

In The Matter Of:
In Re; Nutley Board of Commissioners

Transcript of Proceedings
May 6, 2025



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Min-U-Script®

1 TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2 ONE KENNEDY DRIVE

3 3RD FLOOR COMMISSION CHAMBERS

4 NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY 07110

5
6 *** PUBLIC SESSION ***

7
8 DATE: 5/6/2025

9
10 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

11 JOHN V. KELLY, III, MAYOR

12 JOSEPH P. SCARPELLI, COMMISSIONER

13 MAURO G. TUCCI, COMMISSIONER

14 THOMAS J. EVANS, COMMISSIONER

15 ALPHONSE PETRACCO, COMMISSIONER

16
17 Also Present:

18 JONATHAN BRUNO, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

1 (Recording begins)

2 (Pledge of Allegiance)

3 MAYOR KELLY: Sunshine Notice, Madam Clerk.

4 MADAM CLERK: Thank you, Mayor. Board of
5 Commissioners Public Meeting Agenda for Tuesday,
6 May 6th, 2025. The time is now 7:14. Pursuant to the
7 requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act
8 (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), notice of this meeting was
9 published in the November 21st, 2024, issues of the
10 Nutley Sun, The Herald News, and The Star Ledger. A
11 copy of this notice has been posted on the Town Hall
12 bulletin board, and a copy is on file in the Municipal
13 Clerk's office.

14 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Here.

16 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

17 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Here.

18 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

19 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Here.

20 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Here.

22 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Present.

24 MADAM CLERK: All present, Mayor.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Madam Clerk.

1 Communications, please.

2 MADAM CLERK: Yes, Thank you. We have
3 several this evening. Conca Brothers Management 4,
4 LLC, The Old Canal Inn, has submitted an application
5 for an extension of premises to hold an event on
6 Saturday, June 7th, 2025, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., at
7 2 East Passaic Avenue.

8 The Thyme Food Service, LLC, has submitted an
9 application for a catering permit for the JTCC-CDI
10 retreat on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025, from 5:15 p.m. to
11 7:15 p.m., at the Hackensack Meridian Health Center for
12 Discovery and Innovation at 111 Ideation Way.

13 The VFW Holding Company of Nutley has
14 submitted an application for a Social Affair Permit for
15 their Memorial Day celebration to be held on Monday,
16 May 26th, 2025, from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. at 271
17 Washington Ave.

18 And the last one is Commissioner Tucci has
19 submitted an application for a street concert on
20 Thursday, June 26th, 2025, on Franklin Avenue from
21 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., between Chestnut Street and William
22 Street.

23 Motion, please.

24 MADAM CLERK: Move it.

25 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

1 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I -- I understand
3 Commissioner Tucci's going to do a solo that night.

4 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Song and a dance, yes.

5 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

6 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

7 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

8 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

9 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

10 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

11 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

13 MADAM CLERK: And that's it for
14 communications.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Madam Clerk.
16 Reports, Commissioner Tucci.

17 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: I have a Shade Tree
18 Report -- I'll get to the right page here -- for the
19 month of --

20 MADAM CLERK: March.

21 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: -- March.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.
23 Commissioner Scarpelli?

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Yes, Mayor.

25 I have various monthly reports for the Department of

1 Public Works.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

3 Commissioner Petracco?

4 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Yes, I have our
5 Department of Public Safety reports for April. Thank
6 you.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8 Bills, Madam Clerk?

9 MADAM CLERK: Thank you, Mayor. Bill list
10 for May 6th, 2025. Public Affairs, \$173,077.18.
11 Revenue and Finance, \$8,519,966.09. Public Safety,
12 \$214,507.48. Public Works, \$58,039.31. Parks and
13 Public Property, \$1,157,203.24.

14 Payroll as of April 25th, 2025. Regular
15 payroll total, \$1,062,448.99. Overtime payroll total,
16 \$70,159.61. Total payroll, \$1,132,608.60 for a grand
17 total of \$11,304,570.09.

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move the bills.

19 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

20 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

22 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

23 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye, with the exception
24 of Item Number 25-00890. I abstain on that one.

25 MADAM CLERK: Okay. Commissioner Scarpelli.

1 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

2 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

3 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

4 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

6 MADAM CLERK: And that's it for bills, Mayor.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Madam Clerk. At
8 this time, we'll have public comment on agenda items
9 only. This is public comment on agenda items only.
10 Those wishing to be heard on agenda items only, please
11 approach the microphone and say your name for the
12 record, please. Thank you.

13 Seeing none, we'll move into Board of
14 Commissioner announcements.

15 Commissioner Evans.

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Nothing this evening,
17 Mayor. Thank you.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

19 Commissioner --

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, excuse me. I'm
21 sorry. We have the DMVs coming on May 14th. It'll be
22 here between -- I think it's either 9 or 10.

23 MADAM CLERK: 9 to 3, Commissioner.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: 3 p.m. at the -- 44 Park
25 Avenue. Thank you.

1 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

2 Commissioner Tucci?

3 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Yes, just one
4 announcement. Weather permitting, this Friday,
5 beginning at six o'clock and ending at eight o'clock,
6 we have the Greater Nutley Cancer Foundation Festival
7 of Hope. We're watching the weather very carefully.
8 The prediction is not a good one, so we're still a
9 little uncertain, but if the weather's fine, please
10 come out, everyone, and support it.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

12 Commissioner Scarpelli.

13 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Thank you, mayor.
14 We have one of my favorite events, Big Truck Day on
15 Saturday from 12 to 2 in parking lot 9.
16 That's the lot next to Ciccolini. It's good for big
17 kids and little kids to come out and see the big trucks
18 that the Department of Public Works has 12 to 2. Thank
19 you, Mayor.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 Commissioner Petracco?

22 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Yes, Mayor, thank
23 you. I just would like to bring up, being a father of
24 a high school child and a business owner in town and a
25 commissioner, of some of these Board of Ed meetings

1 that I've been watching, and I'm just wondering if it's
2 true/false about these JV sports programs, these
3 paraprofessionals. And it just seems like, being a
4 commissioner and a business owner in this town, you
5 know, that the information hasn't been delivered, you
6 know, as much as I think I would like.

7 I won't speak for the rest of the board, but
8 I really think it would be a tragedy -- and my son, by
9 the way, never played any sports -- to cut a sport
10 program, a music program, or anything else in this
11 town. I've been saying it up here for 18 years. How
12 our schools go is how our town will go. That's how our
13 property values will go. And I'm hoping -- and I'm not
14 being a critic of anybody tonight, but I'm hoping that
15 the information that we're receiving is not true. I
16 don't know where these cuts are going to be or what
17 they're cutting, but I would really appreciate a little
18 bit more transparency.

19 During our last campaign, we talked about One
20 Nutley, and I know I will speak for our board, if
21 there's anything that we could help to do, you know, to
22 move these schools forward in the situation at hand,
23 I'm sure we would do that even though we are two
24 separate boards. But all this, you know, talk about
25 cutting, cutting, cutting, I mean, the children of this

1 town are our precious prizes, and education is a big,
2 important factor in how our town moves forward. Thank
3 you, Mayor.

4 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Mayor, it may be a
5 good idea to have our education committee set up a
6 meeting with the board and sit down and figure out
7 what -- where the miscommunication lies.

8 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Mayor, if I might.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

10 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Commissioner, I think
11 that's an excellent suggestion. Actually, it's
12 something that we have already spoken about, and there
13 was supposed to be a meeting set up. We were just
14 waiting for a date, and I guess they got caught up in
15 whatever they were doing budget-wise, but I'd just like
16 to comment on what Commissioner Petracco said.

17 I totally agree with what you're saying.
18 It's very important, not only for the physical being of
19 our students, all right, but for their futures because
20 sports and being the Parks and Recreation commissioner,
21 I can speak to this firsthand. I mean, we're the
22 training ground, all right, for our children going into
23 the high school. Children that succeed and
24 participate, all right, no matter what degree they
25 achieve, all right, have opportunities before them to

1 move on to higher education if that's the channel they
2 want to take. All right?

3 So by doing things like this without giving
4 choices, I'm not so sure it was sound logic, all right?
5 I, for one, would've done things a little differently,
6 but we're all individuals. We all have our own styles
7 of doing things. I like to talk about choices, and
8 choices are probably something that this board is going
9 to be speaking to our residents about moving forward:
10 what we can afford to do, what we can't afford to do,
11 how we go about serving the people of this township in
12 the best way possible.

13 So, again, I don't know where the -- these
14 suggestions came from. What I'm hearing is it wasn't
15 the entire board, all right? There were two different
16 discussions, one on how much it was going to be
17 increased, the budget that they agreed upon, and the
18 other being, you know, what was going to stay and what
19 was going not to stay. All right?

20 I know I, for one, and I don't think any
21 commissioner here was informed as to, you know, what
22 the ramifications of different percentages would've
23 been and what the impact would've been on that budget.
24 So I'm hoping to communicate better with the
25 administration moving forward, and, you know, I look

1 forward to that. We've had a great relationship with
2 One Nutley, and we've accomplished a lot together, but
3 we had a little misstep here, and we need to get back
4 on track.

5 Thank you, Mayor.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Go ahead.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I don't -- Mayor, how do
8 you want to proceed with this because this could be a
9 lengthy conversation?

10 MAYOR KELLY: If you have any additional
11 comments, feel free to add. Otherwise, I was going to
12 go into my announcements.

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I do.

14 MAYOR KELLY: I'm sure --

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So why don't you do your
16 announcements, and we'll come back to this soon.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Sure. Just to very briefly
18 piggyback because I know Commissioner Evans has some
19 greater comments in greater detail, but One Nutley
20 is -- has not been lip service and it has not been
21 forgotten. And I can attest to the fact that every
22 commissioner on this board has worked with the board in
23 some capacity towards that goal and that aspiration of
24 One Nutley, and we have done so both individually and
25 as a board. I know I've done a lot with Kent. We have

1 a standing meeting every month to discuss different
2 health priorities for the schools and different ways we
3 can grow and enhance the education capacities of the --
4 of the school district.

5 And with that said, I'm going roll into my
6 announcements. And on May 12th, Nutley Family Service
7 Bureau has a mental health event at its offices here in
8 Nutley. On May 14th, next Wednesday, from 6 to 9,
9 we're partnering with Neil to do a hometown -- Nutley
10 hometown trivia. This is the first event of its kind,
11 and we hope to see everyone there. There's going to be
12 all Nutley based questions so you can really test
13 your -- your hometown pride for the trivia. And it --
14 it's -- all indicators, it's going to be packed. So
15 look to make a reservation beforehand.

16 On May 15th, we have our mobile blood drive
17 at the Department of Public Affairs and Health from
18 3:30 to 6:45.

19 And on May 19th, we have stroke screening at
20 the Department of Public Affairs and Health from
21 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. And I'll turn it back over to
22 Commissioner Evans for further comment.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you, Mayor.

24 Yeah, I -- Al, to your point is I don't know
25 why the school board chose to communicate the changes

1 that they're going through and the actions that they're
2 taking in the manner that they did that. I think
3 that's up to them to explain. We were supposed to
4 schedule a meeting this week of the education
5 committee, but that's been delayed. They're looking to
6 availability next week so that we could sit down and do
7 that.

8 So like -- so for example, what I don't
9 understand is if you're going to need to reduce your
10 spending in athletics by \$50,000, or 4.6 percent, and
11 you still are providing \$1,030,000 for athletics, how
12 does that translate into eliminating JC -- JV sports?
13 Right? I don't think that's necessary. I think the
14 choices that were chosen to highlight, you know, I
15 think instigated a lot of unrest in town. But I think
16 the question is a rooted question which says, if you
17 have \$1,030,000 for athletics in Nutley, why isn't that
18 enough to cover all freshman, sophomore, JV, and
19 varsity sports, whatever that is?

20 So I think that their approach we -- which
21 we'll have an opportunity to deal with when we see
22 them, but I don't understand why they took the approach
23 that they did. So, but to your point is for athletics,
24 the root question for me is if you still have
25 1,000,030, why are you cutting JV sports?

1 It seems to me that that your athletic director can
2 actually produce a very fine program for all kids with
3 that kind of money, right? Seems, like, logical to me.

4 The other thing I would point out is, and I
5 went online and I grabbed it -- is the corrective
6 action plan that was approved by the board on
7 April 17th, 2024, related to the actions that were
8 necessary for them to correct the direction of the
9 school board, and they lay that out. It also
10 identifies very plainly, which what we knew is how did
11 they get to a level of a deficit that's over
12 \$7 million? What caused that, right?

13 And there's a lot of conspiracy theories that
14 are out there and the need for questions about whether
15 or not the AG's Office should be contacted, whether or
16 not you need a forensic audit and all these other
17 things. But when you do look at it -- and there's an
18 underlying question as to why, but when you budget
19 \$2.1 million worth of revenues that are un realizable
20 because you never got them before, we would -- at our
21 budget, we wouldn't be allowed to put in any revenue
22 dollars greater than the dollars we received the
23 previous year, but they did for some reason.

24 When you under budget your appropriations by
25 \$5 million, right, including \$3 million for healthcare,

1 which are known budget items, why didn't you budget the
2 right way? And then, you know, you get into why not --
3 why weren't the Chromebooks budgeted? Why wasn't the
4 South Bergen, you know, teachers for special needs
5 budgeted the way it was supposed to be? And they're
6 all good questions, and they're things that, in my
7 mind, never should have happened if you had competent
8 resources that were actually doing it.

9 So I -- so there's a root question that gets
10 to, to me, was in effect misplaced reliance on
11 resources that shouldn't have been relied on. The
12 school board for years said, our budget's only going up
13 two percent. We're only going up two percent. Well,
14 the cost model that they were dealing with was going up
15 much greater than that. So if you're only going to go
16 up two percent because the cap says you can only go up
17 two percent, right, then you get into an issue that
18 says, well, wait a minute. If I have to go up higher,
19 then my budget should go out for public comment.
20 Remember the old days? The board, you know, voted in
21 April. The budget was voted on in April, and if it was
22 voted down, it came to us, right?

23 Well, then there was a statutory change that
24 said, no, no, no, you can go to November. Right? And
25 when you go to November, all you have to do is give it

1 to the county BA, and that would be your state approval
2 and that's your budget. Well, I think that was a
3 change that actually lessened the level of control that
4 was available that is -- was no longer available, and
5 personally, I'd like to see it come back because I
6 think there's greater accountability with that budget
7 if you know you got to get a vote to pass it, right,
8 versus just being able to do it.

9 But one of the things I'll point out is --
10 and -- hi. I saw your comment, but -- and so I just
11 wanted to point out is that in the budget, they call
12 for a zero-based budgeting approach to go visit every
13 area, right, and figure out what do they need to spend
14 money on and what changes they are -- are they going to
15 make, which is affecting the teacher areas,
16 paraprofessional areas, which all has to be evaluated
17 and looked at, but it's laid out in their plan from
18 last year.

19 So they're executing against the plan that
20 was published and approved and adopted by the state of
21 New Jersey. So they're executing the plan. It's not
22 willy nilly, just, I don't know -- I don't think -- I
23 don't understand why they didn't pull out their
24 corrective action plan and say, these are the actions
25 we're taking, and this is the progress we're making

1 against the plan. Right?

2 And so there's other questions I think that
3 we will go through, but a better form of and choice of
4 communication would improve a lot. So I'll leave it at
5 that because we can -- we're here about our budget, not
6 theirs.

7 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Yeah. I just want
8 to add a couple things. I think not only was there
9 miscommunication between the administration and the
10 board and us, I think there was miscommunication
11 between the administration and the board. Based on
12 what I could see and what I heard listening to it that
13 night, it didn't seem it to me that the administration
14 and the board were on the same page.

15 So that's not the way we've been operating
16 for the last four or five years. We've been operating
17 as a -- as at least consulting each other because it
18 does affect the taxpayer one way or another, whether
19 it's the left pocket of the Board of Ed or the right
20 pocket of the Board of Commissioners. And I think
21 we -- we've been very cooperative with both the
22 administration and the Board of Education. We have a
23 good story to tell on some of the things that we've
24 been doing together. And I would hate, you know,
25 miscommunication between everybody -- not on our end,

1 by the way, but between them and us -- to effect some
2 of the good things that are being done and need to be
3 done as we move forward.

4 So I'm hoping the committee can help
5 enlighten us on some of that, where some of that
6 miscommunication happened not only between the Board of
7 Education and us, but between the Board of Education
8 and the administration because I believe there's
9 definitely some miscommunication there.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioners. And
11 I -- one more thing to add. I did see a lot of
12 comments online about, where's the investigation and
13 audit, and that hasn't been forgotten. We -- that will
14 be done. The process is still in the state's court.
15 Well, the ball is still in their court, so to speak,
16 and once that process concludes and we have our ability
17 to go forward with that, we will certainly do so. It
18 certainly has not been forgotten, and because we, as
19 taxpayers, also want the same answers that you would
20 demand answers to, and so we're going to make sure that
21 that gets done one way or another.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Mayor, one more comment.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Sure.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I think it's important
25 that while the forensic investigation is being proposed

1 by the state and there has to be a review, it -- we
2 should not leap to the conclusion that somebody stole
3 over \$7 million and, somehow, we need you to get it
4 back from them, and they need to go to jail for that.
5 That's not -- you know, from everything that I've
6 looked at, you know, that would be a leap that's beyond
7 what would be reasonable.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Absolutely. An investigation
9 is a fact-finding endeavor to figure out what happened,
10 how it happened, and how to prevent it in the future --

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Exactly.

12 MAYOR KELLY: -- and to provide us with those
13 answers. And so I'm sure we are all looking forward to
14 those answers.

15 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Just to dovetail a
16 little bit on it, there's been nothing that's been
17 shown that anything is missing or stolen. It was
18 spent.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Correct.

20 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: It was spent, and it
21 shouldn't have been spent, and you shouldn't have been
22 budgeted the way it was budgeted. That's --

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: -- bottom line.

25 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Well, the only thing

1 I would like to add, it's really -- it really is
2 appalling that people are in place in this town,
3 controlling these Board of Ed budget for all the money
4 they are, and they're misbudgeting money. And where
5 are the checks and balances? And who's there to verify
6 it? Because like we're all saying, we can't go
7 backwards. And I appreciate everybody's comments, and
8 I don't mean to offend anybody, but we are all
9 taxpayers here too.

10 And you know what, a lot of us are products
11 of Nutley High School and the school system here. And
12 I know I am, and there's some pride that comes with
13 that. And, you know, to watch these schools be in the
14 situation that they're in right now is very
15 disheartening. And we can do better. And it's time to
16 get off our pity pot, so to speak, and move this
17 forward and correct the problem in my opinion.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

19 At this time, I think we'll roll into
20 ordinance introductions.

21 And Commissioner Petracco, looks like you'll
22 be leading us off.

23 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Thank you so much.

24 Okay. Tonight, I have Ordinance Number 3585,
25 an ordinance to amend a ordinance codified in the Code

1 of the Township of Nutley, Chapter 228, entitled
2 vehicles and traffic, particularly Article VII, Special
3 Zones and Areas, Section 29A, entitled Handicap
4 Parking, to add to the locations set forth. This is
5 for 75 Raymond Avenue.

6 I move that this ordinance be passed to a
7 second reading and advertised in the Nutley Sun,
8 together with the notice required by law, and that
9 further consideration of said ordinance for final
10 passage by the Board of Commissioners to be held on the
11 second reading of -- is that June 3rd? June 3rd. I
12 move it.

13 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

14 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

16 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

17 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

18 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

19 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

20 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

22 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Okay. This is 3581,
25 an ordinance to Chapter 585 of the Code -- oh, I'm

1 sorry, I got the wrong one. See, here we go. Sorry
2 about that, guys. I wouldn't want to take your
3 ordinance.

4 This is Ordinance Number 3586, an ordinance
5 and to amend an ordinance codified in the Code of the
6 Township of Nutley, Chapter 228, entitled Vehicles in
7 Traffic, particularly Article VII, Special Zones and
8 Areas, Section 29A, entitled Handicapped Parking, to
9 add to the location set forth thereon. This is for 54
10 Entwistle Avenue.

11 I move that this ordinance be passed to a
12 second reading and advertised in the Nutley Sun,
13 together with the notice required by law, and that
14 further consideration of said ordinance for final
15 passage by the Board of Commissioners to be held on its
16 second reading. I'm assuming it's June 3rd.

17 MADAM CLERK: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Thank you. I move
19 it.

20 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Second.

22 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

24 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

25 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

1 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

2 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

3 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

4 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

5 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Thank you, Mayor.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

9 We have a number of ordinances on for public
10 hearing this evening and I'll start with you,
11 Commissioner Scarpelli.

12 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: This is Ordinance
13 Number 3581, an ordinance to amend Chapter 585, the
14 Code of the Township of Nutley, entitled "Sewer", more
15 specifically, amending Article VII. Move to open the
16 public hearing.

17 MAYOR KELLY: At this time, we'll have a
18 public hearing on Ordinance Number 3581. Anyone
19 wishing to be heard on Ordinance Number 3581, please
20 approach the microphone and state your name for the
21 record. Thank you.

22 MS. MOLINARI: Hi, everyone. I'm Cristina
23 Molinari. Some of you know who I am. My husband's
24 Nunzio's Landscaping. Stephanie's Barbecue used to be
25 Nunzio's Diner.

1 I think these questions are for you,
2 Commissioner Scarpelli. I was reading the Proposed
3 Ordinance 3581, and the -- the fees for the
4 installation if the properties are designated that they
5 need to be done. Now, it's \$7,500 installation fee,
6 and connection fee of 1,000, right, for each property,
7 correct?

8 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: That's if you need a
9 new sewer line.

10 MS. MOLINARI: Correct. Let's assume that I
11 do. I'm talking about myself, and I own multiple
12 properties in town: three. So does this payment needs
13 to be paid all at once, can we do installments, or how
14 is this going to work?

15 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Well, I'll go back
16 to -- I mean, the amount of times that a new sewer line
17 is required are few and far between. You'd have to
18 have a collapsed line or a new construction with a new
19 sewer line, and the sewer line from the street to your
20 house is the homeowner's responsibility. So I mean,
21 you know, in certain situations, we could look at, you
22 know, some sort of payment plan, but those will be on
23 an individual basis and a hardship basis.

24 MS. MOLINARI: Okay. And also, if the
25 home's -- if the installation needs to be done, is

1 there timelines when the -- it's going to be done, or
2 what's the time frame of the completion?

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Well, if you need a
4 new sewer line, you're going to want it done right away
5 because you're not going to be able to use anything in
6 your house. You're not going to be able to use the
7 sinks. You're not going to be using the toilets.
8 You're not going to be able to wash clothes. So the
9 timeline will -- you know, really is on the homeowner,
10 I mean, unless they want to move out of their house and
11 not replace the line.

12 MS. MOLINARI: If there's an issue. And
13 also, if I may, I would like to make a comment on the
14 Board of Education. How I found out about the sports
15 being cut, and maybe the special ed program, it was on
16 the internet. It was all over the internet. And then
17 it also said that, May 19th, the Board of Education is
18 having an open meeting to, I guess, discuss it.

19 So I know Commissioner Tucci and I have known
20 each other for a long time. Our kids are similar ages,
21 and our children have been in the sports program in
22 Nutley, and they have loved it, and we have loved it.
23 And I know we have worked in the stands and brought
24 snacks for the kids and so forth. So any of this stuff
25 goes away for all our children, it will be very sad.

1 Also, I appreciate the rest of the
2 commissioners making those special statements. I have
3 grandchildren. My kids are all grown now, but I have
4 grandchildren in Nutley. And it -- my grandson is very
5 good in baseball. He's on three different teams in --
6 in -- in baseball. He's on the little league, he's on
7 the traveling team and another team, the all-star team,
8 11-year-old, and he will be heartbroken because he
9 loves the sport.

10 So what are we going to do with these
11 children after school if we do away with the programs?
12 They're going to get involved in serious issues, right?
13 There's no extra extracurricular activities for them to
14 do. What do parents do? Do they go to private schools
15 and enroll their kids or -- in sports, or what do we
16 do?

17 Also, the special ed program, my
18 granddaughter was one of the -- not severe, but it
19 helped my granddaughter big. I've had two tenants over
20 the years in my house, special ed, that have really,
21 tremendously enriched from the program. So it would be
22 a very, very sad day when we can't help our special ed
23 children in this town. That's all I have to say.
24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Your sentiments are

1 our sentiments. And you didn't find out much
2 differently than how we found out, unfortunately.

3 MS. MOLINARI: Yeah. I've gotten the answer,
4 and I have the article that I printed it. I didn't
5 bring it. And my son, his kids are in the school
6 system. He said he didn't even get, like, a notice
7 from the Board of Education about the meeting or that
8 that was even up for anything. Like, I think parents
9 should be kind of brought up to date what's going on
10 with -- with their children and when -- with the
11 schools because it's -- this is where they learn, and
12 this is where they grow, this is where they advance.

13 So my son said, Ma, I didn't even get a
14 letter from the Board of Ed or the school saying that
15 this was -- might be happening, or did they decide?
16 What is -- we don't know.

17 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Yeah, I think we'll
18 find out on the 19th that --

19 MS. MOLINARI: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: -- and I would --

21 MS. MOLINARI: Yeah, May 19th.

22 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: -- I put a bet on
23 that --

24 MS. MOLINARI: Yeah.

25 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: -- 95 -- 99 percent

1 of the JV sports are back on the 19th. I'll put that
2 odds.

3 MS. MOLINARI: I'm going to make sure I show
4 up at that meeting because I've been in this town 45
5 years. My three children really were involved in the
6 sports, every type of sport, and they loved every
7 minute of it. And I feel like, what are we going to do
8 with our children and our grandchildren after school
9 and the sport they enjoy if you take away all that from
10 the children? They're going to end up in trouble,
11 right? They're going to end up doing something
12 illegal, something they're not supposed to do, if
13 they're not busy and they're not participating in
14 extra-curriculum activities. That's my personal
15 feeling. I know I had three kids through the school
16 system, and we loved every game and every involvement
17 over the years, and Commissioner Tucci was there with
18 me, so --

19 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: I was.

20 MS. MOLINARI: -- with his kids. He was also
21 a coach, my son's team, so it -- it was great. We all
22 enjoyed the games and we all participated, even in the
23 snack bars. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Thank you, Ms. Molinari.
25 Thank you.

1 MAYOR KELLY: Anyone else wishing to be heard
2 on Ordinance Number 3581? Seeing none --

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: We'll close the
4 public hearing.

5 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

7 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

8 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

9 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

10 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

11 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

12 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

13 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Move the ordinance.

16 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

17 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

19 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

20 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

21 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

22 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

23 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

24 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

25 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

1 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

2 The one we have on for this evening is
3 Ordinance Number 3582. Commissioner Petracco.

4 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Yes, I have Ordinance
5 Number 3582, an ordinance to amend an ordinance
6 codified in the Code of the Township of Nutley, Chapter
7 228, entitled Vehicles in Traffic, particularly Article
8 VII, Special Zones and Areas, Section 29A, entitled
9 Handicapped Parking, to add to the location.

10 MAYOR KELLY: At this time, we open up the
11 public hearing on Ordinance Number 3582. Anyone
12 wishing to be heard on Ordinance Number 3582, please
13 approach the microphone and state your name for the
14 record. Seeing none.

15 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Move to close.

16 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

17 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

19 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

20 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

21 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

22 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

23 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

24 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

25 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

1 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Move the ordinance.

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

4 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

6 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

7 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

8 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

9 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

10 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

11 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

12 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

14 And at this time I'll turn it over to
15 Commissioner Evans who has a series of ordinances.

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you, Mayor. I
17 have Ordinance Number 3583, which establishes a cap
18 bank for the municipal budget. It's pursuant to
19 statute that allows us to increase our budget to --
20 at -- from two and a half percent on appropriations to
21 three and a half percent. We establish the bank every
22 year. It lasts for two years, and then it disappears.
23 And then it -- we -- so we continue to regenerate it.
24 Historically, we don't use it. We did have a need to
25 use it coming out of COVID, but that's the first time

1 in 20-something years that we've -- we had to dip into
2 it. But otherwise, it is a recurring item. Again,
3 it's by statute, and it's allowable to establish a cap
4 bank.

5 Open public hearing.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Anyone wishing to be heard on
7 Ordinance Number 3583, please approach microphone and
8 state your name for the record. Seeing none.

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move to close.

10 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

11 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

13 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

14 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

15 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

16 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

17 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

18 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

19 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move the ordinance.

22 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

23 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

25 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

1 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

2 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

4 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

5 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

6 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: My next ordinance is
9 3584. This amends the liquor licensing for retail
10 distribution and retail consumption. The retail
11 consumption license will be \$1,900 a year.
12 The retail distribution will be \$1,500 a year. Club
13 licensing stays at \$150. These are adjustments that --
14 we haven't adjusted these rates since 2010, and
15 we're -- we stay consistently below the other towns,
16 which, for retail consumption, are already at \$2,500 a
17 year, so.

18 MAYOR KELLY: At this time, we'll open the
19 public hearing on Ordinance Number 3584. Anyone
20 wishing to be heard on Ordinance Number 3584, please
21 approach the microphone and state your name for the
22 record.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move to close.

24 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

25 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.
2 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.
3 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.
4 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.
5 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.
6 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.
7 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.
8 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.
9 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.
10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move the ordinance.
11 MAYOR KELLY: Second.
12 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.
13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.
14 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.
15 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.
16 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.
17 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.
18 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.
19 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.
20 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.
21 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.
22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: My next series of things
23 relates to the introduction of the public hearing for
24 the municipal budget that was introduced on April 1st,
25 2025. Before I start, I need to read a resolution that

1 authorizes the budget to be read by title only by
2 statute. "Whereas N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, as amended by L.
3 2015, c. 95, 14, 2015, provides that the budget be read
4 by title only at the time of the public hearing if the
5 resolution is passed by no less than the majority of
6 the full governing body, providing that at least one
7 week before the date of the public hearing, a complete
8 copy of the budget has been made available for public
9 inspection and has been available to each person upon
10 request.

11 "Whereas these two conditions have been
12 met" -- the budget has been online as of April 2nd.
13 It's been available at the library as well as at the
14 municipal clerk station just for the record.

15 "Now, therefore, be it resolved that after
16 the closing of the Public Hearing, the governing body
17 may adopt the budget by title without amendments or may
18 approve amendments as provided by N.J.S.A. 48:4-9
19 before adoption." And we will only be hosting a public
20 hearing tonight because there are a couple of items
21 pending with the state that will delay our adoption.

22 So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

24 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

1 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

2 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

3 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

4 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

5 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

6 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

7 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: We have a couple things
10 to do, and first is, I've prepared several slides that
11 take the entire budget document and reduces it to a few
12 slides. So hopefully for greater transparency and for
13 better understanding. The state budget document is
14 complicated. It's not easy to read and it's hard to
15 get a sense of what it's all about, so the idea of the
16 slides was hopefully to advance a level of transparency
17 around our budget. So, with the indulgence of the
18 board, I'd like to walk through these slides first.

19 Ray Sarinelli from Nisivoccia and Company is
20 here who will share a few comments. And right after
21 that, we can open it up for public comment.

22 The slides that I'm going to read tonight
23 will be available on the website tomorrow.

24 Unfortunately our TV screens are a little bit on the
25 smaller side, so these slides are a bit busy. We did

1 prepare extra copies, so if anybody is interested in
2 having one, they're available in the audience to follow
3 along. That might make it easier. So, let's move
4 along here. All right. I already did the first page.

5 MAYOR KELLY: All right.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So now let's move off to
7 the next page. And I'm going to speak into the mic.
8 Sessy (phonetic), if I'm not speaking loud enough, you
9 know, for the record, let me know.

10 This slide, this single slide summarizes the
11 entire budget for the municipality, all five municipal
12 departments as well as the public library. And what it
13 basically says is that in order for us to meet the
14 requirements of the health, welfare, and safety of the
15 community across all of the departments, providing each
16 of the services that we provide, we need to raise
17 \$64,799,792 for 2025, which is an -- is a \$2,224,000
18 increase over '24.

19 We do our best to search out revenues of
20 various kinds, so it comes in the form of we invest
21 in -- our money on hand in interest-bearing accounts.
22 We receive some state aid. We do have pilot agreements
23 with certain properties, and we receive pilot revenues.
24 Since incorporating EMS into the municipal services and
25 Public Safety, we're able to bill for Medicare/Medicaid

1 services associated with that, as well as the
2 construction office for various fees, application fees,
3 and so on that go on in that office.

4 And there's -- and same thing with cable
5 franchise fees, parking-meter fees, and various other
6 places where we identify revenue. And we do every year
7 look to collect our delinquent taxes. And for some
8 reason, there's a similar group of people that like to
9 pay late, so the number stays pretty stable year over
10 year. But when you add it all up, we're able to raise,
11 excluding grants, \$18,771,571 in other sources, other
12 than property taxes.

13 The balance has to be raised by the property
14 tax, and that means that we have to raise, in order to
15 operate the municipal government only -- doesn't
16 include the school or the county -- we need to, through
17 the tax payments and property taxes, raise \$44,176,408.
18 Statutorily, the library is able to generate revenue by
19 statute and by -- and under the formula for that, and
20 there is a formula for it, it goes into the tax bill.
21 So you'll see it on your tax bill as "library", that it
22 raises another \$1,851,813, which goes directly to
23 supporting the Nutley Library.

24 So in total for this year, we will need to
25 raise for our -- through taxes, \$46,028,221, which is a

1 \$1,489,937 increase over '24. And what does that mean?
2 What it means is that right now, on introduction, the
3 municipal tax levy will, for the average taxpayer,
4 whose house is assessed at around \$491,000, their
5 municipal tax increase will be \$123 for the year. The
6 school board adds to that for an additional \$18. So
7 the total library municipal increase is \$141 for
8 increase over 24 levels.

9 What's interesting about this is -- and I
10 want to refer to state aid. Included in our aid last
11 year was \$547,000, which was categorized as municipal
12 relief aid. The introduction of the state budget
13 eliminated that category of aid in February. That
14 change in terms of its effect on the municipal tax
15 increase, is the equivalent to about \$55. So if
16 that -- we didn't lose that aid, our municipal increase
17 with the library would've been under a hundred dollars,
18 it would've been at \$87.

19 Because of that impact, I have petitioned the
20 state, through the division of local governmental
21 services as well as our legislative representatives
22 from the 34th District, to somehow do something to help
23 us mitigate that loss. While I won't be able to get
24 all of it, I'm hopeful that we'll get some of that,
25 which will contribute to -- hopefully, when we go to

1 adopt, we'll reduce the amount of the increase that
2 we're looking at. My goal is, and I believe very
3 strongly that we will get the municipal increase under
4 a hundred dollars to around two and a half percent.
5 I'm hopeful that, if we get the state aid, recovery
6 will be under two percent, so that's what we're working
7 towards. So much work needs to be done, but that's a
8 snapshot. So it takes that entire booklet and reduces
9 it to that amount.

10 What -- so moving to the next slide. In --
11 Other way.

12 In government, a government accounting, which
13 is a -- it's a separate rulebook and an animal unto
14 itself, revenue changes in revenue are parallel to
15 changes in appropriations, and they only meet at the
16 bottom when it comes time to determine the levee.

17 So what I did is this next slide says, well,
18 what happened? What changed in our revenues for '25
19 that resulted in the fact that we had a net increase of
20 roughly \$734,000? And so where you can see from this
21 slide is laid out, is that we released a capital
22 improvement reserve for our initial payment for the new
23 school at 777 Bloomfield Avenue. We reversed a reserve
24 that we had in the books last year and used for
25 \$513,000, covering the transition to the new utility.

1 If you look at those two items, those are one-time
2 extraordinary in nature.

3 So if you look at the others, the interest
4 income and net other expenses, overall, our revenue
5 sources stay flat, pretty much flat. Well, we -- and
6 there's not much we can do to control that other than
7 increasing our fees, fines, permit fees, things like
8 that and so on, which are limited resources for us.
9 The big sources of our revenue really come from state
10 aid and property taxes.

11 So it's -- so what I wanted to point out,
12 what is important, is that year over year, revenue
13 stayed fairly stable. It's -- every now and then,
14 there's an event, but they stay very stable. The event
15 this year, though, that was detrimental to us was the
16 loss of municipal relief aid. So having -- if we
17 didn't lose that, our revenue increase would've been a
18 little bit higher.

19 And as I noted on this slide, we'll know in
20 the June time frame whether or not we'll get some
21 relief against that loss. The difficulty with it
22 overall is that the state budget that has been
23 submitted has a bunch of issues associated with it.
24 The governor has been making adjustments to that, so
25 there's not a lot of money floating around at the state

1 level to say, sure, you know, here's more money. It's
2 an empty piggy bank here these days.

3 So moving on, the other side of this equation
4 is -- oh, I got it right -- is what happens to our
5 spending? So we -- while revenues are kind of stable
6 and based upon the activity in the town, and they're --
7 they are volatile to a degree, but they're fairly
8 stable. What happens on the other side is the
9 appropriations, which is the spending, the money --
10 what we have to spend money on, right? What are we
11 required to spend money on? So one component is that
12 we have salary increases that we have to abide by.
13 Most of the salaries in the township are covered by
14 union contracts and labor negotiations, which have very
15 specific terms, and our budgets year over year have to
16 meet that. And you see that it's larger or smaller,
17 based upon the department, and it's pretty clear to see
18 that, you know, certain areas cost more than others
19 from that standpoint.

20 When you look at the expense side, what we
21 spend money on, we had a significant increase in our
22 group medical insurance. We've had an increase in our
23 garbage and recycling of \$222,000. Our medical
24 insurance went up \$1,327,000. Gasoline costs have gone
25 up \$90,000. The workman's compensation insurance up

1 \$67. We had to renew licenses and treasury in order to
2 operate our computer systems, which was \$44,000. We're
3 coming up on a large anniversary for the 4th of July,
4 so the civic celebration is up a bit, and we had some
5 offsets which relates that pension costs went down
6 surprisingly.

7 And so you'll see in here -- and also in here
8 is the payment from the reserve, which didn't go in,
9 didn't affect taxes, but it shows the payment that we
10 made to the school. In addition, you'll see an
11 adjustment, which is we completed the transfer of costs
12 to the combined water sewer utility, and the
13 2.2 million that's at the bottom is actually the other
14 half of the sewer bill. We get a bill each year. This
15 year, that bill is \$4.7 million. Part of it's already
16 in the utility. This is the other piece that had to be
17 transferred, which I'll get to in a second. So what
18 you'll see is I laid out that on one page all of the
19 expense changes that are material in understanding what
20 happened to our budget year over year.

21 The next slide -- this just demonstrates the
22 sewer/water utility, right? The water component of
23 that and the sewer component of that. In order to
24 operate that -- the utility, it will cost \$11.3 million
25 to operate that with paying for our supply of water,

1 paying for the treatment of our sewers, and the
2 manpower associated with maintaining the water and
3 sewer systems. We will be billing for that based upon
4 consumption. It's no longer in your property tax bill,
5 so depending upon how you use it, that's how we will be
6 paid. And we're anticipating that, based upon the
7 billing that's in the ordinance that we currently have,
8 we'll raise 11.5 million, so we might have a little bit
9 of a reserve, hopefully, at the end of the year. This
10 prior year, we didn't. We didn't have any reserves.

11 So you can see processing our sewer costs
12 \$4.7 million. Supplying our water from North Jersey,
13 Passaic Valley, and Newark, which are our three sources
14 of water, costs, basically, \$2.4 million. There's very
15 little debt in the utility. It's \$286,000. And the
16 cost of people is another, you know, \$4 million in
17 providing other benefits. So it gives you a sense
18 that, you know, that's where we are with the two
19 utility.

20 And there's some notes that are attached to
21 it as commentary, but I -- I've covered most of that.
22 The most significant one here is the Municipal
23 Ordinance Number 3581, which revised the nature of
24 billing and the rates associated with the billing.
25 So -- and that is adopted for 2025. That ordinance is

1 available on our website for anybody who wants to look
2 at the rates.

3 So at this point, we've walked in and said,
4 hey, we need to spend this money. We need to raise
5 this money. We need to collect taxes. We get so much
6 from revenue, but more importantly, the question I'm
7 asked all the time is, what do you do with it? Where
8 does that money go, right? Why are you spending that
9 money? Why is it necessary? And you -- on this slide,
10 we are very -- it's very -- points out where the money
11 goes, so there isn't any question about how we spend
12 this money by area. It's not by commission department,
13 so it's not by any one commissioner, but commissioners
14 have responsibility for all of this, and each area has
15 all of the out-of-pocket expenses as well as the
16 employee related costs, so salary, pension, healthcare,
17 taxes, everything associated with that to get to a
18 fully loaded number.

19 So when you think about our job as
20 commissioners, which is health, welfare, and safety of
21 the community, one of the first things you see is that
22 we are investing in the safety of the community in a
23 very significant way. A full 50 percent of our
24 appropriation, or 31 and a half million dollars, is
25 responsible for providing police, fire, EMS, and court-

1 related services for our town.

2 When you go down the list, you also see that,
3 you know, the total cost of removing garbage and our
4 recycling is another \$3 million. The health
5 organization, the civic area, the veteran services are
6 \$1.8 million. The planning board, the zoning board,
7 and economic redevelopment costs is another \$958,000.
8 What it takes to maintain our buildings, our grounds,
9 all the recreation services, our oil, our gas, our
10 electric, right, is another four and a half million
11 dollars. Making sure the roadways work and -- you
12 know, people are always surprised by this, but we have
13 to pay for our street lighting. So we have to pay
14 PSE&G for the -- for lighting the streets, so -- and
15 that's another \$5.7 million. When you look at all of
16 the -- those are, like, direct -- those are areas of
17 direct service that goes into the streets, safety,
18 lighting, buildings, and services.

19 Behind that are administrative areas, and
20 it's been -- my practice over the last 22 years is to
21 keep that well under 10 percent and actually keep it
22 under 7 percent of the budget. So all of these
23 services related to tax assessor, construction office,
24 treasury, purchasing, municipal clerk, all of those
25 areas -- legal services, IT services -- that we have as

1 a town, which is all infrastructure related is another
2 4.1 million, but it's 6.3 -- 6.6 percent of the budget.
3 It's not a driver of the budget.

4 And we've done very well with managing our
5 debt because a municipality will get into trouble if we
6 don't watch our spending on capital items. So our --
7 right now we're spending \$2.4 million, or 3.8 percent
8 of the budget. It relates to our debt service. Our
9 plan -- our capital plan that we follow basically
10 allows us to -- to provide for a limited amount of
11 capital every year. Every five years, we have debt
12 rolling off of our books, and we replace it. So we
13 maintain our debt level at a very constant level.
14 That's less than \$15 million. We have the ability, if
15 we wanted to, to raise that to over \$150 million, but
16 we keep it at 10 percent of that. So we manage that
17 very effectively, and because of that, we have a bond
18 rating of AA1, which is a half-step below AAA, which is
19 the highest rating.

20 So -- and then for library services the total
21 cost of the library is roughly \$2.1 million, which is
22 used heavily by the community. So when you look at it,
23 when you look and say we're spending \$64.8 million.
24 This is what we're spending on. So it's helpful for
25 people to understand. You won't get this out of the

1 budget doc, and I'm pretty confident that this level of
2 summary, we are -- it's unique to Nutley on how we
3 provide this information for a level of transparency
4 that many towns don't do. It's a lot of work to do
5 this, but I think it's valuable for what we need to do.

6 The -- and once -- I have one more slide, and
7 if any commissioners then want to comment, please do.
8 The last slide that I included here is -- it's a hard
9 one, but I constantly hear the -- them saying, taxes
10 are so high, taxes are so high, right, in Nutley. It's
11 out of control. And so what I did was I worked with my
12 tax assessor, and we put together a comparison of what
13 the assessed values are of property in Nutley compared
14 to every municipality in Essex County.

15 We also looked at it and said, what's the
16 average tax bill? Now, the tax bill here is the entire
17 tax bill. It's municipal, school, county, library,
18 open space. It's all in here. So when you look at it
19 and you -- we then said, okay, that's that. We -- I
20 put in population number of taxing areas that we do,
21 you know, related -- including median income because
22 median income is really important to understanding.
23 And what we talk about all the time is, you know, the
24 ability. What's the affordability level? What can
25 people pay? We're very much aware of that, so we

1 follow that.

2 And we also included in here the number of
3 police officers per thousand since it's a major
4 component of our budget compared to every town in Essex
5 County. And what you find is -- then this is all '24
6 data. I will update it for '25 when that information
7 becomes available, but it's not available yet. But
8 probably, hopefully, in June, I'll be able to update
9 this for the coming year.

10 But when you do look at this, in '24, the
11 average tax bill in Nutley was \$12,945. When you look
12 at that, there's nine towns in Nutley that we're
13 comparable to. There's only nine towns in Essex County
14 that have a paid fire department and a local school
15 system. There's other towns, such as Maplewood and
16 South Orange, have a paid fire department, but a
17 regional school system. You have Fairfield, Roseland,
18 West Coldwell, Coldwell, North Coldwell, Essex Fells,
19 that have a volunteer fire department and as well as a
20 regional school system. And then Cedar Grove, Verona,
21 Livingston, Glen Ridge has a volunteer fire department,
22 but a local school system. So they're all different
23 than us, which influences what the taxing base is.

24 But what I found intriguing about this, in
25 towns -- like, say, if you look at Fairfield, Fairfield

1 is \$11,500 a year with a volunteer fire department and
2 a regional school system. And they're \$1,400 less than
3 we are with a local fire department and a local school
4 system. So when you look at it, it says, okay, by
5 comparison, in Essex County, the only thing I would
6 draw from it, it says, we're not doing too bad. Can we
7 always do better? Absolutely. Right?

8 What's also important is -- and I -- we zero
9 in on this, the median income in Nutley is about
10 \$112,000, right? Median income, right? The absolute
11 highest, the absolute lowest, you take the middle,
12 that's the median, right? It takes care of the
13 distortion of the high taxpayers, low taxpayers, tells
14 you just what the middle is.

15 In '24, taxes required for the average
16 household took 11.5 percent of that \$112,000, right?
17 Personally, I think that's a hell of a lot of money,
18 right, to take because that's median income, which
19 means you've got taxes coming out of that, you've got
20 household costs coming out of that. But by comparison,
21 costs are high. There's a lot associated with
22 providing and keeping the town safe and providing the
23 services. And we do our best to manage our way through
24 that. And the one way we do that is we stay within the
25 cap limits that are allowed by the state.

1 So I share that as information that I hope
2 will advance conversation about how Nutley does
3 compared to other towns and, when you look at it, how
4 we're relevant to other towns. So I share that broadly
5 for that purpose. So overall, this is a -- the
6 understanding of our budget for 2025. Commissioners,
7 if you'd like to comment in any way, be my guest.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner Tucci.

9 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Yeah, just a couple of
10 comments. Number one, I want to thank Commissioner
11 Evans for putting this presentation together for us.
12 The state, some years back came out with an edict that
13 they were going to require every municipality to come
14 up with a plain-language budget. They never had a
15 plain-language budget. This is a plain-language
16 budget. This tells you where every dollar goes.

17 And some of the other smaller items but
18 important items that the commissioner didn't mention is
19 we're also involved in a joint insurance fund. It's
20 where we're -- we aggregate with nine other entities,
21 some municipalities, some school districts to control
22 our insurance costs: property, casualty, auto, and the
23 like. We're also involved with the standard energy
24 meeting. That's also a consortium of towns that came
25 together to get lower electrical costs, all right? So

1 we strike a rate, we go out to bid, and then public
2 service and other providers bid against that.

3 So all of that goes into this. So it's not
4 only the obvious things that people see in this budget
5 and what the commissioner has very, very well outlined
6 for us, but there are also some other initiatives that
7 we're all involved in that help to keep this town
8 affordable.

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,.

11 Commissioner Scarpelli.

12 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Thank you, Mayor.

13 Commissioner Evans, always a great job. That
14 last slide, I think, is very interesting. I think we
15 should put that up somewhere on the website --

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The whole presentation's
17 up.

18 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: -- so everybody can
19 see where we stand in that regard.

20 Just from Public Works, and I'm sure
21 everybody feels this way, it's getting harder and
22 harder for us to maintain the services that we provide.
23 And I think, you know, we strive to maintain the best
24 services around, but it's getting harder and harder
25 because of some of our commitments on the labor side.

1 But we continue to do a good job in holding down those
2 costs where we can, and I think, you know, as a whole,
3 this Board of Commissioners always worries about the
4 taxpayer. And if we can continue to worry about the
5 taxpayer, worry how what we do worry how what we do
6 affects them, and, at the same time, make sure they're
7 getting the services that they're paying for. I think
8 we do a pretty good job at that.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner Petracco.

10 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Thank you. Tom, I
11 have to say, I think the only way to say it tonight is
12 you're a rock star in my eyes. You worked to simplify
13 this and --

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: It doesn't fit.

15 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: No, I was really
16 hoping they were going to dim the lights and put the
17 blacklights on for you tonight. But you're just
18 tremendous to me. You've always been an asset to the
19 town, definitely to myself. Tremendous job. It's very
20 simple to read.

21 I don't want to take the credit, Tom, that
22 you pointed out to me, but you did show me earlier a
23 very interesting fact about police departments and how
24 many cops there are per thousand. It's -- Nutley,
25 we're at 2.8 cops per thousand people here, which I do

1 think we need more. And I will take a look at
2 Fairfield, somewhat of a town like Nutley. They're at
3 almost six. So, you know, first of all, I want to
4 thank all of you because I am a driver of the -- our
5 budget here, and I always have the support of this full
6 board.

7 I also want to thank our police officers, our
8 firefighters, our EMTs. When people say to me, Al, you
9 know, your budget's gone up again this year, and I --
10 and why? And I say, when you call on Christmas Eve at
11 two o'clock in the morning for a cop or a fireman or
12 EMT, they come, right? When you call Easter morning,
13 when you call on the weekends during the summer, Public
14 Safety's out there 24/7. There is no days off. There
15 are no breaks in services here in Nutley. Me being in
16 this seat a long time, I really take to heart your
17 safety of all our residents, and I will never penny
18 pinch our budget, you know, to compromise our safety in
19 this town. I think it's very important.

20 And I think, on the police side especially,
21 you know, our neighboring towns -- and, you know, they
22 do have much -- many more cops than we do per thousand
23 people. You know, for, for us to keep Nutley safe and
24 keep Nutley what it is, our little green ball, you
25 know, has been amazing. And, you know, it's -- I can't

1 take the credit alone. It's really been a Board of
2 Commissioners effort, you know, to keep Nutley safe and
3 keep us what we are, the center of the universe as
4 we're called.

5 So thank you, Tom, for the presentation, and
6 I'd like to thank all my fellow commissioners for
7 always the support.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

9 And I would just like to state the obvious
10 that we are all taxpayers, and we don't want to pay any
11 more taxes than we have to, and this budget reflects
12 the -- a very good job, probably the best job that we
13 can do and responsibly provide the services that we
14 continue to provide. And I believe that the services
15 that we do provide are top notch and first rate, and
16 they will continue to be in the future. And we're not
17 going to look to try and shortchange our services that
18 we provide to the township, and we're going to continue
19 to provide the A-plus services that we do provide.

20 Commissioner Evans, do you want to open the
21 public --

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, I'd like to offer --

23 MAYOR KELLY: Oh.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- Ray Sarinelli from
25 Nisivoccia --

1 MAYOR KELLY: Sure.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- if he wished to make
3 some comments before we open it up.

4 MR. SARINELLI: Ray Sarinelli, township
5 auditor. So I just wanted to spend a few minutes not
6 only discussing the budget, but just your financial
7 position at the end of the year because that plays into
8 what the budget process might look like.

9 So the township has had an increasing fund
10 balance over the last couple years. At the end of '22,
11 it was 7.2 million, at the end of '23, 7.8, and at the
12 end of '24, it was 8.2 million. The fund balance has
13 increased slightly. It's part of a fund balance policy
14 that Commissioner Evans put into place about 7 or 8
15 years ago, and if you look at fund balance and the
16 budget plan that's been put together over the last 10
17 or 20 years, it really has been a steady line of growth
18 and fund balance.

19 The budget is prepared on a balanced level,
20 meaning revenues are over anticipated, expenses are
21 under anticipated. You try and get in the middle there
22 somewhere because some things are going to go right and
23 some things are going to go wrong during the course of
24 the year, and the budget is a budget plan. So if you
25 take that median level through the process, I think it

1 leaves you in a good position. It's left you in a
2 better position the last couple years, primarily
3 because of interest rates.

4 Commissioner Evans, well, he always puts
5 everything out there that I was going to say, but one
6 of the things we wanted to talk about briefly was, you
7 know, part of this planning that's been taking place
8 year after year has impacted the cost of municipal
9 government in that your bond rating has increased and
10 improved twice in the past 15 years. In 2007, Nutley
11 got upgraded to AA2, and in 2023, it got upgraded to
12 AA1. So you're just a notch away from AAA. There were
13 a couple of factors that are not within your control
14 that prevented you from getting to AAA, but the rating
15 agencies did say that your strength is your financial
16 statements and your financial position. And that all
17 has to do with what you're talking about tonight, your
18 budget plan.

19 Doing this budget plan is not an easy process
20 for any of the commissioners. I know Commissioner
21 Evans leads the process, but you've had the challenges
22 that many other governments have had, in --
23 particularly, the things that the municipality face --
24 has faced in the last, I'll say five years, was at a
25 very high inflation rate, while you still were limited

1 to two, two and a half percent caps. You had
2 extraordinary increases in health insurance. You've
3 had extraordinary increases in pension costs, not this
4 past year, but in previous years. Garbage contract
5 increases, not particularly all in this year. And
6 also, you had this \$547,000 cut in state aid. So you
7 know, you're -- you've gone through a budget process
8 every year and come up with reasonable answers,
9 reasonable increases, and you've stayed within both
10 cap. You have a levee cap, and you have an
11 appropriation cap, and every year, you've been in
12 compliance, either at or under both of those caps.
13 Some years you've had cap bank.

14 You know, Nutley, from my outside
15 perspective, you know, to see that kind of presentation
16 that was up there is incredibly transparent. When you
17 look at a municipal budget document, it's very
18 difficult to follow and difficult to understand, but
19 that presentation that you just got about the budget
20 was one of the best I've seen. You know, part of what
21 helps you stay balanced in your tax increases is that
22 you have a formal capital plan and a formal debt
23 service plan that you stayed within year after year,
24 and Commissioner Evans described it briefly before.

25 You're replacing new debt with old debt

1 instead of having capital program and debt that
2 continues to increase year after year. You're meeting
3 your capital needs, but it's not costing you more in
4 debt service. As old projects are paid off, the new
5 projects are paid -- come into play. So I think, you
6 know, it's fair to say the hard work has been done.
7 You've, again, come up with a budget that's cap
8 compliant, it passes along a reasonable increase. I
9 think when the budget is done, it'll be less than what
10 that presentation indicated tonight. There's a couple
11 more items of revenue that are being considered that
12 would help that.

13 So the rest of the process tonight is to hold
14 the public hearing as advertised. I believe you're
15 going to table your budget, wait until you see if those
16 additional revenues come in. If they do, hopefully
17 within the time frame that you have left to adopt the
18 budget, you'll get to that process in the next month or
19 two, around June 30th, to finalize your budget. Thank
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Go ahead, Kelly.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

23 At this time, we'll open up the public
24 hearing on the 2025 municipal budget. Anyone wishing
25 to be heard on the 2025 municipal budget, please

1 approach microphone and state your name for the record.

2 MS. CELENTO: Hello, I'm Amy Celento, and I
3 live at 70 Newman Avenue here in Nutley. Thank you so
4 much for the overview, Commissioner Evans. Clearly,
5 you've seen some of the comments and questions that
6 people have, including myself. And yeah, I came last
7 year. I think the budget meeting had already happened,
8 but I was here on 5/21 of 2024 and yes, I requested a
9 zero-based budget, which I've done in past years, 2017
10 and 2018. And I'm not questioning everything in the
11 budget, and I appreciate the summary.

12 There are a few things that stand out, but I
13 would, I'd like to put that on hold a tiny little bit
14 because I'm not really clear how One Nutley fits in.
15 And also, when it was announced about the purchase of
16 the 777 Bloomfield Avenue building, the indication was,
17 is that money would be coming from Pilot. And I see
18 that Pilot is, year over year, flat, maybe down by like
19 three percent, and yet there's a transfer of reserve of
20 1774. So I'm not -- I -- I probably missed that. I
21 mean, I'm not an accountant, and I just am not really
22 clear on what that is, so I don't know if that could be
23 answered since it's related to the budget?

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Sure. Do you want me to
25 answer that right now?

1 MS. CELENTO: Well, I'm just saying, yeah,
2 could --

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, no, no.

4 MS. CELENTO: It's related to the budget,
5 so --

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, no, happy to. So
7 yes, the way I labeled it was to basically track it
8 through the reports. So on revenue side, you'll see a
9 capital improvement reserve.

10 MS. CELENTO: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: That is -- that is Pilot
12 money that is being released -- primarily released for
13 that purpose. And you'll see it in the appropriation
14 listed the same way, as 1,000,777, and in the summary
15 of our appropriations, it's listed the same way just
16 for consistency throughout the presentation. The -- we
17 released the reserve amount. We did take out a note of
18 \$8 million for the completion of the school, which is
19 on target to be ready for September 1, so -- which is
20 great news. The debt service associated with that
21 begins in 2026, and that the Pilot payment for the --
22 in those future years will cover that. It's not in --
23 you don't see it in this budget.

24 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So thank you for that.
25 I do remember the reference to -- that there would be a

1 bond. So is Pilot in general, is that in a -- in
2 the -- in the fund balance? Like when you said we've
3 released some reserve?

4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, it's -- it
5 accumulates in my fund balance, but I -- rather than
6 just saying put fund balance, I was trying to be more
7 declarative about what it is. But to your point is
8 yes. We, as a municipality, collect pilot revenues.
9 They're all municipal revenues, which we can then
10 allocate for use for capital related items if we choose
11 to for, like, what we've done, where there's public use
12 involved, like a building which will now house
13 children, we're able to do that.

14 The -- because we can use the school we were
15 able to do repairs to Lincoln School, Radcliffe School,
16 and the front of Nutley High School. And we're able by
17 law to do those types of things. It -- we're not in a
18 position that says, oh, here's money to cover your
19 operating expenses. That's separate.

20 MS. CELENTO: And I'm not implying that. I'm
21 just -- I'm just -- thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, no, no. I just want
23 to be clear. I just want to be clear. I understood
24 your question.

25 MS. CELENTO: Yeah. I -- I'm just not clear

1 then how much -- like, how do we budget pilot? I mean,
2 I guess we don't know. It depends on what's happening
3 in terms of construction, et cetera, but is there a
4 separate pilot fund? Or is that pilot fund the 1.9
5 something that's in the budget that's like an ongoing
6 fund?

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, well we look at --
8 to your point, 1.744 that you're referring to --

9 MS. CELENTO: The transfer.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, the transfer.
11 That was substantially the reserve that I was able to
12 accumulate. We use Pilot revenues to offset, as you
13 can see, in the budget. We're maximizing the use of
14 the Pilot revenues right now. Those Pilot revenues I
15 expect will go up because of the completion now and the
16 progress that's being made on Diamond Springs for
17 the -- where the age-related housing is done, as well
18 as on the Ciccolini rebuild on Franklin Avenue. That
19 will introduce additional revenues --

20 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- in the coming years.

22 MS. CELENTO: Okay, thank you for that. So
23 in terms of the Ciccolini building, the property's
24 already been sold to the developer.

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No. No. It's under the

1 agreement. We're in the process of the -- of following
2 through on the agreement right now. It's in the
3 environmental review period, which will be completed in
4 a week or so. And then there is a process that says,
5 okay, you've got to go through -- all of your plans
6 have to be reviewed in the code office, and then you
7 got to go before the planning board for preliminary and
8 final site plan approval. After that, then, when he
9 goes to demolish the property, he will have to take
10 title, and at that time, we will be paid.

11 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So is the potential
12 revenue in this budget --

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

14 MS. CELENTO: -- for the sale?

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

16 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So that will be a one-
17 time item.

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Correct.

19 MS. CELENTO: And it will be -- where will
20 that money go, then? When it, when it comes in, what
21 will it be applied against?

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, the intention is
23 that we don't use that for operating. There's more
24 improvement that has to be done. There's a shortage of
25 parking in the business district, for example. So we

1 would have to evaluate how will we -- how it would be
2 used for, basically, long term improvements to --

3 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- to the business
5 district.

6 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Thank you. I mean,
7 that's helpful to know. I did see that there's
8 significant, I guess, environmental cleanup related to
9 that property. I'm just curious, and we don't have
10 to -- I don't have to talk about this now --

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, there's not --

12 MS. CELENTO: -- but I saw some proposal of
13 the developer and -- and some significant investment of
14 sort of environmental cleanup. Is that not really
15 happening? Is that whole thing --

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The only environmental
17 that we were aware of was that, when we purchased the
18 property, we had to remove the oil tank.

19 MS. CELENTO: Oh, okay. So --

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So --

21 MS. CELENTO: -- I don't know. I saw
22 something that as --

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- PNC has the right to
24 investigate the entire property.

25 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: And that's -- that's
1 what he does in order to make a determination.

2 MS. CELENTO: Okay, great. Thank you for
3 that. In terms of the fund balance, again, that's -- I
4 understand this budget isn't a balance sheet, but where
5 does the fund balance that we have in the community?
6 Where is that?

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: You'll -- in the actual
8 full budget, you'll see a line item that's in there for
9 fund balance. Ray, I don't think --

10 MS. CELENTO: Well, because I'm seeing 5
11 million. Sorry. That's --

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, it's 5 million.
13 MS. CELENTO: Oh, that's not the number that we were
14 just given. We were given a number of over 7 million.
15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: It yeah, we -- but we apply it. So
16 I use

17 it -- two things happen. It sits in cash, right,
18 the -- in one part --

19 MS. CELENTO: As a fund balance would.

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right. And you expect
21 it to sit in cash. When we generated, I applied
22 \$5 million to reduce taxes each year. It just rolls
23 and rolls and rolls. It was started a number of years
24 ago. So to avoid a double tax hit for changing of the
25 fund balance, it has to stay at five million. So

1 regenerating that is very important.

2 The other piece that's used is cashflow
3 because we only get paid four times a year, but our
4 expenses are every month of the year.

5 MS. CELENTO: Right.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So having the available
7 cash helps us and avoids having us to go into tax
8 anticipation notes to cover

9 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- interim expenses.

11 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Thank you so much for
12 that. In the approximate 4.6 million for uncollected
13 taxes. I think I just heard that that's actually one
14 of -- you said that's actually mandated.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CELENTO: That percentage.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CELENTO: So we don't actually have that
19 much typically in uncollected --

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, no.

21 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Because it looks like in
22 the -- in the budget, when you look at the budget --

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, sure. Well, we have
24 to have a line item, yes. It sits --

25 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- it sits there as a
2 reserve against that. Our collection history is
3 actually good.

4 MS. CELENTO: It's over 90 percent.

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: As a municipality,
6 though, we are responsible for paying the county --

7 MS. CELENTO: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- and the school a
9 hundred percent.

10 MS. CELENTO: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: All the risk of
12 collection is with us. And so it's statutorily
13 required to maintain a reserve. So the -- it's pretty
14 stable. It changed \$90,000, but it's stable every year
15 over year.

16 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Thank you. Thanks for
17 the explanation. Again, it's hard to interpret in the
18 actual --

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, no. Sure. Yeah.

20 MS. CELENTO: -- budget. So thank you for
21 that.

22 I have a question about the sewer and water.
23 I can see everything that you've outlined here, and
24 thank you for that. When the original change was
25 implemented last year, there was a statement made that

1 the adjustments would be made in taxes for real estate
2 taxes. I don't see that included in the budget, and
3 it --

4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Didn't happen.

5 MS. CELENTO: -- based on the -- well,
6 clearly. So to the point earlier in this meeting where
7 there was a discussion about how things happening in
8 the school district shouldn't just come as a surprise
9 to everybody, that's a surprise to homeowners, to
10 tax -- to real estate taxpayers. How -- how come that
11 hasn't been discussed or shared or spoken about?

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So --

13 MS. CELENTO: I mean, it's like, didn't
14 happen. It's like, so -- just so you know, that means
15 our expenses as a homeowner are going up way more than
16 our taxes are going up.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So when you look -- yes.
18 You know, when you look at -- because it's the -- you
19 have to look at all sources of what you have to pay
20 bills for, absolutely.

21 MS. CELENTO: Completely.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. And I fully
23 understand. So in the budget, you'll see that on the
24 one slide, our expenses went up \$3.7 million, but we --

25 MS. CELENTO: I see that.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- also transferred out
2 \$2.2 million into the utility, which had a net increase
3 in appropriation of a million, you know, five or so,
4 right?

5 MS. CELENTO: Yep.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So, or 2.2 million,
7 whatever that that number is when you look at it,
8 whatever the -- I can't, don't remember off the top of
9 my head.

10 MS. CELENTO: I know. But it's three
11 two -- minus

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, but --

13 MS. CELENTO: -- generally. Yeah, I saw
14 that.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Exactly. So that's
16 where you see it coming out. If we didn't transfer
17 that 2.2 million out, we would be at 3.7 million. So
18 our increase in -- in appropriations wouldn't be
19 2.2 million overall. It would be, actually, \$2.2
20 million higher. All right? So it'd be up to four and
21 change. Right?

22 MS. CELENTO: I mean, congratulations except,
23 again, this is a shock.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: All right.

25 MS. CELENTO: I -- I'm sorry to say, but I'm

1 completely in shock. I thought, great. I'm going to
2 get a nice letter that talks about my '25 to '26 taxes,
3 and it's going to tell me what the net amount reduction
4 is.

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So -- so what --

6 MS. CELENTO: That's not happening.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- we -- if you look at
8 it from an accounting standpoint, right, the --
9 you're -- what we were charging in '23 at the end of
10 '23, part of that money was transferred out in '24, and
11 part of the money was out in -- transferred out in '25.
12 So, in effect, over \$5 million came out of the
13 municipal budget, right -

14 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- over the course of
16 those two years and into the into the utility -- went
17 into the utility to cover the sewer charges. We also
18 had increases in cost of sewer treatment that happened
19 inside of that utility. So we transferred out -- what
20 happened, unfortunately, was we -- if you look at the
21 two years, right, we had significant increases in labor
22 costs as well as insurance costs, which would -- which
23 I would've loved to have had happen was we were
24 spending -- if we were spending a dollar in '23, we
25 would be spending 90 cents in '24 and 80 cents in '25.

1 But with the nature of the cost increases that have
2 been put in front of us, I -- it did not happen.

3 The --

4 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The cost increases offset
6 the cost decrease.

7 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Thank you for that
8 explanation. I appreciate that. So just in terms of
9 the building purchase, the 777, I was not present at
10 the meeting, but it was reported in the electronic
11 media. We have two different groups that reported on
12 it, and there was a reference to the fact that by -- by
13 having the construction done before the town/school
14 acquires the building, that we avoid the triple-bid
15 process. That was very troubling to me. Like, that
16 was a celebration? We're avoiding a triple bid? I'm
17 really not clear about that. It kind of makes me think
18 that renovations are being done -- yes, I understand
19 labor -- wage requirements are being met, but it's sort
20 of like whatever it costs, it costs, and then we're
21 going to pay \$9.8 million for the building. It's
22 shocking to me to have that be celebrated.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. So, if -- when
24 you say it that way, there's nothing to celebrate,
25 right? But you're -- the way you're characterizing it

1 is a misrepresentation.

2 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Well, that's how it was
3 reported. It was a celebration. We're avoiding --
4 okay, so if it -- if that's not what happened, was
5 there a triple bid, and did we have any involvement?
6 Because again, we're ultimately buying a building from
7 someone where we're basically saying, we're going to
8 pay you all this money based on your renovations, which
9 hopefully we'll be happy with.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So --

11 MS. CELENTO: I'm really not clear
12 that. about

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- when you look at the
14 nature of the renovations, right, and what we're doing,
15 they do have to comply with prevailing wage --

16 MS. CELENTO: Yes, I see that.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- which is the most
18 significant component of the cost of construction: the
19 labor piece of it.

20 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: What we're able to
22 benefit from is their ability to source the
23 materials -- the nails, the sprinkling system, the HVAC
24 systems, and things like that -- at a competitive
25 price, which, historically, is lower than what a public

1 bidding process produces. And most importantly is we
2 were able to produce -- do that within the public
3 bidding process under public contract law, which we're
4 not required to do because it's a capital purchase. We
5 can allow them to do that. The renovations to the 777
6 would not allow children to be in that school September
7 of '25. The earliest that they would be in there would
8 be September of '26.

9 MS. CELENTO: I understand about the timing.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So -- and we -- what we did is we
11 looked at what the cost per square foot would be and we
12 set a contract price that limits, and so it's a fixed
13 contract price that basically says we are renovating a
14 20,000-square-foot building, right, which has a base
15 price in it of about \$2.5 million, 2.8, with a total
16 renovated value, with a completely new electrical
17 system, a completely new HVAC system, completely
18 renovated school system, air circulation benefits,
19 environmental benefits, right, parking and everything
20 else, interior and exterior, we're doing that for 9.8
21 million.

22 Part of the reason why I would celebrate
23 that, and very clearly why I would celebrate that, is
24 it eliminated the need for an \$80 million referendum to
25 renovate the middle school. So --

1 MS. CELENTO: And -- and I appreciate that.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So I -- my -- it's very important,

3 I think, to separate out what someone says, that we

4 didn't go through this public process --

5 MS. CELENTO: Okay, but when you say, "what

6 someone says", I just need to say when it's said in

7 this room with this setup, that -- it's not just

8 someone. Please understand that.

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: If that was -- someone's
10 quoting me, then they're misquoting.

11 MS. CELENTO: You were not being quoted.

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So --

13 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And I -- since I do the
15 financial stuff and the contract stuff --

16 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- then the quote would
18 have to be -- come from me if I was to rely on its
19 accuracy.

20 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So that's fantastic.
21 One thing that does concern me about that building is I
22 don't know where people are going to get dropped off
23 and picked up. I mean, that -- Bloomfield Avenue isn't
24 getting any wider --

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No. Yeah.

1 MS. CELENTO: -- unless we're taking part of
2 the park out. It's not clear.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, so we are, that
4 whole corner, right, is --

5 MS. CELENTO: Well, there's a business on
6 that corner, so that's not my business --

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, they're not using
8 the parking. It's not theirs.

9 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So no to -- but you
11 raised a very good point. So what will happen is we
12 created a drop-off area. It starts on Kingsland. You
13 come into the parking lot, and you pull up in front of
14 the building off of Bloomfield Avenue, not on
15 Bloomfield Avenue.

16 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Then you're able to drop
18 your kids off and go.

19 MS. CELENTO: And so that parking that's
20 there today, who owns that parking?

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Today?

22 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The financial group that
24 currently owns the property, they purchased it from
25 Hoffman-La Roche.

1 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So are we leasing that
2 access to that parking --

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

4 MS. CELENTO: -- or are we purchasing it?

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: We purchased it all for
6 9.8.

7 MS. CELENTO: So that's the second -- the
8 separate property --

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Correct.

10 MS. CELENTO: -- number. Okay. Thank you.
11 It would be so great to have better news about these
12 things, like a picture. I mean, people have no idea
13 what's happening. It's like, how's anybody getting
14 dropped off/picked up? And I just want to say one
15 thing --

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: It's a bit premature for
17 that, but we will be producing that --

18 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- and letting that go
20 out.

21 MS. CELENTO: So just considering that, I
22 just want to say that when ON3 came in and, you know,
23 have done very few buildings on the Nutley side, one of
24 the biggest concerns was traffic on that corner. So it
25 seems like, you know, that is a concern. People are

1 concerned about traffic on that corner, especially
2 people are concerned about small children being dropped
3 off/picked up, so I'm glad there's a solution.

4 But just remember again, there's certain
5 things that ON3 were not approved for, and therefore,
6 we have no -- we have limited tax revenue because
7 they're not building in the Nutley side. They're
8 building on the Clifton side because they didn't get
9 what they needed. There were all these pushbacks
10 about, you know, traffic and -- and where's the income?
11 We lost \$10 million in rateables, and we're not
12 anywhere close to replacing that.

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Well, we lost 10 million
14 in ratable. One and a half million dollars of that
15 went to the county. We are currently collecting
16 6.6 million.

17 MS. CELENTA: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right? Because we
19 secured 2.6 million in permanent state aid as you
20 recall because we had transitional aid.

21 MS. CELENTA: Right, so that's the permanent.
22 Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And the history around
24 that -- the current taxes are \$4 million. We will be
25 announcing more about progress that's still going to be

1 done, which will, when completed, fully recover the
2 eight and a half million dollars that we lost.

3 MS. CELENTO: Hallelujah. Thank you so much.
4 Okay. So in relation to the budget, I have a couple
5 other quick things. Just --

6 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Amy, if I could just
7 interrupt you one second about the -

8 MS. CELENTO: Yes, Commissioner Petracco.

9 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- ON3 property, too.
10 You have to realize, too, it was easy pickings for
11 Clifton because they had all the vacant land. You
12 know, Nutley didn't have a lot of vacant land to be
13 built on except for that one big site --

14 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- at the cathedral.
16 And we have -- I'll speak for myself. I have been very
17 cautious because we don't want to have a misstep. We
18 want to get the best --

19 MS. CELENTO: Sure.

20 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- property use that
21 we can. And the pushback, despite what everybody's
22 been reading in the newspapers that ON3 was putting out
23 in the beginning, we've been working very diligently
24 and hard to make sure that we repurpose that property
25 the best we can, get the best ratable that we can, and

1 not so much impact on our township with the services
2 and so forth. So it's not that we are not moving
3 forward and we don't want a solution. You know, we
4 want -- we know that this is for the next hundred years
5 of our municipality --

6 MS. CELENTO: Sure.

7 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- and we want to get
8 it right. And I think that we're in a good place right
9 now with Gene Diaz/ON3 and, you know, we're looking
10 forward to moving it forward as well, as the mayor said
11 before. We all pay taxes here, too, and we live here
12 also.

13 MS. CELENTO: I understand that. And I --
14 believe me, I appreciate you commenting on it, but I
15 want you to know this was not all hearsay. I attended
16 many of the meetings. I was in this room many, many
17 meetings, 2017, 2018, many presentations by ON3. So
18 this is not just hearsay that I'm referring to.

19 So I just want you to know I was here. I was not
20 serving, but I was here, paying attention. So --

21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. And if you
22 recall that, in 2013, I believe that Roach left. Based
23 the professionals that we hired, analysts, said that we
24 are 25 years away from solving this problem. So I
25 think that --

1 MS. CELENTO: I did note.

2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- as we all wanted to
3 move faster, I think we're still way ahead of the
4 curve. And I think that the best is yet to come.

5 MS. CELENTO: I mean, that's really good
6 news. Thank you so much.

7 So I wanted to ask about just in terms of
8 affordable housing, and we've -- we've spent a lot of
9 money on attorneys' fees related to affordable housing.
10 Are we done with that? Are we done with the attorneys'
11 fees? Is there a deal? And I'm asking because I don't
12 see anything in the budget related to that, not that it
13 has to be a line item, but are -- should we be
14 expecting hundreds of thousands of dollars of
15 attorneys' fees over the next few years?

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I would hope not.

17 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So I won't ask any more
18 about that tonight.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, we -- just -- Amy, I
20 think you recall, we have an obligation, what they call
21 the gap-period obligation, for --

22 MS.CELENTO:Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- 55 units. In order
24 for us to attract someone to do that, it has to be 65
25 units because of tax credits that are involved. It's

1 very important about that. We -- I have every
2 expectation that we will, we will move on that. We do
3 have an ongoing requirement to report to the fair share
4 housing folks as well as the Essex court system.
5 And so, you know, periodically, we will incur some
6 legal fees, you know --

7 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- to do that at -- until
9 it is completed.

10 MS. CELENTO: Okay. But I guess I'm asking
11 you -- and I think maybe you've answered it -- the 65
12 units commitment, you're reporting on it, but we don't
13 anticipate it changing. I know that there -- I've seen
14 articles where towns are pushing back and/or the whole
15 settlement's been questioned.

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Sure.

17 MS. CELENTO: So --

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Towns are -- some towns
19 are pushing back.

20 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: They've got -- and some
22 of the towns that are pushing back is that they made a
23 commitment to do something, and now they're changing
24 their mind, so they're trying to influence that.

25 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: But we are currently,
2 for the next -- through 2035, I don't foresee us having
3 an additional obligation because every ten years they
4 look at it, and right now, we're exempt.

5 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Thank you.

6 So one other thing related to taxes and the
7 schools and One Nutley. You know, when the bike shop
8 and the upholstery, when that building was purchased, I
9 believe, by the district -- yes?

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: By the municipality.

11 MS. CELENTO: By the municipality. Okay. So
12 we lost the tax revenue.

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CELENTO: Then we spent the money to pave
15 it and put a -- put up a parking lot. So great,
16 there's more parking, I guess, for the teachers. That
17 doesn't seem to be parking that applied to the
18 community, but the teachers have to park somewhere.
19 But, you know, I -- I guess I just see these things
20 happening, and it's like how do these things happen?
21 It's like, oh, we're going to buy that. We're going to
22 buy the Ciccolini building so no one else buys it for
23 parking. And then years and years and years go by, and
24 we have no tax revenue from those properties. And
25 obviously, we're not going to reclaim tax revenue from

1 the parking lot where the bike shop used to be, right?
2 That's now part of the school parking.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So -- sure. So it's --
4 the -- the issue of the bike shop, in my opinion, and
5 the commissioners will have their opinion, was not
6 about whether or not we're losing tax dollars, which
7 was about \$12,000.

8 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: All right? The tax
10 point is a half a million. Right? So in less than
11 some percentage of a penny.

12 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So taxes weren't the
14 driver for that. It was a question of preserving space
15 for the expansion of the school system because it was
16 going to be sold privately. And if it was going to be
17 sold privately, it was deep enough to put 30 apartment
18 units there.

19 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So that stopped that.
21 We, as a municipality, have purchased it. We're
22 allowing them to use it for parking purposes for right
23 now, but it was intended to be part of a referendum to
24 expand the middle school.

25 MS. CELENTO: Right, originally.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: That referendum turns
2 out to be very, very expensive and unaffordable at this
3 point. So they might do something in the future, but
4 right now we're allowing them to use that. We're not
5 charging them for it.

6 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Well, I think that's
7 great. I mean, the school can't -- the district can't
8 afford to pay for parking, so --

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

10 MS. CELENTO: -- it's a great thing we're not
11 charging them.

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And the same thing --
13 and the same thing when you look back at Ciccolini. It
14 wasn't about Ciccolini to become a parking lot.
15 Initially, the Ciccolinis were about to sell that to a
16 New York developer who was going to put 125 units there
17 without a variance. It --

18 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- fits it. it would've
20 destroyed the business district. So we prevented that,
21 and we paid \$3.4 million for that, \$3,000,425 for that,
22 and we're set -- we're selling it for 4.5 million.

23 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The taxpayers didn't
25 lose. The Ciccolinis paid \$40,000 a year in taxes.

1 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So again, taxes were not
3 the driver. Right?

4 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Now, with the build and
5 what's going to be there, we're getting -- what we're
6 getting out of that is very important to understand.
7 We're getting our four and a half million dollars back,
8 we're getting 50 additional parking spots. We're
9 converting 75 parking spots, what will now go into an
10 interior structured garage. Those spaces cost \$35,000
11 each to build today.

12 MS. CELENTO: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right? Very expensive.
14 But that will be public parking. So we're increasing
15 our public parking by two-thirds. We're also putting
16 in a 5,000 square foot park that will go -- that will
17 go there, and we have to move the HAZMAT building,
18 which we're getting another million dollars for. When
19 you put all that together, the -- preserving the
20 Ciccolini building was worth about \$7 million to the
21 municipality, which I'm very confident -- I think
22 people would be -- you know, would actually
23 acknowledge, not a bad deal.

24 More importantly is the taxes going forward
25 on that will be --

1 MS. CELENTO: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- over \$600,000 a year.

3 MS. CELENTO: It's going to be great, and
4 that's the HAZMAT answer, by the way. It was the
5 HAZMAT building they're buying. When I said about
6 HAZMAT, I didn't, I didn't understand that. I thought
7 it was HAZMAT cleanup. I was like --

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: They're -- they -- need
9 to -- no, it's the building --

10 MS. CELENTO: It's the building.

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- the physical structure
12 that needs to be relocated, and we're getting the money
13 that enables us to relocate that at no cost to the
14 taxpayers.

15 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Well, that's super
16 helpful. So there's a lot of things that are going to
17 be, you know, good things coming this way.

18 So in terms of One Nutley, I guess, you know,
19 some of these opportunities are coming up. I -- I do
20 want to say that when I was here last May, the
21 conversation was almost exactly the same: we need to
22 find out what happened. As far as we know, the state
23 is not mandating a forensic audit. If it does, okay,
24 great, but we're also going to pay for that forensic
25 audit, and I'm sure our auditor can tell us the -- I

1 mean, that could probably be \$1 million. I have no
2 idea.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: 75,000.

4 MS. CELENTO: 75,000.

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CELENTO: So why is that not happening,
7 then? Why are we waiting for the state to decide? Why
8 aren't we, the township, doing -- saying we're --
9 that's it? We're collecting taxes on behalf of the
10 district.

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: If the state does it,
12 the state pays for it.

13 MS. CELENTO: Well, the state pays for it in
14 theory, but they're not paying, you know, Jeanette
15 Makus' salary. I mean, we're paying it.

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Okay. No, we get --
17 broadly, yes, all the tax dollars that go to the state,
18 we all provide for that. We all pay that.

19 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So I appreciate -- and I
21 appreciate that. The nature of how to do that forensic
22 audit, if the state does it, it can be more expansive
23 to look in other places outside of the municipality.
24 So it can go to individual sources. If we do it, we're
25 confined to the municipality.

1 MS. CELENTO: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So there's a limiting
3 factor. So -- and I've had conversations on that, and
4 I support the fact that the monitor is pushing to have
5 the state do it.

6 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Well, that's good news
7 because it just seems like the answer is always, the
8 state has said no twice. And again, maybe these are
9 rumors, but what happens is -- is these things go into
10 articles that when people search Google, whatever you
11 want to call it, for our town, these articles are
12 coming up. So the value of our town is going down
13 because of all the negativity in this situation with
14 the district.

15 So if I'm coming here a year later, or two
16 weeks shy of a year later, and we're still having the
17 same conversations, I -- I don't understand how, you
18 know, we're in this situation where the townspeople are
19 finding these things out, finding out they're cutting,
20 you know, special needs support and JV sports, and
21 people are going bonkers. And again, the articles.
22 News Channel 12 is here. This doesn't look good for
23 our town, so our township is not a destination when our
24 schools are going to be failing. So that's a problem
25 that it just is like, well, we're -- here we are a year

1 later. We still want to know. So I'm just saying it
2 out loud because you're all reading the comments on
3 Facebook clearly, and it -- it just doesn't look good.

4 So I plan to stay in Nutley, but I have to
5 question, should I sell my house now? Because as the
6 schools start to fail, who's going to want to live in
7 my house?

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. I think it's an
9 emotional statement to say the schools will fail.

10 MS. CELENTO: Well --

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: They won't fail.

12 MS. CELENTO: Okay, so that is one thing I
13 want to say because if you're meeting monthly on this
14 One Nutley committee, listen, if students' IEPs are not
15 met, lawsuits are going to be filed by many, many
16 parents.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Sure.

18
19 MS. CELENTO: Additionally, not only are
20 lawsuits going to be filed because the IEPs are not being
21 met, they're not -- these students are not getting the
22 aids that -- that should be provided, but there are going
23 to be requests for more of out-of-district placements.
24 And out-of-district placements are wildly expensive.

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So Amy, I asked the

1 question, will any child that has an IEP not have a
2 paraprofessional come September? The answer was no.
3 They all will have them.

4 MS. CELENTO: And somebody can say that, but
5 when they've eliminated the jobs and made them part-
6 time --

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: We didn't eliminate all
8 the jobs.

9 MS. CELENTO: They eliminated many of them.
10 And --

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Paraprofessionals are a
12 part-time job.

13 MS. CELENTO: Okay. But --

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- with a full-time
15 salary.

16 MS. CELENTO: Listen, I'm only going by
17 what's presented at the school board meeting --

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And I --

19 MS. CELENTO: -- and by what's being stated.
20 That's all I'm going by.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, and I agree with
22 you. I think that what they did was very confusing and
23 was -- and it did not present it very well. We, as the
24 education committee had every intention of schooling
25 them on better communication and better presentation

1 because it's so important. It's not good for our town
2 to get people into an uproar over -- by chasing
3 shadows. They need to know the facts.

4 MS. CELENTO: Exactly. So thank you for
5 that. And so my last question about money in funds and
6 -- and what's happening with the district, I mean,
7 Commissioner Scarpelli, you said, you know, probably by
8 the next meeting, they're going to restore JV sports.
9 Maybe they are. That would be great. But is there any
10 opportunity for a one-time transfer of any part of the
11 fund balance to go --

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

13 MS. CELENTO: -- into the district? Okay. So
14 that's an easy answer.

15 Okay. So my last thing is do we have a
16 policy that we won't have any investments? I guess, is
17 our fund balance, it's required to remain in cash --
18 cash investments.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Cash and we're not
20 allowed to invest it in the market. We can put it into
21 money-market-type things.

22 MS. CELENTO: Okay. I just want to make
23 sure.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Interest-bearing
25 accounts.

1 MS. CELENTO: Okay. So crypto. Do we have
2 a --

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

4 MS. CELENTO: -- no crypto policy? Okay. I
5 just want to make sure there's an actual policy.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, yeah, it's state -- it
7 states we're not allowed.

8 MS. CELENTO: That's why I'm asking you.
9 Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Our -- under state
11 policy, we're very limited what we can invest in.

12 MS. CELENTO: Okay, perfect. And then the
13 last thing I want to ask is, is it possible to get some
14 proformas, kind of like -- I see on here trash cards,
15 five -- first of five installment payments, 270,000. I
16 mean that comes to 1-million-350. The stated amount
17 before was 1-million-2 and -- okay, it's over five
18 years. That's great. We don't have to pay it all up
19 front. But then there's also an increase in garbage
20 and recycling of 222022.

21 Are we able to get some, like, proformas?
22 Can we present to people? I think people might throw
23 away a lot less stuff. They might start composting. If
24 people understand that there's \$3 million spent on
25 handling the garbage and that it's an increase,

1 regardless of going with the carts, there's still a
2 \$222,000 increase.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Okay. So -- to the
4 Mayor's Office, they track tipping fees, which is the
5 disposal.

6 MS. CELENTO: Right.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And the mayor can
8 comment on the fact they've been -- there've been --
9 it's been shown that we're putting away less.

10 MS. CELENTO: Right, so could we -- could
11 that start being published? I mean, again, I just
12 think that -- we all appreciate having our garbage
13 picked up. Believe me, I'm grateful. I grew up in the
14 country. There was no garbage pickup. So I'm grateful
15 and -- but I just feel like, you know, when it's an
16 extra 222,000 projected for the year, it sort of is
17 like, how are we not going down? And I understand the
18 numbers are going down, but it -- it's a concern. Like,
19 will it continue to rise every year? Because if it
20 rises every year for the next five years, then we're up
21 to almost a million and a half dollars over five years.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So it's a question of
23 tonnage, how much tonnage is being disposed of, and
24 what's the cost associated with disposing it. Cost
25

1 associated with dispose is going up.

2 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Well, again, it's just
3 that if we're spending a million-350 on carts, and
4 we're going to go up a million-350, just -- someone
5 needs to be publicizing this. That's all I'm saying.

6 MAYOR KELLY: And just to add on that, we
7 entered a new contract period. So the old contract
8 expired, it was a five-year contract, and now we're
9 into a new contract period. And so you -- you'll --
10 when you shift into a new contract period, you're going
11 to see a, a stark change in the price because it -- the
12 old contract was a flat year-to-year standard fee. The
13 next contract is the same flat standard year-to-year
14 fee, so the -- the shift, or I should say the increase
15 from year to year going forward should be a lot more
16 muted.

17 MS. CELENTO: Okay. Well, that's good news.
18 Thank you so much. So I do appreciate that this is a
19 lot of time. Thank you for the time and asking the
20 questions. I represent myself, but I feel like,
21 because I have the time today and I did some research,
22 it was worth it to come and talk about these things.
23 And also, I just want to again advocate for a zero-
24 based budget next year. I think if the district did
25 it, I feel like the town could do it. It -- it's

1 just -- I don't know. It's an exercise. And I
2 understand it takes everybody's time and attention, but
3 it might be worthwhile. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you, Amy.

5 MS. CELENTO: Thank you so much.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

7 MR. AROMANDO: My name is Thomas Aromando. I
8 own two multiunit buildings that are more than four
9 units. And we recently had this sewerage charge, which
10 is something new. And I think it's unfair that anyone
11 that owns residential property more than four units
12 pays double the amount of sewerage charge and also a --
13 an extra charge for water going in, clean water. And
14 I'd like to know if you can give me a good explanation
15 of why that is. I think it's just a way to generate
16 more money for the town. It's very, very unfair.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner?

18 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Yeah, Mr. Aromando,
19 we looked at -- we actually changed a little bit in the
20 ordinance. I don't know if you've looked at that. We
21 got three tiers now instead of --

22 MR. AROMANDO: There's four tiers from what I
23 understand.

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: There's three tiers
25 on the commercial side, right -- On the residential

1 side? Tier one, tier two, and tier three.

2 MR. AROMANDO: Yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: And so we changed
4 that a little bit in response to --

5 MR. AROMANDO: You're going too fast. Can
6 you talk slow, please?

7 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Sure.

8 MR. AROMANDO: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: We changed that in
10 response to some of the issues that were brought up.
11 There's still an increase over the one to four
12 residential units, and that is because of the amount of
13 sewage that's produced from those buildings and what
14 else is being put into the -- there's more washing
15 machines. There's more --

16 MR. AROMANDO: But it's still the same water.
17 It's (indiscernible) --

18 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: It's not water.
19 It's not water that we're treating.

20 MR. AROMANDO: It's not water, clean --

21 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: It's not water that
22 we're treating. We're treating sewage. We're treating
23 the chemicals. We're treating the shampoo. We're
24 treating the washer-machine discharge. We're treating
25 the toilets that are discharged. We're treating all

1 that.

2 MR. AROMANDO: I understand that.

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: All right.

4 MR. AROMANDO: But at the -- you're doing the
5 same thing in a one-unit build -- one single family --

6 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: We are, but in a
7 one-unit building, there's one washer machine.

8 MR. AROMANDO: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: There's one shower.
10 You know, the --

11 MR. AROMANDO: Still -- you still can't
12 convince me of that.

13 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Well, I -- I'm --
14 it's an increased usage --

15 MR. AROMANDO: I know you're trying to
16 explain it, but --

17 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: -- on our --

18 MR. AROMANDO: -- it doesn't make any sense to
19 me. Zero.

20 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: It -- well, it does
21 make sense to us, and it's not -- it's --

22 MR. AROMANDO: I think it's a way to get more
23 revenue, and it's very unfair.

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Well, let --
25 Commissioner Evans can jump in at any time.

1 MR. AROMANDO: Yeah, I don't -- yeah, anybody
2 can talk.

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Our -- we have
4 sewage costs, \$4.7 million that we pay Passaic Valley
5 Sewage. We have to pay that bill one way or another,
6 so --

7 MR. AROMANDO: And that's -- that -- I like
8 that, one way or another.

9 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: One way or another.
10 So if we -- if we pay -- if everybody paid the same
11 rate, everybody's going to pay a higher rate, right?

12 MR. AROMANDO: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Because -- so
14 there's commercial properties that produce different
15 chemicals and stuff into the system.

16 MR. AROMANDO: Don't agree.

17 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: They have to go at a
18 different rate. And it's not just water. You're
19 getting billed on the consumption of water. That is
20 the way you're being billed because we have to have
21 some way of measuring it. But we still, at the end of
22 the day, have to pay Passaic Valley \$4.7 million.
23 There's no other way to pay for it.

24 MR. AROMANDO: Now, Mr. Petracco, you have a
25 business. How did it affect you with that

1 commercial --

2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: It has -- it has
3 affected me.

4 MR. AROMANDO: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: And I've asked many
6 questions myself, and we've had conversations as well.
7 And I've asked both Commissioner Scarpelli and
8 Commissioner Evans about the commercial properties
9 because, obviously, it affects both of us.

10 MR. AROMANDO: Right.

11 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: And, you know, the --
12 in fairness to them, their answers that I have gotten
13 are very similar to the same as Joe just told you about
14 told you about. We have to pay the sewer bill no
15 matter what, like we discussed. And, you know, they
16 have both been telling me that it's not perfect, and
17 they're working on a solution to all these questions.
18 Is that fair enough?

19 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: And I think we made
20 some changes. We made some changes in response to
21 that.

22 MR. AROMANDO: Pardon me, Joe.

23 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: We made some changes
24 in response to people's concerns. And some of them are
25 not as -- not as charging as much as we were before.

1 There's a in-between rate.

2 MR. AROMANDO: That's all I have to say.

3 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: All right.

4 MR. AROMANDO: Thank you.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Anyone else wishing to be heard
6 on the budget?

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move to close.

8 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

9 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

11 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

12 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

13 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

14 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

15 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

16 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

17 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Mayor, I have one more
20 step to --

21 MAYOR KELLY: Yep, go ahead.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- add to this.

23 Resolution 116-25 would be read tonight if we were
24 adopting our budget. And for the record, we -- for
25 municipal purposes, we need to raise \$44,176,408.12

1 cents. For -- the minimum for the library is
2 \$1,851,813.10, as we have discussed multiple times.

3 I need a move -- a motion to table this
4 resolution for this evening. So move.

5 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second.

6 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

8 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

9 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

10 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

11 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

12 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

13 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

14 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And but I need a vote
17 to --

18 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
20 I thought you did. I'm sorry. I -- it's my glasses.

21 We are going to table this to -- and defer
22 the adoption probably to the June time frame. All
23 right?

24 So, Ray, do I need another vote on this? Are
25 we good? Okay.

1 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible).

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, we did. We did.

3 Okay, fine. We're good.

4 MR. AROMANDO: You mentioned about washing
5 machines and stuff. I have a five-unit and the six-
6 unit with no washing machines, so how does that affect
7 me?

8 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: We can't -- we --

9 MR. AROMANDO: Think about that. Everybody
10 shouldn't be paying different.

11 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Mr. Armando, it
12 would be nice if we could go into each --

13 MR. AROMANDO: It's generalized.

14 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Mr. -- Tom, if we
15 can go into each unit and figure out what's in there,
16 that would be great, but we can't.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No.

18 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: We can't.

19 MR. AROMANDO: No, but it should -- there
20 should be some --

21 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: So then you'll be
22 using less water because --

23 MR. AROMANDO: That's why it's unfair.

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: It's -- let me
25 finish. You'll be using less water without five

1 different washing machines and five different, you
2 know, other things that you're using to put into the
3 system, right? You will have less water usage, so
4 therefore, your fee will be less.

5 MR. AROMANDO: Yeah, but I'm still paying the
6 rate of --

7 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: You're paying a
8 different rate. Yes, you are.

9 MR. AROMANDO: Which it shouldn't be.

10 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: It's --

11 MR. AROMANDO: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: I think, when you
13 look at income-producing properties versus a one-family
14 residential, it's a little different.

15 MAYOR KELLY: I think the next resolution
16 was -- will be read by Commissioner Scarpelli.

17 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: "Whereas, public
18 works professionals focus on infrastructure,
19 facilities, and services that are of vital importance
20 to sustainable and resilient communities and to public
21 health, high quality of life and well-being of the
22 people in the Township of Nutley; and

23 "Whereas, these infrastructure, facilities,
24 and services cannot be provided without the dedicated
25 efforts of public works professionals who are

1 engineers, managers, employees at all levels of
2 government and the private sector who are responsible,
3 rebuilding, improving, and protecting nation's
4 transportation, border supply, water treatment, and
5 solid waste systems, public buildings, and other
6 structures and facilities essential for our citizens;
7 and

8 "Whereas, it is in the public interest for
9 citizens, civic leaders, and children in the Township
10 of Nutley and account to gain knowledge of and maintain
11 an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance
12 of public works and public works programs in the
13 respective communities; and

14 "Whereas, the year 2025 marks the 65th annual
15 National Public Works Week sponsored by the American
16 Public Works Association;

17 "Whereas, this year's theme, 'People,
18 Purpose, Presence' highlights how public works makes
19 communities safer, more vibrant, and a better place to
20 live;

21 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board
22 of Commissioners Township of Nutley, County of Essex,
23 State of New Jersey, do hereby designate the week May
24 18th through the 24th, 2025, as National Public Works
25 Week in the Township of Nutley and call upon all

1 citizens to acquaint themselves with the issues and
2 providing public works to recognize the substantial
3 contribution of our professionals, engineers, managers,
4 and employees make to protecting our nation's health,
5 safety, and advance the quality life for all."

6 I proudly move this resolution and
7 congratulate all my public works workers. So moved,
8 Mayor.

9 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

10 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

11 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

12 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

13 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

14 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

15 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

16 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: That's all I have,
19 Mayor.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 Commissioner Petracco, I see you have none
22 on.

23 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I don't have any, and
24 I'm going to stick around.

25 MAYOR KELLY: All right, I have five. The

1 first one I have on is resolution number 109-25, Food
2 Allergy Awareness Week. You know, although I don't
3 have a food allergy, as you can tell, I'm struggling
4 with my allergies right now.

5 "Whereas, Food Allergy Awareness Week was
6 established as a national week of encouraging food
7 allergy awareness and supporting those who are affected
8 by food allergies and anaphylaxis.

9 "Whereas food allergies affect as many as
10 32 million Americans, including 6 million children.

11 "Whereas the prevalence of food allergies
12 appears to be increasing among children under the age
13 of 18, which is two students in every classroom.

14 "Whereas nine foods account for 90 percent of
15 all food allergy reactions: Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Milk,
16 Egg, Wheat, Soy, Fish, Shellfish, and Sesame.

17 "Whereas, a food allergy is an immune system
18 response" to the -- "to a food the body mistakenly
19 believes to be harmful. When a person with food
20 allergy eats the food, his or her immune system
21 releases massive amounts of chemicals, including
22 histamine, that trigger a cascade of" system --
23 "symptoms that affect the respiratory system, the
24 gastrointestinal tract, the skin and/or cardiovascular
25 system;

1 "Whereas, anaphylaxis is a serious allergic
2 reaction that comes on quickly and has the potential to
3 become life-threatening. There is no cure for food
4 allergies, so strict avoidance is the only way to
5 prevent an allergic reaction;

6 "Whereas, Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis
7 Connection Team (FAACT) is a national nonprofit
8 organization committed to their mission to educate,
9 advocate, and raise awareness for all individuals and
10 families affected by food allergies and life-
11 threatening anaphylaxis;

12 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board
13 of Commissioners, Township of Nutley, County of Essex,
14 State of New Jersey recognize the week of May 11th
15 through the 17th as National Food Allergy Awareness
16 Week and encourage all residents to increase their
17 understanding and awareness of this potentially life-
18 threatening medical condition, improving the quality of
19 life of the 32 million Americans affected by food
20 allergies and anaphylaxis." So moved.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Second.

22 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

24 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

25 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

1 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

3 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

5 The next one I have on for this evening is
6 for National Nurses Month. I just want to extend this
7 special congratulations and thanks to our town nurses.

8 "Whereas, nurses serve as the first point of
9 contact for most patients and perform the most
10 essential healthcare tasks, and

11 "Whereas, the American Nurses Association
12 recognizes the invaluable contribution of nurses
13 worldwide and the real-life challenges they face every
14 day, and

15 "Whereas, this annual celebration is
16 dedicated to elevating nurses' voices and recognizing
17 their unwavering commitment to patients, communities,
18 and better healthcare outcomes for all.

19 "Whereas, celebrating, honoring, and
20 supporting nurses during National Nurses Week provides
21 a high-impact opportunity to promote the value of
22 nursing, advocating for the profession, and sharing
23 impact stories, which all play a critical role in
24 driving awareness and reaching a wider audience.

25 "Whereas even though nursing is both a

1 rewarding and challenging profession, data shows access
2 to support system and tools are critical for a healthy
3 workforce, and 40 percent of nurses who practice
4 regular self-care report 40 percent lower rates of
5 anxiety and depression compared to those who don't.

6 "Whereas" in American Nurse is a
7 continuing -- is continuing their tradition, or "the
8 American Nurses Association is continuing their
9 tradition of shining a spotlight on the contributions
10 of the nation's more than 5 million registered nurses
11 throughout the month of May, and

12 "Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
13 Board of Commissioners in the Township of Nutley,
14 County of Essex, State of New Jersey, along with the
15 American Nurses Association, recognize the month of May
16 as National Nurses Month. Celebrating the 2025 theme
17 of 'The Power of Nurses to Transform Health' highlights
18 the significant impact nurses have had on innovation,
19 healthcare, and patient-centered care. The American
20 Nurses Association will also focus on the resilience,
21 expertise, and heart nurses bring to their patients and
22 communities.

23 "Now therefore be it further resolved that
24 National Nurses Month is celebrated through the entire
25 month of May with a special focus on National Nurses

1 Week, which begins each year on May 6th and ends May
2 12th, the birth date of celebrated nurse Florence
3 Nightingale." So moved.

4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Second.

5 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

7 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

8 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

9 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

10 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

11 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Aye. The next one I have on
13 for this evening is for raffle licenses, the VFW Post
14 auxiliary number 493, Stuart E. Edgar, License
15 No. 31-25, Off-Premises 50/50 Cash Raffle Wednesday,
16 October 8th.

17 Wherefore, "applications have been reviewed
18 and approved by Municipal Clerk and Police Department;

19 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board
20 of Commissioners, Township of Nutley, County of Essex,
21 State of New Jersey that the aforementioned licenses
22 are approved, and the Municipal Clerk is also
23 authorized to issue said licenses." So moved.

24 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

25 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

2 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

3 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

4 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

5 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

6 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

8 The next one I have on for this evening is
9 Resolution Number 112-25. And this is for a shared
10 service with the school board to handle their trash and
11 rubbish removal. This is for 39,000 in Year 1, 39,000
12 in Year 2, 39,000 in Year 3, 49,000, in Years 4 and 5.

13 "Be it resolved the Board of Commissioners of
14 Township of Nutley, County of Essex, State of New
15 Jersey, approve the shared service agreement with the
16 Nutley Board of Education, for solid waste removal by F
17 Basso, Jr., Rubbish Removal for the -- for which the
18 township will be reimbursed the yearly amount,
19 commencing on November 1st, 2024, through October 31st,
20 2029." So moved.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Second.

22 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

24 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

25 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

1 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

3 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

4 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

5 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

6 MAYOR KELLY: The last one I have is on
7 behalf of the entire board and this is for planning and
8 consulting services related to the ON3 Hoffman-LaRoche
9 redevelopment. This is a professional service contract
10 going to FAR Planning, located at 190 Veterans Drive,
11 Northvale, New Jersey. We believe they're qualified
12 and best suited to provide the services to this
13 township.

14 FAR has completed the Business Entity
15 Disclosure Certification, which certifies it has not
16 made any reportable disqualifying contributions to
17 political candidate or candidate committee in the
18 Township of Nutley in the previous one year, that the
19 contract will prohibit them from making any reportable
20 contributions through the term of the contract.

21 Funds are available from Account
22 Number 5-01-226-205 and will be certified by the Chief
23 Financial Officer, said certification being attached to
24 this resolution and will be reimbursed by escrow
25 accounts to be established with the designated

1 redeveloper on the subject property.

2 "Whereas, FAR has submitted a proposal for
3 services, in accordance with the proposal to perform
4 services at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.

5 "Whereas, the anticipated term of this
6 contract is for 12 [sic] months, May 6th, 2025, through
7 December 31st, 2025.

8 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board
9 of Commission of the Township of Nutley, County of
10 Essex, State of New Jersey, that:

11 The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby
12 authorized to contract with FAR, as professional
13 service contract, in the amount not to exceed 75,000.

14 And a copy of this resolution as well as the
15 contract shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the
16 Township of Nutley; and a notice in accordance with the
17 Local Public Contracts Laws of the State of New Jersey
18 New Jersey shall be hosted in the Nutley Sun. So
19 moved.

20 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

21 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

23 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

24 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

25 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

1 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

2 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

3 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

4 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

6 And Mr. Bruno, I believe we -- oh, we have
7 meeting open to the public. Anyone wishing to be heard
8 on any item, whether it was on the agenda or not, is
9 free to approach the microphone and state your name for
10 the record.

11 Seeing none, Mr. Bruno, how do -- we do have
12 a need for executive. Is that correct?

13 MR. BRUNO: Yes, Mayor, we have a -- need a
14 closed-door session to discuss litigation.

15 MAYOR KELLY: I will entertain a motion
16 for --

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Just a second.

18 MADAM CLERK: "Whereas, Section 8 of the Open
19 Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the
20 exclusion of the public from meeting in certain
21 circumstances; and

22 "Whereas, the public body is of the opinion
23 that such circumstances exist; and

24 "Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of the
25 Township of Nutley in the County of Essex and State of

1 New Jersey desires to proceed to closed executive
2 session; and

3 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board
4 of Commissioners of the Township of Nutley, move into
5 close executive session to discuss litigation.

6 "Be it further resolved that at the time when
7 such discussion may be disclosed to the public shall be
8 when and such disclosure may be made without adversely
9 affecting the Township of Nutley pending and/or
10 anticipated legal, personnel, contractual matters, and
11 other matters within the exceptions provided for by
12 statute. This resolution shall take effect
13 immediately."

14 Commissioner Evans.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

16 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

17 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

18 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

19 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

20 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

22 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Aye. And we won't be
24 conducting any more business this evening. Our next
25 meeting is Tuesday, May 20th, 2025, at 7 p.m. I'll

1 entertain a motion to adjourn.

2 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: So move.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Second.

4 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans.

5 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

6 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci.

7 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

8 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli.

9 COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

10 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco.

11 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

12 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Kelly.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

14 MADAM CLERK: The time is 9:23.

15 (End of recording)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Alicia Jarrett, transcriber, hereby
certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from
the recording pr 

ALICIA JARRETT, AAERT NO. 428

DATE: May 21, 2025