1	STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2	DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
3	x
4	IN RE:
5	Local Finance Board :
6	x
7	
8	
9	
10	Location: Department of Community Affairs
11	101 South Broad Street
12	Trenton, New Jersey 08625
13	Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2020
14	Commencing At: 10:18 a.m.
15	(Taken Remotely Via Teams.)
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18	
19	
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HELD BEFORE: (ALL MEMBERS APPEARING VIA VTC)
 2
 3 MELANIE WALTER, Chairwoman
 4 FRANCIS BLEE
 5 ADRIAN MAPP
 6 WILLIAM CLOSE
 7 DOMINICK DIROCCO
 8 IDIDA RODRIGUEZ
 9 TED LIGHT
10
11 A L S O P R E S E N T:
12
13 PATRICIA PARKIN MCNAMARA, Executive Secretary
14 NICK BENNETT
15 SUSAN SCOTT, DAG
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
 2
                MR. MAPP:
                           Here.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
 3
 4
                MR. DIROCCO:
                              I'm here.
 5
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
                MR. CLOSE:
                            Here.
 6
 7
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Miss Rodriquez?
 8
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Here.
 9
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
10
                MR. BLEE:
                           Here.
11
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
                                          Okay.
12
  You have a quorum, but I don't know where Mr.
13 Light is.
             He had been on earlier.
14
                MS. WALTER: We'll just give it a
15 minute. We're still a little ahead of schedule.
16 I thought if we had everyone, we could get
17
  moving. In the meantime, do we have everyone
18
  here for Union Township Board of Education?
19
                MS. GORAB: Good morning.
  Gorab is here and I believe the business
20
  administrator, Fernanda Manochio is here.
  think I can see the list of who is here.
22
                                              I think
  we're waiting for Robbi Acampora, the financial
23
24
  advisor. She'll probably be popping on soon.
25
                MS. WALTER: Pat, I think we can
```

```
move ahead at this point.
1
2
                MS. GORAB:
                           Robbi is joining now.
 3
  If you want to start, we're happy to start.
 4
                MR. LIGHT: Ted Light calling in
5
  late.
         Sorry.
 6
                MS. GORAB: So myself, bond counsel.
  And Robbi, are you on? Robbi Acampora and
8 Fernanda Manochio who is the business
 9 administrator. Robbi Acampora is the financial
  advisor.
10
11
                MS. WALTER:
                             Robbi Acampora is
12
  joining right now.
13
                MS. GORAB: Okay. Thank you.
14
                MR. RIGGLE: This is Dan Riggle as
  well for the Union project.
16
                MS. GORAB:
                           Hi, Dan.
17
                MS. ACAMPORA: I'm Robbi Acampora
  from Phoenix Advisors.
18
19
                (At which time those wishing to
20
  testify were sworn in.)
21
                MS. GORAB:
                           Good morning.
22 Gorab, Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer, bond counsel
  to the Township of Union in Union County.
23
  with me today is Fernanda Manochio who is the
  business administrator. Robbi Acampora from
```

```
Phoenix Advisors is the financial advisor is the
  board financial advisor and Dan Riggle.
 3
               Phase one of that energy savings
  plan, and I will tell you why. The plan is
  larger and includes solar installations.
  board, with its ESCO, is making a determination
  as to whether the solar installations would be
  better and more efficient, more economical and
  financially beneficial to either own or enter
  into a power purchase agreement.
11
                There's an issue with the BPU in
12
  terms of savings, so that analysis is being done.
13 The board anticipates that that will be Phase 2
14
  of this project once that determination is made,
15
  and we hope to come to you very soon with Phase
16
    But today, we're here for Phase 1.
17
  is about 9 million dollars.
18
                It is a project that has been really
19 a plan for the board for months and months and
20 months. It is a project, both phases of this
  energy savings plan do in fact self-fund
22
  independently. So Phase 1 pays for itself
23
  through the energy savings. We have received BPU
  approval and third party review.
25
                The project, Phase 1, that we're
```

```
seeking approval for is, the major components are
  lighting upgrades, building envelope improvements
  and various HVAC improvements, building automated
  systems, air handling units and chillers.
  board is seeking to finance this project over
  20 years and have the appropriate savings in
7
  every year to cover those bond payments.
 8
               We seek to do this financing on a
  negotiated basis so that we can structure the
10 financing to fit within the savings, so that the
11 project continues to be tax neutral for the
12
  taxpayers.
             The projects have a useful life in
13
  excess of 20 years, so we are permitted to bond
14
  for 20 years and we're seeking your approval to
15
  finally adopt the bond ordinance and proceed
16 forward with the financing.
17
               MS. WALTER: Thank you. I have a
18
  couple questions. You indicated that the bond
19
  insurance is budgeted but may not be necessary
20
  depending upon the ultimate rating. Do you have
  any further information about when you anticipate
22
  thee rating falling at this juncture, kind of
23 moved ahead with the process?
24
               MS. ACAMPORA: This is Robbi
  Acampora, Phoenix Advisors. We did a refunding
```

```
for the district AA minus stable outlook and we
  did not need bond insurance. We're using the
  same underwriters for this financing and they
  told us because of the term of this financing is
  longer than the refunding, that we may need to
  purchase bond insurance, but we had the rating
7
  call two days ago.
 8
               We're going to get the rating next
  Wednesday and then we're going to determine
10
  whether we still need it, so we really don't have
  that information yet. We did not need it a few
11
12
  months ago when we did the refunding.
13
               MS. WALTER: Good to know.
14
        The other primary issue, a lot of this we
  you.
15
  covered with the initial application, so I'll try
16
  to keep the questions brief. There appears to be
17
  a relatively large inconsistency between the
18
  application rates and the anticipated rate.
19
                I know you guys had submitted some
20 information about the coupon rates and the
21
  objective being to generate premium.
22
  wondering where the numbers are looking to be for
23
  your guys and essentially is it going to be in
  line with what your projections are for the ESIP.
25
               MS. ACAMPORA: I think at this
```

```
point, we did have the numbers projected from RBC
  capital market, so the projections that we have
  in the exhibit are accurate, so I probably put
  something more of a cushion in the application
  and the ones that are in the exhibit is more
  accurate.
 6
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
                                         The other
8
  piece is if you could break out a little bit
  where the savings components are coming in during
  this phase of the project from the aggregate
10
  project, obviously there's some distinctions, so
12
  wanted to see where the savings were in each of
13
  the years.
14
                MS. ACAMPORA:
                              Dan, can you talk
15
  about that, what the savings are generating from
16
  this project?
17
                MR. RIGGLE:
                             Absolutely.
                                          Really,
18
  the larger source of savings is LED lighting, new
  LED fixtures both inside and outside all of the
20
  school buildings and all of the administration
21
  buildings.
              That's the single largest source of
22
  savings.
           The second would be upgrades to the
23 building automation system and basically the
  control system that manages all the heating and
25
  cooling and when the air conditioning and the
```

```
heating is on.
1
2
                It's an older school district with a
  lot of older buildings so they don't have a lot
  of control, so systems running 24/7, so that's
4
  probably the second largest source of savings.
  And then really after that, there's a lot of
7
  different low hanging fruit of insulation --
 8
                MS. WALTER:
                            Dan, if I could ask you
  to pause for just one second.
                                  There's a lot of
10
  background noise. If anyone not speaking, please
11 mute, that's appreciated. Please proceed.
12
                MR. RIGGLE: Yeah, that sounds
13
           So really after the two large savings
14
  opportunities, LED lighting which is about
15 | 170,000 per year and the building automation
  system improvements, about 130,000 a year, you
17
  have what we call the low hanging fruit, building
18
  envelope and insulation improvements, just better
19
  insulating the schools where the roof meets the
20
  wall for example, making sure there's proper
  insulation there.
21
22
                Doing water conservation, putting
23
  aerators on faucets for example, and then a
  number of other smaller items and then had HVAC
  improvements as well will have a good amount of
```

```
savings from putting in a newer chiller to
  provide air conditioning or putting in new air
  handling units or roof top units, so it's really
  a pretty good mix, but probably it looks like
  over half of the savings are coming from those
  first two.
                MS. ACAMPORA: And that's consistent
  with most ESIPs.
8
 9
               MS. WALTER: Great.
                                    Thank you.
  Does anyone else have questions for the applicant
  at this time?
12
                MR. BLEE:
                           Motion to approve.
13
                           I second.
                MR. MAPP:
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
15
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
17
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
19
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
20
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
21
                           Yes.
                MR. CLOSE:
22
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
25
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
```

```
1
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Mr. Light?
 2
                MS. WALTER: It appears Mr. Light is
 3
  also on mute.
 4
                MS. MCNAMARA: Motion carries
5
  regardless.
                MS. GORAB:
 6
                            Thank you.
 7
                MS. WALTER:
                             It is interesting to
8
  see what the program's thermostats and things can
  do to adjust for the schools. I remember when
10
  they all turned on at the same time in our old
11
  building. That was on for the year no matter
12
  what the temperature was, so it's pretty cool.
13
                MS. ACAMPORA: Windows were open all
14
  the time because everything is too hot.
15
                MS. GORAB:
                            Thank you very much.
16
                MS. WALTER: Next application before
17
  the board is the Willingboro Municipal Utility
18
  Authority appearing on water revenue bonds in the
19
  amount of 3 million dollars of proposed project
20
  financing. Again, as you come up, if you can
  please identify yourself for the record, make
22
  sure you're visible to be sworn in, in compliance
23
  with the notary laws, and then we'll proceed with
24
  the application.
                MR. LANGHART: Director, it's Chris
25
```

```
Langhart. Can you hear me?
1
 2
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
                                   Hello, Chris.
 3
                MR. LANGHART: Hello. Good morning,
 4
  everyone.
 5
                MS. WALTER: Who do you have with
 6
  you?
                MR. LANGHART: Presenting today for
8 Willingboro MUA, we have Sherry Tracey, municipal
  advisor to the authority from Phoenix Advisors.
10 We have Ryan Scerbo from Decotiis. He's the rate
11 counsel to the authority, and I believe we have
12 Andy Weber. I'm not sure if he's been able to
13
  get on video, but Andy, are you on the line?
14
                MR. WEBER: I am on the line.
  unfortunately wasn't able to get on video.
16
                MR. LANGHART: Is Diallyo on?
                                                Is he
17
  able to come on video?
18
                MR. DIGGS:
                           Yes, sir, I'm on.
19
                MR. LANGHART: Are you on video,
20
  Diallyo?
21
                MR. DIGGS:
                           I can be, yes.
22
                MR. LANGHART: Would you like that,
23
  Director?
              Should we have Diallyo to come on-line
24
  to swear in?
25
                MS. WALTER: Yes, if he intends to
```

```
testify.
1
2
                MR. LANGHART: If you could do that
 3
  Diallyo, that would be helpful.
 4
                MR. DIGGS: No problem. I think I
5
  turned it on.
 6
                MR. LANGHART:
                               There you are.
7
  that's our team, Director.
8
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
10
                MR. LANGHART:
                               So thank you for
11 hearing our application. The authority is before
12
  you today for positive findings under the Local
13 Authorities Fiscal Control Law and for approval
14 under the statutes, particularly 50a:11B-9A of
15 the Infrastructure Bank laws for a borrowing in
  an amount not to exceed 3 million dollars for
16
17
  drinking water improvements to the authority.
18
                Just by way of background, this
19
  drinking water improvement project is part of a
20
  larger scope of projects. The vast majority of
21
  which are clean water or sewer improvements.
22
  you know, for these type of borrowings, we
23
  usually go for the Infrastructure Bank. For the
24
  clean water, we've made those applications.
25
                For the drinking water portion, the
```

```
amount we're here before you today for, we have
  been told that we do not right now sit high
  enough on the priority list that it's likely
  we're going to have funding for these projects
  for the IBank.
                So after extensive discussion with
 6
7
  the IBank, we have decided to go to the market
  for bonds, but more likely, it's going to be a
  no. And at the same time, in 18 months or two
10
  years when the project is done, we'll be
11 concurrently making all our filings and
12 submissions with the IBank in the hopes we can go
13 for long term financings through the IBank when
14
  the project is done.
                The drinking water portion and clean
15
  water portion are all one project, so it's
17
  somewhat important that we keep the sequence of
18
  timing together. We hope to close on a
  construction loan for the IBank on the sewer
19
20 improvements by the end of the year, same thing
  for the note for the drinking water improvements.
  And with that, if you have any questions, it's
23
  fairly straight forward, but we're happy to
24
  answer them.
25
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. First,
```

```
what's the anticipated water rate impacts of
 2
  these improvements accumulatively?
 3
                MR. LANGHART: That's something you
  might have, Diallyo.
 5
                MR. DIGGS:
                           Yes.
                                  Sure.
                                         Do you mean
  over the course of time? We did a rate study
 6
  last year to determine the total impact of all of
  our improvements over the next five years and we
  developed a rate plan that would address the
  different funding stages that we're in now.
10
11
                So currently, we're anticipating
12
  next year to have a rate increase of between 2.5
13
  and five percent and that's in line with what we
14 anticipated with our plan, yes.
15
                MR. LANGHART: I should also say,
  Director, and Sherry, you might want to address
17
  this. I think we have some debt coming off the
18
  books and the debt coming back on will hopefully
19
  be somewhat neutral on its impact to the
20
  authority.
21
                MS. WALTER:
                           Our understanding from
22
  the application was that it appeared that the
23
  long term impact would be about 13 dollars per
24
            Is that before the other debt comes
25
  off the per forma?
```

```
MS. TRACEY: Yes, that is before the
1
  or the debt comes off. And so the MUA has
 2
  several projects that they're currently working
       They're actually just -- there in the midst
 4
  on.
  of a project right now with the IBank seeking a
  closing date actually probably next month to
 6
7
  close into a construction loan on a water meter
  project that they began a couple years ago.
 9
                And so you know, they have that
  additional debt will be coming on as well as
10
11
  this. So while there is some debt coming off,
12
  they do have some other projects in the works, so
13
  it would be about 13 dollars if we're just
14
  looking at this component, this piece of the
15
  project.
16
                             Thank you.
                                         There's two
                MS. WALTER:
17
  components to this project.
                                The first 3 million
  dollars, which aspect of the larger 19 million
18
  dollar total undertaking is included in that?
19
20
  The rest is mostly IBank. I wanted to
21
  distinguish between those.
22
                MR. LANGHART:
                               So Director, if you
23 look at the Executive Summary, we have an Exhibit
24 A in there and that breaks down the drinking
  water portion in one column and the clean water
```

```
in another.
1
 2
                MS. WALTER: Can you walk through
 3
  it?
 4
                MR. LANGHART: You want me to --
 5
                            Just a summary of what
                MS. WALTER:
  categories and improvements are in each one.
 6
7
                MR. LANGHART:
                                       I'll just read
                               Sure.
  down the list. It's well pumps, the bigger ones,
8
  lighting, retrofits, lighting occupancy, building
10
  envelope improvements, secondary transformers,
11
  SCADA improvements, HVAC upgrades. I think those
12
  are the main ones.
13
                MS. WALTER:
                             What is the useful life
14
  of those improvements?
15
                MR. LANGHART: Ryan, is that
  something you might have?
16
17
                MR. SCERBO:
                             Sorry.
18
                MS. TRACEY: I believe the majority
19
  of them are at least 30 years.
20
                MR. LANGHART: They're usually 30 to
  40 years, Director, for building improvements.
22
                MS. WALTER: I just wanted to
23
  indicate for the record, that the impact really
  speaks to the long term integrity of the system
  and these are necessary upgrades to maintain the
```

```
1
  system, correct?
 2
                MR. LANGHART: Correct, absolutely.
 3
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. Does anyone
4
  else have questions at this time?
 5
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Director, yeah.
  they just talk about these are all supposed to be
 6
7
  completed, the projects by 2022; is that correct?
 8
                MR. LANGHART: I think it's an 18
  month two year construction time line. Is that
10
  correct, Ryan?
11
                MR. SCERBO:
                             Brian, I believe is on
12
  as well, from Schneider Electric, to confirm the
13
  construction schedule.
14
                MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, that is
15
             18 to 24 months is the anticipated
  correct.
  construction schedule.
16
17
                MR. CLOSE: In terms of the hard
18
  cost of the project being done in your
  application you talked about 2304, $555,000 of
19
20
  that is for design services and project manager.
21
  Could you talk a little bit about that
22
  distinction? Because that's about 25 percent of
23
  the total cost of that element.
24
                MR. LANGHART: You want to address
25
  that, Brian?
```

```
Is that for me?
1
                MR. SCHNEIDER:
 2
  Sure. We've been working with the WMUA for three
  and-a-half years and much of that on the design,
  engineering. This is an a considerably complex
  project overall, not just drinking water, but
  considerably complex project overall in terms of
 6
7
  multiple sites for the WMUA.
8
                So yes, there's been a lot of
  process engineering as well as mechanical
10
  engineering, electrical engineering, work and
11
  development that's taken place so far about
12
  70 percent, and then with about 30 percent of
13
  that design development engineering yet to take
14
  place being worked on now.
15
                MR. CLOSE: And the plans of those
16
  funds will be used to oversee the construction of
17
  the project?
18
                MR. SCHNEIDER:
                                Yes, sir.
19
                MR.
                    CLOSE:
                           Okay.
                                   Thank you.
20
                MS. WALTER: Before I move on to a
  vote, I wanted to follow up on one other matter.
22
  Budgets were due by November 1st 2020.
                                           We have
23
  not received the MUA's budget yet.
                                      When can we
  anticipate its receipt? Late letters will be
  going out soon.
25
```

```
MR. LANGHART: Diallyo, is that
1
2
  something you might have an answer for?
 3
                MR. DIGGS: We just got our
  introduction approved at our last October
  meeting, so we anticipate getting the
 6 introduction to the state as early as this week.
  It was mailed out yesterday unfortunately, but it
  should get there next two or three days.
 9
                MS. WALTER: Great. Thank you.
  With that said, would anyone like to move the
10
  approval of the application at this time?
12
                MR. BLEE:
                           Motion.
13
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Second.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
15
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
16
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
17
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
18
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
19
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
20
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
21
                           Yes.
                MR. CLOSE:
22
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
25
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
```

```
Mr. Light. We lost
1
                MS. MCNAMARA:
2
  Mr. Light.
             Motion passes.
 3
                MR. LANGHART: Thank you very much.
  Appreciate it.
 4
5
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
  application before the board is Paramus Borough
 6
  appearing on the Genesis Housing Project,
  Proposed Redevelopment Area Bonds.
 9
                MS. SANDBANK:
                              Hi. We have Leah
10 Sandbank with McManimon, Scotland and Baumann
11 presenting this application. We also have
  Benecki on, the financial advisor to the borough.
12
13 I don't know yet if Paul Kelfman, attorney,
14
  special attorney for the borough is on yet.
15
                MR. BENECKI: He's not. However,
  we've also invited Joe D'Arco, the borough
17
  administrator.
18
                MS. SANDBANK: Is he on?
19
                MR. BENECKI: I don't see him.
20
                MS. SANDBANK: Representing the
  developer, we have Nicole Lockett. Are you on,
22
  Nicole?
23
                MS. LOCKETT:
                              I am.
24
                MS. WALTER: Anyone who intends to
25
  testify today, please make sure you have your
```

```
screen on so that we can see you to swear you in
1
  and we'll do that now.
 3
                (At which time those wishing to
 4
  testify were sworn in.)
 5
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. Please
  proceed.
 6
                MS. SANDBANK:
                               Okay.
                                       The
  application before you today is for an issuance
  of not to exceed 695,000 Redevelopment Area Bonds
10
  to be issued by the Borough of Paramus.
11 borough is seeking approval from the board to
12
  sell the bonds at private sale and to secure the
13
  bonds with a pledge of pledged annual service
14
  charge.
15
                The bonds are 30 year fully non
  recourse obligations to the borough and no full
17
  faith and credit or other general obligation of
18
  the borough will secure the bonds.
                                        The bonds
19
  will be solely secured by the pledge annual
  service charge to be paid by the developer under
20
21
  a financial agreement between the borough and
22
  Genesis Paramus Housing, Urban Renewal.
23
                It's expected that the bonds will be
  purchased by an affiliate of the developer.
  financial agreement and redevelopment agreement
```

```
between Paramus and Genesis Housing require
  Genesis Housing to build an affordable housing
  project on the property, which is Block 601 and
  Lot 5 in the borough's tax map.
 4
 5
                The project is part of a settlement
 6
  between Fair Share Housing and the borough with
  respect to the borough's obligation to provide
  opportunities for affordable housing in the
           Under the terms of the settlement
  borough.
10
  agreement, the borough specifically agreed
11 through its administrative agent, Paramus
12 Affordable Housing Corp to secure ownership of
13
  this property for Genesis Housing as the
14
  designated redeveloper to enable them to
15
  undertake this project.
16
                The project itself consists of the
17
  construction of 104 unit residential building of
18
  which 45 units are rent restricted with six units
19
  targeted to be rent restricted to 30 percent of
  the area median income, 39 units rent restricted
20
  under the 60 percent MAI and the 59 remaining
21
  units will be market rent.
22
23
                The total project cost is
  approximately 35 million dollars and Genesis
  Housing has submitted its application to the New
```

```
Jersey Housing Mortgage Finance Agency for tax
  credits and mortgage financing and is exploring
  low income tax credit investors. The sources of
  capital needed to finance the cost of this
  project are expected to include the HMFA mortgage
 6
  financing, low income tax credit equity, the
  proceeds from the issuance of the Redevelopment
  Area Bonds and developer equity.
 9
                The financial agreement between the
  borough and Genesis Housing requires the
11 redeveloper to pay an annual service charge equal
12
  to five percent of the annual gross revenue of
13
  the project. Of that amount, an amount equal to
14
  two percent of the annual gross revenue will be
15
  pledged as pledged annual service charge to repay
16
  the bonds and three percent of the annual gross
17
  revenue will be unpledged and will be paid to the
18
  borough.
19
                Five percent of the gross rents in
20
  the first couple of years amounts to
  approximately $100,000, and then that's split
22
  with 40,000 being available for debt service and
23
  60,000 being available and being paid to the
  borough.
            The rents are expected to increase over
  the term of the bond, so that unpledged amounts
```

```
over the term will increase from around that
1
 2
  $60,000 number to around 100,000 annually.
 3
                And then the pledged amounts will
  increase from approximately the 40,000 number to
 4
 5
  around $67,000 and the debt service will be
  calculated based on the expected pledged annual
  service charge over the term upon a final
  determination of the par amount of the RAB.
 9
                The bonds will be authorized by a
  bond resolution of the borough and administered
11 through a trust indenture with a bank trustee and
12
  the borough respectfully requests approval to
13
  issue the RAB at private sale and secure the
14
  bonds with a pledged annual service charge.
15
  Thank you.
16
                MR. BENECKI:
                              In anticipation of
17
  some questions, just to fill in the blanks, just
18
  to make sure everyone understands the
19
  comprehensive nature of this.
                                  This is a 2.65
20
  acre site. It's at the confluence of Route 17,
  Route 4 and Maple Street. It is currently tax
22
  exempt.
            It's off the tax rolls and 68 percent of
23
  the PILOT will generate $60,000 to the borough.
24
                Over time it will increase as the
25
  rents increase. The completion date is expected
```

```
to be in mid 2023.
                       The start date is expected to
  be some time hopefully this spring. There will
  be, again, 104 units. 45 units will be
  100 percent inclusionary, and 54 units will be
  market units on the site.
 6
               And the site is a challenge and we
  have a very thin net operating income, and
  therefore, we have both the need for the RAB and
  the need for the New Jersey Housing Mortgage
10
  Financing Agency financing. The debt service
11
  coverage ratio on the whole program is about 1.15
12
  percent and that's another reason for the RAB.
13
                So our ask is clear on behalf of the
14
  governing body. The governing body is fully
  behind this and obviously the Fair Share Housing
16
  Center and the agreement that the Local Finance
17
  Board has embeds and implements this plan as
18
         The Oster Redevelopment Plan was adopted
  well.
19
  in July, August of 2020 and it cements the
20
  Genesis program on this particular track and
21
  property.
22
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
                                         A few
23
  questions just to start out.
                                 So I know there is
  parking associated with the units. How many
  parking spaces are available in total and how
```

```
many are allocated for the affordable market rate
 2
  units?
 3
                MS. SANDBANK:
                               Nicole, can you
  answer that question about parking?
 4
 5
                MS. LOCKETT: The parking is, at the
                       We're looking to increase
 6
  moment, one to one.
  that by about eight parking spaces, so it would
8 be 104 spaces to 112. And they're not -- the
  parking spaces are not assigned parking spaces.
10
  The way that we do these mixed income
11 developments is that there is no delineation
12
  really between the market rate units and the
13
  affordable units other than the compliance issues
14 involved.
15
                So no one will know whether it's a
16 market rate parking space or an affordable
17
  parking space. And I would make one correction.
18
  The financing, there will be tax credits
  associated with it if we're successful.
19
20
  mortgage financing is contemplated to be private
  mortgage financing as opposed as through the New
  Jersey Housing Finance Agency.
22
23
                MS. WALTER:
                             What percent tax
24
  credits are you anticipating?
25
                MS. LOCKETT: Nine percent.
```

```
1
               MS. WALTER:
                            Now, it appears that it
2
  would be qualifying as family affordable. What's
  the split between one, two and three bedroom
  units for the site?
 5
               MS. LOCKETT: For the entire site, I
  don't remember the split, but the 45 units is
 6
  actually where we, where we measure the one, two
  and three bedroom, so I know we've got 25 percent
  three bedrooms. No more than 20 percent and I am
10
  not looking at the split. But certainly, at
11 least 25 percent three bedrooms which is
12
  generally our measure for large family units.
13
               MR. BENECKI: That issue was also
14
  addressed in our November 5th supplemental filing
15 with the Local Finance Board on page two full
  paragraph two, it's listed in there. Again,
17
  without getting too far into the weeds, it's 104
18
  units, six, as Leah noted. The six units will be
19
  rent restricted at 30 percent of area median
20
  income.
21
               And 39 units will be targeted to be
22
  rent restricted at 57.5 percent of AMI. And then
23
  the balance for 59 units would be rented at
  market rents, so it's a little bit more, I don't
  want to say restricted, but it's a little bit
```

```
more, it's different than the typical COAH
 2
  requirements.
 3
                MS. WALTER:
                             What is your
 4
  anticipated market rate?
 5
                MR. BENECKI: The market rate in
  terms of the rental per unit?
 6
 7
                MS. WALTER:
                             Mm-mm.
 8
                MR. BENECKI: Our market study
  indicates we will probably be in the neighborhood
  1950 dollars per month, 2100 dollars a month on
10
  the bedroom units. It is Paramus and it is in a
12
  prime location. And as Genesis has noted,
13
  they're not going to distinguish between the two
14
  type of units, be it, for parking or be it for
15
  amenities or anything like that, so.
16
                MS. WALTER:
                             Is any portion of the
17
  service charge set aside for the school and
18
  county at this time?
19
                MR. BENECKI: Well, the county
20
  obviously, yes. And in the school, we would have
21
  to see what the final school age children
22
  breakdown is. We did a study of the school age
  children breakdown and obviously the PILOT is not
23
  going to cover the full school age children cost
  because of the way it's blended, the project is
```

```
blended. So if you're looking for will the PILOT
 2
  cover the school age children, it will not.
 3
                MS. WALTER:
                            Okay. Thank you.
                                                 Is
4
  there any kind of a bond serve or a downside
 5
  protection built in to the arrangement during the
  construction period?
 6
                MR. BENECKI: We will be receiving
  2.1 million dollars at closing for the property
  through the Paramus Affordable Housing
10
  Corporation. We believe that's security enough
11
  given that we are building a 40 percent
12
  affordable component into this property, so the
13 2.1 million dollars is our safety net, if you
14 will.
15
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
                                        One of the
  things you indicated during the presentation is
17
  that you anticipate per unit rent increases over
18
  time. Do you have an anticipated rate of
19
  increase, or what's the expectation to be able to
  continue to cover that debt service?
20
21
                MS. LOCKETT: We pro forma that at
22
  two percent over time. Obviously, if we do
23
  better, the borough does better as well.
24
                MS. WALTER:
                             I do want to note for
25
  the record, we did have comments submitted by the
```

```
Local Planning Services as is required by the RAB
        They indicate that they anticipate this
  project has the potential to reduce congestion,
  increase mobility and improve local quality of
  life, particularly because of the access to the
  nearby shopping facilities.
 6
7
                So the expectation is that this will
  actually both increase access too for the
  residents and then also increase interest in
10
  those storage at this time. And obviously with
11
  everything going on at this moment, additional
12
  use of in person grocery stores and shopping is
13
  something that everyone is concerned about, so
14
  they were favorably inclined towards the project.
  To that end, do any of the other board members
15
  have questions at this time?
17
               MR. CLOSE: Director, will they have
18
  public transportation built on site as well also?
19
               MS. LOCKETT:
                            I should answer that.
20
  There is no public transportation built on site.
21
  We are looking -- there certainly is public
22
  transportation all around the bus routes, I think
23
  four or five bus routes within half a mile, but
  we're looking into some things like possibly
  putting ZIP cars on the site and trying to afford
```

```
folks as much access to flexible methods of
 2
  transportation as possible.
 3
                MR. CLOSE:
                            Sure. Given the area, I
  think the heed of accessibility to access all of
 4
5
  the opportunities around there, would be great
  for the site.
 6
 7
                MS. LOCKETT:
                             Yes.
 8
                MS. WALTER:
                             It appears we may have
  members of the public on the call. If anyone
10
  here had intended to speak on this or any other
11 application, please be sure to send a note in the
12
  chat or raise your hand. Through the system
13
  there is a hand raising function so we know you
  want to speak on this particular application.
14
  With that said, it does not appear that
15
16
  there's --
17
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                               Director, I do see
18
  Mr. Feld has his hand up.
19
                MS. WALTER: Mr. Feld, sorry.
20
  didn't realize you were holding your hand up.
                                                   Ι
21
  thought you were just there.
22
                MR. FELD:
                           I just want to first
23
  thank your staff for providing the documents to
  me very quickly. I had two letters I hope are
25
  included in the record. I just have basic two
```

```
due diligence questions. When you look at the
  Paramus application, it does not designate who
  the bond counsel or the special outside
 4
  redevelopment counsel was in this transaction.
 5
                And my other really due diligence
 6
  question goes to the best practice inventory
  question as to was there a written net benefits
  fiscal impact study for this project because
  there was not one included in the packet of
10
  documents that were provided to me.
11
                And I think it's the responsibility
12
  of the Local Finance Board, one, to clarify who
13
  is going to be the bond counsel in a special
14
  outside redevelopment counsel in this transaction
15
  and did the municipality from Paramus because
16
  based on their user friendly budget, this appears
  to be their first long term tax exemption
17
18
  transaction. And did some outside consultant or
19
  employee review pursuant to the core competency
20
  question of the Local Finance Board and to the
21
  Division of Local Government Services to analyze
22
  the net benefits to this and is it in writing.
23
                That's all my questions.
                                          And these
24
  questions are going to be the same questions for
  the next two applications, so I don't need to
```

```
join, but they are the same basic questions, but
  I want the public to understand, I really want to
  thank the staff to responding so quickly from the
  date of the posting of the agenda to this hearing
4
 5
  getting me the underlying application and
               Thank you.
 6
  documents.
                MR. BENECKI:
                              Director, let me
8
  respond to those two questions. First, taking
  the second one which is in my wheelhouse first.
10
  We did do a cost benefit analysis and an economic
11
  impact study. Leah can get that to you by the
12
  end of the day.
13
                We did that in mid December of 2019
14
  and that set the foundation for both this
  application and for the project as we moved into
15
16
  the redevelopment plan. In addition, going back
17
  to question number one, Paul Kaufman of Kaufman,
18
  Semeraro, et al, is the outside redevelopment
19
  counsel and they will be either coordinating with
20
  bond counsel with Rogut McCarthy or they'll be
21
  handling the bond counsel duties on behalf of the
22
  borough directly and obviously McManimon and
23
  Scotland will be helping because they are non
24
  recourse.
25
                MR. FELD:
                           Thank you.
```

```
1
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you, Mr. Benecki
2
  for providing those responses. I also would note
  for the record, as Mr. Feld noted, the team is
  excellent about responding to the Records Act
  request and otherwise providing access to
 6
  documentation.
                  I always appreciate it,
  particularly during the pandemic, they've been
  excellent, especially managing everything
  remotely.
10
               And to the substantive review, I'd
11
  also like to note we do conduct a full internal
12
  review of each application, including review of
13
  pro formas. And fortunately, my deputy director
14 has some experience in this area, as do several
15 members of staff, so they've been able to conduct
16 a comprehensive analysis for each RAB that comes
17 into the division.
18
               We also have the reporting from
19 Local Planning Services and the EDA which does
20
  support and inform each of our assessments, and
  in fact, applications are always postponed if we
22
  haven't yet received those submissions.
23 very appreciative of all of the efforts involved.
  With that said, if there are no further
25
  questions, I would seek a motion to approve this
```

```
application at this time.
1
2
                MR. BLEE: Motion.
 3
                MR. CLOSE: Second.
 4
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
 5
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
 6
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
 7
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
 8
 9
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
10
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
11
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
                                  I just want to say
12
  excellent analysis by Mr. Benecki and Miss
13 Lockett on the presentation. Nice job.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
15
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'm going to recuse
16
  myself.
17
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Mr. Blee?
18
                MR. BLEE:
                          Yes.
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
20
                MR. LIGHT: Yes. I was on for the
  last one, too, but you didn't hear me at the end.
22
  I said yes to Paramus and also to this one.
23
                MS. MCNAMARA: All right.
24
  you, Ted.
              Thank you. Motion passes.
25
                MS. WALTER: I'm going to put out a
```

```
reminder before we move on to the next
 2
  application. If anyone is not currently
  speaking, please be sure to mute your microphone.
  Thank you all and best of luck with the project.
 5
               Next application appearing before
  the board is the East Orange City on the Summit
 6
  Street Project.
                   This is an application regarding
  one million dollars in Proposed Redevelopment
  Area Bonds.
10
               MR. JOHNSON:
                              Good morning,
11
  Director.
             Can you hear me?
12
               MS. WALTER: Yes. Good morning.
                                                  As
13
  your team comes up, if you could please as usual
14 have them turn on their screens so we can swear
15
  them in before testifying.
16
               MR. JOHNSON:
                              Sure.
                                     My name is
17
  Everett Johnson. I'm bond counsel to the City of
18
  East Orange from the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman
19
  and Spitzer. I have with me today on the line
20
  Solomon Steplight who is the business
  administrator for the City of East Orange.
21
22
               Daniel Jennings, director of
23
  economic development. Tim Eismeier from NW
  Financial Group, who is the financial advisor to
25
  the city. And I'm not sure if anyone else from
```

```
the city will be joining this morning.
1
 2
                MS. WALTER: Thank you. Could all
  of them please speak up so they're visible on the
  screen. I see Dan Jennings. I don't see Tim
 4
  Eismeier.
 5
 6
                MR. EISMEIER: Good morning,
7
  everyone.
8
                MS. GALLAGHER: Good morning.
  Dorothy Gallagher.
10
                MR. STEPLIGHT: Good morning.
11 Solomon Steplight.
12
                MR. JOHNSON: And Dorothy is the new
13 CFO of the City of East Orange. She started this
14 week.
15
                MS. WALTER: Welcome.
16
                (At which time those wishing to
17
  testify were sworn in.)
18
                MS. WALTER: And if you would, as
19 you go through, if you could please also address
20
  questions that Mr. Feld had raised. He indicated
  he would be raising them with each of the
22
  applicants.
23
                MR. JOHNSON: Okay.
24
                MS. WALTER: Specifically, what are
25
  the resident independent pro forma assessment and
```

```
who would the outside counsel was for the
  redevelopment aspect of the project.
 3
                MR. JOHNSON: Well, I'm obviously
  bond counsel to the city. (Inaudible) is
  redevelopment counsel to the developer and Tim
  Eismeier is on the line as well who is the
  financial advisor who did prepare a financial
  analysis on behalf of the city that analyzed the
  PILOT and I'm sure we'll speak to that as we move
10
  forward in our presentation.
11
                             Lovely.
                                      Thank you.
                MS. WALTER:
12 Mr. Johnson, please proceed.
13
                MR. JOHNSON:
                             The City of East
14
  Orange respectfully requests the approval of the
15
  Local Finance Board pursuant to 40A:12A-29(a)(3)
16
  of the Redevelopment and Housing Law and
17
  40A:12A-67g of the Redevelopment Area Bond
18
  Financing Law with respect to the proposed
  authorization and issuance of one or more series
19
20
  of non recourse special obligation PILOT
21
  Redevelopment Area Bonds in an aggregate amount
22
  not to exceed a million dollars.
23
                The bonds will be secured solely by
  a pledge of the portion of the payments in lieu
  of taxes to be generated by the redevelopment
```

```
project and not through a general obligation of
  the city. In the city in 14 Summit Street
  Holdings Urban Renewal, LLC, entered into a
  redevelopment agreement to redevelop parcels of
  land located in a State of New Jersey designated
  transit village district in the city and is being
  developed in accordance with the East Orange
  Transit Village Redevelopment Plan adopted by the
  city in 2015.
10
                The parcel to be redeveloped are
11 located in the area of the city that is currently
  underdeveloped and utilized. The redeveloper
12
  lowns 14 Summit Street and 158 North Walnut Street
13
14
  in the City of East Orange and plans to construct
15
  78 residential units, including 11 studio
16
  apartments, 48 one bedroom units, 19 two bedroom
17
  units with on site parking amenities, a
18
  resident's lounge, fitness room, onsite laundry
19
  room, two rooftop terraces, bike storage and many
20
  storage units.
21
                In order to facilitate the
22
  implementation of the project and catalyze the
23 levels of investment, the redeveloper and the
  city entered into a financial agreement to
  provide for payments in lieu of taxes.
                                           The
```

```
financial agreement contemplates two streams of
2
  payments, land taxes and annual service charges.
 3
                The annual service charge will be
  sized to cover debt service on the RAB bonds and
4
  be pledged in the trustee to secure the RAB
          The RABs will be issued to finance a
  portion of the cost of the project and to fund,
  if necessary, debt service reserve fund in our
  capitalized interest account and also pay for any
  costs and fees associated with the issuance of
10
11
  the RAB bonds.
12
                The property currently generates
  approximately $16,000 in annual tax revenues.
13
14
  The developer will pay a minimum of $125,000 in
15
  annual service charges which after the payment of
16
  debt service on the bonds and the payment of the
17
  county shared annual service charges, it's
18
  expected to generate net revenues to the city of
  approximately $18,000 annually at project
19
20
  stabilization.
21
                The project is expected to generate
22
  an initial annual return in investment to the
23
  developer about 10.7 percent with the unit of
24
  cost of 5.98 percent after the full lease up.
  However, this below market investment project is
```

```
only achievable with the redeveloper's payment of
  the PILOT.
 3
                The financial agreement implemented
  in the tax exemption for the project of a 25 year
4
 5
  term with annual service charges at eight
  and-a-half percent of annual gross revenues.
                                                 As
  annual residential rents increase, the annual
  service charge paid to the city will increase.
  The benefits of the project are several.
10
                The project will stabilize and
11
  revitalize a blighted area in the City of East
12
  Orange.
            It will effectuate private investment in
13
  the area of approximately 19 million dollars with
14
  the cost of the project and all the fees and
15
  infrastructure related thereto.
                                    It will provide
16
  an estimate of 65 construction jobs and 10
17
  permanent jobs.
18
                It will restore properties that are
19 now vacant and underutilized to productive,
20
  clean, attractive and new uses to a community
  pride, but also provide $82,000 of annual PILOT
22
  payments at the full lease up as compared to
23
  $16,000 currently being paid.
                                  The redeveloper
  will pay $75,000 to the city as well as a
25
  community benefits payment.
```

```
1
                The city proposed to adopt a bond
 2
  resolution authorizing the bonds and a million
  dollars. The bond will not be a general
  obligation of the city and the city's full faith
 5
  and credit will not be pledged to pay debt
  service on the bonds.
                        The bonds will be secured
 6
7
  solely by a pledge of annual service charges.
 8
                It is anticipated -- and that an
  affiliate of the redeveloper made the initial
10
  purchase of the bonds via private placement.
11 However, depending on market conditions, the
12
  bonds may be issued in a competitive or
13
  negotiated basis. The city's determination of
14
  the bonds is the most cost efficient effective
15
  means of implementing the project without
  implication of the city's credit or assumption of
  risk.
17
18
                Therefore, the city respectfully
19
  requests the board to approve the issue of the
20
  bonds in accordance with 29A of the Redevelopment
21
  and Housing Law and secure the bonds pursuant to
22
  a pledge of the annual service charge as provided
23
  by the RAB Law. At this time, we will respond to
  any questions you may have.
25
                MS. WALTER: Thank you.
                                         I have
```

```
questions about the zone within which this is
  being constructed. You indicated it was a
  transit brand to development. Which station or a
  portion of the transit zone is this affiliated
 5
  with?
               MR. JENNINGS: I can answer that
 6
7
             This is Dan Jennings. The East Orange
  question.
  Train Station, very short walk and, you know,
  it's used. It's not as used as much as we'd
10
  like. The Brick Church Station gets better
11
  service, but this is also within walking distance
12
  to the Brick Church Station.
13
               MS. WALTER: What's the proximity
14 when you refer to walking distance?
15
               MR. JENNINGS: Yeah. I think to
16 East Orange Train Station, it's probably under, I
17
  would say, a quarter mile. For the Brick Church
  Station, probably closer to three quarters mile,
18
19
  three-quarters.
20
               MS. WALTER: What are the current
21
  uses of this site? I know you indicated it was
22
  essentially vacant, but what buildings were on
23
  the site, and then what's kind of within the
24
  community surrounding?
25
               MR. JENNINGS: So the site has been
```

```
vacant for at least a couple of decades.
                                             I think
  it was there might have been a home and some
  other horse stable. It's really quite old, and
  the community itself consists mostly of multi
  family residential buildings, so this project
 6
  certainly fits in with the character.
                                          We like
7
  the fact the developer is proposing to do a high
  quality project that will architecturally blend
  in with the community.
10
               MS. WALTER:
                             Do you anticipate any
11
  set backs from the street? What's the street
12
  scaping or the infrastructure component here?
13
               MR. JENNINGS: You know what, I'm
14
  not probably the best person to answer that
15
  question.
            I wish I had my planner on the line.
  But let me see if I can just answer that and
17
  maybe you can go on to other questions. I'll try
18
  to see if I can get an answer to that question
19
  real quick.
20
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
                                         So
  generally speaking, is there any infrastructure
22
  community investment component up front as part
23
  of this project?
24
               MR. JENNINGS: Well, I think they
  did mention a community benefit payment.
```

```
what we like to do with our community benefit is
  find local open space. Our local programming
  that we can attach it to. We haven't defined
 4
  exactly what that would be in this case.
 5
                MS. WALTER:
                             Mm-mm.
                    JENNINGS: But we should be able
 6
                MR.
7
  to do that soon.
8
                MR. EISMEIER:
                               Director, in terms of
  whether or not there is a public infrastructure
10
  component of the redevelopment project, the
11
  answer is no. There's not going to be any
12
  infrastructure funded by the proceeds of the
13
  Redevelopment Area Bond.
14
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. Are there
  anticipated needs regarding sidewalk upgrades,
16
  crosswalks, otherwise, bus stops that may be
17
  needed to support this transit oriented project?
18
                MR. JENNINGS: Certainly I would say
19
  no bus stop because it's on a street that doesn't
20
  have a bus line, so definitely, not needed in
21
  terms of bus stop. I do want to point out.
22
  have the developer on the line. Levi Kelemen.
23
  Levi, if you want to speak to the design question
  that was posed, please feel free to do that.
25
                MR. JOHNSON: Director, do you want
```

```
to swear him in first?
1
 2
                (At which time those wishing to
 3
  testify were sworn in.)
 4
                             Thank you for joining
                MS. WALTER:
5
  us.
 6
                             Thank you for hosting
                MR. KELEMEN:
7
  us and entertaining this application. So just to
  give some color. We have two lots, one is 14
  Summit and adjoining with 158 North Walnut.
10
  one is vacant, it has been vacant for quite some
         The 14 Summit lot has a very derelict
11
12
  carriage house I quess and a bunch of beat up
13
  garages.
14
                The idea would be to demolish them
  and for this new construction. Regarding the
16
  setback, North Walnut is going to be an access, a
17
  driveway for vehicles to get in to park on site.
18
  And on the 14 Summit, which is going to be facing
19
  the street, will be set back in line with the
20
  neighboring buildings, so you will have
21 landscaping and other elements to blend in and be
22
  nice with some (inaudible) on the side.
23
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. Right now,
  when you're talking about there being other multi
  family developments in the area, are those in
```

```
immediate proximity, or is it more in between
  here and the train station that you're
 3
  conceptualizing, if that.
 4
               MR. JENNINGS: The answer is both.
5
  The bulk of the development is currently within a
  quarter mile of the station, both stations for
 6
  Brick Church and East Orange.
                                  And demand for
  apartments in East Orange, you know, is still
  rising even during the pandemic, according to the
  developers we're talking to.
10
11
               MS. WALTER: And what do you
12
  anticipate the market rates in this property?
13
               MR. JENNINGS:
                               I'm going to let the
14
  developer answer that one.
15
               MR. KELEMEN: We're anticipating
  rents on a square footage basis. Is that what
17
  you would like or the average apartment rent?
18
                             Both is great if you
               MS. WALTER:
19
  have it.
20
               MR. KELEMEN:
                             Our survey came back
  with the rents being approximately $2.20, I
22
  think, a foot. Between when you take the average
  of the studios, one's and the two's, the average
23
  rent is going to be about 1700, 1740 is what we
  projected the rents to come out monthly.
```

```
1
               MS. WALTER: This is fairly
2
  consistent for the region as a whole. Thank you.
  What is the allocation of, I think you mentioned
  this earlier, but the number of one bedroom, two
  bedroom, three bedroom?
               MR. KELEMEN: I think Everett had
 6
7
  that, but it was about 18 or so studios, about 48
  one's and then the balance is probably similar to
  the studio of about --
10
               MR. JOHNSON: It's 11 studio
11
  apartments, 48 one bedroom and 19 two bedroom for
12
  a total of 78.
13
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. Do any of
14 the other board members have questions for the
15 applicant at this time? Do any members of the
  public have questions at this time?
17
               MS. RODRIGUEZ: I have a comment,
  Director.
18
19
               MR. FELD: This is Jeff Feld.
20
  you hear me?
21
               MS. WALTER:
                           Yes. Although I'll let
  Miss Rodriquez to finish her comment and then
23
  we'll go to your question.
24
               MR. FELD: All right.
25
               MS. RODRIGUEZ: I commend the City
```

```
of East Orange on these types of projects.
  been able to witness the turn around.
  think Mr. Jennings put it correctly. I mean,
  there is a lot happening in East Orange and I
  always call it the pearl of Essex, where it sits,
  and the demographics are changing and it's a
  spirit filled city, a lot of great things are
  happening and absolutely excited about this
  particular project and its proximity to the train
10
  station which is going to be booming really soon.
11
  So I want to commend the developer and Mr.
12
  Jennings and the business administrator and
13
  welcome the new CFO to East Orange, so that is my
14
  comment.
15
                               Well, we thank you so
               MR. JENNINGS:
  much for those gracious comments. We're really
17
  excited about what's happening in the city and
18
  we're thrilled that other people see what we see.
19
                MR. FELD:
                           This is Jeff Feld.
20
  two due diligence questions on the record is we
21
  still have not been answered.
                                  Was there a
22
  special outside redevelopment counsel involved in
23
  this transaction. And two, whether a written net
  benefit analysis was provided in connection with
25
  the application, a separate document.
```

```
MR. JOHNSON: So I did answer number
1
 2
        Number two was, yes, there was an analysis
  prepared by Tim Eismeier who is on the line now.
  And no, there was not an outside counsel
  representing the city. The city's corporation of
  counsel's office negotiated the redevelopment
 6
  agreement on behalf of the city, along with Sills
  Cummins on behalf of the developer.
 9
                MR. FELD:
                           Well, Sills Cummins,
10
  they're in an adversary position, and under the
11
  amended redevelopment handbook, it is best
12
  practice is that a municipality retain the
13
  services of special outside redevelopment counsel
14
  rather than their in-house municipal counsel to
15
  negotiate.
               That's what the handbook says.
  That's all I'm putting on the record. Thank you.
17
                MR. EISMEIER: I'll address the
18
                   Everett answered it, but I'll
  second question.
19
  lanswer it as well. We did analyze this project,
20
  not only in terms of the fiscal impact analysis,
  but whether or not the project needs a PILOT to
  proceed and that's an analysis we do for every
23
  single project.
24
                We look at, not only in East Orange,
  but in every other city where we do this work, so
```

```
I wanted to make that clear for the record.
1
 2
               MS. WALTER: We do appreciate the
  documents that were provided as well as the pro
  forma that was submitted to the division for
  assessment. We typically do see pretty
  significant compliance with requests coming in
7
  from Kevin Hidel.
 8
                I would note, following on Mr.
  Feld's comment, we are always going to ask for
10
  the pro forma. If it could be provided with the
11 initial application, sometimes that helps to
12
  avoid delays. This one came in timely.
                                           We were
13
  able to move in within quick turn around.
14 Occasionally we see ones that don't.
15
               For all the people participating in
  the meeting today, there's never going to be a
  RAB where we're not requesting the pro forma.
                                                  So
18
  please make sure to provide it.
                                    Thank you all
19
  for that. And with that said, if no other
20
  members have questions at this time, I would ask
21
  that someone move the application be approved.
22
               MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I'll make a motion.
23
               MR. DIROCCO: I'll second it.
24
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
25
               MS. WALTER: Yes.
```

1	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
2	MR. MAPP: Yes.
3	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
4	MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
5	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
6	MR. CLOSE: Yes.
7	MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
8	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
9	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
10	MR. BLEE: Yes.
11	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
12	MR. LIGHT: Yes.
13	MS. MCNAMARA: Motion passes.
14	MR. JOHNSON: I do want to note for
15	the record, there was a pro forma provided with
16	the initial application as an exhibit.
17	MS. WALTER: Yes. As indicated,
18	that was a general comment and not specific to
19	this application.
20	MR. JENNINGS: On behalf of Mayor
21	Green, we really want to thank the Local Finance
22	Board and your due diligence in approving this
23	project.
24	MS. WALTER: Thank you very much and
25	thank you to the mayor for those remarks. From

```
here we can move on to the next application
  appearing before the board which is also a
  Redevelopment Area Bonds application related to
  Morristown Town M Station Project.
 5
               MR. JESSUP: Yes. Good morning,
             Matt Jessup, McManimon, Scotland and
 6
  Director.
  Baumann, bond counsel to the town.
                                       We should
 8 have with us Jillian Barrick who is the town
  administrator. Frank Mason, the town chief
  financial officer.
10
11
                John Inglesino, who is the town's
  outside redevelopment counsel. Doug Allen is the
12
13
  project manager for the redeveloper and Steve
14 Pearlman and Adam Peterson from Pearlman and
15 Miranda who are redeveloper's counsel.
16
               MS. WALTER: If all of them could
17
  please appear on the screen now and speak up so
18
  that you appear on the screen, make sure your
19
  screen is on and we'll swear in everyone before
20
  testifying. These are usually pretty big
  applications.
                 It's important to get everybody up
22
  to the front of the screen for purposes of
23
  swearing in.
24
               MS. BARRICK:
                              I'm here.
25
                               I'm here, too.
               MR. PEARLMAN:
```

```
1
                MR. ALLEN: Steve, I don't have the
 2
  screen.
 3
                MR. PEARLMAN:
                               Okay, Doug. You can
  just go along. That was Doug Allen from SJP.
4
                                                   Wе
5
  can swear you in.
                MR. JESSUP: Director, are we all
 6
7
  set to be sworn in?
8
                MS. MCNAMARA: I think we're trying
  to find more people to swear them in on video.
10
                MS. BARRICK:
                              This is Jillian
11 Barrick, the business administrator.
12
                (At which time those wishing to
13 testify were sworn in.)
14
                MR. JESSUP:
                            Good morning, everyone.
  Matt Jessup, McManimon, Scotland and Baumann,
16 bond counsel to the town. This is an application
17
  pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-67g and 12A-29(a)(3)
18
  in connection with the issuance by the town of
  not to exceed 8.8 million dollars of non recourse
19
20
  Redevelopment Area Bonds.
21
                The bonds will be secured solely by
22
  PILOT payments made in connection with the
23
  redevelopment project that we'll describe in a
  minute and will not be payable from any other
  town source or town credit. So we basically have
25
```

```
a two phase redevelopment project with
  corresponding two series non recourse
  Redevelopment Area Bonds which are being issued
  to finance infrastructure improvements required
4
  in connection with the redevelopment project.
 6
                And each series of bonds that
7
  finance portions of each of the two phases are
  secured by separate PILOTs by each financial
  agreement. So the Phase 1 redevelopment project
  consists of a six story building, about 119,000
10
11
  gross square feet of office space.
                                       That is
12
  virtually all for the new Deloitte headquarters.
13
  The lease with Deloitte is fully executed.
14
                It contains project completion
  requirements and it's for virtually the whole
16
  space, except for the retail space.
                                        There is
17
  about 10,000 square feet of retail space in the
18
  building as well. The Phase 1 redevelopment
19
  project also includes the eastern portion of an
20
  889 car structured parking deck, so in Phase 1
  you have 426 spaces in that parking deck that are
22
  being constructed.
23
                And then you have infrastructure
24
  improvements including the infrastructure
  improvements that are being financed by the Phase
```

```
So the Phase 1 bonds are expected to be
  1 bonds.
  issued in the amount of approximately three
  and-a-half million dollars and proceeds from the
  sale in issuance of those bonds will be used to
  fund a new traffic roundabout and signal at
  Spring Street right off from the project site,
 6
  offsite utility infrastructure improvements,
  sidewalks, an east promenade and street
  improvements.
10
                The Phase 1 bonds are secured by a
  Phase 1 financial agreement which calls for a
12
  PILOT or an annual service charge equal to
13 | 12 percent of annual gross revenues in years one
14
  through 30, pretty straight forward computation
15
  for that one.
16
                The Phase 2 redevelopment project
17
  consists of a seven story building, about 234,000
18
  square feet of office space, about 19,400 square
19
  feet of retail space. The remaining half roughly
20
  of that 889 car parking garage. So in Phase 2
21 it's 463 spaces to complete that parking garage,
22
  an outdoor street scape plaza and related
23
  improvements and certain infrastructure
  improvements in Phase 2 bonds.
25
                Now, the Phase 2 project doesn't
```

```
have any tenants at this moment, though the
  redeveloper tells us there are expressions of
  interest. So as a result, the redeveloper
  agreement permits up to eight years to complete
  the Phase 2 project and we'll come back to that
  in a minute as well.
               The Phase 2 bonds are expected to be
  issued in an amount of 3.6 million dollars,
  proceeds from the sale and issuance of those
10 bonds will be used to fund the balance of the
11 cost of the roundabout and signal at Spring
12
  Street.
           That is primarily financed in the first
13
  of the Phase 1 bonds.
14
               And then street scape plaza, outdoor
  plaza and a promenade in connection with the
16
  Phase 2 project. So while the Phase 2 bonds are
17
  being used to finance that same Spring Street
18
  traffic improvements, the improvements actually
19
  don't take that long obviously.
20
               What is really happening here is the
  developer is paying for the full cost of those
22
  infrastructure improvements up front and the
  Phase 2 bonds, when they're issued, will
23
  basically reimburse the redeveloper after the
25
  fact. So he pays for it up front out of his
```

1 pocket. 2 We pay the second half of it so to speak out of the Phase 2 bonds. Obviously, we can't do half an intersection, leave it for a couple years and see what happens. At any rate, so the Phase 2 bonds are secured by the Phase 2 financial agreement which calls for a PILOT equal to 11 percent of annual gross revenue in years one through 10. 10 And in years 11 through 30, a 11 formula that results in sort of a variable 12 number. It will either be 11 percent of annual 13 gross revenues, 12 and-a-half percent of annual 14 gross revenues or 14 percent of annual gross 15 revenues. And that variable is really for the town's benefit. 16 17 Because the project, the Phase 2 18 project doesn't currently have tenants, the PILOT 19 formula basically allows the town to capture 20 additional revenue depending on the success of 21 that Phase 2 project from the redeveloper. 22 the more successful Phase 2 of the developer, the 23 higher the PILOT number ends up being for the town, and that is based on the developer's yield 25 on calls.

```
But again, at a minimum, it's that
1
2
  11 percent number. So what does all that mean to
  the town? In addition, obviously, the reuse of
  the property and the on and off site
  infrastructure improvements that have really been
  pushed into Phase 1 for the benefit of the town
  because Phase 2 is tentative, the town is
  anticipating receipt of 16.6 million dollars in
  PILOT land tax and administrative fee revenue
10
  from the Phase 1 project alone over the 30 year
  term of the PILOT and that is net of all debt
12
  service on the Phase 1 bonds.
13
               And then the town is anticipating
14
  approximately 28.6 million dollars in PILOT land
15
  tax and administrative fee revenue from the Phase
16
  2 project over 30 years. And again, that's also
17
  net of all the Phase 2 bonds.
                                  That 28.6 million
18
  dollar net number also assumes the PILOT is at
  that base 11 percent the entire time and not at
19
20
  the higher 12 and-a-half or perhaps 14 percent,
  again, based on project success.
22
                To Mr. Feld's point raised during
23
  the Paramus application, the town did engage Bob
  Powell from Nassau Capital Advisors to advise the
25
  town and to confirm that those PILOT revenue
```

```
numbers that we talked about for Phase 1 and two
  and of any increase in the cost of municipal
  services, cost of constituent services does
  provide a net financial benefit to the town.
 5
                So all of that said, there's a third
  potential series of bonds to be issued here.
 6
  Series one and series two will be issued. Series
  three is a 1.7 million dollar contingent series
  of bonds, also non recourse to the town, as they
10
  all are.
11
               And that series of bonds will only
12
  be issued in the event that the Spring Street
13
  roundabout being financed at the beginning of the
14 project, if that fails certain pedestrian and
15
  traffic safety standards. And if it fails those
16
  standards, the third series of bonds get issued
17
  and the proceeds get used to basically put the
18
  intersection back to the type of intersection it
  is now which is a more traditional T shape
19
20
  intersection.
21
                If that third series of bonds is
22 issued, the net revenue to the town over 30 years
23
  out of Phase 1 goes from 16.6 million dollars
  that I referenced earlier down to about 14
  million dollars. Still substantial, still net
```

```
benefit.
1
 2
                And lastly, before we stop for
 3
  questions, as the director knows, we did have a
  meeting with the director and her staff, Patty,
  Kevin and the team and we did just want to,
  preapplication meeting, we did just want to thank
  you for taking the time and also to Maria
  Connelly at planning services for her behind the
  screens efforts as well. So with that, I'll stop
10
  here and gladly try to answer any questions you
11 may have.
                MS. WALTER:
12
                             Thank you.
                                         As you
13 indicated we had a fairly extensive meeting on
14
  this project in the last couple of weeks and I
  appreciated the financial information that was
15
  provided, including financial information and
  information about the site plan.
17
18
                We were amused with the roundabout
19
  description, so the explanation of the trial
20
  period for that installation was very helpful.
21
  I'd like to clarify for the record, that there
22
  are in fact long term leases already in place for
23
  Phase 1 for the project, if I can recall, 15 year
24
  leases; is that correct?
25
                                     This is Steve
                MR. PEARLMAN: Yes.
```

```
Pearlman, counsel for the developer. There is a
  15 year lease with Deloitte and there are
 3
  extension options.
 4
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. And the
5
  project remains viable if only Phase 1 is
  completed at this juncture, correct?
 6
 7
               MR. PEARLMAN:
                              Yes, although the
8
  developer incentivized to build the Phase 2
  because it returns just doing Phase 1, especially
10
  because it's carrying all that infrastructure
11 costs and a decent portion of the garage and
12
  such, it is incentivized to go forward and find
13
  that tenant.
14
               Yes, if building two never
  materializes, the town has required that there be
16
  an oath in interim and a permanent landscaping
17
  plan so that people are not looking at a
18
  construction site for the west building.
19
               MS. WALTER: Given the circumstances
20
  at this point in time, it's always good to have a
21
  downside protection. It seems it's been
22
  addressed comprehensively in this application, so
23 I appreciate that. Phase 1 of the project
  generates between 13 and-a-half and 15 and-a-half
  million dollars in net revenue to the township
```

```
based on an 11 percent projection.
                                       Is that
2
  right?
 3
                MR. JESSUP:
                             Yeah.
                                    I think,
  Director, if you consider the PILOTs, the land
4
5
  taxes and the administrative fee that the town
  collects, it's about 16.6 million dollars in
  total revenue. Again, net of debt bond service
  from Phase 1 alone, correct.
 9
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
                                        Phase 2
  would increase that to roughly 19 to 25 million,
11 correct?
12
                MR. JESSUP:
                             Yeah.
                                    At the
13 | 11 percent only PILOT and not at one of the
  higher two possible PILOT numbers. Again, if
15 it's PILOT and land tax and admin fee revenue
16
  which is required and paid under the financial
  agreement, you're at about 28.6 million dollars
17
  in revenue of the town, again, also net of Phase
18
19
  2 bond debt service.
20
                MS. WALTER: Something interesting
  about this project that we learned through our
22
  initial assessments is that this is really an
23
  opportunity to build out a portion of Morristown
  and it's great site to attract to the
25 municipality.
```

So I wanted to ask if the 1 2 municipality wanted to describe the impact they anticipate from this project and the surrounding community at this time? 4 5 MS. BARRICK: Good morning. This is an amazing project that we're very excited to see 6 happen and we anticipate a substantial impact of thousands of permanent jobs that are good quality jobs that will net, you know, several millions of 10 dollars in walking wallets in Morristown in 11 addition to simply adding to the residential 12 housing market and the sort of cultural resources 13 lin town. 14 Deloitte, in particular, is known for doing a lot of philanthropy and local support 16 of non profits and other types of sort of 17 business development, incubator type of activity 18 which in addition to their -- for example, they do a daily day of service which they've done 19 20 routinely every year and that will be focused on 21 the many non profits here in Morristown which we 22 think will be a net benefit. 23 And, you know, in addition to the 24 temporary construction jobs which we think there will be several hundred of them over the course

```
of the development of the east and the west
  building. This is a monumental project which
  really -- Morristown has been desirable as a
  place to live and work.
 5
                I mean, that's as much our tag line
  as it is a reality. And what we've heard from a
 6
  lot of businesses that are already located here,
  and certainly from Deloitte and others who have
  expressed interest in moving here is that
10 Morristown is attractive from a recruitment
11 standpoint, very different from your office
12 market on Route 10 or other highway locations
13
  that have proved to be antiquated because people
14 want to live and work and play kind of in one
15 place, in a downtown that's walkable, that's
16 accessible, that's close to home.
17
                You don't have those commutes.
18
  don't have to go get in your car to go get lunch.
19
  And you know, we welcome them as much as they're
20
  looking forward to being here. So this will
21
  certainly be a catalyst, I think for Morristown
22
  for continuing to be a center for Morris County.
23 And I think it will prove to be a model for other
  type of office uses in and around Morristown and
  the Morris County region.
```

```
Thank you. The Local
1
               MS. WALTER:
2
  Planning Services report indicates similarly that
  there were significant challenges involves the
  financing and implementation of this project and
  that the completion of it will reduce congestion
  because of the infrastructure improvements that
  are associated with it and the stability within
  the region.
 9
               And they indicate it should support
10
  the town's larger redevelopment plans so those
  were excellent findings. It is a very large
12
  complex.
           Can you describe how you anticipate it
13
  blending in to the surrounding?
14
               MS. BARRICK: We spent a lot of time
  over the last year with our developer and the
  planning staff really working with them to come
17
  up with a plan that integrates with the local
18
  community.
             Part of the infrastructure that's
19
  going to be covered by the Redevelopment Area
  Bonds are the pedestrian plazas and connectivity
20
  both adjacent to the site that connects the
22
  sidewalks from each end which has a train station
23
  really a stone's throw away from the site into
  the local neighborhood up to Spring Street.
25
               The roundabout itself, we spent a
```

lot of time doing development of the roundabout, not just to move traffic but also to ensure that we have pedestrian movement through the site. Morristown is the home of the seeing eye and the developer and the town spent time meeting with 6 them to understand how, you know, the local blind community as well as the seeing eye trainers that train dogs, how they would use the site, how do we make sure that the roundabout is safe for them 10 to use, what can be incorporated. 11 And the developer incorporated a lot 12 of infrastructure improvements and design and 13 engineering improvements in the roundabout to 14 incorporate to make sure that that use, that specific sort of issues, that's unique to 15 Morristown is incorporated. In addition, from 17 architecturally this is not your typical kind of last tower that you'd see, you know, in many sort 18 19 of urban areas. 20 The textures and the scale of the design of the building really fit in with the local, to context. And certainly, the scale of 22 23 the building, while it is a little bit taller than your typical Morristown building would be, it's still relative in scale to the neighboring

```
buildings. You have an eight story building
  that's next door.
 3
                It's a multi family building that's
  adjacent to the train station. And you have
  Headquarters Plaza, which is sort, it's a 16
  story, sort of, high rise multi building
  development that's adjacent and it serves to --
  and this building which is in between fits in
  scale wise.
10
                You'll go from a size and scale
11
  standpoint as well as the use of materials the
12
  developer has proposed, so I think all of those
13
  things serve to blend this development. And it's
14
  certainly going to be very different from what's
15 there now, but I certainly think it fits within
  the scale and the context of Morristown and will
16
17
  be asset to our community.
18
                MS. WALTER:
                            Thank you so much.
                                                  Do
19
  any of the other board members have questions at
20
  this time?
21
                            Director, I just had
                MR. CLOSE:
22
       Maybe Matt touched on this.
                                      If he could
23
  clarify for me in his remarks and the analysis.
  Did the CFO, Mr. Mason or another financial
25
  expert, do the cost benefit analysis,
```

```
specifically with the project that has been
1
2
  presented, Matt?
 3
                MR. JESSUP:
                             No, to Frank.
                                            But,
  yes, the town had engaged Bob Powell from Nassau
4
  Capital Advisors. And so Bob advised the town
  and ran reports and confirmed that the PILOT
  revenue, again, net of any increase, the cost of
  constituent services provided -- so that
  reporting was completed, yes.
10
                MR. CLOSE: Thank you, Matt.
11
                MS. WALTER: Any other questions at
12
  this time from the board? Hearing none, any
13
  members of the public wishing to speak on this
14 application? Okay. Hearing none, would the
15
  board like to, would anyone on the board like to
  move the application be approved at this time
17
                MR. BLEE:
                           Motion.
18
                           I second that motion.
                MR. MAPP:
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
20
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
21
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
22
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
23
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
24
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
25
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
```

```
MR. CLOSE:
1
                           Yes.
 2
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
 3
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. And lots of
  luck, sounds exciting, exciting project.
4
 5
                MS. MCNAMARA:
                              Mr. Blee?
                MR. BLEE:
                           Yes.
 6
 7
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
                MR. LIGHT:
 8
                          Yes.
 9
                MS. MCNAMARA: Motion carries.
10
                MR. JESSUP: Thank you, everyone.
  Take care.
11
12
                MS. WALTER: Good luck with the
13 project. Have a good day. Next application
14 before the board is actually an appeal of the
15 Director's Decision, so I will be recusing myself
16 in this matter and presenting as an applicant to
17
  defend my determination. With that, I turn over
18
  the metaphorical gavel to Miss Rodriguez at this
19
  time.
20
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Is everyone on-line?
21
                MR. SWISHER: I'll start off.
                                               I'm
22
  John Swisher. I'm with Suplee, Clooney and
23
           We're the auditors to the township of
  Company.
  Hillside. As the director stated, we're here to
  do the appeal for the director's decision
```

```
concerning the Hillside 2020 budget.
1
2
               We're joined today by Council
  President, Pateesh Freedman; Council Vice
  President, George Cook; Finance Chair, Nancy
  Mondella; Councilman Chris Mobley; Township
 6 Administrator, Hope Smith; Township CFO, Glynn
  Jones. And I believe the Township Clerk, Beverly
 8 Harris is also on the call.
 9
                I am joined by Bob Swisher, from our
10
  firm, Suplee, Clooney as well. Just to set the
11
  stage for this a little bit. The CFO was unable
12
  to certify the sufficiency of two budget
  appropriations in the 2020 budget as a result of
13
14
  cuts made by the council.
15
                The director then ruled that they
  should be reinstated and council is now appealing
17
  that decision. So at this point, I'm going to
18
  turn it over to the council president, Pateesh
19
  Freedman.
20
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
22
               MR. FREEDMAN:
                              We're ready to
23
            Good morning. We are extremely
  proceed.
  frustrated that this has come to this type of an
25
  impasse. This is not the first year that this
```

```
problem has presented itself. As you're aware
  last year's budget did not get finalized until
  the end of October, so of course it's November of
  this year.
 4
 5
               We have presented the board with
 6 letters, as you can see the thickness. It's my
  hope that you've read them.
                                There are
  improprieties that have occurred. We're at an
  impasse with the budget. We've brought to the
10 division's attention that along with other
11 improprieties, there's a discrepancy of $600,000
12
  that was spent without the consent of the
13 council.
14
               There were other items that with the
15
  consent of the council, did not get paid. We're
16 at an impasse at $38,000, I believe.
17
  $600,000 seems to be a non issue. We have begged
18
  your concerns to deal with this matter.
19
  the third time we've met -- for local services on
20
  this.
21
               Their previous attitude was they
  didn't want to get involved with personalities.
23 We don't care about the personalities as such at
  this point. I want you to deal with these
  $600,000 that was misappropriated. We're at an
```

```
impasse for $38,000 at this point. It could all
2
  go away of course.
                      It's not a one sided issue.
 3
               The mayor could agree to our budget.
  We've been meeting since January twice a month,
  and sometimes even more, to get this budget under
  control. We had the problem in 2019.
  obvious that administration and the CFO had a
  battle plan to do the exact same thing for a
  second year in a row. Our accountants, our
10
  auditors, have been stonewalled trying to get
11 information. Nancy, could you add to that?
12
               MS. MONDELLA: Thank you, Council
13 President.
             I would just say, we did have a phone
14
  call several weeks back. We are so late due to
15
  our poor finances of the situation, and the
  packet does speak for itself. And as the
17
  council, we have responsibility, financial
18
  responsibility to the residents of Hillside, and
19
  that $600,000 is a huge amount to be over spent
20
  and we're deeply concerned about what happens
21
  next year because next year is next month pretty
22
  much at this point.
23
               We're looking forward to you coming
24
  to Hillside. We heard several weeks back that
  was going to happen. I was hoping that would
```

```
have been sooner. I still hold out hope that it
  will be shortly before end of year.
                                        But as
  Council President said, bills have been paid that
  we have not approved.
4
 5
                And then bills that we have approved
  have not been paid, so it's a bit of a conundrum
 6
  to us as we try to represent and safequard the
  residents of Hillside's financial situation.
  That's why we're here today.
10
                MR. FREEDMAN: Let me just add that
11 last year, this board approved a 10 percent tax
12
  increase for the residents of Hillside.
13
  year we're talking about another three percent in
14
  lieu of the mayor's request for seven percent.
  That's an extremely, extremely high rate over the
15
  course of two years.
16
17
                We're talking 13 percent increase.
18
  Last year, we went into our reserves so that the
19
  taxpayer wouldn't take a big hit. We don't have
20
  those reserves. We're trying to make up for the
21
              The -- was we'll see to it that it
  $600,000.
22
  doesn't happen again next year.
23
                We were asked to pass a resolution
24
  to bring the services of your Local Fiance into
25
  town and try to straighten out whatever could be
```

```
straightened out. We passed the resolution, but
  there's been no apparent action from the Local
  Board of Finance. Again, we're frustrated.
  look to you to do something. Nothing has been
  done by this board.
               MS. RODRIGUEZ: Any other council
 6
  member want to speak up on this from Hillside?
 8 Miss Walter?
 9
               MS. WALTER:
                             Yes.
                                   Thank you, Miss
  Rodriguez. I'll provide response for defense for
10
  the division's action in this case at this time.
12
  Thank you. First let's address the order on
13
           The local budget law exists to assure
  appeal.
14
  the fiscal stability of local units.
15
                Its scriptures pertain to all
16 municipalities, and it requires the division to
17
  approve, review and to approve, all municipal
18
  budgets prior to their adoption by the governing
19 body. This includes Hillside's budget each year.
20
               This annual certification process
21 includes ensuring the appropriations in the
22
  budget fulfill all current contractural
23
  obligations including payroll expenses and debt
  service, as well as all other obligations, that
  would create an outstanding or additional
```

```
liability for the township if they are left
1
2
  unpaid.
 3
                I did, in fact, direct the Township
  of Hillside to amend and adopt the 2020 budget at
4
  a special meeting on October 13th 2020 in order
  to achieve compliance with this core budgetary
 6
7
  obligation.
               The council did not do so.
  reiterated and clarified that order by formal
  letter order dated October 19th requiring that
10
  they adopt an amendment to the 2020 budget that
11 increases the administration salary and wage item
12
  to $304,011 and increases the health salary and
13
  wage plan of $260,000.
14
                It also recommended they decrease
  the group insurance for employee line items to
16
  $5,762,000 because that line item was noticeably
17
  over budgeted and would offset any increases
18
  initiating the need for any tax impact resulting
  from the adjustments in the two salary line
19
20
  items.
21
                There is no tax impact necessitated
22
  by the amendment.
                      That directive has been
23
  appealed and is pending before you now. I'm
  going to appear before you today asking that you
25
  affirm it. Before delving into specifics and
```

```
context here may prove beneficial from the
1
 2
  perspective of the division.
 3
                Hillside has been, as the council
  people have noted, and to put it kindly,
  struggling with compliance with the Local Budget
  Law for more than the past year. Repeated
  division intervention to correct many issues have
  been necessary since the last budget year.
 9
                Given the breadth of the issues and
10
  the ongoing noncompliance with statutory and
11
  regulatory requirements that we observed, it
12
  became apparent to the division that
13
  comprehensive intervention is necessary this
14
  year. To this end, our staff has been observing
15
  governing body meetings, conducting interviews,
16
  gathering data, reviewing all complaint letters
17
  filed by the council people, other members of the
18
  public, members of the administration and outside
  interested parties.
19
20
                The complaints we have received are
                     The administration views the
  many and varied.
22
  council -- its authority to review device and
23
  consent functions and improperly commandeering
  the executive functions of government.
  accuses the administration of an efficiency in
```

1 overspending. 2 Professional services retentions have provoked litigation on all sides. Concerns about the statutory duties of certified officers, including the clerk and the CFO, have also been raised. I could spend hours walking you through the facts of what has been going on and the tit for tat that's occurred in Hillside. I won't do that. 10 Ultimately though, no one has done 11 everything right and no one is entirely to blame. 12 Seen the many types of entrenched operational and 13 political disfunction that are impeding the 14 township's successful performance of its 15 governmental duties, our assessment of the 16 condition of Hillside was that although they 17 applied for transitional aid, transitional aid 18 wasn't appropriate. 19 Their financial condition did not 20 warrant it, nor, had they met the threshold 21 requirements to join the program. 22 attacking the certified officers wasn't the 23 appropriate fix because there appears to be 24 enumerative path forward and the ongoing 25 compliance issues were so piecemeal and across

```
the board that individual attacks on responses to
 2
  other actions didn't seem appropriate.
 3
                Additionally, and moreover, because
  the individuals at issue who are certified
 4
  officials are not tenured, their removal does not
  fall within our purview under the existing
  statutes and neither the administration or the
  council is completely in the right or the wrong
  with regard to those officers.
10
                So having come to that conclusion,
11
  we quickly determined that they're going to need
12
  some help to unravel things and move the
13
  government in the right direction.
                                       There are too
14
  many issues at play in Hillside to tackle
15
  piecemeal, so we've determined the best way to
16 help them right the ship is to rebuild the
17
  framework from the ground up, rather than
18
  plugging holes.
19
                Based on all the information that we
20
  obtained, division staff spent several weeks
21
  developing an intervention plan that we presented
  for review for the governing body and by the
22
23
  administration. At this time, we're slated to
  begin on site work on or about December 1st.
  would have been November 1st, but for the
```

```
pendency of this appeal, which brings me to the
 2
  substance of the appeal itself.
 3
               Within that general framework, we
  can move on to the budget process that
 4
  precipitated today's hearing. 40A4-5 and 10
  require introduction and approval of the budget
  by a date specified by the director.
                                         This year I
  granted extensions to the statutory deadlines, as
  we have in the past several years. The extended
  deadlines were March 29, 2020 and May 30th 2020
10
11 respectively.
12
               As has been indicated, Hillside was
13
  delayed in introducing their budget.
14 initially introduced the budget on June 9th 2020.
15
  Then, although statute requires submission of the
16
  introduced budget to the division within three
17
  days, Hillside's did not appear to the division's
18
  system until June 19th.
19
                There were issues because the budget
20 introduced was not represented by the
21
  administration. Ultimately, on 08/08, council
22
  introduced and submitted the proper budget.
23 Meanwhile, our statewide cash basis budgeting
  standard is the most stringent in the nation.
  requires close out at the end of each year prior
```

1 to the start of the next budget year. 2 As part of the comprehensive 3 statutory scheme that sets out this financial reporting obligation, 40A5-12 requires submission of an annual financial statement. Its completion and review is a precursor and prerequisite to approval of the current year budget. It provides a close out date from the budget for the prior year from which to open your ledger for the new 10 budget year. 11 It's then informed completion of the 12 audit later in the year. This year, I did extend 13 the deadline for filing the AFS to March 2nd. 14 Hillside missed that deadline. Their AFS was not 15 submitted until September 8th 2020. precluded state review and approval of their 17 introduced budget for all of that intervening 18 time. 19 Now, if you recall, I previously 20 mentioned the ongoing intergovernmental disputes. 21 One such dispute regarding the appointment of the 22 auditor and other professionals probably precipitated this delay of both the AFS and the 23 Essentially, council didn't want to budget. approve individuals the mayor recommended.

```
mayor didn't want to appoint to the firms the
  council wanted.
 3
               Council's authority is provided by
            Without consensus between them, an
 4
  consent.
  impasse was reached. Other related issues with
  professional contracts abound, but none of them
  are directly related to the issue before the
  board today. So once the AFS was in hand in
  September, the division reviewed the proposed and
  quite tardy 2020 budget.
10
11
               And we determined that there were
12 numerous corrections that were needed to address
13
  shortcomings from the prior budget year.
14
  are the overcharges that you mentioned.
15
  September we're evaluating that Hillside has
16
  generated multiple deferred charges resulting
17
  from over expenditures in both the 2018 reserve
18
  budget and the 2019 budget.
                                These totaled
19 $524,527.59.
20
               Those resulting directly from the
21 AFS reporting on that 2019 budget were $283,000.
  Additional issues on the budget though arose from
23 the fact that the budget was submitted as council
24 had prepared, not as the administration had
  prepared in the first instance. Once those were
```

```
reconciled, as of 08/08, we're able to do review
  amendments based off of the proper introduced
 3
  budget.
 4
               Council is effectively supposed to
5
  introduce a budget presented by the
  administration and then make amendments thereto
  prior to adoption. It's their obligation to
  revise the budget and submit the final
  determinations. Following consultation with all
10
  the Hillside parties that would enable to proceed
11 with review of the recently submitted amendments.
12
               Once the prior year in
13
  administrative threshold matters were addressed,
14 we could then look at the appropriations for the
15
  2020 calendar year. Nine months of which had
16
  already passed by the time these documents were
17
  properly filed. Each year the division is
18
  responsible for reviewing each municipality's
19
  introduced budget and any proposed amendments
  thereto to ensure the standards of the local
20
21
  budget law are met.
22
               A key tenant of the local budget
23 law's directives is the obligation of local
24
  officials to ensure that the budget presented for
  my review and certification provides for a full
```

```
12 months of all anticipated spending. This is
  critically important because the budget law
  precludes me from certifying any budget that
  based upon the information presented, including
  the certification of the CFO, the table of
  organization and any other certifications, I
  cannot certify any budget that I cannot be
  reasonably sure will cover all required spending
  during the full 12 month period for which the
  budget is certified.
10
11
               Logically, this requirement exists
12
  because each town's tax levy has to be struck
13
  based on this budget. You need to make sure
14
  you're collecting enough money to cover all
15
  expenses and not just cutting the budget so you
16
  can cut taxes, then running up a huge deficit.
17
               When I determine that a budget does
18
  not meet the standard, or any other standard of
19
  the Local Budget Law, it is incumbent upon me as
20
  director to direct amendment of the introduced
21
  budget prior to adoption to bring it into
22
  compliance. I do not substitute my discretion
23
  for the governing bodies, but where it is clear
24
  that the budget does not meet the governing
25
  standards, I am compelled to act.
```

Upon review of Hillside's budget, it 1 2 became apparent that there was inefficient funding in certain line items within the budget to support current and anticipated spending as has been presented to the division, we have the documented year to date spending. Specifically, council reduced the salary and wage lite items for administration and health salaries. 9 The CFO advised he could not make 10 certification of the amendment because it didn't 11 fund a fully funded 12 month budget. 12 positions being cut were still occupied. 13 auditor also gave staff related feedback and on 14 10/06, we received salary and wage ordinances and 15 an organizational chart that confirmed this issue 16 existed. 17 The problem is essentially this. 18 When I certify a budget, I'm certifying that the 19 municipality has developed a budget that meets 20 its current and projected expenses. Hillside's 21 council wants to certify a budget that assumes 22 that certain people will by fired. Those people 23 are currently employed by the municipality, so cutting the money for their salaries for the rest 25 of the year leaves a gap.

```
This is a civil service
1
2
  jurisdiction, so there are various processes and
  issues that govern any layoff or removal
  activity. And under the Faulkner Act, the
  administration or the council can decide to
  remove someone, but there are proper steps that
  have to be met and certain standards that have to
  be complied with before that can happen.
 9
               For purposes of our review, no
10
  action toward removal has occurred to date that
11 would show that there's no ongoing obligation to
  pay the salary. Even if, and I will note council
13 has presented they have been in communication
14 with civil service about certain of these
15 positions.
             But even if their efforts are
16
  successful, there is little or no possibility to
  any layoff or removal for cause could occur
17
18
  between the October 13th date when the budget
  date would have been effective and the date on
19
  which the funds would run out if no terminations
20
21
  were made or the end of the calendar year.
22
                Thus, they need to fund the
23
  positions because they're currently filled and on
  their books. To be very clear, we take no
  position as to whether the administration, the
```

```
council or civil service would be removing
  anybody in Hillside. We merely look at the
  existing contractural salary and other
  obligations on the books and determine whether
 5
  those bills can be paid with the funds that have
 6
  been appropriated.
 7
               Based on those numbers, cutting
  these line items would cause the health and
  administrative budgets to run deficits prior to
10
  the close of the year. Therefore, for the
  purpose of budget certification, those line items
12 are short.
             If the individuals were to be removed
13
  through proper processes and then the line item
14 would be reduced, that would be allowable, we
15 wouldn't be here today.
16
               But zeroing them out with two months
17
  left in the budget year leaves a shortfall for
18
  all departmental salaries, and would undoubtedly
  yield a deficit and potential litigation.
19
20
  cannot therefore, based on the information that
21
  has been presented to me by the entirety of
22
  Hillside, administration and council certify to
23 present a budget because it does not account for
  what is a reasonably anticipated to be Hillside's
  12 month expenses in those line items.
```

```
Having reached this conclusion upon
1
2
  review, I first reached out to the council to
  explain the concern. I ran through it with the
  mayor and the council on the same day.
  purpose of this communication was twofold.
  First, we met to introduce the parties to a 12
  page work plan we put together for that
  engagement I referenced previously, which is our
  looking forward plan for supporting the Township
10
  of Hillside and addressing budget issues in the
11 future.
12
                This is a first step in a
13
  volunteering intervention that's being undertaken
14
  to remedy many of the issues that have been
15
  raised by all parties involves. Unfortunately,
16
  council has requested our support and indicated
17
  the resolution welcoming intervention but they
18
  have not been receptive to the annual guidance.
19
  Second though we needed to raise the issue of
20
  this budget.
21
               Closing out this budget year and
  making sure it's legally compliant is the
23 baseline obligation of both the division and the
24
  council. Hillside's council, as they've
  indicated to you, rejected the budget amendment
```

```
quidance and has voted to approve an amendment
  that did not contain the required line item
  amendments that I directed.
 4
                They acted on an amendment, in fact,
5
  that I had not approved, which means that they've
  acted in direct violation of the Local Budget
        All amendments must be approved by the
  division before adoption. As a follow up to that
  call, I sent council a letter on the 13th
10
  directing them to make the budget amendment to
11 provide for the 12 month budget at the special
12
  council meeting that evening.
13
                This directive was not adhered to.
14 I then sent a clarifying letter on October 19th
15 with more specific and formal language to make
  clear to Hillside that this was not a
16
17
  recommendation. It's an order of the division.
18
  They were directed to amend the budget by no
19 later than 10/27 and advised of their appeal
20 rights.
21
               Board Members, I would ask you to
  please note that those letter orders are
23 available in your packets for review. Generally
  municipalities comply with these directives.
25 We've had a few issues a year with various
```

```
ongoing budget issues, particularly in situations
  like these where internal disputes have leaked
  over into the core budgetary functions of
 4
  government.
 5
                Hillside's council has instead
  elected to take advantage of their appeal rights
 6
  and appeal this directive of this body as
  permitted by the Local Budget Law. In doing so,
  they've asked you to reverse my directive that
  they amend the township budget to ensure it is
10
11
  fully funded for 12 months.
12
                If my decision is affirmed, we will
13
  be required to vote to adopt the budget as
14
  amended and strike the corresponding levy, which
15 in this instance, does not change because there
  are other funds that are over funded.
16
                                          We're
17
  merely readjusting appropriations that have no
18
  impact on the tax rate.
19
                This will proceed in accordance with
20
  40A4-81, and they would then be required to act
  by no later than 10/16 to ensure that the levy
22
  can be struck and the tax bills can be properly
23 issued for the fourth quarter.
                                   If I am reversed,
  they will not be not be required to fund the
25
  remainder of the budget year for those positions
```

```
and Hillside will be unable to make payroll.
1
 2
                Based on their submissions, it
  appears that they ask you to reverse my decision,
  not because they can dispute the merits of the
  budgetary line item at this juncture. They well
  know the positions are occupied.
                                     But because
  they contend they wouldn't need to fund the
  budget if the division had intervened in other
  matters in a different manner earlier in the
10
  vear.
11
                These contentions are largely
12 irrelevant to the narrow question before you at
13
             It's a question of abuse of
  this time.
14
  discretion. As I've already described, salary
  and wage line items are under funded based on
15
  Hillside's current operating needs.
17
                I will nonetheless, in the interest
18
  of the record, respond directly to their claims
19
  given that, as you have heard through my
20
  narrative so far, the contentions made regarding
  the division's role and involvement to date do
21
22
  not reflect our experience of this process.
                                                 The
23
  division has been actively engaged.
24
                Council could not, nor did not, nor
  could they file a complaint requesting removal of
```

```
They sent us a copy of a resolution of
  the CFO.
  no ordinance and complaints about the ongoing
  conduct related to the budget. We consider and
  responded to these concerns and developed a
  strategy to address the township's ongoing
  issues.
 6
                Our records reflect more than 150
8
  calls, meetings and emails with Hillside
  addressing various issues that have been raised
10
  and all of the different complaints we've
11 received. Additionally, we've stepped in to
12
  enforce the law repeatedly and across the board.
13 A few key examples are as follows.
14
                In 2019, on May 20th, I directed the
15 mayor and council to advertise RFPs for 2019
  professional services in the absence of them
17 having been completed. On June 10th, I directed
18
  the mayor and council to introduce the calendar
  year budget. When council introduced its own
19
20
  budget, further intervention was required leading
21
  to a later introduction of the administration's
22
  budget.
23
               We've engaged in ongoing
24 intervention to ensure retention of an auditor
25 and the filing of the audit in both 2019 and
```

```
Now, in 2020, on January 27th, I sent a
  2020.
  letter to council requiring them to adopt the
  mandatory 2020 appropriations at their January
  28th council meeting.
 4
 5
                At that meeting they adopted half of
  the mandatory minimum 26.25 percent temporary
 6
                   Precipitating ongoing issues in
  appropriation.
  that regard, including a 02/13 letter to the
  mayor and council directing adoption of the
10
  remainder of temporary appropriations at their
11 next meeting to promote the orderly operation and
12
  continuation of services for the Township of
13 Hillside.
14
                We also then had to engage ongoing
15
  division efforts to address the CFO's over
16
  expenditures of line items resulting from that
17
  failure to make temporary appropriations,
18
  mandatory temporary appropriations, to avoid
                                           We had
19
  missing payroll following those issues.
20
  to provide ongoing assistance to support and
21
  shepherd through 2020 professional contracts RFPs
22
  to avoid the issues experienced in 2019.
23
                And then we've addressed the fallout
24
  when council did not appoint an auditor or
  financial advisor or a bond counsel. On May
```

```
28th, council attempted to improperly introduce
  its own rather than the administration's budget.
  We needed to provide substantial support to the
  finance office with regarding preparation of the
  filing of the delayed AFS.
                We needed to take action regarding
 6
7
  the corrective action plan.
                                There are
  significant corrective action plans due to the
  major audit findings arising out of the 2019
10
  budget. And we've had to provide assistance to
  avoid repeated near government shutdowns due to
12
  the continuing inaction on temporary
13
  appropriations during the pendency of Hillside's
  prolonged budget process this year.
15
                So as you can no doubt see, the
16
  challenges Hillside elected officials and
17
  certified officers are substantial.
18
  Comprehensive intervention that assist them in
19
  operating throughout an entire budget cycle is
20
  required to get things back on track. We are
21
  prepared to assist them in this regard.
22
  glad that they've invited us to do so.
23
                Closing out this budget year
24
  properly and without generating new and
  concerning deferred charges like those they
```

```
realized through over expenditures of under
  budget line items last year, is an imperative to
  making any progress possible in Hillside.
 4
                40A4-78 requires that I certify only
5
  those budgets that comply with the requirements
           40A4-3.5 directs me to take such action
  that I deem necessary and consistent with the
  intent of the Local Budget Law to implement its
  provisions.
10
                I have determined that directing the
11 Township of Hillside to amend its budget to
12
  accurately reflect its 12 month budget needs is
13 necessary to effectuate that provision and its an
14 intent. With all of that information before you,
15 I ask the Local Finance Board to please affirm my
16 decision.
              Thank you.
17
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Any comments from
18
  the members of the board at this time?
19
  Questions?
20
                MS. MONDELLA: I have a comment if I
21
  may.
22
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: You may.
23
                MS. MONDELLA: Thank you.
                                           The
  position, the civil service position, so maybe
  there's a statute that you can quote to me that
```

```
would tell me that the mayor will never issue
  this layoff notice so we could not do that.
 3
  person could be here.
 4
                The mayor can hire 40 more
5
  individuals. The council has no say over that.
  So perhaps you can tell me how to navigate that,
  at this point because the problem that we have
  now, we will have moving forward.
                                      I believe and
  I fear.
10
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I think right now
11 we're addressing the budget. The budget that has
12
  not been submitted properly, the back and forth
13
  on the budget. I think the personnel issue, I
14
  think it's a serious one and an important one and
15 I think there's going to be assistance in
16 probably helping that.
17
                But right now, we are here to listen
18
  to make a decision whether or not we're going to
  uphold the director's decision right now.
19
20
  there are no comments from the members of the
21
  board.
22
                MR. MAPP:
                           I have a question, I have
23
             You know, having heard the very
  a comment.
24 lengthy and detailed presentation from the
  director, and given her obligation to comply with
25
```

```
the law and to see to it that the law is relative
  to the budget are enforced, it is difficult for
  me to go against the very strong recommendations
  of the director.
 4
 5
                Having said that, I think the
  director alluded to the ability of the governing
 6
  body to take action and that notice of action was
  taken pertaining to the possible removal of
  personnel. Did I hear that correctly?
10
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
                                   Within the
  confines of the Faulkner Act and the Civil
11
12
  Service Commission statutes, there is authority
13
  that ad hock committees or otherwise proceed
14
  appropriately either with administration or
15
  council directed action on licensed but non
  tenured officials.
16
17
                MR. MAPP: Could the council
18
  president speak to why no action was taken to
19
  formally seek to remove the personnel that you
20 have issues with? And if no such action was
21
  taken, why might there be an expectation that the
22
  director's directive should not be approved by
23
  us.
24
                MR. FREEDMAN:
                               We passed a
  resolution in the late spring. We called to the
```

```
attention of the administration several problems
  with the person filling that position. There was
  no action and that's why we took the position on
  the salary of that position.
 4
 5
                It's not our purview to hire or
 6
  fire, but we did bring to the attention of the
  administration that there were conditions that
  the person filling that position did not qualify
  for. But there was no action from
10
  administration.
11
                MR. MAPP:
                           So I heard that, but
12
  unless I misunderstood the director, I thought I
13 heard that there is a mechanism whereby there
14
  could be action taken to remove an employee.
15 I don't know if the resolution was that action.
  Can that action, Director, that you referred to,
16
17
  be by way of a resolution, the passage of a
18
  resolution by the governing body, or is there
19
  more comprehensive action that is required, a
20
  process that must be pursued in order to seek the
  end that the governing body is making?
22
                MR. FREEDMAN: We have filed civil
23
  action against the employees.
                                  That will be heard
  by the board.
                  That, we are in the process of
25
  doing. People have been served.
```

```
It seemed to me from what
1
                MR. MAPP:
 2
  I've heard from the director, that given that
  obligations have been incurred, that financial
  obligations have been incurred by the City of
  Hillside, that there is an obligation to pay
  those expenditures that have been incurred.
 6
  the only process that you have to do that is to
  include those items in the budget.
 9
                And if you don't, you will be under
10
  funding the budget. You will incur over
11
  expenditures that will result in deferred
12
  charges.
           And I think in spite of the impact and
13
  the disagreements that exist between the
14
  administration and the council, as it relates to
15
  those individuals or that individual who is on
16
  the payroll, that until there is formal action to
17
  remove that person from the employ of the city,
18
  that there's an obligation to fund the budget, to
19
  fund payroll, and to the extent that it needs to
20
  be funded.
21
                And it appears that all of that is
22
  contained in the directive from the director.
23
  And so, I know there are lots of issues.
                                             There's
  a host of issues that we're looking at here, but
  it's hard for me not to affirm the director's
```

```
directive so to speak.
1
 2
                           I would have to echo Mr.
                MR. CLOSE:
  Mapp's comments.
                     There's obviously a myriad of
  issues that exist here in this situation.
  thought it was an excellent analysis, very
  comprehensive by the director of the situation
  and the legal requirements of the budget law and
  what has to be applied for you to be legally
  compliant and fiscally responsible.
10
                And by the way, that's not just a
11
  one year, looking at that as a one year vacuum,
12
  but a comprehensive approach to fiscal
13
  responsibility over several years.
                                       It has to be
14
  projected out and it seems as if you've had
15 issues for a more protracted period of time, so
16
  that is of concern also, but I would have to echo
17
  Mr. Mapp's comments and those of the director
18
  that I would be hard pressed not to -- I would be
19
  hard pressed not to support or affirm the
20
  decision given the excellent analysis and all the
21
  level of detail that was provided relative to
22
  this appeal.
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                So did I hear a
24
  motion and a second?
25
                MR. BLEE:
                           I make a motion to uphold
```

```
the director's decision.
1
 2
                MR. CLOSE: I'll second.
 3
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
 4
                MR. MAPP:
                           Yes.
 5
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco?
 6
   left. Mr. Close?
 7
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
 8
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriguez?
 9
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
10
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
11
                MR. BLEE: Yes.
12
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
13
                MR. LIGHT:
                           Yes.
14
                MS. MCNAMARA: Motion carries.
  Motion to uphold the director.
16
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.
17
  I hope you can work this out, whatever is
  happening internally and move forward because
19
  Hillside is a special town and there's a lot to
20
  offer, great services for families, great place
21
  to live. I have many friends there, so I wish
22
  you the best.
23
                MR. FREEDMAN: What's the procedure
  going forward?
25
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: I guess you have to
```

```
finalize your budget, submit it, it has to be
  approved and I believe the date that the Local
  Government Services will be on site there is
  December 1st. Am I correct, Pat?
 4
 5
               MS. MCNAMARA: I believe that is
  what the director had intended, yes.
 6
               MR. FREEDMAN:
                              So we need a public
  hearing and an advertisement?
 9
               MS. WALTER: At this juncture, would
10
  it be appropriate for me to provide that
  supplemental information? I ask for counsel.
12
  don't want to step in if I shouldn't.
13
               MS. SCOTT:
                            Melanie, you can come
  back in because that matter has already been
  decided.
15
            This is DAG Susan Scott.
16
               MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you.
                                        To that
17
  end, so advertisement is waived since it's a
18
  division directed amendment which allows me to
19
  proceed to public hearing. We are under the
20
  statute required to provide you additional time
21
  after this hearing to complete adoption. I would
22
  recommend next Monday.
23
                I will send out a notice about that.
24 I would say if you can get the hearing for
  Monday, that allows you to timely strike your
```

```
levy and get the bills out. Otherwise, you can
2
  be in significant trouble for tax collections.
 3
               MR. FREEDMAN: So we need another
  public hearing. Last year you waived the public
4
  hearing and the notification.
 6
               MS. WALTER: We can waive the
  advertisement. We can't waive the hearing.
  still have to have the public vote.
 9
               MR. FREEDMAN: All right.
10
               MS. HYATT:
                          May I ask a question?
11
               MS. MCNAMARA: Can you identify
12
  yourself?
13
               MS. HYATT: This is Councilwoman
14 Andrea Hyatt from Hillside. I had a question.
15
               MS. WALTER:
                           Yes.
16
               MS. HYATT: I just wanted
  clarification. We're waiving the notification,
17
  but we do still have to have a hearing, correct?
18
19
               MS. WALTER: Right. You still have
20
  to have a vote. There's no separate budget
  hearing. It's not like the reintroduction or
21
22
  anything, but yes, you do have to have a public
23 hearing for the vote.
24
               MS. HYATT: So we can do all of that
25
  in one meeting.
```

```
1
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
 2
                           We can do it all in one,
                MS. HYATT:
 3
  have the vote, and we move it forward, process it
  out, forward it to the state and the process
  continues as it would. Or are we going to have
 6
  an expedited process as far as getting our tax
  rates and things like that once we've completed
 8
  this portion?
 9
                MS. WALTER:
                             If we anticipate
10
  proceeding on Monday, we can advise the tax
11
  office in advance, the county so they can
12
  start -- if the levy doesn't change between the
13
  two presented budgets so we have that number
14
  available to be struck. As soon as that vote
15
  goes in, we can have that queued up. That was
  our intention giving the tight timing.
17
                MS. HYATT:
                           That would be great.
18
  That way the tax department can then move forward
19
  with getting the bills out, things of that
20
  nature.
           Thank you.
21
                MS. WALTER:
                             There is only one
  matter remaining before the board.
                                      Miss
23
  Rodriguez, if you don't mind, I'll step back into
  my usual role. The last matter before the board
  is the proposed 2021 board meeting dates. That's
```

1	been distributed to the board members.
2	We may be adjusting the September
3	meeting to accommodate the finding of Rosh
4	Hashanah. But aside from that, we'll vote on the
5	currently proposed dates confirm our timing for
6	the holiday and if we need to adjust going
7	forward, but we like to get the meeting calendar
8	set now. Would anyone like to approve the
9	presented meeting dates?
10	MR. BLEE: Motion to approve.
11	MR. MAPP: Second.
12	MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
13	MS. WALTER: Yes.
14	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Mapp?
15	MR. MAPP: Yes.
16	MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. DiRocco? Mr.
17	Close?
18	MR. CLOSE: 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	MS. MCNAMARA: Thank you.

```
1
                MS. WALTER: That concludes the
2
  meeting.
            Thank you all, not too long today.
  managed. Thank you for all of your participation
  and review and I guess does anyone want to move
5
  to adjourn?
 6
                MR. LIGHT: I'll make a motion to
7
  adjourn.
8
                MR. MAPP:
                           Second.
 9
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Walter?
10
                MS. WALTER: Yes.
11
                              Mr. Mapp?
                MS. MCNAMARA:
12
                MR. MAPP: Yes.
13
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Close?
14
                MR. CLOSE:
                           Yes.
15
                MS. MCNAMARA: Miss Rodriquez?
16
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
17
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Blee?
18
                          Yes.
                MR. BLEE:
19
                MS. MCNAMARA: Mr. Light?
20
                MR. LIGHT: Yes.
                                  Thank you and I
  hope everybody has a good holiday season coming
22
  up.
23
                MS. WALTER:
                             Thank you. You also.
24
                (Deposition Concluded at 12:27 p.m.)
25
```

## 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 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 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 auren M. Etier 22 Notary Public of the State of New Jersey 23 24 My Commission Expires June 30, 2022 25 Dated: December 3, 2020

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