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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
1
 2
           DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
 3
4
  IN RE:
5
       Local Finance Board :
 6
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 8
 9
10
         Location: Department of Community Affairs
11
                   101 South Broad Street
12
                   Trenton, New Jersey 08625
                    Wednesday, April 9, 2025
13
         Date:
            Commencing At: 10:30 a.m.
14
15
            (Taken Remotely Via Teams.)
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HELD BEFORE: (ALL MEMBERS APPEARING VIA VTC)
 2
3 MICHAEL ROGERS, Chairman
 4 WILLIAM CLOSE
 5 ALAN AVERY
 6 ROBERT JACKSON
 7 IDIDA RODRIGUEZ
 8 DOMINICK DIROCCO
 9
10
11
12 A L S O P R E S E N T:
13
14 NICK BENNETT, Executive Secretary
15 MATTHEW MARTHALER
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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```
MR. ROGERS: Just to let everybody
1
2
  know, we previously opened this meeting a little
  after nine this morning, so we're just back out
  of closed and I quess we can move on to the first
  item of business.
 6
                Do we have a motion to adopt the
  March 12, 2025 meeting as presented meeting
  minutes?
 9
                MR. DIROCCO: I'll make that motion.
10
                                I'll second.
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
11
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco and Miss
12
  Rodriguez.
             Mr. Rogers?
13
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
14
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
15
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
16
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
17
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
18
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
19
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
20
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriquez?
21
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
22
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
23
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
24
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
25
                MR. ROGERS: Move on to ethics
```

```
Mr. Marthaler?
1
  matters.
2
                MR. MARTHALER: Thank you, Director.
  The first matter before the board is 19-011.
  here the board is being asked to approve a notice
5
  of investigation to investigate potential
  violation of Subsection C.
7
                MR. BENNETT: And this is a matter
  in which Mr. DiRocco is recused.
8
 9
                MR. ROGERS: Okay.
10
                MR. DIROCCO: Correct.
                                        Thank you.
11
                MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
12
  board?
         Members of the public? Do we have a
  motion to issue a notice of investigation to the
  one LGO for possible violations of the state?
15
                MR. CLOSE:
                           So moved.
16
                MR. JACKSON: So moved.
17
                MR. BENNETT:
                              I heard Mr. Close and
18
  Mr. Jackson at the same time?
                                  Mr. Jackson, would
19
  you like to second?
20
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
21
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Rogers?
22
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco is
24
            Mr. Close?
  recused.
25
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
```

```
1
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
 2
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
 3
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
 4
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
 5
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
 6
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
 7
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 8
                MR. ROGERS: Great. Mr. Marthaler,
  next item.
10
                MR. MARTHALER: Yes.
                                      The next
11 matter is 19-020. Here the board is being asked
12
  to approve a notice of investigation to
13 investigate potential violations of Subsection D.
14
                MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
15 board?
         Members of the public? Do we have a
16 motion to issue notice of investigation of one
17 LGO for possible violations of D?
18
                MR. CLOSE:
                           So moved.
19
                MR. JACKSON:
                            Second.
20
                MR. BENNETT: I heard Mr. Jackson
21
  second.
           Mr. Rogers?
22
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
24
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
25
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
```

```
MR. CLOSE: Yes.
1
 2
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
 3
                MR. AVERY:
                          Yes.
 4
                MR. BENNETT:
                              Miss Rodriquez?
 5
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
 6
 7
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
 8
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 9
                MR. MARTHALER: The next matter is
  19-027.
10
           And I'd like to remind, Mr. DiRocco is
  recused from this matter. Here the board is
  being asked to approve a determination where the
13 board is dismissing the complaint for having no
14 reasonable factual basis.
15
                MR. ROGERS: Any questions, Board
16 Members? Members of the public? Do we have a
  motion to issue a notice of dismissal to one LGO
18
  dismissing the complaint as lacking a reasonable
19
  factual basis?
20
                MR. AVERY: So moved.
21
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Second.
22
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery and Miss
23
              Mr. Rogers? Yes?
  Rodriquez.
                                  Mr. DiRocco is
24
  recused.
           Mr. Close?
25
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
```

```
1
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
 2
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
 3
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
 4
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
 5
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
 6
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
 7
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 8
                MR. ROGERS: Last item, Mr.
  Marthaler?
10
                MR. MARTHALER: Yep.
                                      The final
11 matter before the board is 17-021. Here the
12 board is being asked to accept the settlement to
13 resolve a matter that is currently at the Office
14 of Administrative Law whereby a fine of $500 will
15 be agreed upon.
16
                MR. ROGERS: Questions from the
17
  board members? Public? Hearing none, do we have
18
  a motion to accept the proposed settlement of
19
  complaint number 17-021?
20
                MR. CLOSE: So moved
21
                MR. AVERY: Second.
22
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close and Mr.
23
  Avery.
         Mr. Rogers?
24
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Yes.
25
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
```

```
MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
1
 2
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
 3
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
 4
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
 5
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
                MR. BENNETT:
                             Miss Rodriquez?
 6
 7
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
 8
 9
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
10
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
11
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
12
  Marthaler.
13
                MR. MARTHALER:
                                Thank you.
14
                MR. ROGERS: Before we get into the
  applications, just a reminder to remain muted to
16
  eliminate background noise. If you're on audio
17
  only, please press star 6 to mute and unmute
18
  yourself.
19
                And then when your application is
20
  up, please, anyone who is here to testify, please
21
  turn on your camera before the when the
22
  application is before the board to be heard.
                                                  So
23
  that would be greatly appreciated.
24
                I guess the first application we
25
  have is the Township of Chesterfield.
```

```
1
               MS. WULSTEIN: Good morning to you
 2
  all.
       Thank the board for hearing us this
           We are in the middle of our budget
  morning.
  process. Our administrator, Mr. George Jackson,
  I can see. He's also our mayor.
                                    Shreekant
  Dhopte was also going to try and make the
           I'm not sure whether he's logged in or
  meeting.
  not. I just want to let you know that.
 9
                (At which time those wishing to
10
  testify were sworn in.)
11
               MR. ROGERS:
                            Please proceed.
                                              Thank
12
  you.
13
               MS. WULSTEIN:
                               So the township is
  here before the board for the CAP waiver on the
15 1977 appropriation CAP. Those who have been on
16
  the board before are familiar that we have come
17
  here in the past for this exact same way for this
18
  generates back to when the township was actually
19
  operating on an under 10 cents tax rate.
20
               The Township of Chesterfield has
  changed in make up over the past 20 years coming
22
  out of the Mount Laurel decisions.
                                       It was a
23
  rural community. Population of about 2500.
24
                There was a development area done
  under the TDR program which is currently known in
```

```
this state for how they handle their obligation
  then and brought in the existing development that
  doubled the population out there.
 4
                So the township had come to the
5
  board originally for the police department.
  the population was doubling, there was, at that
 6
  moment, they had come off of state police about
  10 years earlier.
 9
                There was one officer per shift and
10
  that was not really a way that they could operate
11
  going forward. So the waiver was, back then, to
12
  add one officer per shift which would have
13
  brought the numbers to eight.
14
                Unfortunately, just due to the way
  that the township stayed under 10 cents for many
16
  years after this waiver was approved, they
  continued to need it. I know we have spoken with
17
  the board over the years that we monitor surplus
18
19
  very carefully.
20
                Surplus is one of those things that
  was a part of the development, had left -- have
22
  allowed us to spread out the usage of that which
23 kept the tax rate down when we talk about a levy.
24
                And what we have presented to the
  board in other years, as well as this year, is we
```

```
would like to have a waiver placed on to the CAP
2
  appropriation.
 3
                We are fully aware that when surplus
  is no longer plentiful, we will be going in front
4
  of the voters for a levy CAP waiver or vote.
  at that point, we would roll in this
7
  appropriation CAP waiver to it at the same time.
 8
                Right now, we're looking at, you
  know, maybe 2027 as being that year of the vote.
  We are almost at 50 percent of the surplus usage.
10
11 We do raise our taxes every year, almost to the
  maximum that we can by all the laws that are in
13 place.
14
                The township does have one new
15
  commercial development that has come into the
16
  township and is in the process, and could
17
  perhaps, for one year push that levy CAP over as
  permit fees for a million square feet development
18
19
  of a commercial warehouse might help us get to
20
  2027 or 2028.
21
                So I ask at this time, once again, I
  have presented the application. Our amount is
23 1,041,000. It is utilized for the police, as
  well as, our EMS services. And we do ask the
  board to consider our application and I'm happy
```

```
1
  to answer any questions.
 2
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Miss
 3
  Wulstein.
              I know that the township has been
  before this board previously over the years, so I
  understand what you've gone through and why
  you've been routinely back here for this and
7
  hopefully will come to an end.
8
                I will let you know that there is
  legislation that's out there right now that we've
  been trying to push certain legislators to
10
11 sponsor about this particular issue, when there's
12
  a municipality like yourselves, that after a
13
  couple of years of being before the board would
14
  just automatically have that as part of your CAP,
15 so we are trying to advocate on behalf of that
16 happening, but we'll see. We'll see how it plays
17
  out.
18
                MS. WULSTEIN:
                              Anything we can do to
19
  help you in advocate, we'd be happy to.
20
                MR. ROGERS: Appreciate it.
21
        When it does actually make a committee,
  we'll let you know and at least discuss it with
23
  your legislator. Okay. Does the board have any
24
  questions?
             Any from the public?
25
                So do we have a motion to approve
```

```
the appropriation CAP waiver for use of surplus?
1
 2
                MR. DIROCCO: I'll make that motion.
 3
                MR. AVERY: Second.
 4
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco and Mr.
5
  Avery.
          Mr. Rogers?
 6
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
 7
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
 8
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
 9
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
10
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
11
                             Mr. Avery?
                MR. BENNETT:
12
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
13
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
14
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
15
16
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
17
18
                MS. WULSTEIN:
                               Thank you very much.
19
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you.
                                          Second
20
  application, Far Hills Borough, for a proposed
21
  CAP waiver. Who will be leading this
22
  application?
23
                MS. MANTEL: I'm trying to make
  myself visible. Good morning members of the
  Local Finance Board and Director, Division, my
```

```
name is Cathy Mantel. I have been the partner,
  the engagement partner, for the audit of Far
 3
  Hills Borough.
 4
                We have with us today, my consulting
5
  partner, Andrew Katuski and we also have the
  borough's clerk, Dorothy Hicks who is at seminar
 6
7
  and is participating by phone.
8
                MR. ROGERS: So the person who is by
  phone, unfortunately, if we can't see that
10
  person, they can't testify.
11
                MS. HICKS: I'm on camera.
12
                MR. ROGERS: So let's get everyone
13
  sworn in and then we can proceed.
14
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
16
                MR. ROGERS: Go ahead, Miss Mantel.
17
                MS. MANTEL:
                             Okay.
                                    So as the
18
  auditor, I have the financial impact of the
19
  application, and I have Dorothy, the borough
20
  clerk who has been instrumental in working with
21
  the elected officials through the process of a
22
  development, which is related to Mount Laurel and
23 affordable housing units. Dorothy, I don't know
24 if you want to speak on that and then I can talk
  about the financial impact?
```

```
1
                MS. HICKS:
                          Sure.
                                   I'll just give a
 2
  brief overview of how we got into this position.
  There were some situations with the affordable
  housing development, a major development in the
 5
  borough.
                During site plan and compliance
 6
7
  review, changes happened in the field that the
  planning board was not aware of and caused some
  concern for the residents of the borough.
10
                Borough elected officials decided to
  meet with the developer through many meetings
12
  resulting in having to hire additional
13
  professionals, legal counsel, planners to review
14
  plans. We went to mediation, several sessions of
  mediation, did not get to the compromise.
16
                The developer ultimately filed
17
  litigation against the borough which caused
18
  considerable unanticipated legal expenses is what
19
  we had to approve for the appropriation waiver.
20
                             And I'll take it from
                MS. MANTEL:
21
  there.
         So having been with the borough, since, I
  believe 2009, 2010, I have witnessed, and I have
22
23
  a spreadsheet that, you know, goes all the way
  back in terms of their conservative budgeting
  methods, how each year they are -- I'm losing my
```

train of thought. 1 2 They are increasing taxes somewhere around two percent each year. That varies a little bit if there's a growth in the rateables. They also have employed other very conservative measures to ensure that the fund balance was 7 stable. 8 And so that has been somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 million dollars. Over the 10 course of time, they're very responsible for 11 everything that they do. They've never had an 12 application before the Local Finance Board. 13 And this came to my attention mid 14 2024 when they had this emergency, and we said, 15 we'll just take it one step at a time. 16 financial statement, and we're almost finished 17 with the '24 audit reflects that the municipality 18 does have 2 million dollars in surplus. 19 So we expect to utilize that in 20 developing the 2025 budget. The use of surplus is actually been reduced, so that they can 22 recover and land on both feet at the end of '25, 23 barring any unforeseen situations, but I haven't seen any since this legal suit relating to the development, so I feel very confident.

```
The new CFO is away this week and
1
 2
  couldn't make it to the meeting but has a good
  handle on the borough's finances and we work very
  closely with them to explain the effect of any
  decisions that they make.
                And so I feel very confident that
 6
  this is just one situation that has to be
  handled. And from that point forward, we expect
  that the borough will go back to maintaining
  levels of fund balance and doing the right thing
10
  in terms of tax increases.
12
                And then, again, from several units
13
  that have been developed in this development,
14
  there have been some increases in rateables.
15
  for 2025, there was no rate increase, but there
  was an increase in the municipal tax levy.
17
  may have many questions for us?
18
                                   Just for clarity,
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Yes.
19
  how much are you anticipating in your 2025
20
  budget, how much fund balance? In addition to
21
  the 225 I know you're asking for.
22
                MS. MANTEL: Oh, it's included in
23
         So in the '24 budget, the municipality
                 They've reduced that to 750,000.
  used 900,000.
  And offsetting that is raising the 225 fund to
```

```
fund the emergency.
2
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. I just wanted
 3
  some clarity around that. Thank you.
 4
                MS. MANTEL: You're welcome.
 5
                MR. ROGERS: Very good. I'll open
  it up to the board members for any questions,
 6
            From the public?
                                I quess, do we have
  comments.
  a motion to approve the appropriation CAP waiver
  for use and surplus?
10
                MR. DIROCCO: So moved.
11
                   AVERY: Second.
12
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco and Mr.
13
  Avery.
          Mr. Rogers?
14
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
15
16
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
17
                MR.
                   BENNETT: Mr. Close?
18
                MR. CLOSE:
                          Yes.
19
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
20
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
21
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriquez?
22
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
24
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
25
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
```

```
MS. MANTEL: Wonderful. Thank you
1
2
  so very much.
 3
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Miss Mantel.
  Moving on to Maurice River Fire District.
5
                MR. JESSUP: Good morning, Director.
  Matt Jessup here.
 6
7
                MR. ROGERS: Good morning, Mr.
8
  Jessup.
 9
                MR. JESSUP: So with us, we have
10 Fire Chief Wilben and Fire District Treasurer
11 Terry Wilkin. I think that's it, but either of
12
  them can let us know if anybody else is on.
13 Otherwise, those two will need to be sworn in.
14
                MR. BRASLOW: I'm here also.
  Richard Braslow, the general counsel to the fire
16 district.
17
                MR. JESSUP: Fire district general
18
  counsel to the stars of course.
19
                MR. BRASLOW:
                             Thank you.
20
                MR. ROGERS: If we can have
  everybody sworn in, Lauren?
22
                (At which time those wishing to
23 testify were sworn in.)
24
                MR. ROGERS: Let's proceed, Mr.
25
  Jessup.
```

21

```
1
               MR. JESSUP:
                            Thank you, Director.
2
  So this is an application by Maurice River
  Township Fire District Number 2 pursuant to
  N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6 in connection with the issuance
  of bonds and notes to finance a fire rescue
  pumper truck in an amount not to exceed
7
  $1,310,000.
 8
                The acquisition of the fire truck
  and the financing of the truck were approved by
10
  the voters at an election held on February 15th
  2025. The vote was 39 in favor, six against.
12
  The fire district will procure the truck through
13
  the HGAC Cooperative.
14
               The purchase price is 1.276 million
15
  and change. The fire district estimates that it
  will save about five and-a-half percent on the
17
  cost of the truck by going through the HGAC
18
  Cooperative. The fire district is going to make
  a 400,000 dollar down payment on the fire truck
19
20
  from cash on hand.
21
                The truck is replacing a 20 year old
  fire engine that has over 63,000 miles on it and
23
  nearly 11,000 service hours. This is the most
  used truck in the fleet. That probably goes
  without saying because normally we're here on
```

```
trucks that have maybe two, three, maybe 4,000
 2
  service hours on it. This one has 11,000.
 3
                It is in poor condition, obviously,
  due to its age and its use. We will sell the
4
5
  outgoing truck, obviously, for whatever residual
  value is left, but obviously, we're not
 6
7
  anticipating anything material.
 8
                Net of the 400,000 dollar down
  payment, the fire district will finance the
  remaining $910,000 through the issuance of bonds
10
11 and notes over a 15 year term. At present,
12
  average annual debt service is expected to be
  about $83,000 per year.
13
14
                This results in a tax increase of
  about $29 to the average assessed valued
16
  homeowner who's currently paying just $450 in
17
  fire district taxes. The fire district does not
18
  have any other outstanding debt other than what
19
  will be this bond and note issue. And with that,
20
  Director, we'll turn it back to you.
21
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you.
                                        I just want
22
  to point out that Maurice River Fire District is
23
  a distinction of having the first -- utilizing
  this new local bond law amendment that increased
  the year of financing beyond the 10 years that it
```

```
1
  previously was.
 2
                So I think we have a couple of those
  today in fact, but you in that distinction as
  being the first to utilize the bond law, so
  you're keeping up on those amendments, Mr.
           That's nice.
 6
  Jessup.
7
                MR. JESSUP: Well, these trucks are
8
  getting more and more expensive. The pre COVID
  conversations and applications of fire trucks
10
  were fortunately a lot better in terms of cost
11 and delivery. It wasn't taking years to get a
12
  truck.
13
                MR. ROGERS: It's ridiculous how
14 long. That's a whole other issue I find
15 problematic these days. And not to mention, it's
16 always disappointing when you don't see the voter
17
  turn out for these.
18
                We've seen many applications,
19 whether it's a February election seems to be very
20
  low, but that is what it is.
21
                I didn't hear you say, but just for
22
  the record, there is a 400,000 dollar down
23
  payment on this, correct?
24
                MR. JESSUP: Correct.
25
                MR. ROGERS: Right. So your plan is
```

```
to get to the 400,000 when you finally finance
1
2
  it, right?
 3
                MR. JESSUP: That's right, yeah.
  There's cash available now plus continued accrued
4
  cash that, by the time we get there in four
  years, we'll have $400,000 that we'll voluntarily
7
  put towards the truck to downsize debt service.
8
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. I don't have any
  additional questions. Open it up to the board
  for any comments. Any from the public? Hearing
10
11 none, I guess do we have a motion to render
12
  positive findings on the proposed project
13
  financing?
14
                MR. DIROCCO: So moved.
15
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Second.
16
                MR. BENNETT: I have Mr. DiRocco and
17
  Miss Rodriquez.
                    Mr. Rogers?
18
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Yes.
19
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
20
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
21
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
22
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
24
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
25
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
```

```
MS. RODRIGUEZ:
1
                                Yes.
 2
               MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
 3
               MR. JACKSON: Yes.
 4
               MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 5
               MR. BRASLOW: Thank you.
 6
               MR. JESSUP:
                             Thank you very much.
7
               MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you. Have a good
  day. I don't think Mr. Jessup is going anywhere.
  You're up again?
10
               MR. JESSUP: I think that's right,
11 yep.
                             This is for the
12
               MR. ROGERS:
13 Hopewell Township, right.
14
               MR. JESSUP: I believe we have Fire
  Chief Jonathan Moore with us. Are you on?
16
               MR. MOORE:
                          Good morning.
17
               MR.
                   JESSUP: Morning, Chief.
18
               MR. ROGERS: Morning, Chief. Anyone
19
  else, Mr. Jessup?
20
               MR. JESSUP: Director, no.
  believe it's just the two of us for this one.
22
               MR. ROGERS: Okay. Great. Let's
23
  get the chief sworn in.
                            Lauren?
24
                (At which time those wishing to
  testify were sworn in.)
25
```

```
1
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Mr. Jessup, you're up.
 2
                MR.
                    JESSUP:
                             Thank you.
                                         So this is
 3
  an application by the Hopewell Township Fire
  District number 1 in connection with the issuance
5
  of bonds and notes to finance two projects here.
 6
                The acquisition of a ladder truck
  and the substantial rehabilitation of an
  lambulance in a combined amount not to $2,177,740.
  The two projects and the bond and note financing
10
  of the projects were approved at an election held
  on November 5th 2024.
11
12
                Director, you wanted a higher voter
13
  participation, here you go. 7,303 in favor and
14
  1754 against, which is a participation rate in
15
  excess of 57 percent, which, Director, you were
  just alluding to, it's sort of unheard of.
17
                Normally it's 5.7 percent, not 57
18
            So they have an active community here.
19
  The fire district is going to procure the ladder
20
  truck through the HGAC. The purchase price is
21
  just under 1.9 million dollars.
22
                Of course, we received savings by
23
  going through HGAC in addition to the savings on
  a separate procurement. That's why you see all
25
  of these going through HGAC, or one or more of
```

```
1
  the cooperatives.
 2
                This fire truck that we are
  acquiring is replacing a 1998 truck that has over
  50,000 miles and about 4,000 service hours on it.
  The aerial portion of the truck has not worked
  since November of 2023, which is obviously
 6
7
  problematic.
                And the fire district has incurred
 8
  over $164,000 in maintenance cost and it just no
10
  longer financially makes sense to continue to
11 sink that money in, plus there are replacement
12
  parts to the aerial portion that you simply can't
13
  get, so there really is no way to get that back
14
  in service.
15
                On top of all of that, the township
  that the fire district serves is seeing
16
17
  significant growth through development of five
18
  story apartment and condominium buildings, the
19
  existing farm offices and a hospital, all of
20
  which, obviously, need a fully functioning ladder
21
  truck in order to provide proper safety service.
22
                Hence the reason for this truck in
23
  particular.
                The cost to substantially
  rehabilitate the ambulance is about $28,000.
  did look into acquisition of a new ambulance but
```

```
at a cost of over $280,000.
1
 2
                So the fire district chose to go the
  rehab route which results in an immediate savings
  of $150,000 in the near term. We will finance
  the two projects through the issuance of not to
  exceed 2.177 and change million dollars through
7
  the issuance of bonds and notes.
 8
                The ambulance portion will be
  financed over five years. The ladder truck over
10
  15 years. At present, average annual debt
11 service is expected to be about $205,000 for
  those first five years and then will drop to
12
13 \mid 175,000 for the last 10 after the ambulance has
14
  come off.
15
                The debt service results in
  anticipated tax increase of about $28 to the
17
  average assessed value homeowner. Now, I know
18
  the board prefers to see capital funds used to
  offset debt in connection with fire district
19
20
  financings. We obviously just had that
21
  conversation.
22
                At the moment, we don't have a
23
  committed plan for that, but I want to explain
  why for the board's consideration. We currently
  have about $579,000 in capital that we could use
```

towards this project. 1 2 We are also facing a million dollar expenditure by 2027 for air packs township wide. We are seeking grants to try and cover as much of those costs as possible. But sitting here today, we don't know how much we will or will not 7 receive to offset that million dollar obligation that we have by 2027. 9 The good news is we will obviously know by 2027, which is when we have to acquire 10 the air backs and that's still two years before we'll be issuing the debt on the ladder truck 12 13 because this truck is not going to be available 14 for 44 to 50 plus months as the estimate from the 15 vendor. 16 The ladder truck obviously being the 17 bigger expenditure here, so the fire district is 18 willing to use some of those capital funds to 19 downsize the debt on the ladder truck. 20 We just can't sit here today because we may have a more pressing and vital use of that 22 cash, in which case, we would issue the debt as 23 it was originally approved by the voters in the 24 full amount. 25 We do have about 1.26 million in

```
outstanding debt. About $212,000 of that is in
  this year's budget. And of that amount over
  150,000 is gone by 2030.
 4
               And given we expect delivery of the
5
  truck in four to four and-a-half years, that
  means that new truck debt service that I was
  mentioning will really be layered on as a lot of
  our existing debt is coming off.
                                     So it fits
  nicely relative to our existing debt profile.
  Director, that's all I have.
10
11
               MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Jessup.
12
  That was really my main question as to use of
13
  fund balance. I was just curious, and I'm not
14
  sure if you can answer this question or the
15
  chief.
16
               How much you typically generate an
17
  additional surplus this year just on average.
                                                  Ιs
  it 50,000, 100,000?
18
                      Just curious as to how
19
  that's played out over the last five years or so.
20
               MR. MOORE: So we tried to put as
  much as we can from the current budget back into
22
  our unrestricted fund balance when we can, so
23
  that could be anywhere between 100 to 200,000 to
  roll for the next budget. So that's what we try
  to do every year when we can.
```

```
1
                MR. ROGERS: So it's just unexpended
2
  funds just --
 3
                MR. MOORE:
                           Correct.
 4
                MR. ROGERS: Just general lapse into
5
   the fund balance after the second year.
 6
                MR. MOORE:
                            That's correct.
 7
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Okay. I don't have any
8
  other questions. I'll open it up to the board.
  Questions and concerns.
10
                MR. CLOSE:
                           I understand your
11
  explanation relative to the municipal fund
12
  balance for the down payment and the anticipated
13
  costs that they're saving money for.
                                        What will
14 happen if they don't get the grants?
15
                How are they going to fund the
16 balance of that, one. Two, if they do get
17
  grants, is there going to be a commitment from
  you to use some portion of existing fund balance
18
  at the time towards the down payment? Will that
19
20
  be part of this?
21
                MR. MOORE: So the assistance of
22
  firefighter grants through FEMA generally require
23
  a 10 percent cost to us for the grant, so that
  would definitely be used for that.
25
                And then in the event that we aren't
```

```
able to get a grant, then we would have to raise
  the cash in order to buy what we need to keep the
  firefighters safe, so.
 4
               MR. JESSUP: I think to answer the
5
  second half of that, yes, I think the fire
  district is committed to using a portion of that
  capital balance towards the truck, again,
  provided it is available relative to the more
  pressing need of securing the air packs first
10 which, in and of itself, are a costly, obviously
11 we can go out and finance through voter approval.
  But with any luck, it's only 100,000 bucks, in
13
  which case, we're using some of this cash for
14 other purposes.
               MR. CLOSE: That answers my
15
  question, Director.
17
               MR. ROGERS:
                            Thank you, Mr. Close.
18 Anyone else? Anyone from the public? Hearing
19 none, do we have a motion to on the proposed
20
  project financing of Hopewell Township Fire
21
  District.
22
               MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I make a motion.
23
               MR. AVERY:
                           Second.
24
               MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriquez and Mr.
25
  Avery. Mr. Rogers?
```

1	MR. ROGERS: Yes.
2	MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
3	MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
4	MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
5	MR. CLOSE: Yes.
6	MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
7	MR. AVERY: Yes.
8	MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
9	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
10	MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
11	MR. JACKSON: Yes.
12	MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
13	MR. JESSUP: Thank you all very
14	much. Thank you.
15	MR. MOORE: Thank you very much. We
16	appreciate it.
17	MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chief. We
18	are on to the City of Trenton. It's the first of
19	two applications.
20	MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. This is
21	Everett Johnson bond counsel to the City of
22	Trenton.
23	MR. ROGERS: Good morning, Mr.
24	Johnson.
25	MR. JOHNSON: How are you. We have

```
a number of folks from the City of Trenton on the
  call. I believe we have Lynn Au, the Chief
  Financial Officer, we have Mary Henry, the
  treasurer.
 4
 5
               We have Colin Cherry, the assistant
  business administrator and I believe that we have
  Mr. Beach, the chief of staff to the mayor on the
  call. Feel free to chime in. And then we have
  two applications on. We also have folks from the
  Trenton City Water Works Department as well on
10
11
  the call. I see Maria Richardson on, who is the
12
  business administrator, as well.
                So please, I know there's a number
13
14 of folks on here, please let me know if I'm
15 missing anyone.
16
               MR. ROGERS:
                            Anybody who is here for
  those two applications, just let's do it one
17
18
  application at a time. We can get them sworn in,
19
  so please put your video on and raise your right
20 hand.
21
                (At which time those wishing to
22
  testify were sworn in.)
23
               MR. ROGERS:
                             Mr. Johnson?
24
                MR. JOHNSON: Sure. So the first
  application for the city deals with to propose
```

```
adoption of a bond ordinance.
1
 2
               The City of Trenton seeks the
  approval of the Local Finance Board for the
  adoption of a bond ordinance pursuant to the
  provisions of the Municipal Qualified Bond Act
  and the issuance of not to exceed 22 million
  dollars of bonds through the New Jersey
  Infrastructure Bank and as qualified bonds as
  well.
10
                The ordinance authorized the funding
11
  of a project through the Trenton Water Works
12
  which is a self-liquidating municipal utility.
13 As a result, the water utility does not utilize
  any of the city's borrowing capacity of the Local
15
  Bond Law.
16
               The debt authorized by the ordinance
17
  will have no impact on the city's net debt
18 limitation.
               I'll get back to that a little bit
19 later on. And pursuant to Section 11C of the
20 Local Bond Law, the city is not required to make
  a down payment under the ordinance for two
22
  reasons.
23
               One because it's self-liquidating
24
  debt and also because it's New Jersey
  Infrastructure Bank project. In the spring of
```

```
2020, the city approved an ordinance rate
  increase which has been able to maintain the
  city's self-liquidating status throughout the
 4
  vears.
 5
                The city is currently undergoing a
  new rate study which will also likely increase
 6
  rates as well to maintain the self-liquidating
  status of the utility in future years which will
  include the proposed debt that we're discussing
10
  now.
11
                The system itself, approximately,
12
  serves 20 to 255,000 customers with,
  approximately, 63,000 accounts and utilizes,
13
14
  approximately, 683 distribution mains for
  municipalities of Trenton, Hamilton, Lawrence,
15
16 Ewing and Hopewell.
17
                It is the city's desire to replace
18
  old lead service lines within the distribution
  with copper lines in order to bring the city's
19
20
  public water system into compliance with the
21
  United States Environmental Protection Agency's
22
  lead copper rule and continue progress on the New
23
  Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's
  mandated lead service line replacement plan under
  N.J.S.A. 52:12A-24.
```

```
The city is required to provide an
1
2
  average annual replacement of 10 percent of the
  public water system lead water service lines each
  year, with all lines of the system being replaced
 5
  entirely by 2031.
 6
                Some of the lines are owned by the
7
  water distribution system, but others, or a
  portion thereof, are privately owned by various
  property owners.
10
                And according to Local Bond Law, the
11
  city is authorized to finance construction of a
12
  publically owned connection water systems onto
13
  privately owned real property and privately owned
14
  structures for the purpose of replacing
  commercial industrial service lines with a useful
15
16 life of up to 30 years.
17
                The public benefit of replacing lead
18
  lines with copper lines, it outweighs the fact
19
  that the lines will probably own, at least
20
  according to the legislation that was adopted
21
  authorizing municipalities to finance lead
22
  service line replacement on private properties.
23
                There's a public health benefit to
  it, that, you know, the legislature felt was
  necessary and needed to move forward with
```

```
replacing these lines even on privately owned
1
2
  property.
 3
                The estimated impact on the bond
  ordinance and the issuance of the 22 million
 4
5
  dollars is $2.22 per quarter for the average
  household considering that the city will receive
  up to 10 million dollars of principal forgiveness
  for undertaking this financing.
 9
                The city previously adopted
  ordinances of 250 million dollars to finance
10
11
  phases one, two and four of the line lead
12
  replacement program and now desires to adopt this
13 bond ordinance to finance phase five.
14
                Phase three was financed with
  amounts generated from other loans previously
16 issued from by the IBank. And so the remaining
17
  balance of the city's loan, after principal
18
  forgiveness of 10 million dollars, will be
19
  financed 50 from percent interest free loan and
20
  50 percent market rate loan based upon the
21
  IBank's AAA bond ratings.
22
                So the city is hereby requesting the
23
  approval to adopt the bond ordinance pursuant to
  the provisions Municipal Qualified Bond Act to
  issue bonds under the ordinance qualified bonds
```

```
and to issue bonds of the program pursuant to the
  provisions of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank.
 3
                So I'll turn it over to the board to
  ask me, and representatives of the cities, any
  questions you may have.
                             Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
 6
               MR. ROGERS:
7
  I do have a few.
                     Is Trenton Water Works on track
  to meet its 2031 deadline. And just to give some
  sense of what percentage has been completed to
10
  date. If anyone can answer that.
11
                                   Hi.
               MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                        My name is
12 Noemi De La Puente, and I'm the manager of the
  project for Trenton Water Works. I can tell you
14
  that we are not meeting our compliance. We are
15 behind now. And let me pull it up real quick.
  We are at, approximately, 30 percent and we
17
  should be closer to 40 to 50 percent done by now
18
  and we are not.
19
               MR. ROGERS: Okay.
                                    Trying to think
20
  about some of the other questions. You answered
  my other one. When should the LFB expect an
22
  application for the next phase? Any sense on
23
  timing?
24
               MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                   Yeah, next year.
  And this is why bipartisan infrastructure law
```

```
money gives us very generous principal
  forgiveness rates, so we're hustling to get these
  two projects in before bipartisan infrastructure
  law goes away, so you'll get another one next
 5
  year.
 6
                It will be, approximately, the same
7
  size and it will most likely be almost all debt
  service replacements in Trenton.
 9
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Okay.
                                    And what is the
10
  anticipated cost for the remaining part of this
11 project?
12
                MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                   To get us to 100
13
  percent lead service line replacement, it will be
14
  another 150 to 200 million dollars. This is a
  very, very large expensive project for us.
16
                MR. ROGERS: And what's the status
17
  of your rate study?
                       I know that was mentioned.
18
                MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                   That, I don't
19
  know because I'm not participating in that.
20
                MR. ROGERS: Is anybody on the call
21
  that can answer that question?
22
                MS. RICHARDSON:
                                 Good morning.
                                                 This
23
  is Maria Richardson.
                         I am the business
24
  administrator. We have already ordered the
25
  contract to affirm to conduct the rate study.
                                                   Wе
```

```
are expecting to have results by August. And we
  should be talking about, you know, implementation
 3
  probably in October.
 4
                MR. ROGERS: Okay.
                                    Thank you, Miss
5
  Richardson.
                MS. RICHARDSON:
 6
                                 Sure.
 7
                MR. ROGERS: I'll open it up to the
8
  board for questions.
 9
                MR. JACKSON: I have some questions,
10 Mr. Chairman.
11
                MR. ROGERS: Okay.
                                    Mr. Jackson?
12
                MR. JACKSON: The last time you were
13 in front of us, which was back on March 7th of
  2024, you indicated that there were 20,000 lines
15 left to go after phase four at, approximately,
16 $10,000 per line.
17
                Now, a year later, that number has
18
  jumped up to 23,000 lines at a cost of about
19 $11,000 per line. So depending upon which number
20 you review, you're talking about 200 to 253
  million dollars of cost left to go.
22
                And get that done in six years just
23 doesn't seem reasonable and I appreciate Miss De
24 La Puente candor about where you are and getting
25
  there.
```

```
1
                But it's, to me, the numbers pencil
2
  out to something a lot more expensive just based
  on the data that you gave us, sounds like more
  like a 250 million dollar project left to go more
  so than 150 million dollars. We look at the
 5
  number of lines and the cost per line.
7
                MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                   I'm deducting
8
  phase four and phase five and phase three from my
  totals when I give you the totals today.
                                             So I'm
10
  kind of deducting what we've paid for, or are
11
  just about to pay for, which explained the
12
  discrepancy.
13
                MR. JACKSON:
                             Actually not because
14 I'm looking at the same number that we were given
15 was what's left after phase four, right. So we
  were told, after phase four, there's going to be
17
  20,000 left a year ago. And now in this packet
18
  we're being told is 23,000 after phase four, so
19
  I'm looking at apples to apples.
20
                MS. DE LA PUENTE: Okay.
                                          I'm just
  checking my figures.
22
                MR. JACKSON: Regardless, it's a big
23
  number.
24
                MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                   Yes.
25
                MR. JACKSON: And, you know, the
```

```
ability to do it. And I'm a public servant
           I get it. But I did read an op-ed from
  a gentleman named Richard Henning, who's with the
  New Jersey Public Utilities Association and he's
  saying that basically, that the Trenton Water
  Works isn't leveraging its connections with the
7
  private sector and outsize to get this done.
 8
                And he says, I'm quoting.
  abundantly clear that Trenton Water Works lacks
10
  the technical, operational, managerial and
11
  financial capacity to provide safe water on a
12
  sustainable basis.
                       The right solution for
13
  Trenton Water Works leverages the strong
14
  capabilities of the New Jersey Utilities
  Association's professional water utilities to
15
16
  successfully approve the water system."
17
                So I say all that to say that I
18
  support obviously replacing the lines, but my
19
  question is, is this sort of like, are we chasing
20
  our tail here in terms of getting this done and
21
  is a more dramatic or change of paradigm here
22
  required to get this done because I mean 250
23 million dollars, are we going to get that done in
  six years because you've got to 2031 and is there
25
  the capacity to do it?
```

```
I don't take this gentleman's word
1
 2
  for it, but it's a reputable source. I'm just
  throwing it out about the long term viability of
  what we're doing here.
 5
               MS. DE LA PUENTE: In the long term
  is it's going to be very financially difficult
 6
  for the water company. The short term is with
  the bipartisan infrastructure money, we can make
  a dent in where we're going.
10
               We're required to do this.
11
  state legislative requirement.
                                   So whatever
12
  happens to EPA, the DEP is not going away and the
13
  DEP regulations, which are stricter than the EPA
14 regulations, are not going away.
15
                Two, to your op-ed, I can't comment
  on that because everybody is entitled to their
17
  opinion, but if you want to connect me with the
18
  author of the op-ed, I would be happy to talk to
19
  him about what improvements, what specific
20
  improvements, he sees because I would like to
  make this lead program run as efficiently and as
22
  cost effectively as possible.
23
                            I don't know Mr.
               MR. JACKSON:
  Henning from a hole in the wall.
                                     I don't know
25
  the guy. And he's the CEO of the Public
```

```
Utilities Association, so I'm assuming he has
1
 2
  some knowledge.
 3
                    DE LA PUENTE:
                                    T know.
 4
                MR. JACKSON:
                               It's a concern.
                                                But
5
  what you're sort of saying is we need to do
  business in the short term, and the long term
  scenario maybe something completely different,
  but we need to jump on this while we can.
 9
                MS. DE LA PUENTE: Correct.
                                              That's
10
  correct.
11
                MR.
                    JACKSON:
                              Gotcha.
12
                MR. JOHNSON:
                             If I could add that
13
  it's important we move this along because the 10
  million dollar principal forgiveness is for the
  IBank's 2025 fiscal year program which ends June
15
  30th.
16
17
                The new year starts July 1st,
18
  we're anxious to get this done and closed very
19
  quickly because June 1st starts a new year with a
20
  new program and new principal forgiveness
21
  available to the city, so we don't want to lose
22
  out on 10 million dollar principal forgiveness,
23
  and it's important to move this thing quickly.
24
                And I would note, you may or may not
  be aware of this, Mr. Jackson, that up until last
```

```
year, it was a different counsel at the city.
  And that council, you know, delayed some of these
  ordinances that would have probably sped this up
  a little quicker. Once we kind of resolved the
4
  new council coming in January 2024.
 6
               But for a two and three year period,
7
  they kind of held up a lot of the progress they
  were trying to make. And unfortunately, neither
  here nor there, that's past tense, but we're here
10
  now primarily a lot to do with what the council
  did and didn't do before versus the elect of the
12
  TWW who was adamant about needing these
13
  improvements done as well, but couldn't get the
14
  council at that point in time to sign off.
15
                This current council has been much
16 more cooperative. They understand the need to
17
  move this forward and to also properly mention it
18
  to the TWW.
19
                I've been to a few meetings
20
  personally there, and they definitely understand
21
  the urgency of what's going on with the water
22
  system and they seem to be willing to do whatever
23
  they need to do, including the mayor, to move the
  water system forward in a way that makes sense,
  not just the City of Trenton, but also for all
```

```
the various municipalities that here utilize the
 2
  water system.
 3
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Director, if I may.
                     This can't keep kicking this
4
  That is correct.
  down the curb because this is a mandate by the
  state. Of course EPA probably has gotten that
  stringent about this, but from being a former
  commissioner on the Passaic Valley Water
  Commission, there's no way around this.
10
                This has to get done. And I'm happy
11
  to see that someone that like yourself, Miss De
12
  La Puente, is there and is overseeing this
13
  project because I know there's been a lot of
14
  contention around this, not for now, but for
15 many, many years.
16
                And I can see the light at the end
17
  of the tunnel because I haven't been involved in
18
  water works and water treatment for a long time.
19
  I know how important this is and you have to take
20
  advantage of all the programs that are being
21
  offered to help expedite a project of this
22
  magnitude.
23
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Miss
24
  Rodriquez.
             Miss De La Puente, what was the
  collection rate in 2024?
```

```
MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                  From what I've
1
2
  seen, it was, approximately, 72 percent.
 3
                MR. ROGERS: And that was an
 4
  improvement over prior years, correct?
 5
                MS. DE LA PUENTE:
                                   I'm sort of
  in the engineering lane, but what I have heard is
 6
7
  that, yes, it was an improvement.
8
                MR. ROGERS: Because that's a
  critical part of this matter.
10
                MR. SEMPLE:
                             This is Director Semple
11
             Yes, we have collected -- how's
  speaking.
12
  everyone doing. We've collected up to 67 million
13
  dollars last year which surpasses what we've done
14
  over the past five years and we'd like to stay
  the course and continuing to move this utility
15
16 forward.
17
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Anyone else from the
18
  board? Anybody from the public?
                                    Do we have a
19
  motion to approve the adoption of an ordinance
20
  pursuant to the Municipal Qualified Bond Act?
21
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: I make the motion.
22
                MR. DIROCCO: Second.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez, Mr.
24
  DiRocco.
            Mr. Rogers?
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
25
```

```
MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
1
 2
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
 3
                MR.
                    BENNETT: Mr. Close?
 4
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
 5
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
 6
 7
                MR. BENNETT:
                              Miss Rodriquez?
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
 8
                                Yes.
 9
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
10
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
11
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
12
                MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Go to the
13
  next application now?
14
                MR. ROGERS: Yep. Next application,
15
  please.
            Thank you.
16
                MR. JOHNSON: This is the second
17
  application being submitted by the City of
18
  Trenton.
           This application is being presented and
19
  submitted to Local Finance Board on behalf of the
20
  City of Trenton seeking the approval pursuant to
21
  Municipal Qualified Bond Act for the issuance of
22
  not to exceed 18,749,000 general obligation bonds
23
  consisting of 7,278,000 general improvement
  bonds; 9,905,000 water utility bonds; 4,340,000
25
  sewer bonds and 226,000 park utility bonds as
```

```
qualified bonds under the Municipal Qualified
  Bond Act.
 3
                The qualified bonds are being issued
  under various bond ordinances which were
4
5
  previously adopted by the city council and
  approved by this board under the provisions of
7
  the MOBA.
 8
                Last year the city issued
  $22,810,000 in general obligation notes which
10 mature on May 29th 2025. The city is seeking to
11 permanently finance 18,749,000 of those 2024
12 notes qualified bonds.
13
                The portion of the 2024 notes are
14 being permanently financed are notes that were
15 originally issued in 2022 which will require pay
16 down in 2025 and notes originally issued in 2023.
17
  The 4,061,000 dollar balance from the 2024 notes
18
  will be rolled into a new 2025 note.
19
                The proposed Maturity Schedule for
20
  the bonds are all conforming schedules as
21
  required by 726B of the Local Bond Law. And the
22
  debt service ratio for the qualified bonds is,
23
  approximately, 2.63 percent for calendar year
24
  2025.
25
                The application is not requesting
```

```
the approval of any additional debt. All the
  bond ordinances authorizing these bonds have been
  previously approved, and therefore, are already
  on the city's books.
 4
 5
                Additionally, the series of bonds
  will be financing existing debt.
 6
                                    The water
  utility debt service will increase the water
  lutility budget by, approximately, 1.1 percent.
 9
                The sewer utility debt service will
  add less than .75 percent to the total sewer
10
11
  utility budget. And the debt service will add
12
  about one percent to the parking utility budget.
13
                The general improvement debt service
14 will add about six percent to the total amount
15 needed to be raised by taxes, .6 percent, which
16 would equal about $15 per year for the average
17 household.
                And therefore, the annual debt
18
19
  service and all debt, including this debt, will
20
  decline at after 2026 for the city. So based
  upon everything I've just stated, the city
22
  respectfully requests the board to approve the
23 issuance of the 2025 bonds, qualified bonds,
  pursuant the Municipal Qualified Bond Act in
  accordance with the conformed Maturity Schedule
```

```
set forth in the application.
1
2
                At this time, I will entertain any
 3
  questions that the board may have for the city on
  this particular application.
 5
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
 6 I don't have any questions.
                                I'll open it up to
  the board members and the public.
                                       I'm not
8 hearing anyone.
 9
                I guess do we have a motion to
  approve the issuance of bonds pursuant to the
10
11 Municipal Qualified Bond Act as discussed?
12
                MR. AVERY:
                            So moved.
13
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Second.
14
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery and Miss
15
  Rodriguez.
             Mr. Rogers?
16
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Yes.
17
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
18
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
19
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
20
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
21
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
22
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriquez?
24
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
25
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
```

```
1
               MR. JACKSON: Yes.
 2
               MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 3
                   ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
               MR.
 4
               MS. DE LA PUENTE: Thank you members
5
  of the board.
 6
               MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you. Have a good
7
  day. Good seeing you.
8
               MR. JOHNSON:
                            I'm going to stay on
  for this application as well, Director.
10
               MR. ROGERS: Oh, you are? Okay.
11
  Three in a row. Let's proceed to the City of
12
  Orange.
13
               MR. JOHNSON: All right. I think
14 with us today we have Chris Hartwyk, which is the
15
  city administrator. We should have Nile Clemmons
16
  on which is the CFO of the city. I believe
17
  Dieter Lerch who is the budget consultant for the
18
  city and Tim Eismeier from NW Financial Group
19
  should be on who is the financial advisor.
20
               And Everett Johnson, bond counsel to
  the City of Orange, Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer.
22
  At this point in time, I will turn it over to you
  quys to swear in the various individuals from the
23
  city and professionals that need to be sworn in.
25
               MR. ROGERS: Great. Thank you.
```

```
Lauren?
1
 2
                (At which time those wishing to
 3
  testify were sworn in.)
 4
                              The City of Orange
                MR. JOHNSON:
5
  seeks the approval of the Local Finance Board for
  the adoption of a refunding bond ordinance
 6
  pursuant to provisions of Section 2-51 of the
  Local Bond Law and the provisions of the
  Municipal Qualified Bond Act.
10
                The issuance of refunding bonds,
11
  pursuant to the Local Bond Law and the provisions
12
  of the Municipal Qualified Bond Act, so two
13
            The adoption of refunding bond ordinance
14
  under the Local Bond Law and Municipal Qualified
15
  Bond Act in the issuance of refunding bonds under
16
  the Local Bond Law and the Municipal Qualified
17
  Bond Act.
18
                The city is seeking approval to
  restructure the debt service on the 2025 mature
19
20
  utility of the water and sewer utility refunding
  bonds that were issued in 2014.
21
                                    The 2014 bonds
22
  were refunded bonds that were originally issued
23
  in 2023 to finance various capital improvements
24
  to the water and sewer utility system.
25
                The 2025 maturity of the 2014 bonds
```

```
in the amount of $2,150,000 for additional three
  years through the issuance of not to exceed
  |\$2,250,000 of water utility refunding bonds
  serious 2025 which maturity is scheduled to
  mature on June 1st 2025.
                The restructuring will pay $600,000
 6
7
  in 2027 of the principal amount of the 2025 bond
  and a balance of $1,585,000 in 2028 respectively.
  The city would also pay the interest on the
  series 2025 bonds each year until final payment
10
  of the bonds in June of 2028.
11
                The city does not just pay the
12
  present value savings. The structure is being
13
  made to allow the city to realize budgetary
15
  savings in 2025 which will have minimal impact on
16
  overall debt service for the water utility budget
17
  in years 2026 through 2028.
18
                Just like the series 2014 bonds, the
  2025 will be issued as qualified bonds. When the
  city began the 2025 budget process, it had a
20
  budget gap of, approximately, 10 million dollars.
22
                The equivalent of that would be a 15
23
  percent increase at local municipal tax levy
  which greatly exceeded the statutory tax levy
25
  CAP. Contributing to this budget CAP were three
```

```
significant items of revenue reduction totaling
  about 4 million dollars. 1.2 million for
  delinquent taxes; $800,000 for reduced
  construction co-fees and 1.6 million dollar
 4
  interfund.
 5
 6
                In addition, the city was hit with a
  1 million dollar increase in its pension
7
  obligations from budget year 2024 to 2025.
  upon that analysis, the city took the following
10
            They cut 2.3 million dollars in the
  actions.
11 budget which will result in flat funding for all
12
  discretionary spending in the city.
13
                They started negotiations with
14 unions for a proposed 12 day salary furlough,
15
  slash, referral which will yield another 1.5
  million in savings. And they're planning on
16
17
  implementing a work force reduction of about 300
18
  employees which will also save about 1.4 million
19
  dollars over a six month period.
20
                The city will also sell some
  municipal assets to allocate salaries to
22
  available grants totaling $800,000.
                                        So even with
23
  the aforementioned cuts of about six million
24
  dollars -- I'm sorry.
25
                The cuts of six million dollars will
```

```
lower the required tax at about four million
  dollars or 6.2 percent. But the 6.2 percent is
  still not within the statutory tax levy CAP, so
  this restructuring of the water utility surplus
 4
  transferring to the city's current budget will
  use about two million dollars of surplus as a
  general fund revenue of and that will result in a
  tax estimated increase of, approximately, two
  million dollars or 3.1 percent.
10
               This equates to about $380 for
11 municipal tax increase to the average homeowner
12
  with an assessed value of $315,000. If the city
13
  is not granted the approval to restructure its
14
  2025 maturity, it will be forced to consider
15
  additional layoffs.
16
                They're estimating about the need to
17
  layoff a 25 additional employees if this
18
  application is not granted. And so these layoffs
19
  would consist of police, fire and civil civilian
20
  employees. I think it's also important to note
21
  that the existing water utility debt has a
22
  significant drop off beginning in 2028.
23
                So the existing debt will drop from
24
  about 2.9 million dollars down to $500,000 in
25
  2028. So the restructure allows for budget
```

```
related in 2025, for principal payments being
 2
  split between '27 and '28.
 3
                But even with the additional
  principal payment being made in 2028, debt
  service in 2027 to '28 will still be decreased by
  about 1.4 million dollars. The city does not
  expect that this proposed structure will have any
  impact on this water and sewer rates.
 9
                So with that being said, the city is
  hereby requesting approval pursuant to adopt the
11 refunding bond ordinance pursuant to Local Bond
12
  Law and Municipal Qualified Bond Act and the
13 issuance of these bonds as qualified bonds
14
  pursuant to Municipal Qualified Bond Act.
15
                I will stop at this point in time
  and entertain any questions the board may have
17
  for the city and its consultants. Director?
18
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Yep.
                                   Thank you.
19
  Appreciate that outlining all the issues.
20
  we just recently had a premeeting discussion
  about this.
21
22
                But just for everybody's benefit, so
  the 1.3 million dollar delinquent tax decrease,
23
24
  that really indicates that your collection rate
  was actually better. I was just curious how it
25
```

```
changed from year to year. Anybody can answer
 2
  that.
 3
               MR. LERCH:
                           The issue with the
  delinquent taxes, when you take a look at it,
  most of it is all the municipal liens.
  taxes in excess of 3 million dollars. 3 million
  of which is the municipal liens which -- and our
  collection rate from last year was much lower, so
 9 I do have that allocation as well.
                                      So as far as
  the calculation, and I'm just looking through my
10
11
  page for one second.
12
               MR. ROGERS: So this was just a
13 result of municipal liens?
14
               MR. LERCH: Yeah, our actual
  calculation for last year was only 3.35 percent
16
  because the bulk of the delinquent taxes is all
17
  in municipal liens. So the city is in the
18
  process of either doing an assignment or a
19
  foreclosure on the liens.
20
               MR. ROGERS: What was the collection
21
  rate in 2024?
22
               MR. LERCH:
                           3.35 percent.
23
               MR. HARTWYK: I would add, Director,
  that a number of those liens were tied up in
25
  litigation. That litigation was recently
```

```
resolved.
1
 2
                There's a settlement that's been
  reached with the purchaser of a group of liens
  that were involved in a bulk lien sale in 2015.
  Those liens have been sitting on the city's books
  for a number of years as municipal liens.
 6
7
                MR. ROGERS:
                             What was the general
  funds surplus fund balance at the end of 2024?
8
 9
                MR. CLEMMONS:
                               5.4 million.
10
                MR. LERCH:
                            Let me give you a real
11 number.
           One second, please. 5,280,000.
12
                MR. ROGERS:
                             What was anticipated in
13
  2024's budget?
14
                MR. LERCH: 4 million 680.
15
                MR. ROGERS: And what is anticipated
  this year, or what are you anticipating?
16
17
                MR. LERCH: Four million.
18
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. And you
19
  mentioned 38 employees are part of your ref?
20
                MR. HARTWYK: Approximately, yes.
21
                MR. ROGERS: And of those 38, what
22
  was the breakdown for police and fire?
23
                MR. HARTWYK:
                             It is 10 layoffs in
24
  police, 11 in fire and 17 civilian staff.
25
                MR. ROGERS: And then so the water
```

```
sewer utility, what was your fund balance sort of
  the same line of questions. What was the fund
  balance end of 2024?
 4
                MR. LERCH: 2.5 million.
 5
                MR. ROGERS: 2.5?
                MR. LERCH: Correct.
 6
 7
                MR. ROGERS: And what was
  anticipated in the 2024 budget?
8
 9
                MR. LERCH: For surplus?
10
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
11
                MR. LERCH: Bear with me. 800,000.
12
                MR. ROGERS: And what are you
13
  projecting this year to use?
14
                MR. LERCH: Well, that's really
15
  dependant on --
16
                MR. ROGERS: Depends on this?
17
                MR. LERCH: On this action, whether
18
  or not the restructuring takes place or not.
19
                MR. ROGERS: Okay.
                                    But
20 historically, you've been using around 800?
21
                MR. LERCH:
                           No. Historically, we've
22 been using around that.
23
                MR. ROGERS: Okay.
                                    And your
24
  collections generally in the water sewer?
25
                MR. LERCH: Approximately, 85
```

```
1
  percent.
 2
                MR. ROGERS: 85 percent?
 3
                MR.
                   LERCH:
                            Yeah.
 4
                MR. ROGERS:
                             That's all I have for
5
  the moment.
               I'll open it up to the board for any
  questions. Any members of the public? You have,
  I was thinking about the furloughs.
                                       You said
  you're starting negotiations, and that could
  result in about 1.5 million in savings. What's
  your confidence level?
10
11
                MR. HARTWYK:
                             Well, I've met with
12
  all the unions once, communicated with them both
  by telephone and email over the last several
14
  days. I have a meeting with them tomorrow.
  have one major union that's already agreed and I
15
16
  know that the others are studying the request
17
  because they've asked for additional information
18
  so they're being serious about the requests.
19
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Okay. And I assume
20
  this would, if you're not successful in these
21
  discussions, this could potentially lead to more
22
  layoffs?
23
                MR.
                   LERCH:
                           That's correct, yes.
24
                             This takes care of
                MR. ROGERS:
25
  2025. How are you going to deal with 2026?
```

```
What's the thoughts about that because I think
  there's still some more work to do here.
 3
                MR. HARTWYK: So when we were before
4
  the board last year, we talked about the fact
 5
  that we had intended to reduce force through
             We have a number of retirements both
  attrition.
7
  this year and next year.
 8
                Unfortunately, the budget situation
  we were presented with has forced us to advance
10
  some of that reduction in force and we're going
11
  to have to right size the staff size for the 2026
12
  budget.
13
                MR. LERCH:
                           If I could just add, the
14
  calculated savings this year is for a six month
15 period. So going into 2026, the city will
  benefit from a full year of the reduction in the
17
  work force along with the full year's worth of
18
  reduction in health benefit cost related thereto.
19
  So the real goal is to get the city essentially
20
  structurally sound again. And I think Mr.
21
  Hartwyk addressed that.
22
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Yep.
                                   Okay.
                                          I don't
23
  have any additional questions.
                                   So not hearing
  any questions from the board, public, I guess do
  we have a motion to approve the refunding bond
```

```
ordinance?
1
 2
                And I guess we'll do motion to
  approve the refunding bond ordinance and the
  adoption of the bond ordinance and issuance of
  bonds pursuant to the Municipal Qualified Bond
  Act.
       Do we have a motion?
 7
                MR. JACKSON:
                              I'll move it.
 8
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                I'll second.
 9
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson and Miss
  Rodriguez moving and seconding. Mr. Rogers?
11
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Yes.
12
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
                                             Mr.
  Close?
13
14
                MR. CLOSE: Yes, with concern.
                                                 But,
15
  yes.
16
                MR. BENNETT:
                              Mr. Avery?
17
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
18
                MR. BENNETT:
                             Miss Rodriquez?
19
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
20
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson?
21
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
22
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. DiRocco again?
23
  The motion is approved with five votes.
24
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
25
                MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
```

```
1
  everyone.
 2
                MR. ROGERS: We're on to the West
 3
  Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District
  application.
 4
 5
                MS. KAHN:
                           Good morning. I'm Andrea
  Kahn representing McManimon, Scotland and
 6
  Baumann.
            We are bond counsel for the West
  Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District.
 9
                The district is seeking your
10
  approval for an energy savings obligation
11
  refunding bond ordinance in an amount not to
12
  exceed $8,600,000.
13
                We have with us today here Chris
14 Russo, the assistant superintendent for finance;
15
  Bryan Morris from Phoenix Advisors, the municipal
16
  advisor and Scott Purdy who is appearing on
17
  behalf of Schneider Electric. He's the project
  development manager. And they're available to be
18
19
  sworn in.
20
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Okay.
                                    Great.
                                            Lauren?
21
                (At which time those wishing to
22
  testify were sworn in.)
23
                MR. ROGERS:
                             The floor is yours,
24
  Miss Kahn.
25
                           Thank you.
                MS. KAHN:
                                       So the
```

```
district has selected Schneider Electric under
  the Energy Savings Improvement Program to serve
  as their energy services company. The ESCO
  worked with the district in developing a plan.
 5
                The plan, the energy calculations
 6
  and the plan, were reviewed and approved by DLB
  Associates which was appointed as the
  verification agent by the school district.
 9
                The report that DLB prepared, along
  with the plan, was submitted to the Board of
11 Public Utilities which did approve the plan and
12
  the board approved the plan on March 18th.
13
                The purpose of the ordinance is to
14
  authorize the issuance of energy savings
15
  obligation refunding bonds to finance the
  projects within the plan. The projects include a
17
  solar power purchase agreement, boiler
18
  replacements, building envelope improvements,
19
  HVAC replacements and combined heat and power.
20
               The expectation is to sell bonds for
  over 20 years. The total estimated cost is
22
  expected to be $9,441,465. And the district has
23
  determined that the energy savings produced by
  the improvements will cover the cost of the
25
  project. The professionals are here to answer
```

questions that you may have. 1 2 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Miss Kahn. 3 I guess I'm curious about the energy tax credit, the federal, the 179D. Can you explain a little 4 bit more about what that is? It's sort of 6 unique. 7 MS. KAHN: I can give a brief 8 description. Basically, under the Inflation Reduction Act, they permitted basically rebates 10 lin lieu of tax credits to public bodies because 11 they can't take advantage, obviously, of a tax 12 credit because they're not taxable entities. 13 perhaps Scott can explain a little bit more about 14 the actual rebate that they've received. 15 MR. PURDY: Yeah. Thanks, Andrea. That was from the first phase of the ESIP that 17 Schneider Electric did with the district, and so 18 there was a lot of incentives that the district 19 then passed on to Schneider Electric, which 20 Schneider Electric then is passing back to the 21 district in this phase two project because they 22 couldn't, you know, like Andrea had said, they 23 can't recognize those tax incentives. they're able to pass them on to the installing 25 contractor and then we pass that back to them as

```
a credit.
1
 2
                MR. ROGERS: So they've already
  received the benefit of that?
 3
 4
                MR. PURDY:
                            They have.
 5
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Okay.
                MR.
                   PURDY:
                          Correct.
 6
 7
                MR. ROGERS: So as we all have
8
  concerns with these days about federal grants?
 9
                MR. PURDY:
                            Right.
10
                MR. ROGERS: I just wanted to make
11
  sure that was something in hand and not just the
12
  promise or --
13
                MS. KAHN:
                           So these tax credits were
14
  actually available -- or tax rebate was actually
15
  available from the phase one project. Is that
16
  correct, Scott?
17
                MR. PURDY: Correct.
18
                MS. KAHN: And it's now available
19
  for the phase two project.
20
                MR. PURDY: Correct. And they are
  100 percent already in hand.
22
                MR. ROGERS: Very good. That was my
23
  only questions about that. Seeing way too many
  grant funding awards get pulled these days, so
  I'm glad to hear that. I will open it up to any
```

```
board members for any questions. I'm not hearing
        Any from the public? I guess do we have a
2
  motion to approve the proposed ESIP and the
  issuance of school refunding bonds?
 4
 5
                MR. CLOSE: So moved.
 6
                MR. AVERY:
                           Second.
 7
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close and Mr.
8
  Avery.
          Mr. Rogers?
 9
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Yes.
10
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
11
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
12
13
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
14
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
                           Yes.
15
                MR. AVERY:
16
                MR. BENNETT:
                             Miss Rodriquez?
17
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
18
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
19
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
20
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
21
                MS. KAHN:
                           Thank you very much.
22
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Miss Kahn.
23
  Thank you, everyone. Moving on to the first of
  four Bergen County Improvement Authority
25
  applications.
```

```
1
               MR. LANGHART: Good morning,
  Director. Chris Langhart from McManimon,
 2
  Scotland and Baumann.
 4
               MR. ROGERS: Good morning.
 5
               MR. LANGHART: Snuck it in before
  afternoon, so it's still morning to the members
 6
  and staff to the Local Finance Board.
 8
                Director, we have a pretty sizable
  contingent on this application for swearing in
10
  purposes. I'll go down the list. We have Mauro
11 Raguseo, executive director of the Bergen County
12 Improvement Authority with us.
13
               We have the CFO of the authority and
14
  the county, John Rheinhardt with us. Josh
  Nyikita from Acacia, the municipal advisor, with
       I believe Steve Wielkotz, the auditor from
16
17
  the county and the authority may be on.
18
               MR. WIELKOTZ: I'm here.
19
               MR. LANGHART: Thank you, Steve.
20
  Perfect. Jim Spanarkel, county bond counsel
21
  should be on. Dan Mariniello from the
  underwriter should be on. Good morning, Jim.
23 Thanks for being here.
24
               And then we have representatives
  from the borrowers. Edgewater, Garfield, Little
```

```
Ferry, Englewood and Closter, as well as, the
 2
  county on as well for swearing in purposes.
 3
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. Great. Lauren?
 4
                (At which time those wishing to
5
  testify were sworn in.)
 6
                MR. LANGHART: Thank you, Director.
  Thank you for hearing our application.
8 Bergen County Improvement Authority is here
  before you seeking positive findings for the
10 issuance of not to exceed 250 million in their
11 pooled note program.
12
                Director, we do this every year.
                                                   Wе
13 were here before you last year for the same
14 program. We have actually the same seven
15 borrowers who are also here for positive findings
16 in connection with a county quaranty in the
17
  amount of 250 million that will also be issued
18
  along with the notes to be issued later this
19 year.
20
                The notes are actually sized at
21 about 175 million right now. It is the same
22
  seven borrower we had last year.
                                    They are all
23 here for either renewals with subsequent
  paydowns, and some of them have added new money
25 as well.
```

```
So to give a little color to the
1
2
  program, I'm going to turn it over to John
  Rheinhardt, the CFO who can perhaps speak about
 4
  the program.
 5
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 Hello, Director.
  First time appearing before you.
 6
7
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Yes. Good morning.
 8
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 So I'll give you a
  little history on the notes. We actually do it
10
  twice a year. We do it in May and we do it in
  October. We continue to offer the program to
  entice towns to take advantage of our AAA rating.
12
13
                We also, by offering it twice a
14
  year, we give them easier access to the market
15
  two times, which is when we're going out as well.
16
                We recently held a Lunch and Learn
17
  where we offered free CEUs and free lunch to the
  70 Bergen County towns with a great showing and a
18
19
  great interest in our program.
20
                What we do there is we talk about
  the benefits of using the IA.
                                 We receive a lot
22
  of positive feedback and many expressed interest
23
  and participating in the October deal in this
24
  year.
25
                So the program's grown. Actually,
```

```
my goal is to beat the Monmouth County program,
2
  but we're not there yet. We're trying.
 3
                MR. ROGERS:
                             It's a worthy goal.
 4
                MR. RHEINHARDT: So our program for
5
  this application is the county plus six towns.
  They are the Borough of Closter, Englewood,
  Borough of Edgewood, City of Garfield, Borough of
  Little Ferry and the Borough of Ridgefield.
  pooled program for right now is, approximately,
10 175 million dollars. We are participating in a
11 pool by anchoring it with 78 million dollars of
12 our own notes. And we thought it would be a nice
13
  idea just to extend it to the towns twice a year.
14
  But the entire issued benefits from the county's
15 AAA rating and the guaranty. Do you want to hear
  from some of the members, some of the towns?
16
17
                MR.
                   ROGERS:
                             Sure.
18
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 So I'm going to
19
  group together Closter and Ridgefield because it
20
  is the same CFO, Frank Elenio.
21
                MR. ELENIO:
                             Director, the Borough
22
  of Closter this year is actually just renewing
23
  the notes from last year with our note pay down
  of $430,000; 430103, so we're financing 299 and
  278, which are used for, over the years, for road
```

```
improvements, additions to our fleet, police
1
 2
  hire.
 3
                So these have been continued to use
  this and for the BANs and with our -- so we're
 4
  actually adding 2 million dollars worth of debt
  this year to 6 million 803.
 6
 7
                Included in that for police
8
  vehicles, license plate readers, radio upgrades,
  there's also a dump truck for $450,000, park
10 improvements throughout our park for about 300.
11 And improvements and the re turfing of our Willis
12
  Field which is partially owned by the Board of
13 Education with us.
14
                So we're doing 562,000, they're
  taking the other half of it as well. So this
  year we'll have about 6.8 million dollars in
17
  notes which we are utilizing through the BCIA.
18
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 Thank you, Frank.
19
  Next is City of Englewood, Michael Kaufman.
20
                MS. LITZEBAUER:
                                 This is actually
  Heather Litzebauer, the financial advisor to the
22
  City of Englewood. Michael is actually on a
23
  flight, so he wasn't able to attend the hearing.
  He apologizes, but he provided me all the
2.5
  details.
```

```
So in 2025, the city is paying down
1
2
  $459,000 in their budget. They have 27.3 million
  outstanding in notes and they're adding 15
  million of new money to that. The new money is
  for parks and playgrounds, facility improvements,
  document retention, some vehicles. And a large
  dollar amount is for road reconstruction and
  paving program.
 9
               Every year, they look to permanently
  finance, they run their scenarios whether they
10
11
  should roll over their notes or permanently
12 finance. So they decided to roll over this year
13
  and will most likely permanently finance a good
  portion of the notes next year.
15
                                 Thanks, Heather.
               MR. RHEINHARDT:
  City of Garfield, Nicholas Prochilo?
17
               MR. PROCHILO: Hi. I apologize, my
18
  camera is not working. We have 14,115,000
19
  outstanding. This year we're doing the minimum
20
  pay down of 246548. We were aggressive in years
  past in paying down our debt.
22
               We're issuing about new projects of
23 about 5 million, 4,918,105. And you know, we
24 have some ongoing projects for our water utility.
25 We're doing storm water, water main repairs.
```

```
We're ordering a fire engine and replacing some
  lead lines in our town and some downtown
  revitalization.
 3
 4
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you.
 5
                MR.
                    RHEINHARDT: Borough of Little
 6
  Ferry, Brigite Goncalves.
7
                MS. GONCALVES: Good afternoon,
 8
  Director and everyone.
 9
                MR. ROGERS: Good afternoon.
10
                MS. GONCALVES:
                                The Borough of
11
  Little Ferry has joined the BCIA in the past with
12
  the pooled notes. Most of our funding is for
13
  road improvement projects. And this year, the
14
  same will be sought. We're looking for 1.605 to
15 continue our road improvement project throughout
  the Borough of Little Ferry.
16
17
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you.
18
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 Thank you, Brigite.
  And the county's financing of the 78 million is
20
  for a plethora of projects. It's bridge repairs,
21
  roads, parks, building improvements. It's across
22
  the board, but we're consistent in our
23 application.
24
                We usually generally issue about 70
25 million dollars a year, and we try to pay off a
```

```
little bit more than that to try to reduce the
2
  overall debt burden.
 3
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. Mr. Rheinhardt,
4
  are you completed your presentation?
5
                MR. RHEINHARDT: I am complete.
 6
  Thank you.
7
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. Good.
                                           I do not
8 have any questions abut this application.
                                              I will
  open it up to members of the board. Questions?
10 Members of the public? I guess, do we have a
11 motion to render positive findings on the project
12
  financing proposed county guaranty?
13
                MR. JACKSON: So moved.
14
                MR. CLOSE: Second.
15
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Jackson and Mr.
16
  Close. Mr. Rogers?
17
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
18
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
19
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
20
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
21
                MR. CLOSE:
                          Yes.
22
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
23
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
24
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriquez?
25
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
```

```
MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
1
 2
               MR. JACKSON: Yes.
 3
               MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 4
               MR. LANGHART: Thank you, Director.
5
  Thank you members. I appreciate it.
 6
               MR. ROGERS: Let's move on to the
  next application. This is the county facility
  project.
 9
               MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Yes, Director.
  This is John Draikiwicz from Gibbons, bond
11 counsel.
12
               MR. ROGERS: Hi, Mr. Draikiwicz.
13 How are you?
14
               MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Doing great.
                                               Happy
  afternoon, I guess, right.
16
               MR. ROGERS: Good afternoon.
17
               MR. DRAIKIWICZ: We're representing
18
  the Bergen County Improvement Authority in
19
  connection with this transaction.
                                      The same folks
20 who were on the prior call are on this one, but I
21
  think, John Rheinhardt, I think we have an
22
  additional person or two you'd like to introduce.
23
               MR. RHEINHARDT: We do.
                                         We have
24
  David Mateen who's one of our assistant county
25
  counsels.
```

79

```
MR. MATEEN: Good afternoon,
1
2
  everyone.
 3
                MR. ROGERS: Good afternoon.
 4
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 Since he's an
5
  attorney, I quess we do not need another swearing
 6
  in, unless you want to of course.
                MR. ROGERS:
                             I don't know if there
8
  is anybody who's not an attorney. Proceed, Mr.
  Draikiwicz.
                Thank you.
10
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 Thank you.
                                              The
11 Bergen County Improvement Authority proposed to
12 issue 47 million dollars of its project notes.
13
  The proceeds of which will be utilized to
14
  construct a 40,000 square foot building which is
15 located on the campus of Bergen new Bridge
16 Medical Center.
17
                The authority will lease a site upon
18
  which the building is located to the County of
19
  Bergen.
            The lease payments will require the
20
  County of Bergen provide lease payments to the
21
  Bergen County Improvement Authority in an amount
22
  sufficient to cover the debt service on the
23 notes.
24
                And the obligation to make lease
  payments by the county will be a general
```

```
obligation of the county. The notes will be
 2
  secured by a quaranty by the County of Bergen as
 3
  well.
 4
                With respect to the use of the
5
  building, approximately, 25,000 square feet will
  be leased to Welbe Health Organization, which is
  the comprehensive medical and social services to
  seniors.
 9
                And, approximately, 15,000 square
10
  foot of the building will provide additional
11
  space for Bergen New Bridge Medical Center for
12
  traditional clinical and medical purposes and
13
  potentially a daycare center for employees of the
14 medical center. I will now turn it over to John
  Rheinhardt to describe the project further.
16
                                 So it's a great
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
17
  opportunity for Bergen County.
                                   It's a PACE
18
  program which helps to serve the under served
19
  which is complimentary to the hospital itself.
20
  We wanted to make we didn't have a conflicting
21
  operation in there.
22
                And actually, David Mateen is the
23
  subject matter expert because he's been involved
  in the negotiations, so that's why I asked him to
25
  come along to explain it any further.
```

```
1
                MR. MATEEN:
                             From Welbe Health, it's
 2
  a PACE center which is a program of all inclusive
  care for the elderly. The Welbe Health
 4
  submitted, in response to request for
  applications from the New Jersey Department of
  Human Services Division of Aging Services.
 6
                And they were awarded the Bergen
8
  County section to do their program.
                                        They serve
  the most vulnerable seniors through medical and
  social services ages 55 and older.
10
11
                The county will be using their
12
  portion of the facility for daycare for county
13
  employees of the Bergen New Bridge Medical
14
  Center, and as well as, complimentary medical
15
  services from New Bridge.
16
                We are not operating our own pay
17
  center.
            That will be exclusively to Welbe
18
  Health, but we are using the 15,000 square feet
19
  for our services which, like I said, will be the
20
  day care and complimentary service to New Bridge.
21
                MR. RHEINHARDT: One more thing to
22
        One of the questions I had during the
23
  process is what if the funding for this program
  goes under with all the other threats of federal
  funding, which is probably what you were going to
```

```
ask.
1
 2
                One of our next, future applications
 3
  that you'll see in a second also talks about
  facility improvements to the hospital. So if for
  some reason, this program were to fail, we would
  just utilize this for hospital services, which
 6
7
  they desperately need the space.
 8
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you for
  anticipating that question. Appreciate it.
10
                MR. MATEEN: And we did bring that
11
  up with the Welbe representatives that we have
  major concern because of recent payments and
13
  federal funding cut. And they seem to represent
14
  that they're not worried about this specific type
15
  of funning being slashed. And they assured us
16
  that they're in constant contact with the federal
17
  government, that these type of services, will be
18
  protected.
19
                MR. ROGERS:
                             I hope so.
20
                MR. MATEEN:
                             I hope so, too.
21
                MR. ROGERS:
                             It's hard to have a
22
  great deal of confidence in anything.
23
                MR. MATEEN:
                             Of course.
24
                MR. ROGERS:
                             But I understand.
25
  Okay. Anything else to add?
```

```
MR. RHEINHARDT: I think that's it.
1
 2
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: I would like to
 3
  state at the end, we would hereby request
  positive findings in connection with the notes up
  to 47 million dollars and also positive findings
  in connection with the county guaranty, not to
  exceed 47 million dollars. And if you have any
  other questions, we'll be happy to answer them at
  this time.
10
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 Thank you, Mr.
11
  Draikiwicz. I'll open it up to the board for any
12
  questions.
             Any from the public?
                                      If there are
13
  not any questions, Mr. Rheinhardt took my
14
  question.
15
                So I will, do we have a motion to
  render positive findings on the proposed project
17
  financing on the proposed project financing and
18
  the proposed county guaranty.
19
                           So moved.
                MR. CLOSE:
20
                MR. JACKSON:
                             I'll second it.
21
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close and Mr.
22
  Jackson.
            Mr. Rogers?
23
                             Yes.
                MR. ROGERS:
24
                MR. BENNETT:
                             Mr. DiRocco?
25
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
```

1	MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
2	MR. CLOSE: Yes.
3	MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
4	MR. AVERY: Yes.
5	MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
6	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
7	MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
8	MR. JACKSON: Yes.
9	MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
10	MR. RHEINHARDT: Thank you.
11	MR. ROGERS: Thank you. Have a good
12	day. On to the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
13	project application.
14	MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Thank you, Director
15	and rest of the members of the board. John
16	Draikiwicz from Gibbons is pleased to be serving
17	to the Bergen County Improvement Authority in
18	connection with this matter.
19	In connection with this matter, I do
20	believe we have a person or two that would need
21	to be sworn in. John, if you could introduce.
22	MR. RHEINHARDT: We do. Deborah
23	Visconi. She's the executive director for the
24	Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.
25	MR. DRAIKIWICZ: She would need to

```
be sworn in.
1
 2
                (At which time those wishing to
 3
  testify were sworn in.)
 4
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                  Thank you,
5
  Director.
              If I may proceed?
 6
                MR. ROGERS:
                             You may.
 7
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                  The Bergen County
8
  Improvement Authority proposed to issue its notes
  in an amount not to exceed 40 million dollars.
  The proceeds will be utilized to finance various
10
11
  improvements, various capital acquisitions for
12
  the benefit of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.
13
                The Bergen County Improvement
14
  Authority proposed to issue 20 million of its
15
  notes in 2025. And the remaining 20 million of
  the notes will be issued in 2026.
17
                In 2027, the Bergen County
18
  Improvement Authority will issue, not to exceed,
19
  40 million of its revenue bonds to permanently
  finance the 40 million dollars of notes that will
20
21
  then be outstanding.
22
                The reason for that to be done is so
23
  that we can borrow money piece meal in a sense so
24
  we don't overborrow on year one.
25
                In addition to the capital
```

```
acquisitions and improvements of 40 million
  dollars, the Bergen County Improvement Authority
  proposed to issue its revenue bonds in an amount
  not to exceed 21 million dollars.
 5
                The proceeds of which will be
  utilized to finance a new electronic health
 6
  record system for the benefit of Bergen New
 8 Bridge Medical Center.
 9
                Revenues from the medical center
10 will be utilized to pay debt service on the
11 authority's bonds and notes. The bonds and notes
12
  will be secured by a quaranty from the County of
13 Bergen.
14
                I will now turn it over to John
15 Rheinhardt to discuss the project in a little bit
16 more detail.
17
                MS. RHEINHARDT: So I'd like to let
18
  Deborah Visconi go first. She can explain to you
  what we're looking for in the patient portal
19
  because that's near and dear to her heart.
20
21
                MS. VISCONI:
                              Thank you. It's nice
22
  to see everybody and thank you for the
23
  opportunity. So as John refers to the patient
  portal, it's the electronic medical record which
  is a digital version of a patient's paper chart
```

```
containing all of the patient's medical history,
 2
  their diagnosis, their treatments, their
  prescriptions and their test results.
 4
               The EMR is an essential tool for
  modern healthcare. If any of you have been to
  doctor's offices, you know that that's a platform
  that is used by all providers, allowing our
  doctors, our nurses and other healthcare
  providers to quickly access and update patient
  information in real time.
10
11
               The need for an upgraded EMR is
12
  critical for improving patient care, reducing
13
  errors, increasing efficiency. It allows for
14 better coordination between our providers and
15 those in the community, faster decision making
16 and fewer mistakes related to medication or
17
  treatment plans.
18
                The system also helps to assure that
19 important health information is easily
20
  accessible, which is especially vital in
21
  emergencies. We are choosing the Epic system for
22
  this project because it is the most widely used
23 and trusted EMR platform known for its
  reliability and ability to connect seamlessly
  with other healthcare systems.
```

```
This ensures that our hospital can
1
2
  provide the best care possible replacing while
  meeting modern healthcare demands. Replacing our
  outdated system with Epic will help improve the
 5
  quality of care for our patients and streamline
  operations across the board.
 6
 7
                And that's essentially the summary
8
  of our EMR upgrade and the Epic platform.
 9
                MR. RHEINHARDT: So director, we
  submitted the bid specs for this ahead of this
10
11
  application to the Office of the State
12
  Comptroller and they finished their review and we
13
  are good to go.
14
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Okay.
                                     Great.
15
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 This is in
  connection with the 21 million of bonds that were
16
17
  requested positive findings about?
18
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 That is correct.
19
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Anything you want
20
  to discuss regarding the capital improvements and
  acquisitions?
21
22
                MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 Sure.
                                         The 40
23
  million dollars that we're asking for is what we
  call our strategic capital fund.
                                     We continue to
  improve the hospital, whether it's the ER, the
```

```
rooms where the patients stay. It's a large
 2
  facility. It's old.
 3
               And we are trying to clean it up and
  make it more modern and appealing to the
  residents coming in or patients. Deborah, I
  don't know if you wan to add to that because
  you've seen all the improvements we've been
  doing.
 9
               MS. VISCONI: Again, Director and
10
  colleagues here. Bergen New Bridge is the
11 largest hospital in the State of New Jersey.
12 have 1,070 beds under a million square feet roof.
13 And under that a million square foot roof, we
14 have a long term care facility.
15
                So over 400 people live at Bergen
16 New Bridge in the facility. We also have a full
17
  service acute medical surgical division, a very
18
  large and vibrant behavioral health and mental
19
  health division, as well as, substance use
20
  disorder services that are provided here.
21
               We have a full service emergency
  department 24/7. And as John noted, the facility
23 is old and tired but it is truly a beacon of
  hope, health and healing for not just Bergen
  County, but broader State of New Jersey.
```

```
We're a safety net facility, so a
1
2
  large proportion of our patients are Medicaid and
  or charity care vulnerable communities that we
  serve.
 4
 5
                MR. ROGERS: Anything else, Mr.
 6
  Draikiwicz?
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: At this time, I
  would like to open it up for questions from the
8
  rest of the board.
10
                MR. ROGERS: Great.
                                     Thank you.
                                                  Ι
11 have two questions. One, how is the medical
12
  center connected to the authority? I'm just
13
  trying to understand that connection.
14
                MR. RHEINHARDT: So hospital used to
15
  be owned by the county.
16
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Right.
17
                MR. RHEINHARDT: The property is
18
  still owned by the county, but the licenses are
19
  owned by the Improvement Authority.
20
                MR. ROGERS: Got it. Okay.
                                              That's
  how it was structured. And with the electronic
22
  records management system, Miss Visconi, I
23
  presume there is a software licensing
24
  arrangement, right?
25
                MS. VISCONI: Yep.
```

```
1
                MR. ROGERS: And how is that being
2
  paid and for how long is that license?
 3
                MS. VISCONI: Well, that's what the
  bonds are for.
 4
5
                MR. ROGERS:
                            The bonds are paying
  for the licensing fee?
 6
7
                MR. RHEINHARDT: Director, the
8
  purchase of the software is 21.
                                    The licensing
 9 use is another 10 million that's paid over, I
10 believe, it's five years and zero percent.
11 financed through operations, not by the debt.
12
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. I thought there
13 was a different component. And generally, how
14 long is that licensing fee? Is it done like on a
15 five year?
                MR. RHEINHARDT: I believe it's five
16
17
  years.
18
                MS. VISCONI: Yeah, five years.
19
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. I think that's
20
  all I have.
21
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: For additional
22
  background for you, Director, not in this
23
  particular project, but in terms of your earlier
  question about the licensing, et cetera.
25
                The authority became the entity to
```

```
assist in the financing of capital improvements
  to the regional medical center starting in 2017.
  And periodically has come before the board
  historically for capital improvements initially
  was for working capital as well.
 6
                I am pleased to let you know that
  working capital line has been paid off over time,
  so now it's really capital that's outstanding on
  the projects.
10
                And the authority has the
11
  contractural responsibility to undertake the
12
  capital improvements in connection with this
13
          Just a little historical background.
14
                MR. ROGERS: Appreciate that.
                                                Thank
15
  you.
16
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 What we're seeking
17
  findings for, for the record, is that we're
18
  requesting positive findings in connection with
  the issuance of the notes for the capital notes,
19
  but also in connection with the bonds that would
20
  be issued in 2027.
21
22
                So it's really an application for
23
  the capital notes and bonds with respect to this
  project. As well as the bonds in connection with
  the portal that we described earlier.
```

```
And lastly, in connection with the
1
2
  overall county quaranty of 61 million dollars in
  connection to these two distinct projects.
 4
  you.
 5
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Mr.
  Draikiwicz. Open it up to the board for any
 6
  questions. I'm not hearing any. Any from the
  public?
 9
                Do we have a motion to render
  positive findings on the proposed project
10
  financing and proposed county guaranty?
12
                MR. JACKSON:
                             So moved.
13
                MR. AVERY: Second.
14
                MR. BENNETT: I think I heard Mr.
15
  Jackson and Mr. Avery seconding. Mr. Rogers?
16
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Yes.
17
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
18
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
19
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
20
                MR. CLOSE: Yes.
21
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
22
                MR. AVERY:
                           Yes.
23
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriquez?
24
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                Yes.
25
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
```

```
MR. JACKSON: Yes.
1
 2
                MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.
 3
                MR. ROGERS: All right. Our last
  application. Bergen Community Action Project.
 4
 5
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: And John Draikiwicz
  serving as bond counsel to the Bergen County
 6
  Improvement Authority in connection with this
           And I believe in connection with this
  matter, there is an additional people to be sworn
  in.
10
11
                MR. RHEINHARDT: I believe Bob Moore
  who's the VP of finance was going to speak.
12
13
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Okay. Great.
14
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Any other non
  attorneys who anticipate speaking on this matter
  besides Robert Moore?
16
17
                MR. HALSCH: Mr. Robert Halsch, CEO
18
  of Greater Bergen.
                       I'm going to make a couple of
19
  remarks as well.
20
                MR. ROGERS: Okay. Great. Let's
  get you sworn in. Lauren?
22
                (At which time those wishing to
23
  testify were sworn in.)
24
                                Thank you.
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                             If I
  may proceed, Director?
25
```

```
1
                MR. ROGERS: Yes, please, Mr.
 2
  Draikiwicz.
 3
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 Thank you.
                                              The
  Bergen County Improvement Authority proposed to
4
  issue its notes and bonds in an amount not to
 5
  exceed $15,500,000.
 6
 7
                The proceeds of which will be
  utilized to make a loan to a not for profit
  corporation which is Greater Bergen Community
10 Action for it to acquire an approximate 52,000
11 square foot office building located at 505 Main
12
  Street in Hackensack, New Jersey at a purchase
13 price of $13,750,000.
14
                A portion of which of that space
  will be utilized to consolidate and centralize
16 its operations. And the remaining office space,
17
  lit intends to lease to other 501C3 not for profit
18
  entities.
19
                Approximately, $820,000 of the notes
20
  proceeds will be utilized to build out the
  acquired building. Lastly, a portion of the
22
  funds will also be used to assist in financing
23
  the acquisition of a property located at 106
24
  Somerset Street in Garfield, New Jersey.
25
                And the amount of proceeds that will
```

```
be utilized from this note issue will be
  $600,000, approximately. The notes will be
  secured by payments to be made by the Greater
  Bergen Community Action pursuant to a loan
 5
  agreement which will require the entity to make
  payments sufficient to cover debt service.
 7
                The notes will also be secured by a
  county quaranty from the County of Bergen.
  financing plan has been structured to have notes
10 issued initially in 2025 and also then in 2026
11 before a take out by bonds in 2027.
12
                This will permit Greater Bergen to
13
  convert certain of the leases that are currently
14
  in place with for profit entities to leases with
15
  not for profit entities and for it to sell
16
  certain other real estate that the owns in order
17
  to pay down a portion of the notes.
18
                The bonds, which are anticipated to
19
  be issued in 2027, will be secured again by
20
  payments under the loan agreement, but also from
21
  a bond reserve fund and from a guaranty from the
22
  County of Bergen.
23
                The debt service is structured as a
24 level debt service. In connection with providing
25
  security to the County of Bergen in connection
```

```
with the issuance of its quaranty for this not
  for profit corporation, it is requiring that a
  mortgage be provided on various parcels of real
  estate.
 4
 5
                The appraised value of the
  properties is, approximately, 32 million dollars
 6
  and will be in excess of this debt issuance of
  15.5 million and other debt that is outstanding
  that is covered by the county for the benefit of
10
  Greater Bergen.
11
                And the total of those debts,
12
  including this debt, is 25 million 845. So the
13
  appraised value of 32 million dollars is more
14
  than sufficient to cover the debt issued if
15
  things do not go proper from a financial
  perspective.
16
17
                At this time, I'd like to turn it
18
  lover to Robert Moore to discuss a little bit more
19
  about the organization and additional items.
20
  Rob?
21
                MR. HALSCH: John, this is Rob
22
  Halsch.
            I'm going to take the first shot at
23
  describing the organization and the project.
24
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 Thank you.
25
                MR. HALSCH: So Greater Bergen is a
```

```
non profit community development, family
  development, anti poverty organization. We've
  been in existence since 1967.
 4
                And what we do is work to build
5
  partnerships to create more sustainable families,
  community institutions and neighborhoods.
 6
  have 34 points of access across North Jersey and
  13 early education schools, five community
  centers, eight residential housing developments,
  two health centers, one we just finished building
10
11 now.
12
                We work in three redevelopment zones
13 assisting those communities with their
14 redevelopment activities, and we have three adult
15
  education and training centers. We also operate
16
  a federal credit union where we provide banking
17
  services to the under banked across North Jersey
18
  and throughout our community action partners
19 around the state.
20
                I guess over the last four years or
  so we've invested about 350 million dollars in
22
  the services that we provide to build families
23
  and build communities.
24
                Our most recent project linked
25
  together five different non profit organizations
```

```
in what we call Unity Health where mental health,
  public health, primary healthcare, free primary
  healthcare and the community food bank are all
  coming together in one space to provide seamless
  services.
 5
                And that is the model for the
 6
  project we are here to discuss today because the
  building at 505 Main Street is an amazing
  resource which does not come along very often to
10
  acquire a property where we can bring our
11
  services into one consolidated space, bring in
  partner non profits, so that the customers and
12
13
  the clients who need the broad array of services
14
  that lower income residents require will be able
15
  to receive that in one place.
16
                And the economies of scale by the
17
  non profits being able to collaborate our back
  office operations, will save all of us money,
18
19
  especially an environment where funding is
20
  something that we're all looking at very, very
21
  carefully.
22
                So we believe that this is a
23
  tremendous opportunity not to be missed, and we
  are grateful for the continued partnership with
  the County of Bergen and the Bergen County
```

```
Improvement Authority.
1
 2
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Mr. Halsch.
 3
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: Does Robert Moore
4
  want to add anything to it, or is that sufficient
 5
  from the Greater Bergen's perspective?
                MR. HALSCH: I think Rob is
 6
7
  available for questions should there be any.
8
                MR. MOORE:
                           That seems to be
  sufficient unless there's questions.
10
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Great.
                                      Thank you.
11
                MR.
                    RHEINHARDT:
                                 So if you don't
12
  mind, so as a result for the request for the
13
  quaranty of Greater Bergen, their debt, the
14
  commissioner's tasked us with how do we say yes
15
  to them and not yes to every other non profit
16
  that comes along.
17
                So what we did is we developed a
18
  check list and a new policy for considering a
19
  guaranty along with a bunch of criteria.
20
  includes financial health of the non profit, risk
21
  to the county, public purpose and benefit, legal
22
  and regulatory consideration, project
23
  feasibility, collateral and security, monitoring
  and oversight and economic considerations.
25
                We really went through the policy in
```

```
depth and those are just the major.
                                        There's a
  lot of tasks underneath that. With the financial
  advisor, myself and anybody else that has input,
  we put those together and that becomes part of
  our recommendation for denial to the
                   That was all I have.
 6
  commissioners.
               MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Mr.
  Rheinhardt.
8
               I would presume that if there's a
  check box at any point you've quaranteed their
10
  financing and it triggered the county guaranty,
11
  that would probably be a negative from any
12
  organization I would presume.
                                  And that hasn't
13
  been the case for Greater Bergen, correct?
14
               MR. RHEINHARDT: We've had a long
  time relationship with them.
16
               MR. DRAIKIWICZ: A little background
17
  again for the Director. The Improvement
18
  Authority issued debt on their behalf in 2016, I
19
  think, since that time, and I think payments have
20
  been made since that time properly on all the
21
  debt.
22
                So this relationship goes back about
23
  a decade now in terms of working with this
  particular organization on their financings, so
  just a little bit more additional background for
```

```
you, for the director.
1
 2
               MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, Mr.
 3
  Draikiwicz. Any additional information?
  on mute, Mr. Draikiwicz.
 4
 5
               MR. DRAIKIWICZ:
                                 I quess what I'd
  like to state for the record is our request which
 6
  would be request approval of a loan to Greater
  Bergen pursuant to 40A:37A-54(1) in the
  Improvement Authorities Law as well as positive
  findings in connection with issuance of the notes
10
  and the bonds to be taken out in 2027, as well
  as, the positive findings in connection with the
13
  county quaranty, so that would be our request of
14
  the board.
15
               MR. ROGERS:
                             Thank you, sir.
  have one question for Mr. Rheinhardt.
17
  mention of sale of surplus property. Any sense
18
  of estimated proceeds from the sales?
19
               MR. RHEINHARDT:
                                 Then it's their
20
  sale. They're going to consolidate some
  properties as they move forward.
22
               MR. ROGERS: Oh, I see. Any sense
23
  on what that would amount to?
24
               MR. HALSCH: It's, approximately, 4
25
  million dollars.
```

```
1
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Okay.
 2
                             And then also,
                MR. HALSCH:
 3
  Director, one of the issues is over the two
  period of the notes, we intend on seeking other
  fundings to additionally bring down the debt that
  is not in the numbers now.
 6
                They're conservative at this point,
8
  but we hope to potentially get some new market
  tax credits and some other things going forward
10
  and or grant fund raising in the public to reduce
11
  that debt permanently, too.
12
                MR. ROGERS:
                             Okay. Great.
                                            Thank
13
        That's all I have. Open it up to the board
  members at this time. Not hearing any. Anyone
15 from the public?
16
                MR. DIROCCO:
                            Director, I'll make a
17
  motion to approve, if we're ready.
18
                MR. ROGERS:
                            Yeah. Motion to render
19
  positive findings on a proposed project financing
20
  and the proposed county guaranty. And the motion
21
  to approve the project financing N.J.S.A.
22
  |40A:37A-54(1), I think it is. Do we have a
23
  motion?
24
                MR. DIROCCO: So moved.
25
                MR. ROGERS: Second anyone?
```

```
MR. AVERY: Second.
1
 2
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Rogers?
 3
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
 4
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
 5
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
 6
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close is absent.
7
  Mr. Avery?
8
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
 9
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
10
11
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
12
                MR. JACKSON: Yes. Anything that
13
  passes mustard (ph) with John Rheinhardt is good
14 by me.
15
                MR. RHEINHARDT: Thank you, Robert.
16 I appreciate it.
17
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you all.
18
                MR. DRAIKIWICZ: We thank you for
19 saving the best for last.
20
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you. Appreciate
  your time. All right. Do we have a motion to
  adjourn?
22
23
                MS. RODRIGUEZ: So moved.
24
                MR. DIROCCO: Second.
25
                MR. BENNETT: I believe Miss
```

```
Rodriguez and I think it was Mr. DiRocco, I heard
2
  second.
 3
                MR. DIROCCO: Correct, yes.
 4
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Rogers?
 5
                MR. ROGERS: Yes.
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
 6
 7
                MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
 8
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close is absent.
 9
                MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?
10
                MR. AVERY: Yes.
11
                MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez?
12
                MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                                 Yes. And have a
13
  wonderful holiday.
14
                MR. ROGERS: Thank you.
                MR. BENNETT: And Mr. Jackson?
15
16
                MR. JACKSON: Yes.
17
                MR. BENNETT: We're adjourned.
18
                (Hearing Concluded at 12:37 p.m.)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

1 CERTIFICATE 2 3 I, LAUREN ETIER, a Certified Court Reporter, License No. XI 02211, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, that the foregoing is 6 a true and accurate transcript of the testimony as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth. 10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a 11 relative nor employee nor attorney nor council of 12 any of the parties to this action, and that I am 13 neither a relative nor employee of such attorney 14 or council, and that I am not financially interested in the action. 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 Lauren M. Etier 22 23 Notary Public of the State of New Jersey 24 My Commission Expires June 30, 2026 25 Dated: April 21, 2025

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