOT that's
21
  developed.
             So the project itself is 125,000
22
  square foot medical office complex.
                                        There's
23
  Saint Joseph's Healthcare and Rehab Center has
  already committed to go into this facility.
25
                I think Mr. Cogan's company has done
```

```
this in a number of places. They tend to focus
  on these types of development.
                                   The PILOT is
  calculated against the square footage amount.
                                                   Ιn
  the beginning it's calculated against the
4
  occupied square footage, but after year four,
  whether they occupy the whole facility or not,
  the PILOT is based on the full 125,000 square
  feet of the building.
 9
                Again, that's not relevant to the
  300,000 dollar financing, but it's relevant to
10
  why we are doing this financing. So we would
12
  have all the people here to answer any questions
13
  you have both about the $300,000 piece and the
14
  overall project itself, so if you have any
15
  questions we're happy to answer them.
16
                We were the subject of many, many
17
  linguiries back and forth over the last week from
18
  the staff of the Local Finance Board which I
  think we provided visuals and financial analysis
19
20
  and a number of other numbers, so I think they've
  been answered but we will address them here as
22
  needed.
23
                MS. WALTER:
                             Can you talk about the
  phase in on the service charge and the PILOT as
25
  proposed?
```

```
It's years one --
1
                MR. MCMANIMON:
2
  the first year is -- you want to explain that?
 3
                MS. PATZKE:
                             The first year will be
  based on a square footage calculation.
4
                                           The
  overall project will be 125,000 square feet, but
  the first year will be calculated at
  60,000 square feet which is what Saint Joe's will
  be leasing. The second year will also be
  calculated against the 60,000 square feet.
10
                And then years three and four, the
11
  square footage calculation will bump up to
12
  90,000 square feet. However, the financial
13
  agreement also provides that if Saint Joe's or
  another tenant were to lease more square footage
15 than the specified numbers in year one through
16
  four, then the service charge would be calculated
17
  based on the amount of square footage leased.
18
                MR. MCMANIMON:
                                It starts at $2.25 a
19
  square foot. It goes up to three dollars a
20
  square foot when it's the entire amount, and then
  it increases by two percent a year.
22
                MS. WALTER: And consistent with the
23
  occupancy rates that are projected for the
24
  project?
25
                             It created a floor.
                MR. HANLEY:
                                                   Τo
```

```
the extent it underperforms it would pay anyway.
  The second half of the building is a speck
 3
  building, so --
 4
                MR. MCMANIMON: There's an incentive
5
  to develop it because they have to pay the PILOT
  as if it had been occupied.
7
                MS. WALTER: What would the
8
  assessment on the property have been absent the
  abatement?
10
                MR. HANLEY: It would be about 45
11 million.
12
                MS. WALTER:
                             What would that work
13 out to for taxes?
14
                MR. HANLEY: Would be about a
15 million one.
16
                             And so if it maxes out
                MS. WALTER:
17
  here in year three and on at about a third of
18
  that?
19
                MR. HANLEY: Correct.
20
                MR. MCMANIMON: But the borough
  share of that million one is not the whole
22
  amount.
           It's a lesser amount so we're comparing
23
  the borough share of that million dollar tax if
24 it had been conventionally taxed with the PILOT
  that they would get in lieu of that. And it's
```

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```
relatively similar in the early years but it's
  much greater in the later years in terms of the
  amount the borough is going to receive.
 4
                            Through the PILOT?
                MR. CLOSE:
 5
                MR. MCMANIMON: Correct.
                   WALTER: And I know that there's
 6
                MS.
7
  also a separate administrative fee.
                                        Is that
  throughout the PILOT or --
 9
                MR. HANLEY: Throughout the PILOT.
                MS. WALTER: What's that calculated?
10
11
  Off of the annual service charge itself?
12
                MR. HANLEY:
                            Two percent of whatever
13
  the annual service charge.
14
                MS. WALTER: What are the
15 projections in terms of, I know you said that's
16 kind of the track for the projection project. Do
17
  you have specific people lined up? Do you have
  agreements executed at this point for the
18
19 project?
20
                MR. COGAN:
                           We have one agreement
  executed right now with Saint Joe's, so they've
22
  committed to take 60,000 square feet or
23
  essentially half of the entire building.
  we're right now in the market seeking additional
  occupancy for the other half.
```

```
MS. WALTER: Saint Joe's, you're
1
2
  expecting to take more space over time or you
  think that's going to go to another entity?
 4
                MR. COGAN:
                            We're hopeful that
5
  they'll take more space over time. They have the
  option of right or first refusal additional
  space, so we're hopeful, they'll eventually grow
  into it.
 9
                MS. WALTER: And do you have anyone
  else that you're working with at this time?
11
                MR. COGAN: We have no other tenants
12 lined up at this time.
13
                MS. WALTER: Okay. And so that's
14
  why there's the floor on the agreement. Any
15
  other questions?
16
                MR. AVERY: Move to approve.
17
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Second.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
19
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
20
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
21
                MR. MAPP:
                          Yes.
22
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
23
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
25
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
```

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```
MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
1
 2
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
 3
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
 4
                MR. LIGHT:
                          Yes.
 5
                MR. MCMANIMON: Thank you very much.
 6
                MS. MCNAMARA: Next application is
7
  another RAB application coming out of Perth
  Amboy. Please introduce yourselves and be sworn
 9
  in.
10
                MR. FEARON: Hi. I'm Jim Fearon
  from Gluck Walrath Law Firm. We're redevelopment
11
12
  bond counsel for the City of Perth Amboy.
13
                MR. CARR: I'm Frederick Carr, the
14 city administrator for the City of Perth Amboy.
                MR. PEARLMAN: Steve Pearlman,
15
16 Pearlman and Miranda, attorney for the contract
17
  purchaser developer.
18
                MR. ROSEN:
                           Ben Rosen, Duke Realty.
19 We are the contract purchaser and developer.
20
                MR. STOCK: Glen Stock, Stock
  Development, current owner and developer.
22
                (At which time those wishing to
23
  testify were sworn in.)
24
                MS. WALTER: Before you proceed with
25
  the application, I did want to note, we sent a
```

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```
letter to counsel indicating there were concerns
  with the amendment that was submitted.
                                           Ιt
  people effective January 1st of this year which
  would make a budget that's not a 12 month funded
  budget.
 5
                I know we had met with the
 6
  administration, had sought to meet with the
  counsel. We have not heard any response to that
  letter or receiving further amendments.
  currently, as far as we're concerned, the budget
10
11 is stalled. I was hoping you might be able to
12
  provide an update.
13
               MR. CARR:
                          I brought my homework
14 with me. So where we are right now, ma'am, is
15 that again at seven o'clock we have another
  budget amendment. Three weeks ago we had a
17
  budget amendment which failed as a result of the
18
  statutory requirements to provide four
19 affirmative votes for any increase in the mayor's
20 introduced budget for March of '19 of this year.
21
               And in April of this year, we
  provided, after negotiation, a 2.5 percent budget
23 tax increase, if you will, negotiate to the
  counsel on the 10th of April.
                                  That failed.
  balked, if I can use the term briefly, and then
```

```
we've had any number of conversations and back
  and forth between the mayor's office and the
  counsel and the staff with regards to this budget
 4
  impasse.
 5
                As I explained in our meeting, there
  is a philosophical and political and personal
 6
  difference of opinion between a mayor and the
  counsel members. Been there, done that, okay, so
  tonight, again, we're going back with a
10
  conversation with the counsel with the same
11
  previously introduced at the request of Council
12
  President Patrick.
13
                The one percent tax increase
14 requiring four votes of council to affirm and or
15 deny. I have conflicting information as to
  whether it will go or not go, but we are still
17
  talking.
18
                MS. WALTER: We received a revised
19
  amendment that would reflect statutorily
20
  compliant budget to date before proceeding to any
  vote or adoption. We would expect to see the
21
22
  revised amendment.
23
                MR. CARR:
                           Absolutely.
                                        Where we are
  right now we don't have that budget amendment.
  We voted down the last budget amendment which
```

```
changes the amounts from the previous one that
  was rejected by DCO because it had failed to meet
 3
  the statutory requirements. That was more of an
  intent on their point.
 4
 5
                We mentioned frankly that you can't
  do that, but be it as it may, they voted for it
 6
  anyway. We sent it down fully expecting it to be
  rejected. Council instructs the finance officer
  and I that this is the vote we want and they vote
10
  on it and my answer is yes, sir, after I tell you
11 five times no.
                Again, so tonight, we will see if
12
13
  they pass a budget amendment tonight in any form
14
  at all, whatever it is, it will be sent to DCA
15 for review and we will wait for DCA's approval on
16
  said amendment to then pass our budget.
17
  comes back, it comes back. If it passes tonight,
  we will have our hearing on that budget amendment
18
19
  in two weeks on the 26th.
20
                MS. WALTER: Thank you for the
  update. Please proceed on the application.
22
                MR. FEARON:
                             Thank you very much.
23
  So we are here seeking approval under the
  Redevelopment Area Bond Financing Law for the
  issuance of up to 2.8 million dollars of
25
```

```
Redevelopment Area Bonds secured solely from the
  pledged portion of the annual service charges
  under a financial agreement between the city and
  NCP Perth Amboy Urban Renewal, LLC, which is the
  property owner.
 6
                The financial agreement was approved
  by a city ordinance that was finally adopted on
  May 8th. We're also seeking approval under the
  local redevelopment and housing law for the
  negotiated sale of these RAB bonds to the
10
11 developer or an affiliate.
12
                The project is the construction of
13
  two industrial warehouses of approximately
14
  330,000 and approximately 977,000 square feet
15
  respectively, together with site preparation,
  environmental remediation, infrastructure
16
17
  improvements, as well as, a 34,000 square foot
18
  waterfront amphitheater and rehabilitation of a
19 historic building.
20
               The estimated project cost is
  approximately 196 million dollars and it is
22
  expected to generate approximately 300
23
  construction jobs and at least 600 permanent
24
         The RAB bonds will fund the cost of
  reconstructing a retaining wall that supports a
```

```
portion of Riverview Drive which is a public
1
 2
  street near but not part of the project site.
 3
                And that is a likely candidate to
  provide truck access to and from the site.
4
                                               Wе
  will also serve the general public and other
  industrial sites along the waterfront.
                                           The bond
  issue is $2.8 million maximum issue size to fund
  up to 2.5 million dollars of project cost as well
  as capitalized interest for a 15 month period and
  cost of issuance.
10
11
                For background, the financial
12
  agreement provides for gross PILOT payments,
13
  annual service charges ranging from $2,290,000 in
14
  the first year to 4,090,000 in the 22nd and final
15
  year of the PILOT term. After credit for the
16 land taxes which are currently approximately
17
  $600,000, the five percent county share and debt
18
  service of the RAB bonds which is projected at a
19
  cap of 210,000 per year, the projected city net
20
  take from this PILOT is expected to range from
21
  approximately $1,434,000 in the first year to
22
  approximately $2,784,000 in the final 22nd year.
23
                And that number includes the two
24
  percent administrative fee which is assessed each
25
  year. This compares to the approximately $33,000
```

```
in taxes that the city generates currently from
  the existing improvements which are going to be
  demolished. The RAB bonds are projected in an
  estimated amount of 2.725 million dollars with a
  four percent interest rate, a 23 year term which,
  again, is 22 years of the PILOT plus the 15 month
 6
7
  precompletion capitalized interest period.
 8
                The amortization is level debt
  service based on seven annual principal payments
10
  and they're expected to be sold at par to the
11
  redeveloper or one of its affiliates.
12
  happy to answer any questions you have about the
13
  bond issue, the project or anything.
14
               MS. WALTER: Can you talk us through
  briefly the phases of the administrative fees and
16
  how much of that will be going to the
17 municipality versus the debt service over time?
18
                             As I said, well, the
               MR. FEARON:
19
  city will receive both a PILOT and an
20
  administrative fee of the two percent of the
21
  annual service charge. The annual service charge
22
  is computed with reference to fixed numbers each
         2,290,000 year one. 4,000,090 in year
23
24
        The generation of that, and I may have to
  refer to my charts here to answer.
```

```
1
                This was based, I believe early on,
2
  on a certain dollar amount per square foot for a
  certain period of time and then escalated in
  blocks over time, so it was set up as $2,290,000
  for years one, two, three, four, one through
  five, and then it jumps up to 2 million 617 for
  two years, then 2,944,000 for two years.
  million 271 for two years and then there's a five
  period of three million 590, and it goes up like
10
  that.
11
               And then the last years I think are
12
  at escalated rates. I'm a bit fuzzy as to what
13
  that translates that to per square feet, but I
14
  believe it was in the two, to 250 range,
15
  something like that. I can get that to you
16
  afterwards.
17
               MR. PEARLMAN: But the debt service
18
  is relatively low.
19
               MR. FEARON:
                             That's the gross PILOT
20
  number. Now, then from that gross PILOT number
  is deducted a number of things. First the land
22
  tax credit which initially is $600,000, but will
23
  go up each year as the land tax increases.
                                               Also
  deducted from that is the five percent county
25
  share which the city will receive but then will
```

```
remit onto the county as required by statute.
1
 2
                And also deducted from that would be
 3
  up to the $210,000 per year in debt service that
  will be payable on these level debt service RAB
  bonds. And as I indicated before, the result of
  those deductions result -- and assuming that the
  land taxes go up in a cumulative two and-a-half
  percent each year which of course is conjecture,
  but a good estimate, leads us to a net take,
10
  which is a phrase I used, between a million 434
11 roughly in the first year to 2,000,784 roughly in
12
  the final year.
13
                MR. PEARLMAN: We kept the debt
14
  service relatively small to take advantage of the
15 RAB law plus fund frankly municipal improvement
16
  that the city would have to bond otherwise, which
17
  also by the way activates not just this project
18
  but opens up this industrial area and other
19
  development and actually serves the residents
20
  there that live beyond.
21
                MS. WALTER:
                             That was the other
22
  clarification.
                   Is the retaining wall on city
23
  property?
24
                MR. FEARON:
                             Yes.
                                   It's a public
25
  road. It's hard to describe in words. So if you
```

```
picture yourself on the Riviera, it's one of
  those roads that goes along a waterfront and has
  to be supported from beneath in order to keep it
  level, and the road was constructed many decades
 5
  ago.
        The construction, I quess, was good for its
  time, but now it has to be reconstructed in order
  to sustain the enhanced traffic that's been
  generated from this project.
 9
                So it's been cost out at, we think
10 it's going to come in around 2.2 million but
11 we're approving up to 2.5 million dollars of
12
  project costs just in case.
13
               MS. WALTER: What are you building
14 on?
15
               MR. FEARON: We are reconstructing
16 beneath the road. It's like the hill is like
17
  this and the road goes along. You have to prop
18
  it up on the side.
19
               MR. CARR: It's a retaining wall for
20
  the road.
21
               MR. FEARON:
                             It's a retaining wall
22
  and the road goes over it but it causes pressure
23
  on it and therefore, it has --
24
                MS. WALTER: Solid rock there?
25
               MR. CARR: No. So the retaining
```

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wall, if I may, we've had the geotechnical
  engineer from the city and the geotechnical
  engineer from the developer and myself having a
  conversation and tasked them to come up with a
  plan for them to decide do we build a bridge,
  what do we do.
 6
                So if you imagine in your mind a
  series of interlocking Lincoln log kinds of
8
  operations where they link underneath the subsoil
  because it is along the Raritan River and the
10
11 bay, so the soil, clay, you know, erosion, all
12
  those kind of things, so the interlocking blocks
13 have failed over time because of the shifting in
14 the soil.
15
                So to bring it all the way back down
16
  to a solid portion of that conversation, then
17
  reenergize the interlocking blocking wall
18
  mechanism up to the road to stabilize the road.
19
  Frankly, at the cost and the overview from my
20 standpoint, from the city side, cheaper to allow
21
  them to do it then to try to publically bid the
22
  project.
23
                And the City of Perth Amboy, 2.8 for
24
  them to do it or 2.5 for them to do it, it would
25
  cost the city to publically bid it, all those
```

```
rules I have, four million dollars?
 2
               MS. WALTER: I've seen a few of
  those riverfront projects costs go way up, but
  all of a sudden everything turns out to be much
  less stable than anticipated underneath.
 6
               MR. CARR: We've done geotechnical
  borings of the site itself and all those kinds of
  things to come up with the estimated 2.5 by two
  sets of engineers who have argued over what they
  see below that.
10
11
               One geotechnical engineer for the
12
  developer doesn't drive over that wall anymore.
13 He's going the long way. It doesn't stop me, but
14 everybody else is fine with it.
15
               MR. AVERY: Do you need to get a
  state permit for that reconstruction?
17
               MR. CARR:
                           No.
                                It's a city road.
18
  It's a municipal road.
                           It's called Riverview
19
  Drive.
20
               MR. AVERY: I understand but you're
  right on the water, right, literally on the
22
  water?
23
                           We're not in the riparian
               MR. CARR:
24
  area or anything like that.
25
               MR. STOCK: It's all elevated in the
```

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```
state open waters.
1
 2
                MR. CARR:
                           So that riparian area,
  those Green Acres areas, they are further past.
  If you've been in Perth Amboy and you've been on
  the cornucopia, if you come off the Victory
  Bridge, whip around and get onto the cornucopia,
  that bumpy piece of road is what we're talking
  about.
 9
                Just an opportunity here is that as
  I explained, ma'am, during our meeting about the
11 budget, we have a budget conversation between the
12
  council and the mayor, but there have been in the
13 last four, five months some opportunities of
14 positiveness if I may in the city and that is
  this project. We introduced this PILOT.
15
16
                We received the required votes,
17
  gentlemen went away, and then four hours later I
18
  went away and two weeks later we met again.
19
  do the second reading of the PILOT, gentlemen
20
  went away and I stuck around another four hours
21
  to talk about all the things we needed to talk
22
  about.
23
                There is brightness in our darkness
  and I'm optimistic that keep focusing on what's
  important for the city and that's economic
```

```
development and the rest of this will come along
1
 2
               MS. WALTER:
                             Any other existing
 3
  PILOT's within Perth Amboy right now?
 4
               MR. CARR:
                           We have PILOT's on the
5
  north side called the buck eye where Target is
  right now in the north end of town.
                                        We receive
  PILOT payments for those. They started a few
  years ago. They're part of our budget. Those
  are recent PILOT's.
10
               We have some long term funding from
11
  a long time ago from Affordable Housing, but they
12
  don't really affect anymore. And I'm hopeful
13
  there are three other possible opportunities in
14
  the future, but we haven't gotten that far.
15
  Focus on this one, positive.
16
               MS. WALTER: And talk a little bit
17
  about, I guess, the audience you see for the
18
  amphitheater in the site. What do you plan to do
19
  developmentally?
20
               MR. STOCK:
                          I'll start, sure.
                                               The
21 history of the site was Raritan Copper Works.
22
  Very industrial, heavy industrial. Actually, the
23
  access road where the bridge is constructed for
  the heavy duty vehicles.
                           The market there is
  class A warehouse space, great front door to the
```

```
turnpike vis-a-vis Riverview Drive without the
  bridge or the crossing and the repair failing
 3
  retaining wall.
 4
                There is no project.
                                      Traffic
5
  engineers have rendered that opinion. Our goal
  is to get through the environmental clean up of
  that, cap the site with the 1.3 million square
  feet of distribution space that Jim mentioned and
  we are blessed to have Duke Realty as our
10
  contract purchaser who has been actively
11 marketing the sight and has a requirement that
12
  they're close to memorializing.
13
                This is a very big approval for
14
         This approval we have a road, we have a
  that.
  wall we have a project and I'll let Ben Rosen
16
  from Duke Realty explain it a little bit more
17
  about future development plans for the property.
18
               MR. ROSEN:
                           Thank you very much.
19
  Ben Rosen with Duke Realty again.
                                      I run Duke
20
  Realty's New Jersey's office and we're a
21
  publically traded focused on industrial real
  estates. And our intention for this is once
22
23
  they're done with their clean up, is to close in
  the near future and construct the two building
  that are contemplated.
```

```
We have been in advance discussions
1
  in recent months with a perspective dream tenant,
2
  Fortune 100 company that's been very competitive
  process that are considering two or three sites
  and this is the front runner for them if we can
  deliver on their schedule and on time and this
  road, so it's a critical element of the whole
  project regardless of whether the tenant does or
  doesn't come.
10
                It needs to happen, but this is the
  reason it's urgent because there's an opportunity
12
  to land this tenant and bring many hundreds of
13
  jobs in the very near future.
14
                MS. WALTER: Any other questions?
15
                MR. BLEE:
                           Motion to approve.
16
                MR. MAPP:
                           Second.
17
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
18
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
20
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
21
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
22
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
23
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Mr. Mapp?
24
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
25
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
```

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1
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
 2
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Miss Rodriguez?
 3
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                No.
 4
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
 5
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
 6
 7
                MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
 8
                MR. CARR:
                           Thank you.
 9
                MS. WALTER: So next applicant is
10
  already up. Passaic County Improvement Authority
  appearing on a guaranteed lease purchase project
12 financing with a proposed county guarantee.
13
                MR. JOHNSON:
                             Good morning. My name
14
  is Everett Johnson, bond counsel to the Passaic
15
  County Improvement Authority.
16
                MS. FOX: Nicole Fox, Passaic
17
  Improvement Authority.
18
                MR. HANLEY: Michael Hanley, NW
19 Financial.
20
                MR. MCMANIMON: Ed McManimon from
21 McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, bond counsel to
22
  the Paterson Board of Ed who is the beneficiary
23
  of this financing by the authority.
24
                MR. MATTHEWS: Richard Matthews,
  school administrator of Paterson Public Schools.
```

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```
MS. SHAFER: Eileen Shafer,
1
 2
  superintendent of Paterson Public Schools.
 3
                MS. ACAMPORA: Robbi Acampora,
  financial advisor to the school district.
 4
 5
                MR. CANTALUPO: John Cantalupo, bond
  counsel to Passaic County.
 6
                (At which time those wishing to
7
8
  testify were sworn in.)
 9
                MR. JOHNSON:
                              Thank you. First of
10
  all, we thank this board for allowing us to
11 submit the application to be considered for
12
  today's meeting. We really appreciate it.
13
  you guys understood the urgency and the
14
  importance of this application on behalf of
  Paterson Board of Education.
15
16
                PCIA, this morning, since review of
17
  this board and positive findings with respect to
18
  the proposed $12,126,000 county guarantee lease
  purchase financing of textbooks for the Paterson
19
20 Board of Education. And this consent of the full
21 | faith and credit guarantee of lease payments by
  the County of Passaic.
22
23
                The Board of Education is authorized
24
  by statute to conduct a lease back sale of
  textbooks and non consumable instruction material
```

```
to finance any lawful purpose of the board in an
  amount not exceeding the fair market value of
  such items. The board has approximately
  $12 million deficit in its 2018, 2019 fiscal year
  budget and desires to pursue a sale lease back of
  its textbooks to finance nonrecurring cash flow
7
  needs of the board.
 8
               Textbooks have been appraised at
  approximately $13,000. Therefore, they would
  like to undertake the lease back service
10
11 textbooks with TD Bank. However, TD Bank has
12
  only agreed to enter into the lease if the county
13
  would guarantee the lease payments. The county
14 does not have a statutory authority to directly
15 quarantee payments of Paterson Board of Ed.
16
               The authority proposes to assist the
17
  board and meet its budgetary needs, lease back
18
  the textbooks. The way this would work would be
19
  the authority would enter into an agreement with
  the Board of Education to lease from the Board of
20
  Education its textbooks. And in return, would
21
22
  then lease those books, enter an agreement with
23 TD Bank to lease those books to TD Bank.
24
                Simultaneously therewith, TD Bank
  will lease the books back to PCIA.
                                       The PCIA will
```

```
then sublease them back to the Board of Ed.
  the Board of Ed would make payments pursuant
  thereto over a period of not to exceed five
           The board's obligation of repayments
 4
  vears.
  would be subject to annual appropriation.
                And I think it's important to note
 6
7
  that for the 2019, 2020 budget of the board, they
  have already budgeted $2,680,000 to make the
  first year's lease payment for this program and
10
  the county administrator of education has already
11
  told the board that conditional approval on
12
  future budgets would only be done if the board
13
  appropriates the amounts necessary to make lease
  payments for these leases in future years.
15
                As pursuant to TD Bank's request to
  provide a county guarantee, the county has
17
  obviously introduced an ordinance which was
18
  submitted to this board and the county will
19
  guarantee a lease payments by the authority.
                                                  The
20
  way it would work, the authority's obligation to
  make lease payments is subject only to the
22
  receipt of lease payments from Paterson BOE over
23
  that lease.
24
                And to the extent they receive lease
  payments, we would assign our rights to receive
```

```
directly to TD Bank.
                         If for some reason there
  was a deficiency in that payment and the
  authority couldn't pay TD Bank, the county
  quarantee would then kick in. With that being
  said, the PCIA requests the board to approve this
  project financing and also approve the full faith
  and credit quarantee of the county for the
  payments due under the lease agreements. With
  that being said, we will entertain any questions
10
  that you may have for us.
11
               MS. WALTER: I may have misheard
12
  you.
       Did you say four million?
                                   When we
13
  originally discussed, I thought it was 12.
               MR. JOHNSON: 12 million. I don't
14
  think I said four million.
15
16
               MR. MCMANIMON: Before you address
17
  questions, I know this is a unique not normal
18
             It's a cash flow borrowing shortfall
  financing.
19
  deficit financing. I was going to ask the
20
  superintendent, Eileen Shafer and the business
21
  administrator, Richard Matthews, to give you a
22 perspective.
23
               This was a state when this all
24
  occurred in the budget year, a state controlled
25
  school district. It was also significantly under
```

```
funded by the state over the years, and this is
  the first part of taking care of this
  administration's goal to fix that problem of the
  under funding.
 4
 5
                And they've, for instance, in the
  next budget this isn't like where do you find the
  12 million dollars.
                        This board, which should not
  be faced with making major cuts has made major
  cuts to find the deficit, so that it doesn't
10
  occur. They don't expect to be back here.
11 not like 12 million appears one time and then
12
  what do you do next year.
13
                They've already dealt with that,
14 with their budget. So I think before you --
15 unless you want to ask the questions and let them
16
  answer them, I think this has a perspective to it
17
  that gives rise to why this is happening and the
18
  county administrator which is really part of the
19
  state Department of Ed is the one that has
20
  suggested this financing to find the money for
21
  the 2018, '19 school budget year which ends at
22
  the end of this month to be able to balance the
23
           It's not an issue to the future.
  budget.
  is something you may already know.
25
                MS. WALTER: Just to start out, I
```

```
will say that when this first came in, we looked
  at it very much askance -- ever come before the
  board before. We discovered, as we started to
  work through the process with Mr. Johnson, that
  the mechanism is used with somewhat more
  regularity in the school district context than it
  would be anywhere else in local government.
  were very surprised by this frankly.
 9
                It's a budgetary trick, and that's
  always something that's a concern to the board.
10
11 The fact that it has been done before in school
12 districts was some comfort.
                                It was
13
  understandable why the county quarantee would be
14
  requested particularly given that at the end of
15
  the day, no one is going to come in and take the
  school books out of kids hands.
                                    And I think
16
17
  theoretically I think we forget is we're trying
18
  to get through the budget fix, so that's
19
  essentially what's happening here.
20
               You're selling and then leasing back
  school books that theoretically that can be taken
                                    I think it
22
  away.
         Kind of a scary picture.
23
  speaks to the situation the school district found
  itself in budgetarily this year, but I was hoping
  you could provide more information about how
```

```
you're making the adjustment going forward
  because this is really an extraordinary fix.
 3
                MS. SHAFER: So let me just go back
  to 2009, 2010, we were underfunded for about
4
  eight years, 280 million dollars, and that was
  based on the state funding formula for Abbott
  districts, so when you continue to be underfunded
  year after year, over those years, the past 10
  years, we cut 1600 employees.
10
                We are a district of 30,000 children
11
  and about 4500 employees and 54 schools.
                                             So you
  keep cutting away and cutting away.
                                        We were
13
  state operated from 1991. And for 27 years our
14
  elementary children didn't have art and music and
15
  that was something the state did when they came
16
       We never recovered.
                Quick forward, last year we received
17
18
  from the state 20 million dollars.
                                       It was the
19
  first year we had a nurse in every building and
20
  art and music in every elementary school. Here
21
  we had this year, and not that this affects this
22
  year, but in preparing next year's budget, we
23
  received 13 million.
24
                11 of it went out before we even put
  lit in the bank and that was nine to charter and
```

```
two for the votech school. In essence, we
  received two million, so you're already starting
  off behind the eight ball already. 20 million
  last year, in our hand this year, two million.
 4
 5
                If you look at a report just
 6
  recently came out from the Ed Law Center, we're
  short now 125 million for adequacy and that is to
  provide a thorough and efficient education for
  all children, so the last place you want to take
10 money from is an urban district where children,
11 many of them are at risk and many of them are
12
  under performing.
13
                So we found ourself in this position
14 where we did not want to continue to lose staff.
15 Our class sizes are in the 30s. If you continue
16
  to lose staff, it's going to be even higher, so
  the business administrator at the county level
17
18
  made a suggestion that we do the lease back of
19
  textbooks.
20
               Our business administrator followed
  through with that and that's how we got where we
22
  are now. So that money is for the current
23 budget, not for next year. We have already
  allocated the first payment in the '19, '20
  budget. And we also know that we cannot submit
25
```

```
an approved budget to the county or to the
1
2
  Department of Ed without having the payment in
 3
  for the next five years, so that's just kind of a
 4
  quick snapshot of how we got where we are.
 5
                MS. WALTER:
                             How are you absorbing
  the impact otherwise?
 6
7
                MS. SHAFER:
                             By cutting programs and
8
  people.
           And when you have a district that big,
  you know, your cost drivers go up, your gas, your
  electric, your lighting, your transportation,
10
11
  your special education, they go up. And so ours
12
  went up to 240 million and we received two.
13
  already started with a huge deficit this year.
14
                MS. WALTER:
                             So getting through this
  budget year, a really significant challenge for
  next year, you've already made the adjustments?
16
17
                MS. SHAFER:
                             Yes.
18
                MS. WALTER:
                             What's the impact
19
  that's going to have on class size otherwise?
20
                MS. SHAFER:
                             They're going to go up
  slightly, but we cut back programs also.
22
                MS. WALTER:
                             And first five years
23
  you're going to have this committed in your
24
  budget.
           What's the plan thereafter?
25
                MR. MATTHEWS: It's for five years
```

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Two is already budgeted into the '19, '20
  only.
  budget and that's going forward. The county
  superintendent are aware of this one time revenue
  and so this appropriation has to be in our budget
  in the following four years.
 6
               MR. AVERY: So in essence, this
7
  decision to do this locks you in to using the
  same textbooks for the next five years?
 9
               MR. MATTHEWS: The textbooks are
  really collateral. We already have these
10
11
  textbooks. We're still purchasing new textbooks.
12
               MR. AVERY: I understand. You're
13 still buying new textbooks?
14
               MR. MATTHEWS: We're still buying
15
  new textbooks.
16
               MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                              First of all, I want
17
  to thank the superintendent and the business
18
  administrator for coming in. I really appreciate
19
         It's always good to put a face.
20 native Patersonian and as a product of the
21 Paterson School District and knowing, full
22
  disclosure, Miss Shafer for two and-a-half
23
  decades, I see, you know, Paterson has its
24
  challenges.
25
               We are probably, if not the most
```

```
diverse, district in the state of New Jersey.
  We're the third largest and it's difficult. It
  saddens me every time this time of the year comes
  around and you read about, you know, layoffs and
  all I can see are children's faces and families
  because when you're laying off people, you're
7
  displacing families.
 8
               But I know that the superintendent
  working diligently. She's got a cadre of
  professionals around her. The BA has come in and
10
11 is doing a phenomenal job and it is tough when
12
  every year you turn around, and I don't know what
13
  the formula is, but Paterson has been suffering
14 and bleeding for about 10 years now.
15
               And I know personally, myself.
16 know, our legislators, they work diligently and
17
  they work hard and they're constantly knocking on
18
  the Governor's doors, but I wanted to commend
19
  them and just put it out there. I don't normally
20
  do this, but this is something that's near and
21
  dear.
22
               Maybe it's inappropriate, but it's
23
  near and dear to my heart and I wanted to share
  with the fellow members here and something to
  take into consideration.
```

```
1
               MR. MATTHEWS:
                               Thank you.
 2
               MR. MAPP:
                           So I must tell you that I
  don't like this transaction, but my concern and
  my heart bleeds for the kids who will be impacted
  without such a structure as you have put
  together, but under normal circumstances, this is
7
  not the kind of transaction that I would support.
 8
               And so I am doing this solely out of
  the compassion that I have for the kids in the
10
  district and the impact that it will have on them
11 if you were not to do this. And so what happens
12
  two years from now, three years from now,
13
  question?
14
               MR. MATTHEWS: Well, the budget
  process is a year to year thing. And within our
  budget process there are some -- we don't have
17
  any long term debt, so we have some lease
18
  purchase financing.
                       So this is a five year deal
  as we said earlier. It's already been
19
20
  appropriated in our '19, '20 budget.
21
                So what happens down the road is we
  have to continue to appropriate this money and
  will reduce some other opportunities that we'll
23
  have within those years that this 2.6 million
  dollars is going to take away from us.
```

```
afford us an opportunity in the current budget
  year to minimize the amount of layoffs.
 3
               MR. MAPP: I don't like it, but I'll
 4
  support it.
 5
               MR. BLEE:
                          If the board were not to
  approve this, what would be your recourse?
 6
               MR. MATTHEWS: We would be in
  deficit because this 12 million dollars is for
  this current fiscal year, so what we have as a
10 fund balance, we would be in a deficit.
11
               MR. BLEE: And then where would you
12
  go to address the deficit?
13
               MR. MATTHEWS: The state would
14 probably come in and make some strong
15 recommendations on how to move the district
16 forward.
17
               MS. SHAFER: For us it's always
18 personnel. Three quarters of our budget is
19 personnel. It would be personnel, and
20 unfortunately, we already cut back our central
  office, our clerical and all of that, so it would
21
22 bee classroom teachers.
23
               MR. BLEE: How do you adjust
24 personnel? The school year is over, correct?
25 This is 12 million.
```

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```
1
                MR. MCMANIMON:
                                The deficit going
2
  into next year.
 3
                MR. MATTHEWS: We would end the year
  in a deficit and we would have to use the surplus
4
  that we use in our '19, '20 budget to come out of
  deficit, so we would have to now rearrange our
   '19, '20 budget that's already been approved by
  the state.
 9
                We can come out of the deficit by
  using the surplus to get through the '18, '19
10
  year, but then we have to redo our '19, '20
12
  budget because we used that money for the '19,
13
   '20 budget to budget the '19, '20 budget.
14
                MR. MCMANIMON: I don't know this is
  necessarily coming from the state, but it's the
16
  county administrator's part of the educational
17
  system.
           This is viewed as a better method to fix
  the prior problems over a period of probably the
18
19
  next seven or eight years by having this now
20
  budgeted for the future without the state having
21
  to come up with 12 million dollars or find some
  other source for the 12 million dollars now.
22
23
                MS. WALTER: The commissioner of
24
  education did submit a letter in support of this
25
  course of action.
```

```
1
                MR. CLOSE:
                           I certainly endorse
 2
  Idida's comments and those of Adrian's, my
  colleagues, and I certainly emphasize with your
  situation but I'm struggling with being in a
 5
  position where we have to approve, from my
  perspective, this financial tool to overcome a
 6
7
  budgetary shortfall, a gap.
8
                I do have issues with that.
                                             I'm not
  sure that's the appropriate charge in some ways
10
  for us to, as a prudent fiscal, even though it's
11 in the statute, I understand that.
                                       I'm just not
12
  sure -- monetizing the asset I'm comfortable with
13
  that, even though I greatly emphasize and I think
14
  you should have been funded differently, and
15
  Idida and I have talked about this.
                                        This is hard
  for me to get behind as a tool.
17
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'm going to keep my
18
  political hat off because I don't want to
19
  overstep, but there is a lot that needs to be
20
  done going for ward, but right now we're in this
  impasse, and this is the only option we have
22
  right now and it's important.
23
                I mean, 30,000 kids, you know,
24
  we have, you know, it would be good if the money
  stayed in the district, but we've got charter
```

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schools and we've got a vocational technical
  institute. That absorbed a lot of our money and
  it's hard and it's not getting better. I think
  there are strategies that can and will be put in
  place under the leadership of the current
  superintendent and the board, very active board,
 6
7
  but right now we're here and --
8
               MS. WALTER:
                           I think you're hearing
  we struggle with this application.
10
               MS. RODRIGUEZ: We all have.
11
        I'll be forthcoming. I did.
                                       I saw this
  too.
12
  and I was like, what? But I thought about it
13
  and, you know, it was a hard decision.
14
               MR. LIGHT:
                          This is not good
15 financial planning or financial operations.
                                                Ι
16 don't understand how all of a sudden a situation
17
  got to be what it is in such an emergency so
18
  quickly without somebody knowing and taking steps
  in the future to try to divert a bad financial
19
20
  decision.
21
               So I'm struggling very difficult
22 with this because you stick your hand in boiling
23 water to get the lobster out, but you burn your
  hand off, too. And it is just not good financial
  planning or operation.
```

```
MS. ACAMPORA: The school district
1
2
  really don't have as many opportunities as towns
  do in New Jersey and as counties do in New
  Jersey.
           They're just very restricted on what
  they can do. This was written into the law for
 6
  this purpose. It sounds like a crazy thing, but
7
  that's their alternative to do this.
 8
               MR. LIGHT: It is a crazy thing.
  You said it.
10
               MS. ACAMPORA: But that's their only
11 alternative. They don't have the same ability
12 that towns do to raise taxes.
                                  They're restricted
13 in what they can do with their surplus and how
14 much they can raise and to add to this year over
15 year that's been happening over 10 years has just
  built up for them. Unfortunately, we're here in
17
  June to talk about this.
               The district has tried to do this
18
19 for four or five months. The normal way to do
20
  this is to go out to bid for a lease purchase
21
  financing. They didn't get a bid. They did it a
22
  second time and one of the bidders that did bid
23 backed out. TD put in a bid, but they put the
  caveat that they wanted a county guarantee, so
  that's how they got to this situation today with
```

```
the county.
1
 2
                MS. WALTER:
                             Frankly, that was one
  of our concerns. This comes in to us very last
  minute to the point that we're moving deadlines
  to get everything in on time.
 6
                              They have been
                MS. ACAMPORA:
  working on this for months, so we are at the 11th
8 hour now.
             This is the least opportunity to be
  able to do this. Again, I think it goes to the
10
  state has been operating the district for a long
11
  time.
                                I think that's the
12
                MR. MCMANIMON:
  real question.
13
                   It's not four months of trying to
  get a financing down, but why you're in this
15
  position. This is a state operated school
  district that didn't take care of the problem
17
  over the years.
18
                They're no longer state controlled
19
  so now it falls to them to fix the problem and
20
  the way they can raise taxes and use surplus is
21
  more limited, so this is the solution sort of
22
  emanating from the county administrators position
23
  as to how to solve this problem now and not have
  the replicate itself in the future.
25
                So they're prepared to do things a
```

```
lot of people come before you are not prepared to
  do which is to commit to a program where they
  have to make these cuts, which is not a district
  that ought to be doing that to get rid of this
  deficit and be able to fund two million six a
  year rather than 12 million this year.
 6
7
               Anyway, that doesn't make you feel
  better, but that is the reason why they are where
  they are. It's not like they ignored it.
  is coming from another place, the state.
11
               MS. WALTER: What's the total school
12
  district budget?
13
               MR. MATTHEWS: For the '19 year, 516
14 million dollars.
15
               MR. AVERY: My first question when I
16 saw this to the staff is this legal, can you do
17
  this?
         So they gave us copies of the law.
                                              I must
18
  admit, it's not something that I would encourage
19
  people to do.
20
               MR. MCMANIMON:
                                That's why it's
  being done taxable. You can't do this tax
22
  exempt.
23
               MR. JOHNSON:
                              The other thing I want
24
  to employ is that obviously school districts, as
  the director mentioned, have done this over the
```

```
years but they're not relegated to come before
  the board.
              They just do so directly. The county
 3
  quarantee comes before the board, come to the
  authority.
 4
 5
                But I will say, I understand you
 6
  have concerns, and representing the authority and
  throughout the application, it definitely felt --
  to me because I'm a person who actually grew up
  and went to public schools in New Jersey, Newark
  to be specific.
10
11
                And I understand the ramifications
12
  of having school cuts and cutting programs and
13
  having larger classroom sizes. And at the end of
14
  the day, that's who will ultimately suffer if
15
  this deficit goes forward, if this financing does
16 not move forward.
17
                The kids don't have anything to do
18
  with this, but they will bear the brunt of the
19
  impact, so I employ you guys to consider who
20
  actually will bear the brunt, whatever the
21
  decision making that occurred prior to today, we
22
  are where we are this year. It appears to me the
23
  state has been working with the board to create a
  solution moving forward in future years.
25
                They've already approved their 2020
```

```
budget, 2019, 2020 budget, and this is something,
  at least I believe, this is the least hurdle to
  get over to kind of start righting the ship
  moving forward.
 5
               MR. MCMANIMON: I think in deference
 6
  you have to give some credit to the Improvement
  Authority and the county for stepping up for
  doing something that wouldn't have happened but
  for them stepping into a financing by a local
10
  district to guarantee the obligation which is
11 necessarily normal. Without having that happened
12
  this couldn't happen because there wouldn't be a
13 lender.
14
               MS. SHAFER:
                             Let me also just add, I
  did say that over the past 10 years we had 1600
16
  cuts.
         This 12 million would be another 120, 130
17
  teachers out of the classroom.
                                   As much as I
18
  understand your concern, when we were developing
19
  the budget last year, it was recommended from the
20
  county business administrator hired by the
21
  Department of Ed to do this action so that we
22
  wouldn't have to cut those 120 and 130, so I
23
  would just ask that you consider that as you move
24
  through the process.
25
               MS. WALTER: Personally, I land on
```

```
this as I hate the transaction, but I want to
  support the district in trying to make the
  changes that it has to make for this coming year.
  I think that we would hope to see more, you know,
  fiscal responsible used in the future for the
 6 financing, but we understand the situation that
  you're in now and recognize that you're working
  with what you've got. And you know, to that
  end --
10
                           With that said, Director,
                MR. MAPP:
11
  with your permission, I move that this be
12
  approved.
13
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Second.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
15
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
16
17
                MR. MAPP: Yes.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
19
                MR. CLOSE: Come back to me, please.
20
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Avery?
21
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
22
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
25
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
```

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```
1
               MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Mr. Light?
 2
               MR. LIGHT: Well, it's passed, but I
 3
  vote no.
 4
               MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Mr. Close?
 5
               MR. CLOSE:
                           It's passed and I concur
  with everything that was said here including the
 6
  director's comments. And with all due respect,
  and I do agree, I don't want to vote against
  something that's going to benefit the kids of the
10
  district, but I have a real issue with this tool
11
  financially to fill a budget gap and shortfall.
12
  I just don't.
13
                You're monetizing books as the
14
  asset. They depreciate. They don't have a
15 value. This, to me, is not good fiscal
  management. And, you know, I hate being in this
17
  position. Honestly, before we came in here, I
18
  will tell you my position was to vote on it.
19
  want to be very candid on that.
20
               My position was to vote no because I
  have a real issue with this as a tool.
22
  the state would remove it because I think it
23
  should not be there. You talked about towns and
24
  counties. I also talk about, there's a lot of
  different purchasing rules for schools.
```

```
There's a lot of different things,
1
2
  so before you make that analogy, paint the whole
  picture okay, because I'm not comfortable with
  that.
 4
 5
                MR. MAPP:
                           It's a necessary evil,
 6
  Bill.
                MR. CLOSE:
                           It is.
                                    At times it is a
8
  necessary evil. But there are a lot of things
  that go into good fiscal management as well.
10
  wanted to get my position on here. I'm voting
11 no, but I'm not voting no against them and their
12
  efforts. I'm voting no against this as a tool,
13
  as a fiscal tool and I want that on the record.
14 Not about them.
15
                And if this vote, and I'm going to
  say this, if my vote were going to be the
17
  difference between them getting it or not getting
  it, I would be voting yes because I would give it
18
19
  to them to vote yes to make sure the kids had
20
  what they needed. But I'm voting no because I
21 want to be on record as my opposition about this
22
  as a financial tool, not the other.
23
                And I know it took a long time to
  get there, but I thought it was important to get
  on that on the record as to why and I would vote
```

```
yes if this was going to go down. I would not
1
  let that happen.
 3
                 MS. WALTER: Motion to adjourn?
 4
                 MR. BLEE:
                             Motion.
 5
                             Second.
                 MR. MAPP:
                                 All ayes?
 6
                 MS. MCNAMARA:
                 BOARD MEMBERS:
 7
                                  Aye.
 8
                 (Hearing Concluded at 12:45 p.m.)
 9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
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 neither 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 Sauren M. Etier 22 Notary Public of the State of New Jersey 23 24 My Commission Expires June 30, 2020 25 Dated: July 1, 2019

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