

Township of Nutley
Board of Commissioners
Public Meeting Transcript
May 5, 2020

All present via Zoom webinar:

Commissioner Steven L. Rogers
Commissioner Mauro G. Tucci
Commissioner Thomas J. Evans
Commissioner Alphonse Petracco
Mayor Joseph P. Scarpelli

Eleni Pettas, Municipal Clerk
Alan Genitempo, Township Attorney
Rosemary Costa, Treasurer/CFO
Raymond Sarinelli, Municipal Accountant

[Recording begins]

Mayor Scarpelli: Mr. Genitempo, we're good?

Alan Genitempo: Just give it a moment. We have -- attendees are getting on.

[Pause]

Alan Genitempo: Okay, you can start whenever you want, Mr. Mayor. There's currently 35 attendees and 11 panelists.

Mayor Scarpelli: Before the Clerk reads the Sunshine Notice, I just want to welcome everybody to our first Zoom meeting. Please bear with us in case we have any technical difficulties. This is the first time we're doing this. But in light of everything going on in the world, this is the way it looks like for the near future will be conducting our meetings. So, Madam Clerk.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you, Mayor. Board of Commissioners Public Meeting, Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The time is now 7:01. Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, notice of this meeting was published in the November 28, 2019 issues of the Nutley Sun, The Herald News and The Star Ledger. In an effort to prevent further spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the public meetings for the remainder of the year 2020 has been changed to Zoom webinar or teleconference meetings until further notice.

Eleni Pettas: Notice of meeting revisions will be published in the May 8, 2020 issues of The Star Ledger, May 9, 2020 issues of The Herald News, as well as TapintoNutley.net and through the township alert system. The public will be able to listen to the Board of Commissioners meeting and participate during the designated public comment portion of the meeting

by utilizing access to a URL link or dialing numbers provided for by the township website. Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Here.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Here.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Here.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Here.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Here.

Eleni Pettas: All present, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Will everybody please stand for the Flag Salute?

[Pledge of Allegiance]

Mayor Scarpelli: Let's have a moment of silence for our Township residents who have passed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you. Minutes, Madam Clerk.

Eleni Pettas: Yes, thank you, Mayor. We have Board of Commissioner meeting minutes for April 7, 2020.

Eleni Pettas: Can I have a motion?

Commissioner Petracco: Move it.

Commissioner Tucci: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Mayor Scarpelli: Any communications, Madam Clerk?

Eleni Pettas: No communications, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Rogers, you have a proclamation tonight.

Commissioner Rogers: Yes, I do, Mr. Mayor. Thank you very much. And it's very timely due to the fact that our health officials, our first responders and our nurses have been really on the front lines. Now this proclamation is from the entire board of Commissioners, because it has been truly a team effort to do what we've been able to do through this crisis.

Commissioner Rogers: So the Board of Commissioners hereby issue this proclamation on May 5, 2020.

WHEREAS, registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession; and

WHEREAS, the depth and breadth of the registered nursing profession meets the different and emerging health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, nurses all around the world have been called into action amid the COVID-19 pandemic, sacrificing their very lives for the health and safety of the world's population; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of the public during this world wide health crisis; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Commissioners in the Township of Nutley, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, along with the American Nurses Association, recognize the week of May 6-12 as NATIONAL NURSES WEEK and the month of May as, "Nurses Month: You Make a Difference ", a nod to nurses' sheer numbers, their unparalleled impact on health and health care, and an open invitation to #ThankaNurse for enriching our lives and the world we live in.

AND BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Township of Nutley extend our thanks, admiration and respect to our own Township of Nutley Public Health Nurses, Patricia L Cruz, R.N, B.S.N, Kim Lewis, R.N, B.S.N and Madeline Goglia, R.N. for their constant and unwavering service,

dedication, compassion and professionalism throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, as well as throughout their careers.

Commissioner Rogers: And before I close, the names that I just mentioned, 24/7 on the phone, taking calls sometimes two, three in the morning assisting our residents through this difficult time. And so that's the proclamation Mr. Mayor, and thank you Commissioners for your support.

Mayor Scarpelli: I think they've been doing a bang up job, Commissioner, in handling a very, very difficult situation and contacting people and their families. During this pandemic, so pass on our, our words of praise to them. Commissioners, anybody would like to say anything about this, Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Yes, I'd like to echo your comments, Mayor, and I'd like to thank not only the nurses that are in this proclamation but Commissioner Rogers and the entire Health Department, all right? The Public Affairs Department for doing such an outstanding job under tremendous pressure. They are absolutely on the front lines and they are absolutely our Nutley heroes and I have to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Again, you know. Well said. I think we have, you know, fantastic people that really care about the town and the residents and, you know, nurses, worldwide, I mean, what they're doing for, you know our, our Township, our country is second to none. Thank you, Commissioner Rogers.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you. Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Yes, I'll echo all of the comments and I won't repeat them, but I will add, and Steve to please extend this on behalf of all of the Commissioners to your, to your nursing staff and everybody in Public Affairs. I've had the occasion to have to speak with Patty Cruz and the other nurses and when you're in the middle of a pandemic crisis, it's great to know that we have such exceptional talent within our nursing staff to care for people. [Inaudible]

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioners. Let's move on to reports. Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Yes, I my monthly report for Public Safety. Thank you.

Commissioner Tucci: Yes, I have a Shade Tree report for the month of April, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Bills, Madam Clerk?

Eleni Pettas: Thank you, Mayor. Bill list for May 5, 2020. Department totals: Public Affairs, \$81,140.87; Revenue and Finance \$7,229,953.24; Public Safety, \$9,052.85; Public Works, \$416,249.84; Parks and Public

Property, \$627,909.58; Water Utility \$151,102.50. Payroll overtime for April 17, 2020: \$1,764.72 cents. That is for COVID. Total payroll: \$804,524.46, for a grand total of \$9,319,933.34.

Commissioner Evans: Move the bills.

Eleni Pettas: I need a second.

Commissioner Petracco: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you. Commissioner, Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: And that's it for bills, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Before we get to Public Comment, in order to be recognized, you have to hit the icon that raises your hand. Mr. Genitempo will then recognize you. And then please state your name and your address, and any comments that you have. This will be on agenda items only. Madam Clerk?

Eleni Pettas: Thank you. All persons addressing the Board of Commissioners shall state their name and address for the record. Unless further time is granted by the Board, each person shall limit their address to three minutes. All remarks to the Board and its individual members must be addressed to the mayor. The mayor may defer citizens' comments to the appropriate member of the Board.

Mayor Scarpelli: Does anybody want to address the Board of Commissioners on the agenda items only?

Mayor Scarpelli: Anybody have their hand raised, Mr.--

Alan Genitempo: Yes, yes, Mr. Mayor. Hold on one second.

Alan Genitempo: First Person is Mr. Larry Quirk. I'm going to put him on now. Mr. Quirk?

Mayor Scarpelli: Do you have to unmute him or does he have to unmute himself?

Alan Genitempo: He's on. I have unmuted him. Let me do it again, hold on.

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Quirk, are you on mute? Can you check your own -- your own side? There you go. Okay, you have the floor, Mr. Quirk, three minutes. There you go.

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Quirk? Can you hear us?

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Mayor, appears to be some technical issue on I believe it's on his end. It's -- he's not muted. And it's showing that he's talking at the top and now it seems to be off. Hold on. Mr. Quirk, I see that you're trying to speak. Are you there?

Alan Genitempo: What's that? Should I try to let him in as video? Click on this?

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Quirk, we'll come back to you. Let's try the next person. Mr. Quirk, can you hear?

Alan Genitempo: Next person is titled February, or Feb T. Okay.

Feb Toastmasters: Rory Moore, 462 Chestnut Street.

Feb Toastmasters: Can you hear me, Mr. Genitempo?

Alan Genitempo: We can hear you, Mr. Moore. Loud and clear.

Feb Toastmasters: Mr. Scarpelli, I just have one question on the bill list. On the first page, down towards the bottom, the Amazon. Is that Amazon com for communication services? There's a number of those appearing on the list. My question is, how do I know what was purchased? It just gives you a title.

Mayor Scarpelli: We have the same thing, Mr. Moore - we have that with anything, whether it's Staples or anything. All you have is the -- who it's paid to and you have exactly what [inaudible].

Feb Toastmasters: Well, I could understand it with Staples, it gives you a better idea. I believe, I believe last week when I asked about this - last meeting - you said that you were going to start to purchase this way, but you just had authorization to do that. And I'm just curious, when you put Amazon Services Incorporated, could it be dash what it's for, just as a large item?

Mayor Scarpelli: I don't know if we can to that, Mr. Moore, but we'll take a look at that. We will talk with Ms. Costa and see what we can do. All right?

Feb Toastmasters: Yes, you have you have quite a few of them on there, it's -- it's all over. And I was just curious if we could start to list

at least what -- if you, if you go to Staples, we know what you purchased. If you went to a paint store, we know what you purchased.

Mayor Scarpelli: Not necessarily, you don't really know what we purchased, Mr. Moore. You may know we purchased some sort of --

Feb Toastmasters: Something from Staples.

Mayor Scarpelli: Right.

Feb Toastmasters: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Any other questions on the agenda items only?

Alan Genitempo: We have another person, Mr. Mayor. Sir, you have the floor.

Alex Rubens: Yes, hi. Alex Rubens, [inaudible] Hillside Ave. [Inaudible] emailed or distributed the notice of this meeting. [Inaudible] the Agenda and minutes [inaudible]. It should be Nutley NJ dot org, not Nutley NJ org. {Inaudible} anybody else would probably not be able to get the documents so easily.

Mayor Scarpelli: You're breaking up a little bit, Mr. Rubens. I gather that the website somewhere was not specified correctly. Is that what you're getting?

Eleni Pettas: It says Nutley NJ dot org.

Mayor Scarpelli: Mr. Genitempo?

Alan Genitempo: Have the Commissioners mute? So Commissioners, if you could mute unless you're going to speak, we think that's what's causing some of the feedback. So if you could all mute. I'm going to try Mr. Quirk again. Mr. Quirk, are you listening? Mr. Quirk, are you listening?

Alan Genitempo: Sorry, Commissioners, this is obviously - I don't see anyone else's hand up at this time. No one else has their hand raised, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Did we get Mr. Rubens' question correct? Was it about the website and it --

Alex Rubens: Yes, sir. The email that distributed the link for the Minutes and Agenda is incorrect.

Eleni Pettas: Um--

Mayor Scarpelli: All right, Mr. Rubens. So we apologize for that. And we'll make sure it's correct that going forward. Anybody else wish to address the Board of Commissioners on the agenda items only?

Alan Genitempo: I don't see any other hands up, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Let's go to Commissioner Announcements. We'll start with Tucci. Unmute yourself if you're going to talk, Commissioner.

Commissioner Tucci: Yes, thank you, Mayor. First and, first and foremost, I'd like to thank Commissioner Rogers for his service. This is in fact his last meeting inasmuch as he's decided not to seek reelection. I know Steve has a certain flair about him, but I have never encountered a person who's more dedicated or committed to doing the best job he can for this township, and he's, he's a great Nutley citizen and in retirement from the Board of Commissioners, I wish him nothing but the best. Mayor, to you, I want to thank you for your service over the last four years. People may or may not know it's not easy sitting in that chair and keeping the five Commissioners pretty much on track and everyone focused on what the important business is. And to Commissioner Petracco, Commissioner Evans, I'd like to thank you for all your cooperation throughout these, this last term of four years I've served with five different Boards of Commissioners and I have to tell you, this was absolutely one of the best, and I wish everyone well. And for all the candidates out there who are seeking public office, I'm sure you're doing it all for the right reasons, and I wish you all the best on May 12. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Thank you, Mayor. I echo Commissioner Tucci's comments. Often I talk to my team about core values: integrity, teamwork, mutual respect and personal accountability. I find those to be most valuable when you're working especially [inaudible] environment. Basically tell the truth, work with one another, respect one another and do what you say you're going to do. Steve throughout your entire tenure on the Board you've not only been committed to doing what you said you were going to do you also -- also have been an advocate for breaking new ground and raising awareness of not only just what's happening at the local level and also what's happening at a national level. You, you're very caring, your work with the veterans, I'm sure will be a hallmark for the town for years to come, given the establishment of the Veterans Bureau in the Public Affairs Department. I do wish the same as Commissioner Tucci, acknowledge the work right work of the Mayor and the mayor's office and all the challenges that you face. So Joe, thank you for your leadership over the last four years. And to my fellow brethren, you know, we couldn't get through the last four years, the difficult challenges that we have faced, and there are many, and in some cases we make, maybe make it look very easy to the public. But to get to where we are today, and we're about to do tonight, we couldn't get there without the commitment of this board in its in its unified presence, around not worrying about politics but focusing first and foremost, most on what is best for the town. So Steve to your best wishes in your next endeavor. I'm sure it's not retirement. I'm sure you're going to do, you're going to show up and do something someplace else. And remember, you know, you know, at the next meeting, maybe you might want to, you know, be outside singing "Oh, Happy Days".

Commissioner Evans: Enjoy. And thank you for everything.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Petracco?

Eleni Pettas: He's on mute. Commissioner, you're on mute. Commissioner Petracco? Unmute your phone.

Commissioner Petracco: I'm good? Thank you, Alan. Can you hear me? I actually, I actually started off by saying I actually posted something on Facebook regarding Steve, I had the privilege of sitting next to him for the last four years. Like, all of you supported me, one of the worst things of this term was losing my mom, and I know, Joe, you lost your dad in this term. And I have to tell you, you know, Mauro, Tom, all of you guys, I know that I'm sometimes I wear my emotions on my sleeve. But you guys are like family to me. I wish you all luck in the next election. Steve, I can't say enough of what I've learned from you, you know, and the most important thing was that you taught me a lot about life, a lot about being a better person and a lot about God, and I commend you for that. I look forward to seeing you again in the future, and you are a special person you. Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner.

Mayor Scarpelli: Before I recognize Commissioner Rogers, I just want to say, Steve, it's been a pleasure serving with you the last eight years. The leadership and innovation, you've brought to the Public Affairs department, especially with the veterans programs. You know, one of the only municipalities in the whole country to have a Veterans Affairs Bureau. So much recognizing them, making sure they got their medals. It's been a pleasure to be with you and serve with you, your integrity is unmatched and we wish you good luck in the future. And it's been my pleasure serving with all of you the last four years, and I look forward to continuing that. Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Mayor, can I make my comments at the end of the meeting?

Mayor Scarpelli: Yes, Commissioner, absolutely.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you very much.

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Mayor. Mr. Mayor. Before we go on, just one issue. We double checked the website connection, the link, and it is it is working, so I don't -- I'm not sure what happened with Mr. Ruben, maybe he had an older link, but the current links that are up on the website do take you to the to the meeting documents, just so, so the record is clear.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Mr. Genitempo. Let's move on to ordinance introductions. Commission Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Yes, I have Ordinance Number 3441. An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Codified in the Code of the Township of Nutley, Chapter 673, entitled "Vehicles, Impoundment and Towing", particularly Section 5 entitled "Towing", Subsection K entitled "Towing and Storage

Fee Schedule." This is this a removal of the \$25 administrative fee, and I thought I had my paper. Oh, here we go.

Commissioner Petracco: I move that this ordinance be passed to the second reading and advertising in the Nutley Sun together with the notice required by law and further consideration of said ordinance for final passage by the Board of Commissioners to be held at its second reading on, I think it's June 4?

Eleni Pettas: June fourth.

Commissioner Petracco: I move the ordinance.

Commissioner Rogers: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner, Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Commissioner Petracco: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Ordinance Number 3442 on the agenda has been pulled, any comment on that, Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: No, Mayor, just pulled it tonight. And we'll revisit that some other time.

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Evans, Ordinance Number 3443?

Commissioner Evans: Yes, Mayor. Thank you. This ordinance is the ordinance that establishes each year our CAP bank which is enabled through New Jersey Statute 40A:4-45.14. I explain every year, It enables us to capture what we call a CAP Bank, which is a paper entry, money that we didn't have to spend when we were below the CAP, in the event that something extraordinary happens at a future date within actually within two years the cap bank would be able to be applied to address the need for that additional spending if it should occur. We've never had a need to do that, this board has always been adamant about the

fact that we will not do that. We do it as a security measure, simply because you can -- you need to be prepared for what could be the unknown to what we're facing with global pandemic. So, so just. It is a memo entry. It's not in the book. It's a memo entry. It just keeps a record for the next two years of what might be available.

Commissioner Evans: I move at this ordinance be moved to a second reading on June 4. I don't have the exact language with me in my packet I mean, but basically moving forward to June 4.

Commissioner Tucci: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner, Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner, and why don't you just move into the budget presentation and introduction.

Commissioner Evans: Thank you, Mayor. We're going to try something new.

Commissioner Evans: Can everyone see the slide presentation of your screens?

Commissioner Petracco: Yes.

Eleni Pettas: Yes.

Commissioner Evans: Okay, great. I have a few slides to go through as a summary of the 2020 Budget introduction. Just a reminder, please [inaudible] mute to avoid background noise. Thank you.

Commissioner Evans: What's really important that this Budget is summarized within these five slides. It's in recognizing pandemic [inaudible] COVID-19, it was incumbent upon the board to figure out how we can absorb our recurring costs adjustments. Look at the areas of lost revenue, figure out how we can make that work in an environment where we would not be collecting the, the amount of money that we need to collect from taxpayers, given the environment. So with this, I'll walk through

these slides for the next two, three minutes and then we'll hit the summary points. After I'm finished, Ray Sarinelli is with us, he's our outside auditor. I asked him to make some, some comments and then Commissioners, before we vote on the introduction, you're all welcome to, to comment accordingly. If we-- There we go.

Commissioner Evans: In looking at this -- there we go. In looking at this next slide, it's actually a summary. If you take the 70 or so page state budget document, in a very summarized level you can reduce it to this one page. It- as a municipality for the municipal budget only, the five municipal departments that we need on a gross basis \$56 million to cover our costs. We add to that the allocation of state aid that we get for what is called Transitional State Aid for the portion of the aid that we need to give to the county and to the school.

Commissioner Evans: The aid is, is critical for our town and has been enormously helpful. Over the years, when you think about where we are right now we're, we're, we're accumulating about \$28 million worth of aid since 2014 and about 14 million of that has actually been a specific contribution to our school budget. So total operating budget is \$58,027,406. Against that we do have revenues from various sources. So parking meters, the courts, the code department, any, any business type fees for fines and health inspections, as well as money we get from the cable service and the PILOTs. The PILOT agreements that have been negotiated are all included in there as well as the gross amount of our state aid. So we have \$16 million roughly in revenues bringing down the annual amount paid to taxpayers to \$41,872,752 and that amount has not changed from 2019. Of the roughly 1.1 million in operating cost increases, we've been able to offset that by revenues primarily through the planning that we do to make sure that we're prepared for a crisis when it happens, and we've been able to do that this year.

Commissioner Evans: I move on to slide three which, after you look at the summary, it's, it's, I think it's also important to summarize, you know, where we have Operating Cost Changes for 2020. Overall, you'll see that we have \$578,000 increase in salary costs and our Other Expenses across a range of areas is total of \$556,000 for total cost increase of \$1,152,166. I will note that in our budget, you'll see on the Other Expenses, you'll see the reserve for \$110,000 for a property revaluation. That money is being funded by the Meka settlement arrangement and will be funded over the next five years through those that those revenues that we get from that that agreement. I also point out that our debt service is, costs are decreasing by \$50,000 along with our medical insurance and our garbage removal costs. The other items in here are standard with our budget and are consistent basically year over year. When you then move to slide four, in summary, once you look at where we've had to increase spending. We then look at where do we get our revenues from, in part, the first part is that we do get it from Transitional State Aid. This year, last year we got \$3,250,000 we have already been approved by the state for \$2,762,500 and \$487,500 is still pending final approval. So I have not included that in this budget at this point in time. We tend to remain conservative when we think about revenues.

Commissioner Evans: Because of the environment, the PILOT agreements that you see here are the municipal payments against the PILOTs for the

medical school and for the first building to be occupied, Ralph Lauren, on the main campus of the Roche site. What's important about these PILOT payments, this is the municipal portion there is a larger amount and a piece that goes to the county as well as a piece that goes to the schools for this, which is allocated separately and not through through our budget. The key point here is that when we negotiated those PILOT agreements, we negotiated them at 100% coverage for our local tax at the school and the municipal portions of our annual taxes. The payments increase year over a year for the next 30 years. The next piece that I'll point out as the bold area is lost revenues. We did, we normally if everything's we're all equal this year, last year in prior years our revenues would be \$400,000 higher than what they are in this budget. We recognize that because the courts have been closed, meter parking is down and the permit activity, large permit activity in the Code Enforcement office has all been reduced. So we're recognizing that reduction in annual revenues. To offset that to make sure that we met our goal, which was zero increase, we released from our reserves \$1,194,194 to zero out the budget increase. So overall, our net revenue increases \$1,152,166. So with these three slides, you can go into the state budget document and look at all of the various points of detail, but in order to look at that documents, I believe that from a transparency standpoint, the Board again all aligned on this we needed to summarize the budget and make sure that we're prepared providing simpler information that hopefully is more understandable as to what's happening in the budget for this year. We did the same thing last year and we will continue to practice this going forward, and whoever is there in, after the election, I'm sure will continue this.

Commissioner Evans: The next slide five, it's important that we all understand that the municipality is, has historically been financially very strong. We have a Aa2 investor, Moody's Investors rating, a bond rating. This enables us to borrow money at a much lower interest rate. The, the rollover of a note that we just did this spring was at 1.43% interest, very low. Our ability to borrow, our ceiling says that we can borrow up to \$134,700,000. Today, our, our debt is outstanding at \$13,700,000 so roughly about 10% of our borrowing power. To point out how we've been looking at this over time, we currently have \$1.7 million less debt outstanding since 2015, and given the fact that debt is lower and the interest rates are lower is has actually helped in our budget to lower debt service costs by \$50,000 this year. What's just a simple point, when we take out our debt we don't take it out for 30 years. We try and keep around 10 years. And when you average the 13 million, it's basically over 10 years at two and a half percent interest. So from this, from a standpoint of the municipality, in the event something caused us to have to borrow, we have the capacity to do that. This Board has been adamant about keeping the debt low. They've supported me on that position from the Revenue and Finance standpoint, and we've continued to maintain that over the last many, many years and will continue to do so.

Commissioner Evans: In going to the last slide, there are some key summary points. One of the things that this budget does not, is not impacted by is the allay in costs that we're incurring to cover the pandemic virus. So overtime costs, costs for PPE, for masks, for sanitizing the buildings and so on. We are not taking that money out of

our operating costs. We do have a reserve account on the balance sheet that we are utilizing for that. But as of as of right now, these costs are reimbursable at the 75% level by FEMA and I just confirmed on the phone today with the county that they do have Care Act money and that they will be able to cover the remaining 25% that FEMA won't cover. So as far as what we're spending for the pandemic crisis, that will not impact our taxpayers locally. It'll come through federal, federal monies. We do recognize that we have lost \$400,000 in revenue. But as of today, neither FEMA or the Care Act will cover a municipality for their lost revenues. Fortunately, we've been able to - because of our planning and our position - been able to cover that ourselves.

Commissioner Evans: There's a couple things that are really important to keep in mind about this, this budget. Right now we are collecting second quarter property taxes. As of today, 66% of the second quarter property taxes have already been collected; in fact, we had almost 60% of that in the bank before -- by May 1. So people have been able to pay, the banks have been able to pay. And so right now we will be looking at what we need to do -- to look at what the collection experience will be on the remaining 34% which we'll look at over the coming, coming month. But if we were to experience a major shortfall in our property tax collections, and there's a greater risk associated with that in the third and fourth quarter than it is for the second quarter, and we have other revenue issues, while the state has absolutely committed to our TSA given where they're at if if their budget shortfall isn't cured by with assistance from the federal government, they may impact their actual ability to make the payment, even though we have the actual commitment. Any of those events, any, anything like that to come along, or an extraordinary expenditure, will result in a change to this budget. So if relief through the state local government, which is currently pending, doesn't come through that could impact us going forward. Further property tax relief is pending with the state. It will require law changes, either through executive order or the or the Legislature. If that's not resolved, and we are in an environment where every taxpayer is treated universally the same and there's no ability to identify particular taxpayers in need, that could have an impact on this budget. And as an, embedded in this budget already is the recognition that we do have a new hire freeze in place and that we are quarantining non-essential spending until we're clear as to what the revenue collections will look like as we go forward.

Commissioner Evans: The public hearing on the budget -- sorry, on my copy I have it wrong. It's June 4, not June 2 and this budget documents as well as the slides will be posted on the website in the morning. So in total, that's a summary of the budget. It took an extraordinary amount of work on the part of the Commissioners, and the assistance of Nisivoccia & Company, our outside auditors with our CFO, to engineer the budget to this point. Well, we're not clear as to what the future holds. We are unified in our determination to minimize any negative shortfall -- any negative impacts on the taxpayers of Nutley. So I want to thank the, all of the Commissioners for your, your thoughtfulness and your consideration as we went through this very difficult process to get to this point.

Commissioner Evans: This is only the introduction. So with the hearing, public hearing coming up on June 4, if there's any events that occur

between now and then, they will be reflected in the budget either positively or negatively depending upon how events unfold. So with that, I will ask Ray Sarinelli to comment and then Commissioners, if you would like to, you're welcome to comment as well. Thank you, Mayor. Ray?

Ray Sarinelli: Okay, thank you. I guess I'm unmuted. I assume at this point. Okay, well, okay, so I'd like to thank you for letting me make a presentation. I guess I've seen Nutley through about 35 or 40 budgets and certainly no circumstance, whereas are as unusual as what you're facing with this year's budget. I would like to take a minute though and offer my best wishes to anyone who is fighting or has beaten COVID. I'd like to offer my condolences to anyone who has lost someone, and I'd like to offer a thank you to medical staff, first responders, necessary workers for keeping us going. They are the new rock stars.

Ray Sarinelli: So first you've delivered a budget with no tax levy increase. I believe that's the first in a long time, or as long as I can remember. And the reason you can do that is because after the last recession, for the last eight or 10 years or so, you've been planning for this recession. I don't think anyone expected it to happen overnight, but like all cycles, there was another recession coming, we just didn't think it was going to happen instantaneously. But you are prepared, as prepared as anyone has had, has been and that really has been done through good planning, looking at each year's budget, making difficult decisions, doing an in depth review and analysis of the budget each year, so that you have good policies in place. You know, watching the Commissioners each year, you know, I've come to recognize that you have all put policy before politics. And that's not always an easy thing to do. And that's why you're in good position with this budget because past policy by the Board of Commissioners has put you in a good enough position by making those tough decisions in other years. It makes this budget, a little bit more acceptable in a very difficult year.

Ray Sarinelli: Secondly, this year's budget is a strategic action and it's a result of the hard work that I had mentioned. You've already obtained confirmation of the transitional aid, you've finalized the PILOT plan and that created a new revenue. It also eliminated the assessed value but created the PILOT revenue to offset that. And you've also completed the hard work of negotiation -- negotiating with the Hoffmann-LaRoche developer to finalize that PILOT program, which does allow you to now release three years' worth of tax appeals reserves that had to be established because of pending negotiations. It appeared as if they were going to appeal their taxes, but as a result of finalizing your PILOT program, you now have a reserve that you can release to help balance this year's budget.

Ray Sarinelli: You've already taken a realistic look at the revenues and adjusted those downward that need to be adjusted down. I think that will help to prevent a down cycle in next year's budget. In fact, thirdly, I'd like to say that because the actions that you've taken in previous years, and the planning that you're doing in the current year budget, I don't see any long term issues related to issuing a zero tax increase budget. In other words, you looked at a realistic picture and were able to craft a budget that not only serves this year's need of helping taxpayers by

not giving them an increase, you'll also, you're putting yourself in good position going forward next year and beyond.

Ray Sarinelli: So lastly, you know, we've never seen a climate like this. This is, you know, something that is hard to prepare for, and difficult to be ready to do, but the Board of Commissioners have evaluated the risks and carefully about evaluated, things like tax collections state aid, some of the revenues that have already been adjusted, and taken those all into account when you prepare this budget. So when you have your hearing next month, you may need to make some further evaluations and reevaluate your budget position. You know, some things may evolve, other state aids, etc. You'll see where tax collections are, but I think you have a solid base for an excellent budget going forward given these unusual circumstances.

Ray Sarinelli: Commissioner Evans mentioned that you were looking at things like an expense and a hiring freeze. Those are the kind of things that work in uncertain times. So I think that was a good idea and I suggest that you follow through with that until you have a clearer picture of the road ahead. So I'm sure they'll be much more discussion on the budget at the hearing, and there may be further adjustments both then and in the future. But we'll continue to monitor all of those items, revenues, expenses, until the budget is finally adopted. Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Ray. Thank you, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Tucci, any comments?

Commissioner Tucci: I'd just like to once again this year commend Commissioner Evans on taking all of the budgetary information from all the departments and compiling it in a format that's easily understood. I think his presentations over the years have been excellent. It's, it's hard work. I mean, it's hard work in each department and I can only speak for my department. I'm sure every other Commissioner will speak for their own. But our numbers pretty much speak for themselves. We, we have a zero increase this year. All right, because we continue to review our policies and our procedures and what we do is very introspective, all right. And we only spend what we absolutely need to spend and not \$1 more, always keeping our taxpayers in mind. Okay, so for that, I'd like to thank Commissioner Evans. I'd like to thank all the other Commissioners for the cooperation that everyone put forward so we could get to this point. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: [Inaudible] as well. Um, I think it's been a great teamwork, obviously Public Safety budget has risen, and it's thanks to all of you that keep funding Public Safety, and I'd like to say it has paid dividends, as we all know, you know, we are one of the 50 safest communities in New Jersey, which is not an easy feat in this area, to say the least. And I would just like to really thank all of you. I think that the Board has worked excellent together. It's been a team effort for me and I thank each and every one of you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Well, it certainly took a team effort to get where we are today, being able to share with our residents that there would be no tax increase, but I've got to tell you, with Commissioner Evans at the helm with his expertise, it was just an extraordinary, extraordinary thing that had to be done in order to make sure that we would spend, as Commissioner Tucci said, only that which was necessary. And again, what a team effort on the part of all the Commissioners. I know in my department I have the smallest budget and the smallest amount of employees. But even there we found cuts through consolidating jobs, through shared services, but, uh, certainly thank you all for the work that was done. And again, Commissioner Evans, my hats off to you. Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. I would like to also commend Commissioner Evans on his leadership on the budget, getting us to all where we had to be. I'd like to thank all the Commissioners for their help in getting us there. The road ahead is going to be challenging and I think we're going to have a lot more work to be done between now and June as we move forward. So, Commissioner, do you have to, uh, read the resolution?

Commissioner Evans: Yes, I have to read the budget notice. Okay? And then after I read, it's a short excerpt and after that we'll need to vote. Okay?

Mayor Scarpelli: Very good.

Commissioner Evans: Municipal Budget of the Township of Nutley, County of Essex, for the fiscal year 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenue and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said budget be published in The Nutley Sun in the issue of May 14th 2020. The Governing Body of the Township of Nutley does here by approve the following, the following Budget for the year 2020. So moved.

Commissioner Tucci: Second.

Mayor Scarpelli: It's on mute.

Eleni Pettas: Did someone one second?

Mayor Scarpelli: Yes, Commissioner Tucci.

Commissioner Tucci: Yes. I second.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you. Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Tucci: I think he's on mute.

Commissioner Rogers: The host unmuted me. Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you. Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. Let's move on the Commissioner Rogers' resolution.

Commissioner Rogers: Resolution number 87-20. This resolution declares May 2020 as Mental Health Month. And it's important that we raise awareness, especially at this time that many people in our Township, as well as around the country have gotten depressed and they've gotten truly affected emotionally over this crisis. But in our Township we have a lot of resources and I urge anyone listening or watching, just pick up the phone. Don't be ashamed to make a phone call and ask us for some help, or for somebody to talk with you. So I present this resolution, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners declaring May 2020 as Mental Health Month. So moved.

Commissioner Petracco: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Commissioner Rogers: Okay, resolution number 88-20 declaring National Military Appreciation Month for the Township of Nutley. Now before I move on this I'm going to share with the residents tonight something that they're probably unaware of that this Board of Commissioners certainly responsible for. During this crisis, there were military veterans who live in our community who passed away, either some as a result of the virus, but probably most as a result of other illnesses. And I share this with the people of Nutley because, as they passed away, they were denied, because of state regulations and national rules, they were denied the proper honorable military honors that they would normally be entitled to. A call from a military officer, an American flag, taps, etc. Well, this Board of Commissioners and, believe me, it was this board, decided that we will not let that go by without being answered. So we made sure that an officer from the military branch of the service that the deceased veteran was at would make a phone call to the family and let them know that we had not forgotten who they were and what they did for this country. And believe me, I've made some of those calls and it just brought a lot, a lot of comfort to those family members. In addition to that, we do have a list of some veterans who we're going to make sure they do get flags and they do get military honors when all this clears up. But I mention that to the residents of Nutley for two reasons. One, if you have a military relative or friend or a neighbor who did pass during this crisis, please let one of us know, one of the Commissioners know and I'm sure there'll be in touch with my department. We will make sure that the honors are given for those military personnel. But secondly, let the residents of Nutley know that you know this is a National Military Appreciation Month resolution, but Nutley is an extraordinary community. Every day is military appreciation day in this Township. So it's important that the residents know that even through this crisis, in a very quiet way, we did some extraordinary things for the people who served this country. And with that, I move this resolution. National Military Appreciation Month here for the Township of Nutley. So moved.

Commissioner Petracco: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Tucci, you don't have anything on the agenda. Commissioner Evans.

Commissioner Evans: Thank you, Mayor. Resolution number 85-20 authorizes the refund of overpayment of tax charges in the amount of \$3,901 for the lots and blocks listed in the resolution. So moved.

Commissioner Tucci: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you.

Commissioner Evans: Resolution number 86-20. This resolution is read on behalf of the entire Board and it relates to the governor's executive order -- I'm sorry, there's a typo in the resolution number 103, it's number 130 so we just need correct that in the certified copy.

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of New Jersey signed Executive Order No. 130 which declared a public health emergency and a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis has impacted the lives and livelihood of many residents across our Township through illness, job loss, delayed State and Federal benefits and with much sadness the loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners unanimously supports the Governor's Executive Order No. 130 which authorizes the Township to extend the grace period for second quarter property tax payments to no later than June 1, 2020 as it will provide much needed relief to the residents of our Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners acknowledges that it will comply with the specific terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Order 130; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners does recognize that further action on the part of the Governor and the Legislature will be needed if the negative effects of this Pandemic crisis continue; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Nutley in the County of Essex, New Jersey, do hereby authorize that:

1. In accordance with Executive Order No. 130, the grace period for the second quarter property tax payments is hereby extended from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.
2. The Board of Commissioners will comply with all of the terms and conditions as stated in this executive order; and
3. The Municipal Clerk shall provide a sealed copy of this resolution to the Division of Local Government Services in the Division of Community Affairs within 3 days of its adoption. So moved.

Commissioner Tucci: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you.

Commissioner Evans: Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner..

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Petracco, I also see you have nothing on the agenda, so we'll move on to my resolution.

WHEREAS, the Township of Nutley advertised for proposals for the marketing of recyclable materials on March 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Request for Proposals for the marketing of recycling materials were accepted by the Township Clerk on May 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Nutley reviewed and analyzed all submitted proposals; and

WHEREAS, the proposal received from Integrity Recycling and Waste Solutions, Inc., 111 Route 31, Suite 223, Flemington, New Jersey 08822 was the most favorable proposal for the Township of Nutley; and

WHEREAS, Integrity Recycling and Waste Solutions, Inc. was recommended for a three (3) year contract award with two (2), one (1) year options for contract extensions effective on July 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, the Township has selected to exercise the option to extend contract for a one (1) year contract extension and the terms of the contract were for one (1) year effective on July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a Change Order #1 to the contract has been authorized for an increase to the contract in the amount of \$60,000.00; and

WHEREAS, funds are available from Account #0-01-423-209 in the amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer, said certification being attached to this resolution;

WHEREAS, the original contract amount is being increased in the amount of \$60,000.00 for a total adjusted contract amount of \$120,000.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners in the Township of Nutley, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that Change Order #1 is a change from the contract previously made by the Township of Nutley with Integrity Recycling and Waste Solutions, Inc. and is hereby authorized and approved. I move the resolution.

Commissioner Tucci: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: That concludes the business portion of our meeting. Before Madam Clerk reads the notice, if you'd like to be recognized Mr. Genitempo will ask you to please raise your head and we'll move on from there. Madam Clerk?

Eleni Pettas: Thank you, Mayor. All persons addressing--

Commissioner Evans: Excuse me, we need to go back on mute.

Alan Genitempo: I'm going to mute you all from here.

Eleni Pettas: Thank you. All persons addressing the Board of Commissioners regarding Community concerns should state their name and address for the record. Unless further time is granted by the Board, each person shall limit their address to five minutes. All remarks to the board and its individual members must be addressed to the Mayor. The Mayor may defer citizens' comments to the appropriate members of the Board.

Mayor Scarpelli: Does anybody wish to -- anybody wish to address the Board of Commissioners this evening?

Alan Genitempo: One second, Mr. Mayor, please. Mr. Moore? Mr. Moore?

Feb Toastmasters: Can you hear me?

Alan Genitempo: Yep, go ahead.

Feb Toastmasters: Rory Moore, 462 Chestnut Street. Mr. Scarpelli, I have three questions, but I would like to say to Commissioner Rogers: happy trails. Good luck to you, sir. Mr. Scarpelli, will the future meetings, as long as we're using zoom, will they include the Planning board the Zoning Board and other meetings, public meeting in general?

Mayor Scarpelli: Mr. Moore, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board have used Zoom their past meetings. We will continue to use it in this forum. As you know, it will probably be up to a new Commission, but I would assume that they continue to use this forum.

Feb Toastmasters: It is, I know they were testing with it. I believe it was the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. But I just wanted to know, would that be a regular meeting through Zoom, is that, is that planned for that for the time being, as long as COVID is around.

Mayor Scarpelli: That's what I understand, Mr. Moore.

Feb Toastmasters: Mr. Tucci, are you floating bonds or are looking to float bonds for a park? Somebody asked me that question today.

Commissioner Tucci: Am I looking to float bonds for a park?

Feb Toastmasters: For parks, for some park work work that we're going to have to have some floats and bonds so we can cover the expenses of it? I was just curious. I hadn't heard anything about it, I said I would ask.

Commissioner Tucci: Nothing other than our typical capital program. All right, which I was committed in as part of this budget, but as things evolve as far as the finances are concerned. I'm sure we'll be refining that but nothing out of the ordinary. What, maybe what some people are thinking of are the improvements on Margaret Avenue, okay, on the track up there and on the, on the field, and that's a facility that's shared with the with the Board of Education and our high school students. But other than that, there's nothing really out of the ordinary, sir.

Feb Toastmasters: Thank you. And finally, Mr. Rogers, we have any status on the Ciccolini building as of now? Being that this is the last meeting.

Commissioner Rogers: Well, we'll leave that for our town attorney to speak to that issue, I believe there may be some legal issues and I don't want to get involved in upsetting anything at this point.

Feb Toastmasters: Oh no, I'm sorry, Mr. Evans. I apologize. Is there any update to the Ciccolini building at all?

Commissioner Evans: There, there is but I will refer it to our town attorney.

Feb Toastmasters: Okay. I was just, Mr. Genitempo, is there anything that we can discuss openly? Or is it...

Alan Genitempo: Mayor, do you want me to answer that?

Mayor Scarpelli: Sure, Mr. Genitempo.

Alan Genitempo: Sure. Mr. Moore, we're waiting for the final report from the engineering company that we hired to do a study of that not only the Ciccolini bit area, but the surrounding building. I'm sorry the surrounding property and we're waiting for that. I, I believe that the next, once the new Commission is seated, it will be the first probably one of the first orders of business.

Feb Toastmasters: Is that, is that available or are we still waiting for that? I'm just curious like. I can understand waiting.

Alan Genitempo: It's not available per se, it's going to be developed and the town ultimately will go out for RFPs or RFQs for developers to develop the entire site.

Feb Toastmasters: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Anybody else wants to address the Board of Commissioners this evening?

Alan Genitempo: Yes, Mr. Mayor, let me get the next person on. Hello, can you hear?

edge130: Yes, this is Ed DiGiorgis, 130 Mount Vernon Street. Can you hear me?

Alan Genitempo: Yes, we can, go ahead.

edge130: Okay, can the Commissioners identify any allocated or undeveloped or vacant properties? And I think maybe the Hoffmann-LaRoche properties, or vacant spaces to bring any potential PPE manufacturing capability into Nutley?

Mayor Scarpelli: We don't have a lot of vacant land and we don't, do not control the Hoffmann-LaRoche property, that is owned by Prism Capital Investments, so there's not a lot of vacant land out there.

edge130: Even across the street? Um...

Mayor Scarpelli: It's all owned by prison.

edge130: All right, I just to, just an idea to bring some taxable, you know, renewables, for PPE, you know, equipment, light, light industrial manufacturing into Nutley. Or even part of the, you know, part of the, you know, part of the process.

Mayor Scarpelli: Certainly something we can bring to Prism's attention to see if there's any interest in bringing some light industry on to the Prism site.

edge130: All right. Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Anybody else wish to address the Board of Commissioners this evening?

Alan Genitempo: Yes, there's another person, Mr. Mayor.

Alex Rubens: Yes. Yeah, Alex Rubens, 354 Hillside Ave. Just wanted to clarify that point about the web link for this meeting was in the email that was distributed this morning, not from the town's website. I was able to get in and get the minutes and the agenda, but that initial link was incorrect. Secondly, I wanted to point out, my daughters told me the other day they were at the intersection of Franklin and Centre and the planters at that intersection were inundated with like bees. And I wonder what eradication would go on, you know, to get those bees out of there.

Mayor Scarpelli: It's the first time hearing of it, we'll send somebody down there to take a look at it. Commissioner Tucci, can you help us out with that if there's some bees in there?

Commissioner Tucci: There were honey bees in those planters. And our staff did in fact take care of that.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner.

Alex Rubens: And lastly, I'd like to wish Commissioner Rogers, you know, good luck on his, uh, future adventures.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Mr. Rubens. Anything further, Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Mayor, I just wanted to add that we enlisted the services of a beekeeper. We don't have that expertise on hand, but we do have a relationship with a beekeeper that comes out from time to time and helps us.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. Anybody else with to address the Board of Commissioners this evening?

Alan Genitempo: Yes, Mr. Mayor, there's one more. Mr. Del Polito?

Dave Del Polito: Good evening. My name is David Del Polito, 87 Evergreen Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey. I was just wondering if you could tell me, Mr. Evans, Commissioner Evans. What happened to the million dollar fine that Meka was supposed to be paying towards us? That goes towards the taxes?

Commissioner Evans: Mr. Del Polito, I'd be happy to answer. I think you were on a previous Town Hall that I was on where we discussed it, but I'm not sure. But yes, the money that comes in as part of the settlement arrangement doesn't come in all at once, it comes in over a period of four years, and yet the money is being set aside in a trust to cover the cost of the revaluation of the Township. We have time to build that because we were able to defer the revaluation till the year 2022. For the meantime, we continue to reserve. When we did have the revaluation happen back in 2005 timeframe, it cost almost \$900,000 and that cost the taxpayers that money. So money that's coming in from the Meka settlement is going to offset that cost that cost, which in effect is a direct tax relief to the taxpayer.

Dave Del Polito: Okay, thank you. One of the -- can I ask one more question?

Mayor Scarpelli: Sure.

Dave Del Polito: Okay. Mayor Scarpelli, since this builder was fined and I was under the observation that he wasn't going to be allowed to build in our town again. I was just wondering, that monstrosity that's on Bloomfield Avenue and Centre Street that really doesn't belong there, I was wondering, is he going to build any more disgusting buildings in our town that don't belong here?

Mayor Scarpelli: Mr. Del Polito, I don't think we have the ability to prevent somebody from building in the town. Mr. Genitempo, do you want to add to that.

Alan Genitempo: Sure, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Del Polito, we do not have the ability to prevent a builder who applies, goes through the process, goes to the Planning Board or the Zoning Board and gets approval. So that was not a possibility. It is not something that was achievable as a resolution with the, with the builder.

Dave Del Polito: Okay, thank you, Mr. Genitempo.

Alan Genitempo: He has since conformed all the properties appropriately and that's been confirmed, just so you're aware.

Dave Del Polito: Thank you, sir.

Mayor Scarpelli: Anybody else wants to address the Board of Commissioners?

Commissioner Evans: Mayor, may I comment?

Mayor Scarpelli: Sure, Commissioner.

Commissioner Evans: Just, just for the record. To be clear, the property on the corner of Bloomfield and Centre was an application that was before the Zoning Board of Adjustment in 2015. The applicant for that property was not Mr. Meka. After the property was approved in its current form by the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the owner of the property was unable to build it and he sold it to Mr. Meka. Mr. Meka was not before the Zoning Board buying another property, he bought it from the owner who could not afford to complete the project. Just to be clear, it wasn't that. The other thing is that we all can have points of view on what happens. The builder in this case, while it might be because he owns more property, and the fact that we found 13 violations out of over 460 units, we did actually settle with him with a very significant fine. Under the UCC, the Uniform Construction Code, the nature of the violations that occurred in his apartments, adding a second bedroom, by the code and by the law, actually carry a fine of \$2,000 per incident. So, where he could have been fine \$26,000 for those violations, he actually was fined 1 million.

Dave Del Polito: But that didn't address the issue where we have overcrowding from all those classes rooms that are in Washington as an example that's in his area that all affected --

Commissioner Evans: I respectfully will disagree with you. Right, the overcrowding in Washington School is not directly attributed to those new units. In one building 157 which has over 200 units in it has no children in the school system, and the other property has 27 children. And remember, overcrowding in our schools is not about apartments. It's about the fact that we are in the 21st century, and we are using infrastructure that was built in early to mid 20th century for a different purpose. In the 20th century, when it was built, we did not have all of the special needs requirements that require small classroom size where we only have

large classrooms. We only had half day kindergarten. Today we have full day kindergarten. We also have advancements in curricular structure that requires more contact time for teachers, which is necessitating smaller classroom size. The issues of infrastructure are not related to apartments. They're related to the fact that we are using the space differently.

Dave Del Polito: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Del Polito. Anybody else wish to address the Board of Commissioners this evening?

Mayor Scarpelli: You're on mute, Mr. Genitempo.

Mr. Genitempo: Ms. Rossi?

Tammy Rossi: Yes. Hi, Tammy Rossi 28 Colonial Terrace. First and foremost, Commissioner Rogers, I wish you well on your endeavors. My first question is for, uh... Well, I guess I would address you, Mayor Scarpelli, sorry, but it is regarding our town attorney's response to the Ciccolini building and the study being done there. He said on the building and surrounding properties. My question is, which surrounding properties is he pertaining to as I realized the parking lot was, and that was a big reason why we purchased that in the first place, was to have a municipal parking lot for the downtown businesses. What surrounding properties was he pertaining to?

Mayor Scarpelli: I'll answer that. Mr. Genitempo, if you need to clarify... When the Board of Commissioners sent this to the Planning Board to study the area, we asked that they study from High Street all the way to Vreeland Avenue to see if any of those properties or which properties qualify as an area in need of redevelopment.

Tammy Rossi: Okay. Oh, okay. All right. Um, and my next question is regarding our taxes. Oh, I jumped on this call late in the last I heard was that there would be a zero tax increase on the municipal side. Correct?

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Yes, Tammy, the municipal tax levy, or the amount to be raised from taxpayers, has no increase, zero.

Tammy Rossi: Now at the same time our Town employee salaries, are they getting their increases.

Commissioner Evans: In this budget, the budget does contemplate an increase in salaries, which I identified on my slide presentation, that there are some salary increases, but other than in Public Safety, they're nominal.

Tammy Rossi: But how, how does that happen if, how is that being funded, if there's no tax increase on the municipal side?

Commissioner Evans: Sure, we were able to, when we do the budget every year we have to look at not just what we need to spend in that one year, we look at it over, over what are the potential future risks that can that can impact us and how do we prepare for that. It's an, it's a normal of financial planning aspect of you, you put together any set of financial statements, budget or projections. In this particular case, we had anticipated the need to, to prepare for tax appeals that were stat-- actually brought against the town by, initially by Hoffman-LaRoche and then taken over by On3. And that was covering three years. So what we were able to do is in the negotiations with On3, we were able to actually eliminate that risk, they had, they withdrew their tax appeals, and as a result from planning for that over several years, we were able to release that reserve to offset, in effect, bring that revenue in at a time that we needed it to zero out the increase.

Tammy Rossi: Uh huh. And what is the tax increase on the Board of Education side?

Commissioner Evans: They are, they're actually having their meeting tonight. Tentatively, I understand that they were looking at a 2.7% increase. And as I shared previously, the county isn't settled yet but I expect the county tax increase to be zero or slightly down.

Tammy Rossi: 2.7, so it went from 2.2 to 1.1 to 2.7. That's a, that's a big difference in the three, that's a big difference in the three figures that were provided. Okay. And my last --

Commissioner Evans: I want you to understand, as a Board, right, we can consult with the School Board but statutorily it is a completely different and independent body from the municipality. This Board of Commissioners cannot statutorily interfere or influence what the school board, actually driven by the superintendent, as to what is necessary for educating the children. They do that on their own. That's why frequently, I will remind people that when you look at your tax increase, it's divided into three areas. Roughly 17% because is money that we have to pay to the county, about 49% is what goes to the school when we collect that because we're the collecting agency, we're not, we don't control that entire budget and it's in my department that while I have to send out the bill, I only control what [inaudible] as Commissioners do and specifically [inaudible]. So while I have that macro responsibility, any decisions in effect that the Board, the School Board needs to make in terms of educating their children, what they need to do for teachers and so on, is under the direct control of that Board.

Tammy Rossi: Okay. And again, pardon me for joining the Zoom meeting late in the game, but did I hear that you introduced the budget and voted on it today?

Commissioner Evans: Yes, we voted only on the introduction of the budget. We have a public hearing that is scheduled for June 4 by the next Board that will [inaudible] this budget in a public forum.

Tammy Rossi: Excellent. Thank you so very much.

Commissioner Evans: Thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Ms. Rossi. Anybody else, Mr. Genitempo?

Alan Genitempo: Yes, yes, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Quirk, can you hear us now?

Lawrence Quirk: I hear you.

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Quirk?

Lawrence Quirk: Yes, I'm here.

Alan Genitempo: Okay, we can hear you better now.

Lawrence Quirk: Okay, yeah, I had bad reception the first time. I rebooted and I got back.

Lawrence Quirk: I'm here just to thank all the Commissioners and Mayor for putting out those great appreciation signs, they look terrific around the town. A lot of people have come up to me and said, that's a great, great thing for Nutley. I do have a question for Mr. Genitempo and/or Mr. Evans.

Lawrence Quirk: Mr. Genitempo, as you know, I've been in contact with the Construction Official with violations due, uh, based on election signs. You know what the status of that is?

Alan Genitempo: Status of what, Mr. Quirk? You and I had a conversation -

Lawrence Quirk: Violations.

Alan Genitempo: You and I had a conversation, a long conversation.

Lawrence Quirk: Oh, I know, but --

Alan Genitempo: Let me just state what I know and you can [inaudible]. We both have had conversations and some emails back and forth. I've been working with Code Enforcement, we've spoken to all the campaigns, most - and the campaigns have done a good job of trying to bring the signs back into compliance. One of the problems that we have is that our elections are every four years. So, you know, sometimes, we only deal with it every four years when it comes to these, these elections. So, and I've been driving around myself, Dave Barry has been, and we were satisfied that that everyone's tried to comply with the ordinance. So there's only a week left for the election. We understand, you know... Look, signs are also a constitutional issue and they're not to be ripped down or taken down lightly. We try to keep them out of the right-of-ways because they don't belong in the public right-of-way but, you know, people have a constitutional right to have signs on their lawn. I understand what your issue is, we've had a good conversation about it.

Lawrence Quirk: And what is that, and what is that issue? What is my issue?

Alan Genitempo: What the ordinance allows, Mr. Quirk. I understand what you're saying. I read --

Lawrence Quirk: My issue is not with the lawn signs.

Alan Genitempo: I understand what your issue is, it's with the bigger signs on limiting [inaudible] places. And that's what we have endeavored to do, so...

Lawrence Quirk: I haven't seen it.

Alan Genitempo: Well, I have. And I've been driving around and trying to check and I, I'm satisfied, but I don't, you know, I don't make the complaints, I don't file the complaint, so --

Lawrence Quirk: Well, yeah, we have Code Enforcement. That's why I'm bringing this conversation to Mr. Evans, he's head of Code Enforcement. I'm an architect, I have to comply with all the codes and that should be the same for everybody.

Commissioner Evans: Mr. Quirk, I appreciate your, your question. My guidance to the Code office has been to follow our ordinances and our zoning and that, if someone is in violation, that that they need to act. And --

Lawrence Quirk: Who needs to act?

Commissioner Evans: The Code -- the Construction Official.

Lawrence Quirk: Okay.

Commissioner Evans: He has to act, and he has been, and he has followed up repeatedly to have the, the signs addressed and it's in, wherever there's been an instance, he's been in contact with any of the candidates that are in violation. He's doing his job.

Lawrence Quirk: Well, I spoke I texted him on Saturday, and I saw a new sign up new large sign that was not there for, this is the first time it has been there and that had to be put up your Thursday and Friday. And you may think this is trivial, but it's not. And that sign was moved from a different location that Mr. Berry had asked to have removed. So that time was removed from the corner of a Park and Union, and now it sits across from Chestnut Cafe. So can you explain that? I can Mr. Barry explain that? Can you do something about that?

Commissioner Evans: I cannot speak to it because I haven't spoken to Mr. Berry, but I will speak to him first thing in the morning.

Lawrence Quirk: But at the same time, I want to thank the other Commissioners, and they know who they are, Commissioner Tucci's signs are all 15 square feet, they comply, so does Mr. Scarpelli. And so does Mr. Mr. Evans. Okay, I think Code Enforcement is Code Enforcement. And they should comply with Code Enforcement in every detail. That's all I have to say. Thanks for hearing me.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you, Mr. Quirk. Anybody else, Mr. Genitempo?

Alan Genitempo: Yes, Mr. Mayor. Ma'am. Hold on. Hello?

[Pause]

Alan Genitempo: It's someone named Sylvia. Sylwia? Are you there?

Sylwia: Do you hear me?

Mr. Genitempo: Yes. Go ahead.

Sylwia: Yes, yes. So I came to the meeting late. Maybe it was addressed already. I just wanted to check on the status of the taxes, the property taxes. Are they postponed to June 1 as it was planned?

Mayor Scarpelli: Commissioner Evans, you moved the resolution tonight, so...

Commissioner Evans: Yes. The -- we have adopted, we've elected to adopt the governor's executive order and property tax payments are now due on June 1.

Sylwia: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Scarpelli: Can you give your name and address for the record, please?

Sylwia: 188 Mountainview Avenue.

Mayor Scarpelli: And your name?

Sylwia: Sylwia Szczechowicz.

Mayor Scarpelli: Thank you.

Sylwia: Thank you.

Alan Genitempo: They may be one more. Hold on.

Alan Genitempo: Mr. Reuben?

Alex Rubens: No, I didn't raise my hand. I'm sorry.

Alan Genitempo: Okay, and it just was showing up as the other one. Mr. Mayor, one more time?

Mayor Scarpelli: If anybody else wishes to address the Board of Commissioners please raise your hand.

Alan Genitempo: There may be one. Sir or Ma'am. Is someone on? Hello? I don't know, they're not responding.

Commissioner Evans: I see NCC, but it looks like they're muted. It might be on their end. There we go.

Alan Genitempo: Hello?

Mayor Scarpelli: Someone with the screen name NCC.

Alan Genitempo: Yeah, NCC, but they're not they're not responding.

Mayor Scarpelli: Seeing nobody else, before we close the meeting I'd like to turn it over to Commissioner Rogers for his closing remarks and thank you again for your service commissioner. Unmute yourself, Commissioner.

Alan Genitempo: Oh, we should we should unmute the Commissioner. Wait, Commissioner, start again, start again.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you, Mayor forgiving me the opportunity to address you, my colleagues and the citizens of Nutley. You know, I've always believed that God had a special place in his heart for this township. We've seen some extraordinary people come our way. So I want to talk about six extraordinary people tonight as I leave this board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Rogers: One of those extraordinary persons are Eleni, our Town Clerk. She came into this job, and really, really came into a job that was probably one of the most difficult daunting jobs that anyone could ever, ever perform. But through the crisis, through the change in the way we do elections, and on and on and on, Eleni, you did one heck of a job and I thank you for the work that you've done for this Township.

Commissioner Rogers: The Town Counselor, Mr. Genitempo, I don't have enough good words to say about him. In fact, that I shared with him a few times that if I could get somebody's ear in DC, we're going to put this guy in the Supreme Court, because he certainly has performed very well for this Township. And so to you, I give thanks.

Commissioner Rogers: I come to Commissioner Petracco, him and I became very, very close over the past few years, and something that many people don't know but Al and I used to kind of take a ride up to the Holy Face Monastery in Clifton quite often. And we would pray for our Township, then we would pray for our colleagues and the extraordinary people that live here and it goes to Al's character and what he has done really significantly for this town.

Commissioner Rogers: I go over to the Mayor. Mayor, I've really got to know you as I call you "Gentleman Joe", you're always Gentleman Joe. And you got that from your dad, Mayor, and he probably got that from his dad. Extraordinary family that built their roots here in this town and continue to serve through you. And I thank you.

Commissioner Rogers: Commissioner Tucci, there's not enough I could say with regard to the parks, the Recreation Department. I've got to tell you, it was so exciting to see when you began these programs. The Princess program, the Prince program. I mean, we could go on and on and

on over how you built a recreational program that is impacting, impacting children at an early age, and that they will carry that on for the rest of their lives.

Commissioner Rogers: And then we go on to Commissioner Evans. Well, I've said this, and I believe a lot of people probably a good number of people in this Township realize that we've been blessed by God to have your expertise and your talent and the gifts God's given you to make sure that we kept our budgets in line. And to make sure that whenever we ran into a crisis, it would not become financially catastrophic for us. And boy, did you ever achieve that goal at this point in time. Things we never expected.

Commissioner Rogers: But the key here is teamwork. We did a lot. We did a lot for this Township, and the people in this town did a lot for us the spirit of volunteerism has never died. And that's why I say God had a special place in his heart for us because he still touches the hearts and souls and spirits of people in this community.

Commissioner Rogers: So I will close by simply saying, quoting - and by the way, nine o'clock tonight, I will be addressing the people of Nutley on Facebook and YouTube and other social media platforms - but I will close out, I will close out by repeating, quoting what Ronald Reagan said when he left office. Gentlemen, ladies. Not bad, not bad at all. Thank you. God bless you all.

Mayor Scarpelli: Godspeed to you, Commissioner.

Mayor Scarpelli: I know we'll be hearing from you in the future. We know your love of the Township, you're going to be around, so you you'll be serving us in a different capacity.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's been a pleasure.

Mayor Scarpelli: Can I have a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Petracco: Move it.

Commissioner Rogers: Second.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Rogers?

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Tucci?

Commissioner Tucci: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Evans?

Commissioner Evans: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Commissioner Petracco?

Commissioner Petracco: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: Mayor Scarpelli?

Mayor Scarpelli: Aye.

Eleni Pettas: And the time 8:38.

Mayor Scarpelli: Good night, everybody. Good luck, Commissioner.

Eleni Pettas: Good night. Thank you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you and good night. My best to you all.

[End of recording]

Automatic transcription by Zoom application.
Corrections by Ceci Tramontana.